

STTC Newsletter - December 2022

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



Christmas Break 2022

As part of its commitment to a holistic education, STTC tries to give students a variety of experiences over the course of their two years. The inter-semester break is an ideal time to do something different. This December, once exams were completed, the students participated in a series of practical activities: first aid, creative arts, gardening, painting and maintenance, reinforcing charts, re-ordering library shelves, choral singing, crib-making, visiting Riimenze sustainable farm, and more. With most tutors away, the Solidarity members took on new roles, building relationships and discovering talent.



First Aid Training by Red Cross

The Red Cross of South Sudan provided accredited training in First Aid to both Certificate students (mode 1) and Diploma students during the inter-semester break. Each course took three full days, with the four groups coming together on the final afternoon for a review and appreciation of their learning. Students are always very keen to learn and practice these life-saving techniques as they know how valuable they are to their schools and home communities. The professionalism of the Red Cross trainers is acknowledged; the training at Yambio is on a par with what the Red Cross offers elsewhere internationally.

Choir of STTC

Under the direction of student teachers Santino and Sr Rose, the STTC choir joined with the other choirs of Yambio in St Mary's cathedral on Saturday 17 December for an afternoon of Christmas carols. Back in Naagori, they continue to join with the parish choir each Sunday, with Br Sylvanus strengthening the connection. We know from the practice sessions that the Christmas and New Year liturgies will be very special. So too the students will decorate the church, this year including some excellent handiwork.





Caring for the Resources – STTC Library

The Library of STTC is a treasury of mostly English-language materials built up over the years by donors and visitors. Following on the subdivision of some bookcases and the creation of new ones, a team of students worked with Sr Jacinta to re-shelf the collections according to the existing Dewey system. This task requires an understanding of library classification and a love of reading. The delight taken in the task was noteworthy as students came across some books for the first time. The long-term goal is to see the library well-stocked and fully catalogued with the student teachers, tutors and librarian all involved in managing as well as using the collections in a professional way.

Caring for the Resources – Teaching Aids

A significant collection of classroom charts has been built up over the years in STTC relating mostly to Science and Mathematics. Sr Shu Fang led the challenge of cleaning, sorting and reinforcing these charts; she was soon overtaken by the enthusiasm and talent of the small teams who each worked on a set. The collection currently numbers over 120. At present the repaired and strengthened charts make a colourful and intriguing display in the Mode 2 classroom. The next step will be to catalogue and decide how best to store. Preservation and access are the dual concerns so that these valuable charts are used well, now and into the future.



Creative Arts Workshops

The Department of Creative Arts has been operating at full stretch since exams ended. Swans, snowflakes, stars, rosary beads and bangles, cribs and crochet, the display items are becoming more numerous and sophisticated. On return from a workshop for administrators in Juba, Sr Elizabeth Blok was greeted with a flock of paper birds of every size, proof of excellent peer-teaching during her short absence. The Creative Arts classroom itself has been transformed with students painting walls and cupboards so that the room and its contents is now a mandatory stop on every tour of the college

Cleaning and painting

The work projects this December were inside and outside the campus, and co-ordinated by Br Sylvanus. Deep pits were dug by teams of students to help water seepage in the kitchen area and along the perimeter wall of the college they undertook slashing and ditch-cleaning. As part of our local community commitment, teams of students slashed around the parish church so that all will be in excellent order for the forthcoming feast of the Nativity. It is commendable to witness the involvement of the students with their tireless manual labour in the maintenance of the college premise with a great sense of belonging.



Diploma Workshop

STTC was invited by Mr John Sebit of the Ministry of General Education and Instruction to participate in an important workshop in Juba 5-9 December on the creation of modules for the revised ITT Diploma in Education. Mr Ngaluku Lukulu and Sr Jacinta Prunty attended the workshop, along with representatives from other teacher-training colleges including UNICEF. The Curriculum Foundation UK has been leading the national curriculum for South Sudan for the past decade and its director, Ms Vikki Pendry, along with Dr Andrew Joyce-Gibbons and Dr Miriam Mason, were responsible for the workshop. STTC is already using the course headings provided by the Ministry so it was good to be present.



Football - World Cup

STTC students and tutors crowded into the Christian Brothers' sitting room in Yambio to watch the World Cup final on Sunday 18 December, at 5pm East African time. Of the forty or so who took up the invitation, there was a slight majority in favour of Argentina. But once France got into the match, their supporters were electrified. The level of football knowledge among all present was astounding; comment and advice was freely offered, and contradicted, on every kick and refereeing decision. The thrill of the pitch was certainly reflected in the excitement of the sitting room. We extend thanks to Br Bill Colford for giving us this opportunity, for providing refreshments and for ferrying students back to the college after all the presentations had been made. It made for a memorable world cup



Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year 2023