

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SECOND PETITION

STORY

In an article on missionaries (*LCMS Harvest News*, Summer 2004), we see that God used one man and one missionary to grow thirty-seven Lutheran churches with seven thousand members in three years. This happened in one of the most isolated areas of Africa.

There are few roads into the Nuba Mountains in central Sudan, and there has been much suffering from famine, disease and death—as with the rest of the country—due to ongoing years of civil war that have killed millions of Sudanese people.

In 2001, Lutheran missionary John Duitsman, serving in eastern Africa, met a young Nuba man named Younan Bashir and trained him in Christian doctrine. John sent the young African back to his home to preach, teach, and train more leaders.

Bashir first started by gathering others to worship with him under a tree. In three years, he helped plant over thirty-eight Lutheran congregations with as many as seven thousand members. LCMS missionary Scott Yakimow reported, “Nuba is an exciting area for many reasons. One is the huge response to the Gospel that we have seen. . . . Another reason is that the Nuba people truly know that God is calling them . . . to reach out to their neighbors.”

Discuss one-on-one or in small groups the following questions.

1. Why is it impossible for a lack of roads or war to limit God? *Nothing is impossible for God.*
2. Does God usually work alone, or does He commonly involve believers in bringing unbelievers the Good News? *God most often works through His people.* What does the Holy Spirit use to bring people to faith? *The Holy Spirit works through the means of grace—the Word of God.*
3. Locate Sudan on a map. How could you touch the life of a child in the Nuba Mountains in central Sudan? *Through prayer and the support of missionaries working in that region.*