

STTC Newsletter – March 2022

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



International Women's Day

International Women's Day, 8 March, was celebrated in a grand manner. The programs were centered around the theme for 2022, 'Break the bias'. The female students wore purple shirts. They took over some of the classes, demonstrating their capacity to be effective tutors. Presentations were made by the men to the women workers. The afternoon entertainment was a mixture of poetry, song, dance and oral presentations, involving all, men and women. Awareness of gender-based issues including domestic violence was raised through drama. The celebrations resumed in the evening with more dancing and cake. STTC uses this day to highlight what is a major challenge in South Sudan, the equitable treatment of women.



Welcome Sr. Shu Fang FMM

STTC welcomes a new missionary Sister from Taiwan, Sr Shu Fang Wong FMM. Sr Shu Fang belongs to the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. She is a Mathematics and Computer teacher who worked in South Africa and Kenya before joining Solidarity with South Sudan. In South Africa she worked mainly for the empowerment of women. She also has considerable school experience as a teacher of Mathematics, Computer Science and Ethics, and an administrator as well. STTC is privileged to have Sr Shu Fang among its tutors and it wishes her success in her new ministry with our young student-teachers.

STAR Outreach Program

STTC offers a holistic education and training to the student-teachers. One of the exposures STTC offers is to involve students in the ministry of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers in Yambio. The Brothers run a project called STAR to cater to the needs of the orphans and children of HIV-positive parents. On Saturdays they bring together about 300 children to their campus and conduct games, classes on ethics and hygiene, etc. The children enjoy the day having fun, food and refreshment. STTC students are involved in organizing the activities. The aim of the program is to provide hope for the future.





Mr Samuel Ading at STTC

Mr Samuel Ading is one of the Administrative staff at Solidarity Central office in Juba. In addition to many other responsibilities, Samuel makes the travel arrangements for the students who are recruited for STTC from all parts of South Sudan and the Nuba Mountains. About 98% of the students travel to the college using domestic flights due to the lack of a road transport system. As Juba is the main hub for air travel, it is Samuel's responsibility to organize each student's travel and short stay at the capital city. All the students at STTC recognise the good service of Samuel and were delighted to greet him when he visited the college recently for the first time. He also gave some lectures on community development and economy, the subject of his MA studies.

Oxford Learner's Dictionary

A long-cherished ambition of the College was realized with the presentation to the new Y1S1 class of an individual dictionary. While there are dictionaries to consult in the library and for classroom use, this is the first time, students will have their own copy to bring with them on graduation to their schools. The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary has additional features that make it a valuable text book in its own right. These include the 'Oxford 3000 keywords', writing tutor, grammar section and illustrated vocabulary. Students and tutors alike are delighted to have this in-class resource which is to the benefit of every Professional Studies and Subject Knowledge course.



Farm Exposure at Riimenze

A group of students had an opportunity to visit the Solidarity Sustainable Agricultural Project (SAP) in Riimenze. The aim of SAP is to provide income opportunities to the local people, especially women. The project includes conducting nutrition training programs, workshops on farm planning, plant protection, crop rotation and propagation, harvest handling, and livestock, especially pigs and chickens. The food from the farm is also sold to STTC in Yambio to help feed the students. The students learned about horticulture, having poultry and piggery farms, cultivating various crops, and how to become entrepreneurs in the farm industry.

Visit of Caritas Austria

Caritas Austria is one of the major donors of the college. Ms Elizabeth Sellmeier, a representative from Caritas Austria, Vienna, visited the college recently. Elizabeth is a fundraiser and in charge of social communications for Caritas Austria. The students had a number of interactions on various topics with Elizabeth. She interviewed some students individually and as a group to get to know their culture, education system, and their future ambitions on completing their teacher program.

STTC thanks in a special way Mr Robert Beasley, the country coordinator for Caritas Austria, who extended his great support to STTC in all its endeavours. As Rob is preparing to leave South Sudan for a new assignment in Ethiopia, STTC wishes him good luck and God's blessings.



St. Patrick's Day

'I arise today through God's strength to pilot me ... God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me'. St Patrick's Day, 17 March, was begun at STTC with this much-loved prayer of St Patrick. The morning assembly continued with a display of Irish dancing in which the newly-arrived students proved themselves to be remarkably fast learners. Solidarity has had Irish-born members since the start, with Sr Margaret (Limerick) and Sr Jacinta (Dublin) currently among the tutors of STTC. We thank God for these missionaries, past and present. On the feast of the great missionary St. Patrick, we pray blessings on Ireland and South Sudan, and that the bonds of love between them be strengthened.



Session on Climate Change

Udo Selizeter, also from Vienna, Austria, visited the college. Udo is associated with the Duko University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences and is a consultant for Caritas Austria on sustainable farming. He conducted a valuable workshop at STTC on climate change where the students got to deepen their understanding of issues such as global warming, and the greenhouse effect. The students were particularly interested in Udo's project of new stoves that greatly reduce the amount of charcoal used in cooking, and in the brick-making process that does not require charcoal at all. These new technologies are already operational in some parts of Africa. The pilot projects planned for Yambio will be followed with great interest by the STTC students.

Human Rights by UNMISS

The United Nations Mission (UNMISS) in South Sudan organized a workshop for the STTC students on 'Human Rights'. The students had a participatory input session on the topic. In his presentation, Mr Albert, the presenter, highlighted the history of the universal Declaration of Human Rights, individual's rights, especially rights of the women, need for establishing Human Rights clubs in schools and colleges, and regular training programs to be conducted for the club members. He shared about thirty universal rights such as right to education, right to live, freedom of expression, right to food and water, freedom to practice faith and so on from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was adopted by the UN Assembly on 10 December 1948. The students benefited a lot from the session.



Meeting of Principals in Juba

Solidarity with South Sudan's Management Committee was held in the Solidarity Central Office in Juba. All the Principals (Yambio, Wau, Riimenze, Kit) were present at the meeting. In-depth discussions and deliberations were held in the key areas such as governance and management, quality assurance, child safeguarding & monitoring, increased collaborations with the Bishops in the Institutions' activities and management, recruiting more missionaries for Solidarity mission, implementation of the Human Resource Management manual, planning for project assessment and strategic planning for the future development, and finance issues.