

"Building Peace through Service"

April 2003

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you with appreciation for your continuing support for Together for Sudan's work among those who are displaced and impoverished in the Khartoum area and the Nuba Mountains. A wise man wrote that, "Education is the single greatest key to human dignity." Education is, of course, the work of our sister charity, The Bishop Mubarak Scholarship Fund for Nuba Women. But Together for Sudan's equally vital work is to support the life transforming educational process with projects which help people hold on to life and hope while they are learning to read and waiting for peace.

WHO NEEDS PEACE? We all do, of course, for humanity has a common future. In our tragically divided world, there is work for everyone who seeks social healing and reconciliation. But peace is a process, not a declaration. And some places, some people, are in urgent need and provide special opportunity. Sudan is one of those places. Together for Sudan brings Muslims and Christians together to build peace through service to one another. Let me introduce you to some of our partners, supporters and beneficiaries whom I met during a visit to Sudan in February.



Above/Right: Displaced women at Soba Aradi outside Khartoum seek to support themselves by selling snacks to school children. Peace is what these women need most to encourage them to return to the areas from which they have been displaced. Their second greatest need is literacy training and assistance in income generation to enable them to help themselves and their children towards a better, more secure life.



Left: Displaced children at Jabarona in the desert outside Khartoum wait on the margin of life and hope. Malnourished and uneducated, these children are desperately in need of peace, their only gateway to a humane future.

WHO IS WORKING FOR PEACE . . .



Steering Committee of The Women's Action Group, a Sudanese partner of Together for Sudan. WAG is running a unique HIV/AIDS Awareness Project and an innovative Street Girls Project. We hope soon to restart the groundbreaking "Listening to Loss" dialogue between urban and displaced women which brought WAG into existence in the mid-1990s.



Sudanese minorities

Left: Coptic Christians Dr. Ibrahim Wissa and Fr. Anthonius Fakious are partnering with us to expand the **Medicine Box Project** to prisons and to settlements for displaced persons. A "mobile medicine box" will allow broader outreach, including in Nuba Mountains communities.



Right: Dr. Nabila Radi is the Sudanese ophthalmologist in charge of the TFS **Eye Glasses Project** which has given new hope to hundreds since it began in June 2002. Next to Dr. Nabila is Silas Jojo, TFS Country Director, who is a displaced southern Sudanese.

... AND RECONCILIATION?

Educators and Clerics. TFS Patron Professor Yusuf Fadl Hasan with Fr. Etienne Renaud who recently allowed use of the Catholic Language Institute in Khartoum for a TFS-sponsored stress and trauma recovery workshop. One a Muslim, the other a Christian, both men devote their lives to reconciling communities through education and service. TFS is grateful for the work of all who promote forgiveness, understanding and cooperation between Sudanese communities.



Humanitarian Workers.

Ms. Nafisa Markoun of the Sudan National AIDS Project set up WAG's HIV/AIDS Awareness Project and now continues as Technical Adviser. Nafisa, who is from the Nuba Mountains, was a member of the first group of Sudanese women, which in 1996 began "Listening to Loss" dialogue. The success of that dialogue in breaching barriers between women of different ethnic, educational and faith groups enabled WAG to open a women's

centre in 1998. And that led directly to establishment of Together for Sudan as a facilitating charity.

Soldiers and Diplomats.

Sudanese peace negotiations, ongoing in Kenya since summer 2002, involve Sudanese participants as well as European, American and African specialists, observers and facilitators. British involvement includes British Special Representative Alan Goulty, a TFS Trustee, seen here with Col. Rob Andrew of the British Peace Support Team which is providing essential training for post-conflict peace monitoring and mine clearance at the Peace Support Training Centre near Nairobi.



WHO IS BENEFITING?

Building peace between people and within communities requires as much help from as many sources as possible. This is because "building peace through service" needs sustained funding and active participation on the part of dedicated partners and supporters. But there is another reason to support Together for Sudan. **To help others to become able to help themselves is to empower yourself.** To extend a helping hand to someone in need, especially someone you do not know, is an act of mercy, of acceptance, which strengthens us all. When we help others, we "pass the peace" so that it may return to us.



Together for Sudan projects -- which include **The Medicine Box Project, The Solar Project, The Eye Glasses Project, The Women's Income Generation Project** and **The Breakfast Project** as well as **The WAG Women's Centre** are intended to assist those who are most vulnerable. Our beneficiaries are special people who deserve our understanding, respect, and compassion. Our supporters are also rather special. Thank you for sharing with us the blessings of peace building through service!

Left: Instead of abuse and rejection, young women living on the streets of Khartoum deserve empathy, medical assistance, education and other support. WAG seeks to help these young women and their children to move towards a peaceful, more secure future.

Please make cheques payable to Together for Sudan and post to: Dina Gillespie, Treasurer, 45 Paramount Court, 41 University Street, London WC1E 6JP.

With appreciation,

Lillian Craig Harris
Director

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Here kindergarten children at Fulla Falls School, who receive breakfast through Together for Sudan, sing a welcome to visitors.