

THE BISHOP MUBARAK SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR NUBA WOMEN & TOGETHER FOR SUDAN

December 2002

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the season during which we especially remember the need for Peace on Earth. Both The Bishop Mubarak Fund and Together for Sudan have made such significant progress in this past year that I am celebrating by writing a joint newsletter. We celebrate new patrons, new partners, new opportunities and new peace prospects in Sudan. Among the most memorable events of recent weeks was the 28 September **Together for Sudan fundraising event in London at which Christians and Muslims danced together in a "Celebration of Sudan"**. The cessation of hostilities on all fronts and progress in the Sudanese peace negotiations at Machakos, Kenya, have raised people's hopes for a better future.

When I visited the Nuba Mountains in October to look at potential sites for BMF and TFS projects, there was a lot of dancing going on there, too, as people rejoiced in new found hope. Other people were a bit more practical: women at Abu Lelah asked for medicine and clean water, children in Kadugli were lined up hoping that classes would soon begin, teachers at Heiban showed us ruined buildings which had once been secondary schools. And the Minister of Education of South Kordofan urged me to send more BMF university graduates back to the Nuba Mountains as teachers. We are already working on this last request. And **although peace will not immediately solve all problems in the Nuba Mountains or anywhere else in Sudan**, I am very hopeful that -- **with your continuing support -- a lot more can be done to help people who are greatly deserving** of our compassion and assistance.



Celebration of Sudan at St Matthew's Church, Bayswater, and London: (left) TFS Patron, Dr. Hasan Abdin joins Dinka dancers; (right) Members of the Tariqa Burhaniya dancing before the Lord.

If more people had the opportunity to look into the faces of those who suffer in Sudan, there would be a great deal more urgency in our efforts to help. In part to make this point of really "seeing" one another, BMF and TFS Country Director Silas Jojo visited the UK in September.

Here you see **Silas in Cornwall** speaking to a group of British school children who are clearly intrigued by what he is saying about displaced children who live and study in the squatter settlements around Khartoum.



Next here is a photograph of would-be **kindergarten children in Kadugli, the Nuba Mountains.** They don't look very enthusiastic, do they? That's not because no one has yet paid a teacher for them but because **they are hungry.**



This third photo will also help us to see with our hearts. I took this image of a silent young mother and her little girl next to a group of woman who hoped the BMF would set up a literacy class for them. But this woman has a more urgent need. **Her child is ill and she can't afford medicine.** What do you read in her face?

The Bishop Mubarak Fund believes in "Power to the Powerless through Education." But education doesn't happen overnight. You have to set up and monitor literacy classes, send children to primary and secondary school, find funding for university scholarships, train teachers, sometimes even build schools and set up libraries. **All this takes time. Meanwhile people are still hungry, sick and living in poverty.** What to do? **Together for Sudan's answer is "Building Peace through Service". That's why most TFS work -- Medicine Box with life saving medicines, Solar Project**

which helps women study or work on income projects after dark, Breakfast Project for kindergarten children, and the highly popular Eye Glasses Project -- **is carried out at sites where BMF supports educational work. After all, women can't read if they can't see and sick or hungry children don't learn much at all. All most people need is a chance to help themselves.**

Look at this photo of displaced southern Sudanese teachers at a school in Kenana, a town south of Khartoum. The community set up a school some time ago but could not pay teachers' salaries. Eventually the teachers were forced by circumstances to seek paid employment elsewhere and the school closed. Then two years ago the BMF heard about Kenana Basic School and offered to pay small salaries to the teachers. Today over 160 children who would otherwise remain uneducated are studying in Kenana School because The Bishop Mubarak Fund is paying the salaries of all five teachers. **Can you see the hope and pride on their faces?**



These teachers are working in very difficult circumstances that include inadequate classrooms, insufficient books, virtually no teaching aids, adverse weather and overcrowding. They are helping to secure the future for displaced children and I can't say how much I respect them. **But they would not have been able to restart their school if you had not cared enough to act.**



One last story about giving someone a chance. In Khartoum the **Women's Action Group [WAG]** is now operating a **Street Girls Project** as well as an HIV/AIDS Awareness Project. In this photo Fawzia Fadl, WAG member, stands behind some of the young women being helped to come in off the streets. **Together for Sudan supports this work of Muslim and Christian women co-operating to help others.** When I visited Khartoum in October, I was told of the death of an infant recently born on the street. The WAG women are determined to prevent this happening again. **They invite us to continue to work with them to this end.**

Together for Sudan and the Bishop Mubarak Fund are sister charities dedicated to service, to education, to helping the Sudanese hold on to hope and work to rebuild their lives and their future. **Service to others is, simply put the path to personal empowerment.** If you wish to participate by making a donation, here's how:

THE BISHOP MUBARAK FUND PROJECTS for which your assistance is needed:

***Scholarships:** £400 (\$600) will sponsor a **university scholar** for one year. A basic **school scholarship** costs only £40 (\$60) per year and a **secondary school scholarship** only £60 (\$90). Basic school scholarships may be designated for BMF's new AIDS Orphans Scholarship Project.

***Women's literacy classes:** £220 (\$330) will pay the salary of a literacy teacher for one year.

***Children's Teachers:** If you wish to benefit an entire class, the salary of a children's teacher is £284 (\$426) for one academic year.

TOGETHER FOR SUDAN PROJECTS for which your assistance is currently needed:

***Eyeglasses Project:** £15 (\$23) buys a child a pair of glasses; £10 (\$15) pays for cataract surgery.

***Breakfast Project:** £40 (\$60) buys a child breakfast at school for one year.

***Medicine Box Project:** £350 (\$525) provides a month's supply of basic medicines for several hundred people.

***Solar Project:** £700 (\$1,050) buys a solar lighting system, which benefits an entire community.

***WAG Women's Centre:** £35 (\$53) provides job training for a young woman living on the streets.

Donations in any amount are gratefully accepted. Depending on project, make cheques payable to either **The Bishop Mubarak Fund**, Norman Jackson, Treasurer, 47 Taunton Ave., London SW20 0BH, or to **Together for Sudan**, Dina Gillespie, Treasurer, 45 Paramount Court, 41 University Street, London WC1E 6JP.

With appreciation for your support and in hope of a peaceful, happy new year for the Sudanese people,



Lillian Craig Harris (Director)



Photo: Lillian and Nagwa at Mortah Al Junud, October 2002. Nagwa is a former BMF university scholar who graduated this year and is now teaching in the Nuba Mountains.

***The Bishop Mubarak Scholarship Fund for Nuba Women. Registered English charity no. 1075850.**

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