

# The

*"Sudan will stretch out her hands onto God." Psalm 68:31*

# Melutimes



30 October 2009

## Moving from Temporal to Permanent...

Often God's plan for us doesn't come to pass as straight forward as we would like it to be, but somehow he gets us to where he wants us. Before I came to Africa I thought that I would be staying in Torit and lecturing at the Bible School there. However, when I got to Torit it became obvious that the school was not ready yet. So we looked for another temporal placement in Sudan to fill time. I've been in Melut now for 3 months and it became obvious to me fairly soon that God wanted me to consider GTC for a permanent placement. So after talking to my Unit Leader and praying for some time, I am very happy to announce that I will be staying in Melut to become permanent staff at Gideon Theological College. In January, another missionary couple from Australia, Gerald and Kath Donker, will come to GTC as permanent staff, which will be great for fellowship. FAR, the aid wing of SIM Canada, will also be moving onto the compound in January to run operations from here. So it seems that next year will be a busy and interesting one with lots of changes ahead.

A bird's eye view of the college facing Melut Town



These two tukuls have been my home for the last few months

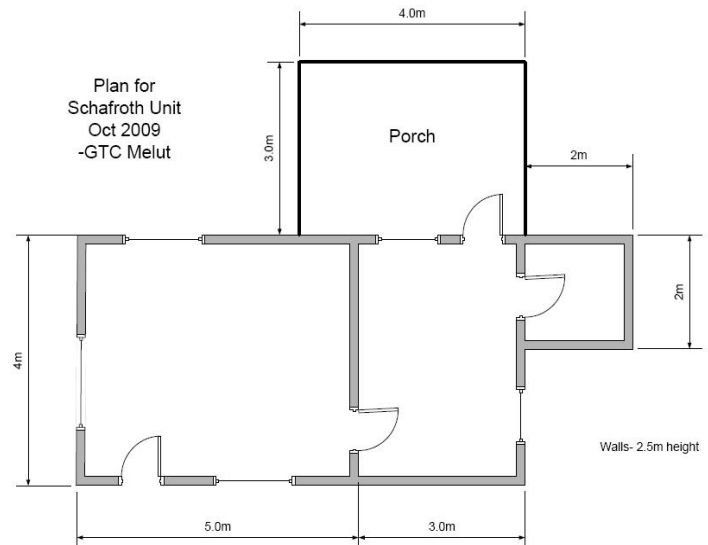


## Building on a Solid Foundation

With the decision to stay at GTC permanently also came a decision to build a house for me on the compound. I've really enjoyed being in my tukul (Sudanese mudhut) over the last few months, but unfortunately, there is no electricity here and it's not really big enough for my things – some of my things are still in Torit, and everything else is spread over 2 tukuls here... Half of the money for the house will be provided by the AIM housing fund, but the other half has to come out of my own support. The house will have one larger bed/living room, a small kitchen and a bathroom - the estimated cost for building is set at \$12,000 with another one thousand dollars to fit a solar system. This translates roughly into £8,000, of which £4,000 will have to come from donations.

FAR and the Donker's will be building next January/February and it would be economical to team up with them in order to cut down on costs so the building of my house is planned to go ahead at this time as well.

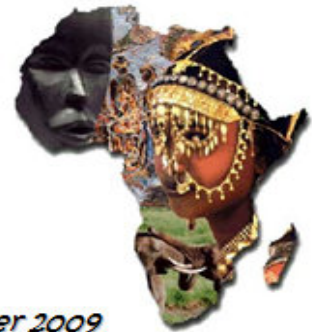
I would greatly appreciate it if you considered as a church or as an individual to help with this project. Individual private cheques can be sent directly to the Africa Inland Mission, Halifax Place, Nottingham NG1 1QN made payable to 'AIM International' with a note to say 'Verena Schafroth – GTC lecturer's house.' Elim church donations can be sent to Elim Mission headquarters with the same note.



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## A Student's Experience during the War

The Northern army surrounded the Nuba Mountain area attacking it constantly from 1989 to 2004. The army attacked many civilians like my family, who were attacked early in the morning with nowhere to run – they were all slaughtered. On 23 October 1989, my local church was attacked on Sunday. They took believers, locked them into a thatched hut and set fire, thereby killing them all. One of the senior elders in the burning hut called everyone in the fire to pray – men, women and children cried out in prayer until they died.

All areas of Nuba were burnt up and cattle were taken by enemies, all the churches burnt and sorghum

(maize) was set on fire. The women were raped and after that killed. Some of their mouths were filled with stones and other open private parts with sticks of wood. One can never forget that sight! Some of the women were found half dead, stones and wood was pulled out of them and they were taken to the local healers as they were no clinics operating during the war. Many Christians prayed asking God about why he was not acting upon our enemies. Why God was allowing the enemy to burn churches even kill pastors, elders and good people. The enemy is happy at tormenting Nuba thinking that their God is right, that Islam has taken over and Christianity is finished.

## A Comment

This is but a small excerpt of one of my student's papers. He has asked that I do not mention his name or publish a picture for security reasons. Every single one of my students has a story to tell like the one above. They are wounded for life at what happened during the war, which only ended 4 years ago. Yet, despite seeing and experiencing horrendous things, they hold onto their relationship with God with extraordinary faith. They have managed to incorporate severe suffering into their faith and view of God – a theology of suffering, which is still lacking in so many ways in our Western society. Pray for them – pray that Sudan will not go back to war and that no one will have to experience the above again.



## Prayer Points:

- ✚ continuous growth of relationships here
- ✚ BA graduation and that the students will be able to finish their last term well
- ✚ spiritual protection and sleep at night that I won't feel lonely
- ✚ that the preparations for the building will go well and that the funds will come together
- ✚ that preparations for the new academic year will go well

## Answers to Prayer:

- ✚ my nightly 'visits' have stopped
- ✚ a holiday in Nairobi
- ✚ the start of good friendships
- ✚ that God has directed me to stay at GTC long-term

All gifts should be marked  
**'Verena/Sudan'** and sent to Elim  
International Missions, Elim  
International Centre, De Walden  
Road, West Malvern, WR14 4DF,  
England (cheques payable to Elim  
International Missions). Charity  
no 251549 (England); SC037754  
(Scotland)