



# Voice of Hope

Newsletter of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji

Issue 1 | November 2012



## Relaunch of our Newsletter

By Jacob Haasnoot (editor)

Welcome to our renewed newsletter! With this issue we are relaunching the newsletter of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji with a new name and a new layout. It is our goal to tell you more about what God is doing in our Diocese and in South Sudan. It is our prayer that this newsletter will be a source of hope.

We would very much like to hear from you as well. Please tell us what you think of our newsletter and what kind of information you would like to read. Your feedback will help us to improve.

We are very thankful for all the hard work that has been done by Stephen Tomor and his team in the past! We don't take that for granted and we appreciate that very much. We are not losing Stephen, since he is still involved as a member of the Media Committee.

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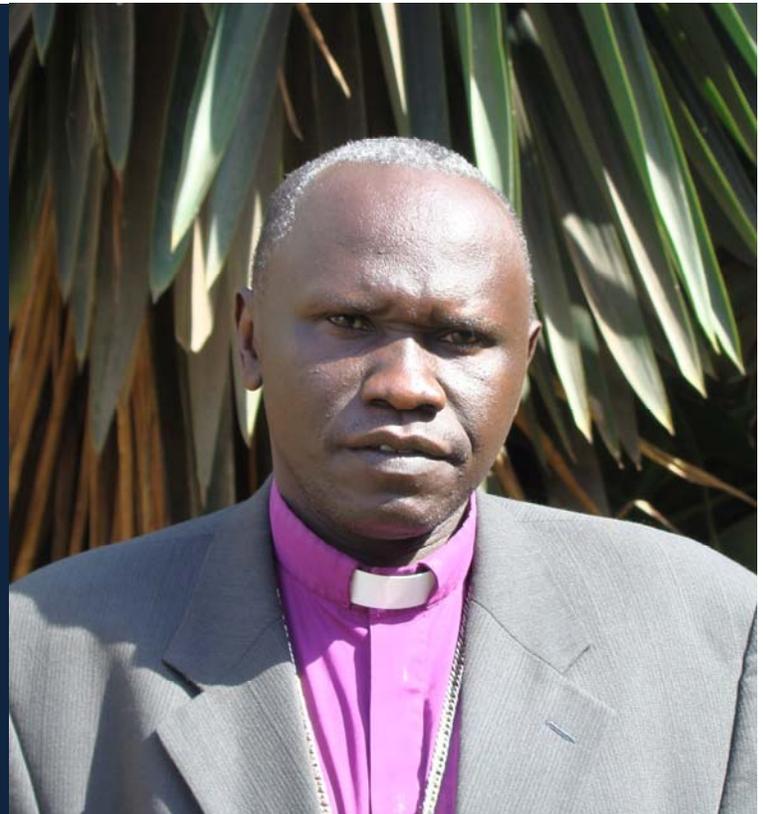
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## Word from the Bishop

### Rt. Rev'd. Anthony D. Poggo

Around the middle of last year, we began to seriously discuss plans to build a Diocesan office next to the Cathedral. The idea for building this office is part of our plans to complete the construction of the needed offices and houses needed at our Diocesan headquarters.

When we dedicated our Cathedral on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2011, I told the congregation at the dedication service that we had the following pending projects: diocesan office construction, construction of the house of the Cathedral Dean and purchase of a vehicle for the Bishop.



Rt. Rev'd. Anthony D. Poggo

#### Diocesan Office

The original budget for construction of the Diocesan Office was US\$ 81,000. This was revised to US\$ 87,772 or 263,316 SSP. As we begun to undertake the construction project, we found out that the entire project would cost US\$ 144,621. This included fittings and furniture, cost of installing solar electricity, toilets, tiling, system for collecting rain water and other additional completion costs.

Over the last one year and half years, we have been raising the needed funds for the construction of this project. We conducted a fund raising event in Kajo-Keji on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2012 where a total of over US\$ 8,000 or 24,000 SSP was raised. Two other fund raising events were held in Juba on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 where an amount equivalent to US\$ 15,383 was raised; over half of this amount was cash and the rest was in pledges. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Bethlehem applied to the United Thanks Offering (UTO) on our behalf; an amount of US\$ 75,000 was approved for the office construction. We thank God for this.

A number people have worked hard to raise the above mentioned funds. I would like to thank them all. Pray that the remaining funds will be raised and that those who made pledges will honour their pledges so that the project will be paid for before the end of this year.

#### Sabbatical

I would like to inform our readers that plans are underway for me to undertake a three and half months sabbatical from the 28<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to the middle of April 2013. I intend to spend one term at Ridley Hall, Cambridge in England. Pray for all the practical arrangements that are to be undertaken between now and the end of December 2012.

# Clergy Retreat 2012

By Very Rev. Pianilee Samuel Alibee



From 5 to 8 September 2012 the Diocese of Kajo-Keji conducted, together with CRESS UK, a Pastors' Retreat in the Emmanuel Cathedral in Kajo-Keji. The retreat brought together sixty eight pastors from the Diocese to reflect on their ministry. The aims of the retreat are to refresh the ordained leaders and help them to reflect on their leadership ministry and also to come up with strategic plans for effective leadership and ministry in the church. The retreat was funded by *Christian Relief and Education in South Sudan* (CRESS) in the UK with additional contributions from each parish of the Diocese.

## Need for lay ministry

During the retreat, the issue of lay ministry was seen as one of the highest needs for the church. Pastors realised that active involvement of laity in preaching,

prayer, healing, evangelism and counselling is crucial if the church really wants to be 'salt and light' in this world.

In this regard the clergy recommended lay training as priority for the parishes and local churches in the diocese.

The retreat provided opportunity for pastors to reflect on their spiritual life. It was noted that pastors are so busy with their duties in the parish that they have little time to reflect on their personal spiritual development.

The morning devotion became one of the most refreshing times of the retreat where ministers were able to hear from God and examine their spiritual life.

## Annual event

The retreat ended with the recommendations that

1. The pastors retreat is to be adopted as an annual event of the Diocese of Kajo-keji bringing together all the ordained ministers and their spouses to reflect together on ministry.
2. Lay training must be conducted on all levels: in the diocese, archdeaconry, parish and in the local churches. This is to empower lay people for active involvement in the development of the church and in holistic ministry.

We would like to thank CRESS for its financial support and involvement in facilitating the retreat. We also thank our Nigerian missionaries for their involvement and we thank all the parishes for their financial contributions, and all the clergy for attending the retreat.

We would like to ask for your prayers and financial support for the Pastors' Retreat 2013. Also pray the training of laymen in the Diocese. For any further information about the retreat, please contact us:

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## New Nigerian Lecturer at College

By **Jacob Haasnoot**

Since the beginning of the second semester we have a new lecturer at Canon Benaiah Poggo College: Venerable Isaac O. Tejevbo. He came together with evangelist Chidi Moses from Nigeria, from the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Niger Delta North. We talked with Ven. Isaac about his background, his work and his dream for the church in South Sudan.

### **Can you tell us a bit more about yourself?**

“My name is Isaac O. Tejevbo and I used to be an Archdeacon and Rector of St. Matthew’s Anglican Church in Nkpogwu Deanery, Pot Harcourt, Nigeria. I am married and a father of 4 children and grandfather of 7 grandchildren”.

### **What made you come to South Sudan?**

“I am here on a missionary assignment after an invitation of Bishop Anthony Poggo when he visited Nigeria in January of this year. I have two assignments. One is to teach at the College. The other is to help to build the Diocese at large. In the College I teach now Pastoral Care and counseling, NT studies and the subject Prayer & Spirituality”.

### **What are your first impressions of the situation here?**

“It is not as challenging as I had expected. I thought the conditions would be worse and the hardship greater after the long civil war. People are generally friendly. I do find that people are interested in spiritual things, but the involvement is slower. But I trust that with the right challenge and direction, people will respond. I am stimulating local churches to start prayer meetings, bible study and men’s fellowship. That is my focus at the moment”.



**Ven. Isaac O. Tejevbo**

### **What is your dream for the Church in South Sudan?**

“South Sudan is a central country in Eastern Africa. I would like to see the Church to be a centre of revival that has an impact on neighbouring countries! Let us pray for this dream to come true”.

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## Youth Conference

By **Joseph Aba Duduka**

From 11 to 18 September 2012 a special youth conference took place in Kajo-Keji, facilitated by Flame International with seven young people from UK. This conference brought 48 young people from all our eight archdeaconries together. The Flame team did two things: the youth conference of four days and also four days of outreach. They went to the police, the wild life department, the prison and the army barracks. Many soldiers, police and inmates gave their lives to Christ and chose to forgive those who wronged them. They all wanted a Bible but we were not able to provide those.

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### **Appreciate life**

The conference helped young person to free themselves of the bitter experience of war in their lives. This hinders them to develop and appreciate life as God intended it to be. All the 48 participants gave incredible testimonies of miraculous healing and deliverance. There were a lot of tears as they expressed forgiveness to those who hurt them and chose peace and reconciliation. These young people have returned with fire of the Holy Spirit and they take these teachings to others. As young as they are, they are bold enough to preach in the main service of what God has done. We glorify God.

## Kajo-Keji pastors have eyes screened

*By Rev. Taban Israel*

Some time ago a number of pastors and lay people had their eyes checked at the Martha Clinic in the Diocese of Yei. This trip was funded by *Christian Relief and Education in South Sudan* (CRESS) in the UK.

A number of these pastors were not able to read anymore due to poor eye vision. They had to preach and teach on the basis of their earlier Bible knowledge. Because of the treatment, they can now preach directly from the Bible again. A twelve year old child was blind for one year after a serious accident. Due to the treatment at the Martha Clinic he is able to see again and has gone back to school.

### **Holistic ministry**

Regular eye screening can detect eye abnormalities early enough. South Sudan still needs a number of ophthalmologists to work in various public and private health facilities. The province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan is providing some health services to the whole community of Yei. To South Sudanese as well as non-South Sudanese.

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## I have learned many new things!

*By Ddumba Levi*

Poni Betty (37 years old) is one of the students in the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) at the St. Luke Center in Mundari. We ask her about her involvement in this program.

### **Why did you want to join this learning program?**

"I heard about ALP in a Sunday service. I really wanted to be part of this program so I could learn new things. I am too old to study in a normal school. I really wanted to learn to read and write.

Then I could write to my friends and also read the Bible. I also thought: 'If I can read, I can read the road signs and not get lost!'".



*Pastors at the Martha Eye Clinic*

The Martha Eye Clinic in the Diocese of Yei , Central Equatorial State, offers eye examinations at affordable cost.



### **What have you learned so far?**

"I have learned so many new things! I feel more confident when I sell my groundnuts, cow peas and pancakes at the market. I also discovered new ways of planting crops early.

Through the lessons about hygiene I know now how important it is to wash your hands regularly and why you should cover food. I also realize the need for using a mosquito net to prevent malaria”.

### **How has your life changed?**

“The knowledge has made me more confident. I can see that the production of our crops has increased and because of better hygiene we are healthier. This program really has made a difference for me”. The ALP project is funded by the Stromme Foundation.

## **Don't choose like hyena**

**By Jacob Haasnoot**

Every Thursday we have a Community Worship at Canon Benaiah Poggo College. We worship God together and we celebrate Holy Communion. A few weeks ago one of the Diploma students, Rev. Kwanyi Henry Peter, preached during that time on Joshua 24:14-15 (“...choose yourselves this day whom you will serve.”). We will summarize part of his sermon here to give you a feel of life at the College.

Rev. Kwanyi started off by saying: Don't choose like a hyena! Hyena was hungry and came to a junction in the road. On the one side he smelled fish, which he liked. On the other side he smelled rotten meat, which he also liked. He couldn't choose, he was too greedy.

So he put one leg towards the fish and one leg towards the meat, because he wanted to get both! Hyena was stretching himself so much that he split into two and died. We shouldn't be like hyena. We can't serve the LORD and at the same time the gods of our ancestors. That is what we often try, but the passage in Joshua challenges us to put our trust in God alone. So let us not be like hyena but like Joshua! That means that we fear the Lord and serve him with faithfulness and in truth.



## **Week of Witness**

**By Joseph Aba Duduka**

The department of Outreach & Mission in the Diocese sent out evangelists to all our 57 parishes and preaching centers for one week (from 7 to 14 October, 2012). The theme of this Week of Witness was: *the mind of a sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace (Romans 8:6)*. Over 57,800 people were reached and 2000 people got saved, mostly children and youth. This is a great achievement in comparison with our previous weeks of witness.

The hand of the Lord and his presence were strongly felt. Hundreds of people testify of deliverance from evil spirits and healing from sickness. There was a man who could not stretch his fingers for many years. Evangelists in Kiri prayed for him in his home and went away. The following morning this man sends for the evangelists to come back to witness what the Lord has done. The man got healed completely.

### **Visit to Archdeaconries**

Our department plans to visit all eight archdeaconries. So far we have visited Bori, Gaderu, Liwolo, Logu, Kala and Kiri. The purpose is to motivate the parishes to engage seriously in fulfilling the mandate of the Great Commission. Our team uses the teaching material of Flame International. Topics are for instance: forgiveness, trauma, belief systems, generational sins and blessings and curses.

People responded to this teaching with tears, brokenness of heart and repentance. God has brought healing and deliverance. People confessed sins and we see God pouring out incredible blessings and rains. We see a great yield of crops and people getting enthusiastic in agriculture. Places that were hindered from development instantly open up as people choose to put their lives in God's ways. The demand for us to reach others places is very high. We are hopeful that the Lord who called us will supply all our needs.

# Change is possible!

By Ezbon Wudu Moggson

The Participatory Awakening Process (PAP) is a capacity building program in the Diocese to envision leaders and community resource persons through training. This empowers individuals, churches and communities to work hard, to become self-reliant and to address their situation in a holistic way. This program is funded by Tearfund UK.

Fifteen local churches in our Diocese practice now their Biblical mandate for holistic ministry. These churches help the needy in the community and they develop small projects that they design and support themselves using available resources. In Lori they build their own church using God-given available resources and they are worshiping God in it now.

Also trained individuals have started to reap the fruits of this program. Some have improved their shelters, others develop family projects and they relate well to their families and neighbours. The following pictures show you the impact of the training in the Lire community.



*A widow who practices the training. She cultivates 3 acres of groundnuts and harvested 25 bags this year. She was able to raise 2500 South Sudanese Pounds and could buy 3 heifers for her family.*



*Happy women harvesting fresh okra, to sell and for consumption. They earn an income for their basic needs.*



*Retired pastor Timayo Mogga and his family in Mogiri. They have a great harvest of pineapples, ready to sell at the market and to enjoy themselves. The fruits from their own family pineapple farm.*

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