

# Voice of Hope

Newsletter of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji

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*KCC Graduation Day*

## *Editorial*

### **Truth from the earth and justice from heaven**

**Rev. Jacob Haasnoot**

The Christmas season has started and all over the world people are preparing for a joyful celebration of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Also in South Sudan we are preparing for Christmas. Especially in the midst of (economic) hardship Christians want to remember the coming of the Prince of Peace to this world.

Let us meditate during these season on these words of our African (!) Church Father St. Augustine (from Sermon 185): "Truth has arisen from the earth (Psalm 85): because the Word was made flesh. And justice looked down from heaven: because every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. For how could there be peace on earth unless Truth has arisen from the earth, that is, unless Christ were born of our flesh? And he is our peace who made the two into one: that we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity.

Let us then rejoice in this grace... For what greater grace could God have made to dawn on us than to make his only Son become the son of man, so that a son of man might in his turn become son of God?".

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*The Voice of Hope Issue# 13, Dec 2015*

## Word from the Bishop

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

I am writing this piece in Juba where I am attending the annual meeting of the House of Bishops (HoB). This meeting should have taken place in Mundri but due to the insecurity in Mundri and other parts of Western Equatoria State this was then shifted to Juba. Many of the inhabitants of greater Mundri area have been displaced outside the main towns. A few weeks before our HoB, some of our Bishops brokered a peace agreement between representatives of the community of Greater Mundri and the representatives of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Our prayer is that this agreement will hold so as to serve as a model for making peace agreement in areas where the local communities and youth have had conflicts with the army leading to unnecessary deaths, displacement and destruction of property.

With the signing of this peace agreement, there is still much that needs to be undertaken. This includes the need to disseminate this agreement to the community. There is also a need to meet the dire humanitarian needs of the people of the area. The church leaders would still need to monitor this agreement through media and civic awareness.

At the House of Bishops, it is disheartening to hear from the Bishops who come from Greater Upper Nile, Lakes State, Wonduruba, Mundri, Maridi, Lui and other areas of South Sudan the stories they shared of the suffering of many of the people in these areas as well as those who have been displaced in camps or refugee camps in the neighboring countries. Some of our Bishops have themselves been displaced. Pray for them as they carry on their ministries when they also need to be ministered to, supported and encouraged. At the meeting we prayed for the Bishop of Ezo who could not attend the meeting due to insecurity in the area making road travel challenging.

### Diocesan Synod

Back to Kajo-Keji. At the end of October, we held our 9th Diocesan Synod where among other things, we prayed for the situation in our country so that peace prevails in the entire nation. The Synod came a day after the brutal killing of 5 people on the Juba - Kajo-Keji road on Monday 26 October 2015 by unknown people.



*Bishop Anthony Poggo*

This was a reminder of the insecurity in the country. We prayed for the affected families and friends and called on the governments at all levels to provide the needed security for all travelers on our roads.

The Synod also looked at ways of how we can encourage discipleship in parishes as that Christians should be taught on stewardship.

The Synod welcomed with gratitude the opportunity to host the January 2017 National Revival Convention. We expect participants to come from different parts of the country as well as the neighbouring countries. Holding conventions is one of the ways that evangelism and discipleship is undertaken in the East African Revival Movement tradition.



*Synod Members*

# Second Graduation at KCC

It was a very festive and joyful occasion when many (former) students graduated on 5<sup>th</sup> December during the second Graduation of Kajo-Keji Christian College. The occasion was attended by the Commissioner of Kajo-Keji County, Bishop Anthony as chair of the College Board, College staff members, Clergy and many others. The pictures show you many happy and thankful faces. The candidates graduated in the following programmes: Diploma and Certificate Theology, Certificate in Community Development, Special Pastoral Training and a certificate in Basic Computing & IT.



*Graduands congratulated by the Board Chairman*



*The Revival Brass Band together with Bishop Anthony*

## Pastoral Training in Ibba

*Rev. Jacob Haasnoot*



***Jacob Haasnoot teaching in Ibba***

Early November Rev. James Lule and myself went to Ibba Diocese in Western Equatoria to do an eight-day basic training for pastors and other leaders in the church. It was a privilege for us as tutors of Kajo-Keji Christian College to help out in a Diocese that faces many educational challenges.

Around 45 church leaders were equipped in the areas of Understanding the Bible, Ministry, Leadership and Mission. We were warmly received and it was good to see how the church is operating in a different context. We would like to thank Bishop Wilson of Ibba for making this training possible and GZB in the Netherlands for funding this workshop. We are also thankful to MAF for taking us safely to Ibba and back.



***James Lule teaching in Ibba***

## Bible Study Workshop

Bible study is an important part of disciple making. That is why a Diocesan team went to all the eight archdeaconries to do a 1-day training for Bible study group leaders. The team consisted of Capt. Sanya David, Evangelist Chidi Moses, Mirjam Haasnoot, students Francis Tongu and Emmanuel Dilliga and myself. We introduced the Bible study booklet with 52 studies that was developed in our Diocese. In the practical training participants were instructed how to use the booklet, how to lead a group and how to set up a bible study group. We trust that in many parishes a group has started or will start soon. The printing of the booklets and the training was funded by GZB in the Netherlands.



***Bible study in Lire***

## Accelerated Learning

*Rev. Eluzai Loboka*

From 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015, we ran a one-week training programme for teachers in the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP). The training equipped the teachers with the methodology of education, how to make a lesson plan and a work schedule and it addressed some areas of administration, classroom management, community Mobilization and gender awareness.

There were fourteen participants in the training, three of them were female teachers. Although we have eight ALP centers (one in each Archdeaconry), we decided to train some extra teachers, in case some of the teachers would drop out.

At the closing of the training, our Bishop Anthony told the teachers to take what they have learned and put it into practice in the classroom.

## The importance of Discipleship

**Capt. Sanya David Evans**

### JUJUMISI TI BIBILIA 52

Diocese na Kajo-Keji

Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan



A tetena ko Rev. Jacob Haasnoot

A nyönyöke i Bari ko Rev. Mikaya Loguli Lubajo

Discipleship is one of the programmes in the Diocese of Kajo-keji. It is to develop somebody to grow in faith after taking a decision in receiving, accepting, and confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and personal Saviour.

To disciple someone is to guide, direct, train, monitor and to mentor him or her. This is very important in the Christian life because you have taken a decision to follow Jesus. Therefore, you are a follower of Jesus. Jesus commanded us in the Gospels to make disciples, baptise them and teach them to obey the commands of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20). This is the process of discipleship. That is why our Diocese wants to give this priority.

### Activities

In the past months we have done a Bible study training in all the archdeaconries. We have published a Bible Study booklet in English and Bari. You will read more about that elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Diocese is also in the process of translating four booklets in a series called "Rooted in Jesus" into Bari. This is also done to disciple the Christians to remain rooted in Jesus. In addition to the above, as part of discipleship, the Mission Department is to introduce a Day of Prayer, apart from Sunday worship. This is to develop the habit of praying. It makes people grow spiritually. People can bring their prayer requests directly to God. All these activities will help our Christians to grow stronger in faith.

## Sunday school Training in Liwolo

**Francis Candiga (CEF)**



### Training for Sunday school Teachers Liwolo

We want to thank God for the training of Sunday school teachers in Liwolo. This training took place on 16<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> September. I want to thank CRESS UK for providing support for this training. We thank Caroline Lambs and Becky for raising the funds and coordinating the training. We had 25 teachers in attendance and all of them were passionate about serving the Lord in the children's ministry. We are inviting 5 of the teachers for a *Teaching Children Effectively* Level one course (TCE-1) in December. CRESS has also raised funds to support more training events for Sunday school teachers in different churches around Kajo-Keji next year. We praise God for that.

## Week of Witness 2015

Rev. Capt. Sanya David Evans



*Week of witness (Picture from Archive)*

We give thanks to the Almighty God for his wonderful protection and guidance in completing the mission Week of Witness in October 2015. The Archdeacons, the pastors, the evangelists and many Christians got fully involved in doing it. By the grace and power of God everything ended well. We have two clusters in our Diocese. That is the Eastern and Western cluster.

According to the reports of the **Eastern cluster** (Leikor, Kiri, Loggu and Lire: 54,262 people were reached with the Gospel (327 are baptism candidates, 657 are confirmation candidates and 306 got born again).

In the **Western Cluster** (Bori, Liwolo, Kala and Gaderu) 44,567 people were reached and 192 got born again. And those to be baptised and confirmed were not recorded.

Therefore, the general number of people reached are 98,839 and those who committed their lives to Jesus and repented of their sins are 502 people. But we still need to double our effort to reach all the people and pray for more to be born again. The big target is to do discipleship and make them grow in their faith.

There were also some challenges during this week:

1. Many people attended funerals which made attendance of the programs poor.
2. One person attempted suicide during the week of witness and it confused many.
3. Some evangelists never reported to their places which made work heavy for others.
4. A big mango tree fell on the house where the evangelists slept. They were badly wounded but were rushed to hospital for treatment. May our God who is so mighty bless everybody in our Diocese and in all our Churches.

## Visit from Ugandan Youth

Capt. Nyamara Moses Modi

On the 7<sup>th</sup> November, the youth department in the Diocese of Kajo-Keji received a team of four youths from the Church of Uganda, Ma'di and West Nile Diocese, Ma'di Archdeaconry (Moyo/Adjumani). This team was led by Mr. Rokani Charles. Following their arrival, they had a meeting with youth representatives from all over our Diocese to discuss the purpose of their visit. They presented two major reasons: (1) They came to do mobilization for their youth and children camp scheduled in December 2015; (2) They seek to strengthen the relationship between the youths of Ma'di Archdeaconry and the youths of Kajo-Keji Diocese. This will be through doing outreach, conferences and camps, to mention but a few.

The team was also involved in a talk show on Hope FM Radio. There was a very positive response from the listeners. On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November the team was divided into three and they visited three different parishes in the Diocese. They shared the Word of God in all the services. The church (and the youth) is committed to promoting peace, unity and good relationships between the two communities, Ma'di and Kuku. As our Lord commanded, let us love one another (John 13:34).



*Youth meeting*

# News in Pictures

## Kudupi Parish is building its Church



## Diocesan Synod 2015



*Above – Synod members gather in the House of Clergy  
Below: The house of Laity in a meeting*



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## Pastors' Conference conducted and facilitated by Cress UK



*Above & below: Cress Team, Bishop and the Clergy*



*Above: Clergy from the neighbouring Dioceses*