



### **Mission co-worker discusses theological education opportunities for Sudanese**

*“Serving as a PC(USA) Mission Co-worker since 1994 I have had the opportunity to teach Bible and Theology in Theological Education by Extension (TEE) programs, in certificate level Bible schools, and at the Seminary level. So when I speak with the program leaders and principals serving the institutions of the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SPEC), I get excited about their engagement in Theological Education.”*

*-Michael Weller, PC(USA) Regional Liaison, Horn of Africa.*

The **SPEC TEE program** serves all denominations in Sudan and conducts the program in 5 languages: English, Arabic, Moro, Nuer and Dinka. In 2015, the program graduated 33 participants from the Nuba Mountains and currently has approximately 57 participants receiving theological and biblical training. The participants are able to serve congregations as elders, teachers, evangelists, and some will pursue further training for the ministry. TEE is highly valued because of the way in which it strengthens the church at the grass root level and enables congregations to have depth in their understanding of the Christian faith. In Sudan, it is difficult to get Christian resource materials and Rose Lofti, the director of the program states there is a need for the TEE program to reproduce the TEE materials for participants in the form of books. A contribution to TEE will provide financial resources for the reproduction of teaching materials and will greatly enhance the learning experience of participants.

**Gerief Bible School** is located in Khartoum providing entry level studies in Bible and Theology. Classes in both the certificate and diploma level courses are taught in Arabic and therefore equips students to serve congregations as teachers, evangelists, and often as pastors. Currently Gerief has 15 students in first year’s studies and 13 students in the second year studies. Those who graduate will serve their local congregations throughout Sudan. In that these future church leaders are able to provide their congregations with a vital understanding of the Christian faith and practice, they also serve as encouragement for members in a context and setting where being a Christian in modern Sudan is often challenging. Contributions to Gerief Bible School are used to support the program, students, and staff

and will also be used to initiate evening classes taught in the English language for local Christians who have daytime jobs, but desire to gain a deeper understanding of the faith they profess.

**Nile Theological College** (NTC Khartoum) Principal, Rev. Musa, requests prayers for the Christian community in Sudan as they continue to face many challenges in an environment of social, economic, and political pressures. As Principal, he reports that despite the difficult environment in which Christians live, NTC Khartoum continues to carry out its mandate to provide quality Theological education at the Diploma and Bachelor degree levels. NTC provides an opportunity for students to prepare for ministry and service through four tracks and the language of instruction is Arabic. Diploma and Bachelor Degree levels in Theology for those preparing for ministry and Diploma and Bachelor Degree levels in Christian Education. NTC serves to prepare students from all denominations.

The Christian Education emphasis is particularly interesting because graduates in this program are able to serve congregations, but can find in employment in government and private schools. Their skill set includes religion, English and Arabic languages, geography and general history. In this way, graduates, as Christians, serve the whole fabric Sudan society and are in a unique position to build understanding among people of different faiths and cultures.

Your support for NTC Khartoum will help with student expenses and help staff to continue their work in theological education. NTC has a vision to offer a Master's Degree level course in Theology and is planning a strategy to enable qualified staff to have an opportunity to work toward their PhD.

To help support [Michael and Rachel Weller's ministry](#), please make a gift to [E200421](#). Congregations can also designate gifts through their Directed Mission Support (DMS) account D507277.

To support the SPEC TEE program please make a gift to [E862119](#) with the designation Khartoum program.

To support Gerief Bible School please make a gift to E862120.

To support Nile Theological College Khartoum please make a gift to [E862765](#).