



Jos Jottings, June 2026

"For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:17)

Wonderful assurance ...!

These are wonderful words of comfort and assurance, spoken to the apostle John, about those Christians from every tribe and nation who have suffered and died for their faith in Jesus. Right now, they are enormous comfort for our friends in Nigeria who yearn for the justice and healing that they cannot find on earth, looking for this from Jesus on his return. Sitting in secure and materially-comfortable Australia, we are amazingly protected from this harrowing reality in the day to day life of Nigerian Christians. More on that later!

Praise God for progress at the Christian Institute, Jos (CIJ)

Anglican Aid has just received an end-of-academic year report from the Christian Institute – one element of our Diocesan missional partnership with Jos, and the only Anglican Bible and leadership training institution serving the vast expanses of northeast Nigeria. And it is so encouraging! Out of the 10 Bachelor of Theology bursary students supported under the program, 3 are due to graduate in coming weeks, all from resource-poor "front-line" Anglican dioceses adjacent to the Diocese of Jos (2 from the Diocese of Zonkwa in Kaduna State, and 1 from a diocese in Bauchi State east of Plateau State). Your generosity is making a real difference to the ability of the Anglican church to provide well-trained, loving and resilient shepherds to pastor and lead disadvantaged Christian communities under incredible challenges, and to build their hope in Jesus.

Meet Joshua Manasseh, about to commence his final (4th) year of training at the Christian Institute, attached to St Mark's Rantya, in Jos City, who speaks of joy at learning new things from the Bible this last semester. And in particular speaking of how the Bible calls him to stand aside from cultural practices inconsistent with Christian marriage and commitment, and from culturally-based relegation of domestic responsibilities to women alone. He asks particularly for our prayer for Nigeria, that God will bring an end to the terrorism, kidnapping, banditry and corruption that are destroying lives and the hopes of so many.



CIJ Registrar Rev Canon Timothy Gora gave some background to this, thanking God for protection of the Institute, noting that a recent Fulani attack (killing 30 people) took place in the community adjacent to the Institute. As part of that attack, threatening letters were written to the Institute community, and staff and students had to maintain a night watch on the compound for some days. Imagine if our faculty and students at St Mark's NTC in Canberra had to teach and study in this sort of environment! Canon Gora notes that many students are also under constant pressure to return to their original farming communities to assist with harvests and plantings, and when their families are under real threat of attack, making consistent focus on studies difficult. Canon Gora reports constant attacks on innocent communities on the outskirts of Jos City itself, where a good number of CIJ students come from. Routine provision of light and power to CIJ facilities (by generator) has become necessary in view of city power infrastructural failings.

That of course comes on top of having to assist many students in making up for deficiencies in their educational development so they are able to gain maximum benefit from their studies. CIJ leadership is also enormously grateful for a special Anglican Aid grant which enabled vital library updating (300 new books).

An exciting future: new possibilities for even greater blessings!

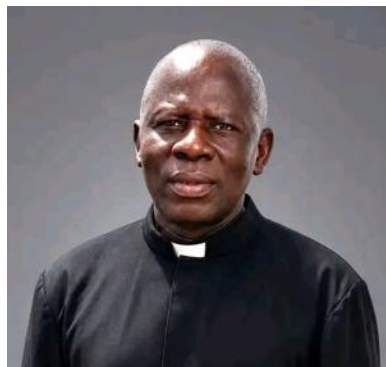
As a result of your donor generosity, Anglican Aid is in the process of reviewing the CIJ assistance project with a view to modest but important expansion. Alongside working with CIJ management to replace the current graduating 4th year cohort with 3-5 new bursary students commencing their studies, funds available may make

it possible to increase the overall level of bursary places to 15 per year!! And just as exciting, we have been looking to see if we could possibly support a second line of bursary students undertaking studies in Community Health and pastoral leadership. CIJ has been producing extraordinarily high-calibre and effective women graduates with the skills to serve isolated rural communities with primary health care. Once again, AUD500 would fund a year's tuition, accommodation and meal costs: if we could raise \$5,000, that would provide entirely for one year's training for a cohort of 10 women!! And many of these go to serve powerfully alongside (sometimes as spouses!) the BTh bursars in wholistic ministry teams. Empowerment of local women leaders and support of rural women in basic health needs is surely a great gospel investment! What do you think?

Ongoing persecution: it's hard to be a follower of Jesus in Nigeria ...

Unfortunately, in addition to the Palm Sunday 29 March attack that Canon Gora mentioned (killing 28 in a densely-populated predominantly Christian neighbourhood adjacent to the Christian Institute), that pattern of attacks on predominantly Christian rural and even urban fringe communities has continued, media reporting:

- 4 Christians killed in attacks **10-12 June** on villages in Riyom local government area, just south of Jos City;
- on **16 June**, reported Fulani terrorists apparently targeted and killed Samuel Alaket, a Christian and traditional community leader and district head in Gwande district, Bokkos local government area;
 - 9 killed (including 4 children) and 11 wounded in a night attack on **19 June** on Angwa Magaji village in southern Kaduna State, due west of Plateau State, in the Anglican Diocese of Zonkwa;
 - on **22 June**, reported Fulani terrorists killed 28 and wounded many others in the predominantly Christian village of Kawel, following attacks in May, in Bokkos local government area south of Jos City, in an attack where Fulani terrorists were reportedly heard carrying out the targeted-by-name killing of Christians, and particularly Christian pastors and leaders, whom they sought out by name (see photo of COCIN pastor Markus Nyam, one victim);
- on **25 June**, reported Fulani herdsmen raided two Christian villages in the same part of Kaduna State as the 19 June attacks, killing 2, kidnapping 7 and leaving dozens more injured.



The specific targeting of Christian community and church leaders by name clearly aims to cause deep fear.

Praise God for fresh new ministry!

In the midst of all this, I find it really encouraging to see the deep self-sacrificial faithfulness of our Nigerian sisters and brothers to the Lord and gospel ministry. One particular joy this last month has been to see our good friend (retired) Jos Archbishop Ben Kwashi answer the call to come out of retirement and be inducted on 8 June in Cameroon to serve as Anglican Bishop (church-planter) in the impoverished and deeply unstable Diocese of Chad (Province of North Africa). We wish him every blessing, alongside his and Mama Gloria's ongoing Zambiri and Tambes School commitments!



Points for prayer:

- Praise God for the great work done by the Christian Institute, Jos, in raising up men and women to be well-equipped, faithful and passionate shepherds and pastors to fragile and threatened rural communities.
- Pray for our Missional Partnership bursary students now finishing their academic year studies, and for protection for them and for their families and friends facing poverty and violence in villages.
- Please keep praying for protection and justice for Christian rural communities under continuing attack.
- Pray for continuing steady progress on the new Tambes campus of the Zambiri hostel/school for disadvantaged and orphaned children, and quick provision of the necessary resources to complete it.
- Pray for generous hearts in response to the need for more BTh training bursaries, and the new call to consider what we can do to help raise up women to be trained at the Christian Institute serve the Lord as Community Health and Evangelism workers (remember that just \$500 will fully fund one year's training – what amazing value!!).

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.