

SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTHERN SUDAN

NEWSLETTER DATE 24.02 2009

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

19 Missionaries on ground: An inter-Congregational Effort



It all started with the visit of Bishop Gassi to the JPIC Promoters in Rome. Cathy Arata SSND the Justice and Peace Promoter of her congregation thoughtfully invited the JPIC coordinators of all the Religious congregations to reflect and pray over this visit of the Bishop

who invited the Religious congregations to become partners in rebuilding the Sudan which has endured 21 years of civil war and was slowly starting to breath the air of Peace with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Northern Government and the Sudanese Peo-

ple's Liberation Army/ Movement SPLA/M.

Since then, many visits to identify the areas of cooperation, possible places for its members to implement the objectives of this joint venture of USG/USIG, paved way for the 19 religious missionaries to arrive in Southern Sudan at various months of the year 2008.

With grateful hearts we acknowledge the inspiring initiatives and spade work done by Cathy Arata in getting everyone of us on ground.



The community in Malakal offered two English courses to teachers last year 2008. Some of the teachers who showed commitment and enthusiasm profited out of it.



Now there are 62 Applications for the Primary Teacher Training that begins in March 2009.

First In service Teacher Training in Malakal- The Bishop announces

After many months of planning and preparation, the Solidarity team in Malakal, Ninet d'Costa, fma, Elizabeth Ryan fcj, Barbara Paleczny,ssnd and Margaret Sheehan, fcj is ready to begin classes. The Malakal Ministry of Education has encouraged and supported all the efforts of SSS to begin the program of Teacher Training because of the great

need for qualified professionally prepared teachers. The announcement below was made in all the churches: **Bishop Vincent Mojwok Nyiker is happy to announce that the Diocese of Malakal is starting a CATHOLIC TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE** The CATHOLIC TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTE offers a four-year, In-Service Training Program. Teachers who complete the four-year program successfully receive a Primary

Teacher's Certificate from the Government of South Sudan. Classes will be held from March 2 to April 30 this year and they will be in rooms at St. Lwanga Primary School, next to St. Joseph's Cathedral. All subjects will be taught in English. For further information about the program and qualifications needed for applicants, please check the information that is posted at the entrance to the Church. There you will also find information about the Registration Days which are on Feb. 25, 26, and 27.



Congratulations and prayerful wishes to the team!! Great work keep going!!





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Remenzie - Begins with English Classes for Teachers

Remenzie, a small hamlet around 18 miles from Yambio is in the Western Equatorial state in Southern Sudan. The community composed of five Religious sisters, belonging Religious Sisters of Our Lady of Missions have braved the security situation in establishing a SSS presence in the diocese of Yambio Tambura.

The security alert is always a concern for our community. The New Year 2009 dawned with an evacuation for our members from Remenzie taking temporary shelter with the Christian Brothers. The threat of LRA (Lord's Resistance Army) is ever present.

The English course for in service teachers in Rimenze began January 26 with 16

students who are practicing teachers but with little or no preparation. The course was meant to begin in early January but be-

cause of the presence of the Lord's Resistance



Army (LRA) in the vicinity everything was delayed. The English course will last for one month after which the Teacher training Program will begin. In April.

Community house Renovated

The renovation of the house for the sisters to stay was renovated before their arrival. Contractor Gabi has done a great job of rehabilitating the building that was used by the Comboni sisters before they fled the mission because of war.

erate facilities is a great place for a retreat and recollection.



Spacious house with mod-

The sisters are gracious

in their welcoming and show the depth of their hearts in their hospitality.

The Sisters in Rimenze produce all their own vegetables in a magnificent garden with fertile soil.

During our first orientation in December, they treated us with fresh organs and salad leaves.



This is how the present class rooms look like!! Margaret is wondering how she is going arrange the class room.

A Multi-Talented Group - Wholistic Approach to Mission

When the community of the Sisters of the Missions joined the SSS, they had already been contacted by the Bishop to start a foundation in the diocese of Yambio. The team is composed of five memberse from four nations.

Felicita are full time in teaching while the other three bring their gifts and expertise to the holistic development of the missions.

Rosa, an experienced animator of Farmers in her country Vietnam, Josephine with a heart for the young girls and Joanna



with her healing art of massages and herbal medicine.



Who said Amilcare knows how to run projects? He has not forgotten the art of teaching!!



Wau is Wow!!

Wau, pronounced Wow and it really is a "wow" to see the Health Training Institute (HTI) in Wau! Closed for 12 years during the war. The Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference is preparing to reopen it with the support and collaboration of Solidarity with Southern Sudan, to provide quality health care training for the entire Southern Sudan region. The Solidarity team in

Wau, Maria Martinelli, cms, Esperance Bamiriyo, cms, Patricia Cordwell, mfic, Sneha Joseph SSpS, Mary Stella Arulsamy, SSpS moved in on Christmas eve and have been busy not only with all the preparation necessary to reopen a major institution like HTI but also in the mov-



ing of equipment from the buildings to be renovated to safe storage area.

Mary Anne Williamson, fmm who has been volunteering at the hospital in Gidel, Nuba Mtns has joined the team in mid February and Amparo

Cuesta, msola will come in August. Plans are to begin with an introductory course of English, Science, Computers and Math in July. Each bishop from Sudan will submit names of people from his diocese who would be recommended to register in the program.

Hospital for the Training.

The diocese of Wau owns a hospital which the military took over during the war. Recently there was a court ruling that handed the hospital back into the hands of the Diocese.

The bishop of the diocese, Bp. Rudolf, has kindly con-

sentied to allow the Health Training Institute to use it for the training of the nurses.

There is a need for a renovation and restructuring of the hospital. Maria Antoinette Cossu, an Architect from Italy and a friend of

Maria Martinelli was in Wau for two weeks doing the assessment to renovate the the hospital.

The bishop is looking for a congregation to run the hospital where our nursing students could be trained.

SUDAN HAS THE HIGHEST INFANT MORTALITY RATE AND HIGHEST NUMBER OF MOTHERS WHO DIE IN CHILD BIRTH IN THE WORLD.

Health Training Institute that needs Repairs

The tall magnificent group of stone buildings at the out skirts of Wau, owned by the Sudan Catholic Bishop's Conference, were abandoned for the last 12 years during the war. Initially it was built with the funds of Misereor. The well built buildings are in a campus of 22 Hectors. Renovation of the roof and repairs of structural

damages due to flooding call for immediate action.



Sadly many of the training material and library that were intact during the initial visits of the SSS personnel have been vandalized in the last years.

Our members have been working tirelessly to gather all they could use for the training of the health personnel to safer stores.

WELCOME We extend a hearty welcome to our new Executive Director Sr. Pat Murry IBVM. We are sure you are blessing to all of us here on ground in Southern Sudan. We look forward to working with you.

SOLIDAIRTY
with
SOUTHERN SUDAN
commits itself to peace, justice and reconciliation through its pastoral endeavors: training of teachers and health personnel in Southern Sudan. SSS cherishes and upholds the sacredness and dignity of human life in all stages SSS celebrates the integrity of creation.

Insertion Program for Lucita and Jenny

Two members of the Solidarity team in Southern Sudan, Jenny Cook, rfme and Luz Enit Galarza, rfme are strengthening their English skills by a period of insertion with the Comboni Sisters in Lommain and the Salesian Sisters in Tonje respectively. Both are finding their experience very enriching. While Lucita is teaching a P4 class, Jenny is involved in pastoral work.



Cathy, Jenny, Lucita and Joseph during our Yambio meeting



Considering that 85% of the Southern Sudan is illiterate, and only 7% of the teachers in Southern Sudan have had any training, the needs for educational assistance are enormous..

Archbishop of Juba Paulino Lukodo Loro blessed the Solidarity House in Juba



In the presence of most of the members of SSS, and our neighbors Daughters of

St. Paul sisters, the house was blessed by the Archbishop. He said that the presence of many members of the SSS show that we have moved from an idea to reality. The Church in Southern Sudan is invited to discern where the Spirit is calling and leading the local church in this collaborative mission with SSS. He reminded the SSS members that the African people will not see the external differences but will see our hearts and recognize if we love them or not.

First Orientation Seminar in Yambio



All the members of the SSS gathered for the orientation seminar from 2 to 11 December. Healing of the Healers, Multi Cultural living,

History of the Sudan, Human Rights and Catholic Church and Zande Culture were the topics that were discussed. It was an enrich-

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts: OUR VISITORS

Sr. Theresa, Provincial Superior of the Salesian Sisters
SR. Estella, General Council member Spiritan Sisters
Bro Jorge, Member of the Board
Bro Anton, Administration Rome
Bro. Amilcare, Fund Raising committee
The Salesian Priests

We thank you for your prayers, generosity, and accompaniment.

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