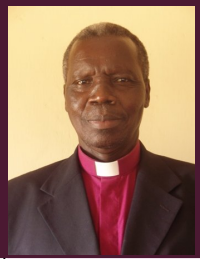


The Witness

The Newsletter of the Diocese of Yei



A word from the Bishop:

Forty seven graduate from short courses at Yei Vocational Training College (YVTC) funded by the SRF.

The youth constitute a challenge to the government, the church and the communities in our region of greater Yei. The future of the counties in this region of Central Equatoria State relies on the youth. They constitute the human force necessary for transforming a nation and leading it to prosperity. If we do not keep our promise to the youth by putting them among our top priorities, we will create a situation which will make us regret. This situation will produce frustration in the youth as they yearn for those opportunities in life that will help them earn their livelihoods and have hope for their own futures.

Our youth have been freshly relieved from the war and many of them are drop outs from schools before the war or released from military service following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). They are now in our midst. We either take these young people seriously or we will let them slip into the way of life that they think is good, to practise vices such as alcoholism, robbery, prostitution, drugs and all the bad experiences of life one can think of. The solution to this is creating opportunities for the youth for their own survival self employment and making them contribute to the prosperity of greater Yei and Southern Sudan in general.

The Diocese of Yei has tried to keep its promise by putting the youth into its top priorities. We are happy that many of the youth which are trained here in this college are employed and leading decent lives and contributing to the development of our people.

I would like to advise our youth. When you receive training in YVTC, you are already equipped with basic skills which can allow you build on them. You are not yet an expert, but you can actually do a lot for yourself and the community in which you live. You can earn a living for yourself and your family. However, many of you will also find yourselves out of employment for one great mistake. You over-charge unnecessarily because Southern Sudan is a very expensive country to live in and yet there are people on the labour market with long experiences but they charge less for their services. You will consequently be pushed out of the market. There will be no job for you and you end up with frustration and you begin to blame others. So build yourself up with wit care and great patience and try to enter the labour market.

God bless the youth!

Hilary Luate Adeb, Bishop of Diocese of Yei

200 hour training for kindergarten teachers at Morobo

The Diocese of Yei would like to see that all children will grow up in a nurturing, healthy environment in which they are fully supported in their learning.

A kindergarten is the place where the child begins to socialize and adapt to the cultural environment of their community. Pre-school learning offers the child greater opportunities for commencing learning in early life, thus enabling them to complete schooling while they are still quite young.

It should be noted that currently establishment of kindergartens is not the responsibility of the office of the Bishop. Kindergartens at the present level of our development are the responsibility of groups of Christians, parents and individuals wanting to see that their children receive good childhood education. However, many kindergartens normally end up as private enterprises and may be too expensive for the poor rural parents to afford sending their children there.

The aim of the Diocese of Yei is to build partnerships with Christian Communities, local authorities and teams that focus on enhancing the capacities of kindergarten teachers. General education policies which are well researched are very necessary and ought to focus on helping to build strong future communities. There should be a clear early childhood education policy for Southern Sudan including a childhood education curriculum which can be followed by all those preparing the children of Southern Sudan for their future. Currently kindergartens are not sure if they are doing the right thing, given a bulk of untrained teachers dealing with the children.

I hope that such training like this should aim at high quality service-learning, a good tutor-children relationship and care and making connection between schools and communities. There is a great desire to develop family, school and community partnership practices in poor community schools in Yei.



Construction of the Immanuel nursery school

Our goal should be to reach children with a clear moral imagination of our cultural environment for peace, unity, love for others and respect for all. These should come before ingrained prejudices of life such as tribalism, nepotism and hostilities against others. They need to be educated in a holistic education environment and they will have more capacity to build communities and to work together towards peace, unity and love for the future of the country.

Kindergarten teachers in the Diocese of Yei have little or no knowledge of early childhood learning. The schools are under trees or in shelters which do not give the child a conducive environment of learning. Often it is a bleak and hopeless atmosphere for child learning. Our kindergartens do not offer the child 'everything they need to know'. I hope this training will address some of the concerns we raise.

Obadiah Batali, Diocesan Education Coordinator



Mobile clinic

Mobile clinic

The mobile clinic service funded by Basic Services Fund started on Monday October 5th. The plan is to visit 5 villages on a regular basis which were selected by county health.

The first three days posed a real challenge. The numbers far exceeded our expectations. We have had to prioritize our service to the most vulnerable- the under 5s, the pregnant women and the very sick people. The day the clinic went to Panyana it rained heavily and the vehicle took 6 hrs to get back due to terrible muddy roads.

We hope to start an education programme, mosquito net distribution and a child malnutrition programme. We plan to work with the recently trained village health committees and involve local health staff where they exist in the villages.

The clinic has already proved the need for quality health services in villages but it will struggle to provide a service to the whole community. We have already advertised for more staff.

Poppy Spens, CMS Ireland affiliate



Diocesan Health Committee

Martha PHCC has made very many people happy. But like someone who is hungry for more, we would like to see that the service can expand to include other aspects of medical care which are vital but not available in Yei where the ratio of doctors to patients is likely to be 1:200,000.

IAS has closed the eye care service and have handed back the eye clinic premises to the Diocese. To operate this service will need an unfinished building adjacent to Martha PHCC to be refurbished and equipped. A specialist member of staff will need to be trained in up to date ophthalmology to offer the high quality service that is required. Due to a generous donation, the fence of Martha PHCC has already been extended to include this large unfinished building into the Martha PHCC compound. Initial discussions with a NGO that specializes in ophthalmology have started but we need to wait and pray for the outcome.

It is hoped that the donation received will also be sufficient to complete the unfinished building which could be used for eye work and other services such as dentistry.

The staff team at Martha will be meeting to discuss ideas which will then be discussed at Health committee level.

Hilary Luete Adeba, Bishop of Diocese of Yei

Handover of eye-clinic to Diocese of Yei

The International Aid Services (IAS) had been running an eye-clinic in the Diocese of Yei. In 2008, they took the decision to phase out their direct support citing lack of funding. The Diocese of Yei received back a half-finished building constructed by IAS. We are envisaging the re-launching of this service to treat those going blind of eye problems that can be easily corrected.



The Diocese of Yei will need to find the necessary long term funding; to train an ophthalmic nurse and re-equip the eye-clinic. Martha hasn't got the experience to run an eye-department. Eye-care professionals are not available in Yei and there isn't useful ophthalmic diagnostic equipment.

We are taking seriously the advice of an ophthalmologist who visited us and recommended the training of an ophthalmic nurse and to re-equip the clinic and refurbish the building for use. On Monday 19th October a nurse will start a year's training with Christian Blind Mission in Juba. The living costs of the nurse are funded from a church in Ireland.

Clement Ayuku, Diocesan Health Committee

School construction continues

We are delighted that CMS Ireland has secured funding from the Basic Services Fund to build two complete Primary Schools in the Diocese, one in the north and one in the south.

Work in Panyana is going well with one block of classrooms almost complete and two other blocks already up to wall plate. We are hoping that the school will be finished by the end of November. Yei Vocational Training College has won the contract to supply the school furniture.



Work on the second school is soon to begin. Mukpara is 51 miles north of Yei on the Maridi Road and desperately needs a proper Primary School. We held a short turf-cutting ceremony in September to pray for the building work and the work is programmed to begin on 19th October. All being well, the school will be complete by the end of March 2010.

Thanks to the Basic Services Fund, both schools will be fully furnished and will have proper pit latrines and a borehole for water supply. In addition, teachers have received two months intensive training at Yei Teacher Training College and we will also be providing training for the PTAs.

John Spens, CMS Ireland affiliate



Construction of primary school Panyana

The start of the Week of Witness (wow)

According to our tradition here in Yei, the week of witness (wow) begins in the second week of October every year. This is a period of massive evangelism activity in the entire diocese. It is supposed to be mainly for preaching the gospel, in theory, to everybody in the confines of the diocese. It is the time when exciting preaching teams "therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mat.28:19-20).

The preaching teams which are organized in 3s and 4s are given the mandate to visit where people may be found. These include private homes, government offices, private businesses, restaurants and the streets. This year's wow was flagged off by Bishop Hilary Adeba. He witnessed to over 80 Yei County officials including the Commissioner, the chief of police and senior staff of the County administration.

In his message from the County headquarters, Bishop Hilary said the theme of wow was "A call for Unity" (1 Cor 1:10). He lamented the situation in the country where ethnic fighting is currently happening in many parts of southern Sudan. "Spiritually people are weak and politically they are bemused without direction", the Bishop said. The unstable situation in Southern Sudan and the ethnic killings are a bad indicator. He said "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand" (Mark 3:24).

The Bishop spoke about the CPA, lack of unity and the devastating tribalism which is being institutionalized in the country, opening the way for the enemies of peace and the CPA. Last year 139,491 people heard the gospel being preached to them and thousands came forward for repentance, baptism and confirmation.

Rev. Levi, Diocesan Coordinator for Mission & Evangelism

Prayer list

Please pray with us for the following things:

- *Pray that the Diocese of Yei may be empowered by the Holy Spirit to reach its goal of impacting the community with the good news of the Gospel.*
- *Pray for peace, reconciliation and stability among the different ethnic communities of Southern Sudan.*
- *Pray for the preparation of the Diocesan Synod which will take place in January.*
- *Pray for successful completion of the school construction projects.*
- *Pray for the on going health projects in the Diocese of Yei.*

