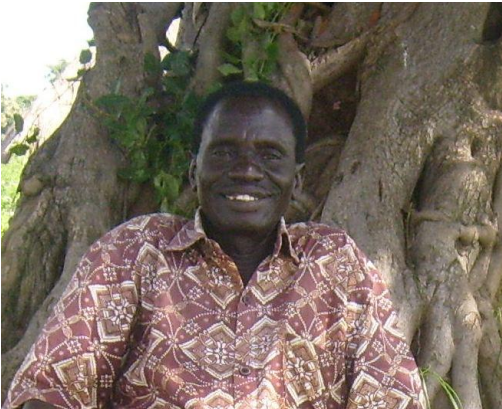




# New Hope

## Diocese of Bethlehem : Kajo-Keji

DKK Highlights October – December 2011 Issue. Compiled By: Stephen Tomor Kenyi, New Hope Coordinator,  
DOB.



Editorial

*By Stephen Tomor Kenyi*



## It is December 2011

Thinking of writing my editorial, I realised that we are in December.

December is the month of cakes & candles,

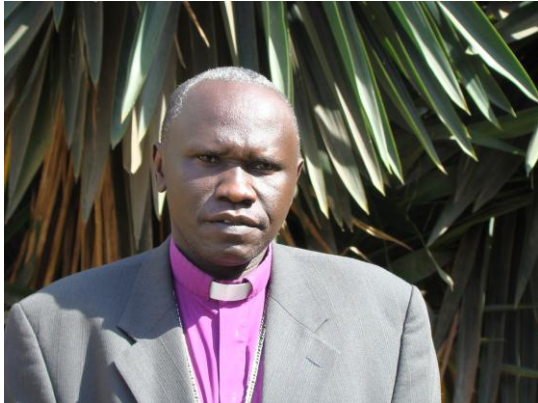
December is the month of new things – cloths, food, etc.

It is the month of snow & songs, carols & joy, laughter & love...

It's DECEMBER..

We wish you a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you our readers. May the Lord Jesus bring you lots of joy through the year.

## A Word from the Bishop.



**By Rt. Rev. Anthony Poggo,  
Bishop, Diocese of Kajo-Keji.**

One of the questions I often asked is “how does it feel to be a citizen of an independent nation?” The answer I give is that, ‘it feels great’ despite the challenges that face the new Republic of South Sudan - the world’s newest nation! These challenges range from maintaining peace, building of a collapsed and in many places a non-existent infrastructure to managing the people’s high expectations for tangible dividends of the independence. Some of the people’s great expectations entail good roads, employment, functioning health and educational services. In all of these quests, the church too is expected to contribute towards the alleviation or amelioration of some of them.

In this issue, we seek to update you on some of the things that we as a church have done in Kajo-Keji. Firstly, our partners from the USA and UK have greatly helped us to build nine primary schools and one secondary school. The latter is at its final stage of completion! Secondly, we provided women groups with loans through a Micro Finance Scheme. Thirdly, we trained leaders from across the Diocese and other parts of South Sudan on ways of identifying local resources and on using them to bettering their lives. This programme is known as Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP), and it uses Biblical principles as the basis of and for the training.

One of the key roles of the church is to reach out with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is done through evangelistic campaigns and through the annual “Week of Witness” that all dioceses of the ECS undertake. In October this year, evangelists from all our parishes preached the word of God for one week.

We thank some of our partners who visited us this year; these include SOMA UK, Anglican Youth Fellowship from Uganda, Alpha Uganda and Netherlands, Tearfund UK, Flame International, and Frontline Fellowship. A team from CRESS also visited us. We had a short term mission partner from CMS – Ireland with us for one month. Such visits enhance our partnerships.

Like most parts of South Sudan, Kajo-Keji was seriously devastated by the war from 1983 to 2005. The infrastructure in Kajo-Keji collapsed; almost all the buildings were destroyed. Church buildings, schools, offices and pastors’ houses were not spared. When the peace agreement was signed in 2005, we had to start from scratch to construct churches, the Bishop’s House, the Cathedral, and the college. Samaritan’s Purse supported us in the construction of churches as well as in the initial construction of our Cathedral. Time has now come for us to build a Diocesan Office so that our staff can work in one location rather than the current four locations. The proposed Diocesan Office will cost US\$ 81,000. A committee is already working on how we will raise the funds. Although this project will be a gigantic task considering the high levels of financial poverty in Kajo-Keji, we are more than keen to start. Our first contribution towards this project came from one of our own staff, who contributed the equivalent of US\$ 36 in cash and pledged a similar amount. On the day our Diocesan Council approved the project. Pledges close to the equivalent of US\$500 were made; some of our staff pledged to mould bricks for this project.

Pray with us over the above ministries that we are undertaking, even as we continue to contribute to the spiritual and physical development of the people. Once again let me close with the last sentence of South Sudan's National Anthem: **"Oh God, bless South Sudan!"**

## New Hope Construction in Romogi

*By Stephen Tomor Kenyi.*

Furniture for Romogi-Richard Earl High School will be delivered to the school by mid-December 2011.

With or without furniture, the children of Dwani-Star of Bethlehem Primary School are already learning in their new building.



*Pupils in a class*



*Dwani-Star of Bethlehem School*



*We are finally here, Dwani-Star of Bethlehem School children in front of the Admin block.*

New Hope is now in the final touches of completing the construction of Romogi-Richard Earl High School. Once completed by mid-December, the ready furniture will be moved in. Students will start using the new facilities early next year when they reopen for the new academic year.



*Romogi-Richard Earl High School*



*A classroom block*



*The office block*

Once completed, Romogi-Richard Earl High School will bring to a total of six schools constructed by the New Hope funds – five primary schools and one secondary school as follows (in order of construction):

- Romogi-Barebo Primary School,
- Gaderu-Victoria Leach Primary School,
- Liwolo-Helen Wagner Primary School
- Sodogo-Trinity Easton Primary School
- Dwani-Star of Bethlehem Primary School,
- Romogi-Richard Earl High School.

Where are we going after Romogi-Richard Earl High School? Please pray with us on this, that the Lord will take His leading.

It has been a great challenge working on these projects. But I am happy to report that there has not been any major challenge that could have derailed us from being focused. It is good and really good working with Charlie Barebo, Chair of the New Hope, Archdeacon Howard Stringfellow and Bishop Paul Marshall for his wise leadership. I am not saying bye, but would want to appreciate these men of God and the ENTIRE CHRISTIANS OF THE DIOCESE OF BETHLEHEM. PRAISE BE TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

## Christmas in South Sudan

*By Bishop Anthony Poggo.*

This year's Christmas is unique for the people of South Sudan; this is because it is the first Christmas after South Sudan became an independent nation on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

Preparations for Christmas can be seen in Kajo-Keji and other parts of the new country. Christmas in Kajo-Keji is often a time when families get together. Most people would go to church on this day, even

those who normally would not. This will be followed by a meal of beef or chicken, there is often a lot of meat on Christmas day. Christmas is one of the only times when children will be bought new clothes and for those who can afford, new pair of shoes.

Our prayer is that the commemoration of the birth of the Prince of Peace will bring peace across the new nation of South Sudan. Not all parts of South Sudan will have peace

during Christmas; there are areas where there is fighting in Jonglei and Upper Nile States. Additionally there is no agreement on the contentious issue of the boundary between Sudan and South Sudan and on the oil. Areas of Southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile region of Sudan are also in war. Pray that the people in these areas will experience peace during this season of Christmas.

We need a reminder that in all these festivities let us not forget that the birth of Jesus Christ is the “reason for the Season”.

I wish you all a joyous Christmas and a blessed and peaceful 2012.

Rt Rev Anthony Poggo  
Bishop  
Diocese of Kajo-Keji

## A New Hospital in Lijo, Kajo-Keji

*By Dr. Joseph Sokiri Dumba.*



*Containers ready for shipping to Kajo-Keji.*



*Good to start with this than to wait.*

With one civil hospital serving a population of Kajo-Keji County, it is indeed welcome news to the people of this county that a new hospital is needed. Now a plan is on the way to build a 75 bed modern hospital in Lijo, along the Kajo-Keji-Moyo road and 9 miles

from Wudu. It is hoped that when fully operational, the hospital will even serve the neighbouring district of Moyo in Uganda and the nearby counties within South Sudan. The local elders of the community donated the 15 acres of land where the hospital will be build. This project is a collaborative effort between **Healing Kadi Foundation based in USA, the ECS Diocese of Kajo-Keji and Kadi Australia.** The first phase of this project has already begun.

Three 40-foot containers will soon arrive Kajo-Keji from Omaha Nebraska USA via Mombasa. These containers are equipped with modern exam rooms, lab, X-ray, Ultrasound and an Operating room.

Here the clinics sit in the parking lot of the Methodist Women’s Hospital in Omaha Nebraska awaiting shipping to Kajo-Keji, South Sudan.

Following these efforts by the Presbyterian medical Teams, Bishop Anthony, of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji has recently visited USA in an effort to raise funds for this hospital. We visited a number of places in and around Omaha.

A recorded radio interview on medical work that Covenant Presbyterian Church is partnering with us was aired by Christian

FM station. Pastor Kevin McDonald, Drs. Chuck Tomek, Jim Steier and I were joined by Bishop Anthony by telephone from my house. This Christian FM station encouraged people to give towards the transport of Clinics in a Can.

During the visit to USA, Bishop Anthony was able to meet with several people who have made significant contribution towards the effort of shipping the clinics to Kajo-

Keji. These included the President of Methodist Physicians Clinics and the staff from the Methodist hospital, Dr. Treu's family and multiple other members of the medical team that have made trips to Kajo-Keji.

I would like to thank you all for your prayers and financial contribution. There is still a long road towards achieving the construction of the permanent hospital.

## **The 7<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji**

**Emmanuel Murye Modi, *Diocesan Secretary, Diocese of Kajo-Keji.***

The Diocese of Kajo-Keji held its 7<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Synod from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011. This was the first Synod of the Diocese after South Sudan became an independent nation and it was also the first Synod to be held in our new Cathedral.

During the Synod reports were given by the 8 archdeaconries and all the diocesan departments and institutions. In his Charge, the Bishop emphasised the need for evangelism to be key in all our activities as it is the core mission of the church. This is in addition to our social programmes such as Micro Enterprise Scheme (MES), Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP), Education, care for orphans and others. The Bishop challenged the members to be good stewards and to mobilise the available God given resources to enable the church undertake its mandate.

Discussions were held by the two houses, the House of Clergy and the House of the Laity. When the two Houses met, they recommended the planting of the trees in all our parishes and to promote agriculture as a backbone of the County and the new nation of South Sudan. The Synod called on the government to complete the Kajo-Keji to Juba road in order for the people of Kajo-Keji to have access to the central market in Juba. The government was reminded on the importance to construct the bridge over River Kai'bo to connect Liwolo with the rest of the County.

The Synod took place on the same week when the Diocese of Kajo-Keji celebrated its Silver Jubilee. A special Holy Communion service to mark this important event was held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

## **TEAR FUND BOARD CHAIRMAN-UK VISITS KAJO-KEJI DIOCESE**

***By Bishop Anthony Poggo, Diocesan Bishop, Diocese of Kajo-Keji.***

Tearfund is one of the partners of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji. We have been implementing a Church and Community Mobilization Process (CCMP) with the aim of empowering churches and communities in Kajo-Keji. This is done in 14 local pilot

churches and communities. Individual families, local churches and communities have begun practicing the knowledge and skills facilitated by the 20 trained facilitators. They have experienced the impacts and the fruits of this programme.



On arrival in *to Kajo-Keji.*



*Meeting at Kiri Church.*



*The Diocesan Secretary introduces staff to the visiting team.*



*Kiri church clinic project*

The Chairman toured CCMP practice church sites in Kiri, Liberty Baptist church in Pomoju, Leikor, Lire, the Cathedral and Canon Benaiah Poggo College. The communities and the people expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the empowerment they acquired through the support of Tear Fund. Some of the people were able to show the results of implementing the knowledge and skills they acquired through CCMP. *(See pictures below)*



*A widow in her improved house.*

# The General Provincial Synod of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan

*By Stephen Tomor Kenyi.*



The 9<sup>th</sup> General Provincial Synod of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, under the theme: "Seeing God's Hand at Work for a New Beginning in the Life of His People (Rev 21.5)", took place between 13<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at the All Saints Cathedral, Juba, South Sudan.

The Synod brought together representatives of the Houses of Bishops, the Clergy and the Laity. The Most Rev Dr Daniel Deng Bul Yak, the Archbishop, Primate and Metropolitan of the Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan and Bishop of Juba Diocese convened the Ninth ECS General Synod

To make it more colourful, the synod was honoured with the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ms Hilde Johnson, HE Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, HE Hellen Murshal, Central Equatoria State Minister for Social Development and Religious Affairs, the representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rev Canon Joanna Udal, Rt Rev Nicolas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury and Rt Rev David Jones, Bishop Suffragan of Virginia, as well as other church partners from the United Kingdom and the United States. The ninth synod was the first general synod since the independence of the Republic of South Sudan.

The Synod discussed issues of importance to the nation and to the Church.

The ECS synod reaffirmed its commitment to serving Jesus Christ in both Sudan and South Sudan through:

- the continued proclamation of the Gospel,
- advocacy efforts for peace and reconciliation between the communities who are in conflict in Sudan and South Sudan,
- through service delivery in the areas of healthcare, education and social development.
- Stewardship and care for our environment. A call on all citizens of Sudan and South Sudan to be good stewards over the land God has given us and all that is in it.

At the end of the three day synod, a number of resolutions were agreed upon including the following:

- The Northern cluster to become an internal province with a view to prepare for wider consultation in the Anglican Communion toward the creation of an independent province;
- The ECS to call upon the government and all stakeholders in the oil industry to take measures to protect the environment;
- The ECS appeals to the government, regional and the international communities to address the insecurity caused by the LRA and other armed groups;
- Upgrade BGC to a university and endorse the recommendations of the University study which are in line with the 2006 Synod decision;
- The General Synod resolves that from now on, there shall be no reference to Bishops as 'Lordship',

but only refer to as Right Reverend or Bishop;

- The Synod unanimously elected Mr. John Augustino Lumori as the Provincial Secretary for the ECS;

It should be noted that there were 42 resolutions and the above are extracts from those resolutions.

## **Global Alpha Training in Kajo-Keji, South Sudan**

*By Pianilee Samuel Alibee*



*Participants at the Alpha training*

The Diocese of Kajo-Keji, in collaboration with Alpha Uganda, held a Global Alpha Training (GAT) in Kajo-Keji from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011. Alpha is a course that is aimed at people to know their faith and to build their relationship with Jesus Christ and it also enables Christians to grow stronger in their faith. .

Alpha has been run in many countries around the world and has been found very helpful in reviving the church and making it

grow both in quality and in numbers. In Kajo-Keji, the training was attended by 62 participants who were from ECS and other churches. The participants were inspired by the training and expressed willingness to implement Alpha courses in their various churches. During the training, five participants surrendered their lives to Christ.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji, the Rt. Rev. Anthony D. Poggo, attended the training fully and he encouraged the participants to go and put what they have learned into practice. The facilitators who came from Uganda, Holland and Siberia made the training very enjoyable and involved the participants actively in the whole training.

Our next plans are to hold another Alpha leadership training in the middle of January 2012 where we will train the participants on Youth Alpha. We are planning to begin Alpha courses in the churches in the beginning of February 2012.

## **A letter from Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF).**

*By Candiga Francis Loku*

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings to you from Kajo-Keji, South Sudan.

It is a big joy for me to give you an update of the things which have been happening

here. In the last two months, He has given us strength day by day and courage which has enabled us to labour in His harvest field through various ministries. As partner, this has been possible because of your prayers and it is important that we share this joy together.

The government of South Sudan has given us liberty to preach freely and unconditionally to the children in schools. The Education Director here said “Preaching to children is a great idea. In fact education and God must move together.” This inspired me!! Looking at the number of schools in South Sudan, one wonders as to how children in these schools will be reached.

We must pray to the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers into this harvest field. Praise God for the children reached last term. We registered 3,200 children in 7 schools and 2,822 accepted Jesus as their Saviour!! In some of these schools, the children are reporting themselves to the local Pastors. In one such church where I was invited to preach, the congregation was moved by the courage the children had when they came in front of the church and declared their faith in the Lord Jesus!

#### **Teaching Children Effectively Level 1**

God brought 21 teachers for this training from different churches in Kajo-Keji. We were blessed to have Martha Olango (CEF Regional Education Director for East/Central Africa) and two national

missionaries from Uganda join Samuel, Jane and I to hold this training.

#### **Radio Ministry**

We continue to thank God for Words of Hope Uganda who sponsor a program for CEF to share the Gospel to children through Grace Broadcasting services, many children who have access to radios can listen to our live teaching of the Word of God every Saturday at 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Many parents and children have called in to express their appreciation for this program.

#### **Up Coming Programs:**

Between 11 through 15 December and 25 January through 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011 we shall children training camps.

#### Prayer Requests

Please pray for the children’s Bible camp and for funding for these two camps.

**Editors Note** – CEF is one of the organisations that the Diocese of Kajo-Keji is partnering with.

## Dear reader

*Thank you for keeping with us and feel free to contribute to our newsletter.*