



South Sudan

Ibba Diocese

Kajo-Keji Diocese

Maridi Diocese (with Olo)

Yei Diocese



CMSI Global Update

December 2018

Dear Sudan Sojourners...

At our Peace and Reconciliation Conference for our South Sudan Global Partners in Arua at the end of October, Archbishop Justin opened with a story. He said he had good news and bad news. The good news was that the woman who had been expectant for nine months had successfully given birth. The bad news was that the baby looked like the neighbour! He asked the Conference;

“What will you do with the baby? Will you kill it just because you suspect its origins?”

Everyone answered; “Of course not.”

Archbishop Justin agreed and said that in fact because it is a baby you will nurture it and care for it.

He went on to discuss the peace agreement, which had been long hoped for and expected and was eventually signed on 5th August 2018. He acknowledged that many have concerns about the origin of the agreement, about those included and others excluded from the talks in Addis. Yet he said with courage and conviction that the role of the Church now is to nurture the peace.

It remains our huge responsibility to stand in prayer with the Church in South Sudan for the outworking of peace, even as we are thankful for the tentative move forward in signing the agreement. The implementation period will begin in March 2019.

There have been many losses to the Church in South Sudan since the last Sojourners, as insecurity has continued in some parts, and food and health care are severely restricted.

On 3rd September, the National Youth Coordinator for the Episcopal Church of South Sudan died after being shot while travelling to Yei. In addition to his work with the ECSS, Joseph Kiri worked for a Church humanitarian organisation Across. He was travelling to Yei to deliver field reports for Across, where he worked as a nutrition officer.

On 30th October, the Episcopal Church of South Sudan commenced seven days of mourning following the death of Archbishop Peter Munde Yacob (pictured), who led the

internal province of Western Equatoria and had been the acting Primate of the Church following the retirement of Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul until the installation of Archbishop Justin Badi Arama. Archbishop Peter had been ill and undergoing treatment since the summer.



Continue to pray for all who mourn these losses and the loss of many others known to them.

The CMSI Peace and Reconciliation Conference in Arua included four representatives from each of South Sudanese partners and a team of 14 from Ireland and Albany Diocese NY.

The conference covered a broad range of issues from the theology of forgiveness to child protection. There were break off sessions for youth and women to focus on issues specifically relating to them. You can read more about the conference in the recent *inMission* magazine.



Conference participants

The conference provided an opportunity to hear about upcoming projects in each of the partner dioceses.

Yei continues to be severely restricted and affected by the insecurity; projects there are still focusing on emergency provision of food and welfare. However, there is a slight shift. The hope is that 2019 sees the Vocational Training School rehabilitated and that Immanuel School might recommence their building project.

Olo too continues to be dreadfully impacted by the crisis, with families returning home to find everything looted or destroyed. The Church's main focus is on emergency provision of household items and trauma healing.

Most people from Kajo-Keji remain across the border in camps. Bishop Emmanuel has a clear vision for child protection and education as a strategy for rebuilding peace in South Sudan.

In Maridi and Ibba, the move is towards building the capacity of people who have been so badly impacted by the last few years. Both these dioceses are hoping to implement goat breeding projects and various other skills building programmes.

It is clear that the leaders of each diocese have a plan to nurture peace from the ground up; they aim to mitigate

the impact of the crisis on families and when they plan programmes they hope to include a cross section of people to start rebuilding community.



Pray for each bishop, their families and their clergy. When we pray for them and support them with our encouragement and finances, we indicate that we agree with Archbishop Justin, who closed the Peace and Reconciliation Conference with these words:

"The little light in the darkness of South Sudan is the Church..."

Thanks for your continued partnership and prayers,

Linda

Linda Abwa - Partnership Coordinator



Mama Joyce with the bishop's wives at House of Blessing, Juba - November 2018

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