

Voice of Hope

Newsletter of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji

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Emmanuel parish in Liwolo hosting the displaced people from Kansuk Boma, Nyepo Payam.

Word from the Bishop

Rt. Rev'd Anthony D. Poggo

The peace process in South Sudan received a boost when Dr Riek Machar, the leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition, returned to Juba on 26 April 2016. He was immediately sworn in and took up his post as First Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan. This marks an important milestone in the actual implementation of the signed Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS). Many people have prayed without ceasing for this nation; I would like to request you to continue to do so. In my last piece I said, "Without hope and patience, South Sudanese will despair". This is what we continue to need in this nation as our leaders implement the terms of the signed ARCSS.

When the First Vice President took office, the long awaited Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) was formed.

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Continue to pray for the TGoNU that they will tackle the urgent issues of insecurity in many parts of the nation, the return and resettlement of refugees from the neighboring countries as well as the returnees from UN and Internally Displaced Camps. There is a tremendous need for reconciliation and forgiveness amongst South Sudanese. One of things that the country is facing is the economic challenge as a result of the war. Our leaders need our prayers as they tackle the myriad of challenges faced by this nation.

Insecurity

In Kajo-Keji, we have also had some incidences of insecurity that has led to loss of lives within the county and also on the road between Juba and Kajo-Keji. Please pray that the situation will normalize to enable people carry on with normal activities especially at this time of the year when people should be cultivating. Do also pray that the rains will be sufficient. Last year, most parts of Kajo-Keji experienced drought which has led to food shortages and high prices of commodities in the market.



Above: Some of the IDPs in Kajo-Keji who have vacated their places (Facebook Picture)



Above: Romogi Health Care Centre (PHCC) under construction



Bishop Anthony Poggo

Health Centre

On the diocesan front, I visited the United Kingdom at the invitation of Medic Assist International (MAI) during the month of May 2016. Last year, we reached a partnership agreement with MAI for the construction of a health centre in Romoggi in Kajo-Keji. The late Rev Canon Dr Oliver Duku, who as a medic had seen the need for such a health facility, first mooted the idea for this Centre.

The main reason why I travelled to the UK to raise awareness of the situation in South Sudan and also to update our prayer partners on the progress of the construction of the health Centre. The clinic is at the final stage of construction. The next phase will require funds for installation of solar lighting and a system to get water from a submersible pump and then stored in a tank.

This health Centre is to provide the needed health needs of people of Romogi and its environs. It will provide the needed help to bring down case of infant and maternal mortality in the area. With a growing population of students in the 3 schools and one college in the area, the clinic will also provide the much needed curative health care services for the students and staff of these educational institutions and the people in Romogi Boma.

Training of Evangelists

Capt. Sanya David Evans, Missions Coordinator

Five students from our Diocese have started a training for evangelism at the Faith School of Mission in Beliak. The course deals with evangelism and discipleship. It is intensive because it takes only 6 months.

Pastor Charles Marcello was willing to sponsor 3 students in that school. However, the Diocesan staff contributed on free will basis to pay for more students. Now 5 students reported to the school. They come from the following archdeaconries: Leikor, Kiri, Liwolo, Lire and Kala.

The office of Outreach and Missions is thankful to all the staff who have contributed to this. There are more young people who would like to join the training school when funds are available. If you are interested to contribute, feel free to contact us. It only costs 350 SSP to sponsor a person. It is important to do so because evangelism and discipleship are important for the fulfilment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28).



Mission Students at Faith School of Mission - 'Beliak. Five above are sponsored by Diocesan Staff

Staff Changes in Diocesan Office

Rev. Capt. Jonathan Soro Buly, Diocesan Secretary



Mrs. Rose Kojo Alex – Incoming Finance Manager

We would like to inform you that Mrs Kojo Rose Alex is our new Finance manager in the Diocese. Mrs Kojo Rose Alex is married to Mr Modi Moses Paul. She has worked in a similar position with Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) for more than 6 years. Her first job was with JRS during her refugee time in Adjumani district, Uganda. When the organisation relocated its offices to South Sudan, particularly to Kajo-Keji, she was transferred to work as a project accountant until JRS left Kajo-Keji in 2012.

Rose then joined the Evangelistic Revival movement, a ministry within the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan, as an assistant finance manager. We trust that Rose will be of great advantage to the financial management in the administration of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji.

Rev. Edward Jale, the former Diocesan finance officer, has now taken on the role of Logistics and Procurement officer within the administration structure. We wish them the best in their new roles.

Bishop Anthony visits UK



Bishop Anthony at the Grave of Churchill

From 11 to 25 May 2016 Bishop Anthony visited the UK at the invitation of Medic Assist International (MAI). We quote some parts of his report to give you an impression of his visit.

"This visit is part of our 3 year partnership agreement where we have agreed that once a year, someone from the diocese would visit the UK and update supporters and churches on the situation of the country and church in South Sudan and also of the health centre that we are partnering on".

[12 May]" In the evening, we then went to Christ's church Abingdon to join the youth who had their evening fellowship. This group called Genesis Youth were keen to hear an update on how far we have gone with the project, as they are keen to assist in it. I shared about the project and also about South Sudan. They then prayed for me as I begin my two weeks mission to the United Kingdom. It was encouraging to be prayed for by this young people".

8 minutes

"On Sunday 15 May, which was Pentecost or Whit Sunday I had to preach in three services. The first service was in the Parish Church of Bladon at 9:30 am, where Sir Winston Churchill was buried. I took a photo next to his grave. This was a Holy Communion service. The challenging thing for me was to be asked to preach for 8 minutes, a huge challenge for an African Anglican Bishop. This is to enable us go to the next service which was to be at 11:00 and would take us a few minutes' drive".

"On Monday 16 May, we travelled to all Nations College where we joined staff and students for lunch and also had an informal coffee time after lunch. I then met with [our] Rev Fred Taban and also with Academic Dean".

Scotland

[18 May] "We then drove to Scotland on a six and half hours on a very good road to Glasgow. Upon arrival, we met with Trustees of Sandringham Trust. After dinner, we then went of an evening event at Castel Church, Newton Mearns, this is a Church of Scotland church (Presbyterian). After we shared, we spent a good amount of time praying for the issues that I had raised in my presentation".

[24 May] "This was the day we had agreed to have joint CRESS and St James meeting. During the meeting we discussed updates on the situation in South Sudan and Kajo-Keji. We also looked at the partnership of St James, CRESS and Kajo-Keji".

"We thank God for journey mercies. I understand that we covered over 1,650 miles of driving during the time we were together. Thank you all for your prayers".

An interview with Bishop Anthony is found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oAjaBvfTUs>



Visit of Yei River State Governor

On 17th April the Governor of Yei River State, H.E. David Lokonga, attended a service at the Emmanuel Cathedral in Kajo-Keji.

Bishop Anthony preached about peace in that service. He called on everybody to be a peace maker and not a peace spoiler. Bishop mentioned two main things that Jesus taught about after his resurrection: witnessing and to allow the Holy Spirit guide us. He also reminded us of the power and importance of prayer. With prayer we can heal the sick, prayer can change things and can transform lives. Bishop completed his sermon by praying for peace: "May peace prevail in this County, the Yei River state and the whole Nation of South Sudan. Amen".



The Governor H.E. David Lokonga (R) together with the state Delegation



Bishop Anthony gives a gift of a book "Come let us rebuild" to H.E. The Governor of Yei River State.



Bishop Anthony Preaching



Above; The Commissioner of Kajo-Keji County, H.E. Julius Lokonga

Governor

The Governor brought greetings and a message of peace from H.E president Salva Kiir Mayardit to the people of Kajo-Keji. He was encouraged by the welcome for him and his team in Kajo-Keji County.

The Governor called upon all those who have run to the bush to come back to their homes and present their issues peacefully.

He also called on all the authorities of different towns in his state to survey towns and cities and have proper physical plans.

The Governor said he is determined to promote peace and development in Yei River State so that it will be a first class state in South Sudan.

Mobile Skill Training (MOST) – in Gaderu

Rev. Capt. Jonathan Soro Buly



Youths at the training

MOST stands for Mobile Skill Training. It is a program for youth and a local initiative in our Diocese as a result of good collaboration between Rev. Capt. Jonathan Soro Buly and Mr. Alasdair Hogarth, the founder of Kajo-Keji Education Trust Africa. The mission of this charity is: *reaching, empowering and equipping vulnerable rural youth to attain holistic sustainable transformation through life and trade skill training and discipleship.* The expected result is to see a generation of God fearing youth, growing in Christ, living a sustainable life and bearing witness through service to their communities. MOST has empowered and transformed over 150 youth.

Training camp

The project is mobile in nature; thus moving from one rural community to the other, in order to reach real vulnerable youth in the deeper remote areas. It is there where the training camp is located. The targeted youth in Gederu are those youth who have not gone to school or dropped out or are orphans. The instructor has enough time for person to person contact during the training and the training is done in a language that is understood by the youth. Also the trainees pay nothing, and are provided with breakfast and lunch every day. Their recruitment is not based on the educational background but on the interest the person has in the skill.

Gederu

The skill training at Gederu started on the 5th April with 21 youth in brick laying and concrete work. It took us sometime to decide whether to go ahead or not to do due to security situation. But local Church and community leaders of Gederu encouraged us to go ahead.

We thank God that he is protecting every one and the training is going on very well. Among the 21 youth enrolled, two are female, making it the second group of trainees which includes girls. The first group was in Liwolo where we had three girls who are now doing a very tremendous work and supporting themselves.

The tools that the trainees are using during the training will be taken home at the end of the course as start-up toolkit.



***Above: Some of the activities done by the trainees.
Below: one group that graduated at Kala***



Hope FM Radio station gets FM radio receivers

Rev. Alex Aciga

Hope FM radio, the broadcasting station of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji in Romogi, has gone through difficulties when its single transmitter faulted last May for almost two weeks.

Good enough, Mike Gwartney, a partner from Irving Bible Church in Dallas, came to rescue by bringing a stand-by transmitter and 15 fixed tuned radio receivers.

In addition to the FM radio support, Mike would like to support the Bosco South Sudan initiative to utilize ICT for development in a rural setting. With the establishment of Bosco South Sudan, government institutions, schools, community centers and community based organizations will have access to an affordable and reliable internet connection and acquire computer skills.

We thank God for using Mike and Irving Bible Church in Dallas USA in supporting the radio ministry to reach to the unreached.



This is a picture from another place where the Bosco initiative is operational



Hope FM team received radios from Irving Bible Church, Dallas USA



BOSCO team at Kajo-Keji during a meeting



BOSCO team from South Sudan at BOSCO Uganda

Diocese of Kajo-Keji

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