

## Sudan and The United Methodist Church



Sudan is the largest country in Africa with a population of 40 million people. In biblical times this area was known to the Egyptians as Kush and therefore had strong religious and cultural ties to the country of Egypt.

After finally gaining independence from Egypt and the United Kingdom on January 1, 1956, the country of Sudan has endured 50 years of civil

war. Conflicts in Darfur between settled farmers and nomads moving south in search of water and pastures have been commonplace for centuries. The civil conflict of 2003 resulted in the displacement of 2.1 million people and the deaths of 300,000 to 400,000 more.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) began working in Sudan in February 2005 after assessment teams determined that UMCOR's experience could add to the humanitarian effort to alleviate suffering in the Darfur region and Southern Sudan.

There are 21 United Methodist Churches in the Yei District of Sudan, each with about 80 to 100 people. This district is under the leadership of Bishop Daniel Wandabula of the East Africa Annual Conference. United Methodist Churches and Annual Conferences in the United States have established significant partnerships with Sudan.

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## PEACE BUILDING & PURSUING JUSTICE

### Mission, Education and Advocacy For Sudan



## Annual Conference Teams

MARCH 12 - 23, 2009

connecting the church in mission



## Mission Purpose and Goals

### **PURPOSE:**

The exposure trip will help the United Methodist Annual Conference teams gain knowledge and understanding of the present issues prevalent in Sudan while raising awareness concerning the realities and the misconceptions about its land, people, resources, and conflicts.

Participants will be introduced to the work of the United Methodist Church and the present work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), its partnerships, and its efforts toward peace building in Sudan.

### **GOALS OF THE TEXT:**

- To explore the historical and current underlying conflict between people who need land for agriculture versus people who need land for grazing.
- To learn about the drive by international entities, including governments and multinational corporations, which exploit Sudan's natural resources (i.e., oil and land).
- Explore the plight of Sudanese Internally Displaced Persons, Sudanese refugees, and foreign refugees located in Sudan as a result of civil war.
- To examine and explore the misconceptions versus the realities surrounding the conflicts in Sudan as a result of civil war.
- To learn about the leadership and vulnerability of women and children in Sudan.
- To examine the role of media and politics in perpetuating misconceptions about Sudan's issues.
- To examine the underlying internal and external political issues that continue to drive conflicts seen presently.
- To learn about the current U.S. public policy concerning Sudan.
- To learn about The United Methodist Church in South Sudan, linked to the East Africa Annual Conference, and the reconciliatory process of the All Africa Council of Churches (AACC).
- To learn about the different peace building models used by UMCOR and its partners surrounding issues related to camp hospitality, farming, water, schools.

- To challenge individuals and teams in becoming partners with the East Annual Conference and UMCOR to foster continuity of peace building efforts.
- To learn about the role of Christians as a minority group in Sudan.

## **APPROXIMATE COST: \$3500**

### **COST OF TOUR INCLUDES:**

- round-trip airfare from New York City to Sudan,
- in-country ground transportation,
- group accident insurance,
- airport/hotel group transfer,
- hotel (**double occupancy**),
- all visas, taxes and meals.

### **COST EXCLUDES:**

- Airfare and/or transportation between your departure city and New York City,
- trip interruption and/or baggage insurances,
- excess baggage fees,
- personal items,
- food/beverages outside provided meal plan.

**REQUIREMENTS:**  
**\$100 DEPOSIT & REGISTRATION FORM**  
**Due date: October 31, 2008**