

From John Joy, Bradford Deanery Lay Chairman

Last month I asked for your prayers about an outbreak of violence in Kadugli. As a deanery we have been trying to find a way to send money to Bishop Hassan for emergency relief, and we believe this money was sent today. More may well be needed.

An online conference was held in Leeds last month, and several people spoke after recently having returned from Sudan. They gave news not only about Kadugli but about other parts of Sudan.

Some of the points arising were:

- Inflation is rampant. The price of food is doubling daily.
- Covid-19 is spreading rapidly. People are so poor they are faced with choice between risking Covid-19 by working, and starvation.
- Fighting continues in Nuba mountains.
- Situation in Kadugli is causing people to leave, many of them going into the mountains.

These are all serious matters and they affect our brothers and sisters in Kadugli Diocese. Various measures have been introduced to prevent the spread of coronavirus, including banning travel between states, and forms of social distancing. Extreme poverty, however, forces people to choose between risking Covid-19 and starving.

Despite this the church is active, and is reaching out in the villages. Measures are being taken to continue the Rooted in Jesus training, and about 16 groups have been established, including groups for children, for teenagers, for adults and older people, and for explorers. Do please pray for these groups and for their leaders, that God will move in them spiritually.

Pray too for Bishop Hassan and his family, and for Babuj, the Diocesan Secretary and Rooted in Jesus Co-ordinator, for their protection, for wisdom and power. And of course, please pray for the protection and well-being of the church there, with all its many needs.

Every blessing,

John