

Sept. 25th 2012

CHRIST CATHEDRAL CHURCH MUNDRI (CCCM)

The work on our Cathedral is continuing on and both the outside and inside parts have been finished except the ceiling which requests more funds. The type of the ceiling the Committee wanted (and we accepted) is said to be the best type but costs SSP40,000.00. But so far what remains at hand for ceiling is about SSP18,600.00. The congregational members are fund-raising every forth night towards this project. Below is the recent photo of the Cathedral:



Cathedral Photo 1.



Cathedral Photo 2

BISHOP NGALAMU THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (BNTC)

I wonder whether I had told you about BNTC from one of my previous communication? The Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) has five Provincial Bible Colleges (not to mention a few Diocesan Bible Colleges) and these are: Shukai Bible School in Khartoum for Theology and Inter-faith studies (and taught in Arabic); Renk Bible School based in Renk for Theology and Socio-economic studies; Bishop Alison Theological College (BATC) still in Arua, Uganda for Theology and Educational Studies; Bishop Gwynne Theological College (BGC) in Juba and for theology; and Bishop Ngalamu Theological College (BNTC) based in Mundri for Theology and Community Development studies. As you may be aware that, it is hoped that in future, Bishop Gwynne College will develop into ECS University and all these other Colleges will be its branches. The process for developing BGC into a University is on, but I am sure it will take many years to be realized.

However, BNTC was first established in Khartoum in 1998. This came about as a result of three persons meeting together for devotion and was burdened with the concern of the need for man power development locally to meet the challenge of leadership in the 20th Century. After they captured the vision they contacted Late Bishop Ephraim A. Natana, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Lui resident in Khartoum at the time. Late Bishop Natana graciously blessed the vision and encouraged them to proceed with proposal writing for the establishment of the college.

Moreover with continuous influx of the displaced Christians by then from the South into Khartoum the need became even greater. Hence the vision became clearer and the team was convicted by the leading of the Holy Spirit to pursue the realization of the dream based on the Motto: *"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty"* (Zech. 4: 6, NIV).

The college is named after the surname of Archbishop Elinana Ja'bi Ngälämu, who was the first bishop of the Diocese of Sudan and the first Archbishop of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan. Initially in Khartoum the college was mobile in the three cities of Khartoum: Omdurman, Khartoum North and Khartoum.

However, following the new dispensation brought about by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Provincial resolution for the relocation of BNTC from Khartoum to Mundri to occupy the old premise of Bishop Gwynne College (BGC) which is currently based in Juba, the Administration of the Dioceses of Lui and Mundri encouraged BNTC Administration to relocate the College to Mundri as directed. Although the old premise of BGC was yet to be renovated for conducive environment for learning, as the patron of the college, I strongly encouraged the Principal to begin the work in 2009. Because I believe by doing so our need for the training of pastors will be met to a greater extend and with a minimum cost in contrast to training students in East Africa.

Consequently, after interviewing the interested candidates and enrollment of sixteen (16) students eight from each of the two Dioceses of Lui and Mundri, on April 19th 2009, I opened a class (on behalf of the Archbishop) for the studies to begin. Our hope was that when things improve, the Archbishop will be invited to launch the official opening of the College. Unfortunately, the three years of studies for those students had elapsed and they had graduated last year on December 17th 2011 before the official launching! And below is the graduation photo:



And immediately after the graduation, the renovation work on the main college building started. Initially the cost was estimated to be about US\$35,000.00 but with the austerity measures in the country it led to price escalation among other things, and right now the cost stands at US\$46,000.00



This was an old building of the college, but the roof was removed for reconstruction and renovation. As I write this the reconstruction with an extension of a verandah and renovation was completed and a new batch of students had started class since April (2012). And these are the students who will be taught by the two Priests from the Diocese of Salisbury we are expecting next month the Revs: Jim and Tim. See the following photo:



BNTC photo 1



BNTC photo 2

These new students came from three dioceses: Lui two (2) students (but before the end of last semester, one became seriously sick and was taken to Juba for medical treatment and has not reported back to the college!), the Diocese of Ibba two (2) students, and Mundri nine (9) students. The registration fee, tuition and feeding cost per student per year amounts to about US\$1,000.00 and each sending diocese is responsible for paying the cost of its students either in cash and in kind.

In the Diocese of Mundri the nine students come from three Archdeaconries. And we had asked each sending Archdeaconry to contribute towards the cost in addition to what the Diocesan Administration could raise to meet the cost. For instance, last semester one of the Archdeaconries sent SSP500.00 and eight basins of grain towards the cost of its students at the beginning of the studies and we appreciate them for doing that.

Our hope is that from next year there may be yearly admission of new students as three classes are renovated already including the Library (and not to mention the Principal's office).

We are enormously grateful to the Diocese of Salisbury, Burdon Church, friends, World Harvest Mission (WHM) and well wishers for helping us endeavour on this process of renovation.

WHAT TO THE GRADUATES DO?

The primary mission of the College is to produce men and women for ministry in the local churches for both teaching and pastoring in the area of giftedness. Hence they return to their local churches to preach and teach the word of God. The previous graduates are doing well in their local churches and some of them have already been ordained and are pastoring in their places of ministry.

However, we are delighted to report that one the graduates of BNTC who happened to be in Sudan Police for at the range of Brigadier was made a County Commissioner in Yei though he was changed in the recent reshuffle! Also one of the graduates is now serving as an MP for his constituency in the State Legislative Assembly (SLA) in our State. Although we are not intending to produce graduates at BNTC who are eyeing for politicians positions, but we will not stand against the call on someone's life to serve his/her community in whatever capacity the leads. We only wish and hope that they will maintain and bring their distinctively Christian principles into the call.

Yours truly, in the fellowship of the Gospel.

+ Bismark