

Voice of Hope

Newsletter of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji, South Sudan

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Kajo-Keji Christian College, 2018 Graduation

Meet the Bishop

An Interview with the Right Reverend Emmanuel Murye Modi, Bishop of Kajo-Keji, May 2018

Background

Bishop Emmanuel became Bishop in January 2017, just before the enforced displacement from Kajo-Keji to Moyo. He was initially the only boy born to his Christian parents (alongside 3 sisters), though another boy was born 10 years later. While his mother wanted to call him “Emmanuel” which means “God with us”, others said he should be named “Peter” as he would be a rock in the Church. His mother’s way prevailed though she also predicted that he would serve the church. He is married to Cecilia and they have 3 children, plus 3 dependents.

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Do you feel you were called by God to be a Bishop?

Definitely yes! My Father told me that as a young boy, I once pointed to a man wearing a long robe (probably a Moslem) and I said “I will be a Bishop”. As an adult, many people said that this was my calling, though I myself didn’t feel this initially. But God kept repeatedly showing me Joshua 1:9 ‘Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord you God will be with you wherever you go.’ So, eventually I said ‘Let your will be done.’

What is the hardest thing about being a Bishop?

Of course it was hard becoming Bishop just before the displacement, and to follow in the shoes of Bishop Anthony when we have different leadership styles. Dealing with people’s differing opinions can be undermining.

What is your favourite Bible verse?

I can think of several:

“You are my friends if you do what I command” (John 15:14)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10)

“As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent me” (John 9:4)

“Therefore, I urge you ... to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” (Romans 12:1)



Bishop Emmanuel Murye Modi

What is the main challenge the Diocese faces today?

We need to make education a priority, so that our children have a better future, and also focus on empowering women so that they teach their children about Christian family life. We need to have a people who are holistically developed, and who have tongues which promote peace.

What is your favourite food?

Pasiko – sesame cooked with dried meat or fish – served with the brown Posho made from sorghum and cassava.

How do you manage your family life when a Bishop’s life is so busy?

The balance is difficult due to the demands of the job. I try to make Mondays a family day, and take days off when the children are home (they are all away at school). It is better now that Cecilia has moved from Arua and lives here in Moyo.

What gives you joy?

When people work well together and there is teamwork without quarrels. When people share ideas and tasks are achieved.

What is your personal vision for the Diocese?

That it should be spiritually strong, well -educated and growing in both social and economic status.

And finally – do you support a particular football team?

Whichever team is losing!



Bishop Emmanuel sharing the word of encouragement with the refugees in the camp

VISIT OF BISHOP RICHARD OF BEDFORD

A Bishop's visit blesses and confirms



Bishop Richard and the Confirmed

April 2018

For 2 weeks in April, both the College and Diocese of Kajo-Keji were blessed by the visit of the Rt. Revd Richard Atkinson, Bishop of Bedford during his 3 month sabbatical. He immersed himself in many activities and contributed in many ways, but more importantly he related well in a personal way to everyone he met. It was indeed a time of great blessing. During his time at the College, he taught the Diploma 1 students about Forgiveness in the Gospels, and Mission as part of pastoral care. Even more of a blessing and a privilege, he was able to lead and preach at a Confirmation service at the College (the first there has been) where 4 of the College students were confirmed. An occasion they will remember for their whole lives.

“Courage” on the camps

During his second week, the Bishop travelled to Gada church, Belameling, where he facilitated a Conference for 80 pastors, evangelists, readers and MU leaders on the topic of “Courage”.

The teaching was rich, deeply appropriate for the context and well received. He gave talks on:

1. The Courage to respond
2. The Courage to serve
3. The Courage to be faithful
4. The Courage to reconcile



And finally, the Courage to “walk on water”

On the last Saturday of his time with us, the Bishop led a reflective and powerful retreat for Diocesan and College staff based on the Bible passage about Jesus walking on the water (Matthew 14:22-33). During a morning of talks and quiet personal reflection, we meditated on 4 topics:

- Jesus comes to us in the storms of life
- Jesus calls us
- Jesus gives us courage
- Jesus catches us (when we struggle, fall or fail)

It was refreshing to dedicate a whole morning to listening to God, and I think all the participants benefitted from the experience.

Thank you Bishop Richard – may God continue to bless you in your ministry



Diploma in Theology Graduands lineup for conferment of Diplomas

Marya Heij's Farewell Kajo-Keji

I worked with Kajo-Keji Christian College for two years, as English teacher and Academic Dean. Now the time has come for me to return to the Netherlands and continue my life in God's service there. I look back at these two years with enormous gratitude, and I feel blessed that I could be part of such a special community. It has really been a pleasure to work at KCC and to help preparing many students for work in their communities. The people of Kajo-Keji will have a place in my heart forever and I will continue supporting them in my prayers. May God bless KCC, the Diocese of Kajo-Keji and the people of Kajo-Keji, and restore peace in South Sudan.

Marya Heij

20 Workers for God's kingdom

On 11 May 2018, KCC celebrated that 20 students finished their studies successfully. During a graduation ceremony on the grounds of Moyo People's Hall, these students were awarded a Diploma in Theology, Certificate in Ministry, Certificate in Theology or Certificate in Primary Teacher Education.

KCC was able to provide all graduates with some books to help them in their ministry and give them more knowledge. The theme of the graduation was 'Watering the mustard seed', to emphasise that something small can grow into big things. In several speeches the graduates were encouraged to use their education for the good of South Sudan. If each graduate can influence his or her own community, together we might be able to transform South Sudan!

Many graduates had invited family members, and a large band together with the Fountain of Life choir (formerly Bishop's Choir) took care of the music. This made the day very colourful. The day ended with a meal and a casual opportunity for the graduates and their families to rejoice in their achievements. We pray that God will bless their endeavours as they now take up duties in their own places.

Dignity kit / a Rejoice Sanitary pad training – April 2018

Irene Mutonyi

The women went on to appreciate the supporters and funders for giving them a skill (making their own re-usable pads, and maintaining them hygienically) rather than just ready-made sanitary pads, saying “this is a life skill and sustainable, we will be able to help ourselves and our girls.”

This time of sharing together was very special, and they praised God thanking Him for His provision via His servants.

Mothers and girls learning how to sew the sanitary pads

Women on the camp say “thank you for releasing us from such a heavy burden”. They shared what they have suffered for a long time over the issues of menstruation and sanitary pads. Most training done by other organisations doesn’t target women, so they expressed their happiness for training which benefitted both mothers and teenage girls. Previously, they sometimes used blankets to help themselves, which gave them bacterial infections and rashes. Also not having money to buy pads led to monthly quarrels with their husbands in the past.



Female youths mapping the materials



A session on proper Hygiene for girls

Christmas came late to Yenet Church, Morobi!

Rev. Canon Pianilee Samuel Alibee

On Jan 21st, over 5,500 Christians came together at Yenet Church, Morobi refugee settlement, to joyfully celebrate the Annual Christmas meal – far too many to fit into the church shelter, so they sat around the church and under the tree .

People convey their joy, blessings and sincere greetings to you, KUBI LO KAJO-KEJI, and all those who have donated to the Annual Christmas Meal 2017. “The Annual Christmas Meal is a blessing for us, those who have donated for food have demonstrated their true love for us. Let this event continue in Kajo-Keji for the generation to come” the people commented. This event helps Christians on the Refugee camp grow stronger spiritually despite their daily challenges.



A cow for dinner!

The Celebration lasted from 11:00 am till 5:00 pm. A speaker shared the word of God on the theme of Light, Love, Life and Freedom, based on Luke 2:1-7 and 1 John 1:1-4 and a couple, who have been ruined by alcoholism for years, gave their lives to Christ. Two Sunday school teachers ministered to the children separately – children are the centre of the ministry at Yenet church. The whole day was wonderfully marked with joyful Christmas praises, worship and jubilation, as well as enjoying a special meal. Groups of children, youth and young women presented Christians songs and drama.



The gathering for prayer and Christmas Dinner





Watering the nursery bed of vegetables since it hasn't rained for a while

Under the watchful eye of the Diocesan Extension officer, Piota Thomas, 2 projects on the refugee camps are encouraging the growth of healthy vegetables, both to improve diet, provide an income, and to increase mental health. These projects empower and encourage refugees, and help them along the journey to self-sustainability.

The first, funded by GZB, aims to mobilize 500 individuals to grow vegetables, especially targeting youth and young families.

Wilson Kenyi Gwonga is a farm manager at Julukonga farmers group, which was formed in May 2017 in Palorinya refugee camp. Now with the help of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji with support from GZB Netherlands, they have expanded their production and have raised more seedlings which they have transplanted and are now waiting for the harvest. This year also the group members increased to 25 from 19 and this is due to the support rendered to them by the Diocese of Kajo-keji.

The second, funded by CRESS and the Mothers Union, has similar objectives, but aims to work with six groups of women in Mothers Union in both Moyo and Adjumani refugee camps.

Joice Limo tells her story: "I am a disabled woman as my leg does not enable me work alone, and I have received much psychosocial support from my MU members through advice and bible study". She is now acting secretary for the group in Jerusalem Church. She enjoys her new position and works tirelessly especially during saving days to ensure the prosperity of their group. She really thanks the CRESS Team in England and the diocese of Kajo Keji for the good friendship and support rendered to them.

Right:

Pests infection on Cabbage seedlings that needs urgent treatment and attention



Trauma and psychosocial training

Lou Isaac Kweri

GZB has funded a project which provides psychosocial training and support on Morobi and Belameling refugee camps.

We were able to train ninety (90) counsellors and we have created nine counselling centres, six in Morobi and three in Belameling. The training, which involved both men and women, has made a big impact by giving counsellors skills to help with the trauma and psychosocial problems which arise in the camps. During the training the participants are able to share testimonies about their life styles in camps. They will now use this knowledge both to help themselves and other



Above: The participant was explaining how to approach

Below: Bishop giving a remark during training.



Discipling God's people

Nelson Saya



Discipleship session

We rejoice that the Office of Discipleship ministry is moving forward by the grace of God, and its recent activities are bringing comfort to the lives of people on the camps, in 2 main ways:-

- There are five discipleship classes in operation now where people are experiencing the power of God.
- In recent door to door evangelism, the missionaries prayed for one family and a charm was burned and then all the family members dedicated themselves to God.

In addition, the Discipleship officer, and youth and school officer were pleased to attend training courses, both in quiet times, and in how to form and lead discipleship classes.

Prayer points

- Give thanks that the College continues to increase in numbers, but please pray for sponsorship and financial provision to sustain this growth, which is an ongoing challenge & struggle
- The boys in Yenet Church on Morobi settlement have formed a football team, Hope FC, developing their skills and creativity. Please pray for the practical needs of footballs, sportswear and first aid provision.
- For the work of the Diocesan Agricultural officer and the success of the projects.
- Pray for the dignity Kit trainings and the Mothers Union.