

Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School
Latest News (9 January 2014)

The Deputy Headmaster, Robert Kei, arrived back in the School on Tuesday and we had a brief e-mail from him yesterday.

Since Monday the number of students has increased from 249 to 280 and the number of full-time teachers from 4 to 7. The (Ugandan) School Officer, Frank, who is responsible for discipline and routine at the School, has arrived back from Uganda. For him to leave his family and return in the present troubles shows tremendous courage and commitment to the School.



Annet, the School Secretary/Finance Officer, is also back, as is Elizabeth the Librarian. Robert gave no news of the Girls Boarding House and whether or not it has re-opened. Charity the (Kenyan) senior mistress in charge of the Boarding House has not yet arrived back.

There is no news of Philip, the Headmaster. His whereabouts are unknown and he has not contacted the Diocese or the School. We can't reach him on his mobile phone which indicates that he may be in Uganda. Robert and Frank are competent to run the School in his absence.

The end-of -year exams are starting for Years 1 and 2 next Wednesday, 15th, and Year 3 will sit their School Certificate 'mocks'. We pray that the 11 teachers, (7 full-time and 4 part-time), currently in the School, will be able to cope with the invigilation and marking.

Charlie Goldsmith has written: 'I arrived back in Juba on Monday, when we re-opened our company office, and I was delighted to see that JDMSS pupils were going to and from school as normal, and as well turned out as ever.' It is so encouraging to hear this.

With so many ex-patriots evacuating South Sudan Charlie's return will be a huge encouragement to many in Juba. As will the decision by Joseph Bilal not to evacuate with other British nationals.

Another sign of normality is that the Juba Diocese Secretary, Moses Kose, has told me that the funding which Angie Wheeler transferred to Juba on 13 December, following our Support Group meeting, has arrived safely. This transfer included the gifts sent out for the recently bereaved widows of Dan Kure the School Architect, and Stanley Modi the senior teacher. Moses told me that he will be handing these over as soon as possible. The other payment was to the Contractor for work done to complete renovation of the School Hall.

In the midst of all the pain and suffering in the Country, please give thanks to our loving Heavenly Father that the School is functioning as it is. It will be a beacon of normality and hope for the future.

Richard Dean