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LETTER TO FRIENDS OF SISTER EMMANUELLE

N°113

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"John Paul II is my life model. Like him, I will remain active until my last breath "

Dear Friends,

No doubt the words of Sister Emmanuelle quoted in the letterhead could be taken over by Kamal Tadros, the Sudanese deacon who started, 26 years ago, with the little sister of Cairo and my father, Michel Bittar, the action for the poorest in Sudan.

Kamal has dedicated more than a quarter century of his life to the aid and development programs of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) in Khartoum, that ASASE and its partners have always faithfully supported.

He has devoted himself heart and soul, with his infectious enthusiasm, unwavering faith and tender heart. Facing all the difficulties which never failed to appear in a poor country torn by conflict and led by often hostile authorities, Kamal has even been in jail, but he has always bailed himself out with courage and integrity, in order to pursue his mission lived as a vocation.

Today, at 76, Kamal has decided to resign his official duties as National Secretary of SVDP. He did it with a heavy heart, weighed down by the fate of the have-nots in his country. Alas, some domestic imperatives are forcing him to leave his country: his wife Madeleine, whose health is fragile, wants to join their only daughter and their four grandchildren who are living in Australia.

GODSPEED, KAMAL! ALL TOGETHER BEHIND JOHN AND BETRAM!

Kamal flew to Australia in early September. But lift up your hearts!

First his departure was long prepared, and he had organized for years his succession for the direction of SVDP.

Besides Kamal says he does not want to stop completely helping us in the pursuit of our actions.

Make thee great good, dear Kamal! We will always need your insight in the direction of the programs in Sudan, and your strength of conviction with our donors!

So Kamal intends to leave each year the southern hemisphere to come to Europe with a previous stopover in Sudan.

He also plans to approach donors in Australia (remember that during his last vacation there, he managed to raise funds for SVDP Australia!).

This year, his tour round Switzerland, France, Austria and Germany went very well. In the photo opposite, you can see the "Man of the Year 2010" of the "Foreign Aid" department of Caritas Austria in company with the former mayor of Graz Alfred Stingl.



As his successor at the head of SVDP Khartoum, Kamal has appointed John Ugo Gambolon, who has been his deputy for years.

Holder of a PhD in Economics, John Ugo joined SVDP in 1999. His previous work experience in the governmental bodies of the region of Juba, and then his management with Kamal of some difficult issues, give him the acumen needed to navigate within the trouble waters of a country that is probably going to become more radically Islamic after the loss of the South, formalized in July.

The handover was smooth, knowing that for some years, Kamal had delegated much of the daily management of SVDP to his fantastic tandem.



John Ugo, with Michel Bittar and a couple of llamas in Haute-Savoie

For John Ugo is working together with Betram Gordon, the Director in charge of the programs.

Holder of a PhD in Agricultural Sciences in Breeding from the University of Bonn, Betram is particularly involved in the Lologo vocational training center in South Sudan.

Having heard the news during their visit to Geneva in May, John and Betram sent a statement to donors,



A llama, Kamal Tadros, Michel Bittar and Betram Gordon

which reads in part: *"We assure our donors and friends, that with Kamal still at the helm in our minds and hearts, nothing will make us shake. We promise to work together not as colleagues only, but as brotherly twins and to continue to maintain his lofty standards of transparency and honesty. In SVDP, Reverend Kamal lived each moment of his life by loving and caring for the poor and respecting all the people he got in touch with. We fervently wish to honor him and we know it's not a*

time to pause, but a time to reflect on the legacy he is leaving us, and a time to act and carry it as further on as possible".

As you will read below, John and Betram do not give up the struggle: they bravely face this period of upheaval for SVDP that, in the aftermath of the partition of the country, has experienced a substantial loss of its staff (26 resignations since the beginning of year). We need to help them make the necessary reorganization in the best conditions.

EACH OF YOUR PENNIES PLANTED IN SUDAN BEARS FRUITS!

Our new vocational training center in South Sudan (Lologo)

We especially need your financial support to ensure the continuity of this great program.

- The second training session (nine months) ended in January 2010 with the graduation of 180 adults (included five women).

One-third are former IDPs in the North who have returned in the South; almost half are Southerners belonging to the most disadvantaged population of Juba and surrounding area (school drop-outs, former

child soldiers, some of them used to share the fate of the street children, orphans or from poor families). The rest are former refugees in neighbouring countries.

- Among the graduates of the first two sessions who remained in the Juba region, about twenty are working in carpentry workshops, more than thirty work in private construction, a dozen work in the largest power plant of Juba (at the South Sudan Electricity Cooperation), and 8 (including 3 women) are employed by the United Nations Mission in Sudan. One of them, Dina Patrisio (see opposite), who lives near the center, told us: *"Due to drastic financial difficulties faced by my family, I was unable to continue my education. I have worked hard for years, sewing or handcrafting, but it was not enough. When I graduated from Lologo in electricity, I applied for a job of electricity technician at United Nations' office near Juba airport. I was chosen among many candidates, and now I feel as if I was reaping the fruits of my dedication and hard working. I am delighted to have this job and I plan to get married soon."*



- It was decided that from the beginning of the fourth session in January 2012, meals will not be given free to trainees anymore, this to make funds available for the creation of **three new courses: sewing, dyeing and handcraft; computer; bikes and motorcycles repair.**

News from our programs in the Republic of the Sudan (Khartoum and surroundings)

- The "Street Children" Program currently cares for 290 children and teenagers, grouped into three homes and two farms (Gebel Awlia I and II).

The package of measures agreed upon during our workshop in May in Geneva has been mainly implemented:

- The supervision of the children has been strengthened: 4 new social workers (women), a psychologist, a coach (with the purchase of some equipment and the introduction of table tennis in the farms).
- Recreational activities have been developed: purchase of televisions and DVD players.
- Computer training was initiated: purchase of 4 computers, which brings the total fleet to 14.
- Efforts have been made in family tracing and reunification techniques: three employees have been trained (in collaboration with UNICEF and Save the Children Sweden) and SVDP has established itself as a key official participant in a government program.
- The financial staff has been strengthened: an internal auditor and an accountant (who has started to install a new accounting system) have been hired on a part-time basis.
- Maintenance work has been made in two homes and in the Gebel Awlia II farm (electrical connections completed, generator repaired, well dug for consumption and irrigation)
- Poultry farming is expanding (10 000 heads) in the farms: this is part of a strategy to improve SVDP self-financing.

Finally, here is the testimony of one of the beneficiaries of the program, Lodi Silvestre Lado (20 years old): *"I fled my village with my little brothers to seek refuge in Khartoum. My mother had stepped on a mine in Juba: she had an arm and a leg amputated, and could never provide for us. I will never forget the favour and care offered to me in Sahafa home. I am currently studying Rural Development at the*

University of Juba. I hope to use my skills to participate in development initiatives in my area and help combat poverty. SVDP and donors will always be at the bottom of my heart for their effective contribution to change my life."

- The other programs run smoothly. The Baby Feeding one, in particular, is running at full capacity: our 16 centers are distributing three meals per week to nearly 5500 children.

On behalf of the President and all members of the Committee of ASASE, let me say a HUGE CHEER for Kamal for all he has done, and let us turn to him his own formula, repeatedly (and deservedly) addressed to our donors:

WITHOUT YOU, NOTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.



THANK YOU, very dear Kamal, for the example you have been, and the source of inspiration you remain.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another (...) By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

(Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John 13.35, 15.8)

Handwritten signature of Patrick Bittar.

**Patrick Bittar
Director**