

# Training the workers of the future

Inside its compound walls the Yei Vocational Training College is a hive of activity. The VTC was set up by the Episcopal Church of Sudan as a response to a shortage of technically skilled workers who are vital to the recovery of post-conflict Southern Sudan.



The college offers practical training opportunities, within a Christian context, to young men and women. At present it has 90 full time students. Bishop Hilary chairs the college management team. Until recently the college was co-ordinated by CMSI associated John Spens, but is now managed by a local team led by Canon John Kanyikwa (above right).



The college offers training in skills including carpentry and joinery (left), electrical, plumbing, building and concrete technology, vehicle mechanics and driving. It also runs a micro-enterprise programme which has helped locals start up businesses in Yei town, and has a very successful

furniture workshop which made the desks for Mongo School, which Archdeacon Stephen Forde checks out, below right.



The Sudan Recovery Fund is currently supporting the full time and part time training of students in Yei as well as supporting the Micro Enterprise Scheme.

Canon Kanyikwa said the college did not plan an expansion of the number of students, but was anxious to include the additional skills of welding and blacksmithing in its curriculum.

Students who graduate return to the villages and pass their skills on to others, he said.

“When our students graduate we give them tools so they can go back to their own areas and set up their own workshops,” he added.

John Spens took the Connor team on a guided tour of the VTC, and it is hoped a DVD of this tour will be available soon for anyone interested in the work that goes on there.



Classrooms at the VCT.