

New Hope



Diocese of Bethlehem : Kajo Keji

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Editorial

By Stephen Tomor Kenyi

Bushfires and their adverse effects.

Bushfires are an unfortunate reality and fact of life in most parts of Kajo Keji County, South Sudan. The effects of bushfires are:

- Some forests are destroyed and trees are damaged,
- Wildlife is killed or injured by fire and smoke,
- Habitat of birds and animals is destroyed,
- Houses are destroyed,
- People are killed or injured,
- Public property are destroyed,
- Smoke pollutes the air.

Once an area has been burned out and denuded of vegetation, there is little left to hold the soil together, and any significant wind or hopefully, rain, will erode or wash away whatever is left.

The Main causes of bushfires are:

- Fires in cars and trucks after road accidents,
- Careless people who, for example, drop their cigarette butts or let sparks and fire escape from their campfires.

- Arson: fires deliberately set in the bush by people (known as arsonists), Lightning strikes set fire to grass and trees and
- Burning-off fires that get out of control.

Fire is flames, light and heat and often smoke that is produced when something burns. Bushfires are the flames that are out of control.

The safe burning of parts of the forests by workers who keep the fire under control is known as **fuel reduction**. This means that when a bushfire starts there will be less fuel (wood, trees, grass and so on) to burn. This burning has some good effects too. For example, some plants need smoke to help them reproduce.

Controlled burning allows forest animals to move to unburnt places. Let us be aware of the dangers of bush fires and where possible, control it to avoid the adverse effects of these fires.

A Word from the Bishop.



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

During the month of February, I did two confirmation services in Kala Archdeaconry; two of the candidates were among the children who were abducted by the LRA in 2008. In talking to the two plus another one who is now a member of the parish choir, it was hard to imagine what they went through during their period of captivity before their escape/rescue last year. All of these teenagers would like to go back to school but face numerous challenges amongst this is lack of school fees. Pray for such former abductees as they settle back into their normal lives. Pray also for those who are still in the hands of the LRA

In previous newsletters, we reported on the work of church construction in Kajo Keji by Samaritan's Purse. The way this was done is that Samaritans' Purse provides the steel frames for the church, builds the wall and the roof. In turn the local Christians make significant contributions by providing pit sand, river sand, stones, murrum, water, labour and food. The local church's contribution also includes the cost of the doors, windows and the floor screed. Some of the churches have completed the building and are using the new churches, and some are still working on them.

The last Church that Samaritan's Purse has just worked on in Kajo Keji is our mother diocesan church, the Cathedral. The Samaritan's Purse has generously contributed by building the pillars and the roof of the Cathedral. The remaining work namely, the walls, window & door shutters, floor screed and painting will be done by contractors employed by the Diocese. The total cost of this is US\$ 125,039, not including sound systems, floor tiles and furniture. The Diocese of Kajo Keji has a short time to raise this figure of US \$ 125,039 and the cost of the additional things mentioned above. We are grateful to the Holy Trinity Parish, Aylesbury, in England for their pledge of an amount of £21,000 Sterling Pounds; this is part of the tithe from their income for renovating their church. We have also received a generous pledge of 10,000 Sudanese Pounds from one of our Government ministers. By the time of writing, we estimate that out of the US\$ 125,039, we still need an amount of **US\$ 90,000**

I am making this appeal to our Christians, friends and well-wishers to pray for the completion of this project, and to generously contribute towards the remaining amount of US\$ 90,000 under phase two as well as the additional costs. We are planning for a fund raising day in Romogi, Kajo Keji on Sunday 28th March 2010. Please get in touch with me if you have any queries. We have posted an appeal letter in our diocesan website <http://www.kajokeji.anglican.org/>

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

Updates from the New Hope Campaign Projects - Diocese of Bethlehem

College Construction.

Believe this or not, the below photograph is that of the current kitchen/Dinning Hall.



At the back of the Dinning Hall is the current Kitchen – all in a sorry state. Thank God, New Hope saw this and right now a contractor is working on a new Kitchen/Dinning Hall – behind the current kitchen/dinning hall.



Cooks in the current College Kitchen/Dinning Hall.



Dean Pompa looks at the College Kitchen/Dinning Hall slab.

During the period. The college benefited from the six pit latrines that were constructed by funds from the New Hope Campaign.



Pit Latrine next to Dormitory 1 Block.

School Construction.

Gaderu School

This opened when Charlie and Archdeacon Howard Stringfellow visited. The unveiling of the plagues was officially done by Dean Pompa. The school is waiting for the Construction Team to inspect and handover for the school to use. Schools are now in Session and pupils will now be able to make use of this new facility – except for the furniture.



Office Block for Gaderu School.

As New Hope completes Gaderu School, it has now moved to Liwolo to construct Liwolo Primary school as mentioned in the last issue of this newsletter.



Work has started in Liwolo - working on the foundations for the new school.

Later this month, work will start in Sodogo and this will go side by side with the construction of Liwolo. The same

Constructor is building the two schools. Be on the look out for where we shall be after Sodogo School. Indeed, New Hope is being restored in the communities of Liwolo and Sodogo as things are on top gear on construction.



Dean Pompa and Ray in Gaderu School.

BTTC Reopens in 2010

After the Christmas Holiday break, Bethlehem Tailors' Training Centre (BTTC) has reopened. Many of the new students joining are from the far away Archdeaconries.

In an effort to meet the raising demand for accommodation, the women centre has started constructing a simple three roomed dormitory for the students.



BTTC Starts constructing a dormitory block

The Cathedral Construction in the Diocese of Kajo Keji

*By The Very Rev. Pianilee Samuel Alibee Wani
Dean, Emmanuel Cathedral, Romogi*

The Diocese of Kajo Keji is one of the Dioceses of the Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan. It was created in 1986 with Rt. Revd Manasseh Binyi Dawidi as its first Bishop. Soon after that the Sudan Civil War intensified and Bishop Manasseh Binyi Dawidi was prevented by the war from



coming to the Diocese to minister to his people. Because of the war, the people of Kajo Keji were forced into exile or internally displaced. Bishop Manasseh was then forced to live in Nairobi Kenya as a refugee.

As the Bishop of the Diocese then, Bishop Manasseh was able to visit his Christians both in the IDP camps and in the refugee Camps in Uganda. He was preaching the message of hope for return to the home land Sudan and also carrying out Confirmation service for the many Christians who were not confirmed because of the war situation. This message of hope created in the people a great feeling for return to the home land, Sudan.

Because of the political unrest, the diocese of Kajo Keji was unable to build her Cathedral. It was a very sad feeling by all the people of Kajo Keji within and abroad to see and hear that both Bishop Manasseh Binyi Dawidi and Bishop Anthony Poggo were enthroned under trees, and the Bishop's chair was placed in a grass thatched church building. All diocesan occasions including the ordination of clergy were done under trees. The town Parish in Kimu, Kajo Keji, where most of the occasions were done, was very small to accommodate the people. This raised the need for a Cathedral building that could accommodate over two thousand people, an average number of people attending big diocesan Occasions.

To fulfil this need, the Samaritans' Purse has helped by taking the first step forward –

putting up the pillars and the roof. They

have also provided two hundred benches and the pulpit. In this stage, the Christians in the Diocese contributed 40 trips of murrum, 40 trips of hard core, 23 trips of river sand, 15 Trips of pit sand and 15 trips of aggregate. These local materials have enabled the Samaritans' Purse to do their part, that is, building of the pillars and the roof as it was in the agreement. They have completed their part successfully on Monday February 01, 2010.

The Diocese of Kajo Keji is now left to complete the structure - do the slab, walling, doors and Windows, including any other equipment necessary for the Cathedral. This is estimated to cost US\$ 125,039 excluding sound system and tiles. Trinity Parish, Aylesbury, UK has pledged an amount of £21,000 Sterling Pounds (equivalent to around US\$33,500) to meet the cost of the slab. The Diocese of Kajo Keji has now to come up with the balance of the required funds to complete the cathedral.

To meet the remaining cost the Diocese of Kajo Keji is organizing a general fundraising scheduled for Sunday March 28th 2010, where all the people of Kajo Keji and well wishers are requested to contribute generously for the successful completion of this cathedral.

For God loves a cheerful giver.

News from Canon Benaiah Poggo College (CBPC)

**By Rev. John Mono
College Dean**

Canon Benaiah Poggo College knows that education, social and economic development are closely related to one another. Educating men and women by empowering them with skills and knowledge is the primary objective of CBPC, so that the people will become agents of change in their communities.

CBPC is a faith based Institution that provides education to Sudanese citizens who grew up without good formal education.

Training activities have improved due to the construction projects in the last two years funded by the Diocese of Bethlehem in USA; this has provided enough office space, lecture rooms, student and staff accommodation

Academic programmes are designed and adopted to provide chances for continuous professional development, pastoral and ministerial formation, through teaching the following courses:-

- Theology and Ministerial Formation
- Teacher Education

- Community Development
- Business Administration

Sixty (60) students have already been enrolled for the above courses, and 120 students are expected for the 2010 enrolment.

The next intake this year will be in September in the following programmes:

- Teacher Education
- Business Administration
- Development Studies.

Application forms can be obtained from the academic Dean, CBPC or Uganda Christian University, St. Paul's Study Centre - Arua.

There is still much need to support educational programme for developing the required personnel for the Church and the Society. Recourses to invest in education are scarce. We would like to request you to join with us in prayers and support towards Gods work in CBPC.

The Bishop's Leadership School

By Rev Duduka Joseph Nicanor, Diocesan communication and outreach coordinator

Participants could not hide their enormous and incredible joy as they post for photo together with the main facilitator, after a stunning conclusion of five days workshop of pastors and their spouses by Rt Rev Anthony Dansasuk Poggo.

The workshop did not only equip participants with practical knowledge and skills for the ministry but it brought healing to them too.

The Mothers' Union Chairlady, Rev Sylvia Kiden Pitia, appreciated the work done by the facilitators in this year's Bishop's Leadership School.

The Bishop's Leadership school is one of the strategies to help the Diocese achieve her vision, "to see Faithful, committed, capable and self

sustaining community”. Its aim is to equip and empower all the clergy and their spouses to understand their calling to the ministry.

The objective was to help participants acquire concrete knowledge and practical skills in line with the vision of the Diocese.

The training attracted eighty two (82) participants, 28 females, and 54 males. Some pastors did come with their spouses, who were left to harvest. On experiencing the goodness of the training, two of the pastors who had come alone travelled twenty seven kilometres to bring their spouses.

Kajo Keji Leaders’ Forum

By Rev. Fred Taban

Organizing Committee Chairman



The Rt. Rev. Anthony Poggo and the Commissioner of Kajo Keji, Muki Batali – During the opening of the Leaders’ Forum

Under the auspices of the Bishop of the ECS Diocese of Kajo Keji, the Kajo Keji Leaders Forum was held in Kajo Keji as from the 25th to 27th January 2010. Competent facilitators came from the two NGOs Reconcile International and IKV Pax Christi. The purpose of the forum was to create an opportunity for the County’s politicians to meet and get to know each other, and to have an overview of the National Elections Law and other elections related issues.

Attendance was very good and comprised members of the different legislative assemblies, current and former constitutional post holders and aspiring candidates for all levels of

In the training participants were deeply challenged. This was mainly in the areas of tithes and giving, family life, good governance, health etc.

The Bishop’s Leadership school was financed by bringing Good News, the diocese of Kajo Keji and contributions from the participants.

The main facilitator was Rev Cyrus Manje and Mrs Jane Manje, from Kenya. Other facilitators included Rt. Rev Anthony D. Poggo, Dr Katie Rhoads from the ECS provincial office, Juba, Mr. Elisama Wani, and Dean Anthony Pompa from the Diocese of Bethlehem, USA.

legislature. The Deputy Governor was able to attend fully the last two days of the forum. We believe due to several reasons many MPs and others who were expected could not attend though they had the desire to do so. This group has missed a very important opportunity in their political career. The Church was represented by its senior Diocesan and Archdeaconry leadership.

Areas covered during the forum included key topics such as Context analysis, the Election process and Code of conduct for, before, during and post elections. The facilitators knew their job and did it very well. The level of participation was very high. Participants were very frank and discussed sensitive issues freely and very objectively. The atmosphere was relaxed and peaceful. Nobody intimidated nor was anyone intimidated. All speakers emphasized the importance of remaining united and not allow themselves be divided by the forthcoming elections. On the 3rd and last day of the forum, members formulated and passed a code of conduct which they all committed to adhere to. This can be read in the following text:

CODE OF CONDUCT:

We, the participants of the Forum, agree to adhere to the following:

1. During the time of political campaigning for the upcoming elections in 2010, we agree to:
 - a. Abide by the electoral laws prescribed to us by governing authorities.
 - b. Avoid the use of derogatory language and speech that incites violence.
 - c. Promote only factual information in campaigning.
 - d. Respect our political opponents, and respect the diversity of political and religious opinions expressed by these opponents.
 - e. Respect cultural and gender sensitivities.
 - f. Tolerate constructive criticism by opponents, and avoid destructive criticism of opponents.
 - g. Promote civil order.
 - h. Respect freedom of expression and association.
11. During the eight-day polling period, we agree to:
 - a. Abide by the electoral laws prescribed to us by governing authorities.
 - b. Not campaign at polling stations.
 - c. Avoid use of voter intimidation.
 - d. Avoid the inciting of violence among supporters and opponents.
111. After results have been announced for the upcoming election, we agree to:
 - a. Abide by the electoral laws prescribed to us by governing authorities.
 - b. Accept the ballot results, including a possible loss.
 - c. Avoid the inciting of violence among supporters and opponents.

The forum urges those aspirants not present at the forum to realize and strive to adhere to the same principles.

Prayer Praise items

- *Thank God for a successful synod held in January 2010*
- *Pray for a successful visit by the Bishop of the Diocese to the Diocese of Bethlehem.*
- *Pray for peace as South Sudan goes into election in April this year*
- *Pray for successful completion of the school construction projects.*
- *Pray for successful completion of the Cathedral construction project*
- *Pray for the activities of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese.*

Last word.

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

want to continue receiving this newsletter.