

STTC Newsletter - August 2022

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



Sr Margaret – 50 yrs. as Religious

STTC celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Sister Margaret Sheehan's religious profession on Monday 01 August 2022. Margaret is an Irish missionary belonging to the Congregation of the Faithful Companions of Jesus. She has devoted herself without reserve over 14 years to the good of the people of South Sudan, in particular teaching Mathematics at STTC for the past eleven years. The day started with Holy Mass celebrated by Rev Bishop Edwardo Hiiboro, the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio. The felicitation was organized by the students. Tribute songs and speeches, dances, gifts, cake-cutting and a delicious meal were all part of the effort to appreciate Margaret on this fiftieth anniversary of her profession.



Weekend Programme – Mode 2

STTC launched a weekend programme, National Certificate in Primary Education Mode 2 on Friday 26 August 2022. This is a two-year, free, non-residential, Inservice programme for those who need to work while studying towards the same Certificate award as the residential students. Classes are held at STTC Yambio on Fridays and Saturdays, with some classes also during school holidays. There was a good response from local primary school teachers who hold the Secondary School Certificate (S4) and would like to get formal training leading to Qualified Teacher Status. The college has admitted 40 students to add to the total of 134 regular ones.

Early Childhood Studies

The first School Practice experience of STTC students is devoted to Early Childhood. Under the guidance of Sr Guille, Year 1 Semester 2 students prepared songs, games and other activities suitable for young learners. Teaching aids produced to date include beanbags, wooden alphabets and puppets. In addition to child observation and a school report, the students will deliver lessons in English (Language Activities) and Mathematics. Those who speak Pazande tutored their fellow students to help build good relations with the children and to make their teaching more effective. Oni ma manga wenengai (Well done!).





Computer Course for Kids

STTC has launched yet another new outreach programme. This offers tuition in basic computer skills to about 80 primary school children from the neighbourhood. Through this programme, the college not only shares its resources and knowledge with the children but also builds good relations with the people around. The classes are organized in the evening from 4:30 to 5:30pm after their school hours. Our student teachers, under the guidance of Sr Shu Fang, conduct the classes. It is also a good opportunity for the student teachers to develop teaching skills in ICT, named in the national curriculum though to date underdeveloped in South Sudan.

Environmental Club

The efforts of the Environment Club combined with the heavy rains make the college look green and fertile at present. 'Care for the earth' gets special attention at STTC. Students are enthusiastic to learn new information through workshops on environmental issues. Through their hard work, the campus looks beautiful with lots of herbal and ornamental plants. During this rainy season, they are able to plant lots of vegetables as well. The kitchen has started receiving vegetables, corn and fruits from the garden. Thanks to Sr Guille and the students who by their experience and knowledge do great work throughout the compound.



Women Empowerment

Sister Jane Rose, a member of the Solidarity Pastoral Team, Kit, made a visit to the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio (CDTY) to organize workshops for girls and women on capacity building and woman-empowerment. She also spent two days with the students of STTC to conduct motivational sessions on 'self-care and empowerment'. Female-student teachers particularly were appreciative of the sessions. Several girls had a one-on-one dialogue with Sister Jane. They felt relieved from past burdens and negative feelings. She stressed that the girls should be mentally, physically and financially grown up and independent to make major life decisions.



Workshop for Cooks

The food department is a major area in the administration of STTC. Almost all the people benefit from the local catering. Thanks to Solidarity Sustainable Farm, Riimenze, which supplies excellent food items such as pork and vegetables. It was a longtime plan for STTC to conduct training for Cooks with the aim of improving the quality of the food served and the better management of the kitchen. Some of the Cooks have been working at STTC for more than ten years. STTC has set a criterion recently that all people working in the kitchen department should have had proper training and hold a relevant certificate. The workers have seized this opportunity to learn something more on cooking. Mr Francis Sisto, the HR Contact arranged the programme with the help of a qualified Chef, Mr Ivan from Uganda. Hopefully the Cooks will graduate in December from the intensive course.



Open University Studies

Two new students will commence UK Open University studies from 1st October 2022: Zakia John will start a BSc Environmental Science and Nasrin Zacharia will begin the road to BA Early Childhood. Both students (Y2S1) will undertake a single Open University module while completing their STTC studies. On Saturdays they will work with Sr Jacinta Prunty alongside those who have successfully completed their first Open University modules at STTC: Tutor Kirya Julius (Primary Education), and STTC graduates Teresa Anthony, Joana Ilario and Ngbarago Sabrin (Early Childhood). Congratulations are extended to all, and thanks to the generous donors who are meeting their fees on a module-by-module basis.



EducationSavesLives.org

STTC thanks Ayesha Dikko, the Deputy Director of Education Saves Lives, a UK based organization for sharing educational resources through DVDs which have interactive lessons. An internet connection is not required making these lessons especially useful. Among the topics covered in the interactive lessons are health & hygiene, physical growth, child-care, awareness of various chronic diseases, addiction, human trafficking, environmental care, sex education and awareness of healthy eating. These resources are useful to the student teachers for their own formation and updating. They are also useful for raising awareness among the parents and children they will work with.

Residential Programme

Yambio is considered to be the most beautiful and the safest city for many students who come from other states. So, they spend the weekend freely visiting the town, doing shopping and meeting friends and relatives. Most of the students remain on campus spending time catching up with assignments and having useful recreation activities. Students still use charcoal in iron boxes to iron their shirts and dresses; they also undertake many handicrafts, including knitting, crocheting, embroidering and making wrist bands with beads. Scrabble is just one of the indoor games they play. It is interesting to see girls spending so much time doing their hair, sometimes helped by the boys. There is a healthy atmosphere among students. STTC is truly nurturing friendship, unity, and fraternal relationships among students who come from different tribes and cultures.



Volleyball Match

A friendly volleyball match was organized between STTC students and the Yambio Peacemakers team. Yambio Peacemakers is a professional and a popular team in Western Equatoria State. They visit the college regularly to coach the students as well. There was a great spirit of sportsmanship among the students and the opponents. STTC always promotes gender balance in all the events. So, the players were selected from both men and women. STTC put up a tough fight. Good to see the local people turned up to support the STTC team. As expected, the Peacemakers won the match with 3:2 sets. Both the teams won the hearts of the people by their great spirit. We look forward to the next encounter.

