

Report from New Bishop Gwynne College, Juba

August 2010

This new semester began on 14th August 2010.

Many things are happening in all departments at the present time and this report will be out of date the day after it is finished!

Students

There are now over thirty new students (more than planned). If all the expected students arrive we will have 48.

We are still awaiting five of the Third Year Diploma students and three of the new students. It is hard to estimate the difficulties that travel poses. They come from Khartoum in the north, Ezo in the west, Ibba and Nimule in the south and Torit in the east and many places in between. We have students from Abyei, Aweil and Twic East.

Although many of the students have been sponsored, or their fees paid, their cost of transport (to *and from* the college) and the fees remain the responsibility of the dioceses. The non-arrival of expected students has delayed the process of allocation of some sponsorships.

In September we will have a student, Jesse Zink from Berkeley Divinity School, Yale, USA., coming to join our students as part of his studies.

The college is now running four distinct courses.

1. Third Year BGC Diploma Course. This is the course for those students who began in 2007. Because they did not begin with the Limuru Diploma Course they will be the last to get the BGC Diploma Award, should they pass. This course is, however, taught along Limuru lines and will seek to emulate that standard. (14 students)

2. First Year Limuru Diploma Course. (12 students)

3. A Foundation Year Course for those who need to be coached to a level at which they will be able to sit the Limuru Special Entrance Exam with a view to their beginning the Diploma Course in August 2011. This course includes the following subjects: English Comprehension, Language and Writing; Biblical Themes and Vocabulary; Modern Sudan Church History and the ECS; New Testament Bible Study; Old Testament Bible Study; Parish Administration, Vocabulary and Concepts; Budgeting and Accounting; Planning for Development; HIV/AIDS Basic Facts; Mission & Evangelism; Agriculture. (16 students)

4. A Basic English Course using the bible, for those who have come with only a rudimentary understanding of English. (6 students).

Development of the New Site

The new site is open and in use and the building work continues. There are five elements to this work.

1. The restoration of a large hall containing two large rooms, a small seminar room and large kitchen.

This is currently being used for a chapel, large teaching room, small seminars and an overflow dormitory. We have not yet moved the cooking to the new site. This building is completed and in use.

2. The completion and repair of a large dormitory and which has been occupied by squatters for the past two years.

This has several separate rooms which are all being newly plastered and decorated and which will house up to 25 students. The work on this is about half completed.

3. A new building to house toilets and washrooms.

This will have separate entrances for men and women. This is to be connected to a septic tank. At the top of the site there will be a large water tank on a high stand that will serve this building and the whole site. The work on this is about a third completed.

4. A new gate and fence along the roadside of the new site.

This is essential to ensure that the whole site is free from squatters and other users. (It currently sports a goat market, an informal café, and a noisy gambling den with a pool table and cards that seems to be selling alcohol!) When the fence is built all these will be displaced. The fence will be begun next week now that the funds have arrived from the the Diocese of Salisbury.

5. Three contractors are bidding for the staff housing. Their drawings, specifications and costings will be analysed by an architect working for the province, and a decision made. Our hope is that this will happen sometime at the beginning of September. The building of this property is essential, so that our houses in Hai Malakal (a highly sort after area of Juba) can be rented out. Without this we cannot sustain the level of student

and staff numbers.

The funding for all this is made up of £10,000 from the Anglican Communion Fund (2009), £4,000 from the Parish of Bridport (2009), and the large appeal from the Diocese of Salisbury (2010) in excess of £66,000. This latter fund was delayed because Lloyds Bank were not happy to release the money to the NBGC Equity Bank Account. This has been overcome by sending the money to the ECS Provincial Office. So the progress of the work was held up. Everyone has to be patient in Africa!

Staffing

We are currently using eight members of staff.

Five full-time:

1. Canon Trevor Stubbs - Interim Administrator and currently teaching Church History and various subjects in the Foundation Year. (Volunteer.)
2. Revd. Simon Lual Bang - currently teaching Old Testament and Sudan Church History. (Paid)
3. Ms Daniela Rapisarda - currently teaching New Testament, New Testament Greek, African Women's Theology and theological perspectives on HIV/AIDS. (Volunteer.)
4. Mrs Tina Stubbs - currently teaching English to the English Group and the Foundation Year, and taking charge of the library. (Volunteer.)
5. Revd Joseph Taban Lasuba - currently teaching New Testament, Introduction to Religious Studies and Dimensions of Pastoral Ministries. (Paid.)

Three part-time:

1. Mark Mayool - currently teaching English to the English Group. (Volunteer.)
2. Revd. Peter Joh - currently teaching African Christian Theology. (Volunteer.)
3. Robin Denney - currently teaching Agriculture. (Volunteer.)

In addition to this, this semester, we are having input from Bishop Francis Loyo, Canon Francis Paul, and the Revd Andy Wheeler and his team from Guildford who will be teaching Mission and Evangelism. We have just had it confirmed Bishop Graham Kings will be joining us for a week in October.

Development of the Library

We have been the proud recipients of many new books for the library which Tina has processed and shelved. This month we shall be instigating the borrowing system.

Books are arriving all the time, and we are very grateful to those who are giving them and bringing them.

The widow of a retired priest in Beaminster who has recently died, Fred Holland, has offered us books from his library. Her daughter and granddaughter are coming to deliver them in person. This will be well received by the students here.

Affiliation with St. Paul's Limuru

After a successful inspection in March 2010, we have been accepted for affiliation to Limuru. This is good news but a challenge to us financially. This year we are stretched to the limit in funding students and staff. We are enormously grateful for the assistance of the Salisbury Sudan Committee without whom we could not have afforded to do this this year. Registration fees, travel to Limuru, funding of the inspection, the exams etc. do not make affiliation a cheap option. These costs are, however, in the 2011 budget and we will manage to fund them if we get the anticipated rents.

Links with Primary Schools

In addition to her work in the college, Tina, has visited all the schools in Juba, that are linked with schools in Salisbury Diocese, to take them letters and drawings and presents. The problems with staffing continue as the schools here struggle with no government paid staff. The absence of the best trained staff inevitably has taken its toll.

Trevor and Tina Stubbs 28th August 2010