

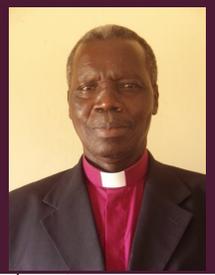
# The Witness

The Newsletter of the Diocese of Yei



## Word of the Bishop

“We are all charged with the responsibility of providing the strategic solutions to the challenges facing the holistic vision of the Diocese.



*Hilary Luete Adeba, Bishop of Diocese of Yei*

## Dream accomplished

The strategic ten year development plan of the Diocese of Yei (2003-2013) was fully realized three years ahead of time when the last school was completed 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010. This brings the total to seven schools constructed within the Diocese of Yei. The strategic ten-year development plan indicates that a full primary school to be constructed in each of the six archdeaconries of the Diocese of Yei. We were very keen to see that this goal was fully achieved.



Now that the Diocese of Yei has beaten the deadline, we are envisaging a review of the diocesan strategic plan to make sure a new focus is developed for the next ten years as part of the long-term vision of the diocese. Thanks to our partners especially CMSireland, the Diocese of Connor in Northern Ireland, the parishes of Delgany, and Kill-O-the Grange in the Republic of Ireland; without them we could not have realized our goal alone. Other possible areas are secondary education for the children of the Diocese and the expansion of Martha Primary Health Centre, skills training, teacher education and clean water for the poor rural areas.

**Bishop Hilary**

## New children's ward opened.



On 10 June 2010, the bishop and a visiting team from Connor Diocese dedicated the new modern children's ward at the Martha Health Center. This ward was donated by Brick Works, a small nongovernmental organization based in the UK. We are grateful to Brick Works for their generous donation. John and Poppy Spens stand behind this achievement. The ward is an indication that it is possible for the church to create facilities similar to those in the developed world. Can it be done in the Sudan? Yes, we can.

## Secretary, Diocesan Health Board

### Pre-Referendum Conference in Yei November 2010

Every day we approach the referendum, 9 January 2011, with an unprecedented speed and nobody is able to stop and notice. During the electioneering period, February-April 2010, things moved at a snail's pace. Towards the end of that period, there was such a rush for last minute preparations. This in the end, led to many mistakes which should otherwise not have occurred had those in charge been time conscious at all. I believe those who organized the elections probably had a reason for the delay until that last minute. Most people think it was a deliberate political act from the organizers of those elections, to coerce chaos particularly in Southern Sudan. Consequently, this led to mistakes which embarrassed everybody; disappointment, frustration, anger and death.

The Diocese of Yei has thought it necessary to organize a pre-referendum conference in November 2010, which is designed to host over 20,000 people in three days.

The major theme of the conference is, "I will break the yoke, and strangers will no more enslave you... (Jeremiah 30: 8)". The objective is to discuss what is the right thing to do with the voting during the referendum. The conference looks forward to inviting the archbishop Daniel Deng whom the people of Yei will ask to invite the president of GOSS during the opening ceremony. Preachers, prayer warriors, intercessors and devour men and women of God will be invited to the conference.

The conference will be preceded by a number of seminars for the people to hear the highlights of the referendum. Major themes to discuss will include the importance of registration for all adults from the age of 18 to the very oldest member of the communities, logistics arrangements in good time, and turn-up in very large numbers for all those who have registered. The Church's role is to encourage the old theme, Let the people choose. Counsel and pray that all shall vote in the referendum without any hindrance and hiccups, unlike during the last elections.

### Church and society Unit, Diocese of Yei

#### Ordination of deacons and priests

On 23 May 2010, Bishop Hilary Adeba ordained Deacons and priests at Immanuel Cathedral in Yei. The Bishop highlighted the need for skilled pastors and said that the diocese of Yei will adhere to the provincial standing border issued by the Archbishop, directing bishops of the ECS to avoid mass ordinations at a time the church is not able to sustain these priests as many of them are non stipend.

However, because of the fact that the Diocese of Yei is short of priests especially trained ones, then it became necessary that the church should ordain fresh, energetic and young ones. He welcomed the newly ordained Clergy to the ministry of the church and warned them that if they came to the church for gain or wealth, they will be disappointed because the church was not the place where people get rich. There was no money in the church especially, if they came for that purpose. He told the ordained candidates that they have come to the church to join the poor and that was where they belonged as from the day of their ordination.

### Office of the Bishop

### Samaritan's Purse Leaves Yei

The Samaritan's Purse (SP) organization finished the Yei Church construction programme 9 June 2010. SP came to Yei at the invitation of the Bishop of Yei in 2004 to help the Diocese construct its church buildings destroyed during the war. By courtesy of the Bishop of Yei, SP was given about 4,000 sq meters to construct the necessary infrastructure for their work and to be able to use Yei as their main centre in Central Equatoria.



While in Yei, SP built 26 new fully furnished church buildings in the six archdeaconries of the Diocese of Yei. During their last meeting with the Bishop, SP handed over the premises to the Diocese of Yei to use. This was in recognition of the fact the Diocese of Yei did not charge them a piaster for ground rent. Currently, because of the fact that they still maintain a small office on the compound in Yei, we still share the cost of running the place with them until they withdraw fully by the end of the year. The bishop expressed his gratitude to SP for the generosity in handing over the premises to the Church in Yei.

There is still a small SP staff remaining to oversee the work that they need to complete in the Yei Programme.

### Land and property Board

#### Improved food production

The Diocese of Yei has an agricultural programme and a tractor, which has been stranded due to lack of spare parts creating mechanical problems, which put it off the road and on the fields. Now thanks to help from a friend who is keen to see

that improved food production is enhanced in Yei County. The tractor is back and running on the roads and is on the farm fields. So far for this farming season, the tractor has ploughed three Sudani feddans and has harrowed sixteen feddans ready for planting this season respectively.



Since the second crop, farming season continues. We have earmarked 175 Sudani feddans to be put under cultivation to boost the food production marking this farming year. This service is very important and is most welcomed among the farmers of our communities in Yei. The only problem is that farmers are crying out for assistance to help them increase food production in the county. The cooperative system is not yet available for most farmers. People still rely on the hoe and the primitive local stick used for cultivation. Food products from Uganda include even perishable produce like vegetables and fruits (bananas, oranges, etc.). It is very bad for the people of Southern Sudan to rely on food imports and they do nothing to improve their own food sufficiency. We have abundant fertile soil waiting to be used for more food to feed our growing population. There is no sense in importing all food products from other countries creating a drain on our meager foreign currency when Southern Sudan can actually be the breadbasket for the whole region and beyond.

### Food and Water unit, Diocese of Yei

### Arabic Service, Immanuel Cathedral

On 23 April 2010, Bishop Hilary launched the Arabic service for the first time in the Diocese of Yei. During the launching the bishop said that the beginning of the Arabic language service marked yet another step in bringing the gospel closer to the hearts of the believers. Many non-English language speakers find it difficult to attend church because they would not understand a thing either in Kakwa/Bari or in English. This Arabic service was therefore for them. Twenty people attended the first service.

The bishop also reiterated that, two of our priests are fluent in both written and spoken Arabic. Rev. Abraham Thomas and Rev. Nathaniel Yacoub took their theological studies in classical Arabic and are a great blessing to us. Reports from the Cathedral administration indicate steadily increasing attendance.

### Immanuel Cathedral

#### Prayer List:

- Pray for inspirational leadership for the Diocese of Yei, for Bishop Hilary and the Diocesan staff.
- Pray for all our partners and for CMS Ireland's new missions director, for an inspired role and strong partnership with the entire overseas diocese.
- Pray that the Sudan referendum will be held on time (9 Jan 2011) and is free and fair with an acceptable result to all.
- Pray that the devil may not make an impact on South Sudan's tribes and cause them to disturb the holding of the referendum.

