PRAY FOR SUDAN

Our link
Dioceses in Sudan are experiencing outright warfare and high religious oppression

NOTES FOR GROUP USE
BACKGROUND

Three of our companion dioceses in Sudan are suffering from armed combat right now, and the other two are responding to the needs of displaced people, fleeing for safety.

Kadugli Diocese is where the Nuba Mountains are. The area is being bombed by the Government of Sudan and there are running battles between Government troops using heavy weapons and a scorched earth policy against freedom fighters.

The southern part of Wad Medani Diocese is suffering in the same way, in a state called Blue Nile which borders on to South Sudan.

The people of El Obeid Diocese are experiencing raids from militia (called the Mujahadeen) who have been armed by the Government, sweeping down from the north. The area is called Darfur.

The freedom movement in Darfur is quite separate from that battling in Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains, but the causes are the same – rejection of oppression by the Government of Sudan, demand for equality of opportunity, and asserting the right for their people to keep their own culture and identity in the face of imposition from Khartoum of an Arab, Islamic culture.

Our companion dioceses are responding to extreme suffering and destitution with virtually no resources. NGO’s are barred from the areas by the Government, so churches are the one caring institution still present. They need our prayers and are deserving of our support.

These notes have been put together to stimulate intercessory prayer for them. They are based on four themes:

- conflict and oppression: warfare, arrests, demolitions, racism, politics
- hunger & homelessness: displacement, relief and aid needs
- faith & freedom: role of church working for peace, hope, interfaith
- children & education: loss of future, lack of training, breaking of culture

And there is additional material – two hymns that are particularly relevant, some written prayers, and notes on how to use this material to advantage.

There are internet addresses for video material that can be accessed via You Tube, and information about our Diocesan link. If you would like advice or a speaker, please email: tim.paul.lewis@gmail.com or sudanlinkcontact@gmail.com
CONTENTS

For each of the four themes there are –
- Bible verses
- A selection of pictures
- Words from Sudan

Take any of these as a focus for prayer, thinking into and around what you are looking at.

Focus your time of prayer on the theme and broaden it in the way you might construct a spider diagram, until you feel you have covered the topic.

You could take one theme a day over four days, or follow all the material in one session.

Praying well together in small groups.

Done well, praying in small groups should help people participate. The style of prayer can be conversational, in the presence of the Father, very different to congregational prayers. There is much greater opportunity to feel really united in prayer. Here are some guidelines to help create that.

1. **Short prayers** — Limit prayers to phrases and single sentences. Short prayers allow more people to participate, and they take the pressure off those who don’t know how to voice prayers in paragraphs. It also encourages listening.

2. **Subject by Subject** — Pray one subject at a time. A group member prays a request: other group members stay on the topic with agreement, affirmation, scripture, or additional prayers on the same topic. It’s more than OK to cover the same aspect that someone else has prayed for. We are called to persevere in prayer, to hold on until we are confident God has heard and will answer. Only when the topic has been saturated in prayer does the group move on to the next subject. The group is aware that they are ready to move on when there is silence or general agreement. We are called to listen to what others are saying and to the Spirit’s leading.

3. **Simple** — Use the everyday type of conversational language that the group is used to, praying in the presence of Jesus. This puts the focus on the prayer rather than the person praying.

4. **Specific** — Be as specific as you can and avoid generalities.

5. **Silence** — Silence can be good. Listen in the silence. How is God leading you to pray now? Are you called in the silence to intercede more, or to thanksgiving prayers, or communion? Is there a song or picture that God is bringing to mind?

Thank you for taking time to Pray for Sudan.
RESOURCES

**HYMN**  
*tune: Finlandia*

We sing of those whose lives are lost and broken,  
who pay the price when reason’s voice is stilled.  
Across the world their cries come sharply to us,  
imprisoned, tortured, starving, bound and killed.  
We know, like them, of evil’s dark oppression,  
we live, like them, through hope which God instilled.

Where power and terror stand in domination,  
where greed dictates the value life can hold,  
the young, the strong; who shape a better future,  
into the jails of tyranny are hurled.  
Their faith re-fires the cause of liberation,  
their tears unite the weak through-out the world.

Their struggle points the way of love and justice.  
Their battles quell what evil can arrange.  
Their anguish shows the depth of crucifixion.  
Their strength reveals the power we can attain.  
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are Mine.

**HYMN**

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are Mine.

When you walk through the waters I’ll be with you;  
you will never sink beneath the waves.  
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are Mine.

When the fire is burning all around you,  
you will never be consumed by the flames.  
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are Mine.

When the fear of loneliness is looming,  
themember I am at your side.  
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are Mine.

When you dwell in the exile of the stranger,  
remember you are precious in My eyes.  
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are Mine.

**PRAYER FOR PEACE**

God of Justice,  
encircle our earth with your demand for integrity and openness,  
for fairness and sharing  
and call the nations to live in harmony.

Prince of Peace,  
heal your divided world of its warring madness.  
Still our fears and calm our stormy confrontations.  
and call the nations to live in harmony.

Spirit of Reconciliation,  
breathe your fertile influence on all creation  
and help us find the common ground  
where forgiveness may flourish and flower in new friendship  
and call the nations to live in harmony.

Holy Trinity of Hope and Love and Joy,  
let your desire for justice, peace and reconciliation  
mark every encounter with you and with our neighbour  
that in your presence and to your glory,  
the nations may learn to live in harmony.  
Amen.
PRAYERS

Response:
Through our lives and by our prayers
May God’s reign come.

For the Nuba people of Sudan: that they may pass from their agonies as a crucified people to a promise of hope and justice for all, in a new society celebrating the values of the transfigured and risen Saviour.
Response …

For those displaced across Sudan without jobs or whose livelihoods are threatened; for the homeless and poor, that new doors will be opened and new visions of solidarity seen.
Response …

That in Sudan there may be fresh initiatives, inspired to embrace all who value human dignity and respect, and ready to listen to those now marginalised by race or creed.
Response …

For all those places and organisations through which we can glimpse signs of God’s realm in our world:
that the work of the churches and movements for justice and peace across all faith communities, will continue to proclaim the unity that binds us in common witness.
Response …

For each person here: that our strength and commitments may be renewed in the options we take in our lives as we pray in some moments of silence ……
Response …

God of Cross and Resurrection, like your beloved Christ, we do not die alone, because we are all part of a community; whenever someone dies in the community, the community also dies a little. The wellbeing of Sudan dies every day with every sister and brother murdered.
Hear the prayers of your people and overcome the sin of daily crucifixion with daily signs of resurrection.
Let us find hope beyond the naked violence which pits your people against each other and you.
Open our dark places to the light of your Spirit so that we may live in justice, unity, and peace, through Christ our brother, the risen One for ever and ever. Amen

RESOLVE

Let us go out and be light!
May our words burn like the word of the prophets.
May our defence of the poor and suffering, the victims of injustice and oppression, be a transforming power for our world.
May our voice, our feet, our hands become those of Christ, building up the reign of God in human history. Amen

THE FIVE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DIOCESES OF SUDAN

Khartoum
Archbishop Ezekiel

El Obeid
Bishop Ismail

Kadugli
Government held area: Bishop Hassan
Liberation Army held area: Bishop Andudu

Wad Medani
Bishop Saman

Port Sudan
Bishop Abdu

VIDEO MATERIAL

https://youtu.be/NkfN6bPqOU
Report by Aljazeera summarizing the conflict

Go to: https://www.youtube.com/ and search for: Nuba Reports
You will find news reports direct from Sudan.

https://youtu.be/a7MUdDOS8dI
Singing at a Church school, now destroyed