

TOGETHER FOR SUDAN – The Bishop Mubarak Fund

Website: <http://www.togetherforsudan.org.uk>

Registered Charity No. 1075852

OCTOBER 2006



DEAR FRIENDS OF SUDAN,

This year marks the tenth anniversary of small projects which eventually became Together for Sudan. While cause for celebration, this is not reason for contentment. Sudan continues in crisis despite the signing of a North-South Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 and a limited peace agreement in Darfur early this year. Millions of Sudanese do not have access to the physical security, education, employment, clean water, basic medicines and adequate food which would allow peace to take root in their hearts. Together for Sudan's work is far from over.

Together for Sudan has always listened carefully to what those disinherited by war, poverty and illiteracy say they need. And education, after food and security, is what they have always told us is their greatest need. **With education, displaced and marginalised people say, we can help ourselves. Together for Sudan has followed that request** even to the extent of starting expensive educational support projects such as school breakfasts and the Medicine Box when we had no idea where the money to continue would come from. It has been ten years now and still we are listening and still growing. Call it what you will. I call it good listening. And grace. Certainly lots of that.

But today what people say they need most is teacher training. We are already meeting their requests for scholarships for individuals, for women's literacy classes, for salaries for teachers in self-help basic schools. Now displaced and marginalised **Sudanese communities are asking urgently for training of kindergarten, basic school and literacy teachers.** Reflect for a moment on what it means when people begin to ask for comprehensive teacher training. Despite their continued impoverishment and marginalisation, despite ongoing conflict in Darfur and uncertainty in the south and east of the country, the hearts of people in countless broken communities are moving towards peace. Together for Sudan is committed to doing our best to support them in this effort to build a more secure, productive and peaceful future for themselves and their children.



Together for Sudan Field Coordinator Peter Simon (standing) with teacher trainees in the courtyard of the TFS Kadugli Sub-Office. The desire for teacher training speaks of enhanced perception of community in areas fragmented by war and want. This development, to which Together for Sudan is now responding strongly, is cause for great hope.

IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING: EDUCATION MOVES FORWARD IN THE NUBA MOUNTAINS. . .

Early in 2006 Together for Sudan carried out a baseline survey of educational needs in eight villages in the Kadugli and Kawda areas, the latter formerly under Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement authority. The surveyors included local volunteers, graduated TFS university scholars and professional teacher trainers in partnership with TFS. Personal interviews and community meetings enabled the surveyors to understand community educational needs. **The response was overwhelming: “Give us trained teachers and we will get on with educating our children.”**

Teacher training, funded through Together for Sudan by the British Department for International Development, began in January in Kadugli with two weeks training for 25 Reflect method **literacy teachers**. This formal training is being followed by nine months in service training. Prior to this year’s training TFS was sponsoring only six women’s literacy classes in the Nuba Mountains. We now have 16 classes and others are being set up. A second training of Nuba Mountains literacy teachers is scheduled for January 2007 and will likely be held in the Kawda area to accommodate demand.

Intensive training for kindergarten teachers was held from mid April to mid May. Intended only for 30 trainees, **the class was expanded to 48 when the extra would-be students refused to be turned away**. These trainees are likewise being followed up with nine-months in service training. As a result, Together for Sudan is now sponsoring 25 kindergartens in the Kadugli area and new kindergartens are being set up. In June educational campaigns and community mobilisation were carried out to stimulate setup of parent/teacher associations. This was followed by a **one month basic school teacher training conducted in both Arabic and English**.

Have you ever wondered what your life would be like if you had never learned to read? The very early years of childhood are the most impressionable, the time most conducive to rapid learning. Who knows whether one of the four and five year olds pictured here is a future recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, a medical worker who will save many lives, a teacher who will inspire her students to reach their potential? Certainly these children are the fathers and mothers of tomorrow whose children will also benefit from

whatever education we can help their community make available to them now.



This kindergarten, set up by teacher trainees, meets under a tree until parents can construct a shelter. According to the South Kordofan Minister of Education, Together for Sudan has provided the first basic school teacher training in the Nuba Mountains since the early 1980s and the first ever kindergarten teachers training in the area. TFS plans to train more basic school and kindergarten teachers in the Nuba Mountains before the end of this year.

. . . AND IN SETTLEMENTS FOR THE DISPLACED OUTSIDE KHARTOUM

Meanwhile, TFS has launched another multi-faceted teacher training programme in the Khartoum area with funding from Manos Unidas in Spain. Trainees are being selected from 15 schools which enrol more than 2,000 children. The programme began in July when 37 literacy teachers were trained in the Reflect method. Again, two weeks in class is being followed by nine months of monitored inservice training. Though we have at present only 16 active literacy classes in the Khartoum area, more are being set up by the trainees as a means of both income generation and community service.

A high drop out rate in self help schools for the displaced has been directly connected to poorly trained teachers. So next, at the specific request of displaced communities, came training of basic school teachers in how to teach mathematics. This one month course was attended by 28 teachers who will now be carefully followed up to monitor progress and the impact of the training on students. We hope eventually to respond to requests that teachers also be trained in teaching history, science, Arabic and English.

Because some of the teachers came from Darfur and have little knowledge of English and some from southern Sudan where English remains the official language, the maths training was carried out in both Arabic and English. Many of the teachers plan eventually to return to Darfur and to southern Sudan as teachers and nation builders. During November TFS plans to train 25 kindergarten and 65 basic school teachers working in IDP settlements in the Khartoum area, followed by nine months in service training. In December we have scheduled head teacher training and monitoring and evaluation training for school staff. And we hope this is only the beginning!

Together for Sudan is now paying the salaries of 96 teachers in 25 kindergartens and basic self help schools in the Khartoum area, the Nuba Mountains, Abyei, Kenana and Juba. Here newly trained maths teachers in the Khartoum area rejoice over their certificates.



URGENT NEEDS: Together for Sudan believes that education is a human right. Our aim is to support Sudanese women and children towards a peaceful and secure future through education. **You can help today by supporting us in the following areas of urgent need:**

* **Women's literacy training.** As the result of ongoing literacy training, new classes are being set up. A gift of £35 (approx. \$66) pays a teacher's salary for one month. £315 (approx. \$594) will keep a class open for the entire nine-month school year.

* **Breakfast Project.** The cost of food for this project has gone up dramatically and we risk not being able to service the 10 schools in the Khartoum area where we normally provide breakfast to kindergarten children. Gifts in any amount are urgently needed to keep displaced children healthy and in school.

* **Eye Care Outreach.** Unexpected expenses during our first Eye Care Outreach to the Nuba Mountains this summer have left us with a deficit of around £2,700 (approximately \$5,000) for surgeries and other follow up there. If your sight means a lot to you, help someone else see again!

* **Core costs are by far our most urgent present need.** Core funding, also known as overheads, is the glue which keeps a charity operational. Basically we need funding for rents for our Khartoum and Kadugli offices and salaries for our Sudanese employees. This critically important need is the most difficult area for which to fundraise. Can you help?

With appreciation for helping us help the Sudanese towards a better future,



Lillian Craig Harris
Director

P.S. We can save postage by emailing this periodic newsletter! Send your email address to: adrianandrobryn@btinternet.com Please also consider whether you can help by signing the enclosed Gift Aid and/or Direct Debit form

Make cheques payable to Together for Sudan and post to Norman Swanney, Treasurer, 33 Balmoral Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 0JS, England. US dollar cheques should be made payable to The Bishop Mubarak Fund and sent to the same address.

Want to know more about Together for Sudan? Check out our website! Over the

past two years the Together for Sudan website has taken a giant leap forward under Webmaster **Dave Lewis**. Here you see Dave, also known affectionately as Together for Sudan's "Trowbridge Branch". Dave is living proof of the value of volunteerism to charitable work and we are more grateful than it is possible to say for the hours he has put into creating and upgrading the Together for Sudan website.



Find out more about Together for Sudan, our motivation, our projects, our history, and our needs, by visiting the Together for Sudan website at <http://www.togetherforsudan.org.uk>.