

# Voice of Hope

Newsletter of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji

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[www.kajokeji.anglican.org](http://www.kajokeji.anglican.org)



*Emmanuel Cathedral*

## Word from the Bishop

*Rt. Rev'd Anthony D. Poggo*

Hope and Patience are two things that South Sudanese have had since the signing of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS). Without hope and patience, South Sudanese will despair.

Each time our leaders meet to discuss peace, we continue to pray for a breakthrough. As I write this piece, there is some glimmer of hope as there are reports that the long awaited Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) will be formed soon. Our prayer is that this will indeed come to pass so that the TGoNU will deal with the urgent issues of security, return and resettlement of returnees from UN and Internally Displaced Camps, reconciliation, inflation and many other issues that are affecting South Sudanese.

As I wrote in my previous Word, there is still need to disseminate the peace agreement to the entire population of South Sudan.

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There is also a need to meet the dire humanitarian needs of the people as a result of last years drought and also the fact that many people were displaced from their areas due conflicts and could not therefore engage in cultivation.

### Graduations

Meanwhile in Kajo-Keji, we have over the last two months had two graduation ceremonies. In December 2015 we had the second graduation ceremony for students and clergy who completed their studies at Kajo-Keji Christian College. It was a joyful occasion for the college staff and students and the families of the graduates who completed their studies in Theology, Information Technology and Community Development.

It is often encouraging to see the joint efforts of staff and students rewarded when the students successfully complete their course of studies. Such would not have been possible without the support of the local churches and partners who provided the food, scholarships for fees, funds for construction of the College and equipping with computers and solar power. We thank them for their contributions.

The second graduation we had was on 19 January 2016. This was for 488 adolescents school dropout girls. These girls participated in a 9 months training programme known as Bonga with the support from one of our partners, Stromme Foundation. Many of these girls had dropped out of school; some are already married with others as teenage mothers.

The 9 months training is in two phases; the first phase is a 6 months, life skills training. Some of the subjects that are covered during the skills training include micro finance, nutrition, hygiene, health, their rights, with the aim of empowering these girls to find their places in society and achieve their potential. The 6 months training is followed by a 3 months vocation skills training in Catering, Weaving, Tailoring, Hair dressing and Design.

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Bonga graduation ceremony in Kajo-Keji since 2012. The total number of girls who have gone through this programme in Kajo-Keji is 1,465.



*Bishop Anthony Poggo*

### Australia

By the time you will be reading this, my wife and I will have visited the South Sudanese Diaspora in Australia in second part of the month of February and first part of March 2016. The visit was arranged by the Kajo-Keji or Kuku communities in Australia in collaboration with the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne and support of other dioceses and partners.



*Above: Bishop Anthony at Sunday Service – Australia,  
Below: Bishop & Mama Jane (Facebook Picture)*





**CYIA training**

Let me tell you a bit more about three activities we did in these last months as *Child Evangelism Fellowship* (CEF): we ran the training programme *Teaching Children Effectively*, level one (TCE-1), we organized annual Children's Camp and we conducted the *Christian Youth in Action Training*.

## TCE-1

By God's grace, we were able to have this training in December 2015 and it was a great achievement for the ministry. Many of the TCE-students have been able to start a *Good news Club* in their homes and neighborhoods reaching many children each week. I have been able to personally visit some of the clubs and it is encouraging to see many children listening to the Gospel near their home.

## Children's Camp

The 2015 Camp was directed by one of our upcoming leaders and we were amazed and challenged by the skills of leadership these young people demonstrated. 130 children attended the 4-day camp. It was mainly a discipleship camp since most of the children were already believers. A few of those who came who did not know Jesus personally as their Lord and Saviour, committed their lives to Christ after the gospel was clearly presented to them. By the end of the four days all children had trusted in the Lord Jesus and it was great joy for us. We have made plans to follow them up and help them grow in their relationship with the Lord.

## CYIA training

We started 2016 with the *Christian Youth in Action* training. This is an annual training where born again teenagers are trained to reach boys and girls in a five day club ministry, mostly during holidays. This year's CYIA took place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January and we were blessed to have 80 teenagers trained. We graduated 5 students who had successfully finished the four years of the programme. It was a colorful celebration officiated by Bishop Anthony Poggo. The training was done by South Sudanese CEF staff with the help of a team of 12 Kenyans who travelled all the way from Kenya to come and help train the teenagers.

During the training the teens went out to teach in five day clubs and open air evangelism. We had a total of 16 clubs and over one thousand children heard the Gospel and several committed their lives to the Lord Jesus. After the training the teenagers went back and immediately started five day clubs and many children are being reached daily with the Gospel. I want to appreciate all those who contributed finances to support this programme. The Diocese of Kajo-Keji paid half of the CYIA-fees for the students. And thank you to those who supported us by praying.

## Bonga graduation

*Rev. Elly Kajaminyo, Kadra Director*



### ***A former Bonga graduate is now making 300 USD per month in Juba***

On 19 January 2016, we had a graduation ceremony for 488 adolescents school dropout girls. These young girls participated in a 9-months of training programme known as *Bonga*. We run this training programme with the support from one of our partners, Stromme Foundation. Many of these girls had dropped out of school, some are already married and care for a child as a teenage mother.

The 9-months training is in two phases; the first phase is a 6-months, life skills training. Some of the subjects that are covered during the skills training include micro finance, nutrition, hygiene, health and the rights they have. The aim is to empower these girls to find their places in society and achieve their potential. The 6-months training is followed by a 3-months vocation skills training in Catering, Weaving, Tailoring, Hair dressing and Design.

It was encouraging to hear testimonies from three former participants of this programme who are already empowered and standing on their own. One of them is working for an NGO in Juba, two of them have established their own small business.

This is the 4th graduation ceremony of these girls since 2012. The total number of girls who have gone through this Programme in Kajo-Keji is 1,465.

We thank our partner Stromme Foundation, the donors, all the diocesan staff, animators, trainers and all those who have played a role in empowering these girls.



### ***Graduates sing the National Anthem during the graduation in the Cathedra***

## Partner visit

*Rev. Elly Kajaminyo, Kadra Director*

Our Dioceses has been working in partnership with Stromme Foundation since 2012 in the areas of Education and Livelihood. The Stromme Foundation projects implemented by the Diocese since then include: Accelerated Learning Program (ALP), a training programme for adolescence girls (*Bonga*) and Community Managed Microfinance (CMMF).

A delegation from Stromme visited our Diocese on 19 January 2016 together with representatives from the Swedish and Norwegian Embassy in South Sudan, ERIKS - Uganda, the Ministry of Education and South Sudan Television. The purpose of the visit was to see the *Bonga* business and training centers, to visit CMMF saving groups and to attend the fourth *Bonga* graduation.

This visit was very successful. Based on what was witnessed in the field and at the graduation, the Swedish and Norwegian Embassy representatives both made an encouraging remark saying that they had made several visits in different parts of South Sudan but this is so far the best visit they had ever experienced. Actually, it was an exciting occasion for everyone involved.

## Partner visits continues,



***Bishop Anthony with the Stromme delegation***



***Rev. Alex Aciga (r) welcomes those attending***



***The construction status on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016***

## Ground Breaking Health Care Center

### ***Rev. Alex Aciga – Operations & Resource Director***

The groundbreaking event for the construction of *Romogi Primary Health Care Center* (RPHC) was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The then Kajo-Keji County Commissioner, Hon. Henry Kala Sabuni was the guest of honour. Many other distinguished officials from the County were present. Also representatives of the Romogi Boma landlords, elders, youth and some community members were attending. Also present were Diocesan Land Committee members; Diocesan Construction Committee members and Diocesan staff members. Retired Rev. Canon Yoasa Wurube who is the Chairman of the Diocesan Lands Committee represented the Bishop in this event.

Rev. Alex Aciga, the then Kadra Director welcomed the Commissioner and all those in attendance, giving a brief background of the initiative and appreciated Medics Assist International (MAI) for supporting the community in Romogi and Kajo-Keji at large in the health sector. All speeches of the other speakers applauded the work of the Diocese under the leadership of Bishop Anthony Poggo, in developing the communities not only spiritually but also in education, livelihood improvements and now health.



***The Commissioner breaks the ground for the Health Center***

# News in Pictures

## Pastors receive Bicycles Donated by CMS Ireland



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## Diocese of Kajo-Keji Strategic Planning workshop Dec 2015



*Members share the word during devotions at the workshop*



*Above: Dr. Christopher facilitating*



*Group discussions during the workshop*