

# STTC Newsletter - November 2022

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



## End of Semester Exams

Students at STTC have to pass in all courses before progressing to the next semester; this makes the end-of-semester examinations a serious business indeed. A repeat exam is offered to a student who fails one or two courses; the small number recently in that position have all succeeded and will continue with their peers. Falling below 50% in three or more courses, regrettably, means leaving the college. No student may repeat a semester. Continuous Assessment makes up 60% of the marks and the final exam 40%. This ensures that satisfactory work is rewarded from the outset and takes the heat out of the final exams. But even still, there is great relief when the result slips are issued. All the November exam students, Y1S1, Y1S2, Y2S1 and Diploma, are to be commended for their hard work.



## Games Sessions

STTC's senior students organized games that enabled them to get to know the new Year 1 Semester 1 students (mode 2). Fun activities help to ease nerves and tension, foster friendships, encourage team building, and create an atmosphere of positivity across all groups. As these students are on campus Fridays and Saturdays only (with some extra days during school holidays), the games helped to include them more fully in the life of the college. STTC constantly emphasizes respect for all tribes, cultures and creeds, and to be tolerant of differences. Getting the various student groups to share purposeful activities promotes peace and unity on campus and forges bonds across South Sudan.

## Department of Rubbish

The creation, for the first time, of a Department of Creative Arts is underway at STTC under the direction of Sr Elizabeth Blok. Based in the old Level 4 classroom, it was immediately labelled the '*department of rubbish*' due to the incredible amount of recycling that is taking place. Every scrap of paper and card is being transformed into Art: gift boxes, birds, flowers, pictures and crowns are just the first of many wonders. Decorative plates and pencil holders, made from papier mâché, are multiplying. The delight of the students is apparent; when the bell rings, there is a stampede to change class lest a minute be lost of the precious time in the *department of rubbish*.



## Graduation - Computer Kids

STTC launched a new outreach programme in August, sharing its resources and knowledge with primary school children from the neighbourhood. The student teachers, under the guidance of Sr Shu Fang, conducted the computer classes. The children learned computer basics with great zeal. On the successful completion of the three-months' training, seventy-five primary school children were awarded the Certificate of Achievement. Most Rev Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro, the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Tombura-Yambio, was the honoured guest at the graduation ceremony, held on 11th November. Receiving the certificate from the Bishop made this a very special occasion for the children

## Meling on SIL Internship

Within a few days of graduating from STTC, Meling Rosemary, Outstanding Student October 2022 (with Hafish Mohammed) was called for an interview in Juba with SIL International (Summer Institute of Linguistics). This is an international non-profit Christian organisation that works to promote literacy in minority or national languages. Following on a most competitive process, Meling has been awarded a paid internship with SIL, starting in January 2023. She will first travel to South Africa for intensive training. We wish Meling well in her new role, and hope her good news inspires other students. As STTC is working with SIL on a text book that will meet the Ministry requirements on literacy and national language teaching, we expect to meet up with Meling again.



## STTC's Outreach Programme

Sister Elizabeth Blok, newly-arrived to STTC, has joined forces with Br Sylvanus Victor to work with mothers in the parish of St Augustine on Saturdays. This follows on requests made by local women to Fr Joachim Oboi, the parish priest, that something might be organised for them. Over 80 mothers, some very young, registered on the first Saturday. Based on her earlier experiences in the Gambia, Sr Elizabeth has started out with bead work (rosary beads, necklaces, bracelets, and more) which gives a focus to the afternoon, while Br Sylvanus gives some catechetical instruction and reflection on the care for the earth. Several students have volunteered to assist also in this new outreach to the local community



## Combined Board Meeting

Solidarity with South Sudan organizes an annual assembly for the Board members of all the Institutions - Catholic Health Training Institute at Wau, Solidarity Teacher Training College at Yambio, Sustainable Agricultural Project at Riimenze, and Good Shepherd Pastoral Centre at Kit. There were fifteen Board members present for the three-day gathering. They had discussions on challenges and achievements in the institutions and on administrative matters such as managing finances and employees. A session on the Human Resource management manual was conducted to revisit the policies and to educate those involved in implementing it. The Board members involved in strategic planning session as we plan for future development.



## Management Committee Meeting

The third Management Meeting was held on 4th and 5th November at Solidarity House in Juba. Principals and Directors of all the institutions - Catholic Health Training Institute at Wau, Solidarity Teacher Training College at Yambio, Sustainable Agricultural Project at Riimenze, and Good Shepherd Pastoral Centre at Kit were present at the meeting. The members discussed each institution's strengths and challenges, reviewed the spending of 2022 and the budget for 2023, suggested ways and means to improve the collaboration with the local church, and assessed Human Resource Management practice across the different institutions. They considered future recruitment policy and the possibility of attracting new missionaries for Solidarity as well as the strategic planning process.

## New Admission for Jan 2023

Mr Julius Kirya, our Recruitment Officer, is on his trip to different cities in the country to recruit new students for the forthcoming semester starting in January 2023.

We aim to promote equal participation of women and men in education, and recruit students from all communities in South Sudan and the Nuba Mountains.

We aim to provide the student teacher with the professional skills, subject knowledge and personal skills that will enable him/her to put into practice a learner-centred curriculum.

The new students will start the semester on 23 January 2023.

