

Episcopal Church of The Sudan – Diocese of Khartoum

Pastoral Visit of the Bishop of Khartoum to Kosti, Damazin and Medani archdeaconries as from 6-26 December 2008

The Diocesan Bishop of Khartoum, Rt. Revd. Ezekiel Kondo this year decided to celebrate Christmas of 2008 outside his See and be with his flock in one of the archdeaconries. The visit began on the 6th and ended on 26th December 2008.

Kosti Archdeaconry 6-11 December

It was a privilege to have Rt. Revd. Justin Badi Arama, Bishop of Maridi and his wife Joyce. They came to visit Khartoum and were able to join the team for two days before they went back to Khartoum and then to Maridi.

One priest and 5 Deacons were ordained and a good number of Lay Readers were licensed both male and female. 56 people were confirmed.

The team that consisted of the Bishop of the Diocese, Rt. Revd. Ezekiel Kondo, Diocesan Secretary, Revd. Daniel Musa, Diocesan Mothers Union Leader, Mama Awatif Emmanuel Kape, Evangelism and Mission Coordinator, Mr. Amoko Fadomula, and Director of Planning and Development, Mr. Is hag Kodi Kodi were well received by the Christians in Kenana. The bishop was able to open a church that was renovated with an iron roof in Kenana. The team was accommodated in the Kenana Sugar company and in one of the houses of the Christians in Kenana.

The team was able to visit Biar 4 Parish, Kadugli Kenana Parish where there is also a school, St. Paul Parish, Asalaya Parish, and Kadugli Kosti church plus the Church house in Kosti.

At the end of the visit, the team was invited by the government Advisor in his house for breakfast. It was excellent time with the advisor. He even filled our car with fuel!

The team left Kost to Damazin with 5 bags of sugar one bag each excluding other gifts!

Damazin Archdeaconry 11-18 December

In Damazin, the team stopped in Singa Parish where we were received and welcomed two kilo meters away from the church by Christians including small children age 7 and we the team has to get down from the car and walked with them! It was the most enjoyable time as non Christians got out to see and now what was going on. The Archdeacon of Damazin came to receive us in Singa.

On Friday 12th December there was a service where 28 people were confirmed on of the candidates came all the way from Kosti to get confirmed in Singa because she missed confirmation in Kosti! One Deacon was ordained and a number of Lay Readers and

Women Workers. The following day the team proceeded to Damazin and the welcome was in the church after which the team went to one of the houses belonging to the Christians where they would stay for the next 5 days. Sunday service was conducted with 15 people confirmed, 7 licensed Lay Readers of which 2 of them were from Kurmuk, people of the area. It is to be noted that there is only one pastor from Kurmuk in the Episcopal Church of the Sudan. 6 members of the Mothers Union were commissioned.

The was able to visit the governor of Blue Nile State in his office and the governor assured the Bishop and the team the cooperation of the government with the church and the mosque where there is equal budget for both the church and mosque from the State budget! The team prayed in the governor's office.

The Commander of JIUC in Damazin organized high supper for the team in their b residence and the team offered prayers for God's protection.

The team then came back via Sinnar where they prayed in church centre and had a wonderful lunch before they took off to Mendani.

Medani Archdeaconry 18-26 December

The team arrived at St Paul's Medani where they were received and welcomed by the Christians and the Archdeacon and pastors of the area. Prayers were offered for the safe arrival, supper and the team was taken to Tyrannous Centre where they will stay for the next 7 days.

The programme began on Friday 19th December with the visit and service in Hessasha Parish Kilo 7 where 17 people got confirmed. This parish is one and half ours drive north of Medani. On Saturday 20th the team visited St Peter Parish, Fao where there was good reception and a fruitful service. The journey that took us one hour drive east of Medani.

On Sunday 21st ordination service and license of Readers took place in the morning where 5 Deacons were ordained, 12 Readers and a number of Mothers Union Workers were commissioned.

In the evening, Confirmation service took place where 94 people were confirmed and both services were well attended and full of joy. The team was able to visit some Christians and pastors in their homes and had meals with them. The exciting thing on this visit, one of the Muslims invited the team for supper and asked that we should pray for them.

Christmas Day was a big celebration at St Paul's Medani in which the government attended to congratulate the Christians for the birth of Jesus. The bishop was interviewed on the gezira local TV.

In our visit to Medani, God blessed a woman with twin boys and they were named after Amoko and myself.

The visit ended with Big Breakfast in one of the newly licensed Readers, Mama Elizabeth. The team arrived safely to Khartoum and went to All Cathedral Khartoum before each goes to his/her own home. This was to offer thanks and praises to God for successful Pastoral visit.

Thanks be to God for the Good Samaritan who donated a car to the Bishop for Church work! This was the first trip on this car. Though it is a second hand car but it is good enough to be used for some time ahead.

Summary:

- Two Priests were ordained
- Eleven Deacons were ordained
- Seventeen Lay Readers were licensed
- Members of the Mothers Union
- One hundred and ten people were confirmed

Prayer needs:

- Maintenance of schools in Kenena, Kosti and Damazin
- Building of church in Kost, Singa, Sinnar, Damazin Hesassah, Fao and Gezira
- Completion of Bishop's House in Medani
- Transport for the new Bishop to be in Medani

Thanksgiving:

- Successful pastoral visit.
- For the newly confirmed candidates
- For the woman who gave birth to twin boys
- For the good relationship of the government in all the States, particularly, in Damazin