

STTC Newsletter - October 2022

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



Thanks to Sr Joan Mumaw IHM

Sr Joan Mumaw, the President of the Friends in Solidarity (FIS) based in the USA, is a greater supporter of STTC. Not alone does she raise a large amount of funds for the college but she also supports with great ideas and comes to visit all the way from the USA. Her commitment to her special responsibility as a mission fund-raiser is commendable. As Sr Joan retires as FIS president in Feb 2023, STTC extends its sincere gratitude to Joan for her amazing contribution to educating young people of South Sudan to become qualified teachers. Sister Mumbi Kigutha CPPS, a Sister of the Precious Blood from Dayton, Ohio has been appointed to succeed Sister Joan from February 2023. STTC welcomes Sister Mumbi as she brings a wealth of experience and many skills to support the mission.



School Practice Assessed

STTC student-teachers undertook class teaching in the neighbouring primary schools. The schools welcomed the students with open arms and helped them to practice their teaching skills. They applied the classroom management strategies they have studied that support effective learning and inclusion. The children were eager to learn new lessons through song, dance and games from the STTC students. Teaching Practice was assessed by the external examiners, Ms Akwero Christine Obwoya from the University of Juba and Mr Charles Ikpiro, Director General, Ministry of Education for Western Equatoria State. All the student-teachers successfully got through this hardest part of their teacher training.

Prof Jean Heartly from UK

One of the Board of Governors from the UK attending the governors' meeting of Ibba Girls Boarding School (IGBS) was Professor Jean Hartley of the Open University (Centre for Policing Research and Learning). This was an unexpected gift to STTC as Jean very kindly met with and advised the six students currently taking Open University modules at STTC. For the students here, it made real the connections with this far-away University. The students work around the challenges of poor internet and keep moving forward; the joy they take in their studies was evident to Professor Hartley who will have a good-news story to report.





Facilities for Female Dorm

Solidarity Teacher Training College faced a rapid increase in the student population after Covid-19. More young people, especially female students, opted to join the college to become qualified teachers. The increase in girls, however, was difficult to manage since there was a lack of basic facilities, namely, sufficient toilets and shower-rooms. Thanks to Caritas Antoniana for helping STTC to build more toilets and shower-rooms for the girls. They are appreciative of the extra facilities. The project helps the students in many ways such as to maintain good health and hygiene, to be in class on time, and most especially, to use water in a most cautious manner.

Printing Books & Guides

The new curriculum is a tool in nation building and STTC is committed to leading its implementation. STTC demonstrated this most recently by investing in the printing of Library reference sets, in colour and bound, of all the Ministry of General Education & Instruction materials (produced by the Curriculum Foundation, UK). These cover Subject Overviews, Assessment, School Inspection, Early Childhood, and more, and are essential texts for the Diploma students especially. The delight of the student teachers in having all the documents available, for the first time, is evident. We extend thanks to the Ministry for supplying the materials and the FSC Foundation, US, (De La Salle) for enabling quality printing.



Solidarity Members Assembly

The annual assembly of the members of Solidarity with South Sudan (SSS) was held at Good Shepherd Peace Centre, Kit, from 02 to 08 October. SSS is operating in a collaboration between the Union of Superiors General of Catholic Religious Congregations in Rome and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sudan and South Sudan. There are currently 22 SSS members from 17 different religious congregations and 15 countries working together in various ministries. The main presentation of this year's assembly, led by Sr Masheti, was on strengthening intercultural communities. The members also focused on strategic planning by assessing the past ten years and planning for the future. Br Emili Turu FMS the President and Sr Maria Del Carmen the Vice President of SSS from Rome were present at the gathering.

Games Pitch

The maintenance of the football pitch and volley-ball courts outside the College gates is a community service undertaken voluntarily by STTC. School groups and all local children benefit, while the College students have the use of a good facility outside of class times. Best of all is to watch both students and local people play together in friendly but spirited competition. Thanks to Moses especially who undertakes the role of chief groundsman, with student assistance for slashing as required.



Deputy Governor's Visit

The Deputy Governor, Honourable Dr Kennedy Ganiko, visited STTC but not on college business. The purpose was to attend the meeting with the Board of Governors of Ibba Girls Boarding School (IGBS). The IGBS, funded by a UK charity called Friends of IGBS, provides quality primary and secondary education to the girls of Western Equatoria State, modelling what could be done elsewhere. It provides employment opportunities, with a good salary, for STTC graduates and has enabled one of its own teachers to attend the Diploma programme in STTC. The Deputy Governor, an educator with a real concern for the children and youth of WES, took a few minutes to interact with the students of STTC; he promised to come back to the college to lecture on Biology, his specialist field.



Graduation Ceremony 2022

Five women and 18 men from Level 4 graduated in October 2022 with the Certificate in Primary Education. The honoured guests included Fr Thomas Bagbiowia, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Tombura-Yambio, who celebrated the Eucharist along with Fr Joachim Oboi, the Parish Priest of St Augustine Parish, and Mr Peter Peter Mbia, Director General, Ministry of Education, Western Equatoria State, who presented the Certificates. Some members of this cohort, mostly females, were unable to return to the college after the Covid-19 lockdown and the registration time of all was extended. The perseverance and good spirit of this group therefore merits special commendation. This is also the final group to follow the 2015 'Juba Curriculum' for student teachers which pre-dates the national curriculum (2018) and associated Ministry guidelines for teacher training; they are therefore the last group to be called 'Level 4'. The certificates were jointly signed by Br Chris Soosai (STTC) and by Mr John Sebit Andrea Lado (Ministry) whom the students had met during his visit to STTC last April. Children from different schools came to celebrate 'their own' teacher's special day as did headteachers; the graduation is another opportunity to foster these vital links.

