

21 DAY PRAYER GUIDE

FOR SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

We pray for the people of both Sudan and South Sudan: that they will experience a hope and a future filled with love, joy and peace. This is our prayer at this monumental time in history as, on July 9, 2011, Africa will witness the birth of its newest nation following the decision of South Sudan to separate from the north.

BACKGROUND:

In January, a referendum took place under the terms of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended two decades of civil war between north and south. The people of South Sudan voted to become a separate country by an overwhelming 99 per cent. Their voices were heard and respected. Thank you for your prayers during the referendum, which passed off relatively peacefully.

Tearfund has a long association with Sudan; we have been working there for more than 40 years.

In the South we have been working with partner organisations who are bringing transformation through the church in areas such as HIV care and prevention, leadership development, and peace, justice and reconciliation work.

Tearfund’s DMT (Disaster Management Team) has been meeting urgent need in South Sudan since 1998 through projects promoting health, water and sanitation, disaster response and risk reduction. Tearfund has also been active in Darfur, in Sudan’s north-west, since 2004: providing water, sanitation, nutritional support and health education.

THE FUTURE:

July 9, 2011 is the day when a new country is born. The independence of any country is a unique and challenging event. For South Sudan challenges await the new government, which will preside over a country with little infrastructure in terms of schools, health facilities and roads. Another pressure will be a big influx of people returning to start a new life in the south.

PLEASE PRAY...

For a long time Sudan has been on many of our hearts. In faith, we believe that our Mighty God has heard our prayers and whispered cries for mercy. We ask that you will continue praying in faith and that you will be encouraged to pray for the future of Sudan and South Sudan to be one of hope, love, joy and peace.

Thank you for joining us in prayer. Over the next three weeks we will be focusing on three topics:

- **People returning to South Sudan**
- **Peace, wisdom and discernment**
- **Long-term development across South Sudan**

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

You can pray with us as part of your daily devotions or use the material in your homegroup or church prayer meeting. It doesn’t matter when or how long you take part in this season of prayer, the most important thing is to join us as we pray with others around the world for the people of Sudan and South Sudan.

WEEK 1:

PEOPLE RETURNING TO SOUTH SUDAN

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

Matthew 22:37-39

- 1** Lord you are a rock to cling to in times of need. We remember those families that have moved back to South Sudan, many with no possessions and facing daily challenges. We ask that you will graciously meet all their needs.
- 2** Father, we bring to you those who have already returned to the South and are trying to resettle . Help them as they integrate into society to start their lives anew. We pray you will be with them as they adjust and that you will bless them and the communities that receive them: that they might work together for a hopeful and positive future.
- 3** Gracious God, we remember those individuals who are at this moment undertaking the journey to the South. Grant them and their families a good journey. We particularly remember all who are vulnerable and need special support – young children, pregnant mothers the elderly and those living with disability. Lord we ask you to bless and strengthen them.
- 4** Lord, we pray for all aid and development organisations who are serving those who are displaced, or have returned to the South, through the provision of medical treatment, clean water, food and shelter.
- 5** We pray for those who are living in transit camps on the outskirts of the main towns of South Sudan and who are experiencing many challenges including a shortage of water, food and shelter. We pray Lord you will enable these people to move to their final destinations. We pray that this would be done quickly so that people can start planting crops and building their homes for the future.
- 6** We give you praise that people have been able to move back to the land they consider home. We thank you for the generous hearts of families and communities receiving and welcoming those who have returned to their homes. Help us to learn from these examples of loving our neighbour.
- 7** Father God, we pray for the people of both Sudan and South Sudan to have a hope and a future filled with love, joy and peace. And help us Lord to live out your commandment: to love you with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind. Help us to turn these words into action as we love our neighbours, both near and far.

WEEK 2:

PEACE, WISDOM AND DISCERNMENT

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:5

- 1 Prince of Peace, we pray against tribal violence: that it would come to an end in the parts of South Sudan where it has been so prevalent. We lift up to you those who have lost loved ones and ask that you would comfort them in their time of sorrow and give them hope for the future. We thank you for the many tribes that make up this nation and we ask for a sense of oneness as South Sudan becomes a new state.
- 2 Abba Father, we pray for a spirit of unity and safety on July 9, 2011. We pray that there will be no violence in South Sudan on this historical occasion and we ask for peace in the following weeks and months.
- 3 All powerful Lord God, as Sudan prepares for July 9, we pray not only for peace within its borders but also around it. We lift up to you Sudan's neighbours as all these countries are interconnected. Lord in your mercy, protect the people of Egypt, Libya, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Eritrea. We pray for peace and stability across this whole region. Help us to be peacemakers in the places where you have put us.
- 4 Lord, we pray for our partners in South Sudan: that they will be able to play a greater role in communicating and advocating issues of concern among their people to those in positions of authority. Help them to imitate you as the greatest advocate of all. We pray for decision makers to hear these voices with favour and for positive change.
- 5 Lord, you are all-knowing and all-seeing and so we pray for leaders in South Sudan at the county level. We ask that you will give them wisdom and a vision for positive change in their areas.
- 6 Lord, you are the giver of all good things and we thank you for blessing Sudan with fertile land and many resources.
- 7 Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is offence – forgiveness; where there is doubt – faith; where there is despair – hope; where there is darkness – light; where there is sadness – joy.

WEEK 3:

LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT ACROSS SUDAN

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

- 1 Lord, we pray for the future of the people of both Sudan and South Sudan. We ask for increased capacity to build in all sectors of life. We also pray for the health and prosperity of both nations so they may enter this new phase of their history with much enthusiasm and dedication.
- 2 We pray Lord for those who lack clean water and adequate sanitation. We thank you for the work that is going on in many areas of Sudan to install boreholes, toilets and water tanks. We pray that these facilities will richly benefit communities.
- 3 Jehovah Jireh, we remember all those who do not have enough to eat and pray for those who are engaged in farming. We thank you that food is being delivered to those in need but we also look to the future and ask for good rains, so that there may be a good harvest and people would be able to provide food for themselves.
- 4 We pray for the infrastructure of South Sudan. Lord we ask that the building of roads and bridges will be prioritised so that people will be able to access markets and communities will not be so cut off from vital services.
- 5 Lord, thank you for churches in South Sudan who are working in their communities to mobilise long-term, sustainable development using local resources and people power. We thank you for their vision to see their villages change and we pray for continued transformation. We ask that you will help each of us as part of our churches to bring transformation in our communities.
- 6 Great teacher, we pray for all those in schools across Sudan today. Lord we also remember the many children that for various reasons are not able to go to school and ask that this situation would change. We thank you for all the teachers who work so hard to give children a better future and pray you will bless their efforts.
- 7 Lord, you are our hope and we pray in this hope for all farmers in Sudan who are seeking to better themselves through training and expanding of their land in order to plant more crops. We pray for good rains so that there may be a good harvest.

THANK YOU for taking the time to pray with us for Sudan and South Sudan as part of a **global poverty prayer movement**. Please do continue to hold Sudan and South Sudan in your prayers.

You can keep updated with other prayer news from Tearfund by visiting our prayer zone where you can also sign up to receive weekly prayer emails for you to use individually or with others.

Sign up at www.tearfund.org/pray

Please also pray for our appeal: that it would raise much needed resources to help us keep working towards building a hopeful future with the people of Sudan. Please visit the news section at www.tearfund.org/news for further information.

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26

A PRAYER FOR PEACE:

God of Mercies, we thank you for your great love for us.

We ask you to guide our leaders in the process of nation-building.

Grant them wisdom, compassion and fortitude.

Loving God, we pray you will give courage to the people of Sudan to reject resentment, as well as ethnic conflicts.

Father of Compassion, grant your help to overcome whatever hurt, hostility and bitterness is in hearts, so that there will be reconciled citizens in a new nation.

Prince of Peace, bring Sudan closer to you in the spirit of service, unity and lasting peace.

Loving Lord, we remember all those who died during the long years of civil war. We ask for your comfort to surround families affected by pain and loss. May your presence be a light in the darkness.

We pray in thanksgiving for all those who are standing by Sudan in solidarity to bring about peace.

Unite us from every tribe, tongue and people.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and may your will be done in us.

God bless our new nation: South Sudan.

Bless Sudan.

In Jesus' name, Amen!

Adapted from a prayer by the Church in Sudan