

SUGGESTED PULPIT TALK

Thank you Father. My name isand as a volunteer I am a member of the SVP in Conference. I would like to tell you about the work done by the SVP in Sudan which we in SVP (England & Wales) support. Members of the SVP here have been visiting Sudan frequently for the last 15 years and they've witnessed at first hand the incredible work done by our members under extreme conditions.

The work we do includes:

- Vocational training for young people and adults
- A medical programme
- Provision of water
- Foster Homes for street children and
- Baby Feeding.

To visit Sudan and witness the work of the members is awe inspiring. You have to visit to experience the atmosphere, the culture, and the effects of the social and economic troubles which have beset this great country for generations. Huge swathes of the population barely exist but their lives are being made more tolerable by SVP workers.

All the work of the SVP in Sudan supports huge numbers of people who have been displaced by civil conflict. Our members there are responding to the desperate needs of the people in ways which astonish even the most experienced aid workers. As in the rest of the world our members work 1 to 1 with the poor; however, to meet the special needs of the people of Sudan they have also developed major programmes which have already affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Whilst the baby feeding, water supply, foster homes and medical programmes are providing for the needs of today, providing

the adult population with skills which will ensure a sustainable future for this and following generations is of paramount importance.

I can assure you that in particular, the member of our International Twinnage Committee who is responsible for Sudan has witnessed at first hand the persecution suffered by our members in Sudan over the years and in fact our former National Secretary in Sudan, Kamal himself has been imprisoned and beaten to within literally an inch of his life. On the other hand, over the years, they have now established an improved relationship with the government.

Most people who have been to Sudan are so moved and ask: *“How do we get the message across?”* Finding the right words to use is important. Our representative realised this when visiting a baby feeding centre during one visit. He suggested that instead of using the words *“keeping babies alive”* perhaps we could say *“stopping babies from dying”*. Somehow that brings home the life or death situation with which we are dealing. ***But words seem so ridiculously inadequate.***

It costs £1 a week to keep a baby alive – nothing is it? The problem is that we have up to 10,000 of them! What attracts us to the work in Sudan is that every penny you give goes for the purpose for which it is given. There is nothing taken out.

Finally, please pray that our members in Sudan will have the strength, ability and resources to continue their work of helping the poorest of the poor. Every so often the worlds media turns its eye on Sudan; but remember**when the cameras have gone** our work continues.....

Prepared by:

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For use by SVP members as a pulpit address for parishes in England & Wales