

# New Hope



Diocese of

**Bethlehem : Kajo Keji**

DKK Highlights April – June 2010 Issue

Compiled By: Stephen Tomor Kenyi, New Hope Representative, DOB.



## Editorial

*By Stephen Tomor Kenyi*

### Is it the wheel or wind of change?

**Democracy** is a political government carried out either directly by the people (**direct democracy**) or by means of elected representatives of the people. It is a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents. Even though there is no specific, universally accepted definition of 'democracy', there are two principles that any definition of **democracy** includes: equality and freedom. These principles are reflected in all citizens being equal before the law and having equal access to power and the freedom of its citizens is secured by legitimized rights and liberties which are generally protected by a constitution.

As Southerners, we should be reminded that we should not miss the **TARGET** by the results of the just concluded elections – whatever they were.

Please also remember that in life, there is the “wheel of life”. The wheel of life describes the emotions of change in a person’s life. At the top

of the wheel a person is happy – having a kingly or queenly feeling. This person is in the position of *Happiness*. Things are normal and going well. The wheel turns with a clockwise movement. Change has occurred (or the wind of change, if you like). The same person is now upside down and falling through space with a look of distress. This is the position of *Loss*. The wheel continues its movement and at the bottom of the wheel the individual is now nude and is being pulled along through the muck and mire of life. This is the position of *Suffering*. The wheel turns and the person again rises up to the position of *Hope*. There is hopeful anticipation of once again reaching the position of happiness. The wheel's lesson is that there are only four positions in life: **happy, loss, suffering, and hope**. We are always in one of these positions. This happens in all areas of life, even in politics.

Let us also be reminded that, as Southerners, we are on the “learning curve”. A **learning curve** is a graphical representation of the changing rate of learning (in the average person or persons). The learning curve can tell somebody how much there is to learn after initial familiarity or attempt. It is possible for something to be easy to learn, but difficult to master or hard to learn with little beyond it. Is this the case with multi party politics in South Sudan?

So, let us be united and remain focused. Politicians, someone told me that there is no permanent enemy in politics and if you have one, then you have a problem.

# A Word from the Bishop.



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

This year's Palm Sunday was a historic day in Kajo-Keji. On this day, our Archbishop, the Most Rev Dr Daniel Deng Bul assisted by Bishop Hilary Adeba of Yei and I led hundreds of Christians from the diocese of Kajo-Keji as well as visitors from Juba, Yei and other places at our Cathedral Fund Raising day. By the end of this day, a total US\$ 6,950 was collected with pledges made to the tune of US\$ 17,376. An amount of US\$ 5,695 was contributed by our overseas supporters in the UK and US, thanks to our contacts in these countries.

After the fund raising day, that is between the 28<sup>th</sup> March and middle of May, an additional amount equivalent to US\$ 6,431 has been received. You will recall that our target is to raise an amount of US\$ 90,000. With what has been raised or pledged, we are now left with a balance of US\$ 53,548.

I would like to thank all those who gave, prayed and organised the fund raising

day. Thank you all very much as we say in Bari, *tinate losu*. Continue to pray and support our plans to raise the outstanding amount that we need so as to complete the construction of our Cathedral. Many people made a lot of sacrifices which has resulted into the above contributions. We have a saying in our language that "a river gets filled up by its tributaries"; thank you for being that. One of the cases that is still fresh in my mind was a 12 year old girl who pledged a hen towards the construction of the Cathedral.

The other important event that we witnessed in April was the first multi-party elections in Sudan in 24 years. On the day of the polls, hundreds of people walked long distances to exercise their democratic right. For many of them, this was their first time to vote, I was one of the first-time voters in a general election. The only other significant elections that I have participated in have been elections of Bishops and Archbishops!

Pray for Southern Sudan at this crucial period of our history especially as we prepare for the referendum that is scheduled to take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

Thank you very much for your prayers and partnership in the ministry.

# Updates from the New Hope Campaign Projects - Diocese of Bethlehem

*By Stephen Tomor Kenyi*

## College Construction.

It is hoped that by mid July 2010 the “Under the Tree College Kitchen/Dinning Hall” will be no more. Work on the New College Kitchen/Dinning Hall is moving on well. This is one of the houses that will be opened late this year when Archdeacon Howard Stringfellow and Charlie Barebo visit Kajo Keji.



The New College Kitchen/Dinning Hall under construction.

## School Construction.

### Liwolo School

Gaderu is the second of the schools completed after Romogi School. We have now moved on to Liwolo and Sodogo Schools. It is hoped that these two schools will be ready for opening latest by end of October 2010.



*An Office and Classroom Block in Liwolo.*

### Sodogo School

In Sodogo, work is progressing on well. The work in that school is hoped to replace the below structures.



**One of the current classroom Blocks of Sodogo.**



*All foundations for the new blocks are dug.*

## BTTC Student receives a wheel chair

This year, among those enrolled in the 2010 intake, is a student who can only move around with a wheel chair. This caught the sympathetic eyes of Hon. Zamba Duku, the then Speaker in the Central Equatoria State. When Zamba saw *Emeldā Konga* struggling in her old wheel chair, he offered her a new one. Zamba had purchased the wheel chair for his late father who never got to use it.



*Bishop passes on the wheel chair to Konga.*



*Getting a feel of it & appreciating the gift.*

Konga has a child and she is taking care of this young girl as a single parent. Her husband has abandoned her. She tries as much as she can so that she can keep her child in school.

She is a good singer in the youth group in her local Church and she is training to become a Tailor. She hopes that this will help her to raise money for a sewing machine and send her child to school. But this can only happen when she completes the course in BTTC.

Among the students too, is a former abductee of the LRA, Betty Ita. She was with the LRA for over a year. After

escaping from the LRA camps in Nabanga, Congo, the girl now struggles to raise her fees to train to become a tailor. Ita lost her parents when she was 10 years old. She is 18 and stays with her uncle. The training will help her support herself, as she resettles into her home village in Kala, Kajo Keji. Please pray for this girl that she may complete the course.



Betty Ita



*BTTC's 2010 class.*



*"We can play basket ball at BTTC".*



*"The cake making is over when the cakes are ready".*

## “The 12 Days of Christmas”.

*By Rev. Eluzai Loboka  
Diocesan Education Coordinator, DKK*

The Diocese of Bethlehem is supporting our church founded schools. I would therefore like, on behalf of the schools (both Teachers and pupils), the communities around the schools and on my own behalf, to register my sincere thanks to the Diocese of Bethlehem for taking time in raising funds to support our church founded schools.

Last Christmas, through their “12 days of Christmas”, the Diocese of Bethlehem raised funds to supported the schools with the following: hoes, basketballs, netballs, fabric for school uniforms, jump ropes, chairs, Soccer balls, solar lanterns, tables, bicycles and sports uniforms.



*Gaderu School in New Sports uniforms*

The above Items are for both boys and the girls except the sports uniform which is only for boys and the challenging question which was asked by the girls is for their sports uniforms. This will be the next target. We cannot do all things at one go.



*A girl tries out the jump rope – Dwani Primary School*

“We thank our partners for supporting our schools with these bicycles” says one community member.

Out of the bicycles from the Diocese of Bethlehem, 16 were allocated to the pastors.

In terms of sponsorship I am faced with a lot of challenges more especially when the term has started many students come to my office to seek for sponsorship. I will always be forced to turn them away. The sad thing is that many of the girls who are orphans feel it is better to die than to suffer.

Please pray for us as we look for educational support.



*Receiving an assortment of gifts – Ajo 1 Primary School.*

## ***Bishop Anthony Confirms 114 in Liwolo Archdeaconry***

***By Rev Joseph Duduka  
Communication and Outreach Coordinator***

Bishop Anthony recently conducted a confirmation service in Liwolo Archdeaconry. Liwolo is located in the western part of the diocese, bordering Yei Diocese in the west, Lainya in the North West, and Yumbe Archdeaconry of the Church of Uganda in the south. It has a total population of 43,750 people. The land is extremely rich in agriculture, minerals, forestry and animals.



***Some choir members receiving confirmation***

The confirmation attracted 114 candidates - 73 from Sokare Rural Deanery and 41 from Keriwa. Among the candidates is the husband of Rev Cilia Kiden, pastor in charge of Mangalotore Parish. They have been married for over 22 years with five children. Cilia got saved in 1993 in Mangalotore, in

one of the Revival Crudes. She whole heartedly offered herself for the Lord's services and the lord called her for the ordained ministry in 2004.



***One of the candidates being confirmed.***

The confirmation service also saw the transfer of powers from former Archdeacon Abdenego Duku (who voluntarily requested for retirement due to his health condition) to a young, brilliant and charismatic Rural Dean Rev. Charles Kenyi. The whole congregation was happy to witness a peaceful transfer of power that demonstrated spiritual maturity and good example to the church and the political realm.

## **The Diocese of Kajo Keji Pastors are cycling**

***By Stephen Tomor Kenyi  
DOB Representative***

After many years of missing out, a total of 60 bicycles were given to the pastors. From a total of 28 bicycles from the Diocese of Bethlehem (12 days of Christmas), 12 were designated to the pastors while 16 went to the 8 schools supported by the Diocese of Bethlehem. 8 bicycles came from a business man, popularly known as Solo while 40

came from a Christian Organization, Open Doors.

“Travelling for my pastoral duties has been made easy” said one pastor as he received a bicycle.



Bishop Anthony explains sources of funds for the bicycles.



Giving out a bicycle to a pastor.



Giving out a lady's bicycle.

## Information Computing Technology Department.

*By Fred Mazina, ICT Department.*



On behalf of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji and the entire ICT Team, I would like to register my endless appreciation to the Trinity Grant that has really brought a big change in communication to not only the Diocese of Kajo-Keji but also to the entire community which has greatly enjoyed the internet services made available in the Diocese.

Through this communication services, our Diocese has been able to:

- Reach out to our partners who have strongly stood with us in prayers - where every staff is connected to the internet through email addresses, mailing groups and the discussion groups.

- Spread the Gospel within in the Diocese and to the various communities.
- Introduce staff to the developing technology and making communication possible.

### Challenges

- ❖ A constant reminder by service providers of over usage (which ranges between 65%-85% per month) has forced us to limit Internet services to 2 hours a day. This is because we are subscribing for a less monthly volume of 1.5 GB.
- ❖ The internet has been limited to the public due to the limited service plan.

We are considering moving to the next service plan which will provide higher monthly volumes. Our challenge will be increased subscription fees. If we move to

this service, the community will then be able to access the service since this service plan favours more than 8 computers at a time.

Pray with us as we try raise the needed funds to meet the raising demand for internet services.

## IWASSRU NEWS

*By Susan Abiku Tabia.*



IWASSRU stands for “International Widows Association for South Sudanese Refugees in Uganda”.

In 1994, the Lord spoke to me in a dream and I was shown the verse that says “Religion that God our father considers as pure and faultless is this: “To look after orphans and widows in their distress and keep oneself from being polluted by the world (James 1:27)”. In my dream I was told to travel to the refugee camps because there were desperate orphans in the camps who need motherly love and care. I did so, accompanied by Alice Yanya Binyi, daughter of retired Bishop, Manasseh Binyi.

It was real shock to see many refugees in desperate conditions. We met Sister Adriana Dwoki, a Sudanese missionary (Nun) who had a small orphanage in the Catholic parish in Adjumani. After sharing the dream with her she directed me to two places where widows, single mothers and children without parents were living.

From there, we got our first child, Konga Robina. She was just like a skeleton. There was no food. Since I had no home, I asked my friend, Magdalen, who was a widow to keep or stay with Konga. I sold some of my

clothes, bangles etc for us to survive. The ECS local parish in Olijji Refugee camp provided a piece of land where the first orphanage home was constructed.

Some widows came to live with and care for the orphans. With the increasing number of children, we went around looking for help. Our first tangible grant came from “The Netherland Embassy in Uganda” who gave us US \$ 9,000. With this we were able to build more huts and purchased beddings etc for the children. Unfortunately, the UNHCR demolished the orphanage together with the other refugee homes because we were in a transit camp.

The children of St. Just College in France raised funds for the orphanage. We built three tukuls with these funds in a piece of land we got in Biyaya, Adjumani town. We did a lot of the work, ourselves.

In one year our Diocese was visited by a SOMA group (Sharing of Ministry Abroad) led by Rev. Don Brewin and among them was, Mrs. Joyce Shepherd from St. Bartholomew Parish, USA. Mrs. Joyce Shepherd was able to raise funds for the orphanage after her return. We named the new home “Amazing Grace”.

During Bishop Manasseh Binyi’s enthronement, in 1992, I spoke to some of the children, who were there. I found out that many of them were orphans who had lost their parents during the war and others were separated from their parents because of the war. One of them was a Dinka by tribe, named Akol Manyang. He had three bullet wounds in his legs and could hardly

move. Unfortunately, Manyang passed away the next day, due to hunger. It was here that a thought of establishing an orphanage home in Kajo-Keji County came about. Mrs. Joyce Shepherd raised some funds to construct the first building for this orphanage. We named this after her Church – St. Bartholomew’s Orphanage. Following this, a number of organizations came in to support:

- International Teams, Canada
- Glenn Winter, a lawyer in UK
- Lahash International, USA
- Christian Horizons Global- Canada
- St. Just College pupils – France and

## The 2010 Diocesan Synod.

*By Grace Tabu,  
Bishop’s Office Manager.*

The 6th Synod of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji was held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010. After the morning devotions, which was followed with the Holy Communion, the Diocesan Secretary welcomed all the delegates and introduced them in their various capacities with special reference to delegates from Diocese of Bethlehem (DOB), Canada, Khartoum, Juba, Kampala and the Health Personnel from the Provincial Headquarters.

The Commissioner of Kajo-Keji County, uki Batali, commended the Church for spearheading development in the County. He also encouraged the Church to lobby for funds and construct a church hospital that can offer better services to the people in the county.

After his opening speech, the Bishop welcomed every body and declared the synod open.

During the reporting session, the Diocesan Institutions, projects, departments,

- Many other groups and individuals (notably Rev. Thomas Reeder and Rev. Christina Robb Dover).

With the support we get, we are able to build shelters for the children in addition to providing second hand clothes, blankets, utensils, food and toys for the children to play with.

We also assist the leper colony in Mogiri, by building shelters to those who cannot and provide food items, blankets, soap, Vaseline and minor medicines. We do assist desperate aged widows who cannot support themselves.

Archdeaconries, the team from Juba, Khartoum and Kampala congregation presented their reports based on achievements, challenges and future plans.

After the reports were presented, the Synod was divided into two groups – The House of Clergy and the House of the Laity. The two groups discussed topics in the areas of, Stewardship, Youth, Prayer, Wedding and Funerals.

After the deliberations, the two houses came up with the following recommendations:

- **Stewardship:** Christians should be transparent, and leave exemplary lives and increase giving.
- **Youth:** Create a youth Ministry within the Diocesan Office. This office will then be in charge of all youth activities.
- **Prayer:** Agreed on start time and end time for prayers in all churches throughout the Diocese.

- **Wedding:** The obstacles that prevents young people from conducting church wedding is to be addressed. Continuous training on the importance of Christian marriage should be conducted.
- **Funerals:** This should be done in accordance to the Church traditions.

The Diocesan Bishop emphasizes much on tree planting for Timber, fuel and fruits in all Parishes for income generating activities and environmental conservation. He pointed out the conditions that should qualify a church to be considered a parish.

## Purity in the Youth.

*Bishop's Chaplain.*

### **An Address to the Sokare Youths.**

“If we have to build a God-fearing Nation, we must live upright lives”. Rev. Israel Taban said this during the Youth Music and Drama Competition at Sokare parish Liwolo, Archdeaconry. The theme for the Youth Music and Drama Competition was “Raising HIV/AIDS Free Nation starts with our generation”.

“The young generation should stand up and insist on purity. We want to elucidate that vision. Sometimes we allow problems to surround us and then we end up with all sorts of problems. In the African church norms, anything related to HIV/AIDS is not to be mentioned in the pulpit. But at the end we see the consequences of losing a Christian to HIV/AIDS. We need to stand up and stop the habit of sharing sharp instruments, donating unscreened blood, having sex outside and before marriage.

This is the time for us to rise and to make a contribution to develop our society and our families”.

We pray and hope that our Good God will provide more funding to the Diocese of Kajo-Keji to support the HIV/AIDS programme as the Trinity grant ended in January 2010. Let us continue to support people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), broadcast the HIV/AIDS awareness programmes over the FM radio stations, and others”.

We appreciate the efforts of our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Anthony Poggo for this programme. Let us also remember the peer educators for their fruitful coordination efforts.

Let us continue to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic to create an HIV/AIDS Free Nation.

## The last word

*Thank you all for your support.  
Please let us know if you do not*

*want to continue receiving this  
newsletter.*