

# Kadugli Newsletter and Prayer Diary

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

What is the Current Situation in Sudan?.

The UN has recently appointed a new humanitarian chief, Tom Fletcher, and although there are major humanitarian crises in, for example, Gaza and Ukraine, it was Sudan he selected for his first field visit. The UN has been painfully aware of the situation in Sudan for some time, an awareness that has struggled to command proportionate coverage in the media. This may be changing, as more articles than usual have appeared during the past month.

Among the places Mr Fletcher visited was an orphanage in the east of the country. Originally it was in Khartoum, but the fighting there drove the orphans to a new shelter in Wad Madani, and then the fighting spread there, so they fled to their current premises.



Of a population of some 47 million in Sudan, about 25 million need help. 11 million are “displaced” - driven from their homes to live somewhere else in Sudan, or even to leave the country altogether. Nearly 5 million of those affected are children. And the violence goes on. It Isn't just guns and bullets: starvation and sexual violence are also used as weapons.

The major parties in the war are the SAF and RSF, but there are many other smaller players with their own agendas. Mr Fletcher has held meetings with General al-Burhan of the SAF, who has given permission for the UN to establish more supply hubs. Elsewhere, the UN has secured permission to reach some stricken communities including a large

refugee camp in Darfur. We hope these relaxations will continue. For the moment, however, there are reported to be three food convoys heading for different areas, including South Kordofan, the province containing Kadugli. We await news that they have arrived.

### **Why Don't They Stop the Fighting?**

All this fighting and violence is destructive and leads towards anarchy. Already an estimated 150,000 people have been killed. In Kordofan (an area which includes Kadugli) it is estimated that 80% of all deaths are due to violence. Surely it can and should be stopped, so why hasn't it been?

There have been allegations, always denied, that foreign countries are supporting one party or another. This may well be a part of the reason. Also, recently the UK and Sierra Leone proposed a draft resolution in the the UN Security Council calling on both sides to immediately halt hostilities and start talks aimed at agreeing a national ceasefire. The resolution also called on the army and RSF to respect previous agreements to protect civilians, but specifically mentioned RSF attacks in the western region of Darfur and elsewhere in the country. The resolution, however, was blocked by Russia using its veto.

It is apparent that willingness to continue the violence, destruction and descent into anarchy is widespread. Please pray against this.

### **What about Kadugli?**

One allegation recently reported is that the two separate areas of Darfur and Kordofan are subject to ethnic cleansing and marginalisation. The disproportionate levels of violence in these regions point to deliberate strategies of destruction.

Kadugli lies on the border with the separate country of South Sudan, a country that was part of Sudan until 2011 when it gained its independence. People have relations and tribal members either side of the border. If there is danger in Sudan, especially in the South, it is natural for people to head across the border into South Sudan. The nearest part of the border is about 20 miles to the border and to the South Sudanese Unity State. In Unity State there has been widespread flooding caused mainly by storms. Because the soil is largely clay, the water doesn't drain away readily; it lingers. Also in Unity State there are oil wells, and seepage from these pollutes the surface water and also the water table. The water is not safe to drink, but it is the only source of drinking water for many.. There are camps in Unity State for refugees from Sudan ....

Despite these overwhelming obstacles, people cling tenaciously to their faith. The desire to serve God is strong, though circumstances make it hard. The training of ministers continues, and we are asked to pray for this and their commissioning.

Back in Sudan the church in Kadugli Diocese is doing what it can to provide for its starving members, helped by our contributions. It has taken some time to find an effective way to transfer funds there, but at last the money is getting through. Bishop Hassan has said a big "thank you" for this, and the people there are overwhelmingly grateful. Our giving is a sign of our unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and also provides encouragement to them to continue in their christian faith.

Across Bradford Deanery there has been a warm and generous response to this need; thank you all. But the need continues, so please continue your generous support and give to Bradford Deanery for Kadugli. Please give via your church if you can, or directly. The account details are:

Bank: Lloyds Bank Trowbridge  
Name of Account: Bradford Deanery  
Sort Code: 30-98-75  
Account No. 00710285  
Reference Kadugli. (N.B. This is important)

Please also consider ways of raising funds for Kadugli.

And as always, we ask you to pray.

## Prayer Diary

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

“He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.” - Psalm 46:9

- Please pray against the forces of evil that seek to destroy. “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10.
- Give thanks that our aid is getting through, and pray that we shall be able to continue to provide this support for our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Pray the church in Kadugli will be kept safe.
- Pray for Bishop Hassan as he leads ministry in the Nuba Mountains, and for the building up of the church there.
- Pray for freedom from sickness, and for the availability of medical care.
- Pray for the refugees and other displaced people who are in Kadugli diocese or who have passed through there. Especially pray that the oil seepage in South Sudan will cease and that clean drinking water will become available.

### Christmas Greetings.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and New Year. Please continue to pray for Kadugli and the whole of Sudan.

There will be a break over the Christmas season. The next edition of the Newsletter will be at the beginning of February 2025.

John Joy

