

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

HEAR THEIR CRY!

THEN THE LORD SAID, "I HAVE OBSERVED THE MISERY OF MY PEOPLE...I HAVE HEARD THEIR CRY...INDEED, I KNOW THEIR SUFFERINGS, AND I HAVE COME DOWN TO DELIVER THEM..."

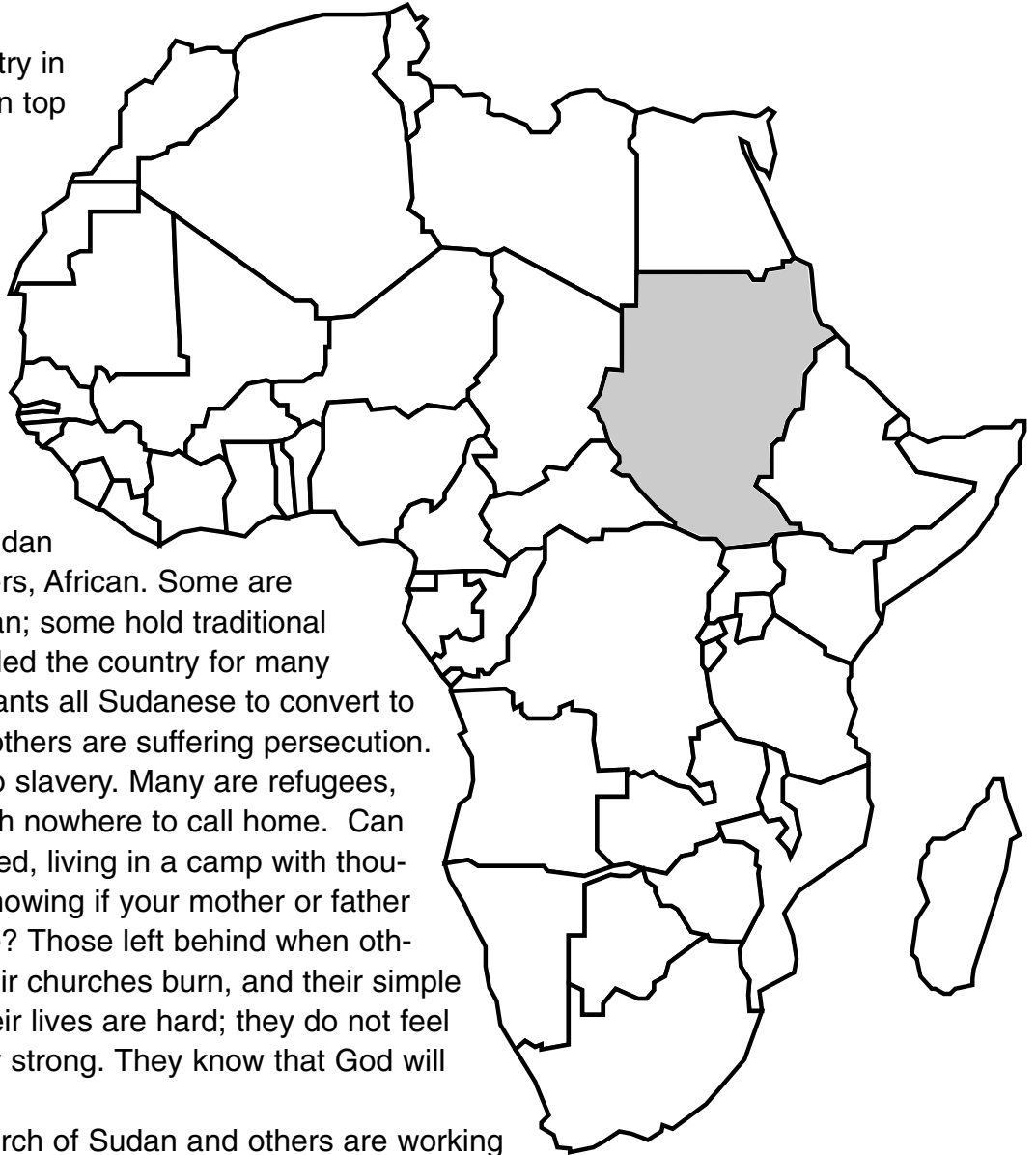
—EXODUS 3:7-8

Sudan is the largest country in Africa. If you put Sudan on top of a map of the United States, you will see that it fills most of our country east of the Mississippi. The Nile River makes the south very fertile, but the northern part of Sudan is very dry. Water, oil and other precious resources are found here.

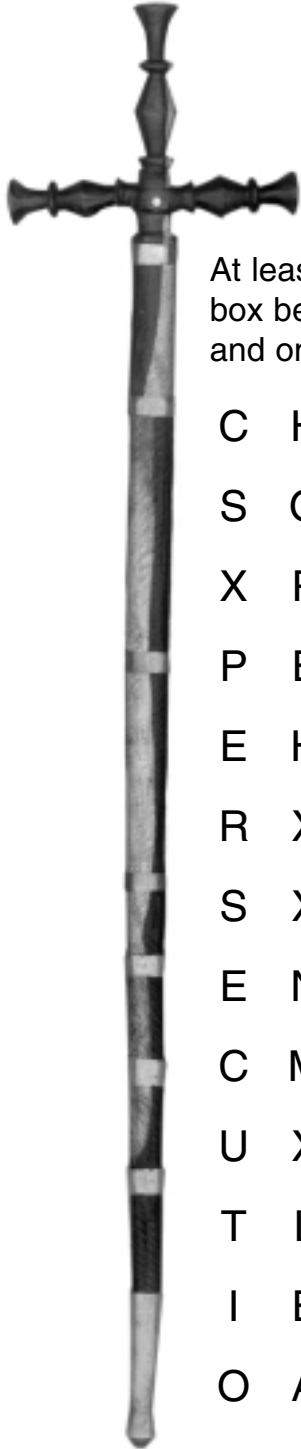
Some people in Sudan are considered Arab; others, African. Some are Muslim; some are Christian; some hold traditional beliefs. Civil war has divided the country for many years. The government wants all Sudanese to convert to Islam, so Christians and others are suffering persecution. Some have been sold into slavery. Many are refugees, separated from family, with nowhere to call home. Can you imagine being uprooted, living in a camp with thousands of strangers, not knowing if your mother or father is alive, or where they are? Those left behind when others flee have watched their churches burn, and their simple mud houses crumble. Their lives are hard; they do not feel safe. Yet their faith is very strong. They know that God will not abandon them.

The Episcopal Church of Sudan and others are working for peace, especially in the south. Two big tribes there, the Dinka and the Nuer, have agreed to stop fighting. The Dinka people keep herds of cows with long horns. They carry crosses to show their faith in Christ, and have composed songs of praise, as well as lament. Few own a Bible but they know scripture by heart.

What can we do to help? We can pray that God will comfort the bereaved, heal the wounded, free the enslaved, bring peace to the nation. We can learn more about Sudan, and all God's people there. We can share ourselves, with aid and with love, so their needs are met. We can speak out against injustice. We can offer the gift of hope.



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY



SUDAN WORD SEARCH

At least 50 words in “Hear their cry!” (opposite side of this page) are in the box below. How many can you find? Remember to read across, down, up, and on the diagonal!

C H R I S T I A N B M A L L X K
S O N G S X X F U X U O I L T N
X P W X X W A R X X S S A F E O
P E X S X X N I L E L X E A X W
E H O M E X X C I V I L X T B P
R X X X S U D A N X M O T H E R
S X S P H P I M U D X V X E R A
E N A N A R N P E A C E X R E Y
C M X M R O K C R O S S E S A S
U X H X E O A H X X F F L X V L
T L F A I T H O X A R A B X E A
I E X X R E F U G E E X M X D V
O A X G O D X S X H E L P I X E
N R X X W A T E R X X X A X L R
B I B L E P I S C O P A L X X Y