

STTC Newsletter - May 2024

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



Blessing of the new Building

The new classroom building “St. Joseph’s Block” was completed at the end of April 2024. STTC is grateful to the US-based Sudan Relief Funds for their generous contribution. The new block has two large lecture halls and an administrative office. Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro, along with the guests and students of Solidarity, blessed the building on 4 May 2024 in a simple but moving ceremony. Bishop Eduardo commended the STTC community members, Fr Jim Greene the Executive Director, the Sudan Relief Funds, and the Univision Construction company for their industrious work and commitment to education in South Sudan. He asked the student teachers present to vow, in public, to become the best, most effective and caring teachers possible; and furthermore, to be makers of peace and unity among all the people of the country.



Reopening the College

All the academic activities were temporarily stopped in October last year. The college resumed its operations on 26 April 2024 with the weekend Inservice Certificate programme for the local teachers. The full-time, residential students returned to the college to resume the Preservice Certificate programme on 4 May 2024. For these students, it is a long journey from their respective places to reach Yambio; some were three or even more days travelling. A warm welcome was extended to all the students who have returned after seven months. They have pledged to put their heart and soul into completing their studies successfully. They are so happy to be back at the college which has a new look with flood lights and new facilities.



Visit of the Sudan Relief Funds

A delegation from the US-based Sudan Relief Funds (SRF), a major donor agency supporting the activities of Solidarity Teacher Training College for many years, made a short visit to the college. The most recent major SRF funding was towards the construction of St. Joseph's Block. The SRF visitors were very pleased to see the completed facility and the high quality of the construction. Br Chris Soosai thanked the SRF delegation on behalf of the college for their contribution. They appreciated the work of the Solidarity members for their commitment. Mr David Dettoni, one of the members of the delegation and a regular visitor to Yambio from the US, expressed his wish that the students would return soon and resume their studies.

STTC welcomes Br Francis

STTC happily welcomes the newest Solidarity Missionary, Brother Francis Xavier Agoah, from the Congregation of the Presentation Brothers (founded by Edmund Rice, in Ireland). Brother Francis is from Ghana. Before joining our multi-congregational community in Yambio, Brother Francis was the Superior General of his Congregation. He has a great wealth of experience in the educational field and leadership roles. Br Francis has Master's Degrees in Educational Leadership and English Literature. He has been a Head of the Department of English at St. John Bosco's College of Education in Ghana. Br Francis will be a great asset to STTC. We wish him success in his ministry among young people.



Welcome Mr Oloya Jackson

STTC extends its warm welcome to Mr Oloya Jackson Francis who has joined the teaching faculty in the college. Mr. Jackson, a South Sudanese National, graduated in Mathematics and Physics with Education from the University of Juba, South Sudan. Previous to that, he undertook teacher training in Uganda, where he did most of his schooling. Mr. Jackson brings broad experience in teacher training having previously worked in other Teacher Training Institutes. He specializes in teaching methodologies for Mathematics, teaching young children in simple but effective ways. We are happy to welcome Mr. Jackson and wish him success in his new career at STTC.

Workshop by Br Tino CFC

Br Tino (Constantine D'Abreu) shared on the work of 'Edmund Rice International' (ERI) with the STTC students on 10 May 2024. The day was devoted to Human Rights and Advocacy training. Despite the technical language, students were quick to grasp the concept of universal human rights, and how they might engage with the UN's Universal Periodic Review to improve the human rights situation on the ground in South Sudan. They now have the motivation and the contacts to advocate for the rights of the children they teach; we thank Br Tino and the ERI for its pledge of ongoing support.



Solidarity Pastoral Team's Workshop at STTC

Fr Christy John, a member of the Solidarity pastoral team from KIT-Juba, visited the college last month to conduct workshops on Trauma Healing and Empowerment for the young people of Yambio. In the sessions with young people, he focused on the theme of rediscovering self-identity in the fast-changing socio-political-economic development. Through this journey of self-discovery, the goal is to equip young people with the skills and tools they need to embrace their unique qualities and contribute positively to their community. STTC thanks and appreciates Christy for reaching out to the young people by organizing creative and quality workshops in the country.



New laptops from Hilton Fund

The arrival of 20 new computers, made possible by the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters, is another cause for celebration. The computer room, newly tiled and painted in readiness, will now be able to accommodate 50 learners at any one time, both our own STTC students and outreach. The current STTC students advance in computer learning and try to apply the educational software in teaching primary school children. We thank all who were involved in making this successful application, including the Holy Faith Sisters and Friends in Solidarity based in the US. A special 'thank you' to Sr Barbar Buckley RSM.

STTC is affiliated with the Catholic University of South Sudan

Responding to the appeal of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of South Sudan, Solidarity Teacher Training College has decided to affiliate with the Catholic University of South Sudan. Thanks to the University of Juba for its unfailing support and guidance over the years in helping STTC to achieve academic excellence. Particularly STTC is indebted to the School of Education of the University of Juba for its commitment to STTC. Hereafter, the Catholic University shall extend support to STTC in the implementation of the National Policies of the Ministry of General Education and Instruction concerning teacher training and academic matters. The Catholic University shall ensure that it issues Certificates and Diplomas to qualifying candidates and that all of them are registered with the University so that the graduates are nationally recognized.

