

Voice of Hope

Newsletter of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji, South Sudan

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Issue # 23

Word from the Bishop

'Prepare your minds and hearts for peaceful South Sudan'

Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Murye

Many South Sudanese in the refugee camps are overwhelmed with the news regarding the long awaited peace. They thank God for the ongoing peace talks and pray to God for final signing of permanent peace so that they can go home. Others have mixed fillings as to whether what was signed in Khartoum will lead to the permanent peace! These doubts arise due to bad memories of the past. In our pastoral visits we do encourage the refugees to have faith and hope and continue to pray so that we can go and rebuild our nation which has been so damaged by the war.

This is a moment of reflection and preparation of our minds and hearts. Though we are a multi-tribal nation, we are one in Christ. This means justice for all people in South Sudan and using resources equitably.

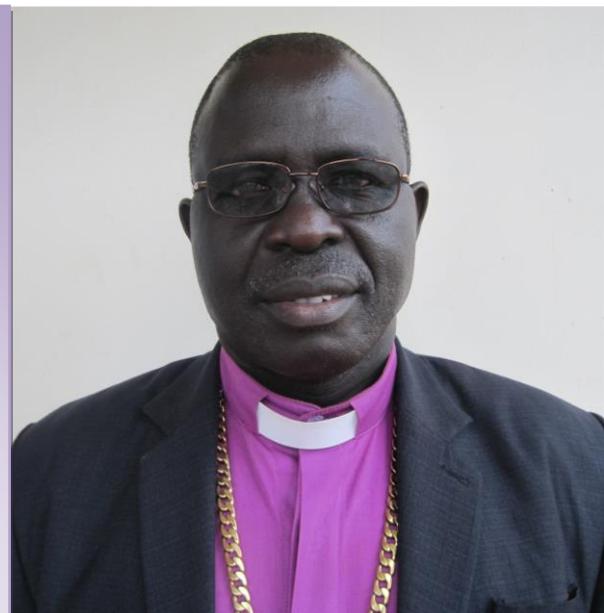
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This can only be done through peace building, reconciling broken hearts through trauma healing sessions, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Our partners have contributed a lot towards developing the future of South Sudan. It is not easy to spend money on people you have not seen and do not know, but due to the Lord's compassion, a good number of partners have supported us in the areas of education, trauma healing workshops, empowerment for drop out school girls, Community vocational skill training, vegetable growing, emergency relief to the IDP and returnees in Kajo-Keji, theological education, discipleship, Community managed micro- finance (CMMF). Your resources have contributed to the development of South Sudan as all these skills are going to be utilized in different parts of South Sudan when the beneficiaries return.



Bishop Emmanuel Murye Modi

Football for Integral Mission

Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Murye Modi



Delegates at the Consultative Conference in Kigali - Rwanda.

Bishop Emmanuel Murye recently attended a conference, organised by the Anglican Communion UK, to explore ways of using football for integral mission. This means using football for such things as discipleship, peace building, and gender development.

The participants came from Anglican Dioceses in the Great Lake region (Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, South Sudan, Uganda). Uganda/South Sudan went as one team in order for the two communities of Kuku and Madi to strengthen their relationship through sports with the aim of peace building and reconciliation.

In December 2018, Rev. Canon Andy is looking forward to lead a team of footballers from UK who will train the participants from the two communities (the host and the refugee community respectfully). This is a new initiative and is very inspiring.

Helping God's people to grow

Bishop Emmanuel has said the "Bishop's school" is to be handled by the College, and in July and August the College premises were used to host 2 training events—a Pastors and Spouses retreat, and Lay Reader training.

The Pastors Retreat took up the theme from Ecclesiastes about the "3 fold cord" and the week's teaching emphasized the importance of partnership in marriage, and the strength which comes from recognising each other's gifts and praying for each other.

17 couples from the Camps were represented and the programme included teaching, rest, fellowship, bible study, practical activities, a movie night, and lots of meat and sodas! The feedback was very positive, praising the teaching and the opportunity to draw aside from a busy and demanding ministry to spend time in fellowship and reflection.

Being forced into exile had halted the training of Lay Readers, but 25 delegates, mainly women, attended for 3 weeks teaching as the first session of a new Lay Reader course, again hosted by the College. The group was very enthusiastic about the learning and worshipped very joyfully.



FOCUS PAGE: A new feature giving more information about the “Home and Away” teams.

For the “Away team” We focus on New Hope



Stephen Tomor oversees all the New Hope projects at DKK & KCC

For the “Away team” – we focus on New Hope

New Hope is the brain child of the Dioceses of Bethlehem, USA and Kajo Keji – a long term partnership that is yielding fruit. It is currently headed up by Charlie Barebo. New Hope has a vision for the future of our nation – its people and especially its children through the area of education.

Within the Diocese, as you will know if you are a regular reader of Voice of Hope, they currently supply funds to support 5 schools , 4 Primary& 1 secondary, on the Refugee camps. They are also major donors to the College, historically funding buildings and a lot of the furniture in Romogi, and currently enabling the operation of the Business Administration department. Both Diocese & College greatly appreciate this partnership. Thank you for giving us hope.

For the “Home team” – meet a new member Namadi Silivian – a Mother for the Mothers.

Silivian was appointed Mother Union co-ordinator for the Diocese on 1st August, working together with Cicilia Murye, the MU leader . She is based in the Diocesan Office and has a long and varied job description. She will conduct a needs assessment, help community groups prioritise, run Training events and try to establish a Literacy and Development programme for women.

She will also monitor the ongoing Sanitary pads and Agriculture projects currently run by the Mothers Union. Personally, she is married with 2 young children, and has a Diploma in Children’s Ministry. She is studying the Diploma in Business Administration course at KCC. Welcome Namadi!



Mrs. Namadi Silivian (Appointed Mothers Union Coordinator)



New staff for the College

“**New, every morning**” (Lamentations 3:23 – **New** has to be the key word for the College page this quarter. Of course one of our major supporters is **New Hope**, our partner from the Diocese of Bethlehem in USA, who we continue to greatly appreciate, but there are at least 3 other reasons for this key word:-

We have **NEW** members of staff. Pieter de Groot and his wife Jeanette arrived from the Netherlands in June, as GZB Mission Partners. Pieter is ordained and is serving as a Theology tutor while Jeanette’s role is largely based in the Diocese, in Health education, although she will also be looking after the medical needs of the College. Yanta Daniel has joined the staff as an English tutor, and Taban Julius Anthony as assistant librarian.

Thanks to more support, this time from the Archbishop’s Council in London, UK, we also have a **NEW** building. The challenge of successful growth was that we were admitting more students than we could accommodate, either in classrooms or dormitories. This donation has enabled us to rent a house, available at such a providential time, and in such a perfect location – which contains space for the Chapel, 2 classrooms as well as 3 sleeping rooms – right opposite the College. The building was “launched” by the Pastors and Spouses retreat (see other page) which largely took place there.

And last, but certainly NOT least, we have **NEW** students – the new intake comprises 43 Theology students, 26 In-Service Education students and a total of 37 Business Administration students in 3 separate intakes.

We praise & thank you God – “Great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:23)



Staff and some of the new Students in front of New Classrooms

Diocese of Kajo-Keji Business Essentials Seminar

In July of this year around 50 South Sudanese refugees gathered in a church in Zone 1 of Morobi Refugee Camp to attend a one-day business essentials seminar given by London businessman and Projects Delivering Hope Trustee, Adrian Burholt.

The seminar was the inspired idea of Bishop Emmanuel and it attracted some existing business owners and entrepreneurs as well as many with a desire to set up their own businesses.

The seminar helped the delegates to see the benefits of running their businesses on solid ethical values. They also discussed a number of case studies, as well as taking part in small group exercises to apply what they had learned to their own situation. The power of 'networking' as business was seen as a key take-away from the day's work together.



Business training

The feedback from the day was encouraging and DOKK is keen to build on the one-day pilot and deliver a 3 day business conference that will look into other aspects of business such as how to raise finance and operate with good financial management.

Ordination 2018

Pianilee Samuel Alibee



Ordination is one of the Ceremonies of the diocese of Kajo-Keji that brings together the old and the young including children to witness the ordination of new Priest in their Anglican tradition attire (Black and white). Ordination is meant to be done in the Cathedral but this year on Sunday 5th August 2018, the Ordination took place in the Refugee camp in a small church with a carpet roof. The church filled up quickly so many people had to sit outside while others stood in the sun due to lack of shade.

The occasion was marked with joyful singing and the ordained deacons and clergy were dressed in colorful flowers around their necks and given some gifts by the Christian friends and relatives. "They are all men" one woman in the congregation commented, when she saw the newly ordained men line up before the congregation, waving their hands to the people. We need to encourage women to join theological studies so that they are also ordained.

Among the twelve newly ordained clergy was one of DKK's partner, Peter de Groot, from the Netherlands, working at Kajo-Keji Christian College, swearing his oath of obedience to the Bishop of the diocese of Kajo-Keji. This is building a good history of clergy as Jacob Haasnoot from the Netherlands was also ordained in Kajo-Keji at Emmanuel Cathedral, Romogi. Christian and diocesan institutions contributed food and money for the occasion and people feasted after the long service. We thank God for this event. We pray for peace in South Sudan so that the next ordination takes place at the Cathedral in Kajo-Keji.

Vegetable growing as means for improving health

Pitia Thomas Duku DKK Agriculture extension officer

Agriculture is one of the main livelihood activities which contributes to the well-being of refugees in Palorinya refugee settlement. During training in vegetable growing, the group undertakes other activities such as discipleship, trauma healing, and saving. This is a holistic ministry approach which the diocese is encouraging. Vegetable growing activity has been supported by GZB and CRESS respectively.



A woman harvesting vegetables in the GZB funded seed bed

SUCCESS STORY - TRAUMA AND PSYCHOSOCIAL PROJECT

Lou Isaac

This very important project, implemented by the Diocese of Kajo-Keji and funded by GZB, now operates in Belameling and Morobi (2 zones) refugee camps. We have set up nine counselling centres, three in each zone. Each centre has 10 counsellors available, and the zonal leaders (Archdeacons) are also involved in each zone.

Bishop Emmanuel pays a visit to the CRESS funded women's group

It helps to improve the diet of the refugees providing more variety of food rather than just beans and maize.

Vegetable growing has kept the youth and the women busy hence preventing them from engaging in bad practices within the society.

This project deserves maximum support as it improves the quality of life of the refugees, and will enable them to go back as transformed citizens who focus on development and environmental protection.



One of the counseling centres

The counselling centres will enable people who are currently receiving counseling under the trees, to be counseled in a private space, thus encouraging sharing and enabling confidentiality.

There are many activities planned for the last quarter of the year. Please pray for:-

- The Ongoing healing work of the Holy Spirit after the recent Flame International Healing Conference with Youth and Pastors
- The Visit of CRESS UK team in the third week of September
- Diocesan Standing Committee meeting in the first week of October 2018
- Week of Witness throughout the refugee settlement in October
- Pastors' Conference in November 2018

There are a lot of items to pray for in this edition – here are some suggestions:

- Pray for the newly ordained Clergy and the provision of bicycles to help their ministry
- Pray for the football initiative to improve Madi-Kuku relationships
- Pray for God's work of healing in the Counselling centres
- Give thanks for the growth in the College and pray for provision for the many new students
- Above all, please pray for the peace process and a peaceful return to South Sudan



Some of the Pastors who attended the Retreat learnt how Couples can walk joyfully together



Adrian teaching in the Business Seminar



Sewing Machines to support the Mothers Union in making Dignity Kits from Rita Pengelly



Pastors and their Spouses at the Pastors Retreat