

Kadugli Newsletter and Prayer Diary

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

Recent News on Sudan.

During the current civil war, the safest place in Sudan has been Port Sudan, on the coast in the northeast. Many people have fled there. Following SAF's reclaiming of the city of Khartoum, it looked as if the advantage had shifted to them, though RSF's withdrawal from Khartoum was accompanied by an escalation in the scale of atrocities. SAF meanwhile were proceeding to recover Omdurman and the rest of Khartoum State. Then RSF launched a drone strike on Port Sudan; unsurprisingly this caused alarm.

Nevertheless, SAF seem to be continuing to advance. Radio Dabanga reported on 25th May that SAF were trying to open the road between El Obeid in North Kordofan and Dilling in South Kordofan (and therefore in Kadugli Diocese), and were claiming control of at least the northern part of the area. RSF meanwhile were reported to have moved westwards into West Kordofan, but more families have been displaced.

Is this good news or bad for Kadugli? Kadugli has been controlled by the RSF and the Sudan People's Liberation Front North (SPLM-N). This might not be ideal, but to have yet another party involved would increase the instability in the region.

Another development is increased American sanctions on Sudan, due to charges that the SAF has been using chemical weapons. Unsurprisingly, the SAF deny these charges.

And What of the Church in Sudan?



There is little up-to-date news about the church in Sudan as a whole. Churches have been damaged or destroyed, but Christians continue to cling to their faith, and possibly to draw closer together, for all denominations have suffered. Over the Christmas and New Year period Archbishop Ezekiel visited the region round Khartoum and also visited the Governor of Khartoum State. During the meeting the archbishop congratulated him for being appointed governor of one of the most challenging States of Sudan in terms of the ongoing conflict. The archbishop also expressed to the Governor the concerns and the challenges Christians are experiencing in Khartoum State in terms of lack of food and conditions of churches because most, if not all the churches have not been legalised and the archbishop recommended that these churches are given legal status. It is clear that Christians have been discriminated against, using what we may see as legalistic reasons.

Also last year, a Mothers Union choir performed, and the picture above serves as a reminder that the Mothers Union continues with its valuable work despite the many dangers and difficulties.

What about Kadugli?

Bishop Hassan is very conscious of the dangers the population faces, dangers magnified by the advance of the SAF in the region of El Obeid and Dilling. The population lives in fear, and when we pray for them we should especially pray for the protection of Hassan and his family, particularly as Hassan seeks to carry out his ministry in increasingly difficult conditions. There is a sense of growing concern in Hassan's communications, so we should make a point of praying for him as he leads the church in Kadugli, remembering that the pressure on him is unremitting.

Meanwhile, we also need to support the desperate need for food and other essentials. Can we help? In addition, we have been supporting Hassan's son Yassa with help for his fees for his course at a university in Uganda. For administrative and other reasons any money given for Hassan's son Yassa would need to be kept distinct from other funds, so anyone wishing to donate for Yassa can use the same payment details as for other funds for Kadugli, but with the reference "Yassa" instead of "Kadugli."

Across Bradford Deanery there has been a continuous warm and generous response to this need; thank you all. The church in Kadugli is intensely grateful for our support, both financial and in prayer. Please continue to 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. Or, as mentioned above, Yassa. (<u>N.B. This is important</u>)

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)

Bishop Hassan speaks to us and says “My loved ones, we are a very difficult time more than any time, because the war will be in the big cities like Dilling and Kadugli, and there is a severe risk that we cannot speak, but we ask for the help of God and protection for our lives.”

Please pray for:

1 The security situation which, particularly in Kadugli, is severe during these next days, because each party wants to control the situation with the strength of their weapons. Please pray that all sides will see the futility of warfare.

2 We thank God a lot for care and protection in the midst of war difficulties, when many people have been displaced.

3 We thank God for the Church and its survival in the midst of these harsh conditions in which we live.

4 Pray for peace and stability across the whole of Sudan, especially the areas of conflict, and also for the displaced, and that our Lord gives safety and peace that exceeds the human mind, even in times of fear and death.

5 Pray for the family and my (Hassan's) children, and may God protect them and bring success in their lives.



Happier times. Bishop Hassan with family and friends.

And Finally

Salisbury Diocese has been linked with Sudan (and since 2011, South Sudan) for over fifty years.

Bishop Stephen and his wife Carol invite you to this year's Summer Fete in aid of Salisbury Sudans Medical Link. It will be at South Canonry (in the cathedral close) on Sunday 15 June, 14:00-17:00

Adults admission £2
Children go free!

Do please support this event.