

Voice of Hope

Newsletter of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji

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Editorial

Suffering and Hope in Africa

Rev. Jacob Haasnoot

I came across the following passage in Solomon Andria's impressive commentary on the letter to the Romans (Africa Bible Commentary Series). I think it applies to Africa in general and to South Sudan in particular. Andria sees two competing 'gospels' that are seeking to gain ground in Africa today: the gospel of suffering and the gospel of prosperity. The gospel of suffering says: 'suffer here to be happy there'.

The prosperity gospel says: 'enjoy good things in the here and now'. Andria then adds: "Paul would not agree with either of these 'gospels'. He teaches that suffering is the lot of all human beings, and especially of believers. He teaches that the Spirit helps believers particularly in times of suffering. The gospel he holds out is the gospel of hope. Through the indwelling of the Spirit, the believer lives both with suffering and in hope. Suffering in hope gives meaning and a goal to life" (page 154, Hippo Books, 2012).

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The Voice of Hope Issue# 12, Sept 2015

Word from the Bishop

Rt. Rev'd. Anthony D. Poggo

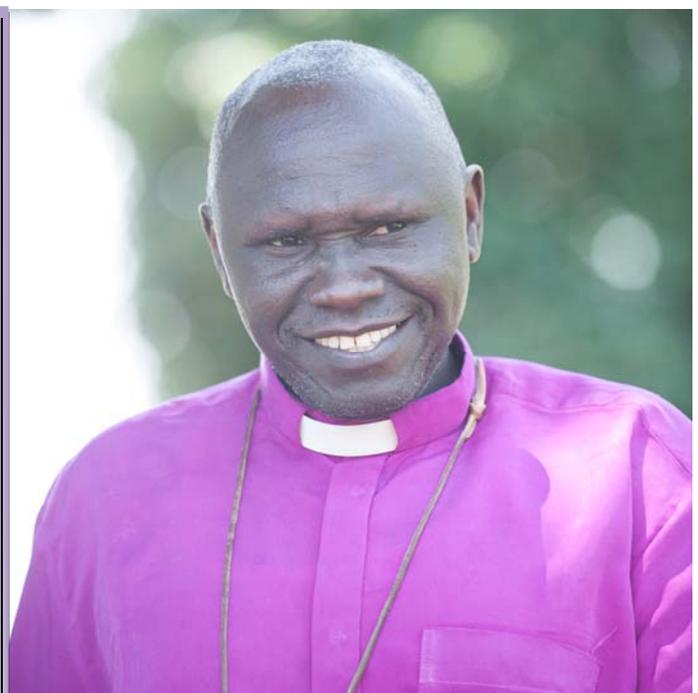
The signing of the Compromise Peace Agreement by former Vice President Dr Riek Machar on 17 August 2015 and later on by President Salva Kiir on 26 August 2015 has given us hope that the 20 months senseless war would come to an end.

The 20 months conflict started on the 15 December 2013 has led to the death of thousand of people and displacement of over 2 million people. People's scepticism has been because of the many rounds of peace negotiations that had not yielded the long awaited peace that the people of South Sudan have been yearning for.

In spite of such scepticism, there is also a level of optimism that this time round the two sides will honour their pledges to stop fighting so that peace prevails in South Sudan and that the refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) will return to the homes. Within 24 hours of the signing of the peace accord by President Salva Kiir, the national currency, the South Sudan Pound (SSP) made some significant gains against the United States dollar. This is a significant thing in a country like South Sudan where most commodities are imported from outside the countries.

Role of the Church

The churches and other stakeholders need to play an important role in peace, reconciliation and healing. It is encouraging to read in the agreement a clause for the establishment of a Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH). This indeed is an important part of building peace so as indicated in the agreement, the purpose is "to spearhead efforts to address the legacy of conflicts, promote peace, national reconciliation and healing".



Bishop Anthony Poggo

We appeal to our leaders to implement the terms of the Compromise Peace Agreement, as this is the only way for us to return to peace and prosperity. I would like to urge all our readers to continue to pray for the implementation of this agreement. It may appear challenging but the Bible encourages us that with God nothing is impossible.

Drought

As if this was not enough, many parts of South Sudan have experienced drought since the beginning of the rainy season in April. In Kajo-Keji, we should by now been planting the last crop for this year. Many farmers have done so but some of the planted seeds have not germinated and the few that have sprouted have now withered. This means that many parts of this country will experience famine. Please pray that there will be adequate rains for the next two months (September to October), which is the remaining period of rain season.

Let me end with the last phrase of the national anthem of South Sudan: "Oh God Bless South Sudan".

Former Church Army Students join Diocese



Moses Nyamara & David Sanya

Two people have recently joined the Diocesan staff: Nyamara Moses as youth leader and Captain Sanya David Evans as coordinator for outreach and discipleship. They both studied at Carlile College in Nairobi, a training institute for the Church Army. They tell us a little bit about their training: "We joined the college in August 2012 August and finished in May 2015. We were sponsored by Anglican Aid. In this three year programme, we did several evangelism tours. Students went out for evangelism to different places in Kenya and Tanzania".

"At the college were students from eleven African countries. Several students came from different dioceses in the Episcopal Church of the South Sudan and Sudan. Though there were challenges in terms of transport, we managed to go through the three years course by the grace of God. For with God things are under His control. After three years, we graduated and were commissioned as Church Army Captains and Evangelists".

"We want to thank Carlile College, Church Army Africa, our sponsors, our placement churches (St Mary Magdalene and Moru congregation of Mundri and Lui Diocese). Glory and honour be to God. We wish for more students to join this ministry for the purpose of winning souls to Christ and to God's kingdom".



The handing over ceremony

VOA programs on Hope FM

Julius Iga

Our Diocesan radio station Hope FM is now broadcasting the programs of Voice of America (VoA). In the middle of July the VoA equipment was installed and our listeners have now access to information through the VoA news programs (like: South Sudan in Focus, Day Break Africa, Africa News Tonight and The straight Talk Africa). I thank God that we have now a reliable news source and this will reduce the spread of false information in our community.



The dish to receive the VOA broadcasting near the Cathedral

KCC news

Rev. Jacob Haasnoot



Diploma students – year one

We have started the second semester at our Kajo-Keji Christian College (KCC) this year with 3 groups in theology. Next to the existing Certificate and Diploma groups, a new Diploma group started with 4 students. Three of these students are from Cueibet Diocese and they are sponsored by Chalke Deanery in the UK. The fourth student is from the Diocese of Kajo-Keji.

The administration of the College is working on the development of a curriculum for the Theology programs. So far we have used the curriculum of Uganda Christian University but now it is time to make our own, contextualized curriculum. Please pray for this process and also for our students and teaching staff.



James Bungit before his deliverance

Gosene Youth Outreach

The youth outreach team from Gosene Parish (in Juba) travels several times per year to Kajo-Keji to do evangelism. We share one of their stories with you.

"On Saturday 6th June 2015, the mission team concluded the crusade at Kimu market centre in Bori archdeaconry. They were received by the Archdeacon of Bori and the entire population of the market.



James Bungit after his deliverance

The program started with a drama and after that Evangelist Cosmas Bida gave a touching message. As a result people came to Christ and others were counseled and prayed for. During the call for prayers a mad person by name James Bungit came forward. He was always present on market days and in any community social gathering and he used to shout as if he is preaching word of god, including his idol images which he prepared and he carried them in a wheelbarrow. The power of our Mighty God rested upon him and he received deliverance. His hair was shaved and he was given a Bible and a cross necklace".

Revival National Convention 2017 in Kajo-Keji

Rev. Joseph Aba



Revival centre in Kajo Keji

In February this year the Revival Movement had their National Convention in Juba. Nearly 28 thousand people from greater Equatoria, Uganda and DR Congo. In the evaluation meeting of the central Revival Movement a decision had been made that the next National Revival Convention would be in Kajo-keji.

The central Revival Movement sent a committee to Kajo-Keji to ask whether the people of Kajo-Keji were willing to host this Convention. The Revival Hall was full: the Commissioner of Kajo-Keji, Honourable Henry Kala, was there together with community leaders, church leaders and all the faithful. The people of Kajo-Keji pledged 28 bulls, goats, chickens and food to show their readiness to welcome the Convention.

Normally, the preparation for such a convention takes 3 years but the people of Kajo-Keji said it can be done within two years that are left. It is estimated that the Convention in Kajo-Keji 2017 will attract 36 thousand people from South Sudan, Uganda, DR Congo and other parts of Africa and the globe.

Hope FM: meeting our listeners

Julius Iga

In July we did a two day outreach to meet our listeners and to launch the Hope FM 'Greetings Cards' (people pay for a card which enables them to send their greetings to friends and family over the radio). This was successful and good number of people turned up.

The outreach started on the 18th July in Longira and Mondikolok commercial centers. We did a quiz and the winners were awarded gifts. Several people told us publically about the positive impact that Hope FM has in their lives and families. Mrs. Mary Kiden said that the radio teaching on child birth and health care by Tindilo Grace has helped her greatly.

On Sunday 19th July 2015, the radio team went first to the Sudan Pentecostal Church in Lilye where our team member Mr. Emmanuel Bahati preached. Later that morning we went to the Episcopal St Phillip parish and our member Mr. Abigo preached there. We also went to the centre of town to evangelize and to promote the Hope FM greeting cards. We received of 80ssp from the sale of the Greeting Cards.



Hope FM Studio

Anything good from South Sudan?

Francis Candiga (CEF)



Attentive listeners at a children's club

Many people all over the world ask whether anything good can come from our country, because of these useless wars that have been going on. Also South Sudanese ask every day:

Will peace ever come to our country? The answer is a big YES: there is hope for this beautiful nation, because our hope is in the Lord Jesus. Let me tell you briefly what we in Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) have been doing.

Radio ministry

Many children are now listening to our weekly program, every Saturday at 2:00 pm, through Hope FM, the diocesan radio station. Through the radio, the ministry goes to places where we do not have the opportunity to reach.

Listeners have asked us to establish children's clubs in their area. Children have made commitment to receive Christ as their Savior through the radio program. Also many pastors have called to request CEF to partner with their churches to reach the children.

School outreach

Our school ministry program has now expanded to 45 schools and next term we plan to include 10 more schools. We receive exciting reports on how the Word of God is positively transforming the lives of children in schools. One teacher from 'Beliak primary school said: "Before this program was brought to our school, we used to have a lot of discipline problems. But when they started attending your teaching, we don't need to cane any child. You can even spend the whole week without solving any discipline related problems". We praise God that every week hundreds of children respond to the gospel and put their trust in the Lord Jesus. We pray that God will bring more volunteers into this ministry so that many more schools can be reached.



(Above) Francis teaching the children



Support for Education

Stephen Tomor Kenyi

In an earlier Newsletter, we featured a story of young girl who approached the Diocesan Education office asking for help to go on to secondary education. Through that story, this particular girl, Gloria Poni, has found someone who has offered to see her through her secondary education. This is an answer to prayer.

The need for education support did not end with Gloria. The Diocesan Education Office is often receiving visitors, young girls and boys, who want to continue in school. Many of the ones approaching our office are those wanting to join secondary education. Some of them struggled on their own to complete primary school. But continuing to secondary education becomes a challenge and the tuition fees are higher. Some of them are living with their grandparents who are too old to be of any great educational help to them.

At one time the staff of the Diocese pulled their personal contributions together to start to meet some of these very desperate cases. A girl and a boy were identified and they are now receiving education support.



Ita Beyonce

The first two receiving support

Ita Beyoncé is in Senior two at in Romogi Richard Earl High School. She lost her father in 2005 and has been living with her mother, a farmer. Her mother is unable to meet school fees for four of her six children. Ita is happy that with the support from the Diocese she is now able to continue with her secondary school education.

Jansuk Emmanuel, Ita's brother, is in Senior four this year and he hopes to sit his final examinations by the year end. Jansuk has also been living with his mother. He hopes to study clinical medicines, after completing senior four.

Appeal

The education support fund is now finished. We would like to ask our readers to contribute to this fund so that we can continue what we have started. Schools will reopen for the third term on 14th September 2015 and so we need funds soon. It costs US \$ 300 (SSP 1,500) for one student, for one year in the secondary school (tuition only).

There are over 10 students who have applied for scholarships and they are on the waiting list. Please contact the newsletter team if you want more details on how to support these students.



Emmanuel Jansuk

Finance & Administrative Workshop

Rev Mikaya Loguli Lubajo

The Finance and Administrative Workshop sponsored by the Diocesan Administration is a two days seminar for Church Leaders of various categories in the Diocese. It aims at equipping leaders with finance managerial and administrative skills for their parishes in respective localities.

The first workshop was launched on 19th to 20th June, 2015 at Kajo-Keji Christian College for all the eight Archdeaconries. However, only 15 participants from four Archdeaconries attended. The Archdeacons of Western Cluster faced a problem with transportation.

The workshop was well facilitated willingly by the experienced facilitators within the Diocese as the participants expressed satisfaction from the seven topics taught (Fundraising, Record keeping, Calculation of Income, Stewardship of resources, Stewardship of time, Visionary Leadership and Pastoral Ministry to the Leaders).

The first wider training at Archdeaconry level for leaders from parishes took off in Lire Archdeaconry on Friday 28th to Saturday 29th August, 2015 where 92 participants attended. It was well received and praised by attendants from 17 local churches of six parishes.

Eleven topics were delivered including new ones like Church leaders and their wives, planning, roles of leaders and summary for roles of lay readers to those of ushers and code of dressing. This training will progress to other Archdeaconries according to program up to December, 2015.

As knowledge is wealth and power, we pray that God will allow us deliver His Word holistically to reduce the suffering of His people.

Diocese of Kajo-Keji

C/O The Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan
P.O. Box 110, Juba, Republic of South Sudan
Or P.O. Box 183, Moyo, Uganda, EA.

Email: newsletter@kajokeji.anglican.org

Website: www.kajokeji.anglican.org

To subscribe/unsubscribe: newsletter@kajokeji.anglican.org

Ordination 2015 in pictures



Above - On 9th August 15 deacons and one priest were ordained by Bishop Anthony in our Diocese



Above - The ordination service took place in the Emmanuel Cathedral in Romogi



Above - It is a joy to welcome these new leaders to build the body of Christ in our area