

Kadugli Newsletter and Prayer Diary

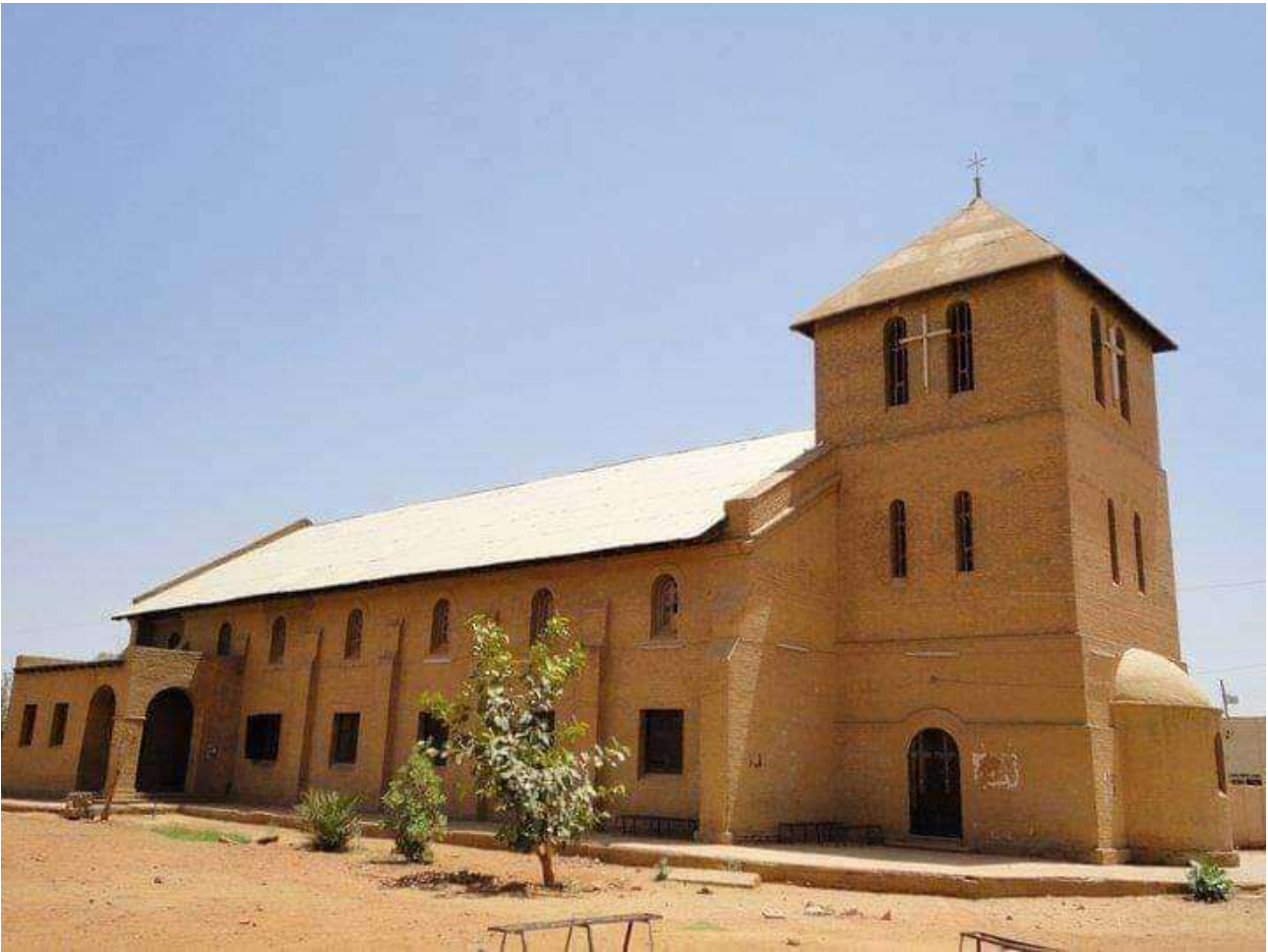
*“Please do not grow tired of praying for Sudan” (Archbishop
Ezekiel)*

The War in Sudan.

Violence against civilians in Sudan is **“verging on pure evil,”** These words are not from a religious fanatic, but from a senior United Nations official, yet they highlight the spiritual battle that underlies the physical strife. This is a battle, a battle that we must fight with prayer.

It is true that the worst offences are in Darfur in the west, and also in Khartoum and Omdurman in the east, and that they seem to be perpetrated chiefly by the RSF and its fellow travellers, and it goes beyond the simple acquisition of power. The UN reports continual “unrelenting and appalling reports of sexual and gender-based violence, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and grave violations of human and children’s rights”. As the UN reminds us, the population of Sudan is about 25 million people, yet half of these require assistance and protection, 6 million of these are displaced either in Sudan or in neighbouring countries. They are not just numbers; they are individuals whose lives have been changed forever. We (not the UN) may add that they are people for whom Jesus died.

And what about the church in Sudan? Churches have been attacked, as these pictures of the Church of Our Saviour in Omdurman graphically illustrate:



Before
After



Despite this, many clergy continue to remain at their posts across the country, and worship and fellowship are maintained under difficult conditions, and Christians hold strongly to their faith in God.

Kadugli

If Kadugli hasn't been subjected to the same level of violence as other parts of the country, it is by no means out of danger.

Originally the conflict there was between the army (SAF) and the Rapid Support Force (RSF), a militia. Then a third force, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (North) or SPLM(N) joined in. The SPLM(N) was involved in the previous civil war, and it appears to be trying to strengthen its position in any negotiations about the future of Sudan; beyond that we don't know what its aims are.

Bishop Hassan reports that SPLA (N) are surrounding Kadugli city in great numbers and with great force. It is likely the city will fall to them. The army are outnumbered and not being reinforced. It is quite likely that there will be great destruction in the city.

Bishop Hassan himself intends to stay in the vicinity to help the churches and if he has to get out of the city itself there is an area nearby where he thinks it might be possible to stay and still encourage the Christians there. He asks for our urgent prayers as a deanery for safety for the people in Kadugli.

On a personal note, Bishop Hassan also asks for prayer for his daughter who has malaria that she would recover. You will recall that across Sudan medicines are very difficult to come by.

What can I do to help?

Much the most important thing continues to be our prayers. Bishop Hassan reports that our prayers are valued, and indeed most of us cannot see any way of resolving this terrible situation without God's involvement.

Please see the Prayer Diary below:

Prayer Diary

"Please do not grow tired of praying for Sudan" (Archbishop Ezekiel)

Please pray:

- That God will cause the defeat of the forces of evil currently oppressing Sudan and neighbouring countries.

- That God will protect the city of Kadugli and all living there, and throughout Kadugli Diocese, and provide at least the necessities of life. Pray too for Bishop Hassan and other church leaders, for their protection and God's blessing on their witness.
- That God will bless and protect the various aid agencies operating in dangerous conditions, and especially provide for medical supplies and other necessities.
- Give thanks for the steadfastness of the Christian community throughout Sudan, and for the encouragement and strengthening of the church, and that God will cause the church to grow in numbers and in maturity.

A Prayer for Sudan

Lord God of Hosts, in your word you tell us that "When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him." As we look at Sudan we see evil rampant, and we pray that your Spirit will indeed raise up a standard against it, and bring peace throughout that war torn country. Hear our prayer for the all the people of Sudan. Turn the hearts of their leaders to reconciliation and peace. Bless Archbishop Ezekiel, his bishops and clergy that they may have the strength and support to be true shepherds of your people in the midst of war. Strengthen those who seek to bring peace, who heal the sick and feed the starving and hasten the time when all nations will own your just and gentle rule and receive your gift of peace.

Amen



Footnote: As Christmas approaches, please keep Kadugli and indeed the whole of Sudan in your prayers. There will be no January edition of this newsletter unless something really urgent comes up. And may our celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace be filled with gratitude and joy.

Every blessing,
John Joy

Bradford Deanery Lay Chairman