



A Normal Sudan Sunday

After a light breakfast two of us leave by motorbike on twisting Sudanese red-dust paths for the 10.00am service in the grass-roofed parish church. The service in Kajo Keji old town lasts three hours with a message on "Forgiving Enemies" after which five people come forwards for healing prayer.

Lunch afterwards at about 1.00pm is under a corrugated-iron shelter near a bombed-out building.

At 2.00pm we go to the local hospital to pray for TB patients, a number of children, a land-mine casualty and several ladies. By 4.30 we join a lively praise march to the market led by a lady lay-reader with a megaphone – all are singing and dancing.

By the time it comes to preach – again on the theme of forgiveness – there is a very receptive crowd. The Holy Spirit comes in power bringing blessing and conviction. Four demons are cast out of a frenzied teenage girl. The crowd worship throughout with singing, leaping and dancing. Market traders watch with interest.

The sun goes down in a blaze of glorious primary colour as we return to the hospital to baptise two babies who are near death.

On leaving we discover the bishop sitting disconsolate on a bench as his vehicle has broken down. He has been returning with SOMA team members from church services further a-field.

In near darkness at 8.00pm we return by motor-bike to the school compound and organise a rescue vehicle.

The day ends with a light supper of rice, kasava and tea as the team has a time of sharing and prayer under the Southern Cross. We bed down for the night in the comfort of our round grass huts to the sound of cicadas and tree frogs in the cool of the night.

The end of a normal Sunday in Southern Sudan.

William Mather, Kajo Keji, Southern Sudan '03