

STTC Newsletter - March 2024

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



New Building & Thanks to SRF

The big good news is that the new building 'St. Joseph's Block' is now ready for occupation, and to be blessed and opened on the 1st of May 2024. Thanks to Mr David Dettoni, the US-based Sudan Relief Funds (SRF), for the generous donation to STTC for the construction of this major addition to the College. This fine new structure is to the left as you enter the compound. The work is solid throughout, from the deep foundations to the pitched iron roof. The brick-red and cream of the cement and plaster work, the dark red of the ironwork, and the bright blue of the roof make for a most attractive building. The beauty of the new block is what first strikes the visitor; this is matched by its usefulness, with two large, airy classrooms, ideal environments for teaching and learning, and a smaller room that will be shortly organised to fulfil the many functions of the Principal's office.



Visit of the De La Salle Brothers

Br JJ (Jose Jimenez), Provincial of the De La Salle Brothers East Asia District, Br Chris Patino, General Councillor, from De La Salle Rome, Mr Mourad Barsoum, Lasallian Volunteers - Rome, visited Yambio particularly to visit Br Chris Soosai and the Solidarity projects. They were impressed by the Solidarity members living in the Inter-congregational community and their commitment in the areas of training teachers, nurses, farmers and pastoral leaders.

New Solar Power System



The long-awaited solar system has been installed. This is truly a moment of celebration. The entire campus is now flood lit at night, greatly enhancing security and comfort. The 45KVA-3phase solar power system with 96 panels now operates for 24 hours, giving light to every room, and making it possible, for the first time ever, to use laptops, printers, reading lamps and more, across the college. The transformation is remarkable. STTC is grateful to USAID for its huge contribution. Mr Peter Stemp, the Associate Director of the De La Salle Solidarietà Internazionale, Sr Joan Mumaw, the former Director of Friends in Solidarity with South Sudan, and two other key persons from the De La Salle Brothers congregation, Brother Craig Franz and Brother Amilcare Boccuccia, who were instrumental in facilitating the whole process of bringing the container load of materials from Austria to Yambio, South Sudan.

Library Updates & Textbooks Revision

□ The quiet time was used with profit in the Library to empty all store rooms, paint and re-organise, and to process a large backlog of new books. This required an overhaul of all the Dewey-numbered shelves and new labelling. For the first time there is now a well-stocked section on School Leadership and Management, of use especially to the Diploma students. Tutors Br Stephen and Mr Julius saw this good work through to the end.

Textbook revision has been ongoing, led by Sr Jacinta Prunty. The syllabus units of the Initial Teacher Training Syllabus and Guidance (MoGEI, South Sudan) are incorporated into all the STTC course descriptors and module details. Extending the Certificate in Primary Education offered by STTC in Yambio (Preservice & Inservice) to Wau (initially), as a four-semester Inservice programme, is driving this revision. All needs to be clearly set out, for tutors and student teachers, whether on site in Yambio or further afield. This investment is for the long term.



Visit of the ICM Sisters, Rome

Sr Adrienne Bonzangani (center in the picture) and Sr Maria Cora Sastre (second from the left in the picture), General Councillors from the ICM Sisters (Immaculati Cordis Mariae) Rome, visited Yambio. This congregation is actively considering sending a member to join the Solidarity Mission in South Sudan and this visit was part of their fact-finding. We shared with them our experiences in Solidarity and gave them the chance to experience first-hand our community life and a common mission.



Visit of Friends in Solidarity, US

STTC welcomed the President of Friends in Solidarity from the US, Sr Mumbi Kigùtha (first in the Picture), along with her assistant, Ms Mary Ngugi (last in the Picture) for a week-long visit. The visitors witnessed the developments at STTC and met with current Diploma students teaching in a local school which gave them the chance to see the college's mission in action. On this count, they were certainly impressed. Friends in Solidarity is supportive to the capacity building projects (Solidarity) in Wau, Riimenze and Yambio, South Sudan.

Reopening of the College

Solidarity Teacher Training College suspended all the activities in early October 2023 when Teachers and the support staff stopped working since the College could not fulfil their demands involving increment of salary, various special allowances and payments to be made in US dollar currency. This was unfortunate but deemed necessary. The administration used this temporary suspension of classes to do a lot of maintenance work, building new classrooms, installing new solar system, working with the Ministry to register the college officially, recruiting a new team of staff, and revision of the STTC policies. The path to re-opening is now almost clear. Preparations have been completed to ready the college for the return of the students, and to welcome a new cohort. We look forward very much to that, the students are the reason for the Solidarity members' presence here.



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We wish you the Blessings of Easter