



Jos Jottings, August 2023

“Others will praise God for your generosity in sharing”

In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul writes movingly to the Corinthian church about their giving in support of the poverty- and famine-affected mother church in Jerusalem:

“... others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

Thank you for your generosity!

I am pleased to report extraordinary generosity and a growing momentum of support from individual donors and parishes to the projects we are undertaking under our Diocesan Mission partnership with the Diocese of Jos in northeast Nigeria. Archbishop Ben has specially asked me to pass on to all supporters the deep and sincere thanks of his people in Jos, and his confidence that as we walk this journey of faith together we will one day all join in rejoicing in the Lord’s presence.

Parish partnerships and initiatives: congratulations to St George’s Pearce!

Naomi and I were specially privileged to join a fun and fund-raising Trivia and Dessert Evening on 5 August at St George’s Pearce. Parishioners, friends, and Mrs Mercy Clement (Minister/Counsellor from the Nigerian High Commission in Canberra) and family came together for a fun battle of the brains, encouragement of the heart, and treating of the taste-buds with dessert and coffee. Home-made chutney, fudge, and guessing games rounded out a great evening. Congratulations to Rev Jason and Mrs Meredith Clift and their very able and enthusiastic parish team, raising over \$1500 for the Zambiri/Pankshin School in Jos!



Minister/Counsellor Mrs Mercy Clement, and parishioners and friends at St George’s Pearce for the Trivia Night on 5 August.

Other parishes are planning similar events or regular mission support, alongside significant support from generous individual and even corporate donors. Please be encouraged that every little helps! Around \$65,000 has been raised to date for the Zambiri/Pankshin school, \$15,000 for emergency relief, and \$12,000 for training at the Christian Institute, Jos. Wonderful generosity making a real difference in meeting pressing needs in Nigeria.

Ongoing security challenges in Nigeria

The high-level intervention by incoming Plateau State Governor Mutfwang (see Jos Jottings for July) has seen some improvements in the dire security situation in southern Plateau State, south of Jos city itself, although at time of writing an alert for more attacks has been issued.

Truth Nigeria reported on 10 August that according to local officials a staggering 80,000 men, women and children remain in Internally Displaced Persons camps (18,000 IDP's living in the area of one primary school in Mangu) after the Fulani attacks on rural villages in Mangu Local Government Area in June/July. While new attacks have lessened, an attack at 2am on 10 August on Batin (a complex of farming villages 30kms south of Jos in the Barkin Ladi Local Government Area), reportedly left 21 dead and many others wounded. The Nigerian Army response (from a forward operational base close to the attacked village) was reportedly late in arriving (despite advance warnings), and attacked and disarmed the local accredited volunteer village militia rather than the retreating Fulani attackers.

Plateau State Governor Caleb Mutfwang in a statement by his spokesman, reportedly described the incident as disheartening, and called on the military authorities to redouble their efforts in safeguarding communities.

This as peaceful demonstrations by those living in the IDP camps, calling for better protection from the security forces supposedly sent to aid them, have reportedly led to the use of live-fire by some Nigerian Army units, resulting in further IDP deaths, and suspicions of official collusion with Fulani militant groups.

These security challenges come on top of grave economic challenges for ordinary Nigerians as the incoming Nigerian federal government of President Tinubu removes state subsidies on fuel and petroleum products, and Nigeria experiences surging inflation and devaluation.

For prayer:

- Praise God for Governor Mutfwang continuing to bluntly and publicly confront the violence and ethnic cleansing motivation of the June/July and ongoing attacks, and pray that the security forces will indeed provide protection and bring the force of the law to bear fairly and effectively on those instigating the violence.
- Pray for protection and provision of their needs for those thousands of displaced and traumatised villagers in IDP accommodation after the June/July Fulani attacks on around 30 villages in Riyom, Barkin Ladi, and Mangu Local Government Areas.
- Pray for continuing effective work in Jos Diocese to bring emergency relief supplies and community support to Christians injured, traumatised, left destitute and displaced by these terrorist attacks, and to care for orphaned and at-risk children.
- Praise God for the continuing generosity of Australian donors to the Diocesan mission partnership, and pray for a continuing growth in generosity and our support base.
- Pray specially for Archbishop Ben and Mama Gloria Kwashi as they prepare for Ben to lay down his pastoral staff in early September.

To make a tax-deductible donation to projects under our Diocesan partnership for training at the Christian Institute, or to support our persecuted fellow-Christians in Jos and Plateau State in Nigeria, go to <https://anglicanaid.org.au/locations/Nigeria> . To book a presentation on the situation in Nigeria and our partnership with Jos Diocese for your church, school or fellowship group, contact Rev Canon Patrick Cole on pandncole@bigpond.com , or in the margins of our Diocesan Synod.