

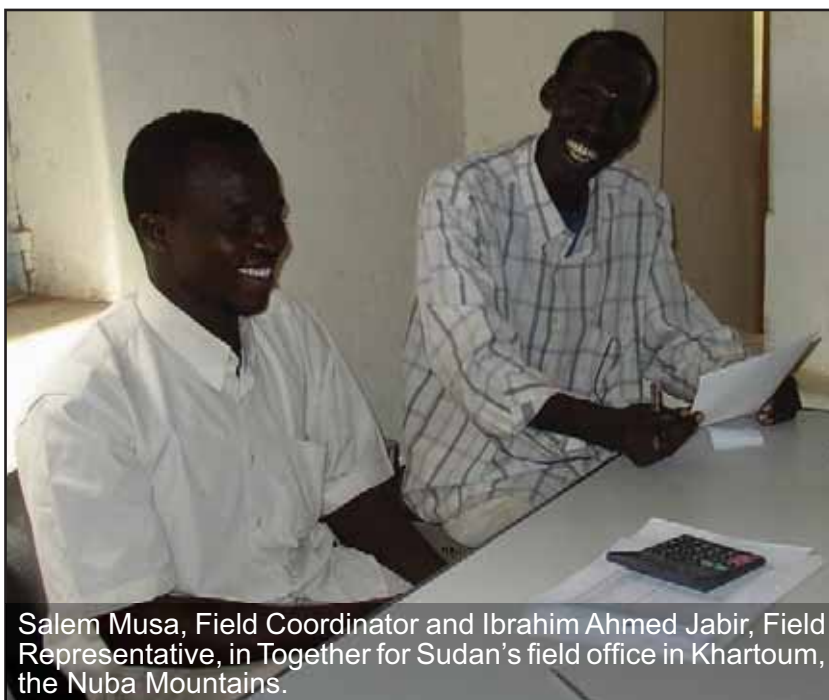
## Dear Friends of Sudan,

Khartoum, during my May visit, was a city of political tension, traffic congestion and extreme heat as well as new restaurants, grand hotels, enormous new buildings and a rapidly rising cost of living. But Khartoum is also a city of growing divide between the wealthy and the destitute for most of whom there is no education, no medical care and often no hope. Poverty, uncertainty and the longing for stability were evident as was the need for good governance and for reconciliation between various tribes and groups and between Muslims and Christians.

As always I visited Together for Sudan projects as well as our offices in Khartoum and Kadugli, capital of the Nuba Mountains, and, by listening to what people say they need, tried to understand what we as a small charity can do to help. The answer remains the same: for millions of displaced and disadvantaged Sudanese, education is the best, and for some, even the sole, route to a more secure future. **But how can a small charity make a difference to the future of Sudan? We can because we respond to what people say they need.** When people see that Together for Sudan cares about them practically, often they begin to hope again. And hope is the most essential ingredient is finding a way forward.

TfS was born in Sudan in the mid-1990s in response to requests for education from Sudanese women. Aided by our local Patrons and supporters, among them prominent Sudanese educators, doctors and other professionals, we have fashioned our eight educational and educational support projects in accordance with what the poor say they need. Here are some of our recent achievements:

- TfS Eye Care Outreach in the Nuba Mountains, which began two years ago, has led to the setting up of an ophthalmology section in the Kadugli hospital.
- The training of kindergarten teachers in Kadugli and environs has led to a local government requirement that children attend kindergarten before basic school, a much needed development.



Salem Musa, Field Coordinator and Ibrahim Ahmed Jabir, Field Representative, in Together for Sudan's field office in Khartoum, the Nuba Mountains.

- TfS University Scholarships, our first project, has now resulted in graduation of 163 young women from Sudanese universities and 284 TfS scholars in local universities this year.
- Graduation during my visit of 127 Community Health Care assistants (all but ten of them women) after a six month training course at Mayo Angola IDP settlement outside Khartoum now provides the graduates with a marketable skill which is greatly needed in their communities.
- Three of the TfS literacy classes in Umbetta outside Kadugli graduated a total of 186 women in spring 2009.

## GRADUATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

Although the students, whose training was funded by the Gordon Memorial College Trust Fund through Together for Sudan, still had a month of hospital training to complete, their graduation ceremony was brought forward to allow me to be with them on their big day. It was a lovely gift. On a windy late afternoon, sand blowing, several hundred family and friends of the graduates gathered in a large tent. How often are we able to celebrate the beginning of a new way of life for over 100 people – plus the patients who await them? The event started with music (very loud), singing and speeches. Then there were role plays about having a proper job and not needing any more to resort to illegal brewing or prostitution to make a living.

Meanwhile, everyone was aching for the dancing to begin. As soon as they could the women got up onto the stage and started to express their joy through the dance, followed shortly by me and Victor from the Khartoum office. At this point the trainers rushed the stage together. By then relatives of the graduates were on the stage, too, dancing or clicking their fingers in blessing over us all. A young woman with one empty eye socket, one of the new graduates, kept dancing up to hug me. I hugged her back and made a mental note to ask Dr. Habiba to fit her out with a glass eye, hoping that some nice man would recognize the beauty which I saw in her.



**NEWS FROM AMERICA.** A companion charity to Together for Sudan is being registered as a fundraising charity in the United States. Friends Together for Sudan has been incorporated by Virginia and is now seeking tax deductible status in the United States. My husband and I now live the US and are members of a board which also includes lawyers, a retired State Department official and a graduate student. The international law firm DLA Piper, to which we are most grateful, is providing pro bono legal services. We expect the grant of tax exempt status and subsequent fundraising later this year.

**NEWS FROM ENGLAND.** At their bi-annual meeting in February, TfS Trustees elected three new board members. They are Mrs. Carol Part of Wiltshire who takes on a fundraising brief, Mr. Desmond Bermingham, lately of the British Department for International Development and the World Bank and Ambassador Rosalind Marsden, British Ambassador to Sudan. TfS is grateful to each of them.

**TFS TRUSTEE TO RUN MARATHON.** In October TfS Trustee Adrian Thomas will run in the Great Clarendon Marathon between the cathedral cities of Salisbury and Winchester 26 miles away. His intention is to raise funds for the education of women and children and he hopes to attract a wide range of potential donors. Contributions will be able to be made via the JustGiving website but, in the meantime, cheques may also be sent to TfS Treasurer Norman Swanney. Your support is appreciated! Good Luck, Adrian!



**EYE CARE OUTREACH.** Here you see Dr. Shadia Abdul Khair, an ophthalmologist who works with Together for Sudan's Eye Care Outreach, checking the eyes of street boys who have been rounded up into a government shelter some 50 kilometres from Khartoum. For most if not all the 120 boys examined on that day, this was their first eye care and, indeed, their first examination by a medical doctor. Infected eyes, including trachoma which can cause blindness, and eye injuries are common among abandoned and runaway children. In addition to eye care, the boys were provided as necessary with cough remedies, antibiotics and vitamins. Glasses as needed would come later. A strong wind blew through the straw shelter, carrying sand into the faces of the rows of boys, many pre-teenagers, who sat waiting on the ground. As I was about to leave, Dr. Shadia pulled me over to look into the face of an 11 or 12 year old with an empty eye socket. Had he injured himself? Had he been beaten? The boy would or could not say. 'I'll follow him up with an artificial eye,' Dr. Shadia said. Frankly, she and I would have paid anything for the privilege of helping that child although the boy himself seemed bemused by all the fuss. But Dr. Shadia and I smiled at one another in anticipation.



**TfS GRADUATES RETURN TO THE NUBA MOUNTAINS.**

Country Coordinator Neimat Hussain, Salem Musa from the Kadugli office and I were leaving the Kadugli Hospital when a young woman recognized us and rushed over. Her name is Mecca Said Komi and she is a 2007 TfS sponsored graduate from Ahfad University for Women in Omdurman where she studied Family Science. Now back in her home area, Mecca is working as a nutritionist at the hospital. She is among over 30 other Nuba women supported through university by TfS who are now back in Southern Kordofan as teachers, medical workers and government and INGO employees. Female illiteracy in the Nuba Mountains is usually estimated at about 90 percent and TfS university graduates are playing a role in lowering that appalling statistic.

During the 13 years since our first project, University Scholarships for Women, began TFS has matured, expanded and changed -- all in response to the educational needs of the displaced and marginalized Sudanese we serve. With severely limited resources we have achieved major results and now have offices in Khartoum and Kadugli in the Nuba Mountains. By responding to what the poor say they need, we have found ourselves involved in HIV/AIDS awareness and Eye Care outreaches, in teacher training and scholarships for orphans, needs which most other charity see as too massive to tackle. Although some of our early projects, such as school breakfasts and the Medicine Box have been discontinued, there is also much which has not changed for both TFS and for Sudan. Poverty, uncertainty, the longing for education and stability, the need to educate women and children – all these remain, as do many other needs including good governance and reconciliation among various Sudanese tribes and groups and a lasting peace. Faced with the present international financial crisis, the challenges are formidable.

One of our most effective projects - Teacher Training and Support - is temporarily suspended due to lack of funding. And already at least three of our sponsored self-help basic schools in the Khartoum area have closed due to lack of teacher support. We need more ongoing partners, more sustained funding, more individual as well as corporate donors. But we are not discouraged for we do not feel that any of us have ever "owned" a work which is guided by what impoverished and marginalized Sudanese say they need. We are in this together and invite you to be there with us and for them. Come along for the surprises and the blessing!

Please give generously to our new Flexible Fund which we have set up to ensure that resources are available to meet our most urgent needs. Cheques payable to Together for Sudan may be sent to TFS Treasurer Norman Swanney at 33 Balmoral Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 0JS, England.

With appreciation for working with us to help the Sudanese towards a better future,



**Lillian Craig Harris OBE**  
Director

**P.S.** Help us save postage by emailing our newsletters!  
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And do consider whether you can help by signing the enclosed GiftAid and/or Direct Debit form. Make cheques payable to Together for Sudan and post to Norman Swanney, 33 Balmoral Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 0JS, England. *U.S. dollar cheques should be made payable to The Bishop Mubarak Fund and sent to the same address.*

