

STTC Newsletter - March 2023

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



In-Service Students Graduated at Bor, Jonglei State

STTC happily announces that forty-five student teachers have graduated in March in Bor, Jonglei State. The Inservice Programme was originally designed and implemented by Sr Barbara Paleczny in close collaboration with the Jonglei Department of Education and the National Ministry of General Education and Instruction. After strenuous effort of Sr Barbara for many years in training the student teachers, the programme was run successfully by Sr Guillermina until the end. Bor student teachers did far more than the new requirements, completed full year/Units and lesson planning and teaching with supervision for the specified subjects, walking far distances daily during vacations and every school day for 4 hours of classes. Thanks to Mr John Sebit, Director General of the National Ministry of General Education and Instruction for his great support to Solidarity particularly in signing the certificates.



National Workshop, Juba

STTC was invited by Mr John Sebit, Director General of the National Ministry of General Education and Instruction, South Sudan, to participate in a multi-stakeholders Validation Workshop on Teacher Education Policy Development conducted by Curriculum Foundation UK in collaboration with UNICEF, 8 - 10 March 2023. Br Chris Soosai, the Principal, participated at this policy validation workshop along with the Principals of the Teacher Training Institutes in the country, Director Generals of the State Ministry of Education, representatives of various NGO's etc. Key issues discussed at the three-day workshop were governance of teacher education, national professional standards for teachers in South Sudan, gender equality and gender mainstreaming, sustainable development, routes to qualified teacher status (QTS), continuous professional development, professional code of conduct for teachers, diversity and inclusive education, accreditation of teacher education programme, digital transformation and learning, inspection of teacher education provision, financing teacher education, and monitoring, research and evaluation.



Early Childhood Development

As expected under the new guidelines for Initial Teacher Training in South Sudan, STTC students study in-depth the pedagogy of very young learners. For their first Teaching Practice experience, the current Y1S2 were placed in nearby nursery and primary schools for a fortnight. They combined Child Observation and a school report with Language and Mathematics teaching using an Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) approach. This was a most successful task, if success can be measured by the fun and laughter in the classroom. The multisensory teaching method was taken to heart, with lots of action songs and children's games.

Caring for Nature

STTC student teachers are active not only in environmental studies but also advocating awareness among the public, especially among children, on protecting nature. They involve in giving theoretical knowledge, practical exercises in caring for the earth by planting trees, and tackling and creating awareness of plastic pollution. STTC's Environmental Club, which has changed its title to 'Laudato Si' Movement', recently chose five primary schools to give education to children on planting and protecting trees. Naduru, Gracia, St. Augustine, Tambua, and Nakpangu primary schools were chosen for this project, and the children eagerly attended the sessions and participated in planting trees in their school premises.



Computer Education to Kids

STTC is proud to continue to make its facilities available to the neighbourhood children. The second batch of about eighty upper primary school children, after the successful group which graduated last semester, is in full swing in learning basic computer education in the college. Through this program, STTC tries to ensure computer learning initiatives benefit the most disadvantaged groups of children who are first timers to touch computers. 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 student teachers to develop teaching skills in ICT, named in the national curriculum though implementation of digital learning is slow in the country.

Outreach Program with Women at St. Augustine

Sr. Elizabeth Blok, gifted with the arts, crafts and cooking skills, not only teaches the subject at the college, but also shares her gifts with the women of our St. Augustine parish apart from college duties. She conducts basic art sessions every Saturday with the help of the student teachers at the parish giving training in bottle crafts, paper crafts, painting, beads work, embroidering, and shoe making etc. Recently the women were enthusiastic in learning to make fashion shoes with the old tire. The old tire was used to make soles and nylon twine thread for straps and decorations. Each participant achieved a new pair of strong beautiful slippers.



Ramadan Prayers

STTC is characterized by a multiracial, multicultural, multinational and multireligious composition. In addition to academic components, the college helps student teachers, who come from different backgrounds, to live together in peace, harmony and mutual respect. Special care and support are given to the Muslim students to exercise and live their faith on the campus. Especially during this month of Ramadan, special provision is arranged for their fasting from dawn until the setting of the sun followed by their regular prayers. By observing fasting and prayer, the students give witness to self-discipline, sacrifice, self-control and helping the poor. When people are deeply divided and the polarization of views is dominating the society especially in the social media promoting communal harmony is vital.



Recreation at STTC

Cultural and contemporary dance & music is always a special part of life at STTC. Every Friday a variety of recreations like Solidarity-got-talent, traditional dance, movie, debate, music and art, and other fun games are organized by the students to relieve from stress. STTC has an excellent choir, supported by talented conductors and musicians (percussion, music keyboard, locally made Xylophone, African drums). Choir members compose music, write lyrics, do voice-overs, record professionally and release their efforts to an online as well as local audience. This time they are keen on composing songs for Solidarity. They are part of trauma healing therapy as well.

Teaching Aids for Primary

Student Teachers demonstrated their creativity by making games, toys and science resource materials from recycled materials for use in primary school teaching and learning. Displaying them was not enough to earn CA marks. The students had to play with each item to demonstrate its usefulness in order to support the children in their inquiry, discovery, investigation and exploration of the world around them. Working models included score cards, board games, nets, footballs, hoops and skipping ropes, and innovative science and maths teaching apparatuses. All were road tested before marks were allotted, with students from the other classes making sure the models were robust enough to survive a primary school. Sr Elizabeth is behind creating learning aids.



HAPPY EASTER