

Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo visits Khartoum for the first time since April 2023!



Bombed Church of Savior

Introduction:

Nearly two (2) years, Archbishop Ezekiel Kondo and the accompanying delegation managed get to Khartoum for the first time since April 2023! The Pastoral visit was between 21 December 2024 to 03 January 2025. We thank God for protecting the team until this mission was accomplished successfully in a difficult situation. The team felt that God's was on the visit and for this they it is thankful.

The visit consisted of the following:

- Ezekiel Kondo, Archbishop and Bishop of Khartoum
- Musa Abujam, ECS Provincial Secretary
- Kamal Hussein, Khartoum Diocesan Secretary
- Manias Almalik, Khartoum Cathedral Curate & Archbishop's Chaplain

Purpose:

The main purpose of the visit was to see and to encourage the pastors and the Christians in Khartoum particularly in Omdurman Area Kararey Locality since they have been in the conflict since the war began. Secondly, the archbishop was to confirm the believers and celebrate Christmas with them. Thirdly, the team was to pay a visit to the ECS Institutions in the Old Omdurman. The visit began in Atabra where confirmation service was carried out at St Peter's Church, Atabra

The team then travelled to Omdurman and was warmly welcomed by Rural Dean Revd Butkus Ambasha, the Pastors and the Christian members of Emanuel Parish Church, Thoura block 48. Thanksgiving prayers were offered before the team was taken to their residing place.

Visit to the Governor of Khartoum



Meeting with the Governor

The following day, Archbishop and the team visited the Governor of Khartoum State, it was a warm welcome where the archbishop congratulated Governor for being appointed governor of one of the most challenging States of Sudan in terms of the ongoing conflict. Archbishop also expressed to the Governor the concerns and the Challenges Christians are experiencing in Khartoum State in terms of lack of food and conditions of churches because most, if not all the churches have not been legalized and, he recommended that these churches are given legal status.

Christmas and New Year Celebrations

On Christmas Day Archbishop celebrated Christmas at Emmanuel Church while Provincial Secretary preached at St Yagoub Church Khuter. Archbishop congratulated the Pastors and the people of their firm faith in God at this difficult time of war. He also, paid tribute to Church members who died during the war and their families. He told them: “I have come to see you, weep, and rejoice with you”. He encouraged them to abide in Christ Jesus who was born to be their Savior and to the world. On Friday 27 December, the archbishop and the team joined at the annual Christmas celebration number 29 organized by the united Churches in Kararey locality. It is to be noted that celebration didn't happen last year due to security reasons. It was a great occasion with big crowd.

Confirmation Services



On 22nd December 2024, the last Sunday of Advent 33 candidates were confirmed at St Peter's Parish Church Atabra with big crowd of attendance.

On 26 December, 2024, the feast of St Stephen, the first Martyr, 173 candidates were confirmed at Hajer Alzauya (Corner Stone) church in Algeria. The attendance was over 500!

On Sunday 29 December, confirmation service at Alsakhra 54 Church where 132 candidates were confirmed. The total number of Christians confirmed on this visit was 338 people.

Visit to ECS Institutions



Diocesan Office



ECS Translation Department



The Diocesan Tea drinking tree (Faiza)



Main Diocesan Entrance Gate

On Saturday 28th, December, the team visited the Diocesan Offices, Church of Saviour, Shokai Theological College, CMS Mission Station (Irsaliya), Abu Rof Clinic and River House. You can see the damage and the devastation of all these properties. We prayed in the destroyed Church of Savior, Omdurman. Church of Savior is one of the old buildings to be destroyed. It was not possible to visit All Saints Cathedral, Khartoum because the part of Khartoum and Khartoum North Areas are still under the Rapid support Forces. The team received unconfirmed news that the Cathedral Compound has become a grave-yard!



Shokai Theological College (STC)



STC Library



ECS Boys School



Abu Rof Clinic



On 30th. December 2024, believers of Emmanuel Parish organized a farewell party for the team where lots of gifts were given as appreciation. It was a joy to sing and dance for the Lord

On 1st January 2025 the team joined Christians at St. Yagoub Parish Church in Khutier in celebration by paying a farewell to the year 2024 and welcoming the year 2025. It was such a joy to for the team to end the visit. 2nd January 2025, the team departed from Omdurman to Port Sudan via Atabra.

Christmas Gifts

Christmas gifts were given to the Churches, Pastors, Lay Readers, Mothers Union and some sick and elderly as follows

Particular	Churches	Pastors	Mothers Union	Lay Readers	Others	Total
Quantity	22	49	37	19	15	142



Cleaned Arbaien Street near the Diocese



STC Lecture Room



Inside ECSTD Building



Disable man who remained in Church Savior!



Reception of the Archbishop Team



Vote of thanks, and gratitude

Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) is grateful, and thankful to the Relay Trust for the generous financial support without which this visit would not have happened. 2023, Relay Trust did the same! THANK YOU. The team also thanks the pastors, especially Revd. Butrus Ambasha of Emmanuel Parish and all the Christians for the welcome and the services they have rendered. Thank you all for praying for ECS and for Sudan.

To God be the glory!

Conclusion

In conclusion, general situation in Khartoum State, Kararey Locality, is relatively peaceful. You can see people doing their normal business in the market. Food, fruit and vegetables are available, only that people don't have many to buy as they are expensive. The recent retake over the Gezeira State (Wad Medani) from the RSF by the SAF, seems to be the hope by the majority of the Sudanese people that peace may soon be realized. It is to be noted that the SAF have advanced to many parts of Khartoum State which gives high spirit to take control of the whole of greater Khartoum.

The Churches are full of Christians during worship and all the denominations work together in the spirit of ecumenism.

January 2025