

# True story!

At a school in Sudan one morning, 230 children began their English lesson sitting on logs under the shade of a tree. Suddenly they heard a plane roar across the sky above their heads. It belonged to the Islamic army and it dropped 5 bombs over the school. The children were terrified and ran screaming as the bombs exploded around them. It was all over in a few minutes and the frightened children staggered to their feet to find that their beloved teacher and twelve classmates had been killed, along with many more injured. In the following days, seven more students died as a result of their injuries and many more were left permanently scarred.

It's hard to think about children having to suffer like this - it would be easier not to talk about such things, although they are still happening in Sudan every day. But we need to learn something important from these children: the next day after the bombing, children showed up for school as usual! The exhausted schoolmaster told them to go home. "I can't tell you when or even if we will continue classes," he said sadly.

A ten-year-old boy went up to him and said, "Please let us continue. We want to learn, and if it is God's will, then today we won't die."

What can I do to help?



You can appreciate the opportunity you have to study at school, and also learn more about Sudan and other countries like it.

You can tell other people what you have learned and pray for the people of Sudan. You can get your family or school to help by sending blankets or Life Packs (tools, cooking pots and bibles) to Sudan through Voice of the Martyrs (see address below).

**YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

'Til next time, love from Shirley.

[Answer to the Scripture Scramble is Hebrews 13:3]

World Kids PAL Page is a ministry of IMOF Inc, 8069 FM 1251E, Henderson, TX.  
Tel: (903) 889-2233 E-mail: [imofinc2001@cs.com](mailto:imofinc2001@cs.com) Website: [www.imofinc.org](http://www.imofinc.org)  
Facts and testimonies used with kind permission from Russ and Lyn Noble, and Voice of the Martyrs Inc. PO Box 443, Bartlesville, OK 74005-0443  
For more info check their website at [www.linkingup.com](http://www.linkingup.com)

## World Kids

Fun facts for kids! True stories!



# PAL Page

Issue no.3 August 2003

**If you didn't have to go to school, would YOU still want to go?**



Schools are very different around the world, and it is sad that in some countries where the schools are good, many children don't appreciate them and don't bother to learn as they could.

In many countries, especially where people live far from the cities, there are NO schools and even the adults can't read or write! Some missionaries who teach literacy classes (how to read and write) in villages in Southern Sudan say that many adults come to their classes because they want to learn to read the Bible. It is very hard to learn to read and write where there is no school or teacher, and all you have is a stick, the dirt and maybe an old book you found.

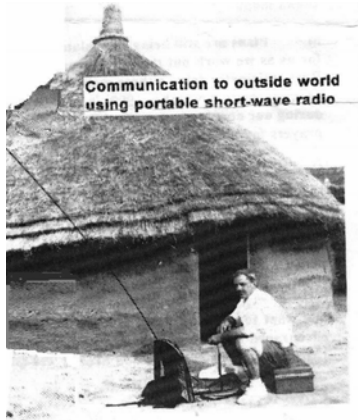
Our focus this month is on the country of **SUDAN**



Sudan is the largest country in Africa



Half of Sudan is in the Sahara Desert where nothing grows and it is very hot, but in the southern part of Sudan there are the Nuba Mountains, where the temperatures can be freezing cold at night. The country of Sudan is mentioned several times in the Bible as the land of Cush.



Most of the people in Southern Sudan live in simple huts such as this one. They have no electricity and often very little water in their wells -and it is impossible to find a telephone! Most churches hold their services outdoors under a tree - this may be because it is cooler than inside a building, but many times it is because the church building has been destroyed by fire or bombs.

For hundreds of years most of the people who live in the North have been Muslims, while those living in the South have been Christians. Since the capital of Sudan (Khartoum) is in the North the government is Muslim. Muslims follow the teachings of the prophet Mohammed and their holy book, the Koran or Qur'an.

Just as the Cross is the symbol that represents Christianity, the Muslims have a symbol that represents their faith, Islam. It is a crescent moon. Many believe that anyone who does not accept and follow Mohammed is an "infidel" and should be killed, and so the Government of Sudan declared a "jihad" or holy war against the mostly Christian South. This war has been going on for 20 years - more than 2,000,000 people have died, and 4-5 million made homeless since 1985 because of the war.



The war is a terrible thing - Government planes bomb villages, churches, schools and hospitals; government soldiers attack villages, burning buildings, killing and throwing people of all ages into the fires; even children are killed or sold into slavery.

Remember the story of Joseph?  
Read it in Genesis 37:12-28



Also the bombing destroys the crops that have been planted and so there is no food and many people are starving.

Some people in the South formed an army, the SPLA, to fight against the government, but unfortunately it has become a group of extremists who make matters worse. They are like terrorists who enter villages, stealing food and kidnapping thousands of young boys, who are then forced to become soldiers for them.

Life, even for children, in Southern Sudan is very hard and incredibly dangerous, especially for Christians. But in spite of all these terrible things there are still many Christians, adults and children, who refuse to give up their faith and remain committed to serving Jesus.

Scrambled Scripture

See if you can unscramble these words to form an important scripture:

IF THOSE REMEMBER WHO WERE

AS YOURSELVES MISTREATED

YOU ARE SUFFERING