



Jos Jottings, August 2026

"You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, ..." (Psalm 91:5)

Canberra-Goulburn Synod presentation, 13 September

It was a privilege to be able to make a (necessarily brief) presentation on 13 September at our Diocesan Synod, covering progress on our Missional Partnership with the Diocese of Jos, and to circulate the July Jos Jottings as an annual report on progress. Thank you for those who made contact in the margins of the meeting, and once again to those many individuals and smaller parishes who are sharing in prayer support, and giving as you are able. That is really precious!

The motion Synod passed in support of the Partnership focussed once again on the needs there in Jos Diocese, and Nigeria more generally, and on some really positive recent developments in the Partnership, such as the initiation of a new bursary program for young women undertaking the three-year residential study program in community health and pastoral leadership (CHEW). Equally importantly, the motion encouraged us in two directions. Firstly, in light of the steady 17% year-on-year increase in financial support to an amazing \$57,900 in FY2025/26, it encouraged us to aspire to still greater generosity in coming to the help of our persecuted sisters and brothers in Christ. Secondly, alongside requesting prayer, it asked that as individuals we make use of every opportunity which we have to make representations to government, Australian and Nigerian (through the Nigerian High Commission in Canberra) on behalf of our sisters and brothers for this persecution and violence against Christians to end. Every blessing from our Saviour as you pick up these challenges!



The "terror of night" that our sisters and brothers face in Nigeria ...

At Synod, I shared the news of one out of a series of continuing Islamic extremist attacks on predominantly Christian village communities in Plateau State in August. Morning Star News and the NGO Open Door have reported an attack made by armed Fulani herdsman at about 3am on Tuesday 18 August on Bin-Per village in Mangu Local Government Area, about 60kms southeast of Jos city. 25 villagers – most of them women and children – were killed by Fulani Islamic militants, who opened fire through house doors and moved from house to house killing residents with machetes as they slept. Many others were reportedly seriously injured and hospitalised, with 38 homes burned down (photo at left), and crops destroyed, while Nigerian military stationed in nearby

communities reportedly took no action. The dead were buried the same day in a mass grave (photo right, by Masara Kim), with hundreds turning out to protest to the authorities the following day. In one of the most widely reported tragedies from the raid, a two-year-old girl was left as the sole survivor of an eight-member family after sustaining gunshot wounds to her leg and hip.

This followed closely on a large group of extremists attempting on 12 August to attack Murish, Jwak Maitumbi, and Mairana communities in broad daylight in the same area.

Witnesses reported that the attackers fired into the air while residents worked on their farms. Local security networks repelled the attacks in Murish and Mairana, but the assailants entered Jwak Maitumbi, where they burned houses, farmland, and churches. No deaths were recorded that day. But this is clearly not herdsman/farmer conflict, but deliberate, relentless and deadly targeting at night of the weak and vulnerable in a campaign of "ethnic cleansing". "It is 9/11 every day for us", as Archbishop Kwashi used to say.





Late breaking news as this edition of Jos Jottings goes to press is that scores are reported dead and many others injured after an indiscriminate armed attack at about 8.30pm last night 18 September on the market-place in Mangu Township itself. Mangu is the administrative centre of Mangu Local Government Area, which has now seen more than 50 villages attacked by Fulani tribesmen recently. Other states neighbouring Jos, and villages closer to Jos itself, have also experienced recent attacks. (photo: to the left of hundreds of women in Mangu protesting the Bin-Per killings).

Church authorities are not immune either. In mid-August, a bizarre and unsettling plan to kidnap Jos Diocesan Bishop Ephraim Gongden's wife Esther, and former Bishop Ben Kwashi's wife Gloria were thwarted, and the suspects are now awaiting trial

(photo below of Bishop Ephraim announcing disruption of the kidnap attempt).

Emergency Relief Project: a vital part of our support!

In light of all the ongoing persecution and violence in the rural hinterland of Plateau State, both in Jos Diocese and neighbouring dioceses, work is going ahead urgently between Jos Diocesan authorities and Anglican Aid to update and strengthen our Emergency Relief Project. The need for this project has of course been dramatically underscored over these last weeks by developments such as those reported above (which are far from the total of attacks in either Plateau State or its neighbours). I hope to be able to report further on this, along with an update on the ongoing finalisation of the construction phase of the Tambes hostel and school for disadvantaged and orphaned children, many of whom are the direct result of this ongoing violence. Please keep all this in your prayers!



As the new academic year commences at the Christian Institute, Jos, in a few weeks' time, I am also hoping to be able to report on the new intake of young women commencing the Diploma of Community Health and Evangelism Worker (CHEW) course as a result of bursaries extended through your generosity.

Points for prayer:

- Please keep praying for protection and justice for these and other Christian rural communities under continuing Fulani Islamic extremist attack, in particular that the secular authorities (armed forces, police and government) might move decisively and in unity to deliver both protection and justice, without fear or favour, and not diverted by corrupt officials or objectives.
- Pray in particular for God's comfort and effective Christian community support for those communities in and around Mangu which have suffered violence and destruction so recently.
- Please pray for the quick updating and renewal of the Emergency Relief Project practical arrangements so that assistance may go unhindered to those most in need of material support and healing.
- Praise God for the faithful work done by the Christian Institute, Jos, and pray for those students – especially Mission Partnership bursary students – as they start their new academic year of study.
- Pray for continuing steady progress on the new Tambes campus of the Zambiri hostel/school for disadvantaged and orphaned children, protection of its campus area and builders against any local security threats, and quick provision of the remaining resources necessary to complete it.
- Thank God for the generosity he has placed in your hearts, and those of other donors, for the needs of our Nigerian sisters and brothers, and pray for continuing joyful generosity as we together see new opportunities to support gospel work and deeds of love in Nigeria.
- Pray for the ongoing physical and spiritual protection of church leaders, especially Bishop Ephraim and former Bishop Ben Kwashi, against any threats to godly servant-hearted ministry, including the recently thwarted kidnapping attempt.

To make a tax-deductible donation to Diocesan partnership projects for training at the Christian Institute, or to support our persecuted fellow-Christians in Plateau State in Nigeria with emergency relief, or assist ministry to “at risk” children through the Tambes campus of the Zambiri School, go to <https://anglicanaid.org.au/locations/Nigeria> , and select the project of your preference.