

**Lifting up the Name of Jesus in
the Nuba Mountains, Despite All Odds**

Diocese of Kadugli Pastoral and Administrative Report 2015

Introduction:

Since the beginning of the war in the Nuba Mountains in 2011, the diocese of Kadugli has never been the same, security, financial and administrative aspects in the diocese of Kadugli are getting challenged and more difficult every year. Many key people, staff and priests of the diocese have taken refuge in exile and neighboring countries (Uganda, Republic of South Sudan, Kenya, Egypt). The good news is that these leaders wherever they go, are struggling to get united & connected by all means they can to keep the scattered diocese of Kadugli rolling.



The Diocesan bishop is getting many challenges, but the costly Diocese of Kadugli **Emergency Standing Committee** in November 2014, which was the first gathering of the Diocesan key leaders since the war erupted four years ago, managed to melt down a considerable number of these challenges, especially electing an assistant bishop and other key resolutions.

This report in brief will cover a period of six months from November 2014 – May 2015. It will highlight: first, spiritual, educational and administrative work in the Diocese of Kadugli. Secondly the pastoral and administrative work of the bishop in the diocese and his work visiting the people from the Diocese of Kadugli in exile.

Furthermore the report will indicate the participation of the bishop in peace talks between the Government of Sudan (GOS) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement North (SPLM/N) in Addis, Ethiopia.

The report will be concluded with general observations of incredible spiritual growth that has ever happened, in 13 years as bishop of this respected diocese.

Emergency Standing Committee:

It was the first standing committee after, the headquarters of the Diocese of Kadugli was destroyed and some church leaders and staff of the diocese took refuge in neighbouring countries; especially those threatened by the security authorities. After a lot of consultation with two archbishops the Diocese of Kadugli was allowed to convene the meeting of an Emergency Standing Committee for the Diocese of Kadugli on 25th – 30th November 2014, in Juba, Republic of South Sudan. 30 Key church leaders and staff of the diocese of Kadugli from five neighboring countries participated in the meeting. However raising the required money for the meeting, specially accommodation and air fare of the participants from the neighbouring countries was the most challenging part.



The standing committee meeting was started by an opening service at Juba Cathedral attended by the two archbishops - primate of the province of Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan and the Archbishop of the Internal Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan- it was a very moving moment for prayer and fellowship for the first time in three and half years, in which people from the same diocese have not seen each other. After long deliberations the meeting came out with a number of resolutions and recommendations a few are stated below:

- The continuation of the church growth even in the time of War was amazing, to take a small example, the current diocesan bishop has 13 years in the office started with 17 priests, and 8 parishes and 25 prayers centers, now by the grace of God the Diocese has 125 clergy and 105 parishes plus number of prayer Centres. Thus the meeting came out with new plans & strategies for the ministry to cover people within the Diocese as well as diocesan members who are in exile.
- After a long constructive discussion the Emergency Standing Committee recommended that the diocese of Kadugli should be divided into two Dioceses with an Area Diocese. This would be:
 - a. Diocese of Kadugli,
 - b. Diocese of Hiban, and
 - c. Area Diocese of Delling.

It also recommended two assistant bishops are to be elected, in the closing day November 30th, 2014. One assistant bishop was elected but the second assistant bishop was not and the plans are in process.

- The first and second batch of students that graduated from Korkel Bible and Theological Institute in Nuba Mountains, in last 9 years most of them proved to be successful. Some of these are promoted in role of archdeacons within the diocese, therefore the committee resolved that the diocesan bishop and all archdeacons are to support in improving the standard and work of Korkel Theological Institute. This includes allowing students from other denominations to join the institute. Graduation of the 9 students who completed the three years course had to be in April 2015.



Egypt

My pastoral visit started from Egypt, due to the generally difficult situation in Sudan many people including priests from the diocese of Kadugli are living in Egypt. We had a good meeting with the Archbishop and primate of the Anglican Church of Egypt. We heartedly appreciated his leadership, spiritual and social services rendered to Sudanese people in Egypt.



Bishop Andudu with Archbishop Ezekiel



Nubans in Egypt with Rev Jos of Heliopolis

We had updated him about the church situation in the Diocese, I was granted a chance to preach in a Sudanese service at Roxy church, with a warm welcome from the parish priest.

On the other hand we had a very constructive meeting with the Archbishop of Internal Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan who happened to be in Egypt. Mr. Samir Musa former Education coordinator for the diocese of Kadugli, who lives in Egypt was appointed part time Editor and Translator for Tabaldi Electronic Newsletter for the diocese of Kadugli.

Nuba Mountains, Sudan

The general situation in the region especially in the Nuba Mountains is getting worse in security and health, indiscriminate bombardment is still continuing by the Islamic militia & Government of Sudan. Many women and children have lost their lives, many markets and school houses were bombed and destroyed.

- *Aya Sofia Church Destroyed.*

This year two churches were destroyed in the diocese of Kadugli, Aya Sofia Church in Umserdiba was bombed, it was hit after the morning Sunday service. It was burned to the ground but the good news is people had left the church already so nobody was hurt in the church.



This is the remains of Aya Sofia church after being bombed

- ***Grace Secondary School***

The Diocesan School (Grace Secondary School) was hit by two rockets that fell into two class rooms destroying the roof and some school supplies. The good news was that there were no students in the classes, the school closed three years ago when the war started and security of the whole area was threatened. The Diocese is very sorry for the destruction of the two classrooms.



Bomb damage at Grace school seen from the inside



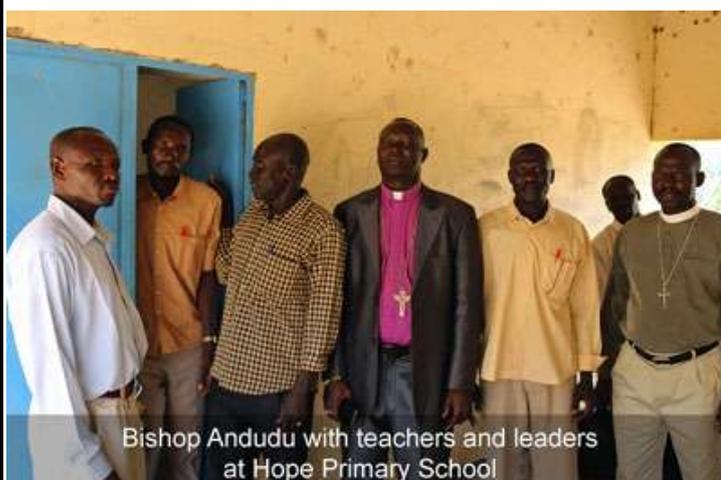
Bomb damage at Grace School

- ***Hope Primary School***

This school has remained in operation through all these years of war, the children are doing well, even though interrupted from time to time by the insecurity. But because it's location near the mountains children take to hiding and classes can be conducted in the mountain's caves. The academic year was opened in October 2014 and will be closing in June detailed report will be written separately.



Hope Primary School in the Nuba Mountains



Bishop Andudu with teachers and leaders at Hope Primary School



Pupils of Hope Primary School



- **Health Services**

Health services are generally very poor in the Nuba Mountains, there is only one hospital in whole Nuba Mountains area and people have to walk one or two days according to their distance. Many villages have no clinics or medicines, one incident broke my heart when a young lady was bitten by snake at night. She had to wait in severe pain until morning, to be carried on a donkey to search for treatment. No medicine could be found, what she got was only a burned bone that was put on the wound to suck out the snake poison. That was the only thing she got, she went back home still in pain to wait on God's mercy.



- **Food**

This year is better than the previous years in terms of food; the rain was good and some people managed to cultivate their lands, getting a better harvest. Humanitarian aid organizations are still banned by the Sudan Government. Those who failed to cultivate for security or other reasons are facing great starvation challenges.

- **Spirituality and Faith aspect**

Spiritual and faith living is only good thing in War zone areas of the Nuba Mountains, churches are packed with people and new churches were opened. Prayer life is strong, witness to Christ is true and strong. Another well known practitioner of Witchcraft abandoned his Magic, was baptized and confirmed in the last three weeks. He is now a full member of Episcopal Church in Undo parish.



Clearly the hand of God is in action, we witness every month new people joining the church even churches in exile (Republic of South Sudan, Uganda, Egypt and Kenya). We ordained and priested new church ministers in the Nuba Mountains, South Sudan and Kenya. We confirmed a total of 1193 in April & May 2015 within the Diocese and churches in exile. We thank & praise God for his mighty work in people's lives, appreciation and thanks to all faithful clergy, lay readers, Mothers Union, lay people, youth and Sunday School children who are working tirelessly in hard situations for his glory.

• ***Korkel Theological Institute Graduation***



Korkel Theological Institute is continuously to be the backbone of the Diocese by training church ministers. The previous graduates, most of them proved to be successful in the field of pastoral and church ministry. Korkel Theological Institute, being located in Nuba Mountains, helped in training more church personnel at minimum cost. Another factor is that the students are trained in their own context and environment which has contributed to their success in the ministry. On improving academic aspects of the institution, three new teachers were appointed, they will start in the new academic year November 2015.

A colorful graduation day was presided over by Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail, the Diocesan bishop on April 17th, 2015 marking the third batch of graduations. Nine students were graduated after a three year course in theology. A more detailed report will be written separately.

Second Emergency Standing Committee in Nuba Mountains

The second Emergency Standing Committee was so important to have such a meeting to take decisions and gain consent of the diocesan key leaders, especially on nominating and electing the assistant bishop. The meeting was held in Debi, Ildo Archdeaconry on April 16th 2015, at the time security was difficult in the area.



Forty Nine key church leaders participated in the meeting from all the archdeaconries of the Diocese. Archdeacons, Rural Deans, some pastors in charge, Mother's Union lay-people and youth all attended. Rev Ibrahim Musa because of his legal background was commissioned to act as Diocesan Chancellor in the Electoral College.

The meeting was opened with the word of prayer from Rev. Canon Habil Komi. The bishop's commissary and a reading was taken from (St. Luke 17: 11- 19), devotion was delivered by Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail the Diocesan Bishop of Kadugli.

After long positive deliberations the Emergency Standing Committee came out with some decisions and recommendations, only the key decisions and recommendations are stated below:

- It was decided that a department (Office) for Annual Bible Course, be formed separately from the Evangelism & Mission Department. Annual Bible Course committee members be selected from all archdeaconries of the diocese and serve three years. The course teaching will cover churches within the diocese as well as churches in exile where it is appropriate.
- Three clergy were chosen to represent Diocese of Kadugli, in the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC) namely:
 1. Rev. Abraham Musa Mantishi
 2. Rev. Rashid Ayoub
 3. Rev. Bolis Sulieman

The process of second assistant bishop will be reported later separately.



Ethiopia

Invitation from African Union was extended to us several times to participate in peace talks

Ecumenical Relations

At this time the division of conflict is tearing apart the countries in the region of the Republic of Sudan and Republic of South Sudan. Christians in Sudan are passing through persecution but still I believe there is a chance of unity and peace. Even with all our differences unity in diversity is possible, there must be a starting point for achieving unity and peace. It doesn't matter how long it will take so long as how we begin is sincere.

On April 19th 2015 a team from the Diocese of Kadugli led by the diocesan bishop visited the Methodist United Church Diocese of Karm in the Nuba Mountains in an act of living unity and peace with one another and sharing God's mission entrusted to us. We were warmly welcomed by Bishop Bulus Matta and his people, after some meetings we agreed to work together, and share ministries and institutions in the Nuba Mountains and beyond.



On the same efforts the Diocese of Kadugli, represented by Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail and the Very Rev. Mahamoud Kalbsh met on May 14th 2015 with leaders from the Sudanese Lutheran Church headed by Bishop Yusif Akila, Yuhana Ismail and others, for working together and signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two churches in:

- Mutual respect between the two churches
- Activation of relations and mutual visits
- Cooperation and coordination between the two churches in the fields of educational and evangelistic ministries.

Christ is beyond the denominational lines, in my understanding and denominations is more of doing things differently, but the true church of God on Earth is one with one destination, the Kingdom of heaven.

Kakuma Churches in Kenya

I came back to the Liaison office in Juba, after two month of pastoral work, we had some meetings with the Liaison Administrator, he coordinated and organized my travel to Kakuma, Kenya for pastoral work, on May 17th 2015, we had a wonderful confirmation of 76 Candidates, 2 lay readers, 4 mothers Union were Licensed, and 5 deacons were ordained (one deacon for the Diocese of Lui in South Sudan with permission of bishop of Lui).



The four Churches in the refugee camp, warmly welcomed deacons each church will be served by one deacon.

I handed a Laptop computer to the youth leader at St. Lukes in Kakuma as a gift that had been promised by Rev. J. Scott Turner the Rector of St. Paul's in the US on his visit last year. The youth were extremely happy and appreciated the gift.

Uganda

Many people from the Diocese of Kadugli, and other areas moved to Uganda due to the conflict in the region, they formed the Nuba Congregation. With an increase of the number of the congregation, the Bishop of the Diocese of Mukono in the Church of Uganda, through a local archdeaconry granted the Nuba congregation a hall. This was granted at Mercy school under the administration of St. Luke's Parish Mukono. The Diocese of Kadugli is grateful for this offer and cooperation. The church there is growing and is led by priests from the Diocese of Kadugli, assisted by the members of the church committee. The church is playing an important role giving hope and encouragement to the people who are very far from their home land. We attended a wonderful a Holy Communion service and the church is praying for peace to prevail in Sudan and South Sudan.



Nuba Mountains International University, is this necessary!?

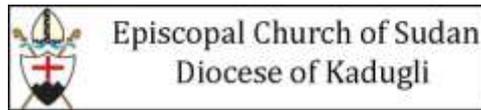
At the time of Sudan's independence from Britain in 1956, the use of English was widespread with its greatest use in the southern part of Sudan. Successive regimes in Sudan have hindered the higher education system in Sudan. This was started by the arabisation of the Universities (translation in to Arabic) in the nineties and, by increasing the number of universities, without concentrating on qualitative aspects. The Minister of Higher Education has released a political decree to establish twenty-six new universities for each state in Sudan. Meanwhile he has released another decree to force those universities to deliver the lectures in Arabic. This decision has been made at a time when all the scientific references for higher education were in English, and almost all of the lecturers had studied and trained in English. Furthermore, there was no allocation of money set aside which is necessary for the translation of those references, and is necessary also to attract scientists and experts to develop curriculums for higher education to convey modern teaching.

Concerning this issue the Vice President of The University of Medical Science and Technology, Sudan, (Middle East Magazine in Dec 2012), says that these decisions have had an impact on current levels of higher education. The new universities which have been established do not have even the simplest facilities that should be provided. There is a lack of good infrastructure. Universities have to make do with old buildings originally provided for secondary and primary schools, without qualified lecturers, laboratories and libraries. They also lack many other inputs which should be standard provision for universities.

Nevertheless, the civil war in Sudan which is still going on, has produced a huge number of Sudanese who live in Sudan, neighbouring countries and other displaced people especially those from the Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile district, with a strong desire to study in English. We are finding a huge annual increase in the number of students from these two regions particularly the Nuba Mountains who have finished their secondary level in English schools and they now need to join English universities!! Despite the war which is going on in these two regions, we strongly believe that the comprehensive Peace is coming one day! Therefore, the logical question here is: which Sudanese university is suitable for these students to complete their college studies in English? Especially for those who are still in these two regions, the neighbouring countries and those who are willing to repatriate, the importance and necessity for Nuba Mountains International University is very obvious!

This university will provide modern studies in English when there is a comprehensive peace in Sudan. Therefore the Nuba people in Sudan, those who have been displaced, and concerned people throughout the world should do their level best to achieve this dream which may take many years to be implemented.

Samir Kowa



THE CHURCH IN UGANDA

Reverend Jaleela Ayoub, a volunteer leader of St Luke Seeta Anglican Church Of Uganda Nuba Congregation.

St Luke Seeta Anglican Church Of Uganda Nuba Congregation, is a group from Nuba, who are worshipping in fellowship together, using Arabic Services at St Luke Seeta Anglican Church in Uganda.

This fellowship started with only one family in 2007 and as the number of Nuba families grew bigger in Uganda, the fellowship started to move from one home to another and continued to grow. Later, the Pastor, with the help of the Bishop of Kadugli Diocese, made a request from the St Luke Anglican Church leaders, for assistance in finding us a place where we can have our own freedom of serving God in the language that Nuba congregation can understand, better than the English and Uganda Services that Nuba congregation is not familiar with, and they did so. We thank God for that and now we are using the Service at one of the church's schools, near the main church, in Arabic language.

The Nuba community in Mukono – Seeta Uganda is the Nuba people who migrated from Nuba Mountains because of the civil war there. The majority of them are mothers and children who are now living in Uganda as refugees and asylum seekers, passing through many challenges, as the victims of the war, traumatized and faced with the challenge of looking after the children in their schooling.

These women also want to learn the English language, to use it in getting some skills, to help themselves, and that is not easy because of the financial problems they are facing.

Therefore, as a church, we are doing our best in prayer, to encourage them to keep their faith and hope in Our Lord Jesus, the Saviour and help the children to grow in faith and in the fear of the Lord, knowing God.

Therefore we appeal to all the fellow believers in Christ to join us in prayer, which I strongly believe can do a lot for the Nuba people, especially the women and the children who are dying in the war area and escorted all over the neighbouring countries, missing their husbands or fathers, for survival.

Contacts

To contact Bishop Andudu, email: bpkadugli@gmail.com

For more information, visit: www.kadugli.anglican.org

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