

STTC Newsletter - June 2021

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



Death of Paska Namunu

Paska, a student in Level 2, died on 17 June in Kampala, Uganda following a brief illness. The entire community of Solidarity Teacher Training College was shocked to hear the tragic news. Paska was a humble, caring, studious, and confident student with the ambition and qualities to become an exemplary primary school teacher. The death of Paska is a big loss to the college as well as to her family and community. We pray that the Lord grant her eternal peace.



Covid-19 positive case

One of our Level 1 students tested positive for Covid-19 in early June in the college. He was immediately kept in isolation. Though he showed some symptoms of the virus, he looked calm and composed and was in good spirits. While in isolation, he kept himself busy with personal studies and physical exercises. After three weeks of isolation, he tested negative.



Covid-19 vaccine

The people of Yambio received a piece of good news: the AstraZeneca vaccine has arrived in the city. Solidarity members and the tutors set an example by getting vaccinated first. Many students followed them and have got the vaccine also. We encourage more people to come forward and to take preventive measures.





End of semester exams

The Level 3 student-teachers sat for their end-of-semester exams in mid-June. The tutors had trained the students well and the students themselves had worked hard all year. Exams were conducted in a highly professional and diligent manner. All the students successfully passed Level 3. They now move into the final semester which will end mid-October.

Solidarity Annual Assembly

After a one-year break due to the pandemic, the Solidarity members gathered for their annual general assembly from 14 to 19 June at KIT, Juba. It was time for recollection, visioning, and planning for the future. John Ashworth, who is known for his involvement in peace-building initiatives in South Sudan for many years, moderated the sessions with a focus on the process rather than just the product. Developing a Human Resource manual was a highlight of the business sessions.



Inservice Program

Solidarity TTC continues to offer its expertise to teachers of the neighbouring primary schools. They receive knowledge in the areas such as the new National Curriculum of South Sudan, philosophy of education, understanding and handling children, and preparing 'scheme of work' and lesson plans. It is encouraging to see more school heads voluntarily ask for the help of Solidarity TTC. Thanks to Sister Guillermina for her commitment to this service.

Football Match

Solidarity students played a football match against the Medical students of Yambio. The opponents won by scoring one goal. Solidarity players lost against the top-class professionals. We wish them good luck in the coming matches.

Football is a big sport in South Sudan. People are passionate about their local as well as international clubs. Most of the Yambio people are die-hard fans of Arsenal football club.



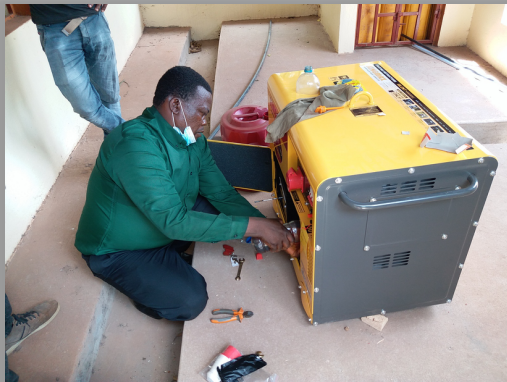
Alumni Association

A group of about twenty former students gathered at the college to get to know about the STTC Alumni Association and its functions. They were eager to be part of the Association and wished that it should be started soon. The 'old' students are interested in spreading the ethos of Solidarity and promise to play a greater role in supporting the College, to take it to new heights.



Small Generator

One of the major challenges of the college is the lack of a proper electric power system. The main source of energy is the solar system. Due to its malfunction for more than a year, the college uses the main generator as the only source of power. When it breaks down then life is challenging. Recently, thanks to some donors, we bought an additional small (6.5kv) Genset which is proving to be most helpful to the college.



New Admissions for Aug 2021

New recruitment is in progress. Solidarity TTC trains young men and women to become effective school teachers. It continues to promote the participation of women in education, especially at primary school level. More applications are sought from female candidates, in particular, for the August 2021 intake.



Journal Writing

Thanks to the Most Reverend Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio who, in one of his recent newsletters, encourages young people to embrace a habit of journal writing and record-keeping of their lives' important aspects. He says this could be beneficial to them and others in the future. The STTC emphasizes this habit to the students. Allan Drummond, our former English teacher from Australia, laid a strong foundation in this practice for the student-teachers.

STTC is always grateful to the generous donors who make everything possible in the lives of young men and women who aspire to become primary school teachers to serve the nation.
Without their contributions, nothing can be achieved in STTC.