

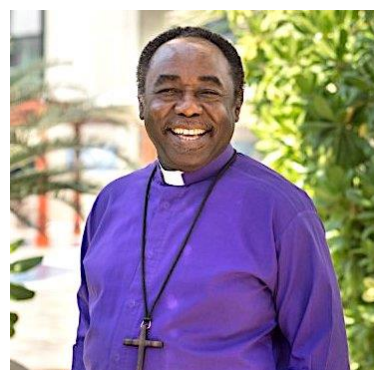


Jos Jottings, August 2025 (Special Synod Edition)

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them." (Luke 1:68)

Praise God for healing of Archbishop Ben Kwashi from cancer!

On 25 August, we received the wonderful news from Archbishop Ben that very sensitive blood tests have indicated his body is now completely free of any blood stream indications of residual cancer! This is a marvellous answer from a loving Saviour to the prayers of so many of us that Ben might experience the gift of physical healing and deliverance once again on this earth, as well as in the kingdom to come. He and Mama Gloria pass on their heart-felt thanks to all of you who supported them in prayer in their journey, and ask we all give thanks and glory to our Lord for miraculously answered prayer and deliverance. Ben also gives thanks for the hospitality and support of the global Christian family in the US, and the gifts of healing God has given to doctors. While he will need to return to the US for a full-body PET scan and final clearance in early October, he is currently rejoicing in being back in Jos ahead of his 70th birthday on 23 September. He is delighting once more in being directly involved on the ground (rather than over ZOOM) in the planning and rollout of construction and ministry plans for the Zambiri School for disadvantaged kids, both in Jos and the new campus at Tambes.



Zambiri School Pankshin/Tambes Campus and 1 November fund-raising concert

Ahead of Archbishop Kwashi's return, some very significant preparatory infrastructure work has been completed at the Tambes Campus. Processing machinery has been installed in the bakery (which is intended to be a food production, training and community-oriented commercial revenue-raising enterprise, helping the Tambes School to be economically self-sustaining). Major electrical infrastructure installation work has continued, with the site's step-down transformer being installed on 13 August, ahead of further hostel and classroom block construction. But again, in light of what follows, please keep praying that rural disturbances associated with attacks by Fulani Islamic extremists do not spread to this part of Plateau State. There will be a special fund-raising concert in support of this school for orphans and conflict-displaced kids under the theme "Anachronisms Revisited (A Classical Journey from Baroque to Tango)" at 7.30pm Saturday 1 November at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture auditorium in Canberra. Save the date now! Further information and tickets are available at www.trybooking.com/DFGUC, courtesy Michael Dooley and the organising team.

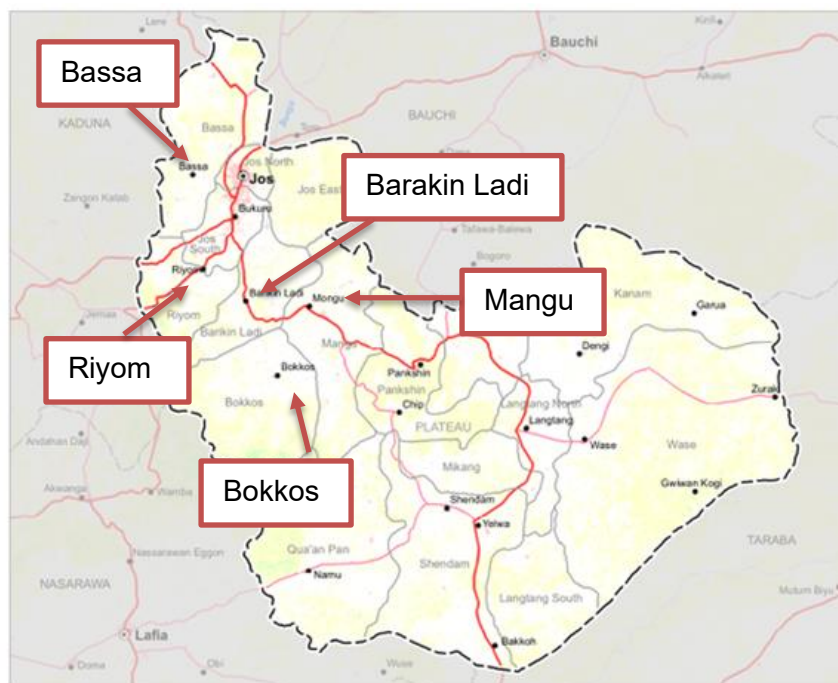
Terrorist ethnic-cleansing attacks continue...



Although some Plateau State Local Government Areas (LGAs) attacked in the recent past experienced temporary respite, multiple attacks by ethnic Fulani terrorists were again reported in the Riyom LGA. In an attack on Christians leaving a morning devotional meeting on Sunday 17 August, 3 were killed and 4 wounded by gunfire reportedly intended to drive out villagers from Gwon village at harvest time. Later that same day, another armed attack on Rinyan village in the same LGA was only thwarted by an unusually prompt and effective Nigerian Army and police response from the Operation Safe Haven task-force (pictured).

The victims of these latest attacks, along with displaced and dispossessed communities in Bassa, Barakin Ladi, Mangu and Bokkos LGA's, continue to be the focus of the Jos Diocese relief efforts. We have the privilege of sharing in these through the Emergency Relief project strand of our Diocesan Missional Partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Jos. Njin village in Bokkos LGA was attacked again on 4 August, as part of an ongoing Fulani militant campaign to (successfully drive out) predominantly Christian villagers from 9 separate village communities, burning homes, crops and possessions, and setting up tent encampments in the ruins.

Meanwhile, regrettably, despite the international attention (and even papal condemnation by Pope Leo XIV) of the horrific episode of religiously-motivated ethnic-cleansing violence in June, the massacre by Islamic militants of over 200 displaced villagers sheltering in Roman Catholic facilities in Benue State, Nigeria, further Boko Haram attacks were launched there 30-31 August, targeting Ngoshe and Mussa villages. Concerted and coordinated national justice and security force intervention is sorely needed!



Thank you for your generous support for our sisters and brothers in Jos!

Once again at the end of FY2024-25, it is time to thank all of you, as supporters of our Canberra-Goulburn Diocesan Missional Partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Jos, most warmly! Our Christian heritage, from the times of the very earliest and least wealthy Christian churches, has been to stand with those of our number in need and persecution (especially those whom the pagan world does not notice and for whom it does not care), and to give generously. To “remember the poor” as Paul puts it in Galatians 2:10. And so I am delighted to be able to tell you that in FY2024-25, you and others joining us through the Anglican Aid Australia network collectively gave \$49,500 to this cause (\$19,500 to the Zambiri School Tambes campus; \$17,900 for Emergency Relief; and \$12,100 for Christian Institute student bursaries for training upcoming church leaders). In God’s economy, this can and is achieving great things, much more that we can achieve with the same money in Australia. It is wise and godly investment in the kingdom of God, laying up treasures in heaven. It is also wonderful encouragement to our sisters and brothers on the ground in Nigeria. When government fails to deliver on its most basic responsibilities to citizens – personal security, protection against death-dealing violence, justice, education, health, and economic stability – and when it fails to turn up in times of desperate need, the evidence that fellow-Christians half-way across the world love them, care for them, pray for them, and support them in love with material assistance is wonderfully encouraging! Please keep it up!

Points for prayer:

- Praise God for the amazingly good news of healing of Archbishop Ben from this last brush with cancer, enabling his and Mama Gloria’s return to directly oversee and inspire the quick completion and start-up of the Tambes Campus of Zambiri School, implementing its pastoral care and missional vision.
- Please keep praying for the Lord’s protection of the many Christian rural communities still under deadly attack; for justice, comfort and restorative support for the families of victims in Benue State and Plateau State; and that this violence may not spread to the vicinity of the Tambes School site. Praise God for the quick action of the Nigerian Army and police to head off attacks on Rinyan village on 17 August.
- That our Mission Partnership emergency relief funds will continue to be used strategically to bring hope, healing, comfort and restored livelihoods to persecuted and displaced communities.
- That Partnership-supported bursary students at the Christian Institute will continue to grow in grace.

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, or 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. 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 .