

STTC Newsletter - August 2024

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



School Practice – July 2024

Final semester Inservice students (work & study students) and the Preservice students (Fulltime students) were on school teaching practice in the neighbouring primary schools. STTC used the 'lesson observation template' from the National Curriculum School Inspection Framework; connecting the student experience of school placement with the real-life inspection regime of the Ministry. Throughout their month-long placement, they applied the classroom management strategies they have studied that support effective learning and inclusion. Class sizes vary greatly - up to 130 pupils this time round - as does the classroom equipment, with many children still without benches. Teaching Practice was assessed by STTC tutors and also by two external examiners from the University of Juba. All the students successfully got through.



Art Class

Students across all semesters created puppets in their Art class for use as teaching aids with younger learners. Marks are awarded for a friendly face, sturdy body with hands that can be manipulated, colourful decoration, and collaboration in the process of construction. The individuality of the final products is quite remarkable. Top marks were achieved all round, and deservedly so. Already some puppets have been to school where they have helped to promote language development and build social skills. Above all, STTC students use them to create warm relationships in the classroom and a nurturing climate, where learning is fun.

Football Game

Football is a popular game in South Sudan, and most certainly in STTC. Student teams of STTC, both men and women, play matches with outside football clubs as well as among themselves. In the recent football match, to the surprise of everyone, St. Augustine Primary School teachers won against the STTC team. The St Augustine's team put up an excellent show and defeated the STTC student team by 3:2 goals. This was the first time ever that St Augustine's triumphed over STTC. Solidarity players lost against the better team on the day. The primary school children enjoyed the show.





End of Semester Exams

The Inservice students who resumed classes in April commenced end-of-semester examinations on 29 June 2024. They sat papers in the full range of courses (IS1 and IS3): under Professional Studies, they took papers in Supporting the Learner, and Behaviour & Classroom Management; under subject knowledge, they were tested in English for Teachers, Mathematics for Teachers, Integrated Science, Social Studies, Christian Religious Education, and Creative Arts & Music. The third examined component is School Practice, which has a written test to follow up on the classroom observations and the smaller assignments that comprise the Continuous Assessment. The Inservice students are to be commended for attendance despite the many family crises that arise; their commitment is commendable. We look forward to supporting them through to the end.

Independence Day

Independence Day was celebrated on 9 July 2024 at STTC, a day cherished by all South Sudanese no matter what difficulties people face. The fact of independence, achieved in 2011, binds the country together. STTC marked the day with an address by Br Francis Xavier Adoah in the role of Acting Principal, and quizzes prepared by Br Stephen Wandabusai that seriously tested knowledge across history, geography, politics, celebrities and more, relating to South Sudan and the neighbouring African countries. All students participated, with class teams pitched against each other, with seniority and numbers no guarantee of success. The day-long celebrations continued with more speeches, photos, a special meal, and of course the dancing and music for which South Sudan is renowned.



Open House – Games Day

STTC offers a holistic education and training to the student-teachers. One of the exposures STTC offers is to involve students in organizing an open 'games day' for the children of the neighbourhood. The children thoroughly enjoy the day, having fun, food and refreshment. It is a chance for the student teachers to pass on the many games activities and songs learned in STTC to the upcoming classes, building on the excellent training. To come into our beautiful compound is in itself a treat. The day was expertly organized and conducted, with the safety and well-being of the young visitors the paramount consideration. As on previous occasions, several puppets and toys were exhibited for display for the children on the day.

Bridge Work by the Students

The work project this May-June was outside the campus, and co-ordinated by the student leader Ms Fekira Jane. Deep pits were dug and the ground was leveled just outside the main gate by the students to prevent soil erosion and flooding, and build a small bridge. Some students undertook slashing and ditch-cleaning; all carried stones and soil, making a better surface for the traffic, pedestrians and vehicles. As part of our local community commitment, teams of students slashed outside as well as inside the college campus so that all will be in excellent order. The students undertake this tireless manual work with a great sense of belonging. Thanks to Sr Jacinta's family for the help to build a small bridge to divert the water and prevent flooding inside the campus during rainy days.



UK Open University

Ms Zakia John commenced a UK Open University degree, BSc Environmental Science, in October 2022 while completing her STTC studies. On Saturdays she worked with Sr Jacinta Prunty alongside those who have successfully completed Open University modules in Primary Education and Early Childhood. Zakia recently received the result of her last Open University module in Science and passed strongly. Sr Jacinta, her guide, shares that she was pleased as the last and largest piece of the assessment was an online exam which Zakia did very well. She succeeded and already had good Continuous Assessment marks so she is safely through. It is good to know that the kind donor's funding was valued so much. Thanks again to Emanuela, our fundraising officer in Rome, who made sure the fees were paid at the time.



Thanks to Sister Guillermina

Sister Guillermina Vasquez ACJ has been a treasured member of STTC since 2019. A native of Peru and a member of the Apostolics of the Heart of Jesus, Sr Guille taught practically all the Professional Studies courses to all classes, from workshops to Certificate to Diploma, creating new modules and revising existing areas, especially the teaching practice preparation. She is a wonderful educator through and through, remembered with great affection by students for her innovative teaching methodologies and sincere concern for them. The contributions of Guille to the school and community life of STTC are many. She has been appointed by Solidarity to the Good Shepherd Pastoral Centre at Kit; we wish her well in this new ministry.

Welcome to Sister Dolores

We welcome Sister Dolores Alphonso to STTC. Born in Mumbai, India, Sister Dolores belongs to the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (a Salesian Order). Sr Dolores holds University degrees in Science and in Education; her postgraduate qualifications include Diploma in Theology and Missiology, and Master's degree in English. She arrived in South Sudan in 2002. She has been an Administrator, Animator, Teacher and Principal in schools in Wau and Tonj in South Sudan, as well as working for a few years in Adwa and Zway in Ethiopia. Appointed as Director of Inservice for Wau, she is a member of that Solidarity community, but will first spend some months teaching at STTC to familiarise herself with all aspects of the teacher training programme. We welcome Sr Dolores to Solidarity and wish her fruitful ministry among young people and teacher-students.



Welcome to Brother Nicholas

STTC welcomes Brother Nicholas Nzyoki Muia, the new Solidarity missionary member from Kenya. Brother Nicholas belongs to the Brothers of St Peter Claver religious congregation. He holds a Bachelor of Education degree with a focus on English and Literature, and a Master's degree in Educational Planning and Administration. Guidance and counselling is also part of his training. While this is his first time in South Sudan, he comes to Solidarity with vast work experience in the field of education. He has served as a teacher of English and Literature, as Principal of various schools in Kenya, and as an administration officer at the Catholic University of East Africa. We welcome Brother Nicholas to Yambio where we know already he will be an asset to Solidarity Teacher Training College. We wish him success in his new ministry.