

Prayers for Sudan

Lord, we are the nation that will bring gifts to You (Isaiah 18). We are the people that Prophet Moses married from (Numbers 12). We are the people that will praise and submit to you (Psalm 68). We are the people that Philip baptized in the book of Acts. Therefore, Lord, we pray that You will bring to completion what You have started in Sudan. In the name above all names we ask You to restore Sudan to Yourself. May our nation come to it sense and cry out to You. Father, we pray in the name of Jesus that You will guide the International Criminal Court as it works on the question of indicting President Al-Bashir. Protect the people of Sudan in whatever decision is made. As the King of Peace, help preserve the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and allow an opportunity for a fair election in Sudan this year. Lord, You are our rock, our fortress and our refuge. Bless Sudan and strengthen Your church all over the country of Sudan. In Jesus' name, *Amen*.

Kwathi Ajawin, Director of Sudanese Outreach at Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church, Annandale, Va.

Notes on Kwathi's prayer:

Many Sudanese believe that they are the people described in Isaiah 18.

Moses' wife came from Cush (Kush), a civilization located in what now is Sudan.

Lord, we pray for the people of Southern Sudan who greatly suffered from the effects of the civil war that divided them on tribal and ethnic lines and denied them essential needs for living, their democratic rights, and their freedom of choice. We pray, God, that You may touch their hearts to embrace unity and love for one another, that they embrace one another and reject tribalism, that the people of Sudan learn to separate issues from personalities, and that the kingdom of God dwells among and within all of them.

We pray with special attention to the need for the Word of God to take charge of the hearts of the people of Southern Sudan, for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and referendum in 2011 in the South, when the people of Southern Sudan will determine their future, and for healing internal divisiveness and conflict and its replacement with unity of purpose.

We pray for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to bear its fruits that were meant for all the Sudanese people. The enemies of the CPA are working so very hard day and night to destroy the CPA. Lord, may You in Your special way touch the hearts of all people so they may respect, support, and implement the CPA.

In the same way, we pray for the people of Darfur and the Darfur region. We pray for a wise International Criminal Court decision and that the aftermath of the decision will not unleash forces that impede progress toward peace in Darfur and throughout Sudan.

We pray, God, that You guide all levels of the Sudan Government with Your divine wisdom. May You bring Your own peace into Darfur and to its people.

We pray that government leaders govern with Your wisdom. May they respect human rights and may the people's choice prevail in the country. We pray for the national census results that they may be completely and honestly recorded and that they may be a blessing for governing the people.

We are grateful for and pray for our brothers and sisters beyond Sudan who are praying and working very hard to help the people of Sudan achieve a just and lasting peace. Please be with them in their good work and well wishes for the Sudanese people.

Simon Chol Mialith, Peace Building Officer, RECONCILE, Yei, Southern Sudan

Established in March 2004, RECONCILE (Resource Center for Civil Leadership) is related to the Sudan Council of Churches. These Sudanese churches aim to help victims recover from the trauma associated with the 25-year civil war in Sudan. They also help to lead a process of reconciliation that will unite not only the Christians in Southern Sudan but other faith groups as well. The Rev. Debra Ann and Delvin Braaksma serve as Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission co-workers with RECONCILE.

Noting that since the war ended in the region, drought and flood contribute to an inadequate amount of food each year, the Rev. John Philip Omot of the Presbyterian Church of the Sudan, Pochalla Parish, suggests the following concerns for prayer related to hunger in Sudan:

- That the followers of Jesus might help the hungry, sharing generously out of God's blessings
- That the followers of Jesus might learn why there is hunger and teach one another about the causes of hunger
- That the followers of Jesus might learn effective ways to help their sisters and brothers who hunger

Loving and merciful God, we raise up your people in Sudan who lack food. Many are malnourished. Some are starving.

We know that there are reasons for this. We recognize natural and manmade causes, but know that the hunger being experienced in Sudan does not spring from nature. Instead, most is caused by corrupt and greedy leaders who pursue personal financial and political gain rather than seek to enhance the lives of their people . . . leaders who ignore servant leadership.

Lord, touch leaders at all levels. Guide them away from greed and toward righteousness, away from genocide and toward respect for all.

As we in relative wealth eat when the clock indicates that it is time to eat, many, perhaps most, of your children in Sudan eat only when food is available. We, who have so much, prepare more than we need and throw out the rest while your children in Sudan sometimes are driven to eating the leaves off the trees.

Help us to help them, remembering that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." But, Lord, let us be wise with our assistance. Guide us to help in ways so that our sisters and brothers do not become dependent and lose the dignity of knowing that they are of equal value in Your eyes.

We pray that You will use us to bring a just and lasting peace to Sudan, for we know that to eradicate hunger the people must be able to till the fields, to tend and harvest the crops.

May the Prince of Peace bring peace at all levels. Lord, stop the genocide. Bring peace among families, peace among tribes, peace among cultures, peace among races, peace among those of differing faiths. At the same time let all Christians live in such a way that we demonstrate Your true Lordship.

We pray that when peace comes, You will give the Sudanese confidence that peace will prevail so that they will be industrious, raise food crops, tend the herds, and be rewarded for their effort.

We ask these things in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Bill Andress, Sudan Advocacy Action Forum, Lexington, S.C.

Lord Jesus, you are the bread of life. You feed us daily in many ways. We thank You for your nourishment received through the witness of sisters and brothers in Sudan. We thank You for their faithfulness and perseverance in spite of great hardship. We thank You for their passion for the gospel and its propagation to the ends of the earth. We pray that we might be genuine partners with them in feeding those who hunger. May we live humbly and modestly with the resources that You have provided to us. May we remember and remind each other of those who eat too little because of injustice and oppression. May we encourage our near neighbors to remember those in the Sudan and other distant places. We pray in Your name, because You are the bread of life. Amen

The Rev. David Dawson, Shenango Presbytery, New Wilmington, Pa.

Lord, we thank You for the beautiful country of Sudan and all the people groups that it consists of. We thank You that You are the God of this land and these people and that You love them. Lord, help us to love the Sudanese as You love them. It is our prayer that this time of fasting will make our hearts more like Yours and will help us to see and thus treat the Sudanese as the neighbors they are. In your extravagant mercy, O Lord, bring peace to the people of Sudan—be their Comforter and their Provider that they might know Your goodness and praise You for it. *Amen.*

*Jeff and Heather Ladine, Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church,
Trinity Sudan Ministry, Lexington, S.C.*