

## Tells of Muslim Life on the Gezira in the Sudan

By Bayyinah Sharrleff

At 8:30 we were on our way to the Gezira from Wad Medani. As we rode along we surveyed the Gezira with our eyes; the smooth landscapes, broken systematically by the high water canals, which irrigated the crops.

**THE HOUSE** in which Bashir lives was a frame house in a wooded area. Whenever one saw a wooded area one knew that a house was there. This was the first frame house I had seen in the Sudan. In Khartoum, most of the homes are brick (mostly sun baked) cement, or stucco.

This house had a wide, screened-in porch which encircled approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the house. The kitchen nor the toilet were attached to the house. They were both located behind the house, in separate houses. This house was named Abu Gimmery. It was a single floor, with three bedrooms. It also had a large living room and dining room. The bathroom consisted of bathing facilities only (face bowl, shower, and bath tub).

There was no electricity in this house. Bashir lit gas lamps, and then brought in some of our luggage. It reminded me of some of the girl scout cabins in the U.S.A. His housekeeper, who had a home about 175 feet from the house, helped to carry in our baggage and food (which Bashir had purchased in Wad Medani).

**WE WERE** taken to the large bedroom where we unpacked most of our things, and hung them in the armoire (portable closet and cupboard). We had some cold soft drinks, then rolled our beds out on the wide,

screened-in porch. Fatma, I and her two sisters slept on the porch on one side of the house. Bashir slept on the other side.

The next morning, I woke early with Fatma, and her sisters. They performed their ablutions (washed themselves for prayer), and said their prayers. Fatma went out to the kitchen and prepared the morning tea, while I showered and dressed.

At tea, Bashir told us the first picking was completed and that they were in the process of the second picking. He left us soon after tea, and went out to view the land over which he was inspector, and to speak with the laborers.

**THE KITCHEN** had been closed for three weeks, due to Bashir being in Omdurman (one of the three cities which make up the capital of Sudan, Khartoum). The kitchen was an old-fashioned one with one work table, no chairs, with boxes in the corners and cooking ware hanging on the walls.

There were about three tin-like boxes in the corner, with one end open. The other end was made in the fashion of a grill. One side of the tin had a square hole cut in it. These tins were used for cooking.

The tin is set down on the ground with the open end to the ground. The fire is started on the grill and coals are placed on top of the grill.

It is fanned from the top to get it started and the open side is turned towards the wind, to keep the fire burning very well. Fatma put the meat in a cov-

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## Sudanese Life in Gezira Region Is Built on Islam

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ered pot of water with the seasonings, and we left it cooking slowly to go in the house to check on what needed to be done.

**FATMA AND I** made the agreement that she would do the cooking (because I did not know how to cook on their stoves) and I would do the cleaning for this day and the next day we would change chores. At first she did not want me to work, for she considered me a guest. But, after a heavy protest on my part of being idle and needing something to occupy my time, and our being Sisters, she agreed. This is the pattern among the Muslims.

We do not leave one to do a lot of work while others watch that one working. We all share in the toil. This way, the work is

completed in less time, and no single person is burdened with an excess amount of work. These are the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. He teaches us that we work together with ourselves to help ourselves. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad has been teaching us this for practically 38 years.

The fruits of his teachings can be easily seen by any observer. The Muslims, followers of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, have successful businesses. We now have farms (poultry, dairy and vegetable) in Michigan and Georgia. This is obtained by following one man and working in unity.

**UNITY** with our brothers for the progress and successful achievements of ourselves and our kind are of the main teachings of Islam. The Holy Qur'an stresses repeatedly, "so vie with one another in good works . . . wherever you are Allah will bring you all together" (2:18).

It defines the Believer and the successful one: "The Believers are those only who believe in Allah and His Messenger then they doubt not and struggle hard with their wealth and their lives in the way of Allah." (Holy Qur'an 49:15).

These are the practices of the Muslims in both the East and the west.

(To Be Continued)

## Rebellion In Chad

**FORT LAMY, Chad**—In this large, desert nation in northcentral Africa, Black men are breaking into discord perilously similar to that which upsets Nigeria, their neighbor to the southwest.

**PRESIDENT** Francois Tombalaye of Chad recently called for French troops to help his army put down a rebellion in the north. France already has 1000 soldiers in Fort Lamy, the capital city, and has agreed to send