



## Jos Jottings, June 2025

*"Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become like a light to the nations. My salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations." (Isaiah 51:4-5)*

**Crying out for justice...**



The desperate situation of our Nigerian sisters and brothers facing systematic and organised terrorist ethnic cleansing attacks was highlighted this last month by the mass killing of over 200 Christian villagers on 13-14 June. Most of these deaths – men, women, and children, including infants – came from a sustained armed attack by ethnic Fulani Islamic militants on Christian farming families taking shelter in an internally-displaced refugee centre run by a Roman Catholic mission in Yelwata Village, Benue State, east of Plateau State. According to Roman Catholic clergy witnesses present, the terrorists attacked with guns, then set on fire the buildings in which the IDP's (who had fled from their villages previously due to attacks by armed extremists) were sheltering, hacking down with machetes any who then tried to escape. The attackers

had earlier been repelled when they tried to storm St Joseph's Catholic Church, Yelwata, where up to 700 other IDPs were sheltering. The Governor and former Governor of Benue State (latter in picture), together with other local leaders, the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Makurdi (the capital of Benue State), and Amnesty Nigeria all forthrightly condemned the attacks as ethnic genocide directed at innocent and defenceless predominantly Christian refugees. Pope Leo XIV similarly spoke out publicly to condemn the violence and call for urgent Nigerian Government action to restore peace and bring the perpetrators to justice. For our part, Bishop Mark is writing once again to the Nigerian Acting High Commissioner in Canberra and to our Foreign Minister Senator Penny Wong to draw attention to this ongoing crisis and to call for meaningful national Nigerian and international action.

This latest episode – a planned unprovoked midnight deadly attack on defenceless internal refugees, mainly women and children, sheltering under immediate church protection – makes perfectly clear that what is happening is not "herder/farmer conflicts". Rather, it is what our sisters and brothers have said it is: evil, unprovoked and intentional religiously-motivated ethnic cleansing. And any Western media apologists for this evil (and there are some, including regrettably in outlets such as the BBC) need to be called out by the truth.

The sheer size of this massacre, some 300kms due east of Jos, capital of Plateau State, is horrific. But it should help underscore that it directly reflects what we have been seeing in Plateau State over the last two years in particular. And even as Fulani extremists seem to be concentrating the worst of their violence east of Plateau State right now, my friend Archdeacon Godwin Makabi in Bassa (just northwest of Jos itself) told me that on the morning of 23 June, three people were killed and two wounded in a Fulani attack on the Te'egbe village community, near Kwall, which he had visited the previous day. So the Plateau State attacks continue.

### **A gospel response of grace and good news**

In a situation where we would almost certainly be tempted to take up arms, our friends in Plateau State put their hope in the power of the good news of Jesus to bring justice and peace. On the one hand, my friend Archdeacon Mark Mukan has told me of a wonderful time he and his wife just spent in Yola in Adamawa State (further east of Plateau State) encouraging and equipping a group of ethnic Fulani Christian evangelists to reach out with the gospel to their fellow-Fulani, many of whom live in Adamawa State. As he put it graphically, "They are killing us, but we have gone there to give them life through the Gospel!" And material aid as well!



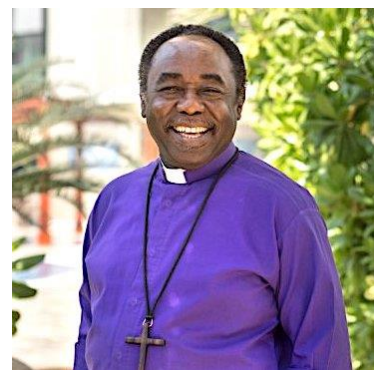
### ***The Christian Institute, Jos – sowing in the Spirit, reaping eternal life***

Meanwhile, on the other hand, your contributions to assist the work of the Christian Institute, Jos, are similarly helping transform rural communities. For the power of the gospel in word and deed, continues to bring hope as spiritual, social, physical health and economic security is nurtured in small but important steps, as well-trained shepherd-hearted clergy are raised up and sent out into this world of chaos. In June, the Christian Institute reported back particularly on two of our Partnership-supported bursary students, Gracious Luka from the Anglican Diocese of Bauchi (pictured), and Cain Efros Simon from the Anglican Diocese of Gombe. Both these

students are living examples of the way the Christian Institute makes it possible for future ministers of the gospel to be raised up missionally to serve in Anglican dioceses east of Jos and Plateau State, which have far more meagre resources than even the Diocese of Jos, and where the gospel of Jesus faces even stronger opposition. They are great demonstrations of the strategic “multiplier effect” of our bursaries, so keep up that generosity! Gracious thanks his supporters in Australia for investing in his life, and Cain reminds us of the wonderful promise in Galatians 6:8: what the church in Australia is doing is seed sowing in human lives, and it will certainly be rewarded now and beyond! Both Gracious and Cain ask for your ongoing prayers that the Holy Spirit give them enabling grace faithfully to run the race of servant ministry calling that lies before them.

### ***Please keep praying for healing for Archbishop Ben Kwashi!***

Archbishop Ben's oncologists in the United States decided to use radiotherapy rather than surgery to deal with the newly-detected cancerous nodule. And the good news from latest advice is that ++Ben is responding well to this therapy, and is in good spirits, ahead of his planned rounds of follow-up chemotherapy. Please keep praying fervently and confidently for a third deliverance from cancer this time around, so that he may continue to do the Lord's work in Plateau State. Please also pray for his physical and emotional endurance of any chemotherapy, and protection of the Zambiri School in Jos and the new Tambes campus during his and Mama Gloria's medical leave-of-absence from Nigeria.



### ***Zambiri School Pankshin/Tambes Campus***

Despite the rainy season, work has continued on completing the bakery building (at left), which will be one of the main ongoing income-generation projects for the Tambes School once students and staff move in. Again, more detailed reporting on the remaining elements (especially the planned (and Partnership-supported) construction of hostel and classroom blocks) will hopefully be covered in next month's Jos Jottings.

### **Points for prayer:**

- Please keep praying for the Lord's protection of the many Christian rural communities under deliberate attack in the current new crop-planting season, and justice and comfort in particular for the families of victims of the recent appalling massacres in Benue State and ongoing killings in Plateau State.
- That international attention will influence the Nigerian Government to take decisive action.
- Full and swift healing from cancer for Archbishop Ben, and smooth management of the Zambiri School and Tambes construction project during his and Mama Gloria's stay in the United States.
- Thanksgiving for the way our bursary support of future pastors in training at the Christian Institute, Jos, is steadily bearing strategic gospel mission fruit that will bring life, hope and peace to rural communities. Pray that Gracious, Cain, and their Partnership-supported colleagues will experience the deep enabling grace of the Holy Spirit to grow in character and have joyful endurance in their ministry callings.
- That our Mission Partnership emergency relief funds will be used strategically to bring hope, healing, comfort and restored livelihoods to persecuted and displaced communities.

**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](mailto:pandncole@bigpond.com) .**