

# TOGETHER FOR SUDAN and THE BISHOP MUBARAK FUND

Registered Charities No. 1075852 and 1075850.

Website: [www.bishopmubarakfund.org.uk](http://www.bishopmubarakfund.org.uk)



October 2004

Dear Friends,

Since I wrote to you in June there have been major developments both on the Sudanese political scene and in our charity work. In Sudan **political delay and prevarication have continued to thwart the dawn of justice and stability for which most Sudanese people long.** Although north-south discussions resumed in Kenya earlier this month, humanitarian crisis remains acute in Sudan's far western province of Darfur. Disregard for the welfare of ordinary people by leaders of all parties has brought thousands of the poor, marginalised and displaced to death or despair. And not in Darfur alone.

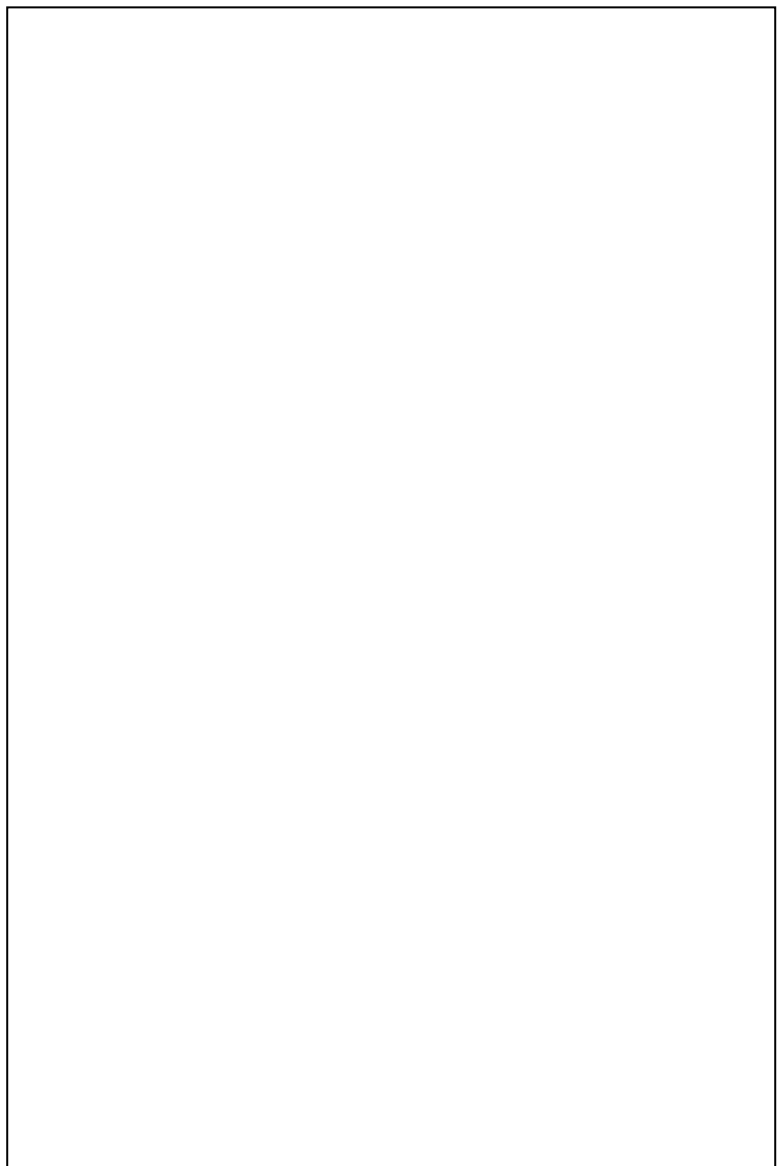
A so-called effort to "rezone" squatter settlements which surround Khartoum is bringing additional misery, degradation and despair to the perhaps two million displaced people, mainly southerners and westerners, who live in these miserable desert areas. After their mudbrick shelters – in which some have lived for over a decade – are knocked down by government bulldozers, the inhabitants are offered a chance to buy back the land and rebuild. Few can afford to do so and so they remain in plastic and cardboard shelters fearful they will be expelled further into the desert.

The current target of "rezoning" is Soba Aradi, south of Khartoum and now surrounded by a growing industrial zone which has dramatically raised land prices. **Last week the house of TFS/BMF Country Director Silas Jojo was bulldozed.** With our help Silas was able to move his eight dependents into rented accommodation. But most of the displaced and desperate have no such outside assistance. Eventually the self-help basic schools and clinics where TFS/BMF has projects will also be bulldozed.

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## St. Philips School, Soba Aradi

Desire for education is high in Soba Aradi where Kimu community association of Muslims and Christians runs St. Philips Basic School. Nancy Yayi, one of the students, told us that **"I will not leave school even though our house and school are bulldozed. I shall continue to study even under a tree for the benefits of education."**





**Tens of thousands of displaced and unschooled children live in squatter settlements with no public services on the outskirts of Khartoum.**

Watching the bulldozing, first at Wad El Bashir north of Khartoum early this year and now at Soba Aradi, I feel exasperated and angry. But I am inspired and humbled by the determination of marginalised Sudanese people to continue on strongly, to help one another, never to give up. The Sudanese, women in particular, are determined to change the future. They just need a piece of solid ground to stand upon. And they recognise that education is that ground. One of these women is Olga Odera, founder of Fulla Falls School in Soba Aradi. Both her house and one of the buildings of her school, where BMF pays teachers salaries as we do at St. Philips, have been bulldozed. **If anyone wishes to send a message or funding to Olga, please send it to me for delivery when I next visit Khartoum in January.**

**Our vision for the future:** The Bishop Mubarak Fund and Together for Sudan work in response to a growing demand for education from displaced and marginalised communities in the Nuba Mountains and the Khartoum area. The

people of southern Sudan and Darfur, even the Beja people in the far east of Sudan, are awakening to the power of education. Silas tells me that he remains hopeful that peace will eventually provide opportunity for displaced Sudanese to return home both to Sudan and to their ancestral areas and that caring outsiders will continue to assist with grassroots development projects.

Within the next five years, Silas says, he wants to see over 200 of our university scholars graduate because this “will raise the social and economic standard of their families as well as of their communities.” He also wants to see BMF/TFS supporting at least 60 basic self-help schools enrolling over 8,000 children by paying the salaries of 250 teachers. In five years, Silas believes, TFS/BMF should be running 100 women’s literacy classes, training medical technicians to work in the Nuba Mountains and in southern Sudan, and further expanding the medicine box, eye glasses, solar lighting and school breakfasts projects into remote areas.

**Too optimistic? Unrealistic? I don’t think so given our track record!** We started in 1996 with two university scholars and since then both BMF and TFS have moved forward on the prayers of both Muslims and Christians. We are bringing neighbours into community service, helping the marginalised to help themselves, laying the educational foundations for civil society. It will take a while, disasters will periodically intervene, but we will not be deterred. We will reach as far as our arms can reach and then a bit more. And we will continue to count on your support. Already we are preparing for what Trustees see as a more effective future.

**The Way Forward.** In 1999 Together for Sudan and The Bishop Mubarak Fund were registered as separate English charities because their work seemed clearly different: education (BMF) and services (TFS). Furthermore BMF was already working in Sudan whilst TFS was set up initially to support three independent Sudanese charities. Since then, however, these three small charities have gone their own ways and TFS work is now increasingly in support of and complementary to that of BMF. **From 1 January the two charities, which already share a Khartoum office and a website, will become one under the name Together for Sudan – The Bishop Mubarak Fund.** We expect the merger to have practical benefits in simplifying administration and facilitating a more inclusive approach both to potential donors and to needy Muslims, Christians and traditional believers.

**Early next year we plan to set up a sub-office in the Nuba Mountains which will monitor our growing work there** and we are currently moving towards expanding partnerships with local community based organisations and with UNICEF, the World Food Programme and UNESCO. **We are also looking at possible ways to help the suffering women of Darfur. But we shall continue to centre our work on education and the support services which this requires.**

As TFS/BMF expands, fundraising becomes ever more important. **We urgently need an experienced volunteer fundraiser to work part-time from home to prepare project proposals and to lead our fundraising team effort.** Interested applicants should send their CV to TFS/BMF, 45 Paramount Court, 41 University Street, London WC1E 6JP.

**Named university scholarships** are another way for you to become more actively involved in promoting education among Sudanese women. This is a fundraising method, not a bursary scheme, and awards are not normally matched against a specific scholar. Contributors should donate at least £350 per year to keep the scholarship current. A donation of £2,000 will set up a permanent scholarship in the name of an individual either living or deceased and periodic announcement will be made. **Current named scholarships include:**

**Kathryn Law Brennan** (2002 by subscription of her friends)

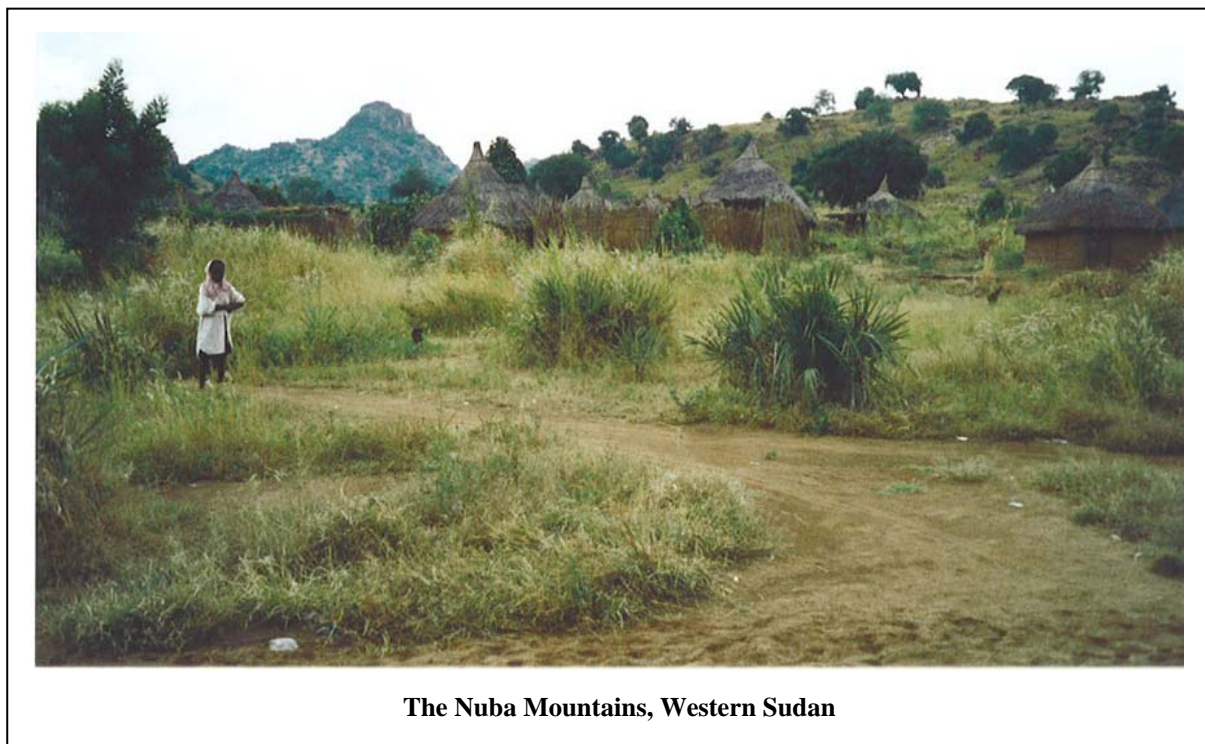
**Nadir Dinshaw** (2003 in recognition of major support by a late BMF/TFS Patron)

**Marjorie Weaver Harris** (2003 by Lillian Craig Harris in tribute to her mother)

**Bridget Rees** (2003 by subscription of her grateful friends)

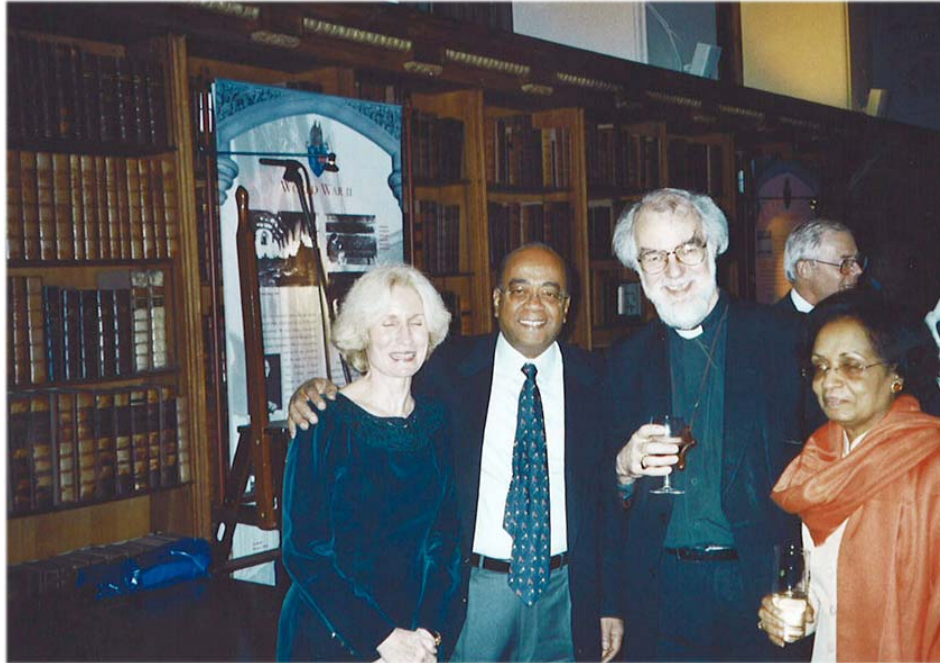
**Katy Green** (2004 as a memorial from the Green family)

**Cully Scoones** (2004 by Mrs. A.B. Robertson in tribute to her father)



**The Nuba Mountains, Western Sudan**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, hosted a fundraising event for The Bishop Mubarak Fund at Lambeth Palace on 14 October. Held in the Great Hall, now used as the library, the evening included a group of internationally known barbershop singers led by Mark Pellew, former British ambassador to the Vatican, and an Auction of Promises conducted by Peter Arbuthnot, formerly of Christies. Included among the items auctioned were a stay at the Acropole, Khartoum's best known and best loved hotel, and dinner with the British Ambassador in Khartoum. A total of over £10,000 was raised to support BMF's educational programmes in Sudan. We are deeply grateful to all those who organised, participated in and attended this special – and very entertaining – evening.



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From left: TFS/BMF Director Dr. Lillian Craig Harris; TSF Patron Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim; BMF Patron Dr. Rowan Williams; TFS Patron Dr. Hania Fadl.

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**Some personal news.** Alan Goulty will become British ambassador to Tunisia in November. We shall, of course, retain our close ties to Sudan and I shall remain as TFS/BMF Director, visiting Sudan two or three times each year. Our departure from London does, however, provide the opportunity and obligation for others to become more fully involved in support of the work of Together for Sudan and the Bishop Mubarak Fund. TFS/BMF is on the threshold of new growth and new development and in need of more involvement on the part of many more friends of Sudan. If there is any way in which you think you might help us with fundraising, publicity or in other ways, please contact me at [afglch@planet.tn](mailto:afglch@planet.tn). Our mailing address after 5 November will be c/o FCO (Tunis), (026162), King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH.

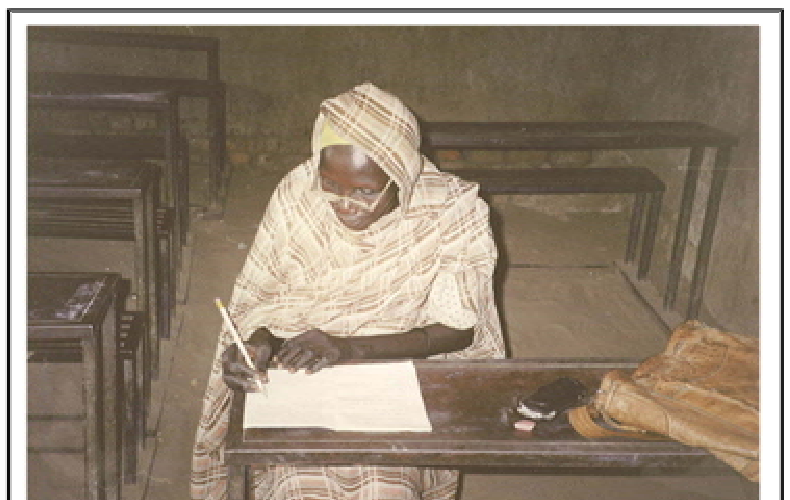
**Yours for peace and progress in Sudan,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lillian'.

**Lillian Craig Harris  
Director**

**P.S. We can save postage by emailing this newsletter. Please send us your email address!**

**Make cheques payable to The Bishop Mubarak Fund, 47 Taunton Ave., London SW20 OBH or to Together for Sudan, 45 Paramount Court, 41 University Street, London WC1E 6JP.**



**Brona becomes literate in Abyei where BMF now has three women's literacy classes**