

Kadugli Newsletter and Prayer Diary

“Please do not grow tired of praying for Sudan” (Archbishop Ezekiel)

News Across Sudan.

War in Sudan drags on with each side claiming gains but without showing a decisive advantage. Currently the SAF claim to have seized a strategic area in Blue Nile state, in the extreme South East corner of the country, while the RSF claim to have made gains in North Darfur in the centre of Sudan. Probably of more significance is the situation in Kordofan.

Kordofan comprises three states: North Kordofan, West Kordofan, and South Kordofan. Kadugli (both the town and the diocese) is in South Kordofan. Kordofan has a high proportion of Sudan's mineral wealth, such as oil and gold, so is clearly an area it is desirable to control, and this is no doubt why it is being fought over.

Recently we have reported on warfare in such places as El Obeid and Dilling. El Obeid, which is a major city in Sudan, is in North Kordofan, but a little further South, Dilling is within South Kordofan and therefore within Kadugli Diocese. Lately, international efforts to address Sudan's deepening crisis have intensified amid growing warnings from the United Nations and foreign governments about an expanding conflict and worsening humanitarian conditions, particularly in the city of El Obeid, capital of North Kordofan. As previously reported by Radio Dabanga, El Obeid has become the focus of mounting international concern, with diplomats and aid agencies warning that it could face a similar fate to El Fasher in Darfur, where notoriously months of fighting have been accompanied by widespread reports of atrocities and civilian suffering.

Besides the obvious risks of violence, the UN Commission on Human Rights has just published a report that sexual violence has accompanied the geographic spread of the conflict, as well as displacement journeys. It has been used consistently as a tactic to terrorise and traumatise the civilian population. The details of the violence are varied and sickening, and the tactic has been used by all sides, but principally by the RSF.

The Roman Catholic diocese of El Obeid includes the Nuba Mountains. The town of Kauda in the Nuba Mountains is the main centre of the areas of the Nuba Mountains controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, or SPLM-N, which supports the RSF. In Kauda the church looks after a store of medicines and food. Soldiers, probably from SPLM-N demanded the keys, but the priest, Father Youhanna Al-Amin, resisted handing them over. They nevertheless broke in and looted the store. Next day, they returned and shot Fr Al-Amin dead. The suggestion is that the crimes should be regarded as more like inter-tribal violence than military action, but either way they reveal a disregard for law and order, and reflect badly on SPLM-N's military discipline.

Kadugli.

Kadugli remains in a dangerous area. Dilling, mentioned above, is in Kadugli Diocese, and although markets have been gradually reopening following the SAF's advance, traders' requests for reinforced security evidence the continuing dangers.

Outside the conflict, normal church work continues. The Kadugli Diocesan Evangelism Department runs a successful football league to engage youth, reach non-believers, and connect with Muslim lads. In the recent final, the Umgroban Archdeaconry Mountain Church of Zion defeated a team from Dongola Aljuz! The diocese also conducted training for 71 pastors, lay readers, and evangelists on the topic "Fasting and Prayer," preparing them for an annual August outreach program.

In the Nuba Mountains of Sudan, the Church often gathers beneath mango trees. This is not by choice. Years of conflict have damaged buildings and made large gatherings risky. Drone threats mean that worship sometimes has to take place away from visible structures. However, on a recent Sunday, around two hundred believers met together in the shade of the trees to sing, pray, and hear the Word of God.

This quiet act of worship captures something important about the Church in the Nuba Mountains today. There is resilience, faith, and a determination to continue sharing the Gospel even in the midst of hardship.

The Nuba Mountains have long been affected by conflict, and the recent civil war in Sudan has intensified the challenges facing local communities. Millions across the country have been displaced, and many have fled into the mountains for safety. During the visit, a team from Relay Trust met families living in an internally displaced persons camp of around 25,000 people, most of whom had fled the nearby town of Kadugli.

Despite these difficult conditions, the Church continues to serve communities across a vast region. The Episcopal Church of Sudan in the Nuba Mountains oversees dozens of congregations spread across an area roughly twice the size of Wales. Priests and lay leaders travel across remote and sometimes insecure areas to care for their churches and share the Gospel.

Education continues, despite the difficulties and lack of funding. We should like to be able to contribute to the children's schooling, but food and medicine are higher priorities, and while we send money to Kadugli, its allocation is best decided locally.

Across Bradford Deanery there has been a continuous warm and generous response to this need; thank you all. The church in Kadugli is intensely grateful for our support, both financial and in prayer. Please continue to give via your church if you can, or directly. The account details are:

Bank:	Lloyds Bank Trowbridge
Name of Account:	Bradford Deanery
Sort Code:	30-98-75
Account No.	00710285
Reference	Kadugli. (N.B. This is important)

Please also consider ways of raising funds for Kadugli.

The level of commitment among Christians in Kadugli is striking. In all the hardship and suffering Bishop Hassan says

We thank God for his great love and care for us in this very difficult time. We thank God



very much for the new souls who are saved by the grace of the Saviour Jesus.

1. Praying to stop the bloodshed on the land of Sudan, especially in the fighting areas of Heiban and El Obeid provinces and all of Sudan.
2. Praying for a church and offering condolences to it for the journey of the servant of the Lord, our father John (*a priest and friend who had recently died*), and the Lord gives a message to the church of hope and hope because these circumstances are not the end. There is hope, and hope in our Great God, the human Saviour.
3. Praying for the humanitarian situation in Sudan; every day gets worse, but our Lord is present.
4. Prayer from the family and children that the Lord will protect them and meet their needs.
5. Praying for peace and stability in Sudan.

Your brother in the Lord,

Bishop Hassan James.

Let us join with our brothers and sisters in Kadugli in prayer.

Prayer Diary

“Please do not grow tired of praying for Sudan” (Archbishop Ezekiel)

Please pray that:

- Pray to stop the bloodshed on the land of Sudan, especially in the fighting areas of Heiban and El Obeid provinces and all of Sudan.
- Pray for a local church and offering God’s comfort to it for the journey of the servant of the Lord, our father John (a priest and friend who had recently died); the Lord gives a message to the church of hope and hope because these circumstances are not the end. There is hope, and hope in our Great God, the Saviour of mankind.
- Pray for the humanitarian situation in Sudan; every day it gets worse, but our Lord is present.
- Pray for the family and children that the Lord will protect them and meet their needs.
- Pray for peace and stability in Sudan.