

MVL 49
Summer 2005

THE WORLD

Artist / Ministry & Project Information:

Video Title:

Producer:

Study by:

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH
FEATURING SUBSEVEN
FELLOWSHIPNASHVILLE.ORG

THE PLIGHT OF SUDAN

SCOTT MOORE

AMELIA MOORE
INTERLINC
FRANKLIN, TN
AMOORE@INTERLINC-ONLINE.COM



Theme

The World

Objective

This lesson will increase your students' awareness of the current persecution of Christian believers and various people groups in Sudan. This time will also challenge them to think compassionately for the world.

Warm Up

Instead of playing a game, allow the students extra time at the beginning of your program to hang out and connect. Then call your students together and go over your ministry announcements. Do something a little funny with your announcements since the rest of the evening will be pretty heavy. If you have a band, have them play a light acoustic set that will help your group focus.

The Video

Say, "We are going to focus on a very serious subject about a country we don't often hear of, Sudan. In the past two decades the Sudanese have been suffering as extreme terrorist groups, possibly even funded by Sudan's government, strive to wipe out peoples in certain areas. They do this because of religious differences and to make way for incoming oil companies. Sudanese

constitute the world's largest displaced persons populations, with 4.5 million people having been driven from their homes. According to the UN, the government of Sudan is the only one in the world engaged in slavery. We are going to discuss what is going on in this part of the world and what can we do to combat this human tragedy. First, we are going to watch a video which will give some faces and facts to what we will be discussing." Play the video.

Bible Study

Use the compiled list of facts on the Student Guide to inform your students on the plight of the Sudanese people. Since this subject is serious and there is a lot of information, pick and choose what you might convey to your group. Consider breaking the content up by having different leaders speak on these different areas. Also, use technology by putting some of these facts and faces of Sudanese people (off the internet) on slides to show as you teach. Additional resources: freedomhouse.org/religion/sudan (Center for Religious Freedom); alarm-inc.org (A.L.A.R.M)

Sudan's Plight

Read through the issues with your students on the Student Guide.

USA's Response

- The Bush Administration has made Sudan a priority for foreign aid.
- The US started an investigation into charges that the Arab Islamic group, Janjaweed, was responsible for mass murders, rapes and burnings in several mainly non-Arab villages of western Sudan. Colin Powell stated, "The evidence leads us to the conclusions that genocide has occurred..." World governments rarely use the word "genocide."
- The US is providing 80% of the humanitarian aid to keep Darfur's 2 million refugees alive.
- On June 5th 2004, the Bush Administration oversaw a peace agreement between the north and south to end a 20-year rebellion for religious freedom in which two million Christians have perished in southern Sudan.

Christians' Response

How does the Bible instruct us to react to people in need? Have several students prepared to stand and read these verses: **Deuteronomy 15:4-5; Deuteronomy 15:7-8;**

Deuteronomy 15:10-11; Luke 14:12-14; James 2:14-17. Then challenge your students to respond with the following action points:

- Educate yourself on this plight and similar issues of persecution around the world.
- Pray for these people.
- Give and Go. Give generously. Go if you have an opportunity to serve in countries like this.
- Call others to action. Share what you know about this. People want to help; they need to be called to action – as was seen in the global response to the 2004 Tsunami.
- Write to your government officials.

Closing

Provide blank paper, pens, envelopes and sample letters for your students to write a personal letter. To download sample letters go to: <http://freedom-house.org/religion/what/letters/htm>. Encourage your students to put the letter in their "own words." And make sure they write their return address on the envelope so the person receiving it can see that it's a personal letter. As the students write their letters, play a CD or a live praise song. Have the students give their completed letter to you to mail later. Close in prayer for the Sudanese people.

THE WORLD

Artist / Ministry & Project Information:

Video Title:

Producer:

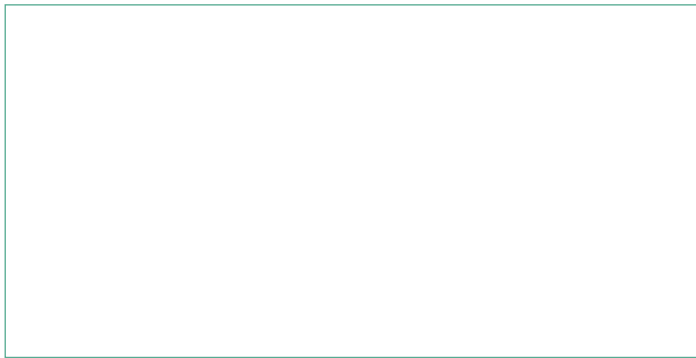
Theme:

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH
FEATURING SUBSEVEN
FELLOWSHIPNASHVILLE.ORG

THE PLIGHT OF SUDAN

SCOTT MOORE

THE WORLD



Major Issues in Sudan:

Two main issues: a mass effort to convert the Sudanese people to Islam; the government's attempt to push certain people groups out of their homelands to make way for incoming foreign oil companies.

Because of economic instability, the Sudanese government began "courting" foreign oil companies to bring income. There are three companies currently pursuing investments in Sudan: Chinese government's China National Petroleum Corporation, Talisman Energy Inc, of Canada, and Malaysia's Pertonas. US companies are not allowed to invest because of anti-terrorist sanctions; however, these foreign companies are allowed to raise funds in the US market through the Stock Exchange.

Islamic groups have forced conversions, bombed religious buildings and persecuted Christian leaders.

Thousands of women and children in southern Sudan have been taken north as concubines and slave laborers.

The Sudanese government has stopped foreign food aid to specific groups and allowed 2.6 million south Sudanese to experience famine in 1998. Of these people, 10,000 died of hunger.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in a two-year conflict around Darfur, and two million have fled their homes.

What Can I Do?

Deuteronomy 15:4-5

Educate yourself on this and similar issues of persecution around the world.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

Pray for these people.

Deuteronomy 15:10-11

Give and Go. Give generously. Go if you have an opportunity to serve in countries like this.

Luke 14:12-14

Call others to action. Share what you know about this. People want to help; they need to be called to action – as was seen in the global response to the 2004 Tsunami.

James 2:14-17

Write to your government officials. <http://freedomhouse.org/religion/what/letters/htm>.