



Jos Jottings, May 2025

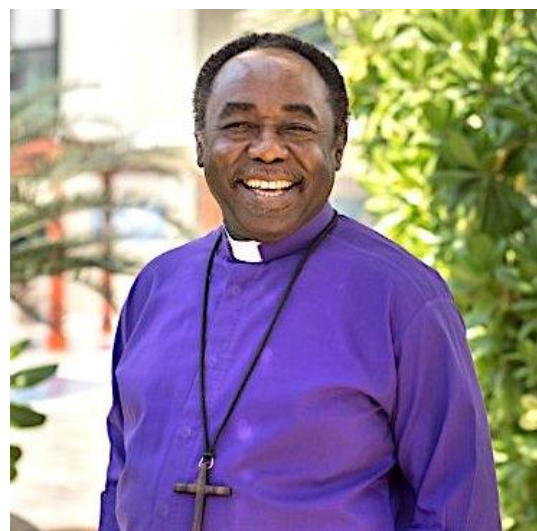
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil (Psalm 23:4)

Walking through dark valleys

Our Nigerian sisters and brothers have a great deal to teach us about trusting in, and being genuinely and deeply comforted by, our Lord Jesus in those times when we feel like we are being crushed by brokenness and evil in a world which we know is not as it was created to be, and in the lives of those precious to us. Their comfort, and ours, is not in some sort of wistful hope that we will not be touched and even hurt by the deep brokenness of sin in ourselves and in others. Rather, they and we know that in the middle of all that messiness, sorrow and pain we have a loving Saviour who walks powerfully alongside and inside us. As Comforter, Counsellor, Advocate, Redeemer, healer and transformer of our inner beings, we know he will carry us through our valleys of the shadow of death to the still waters and refreshing of soul he has prepared for us, showing us in his grace glimpses of that heavenly rest here on earth. That's why we remind each other each Sunday that the peace we experience here and now in Christ "passes all human understanding"!!

Please join in prayer for healing for Archbishop Ben Kwashi

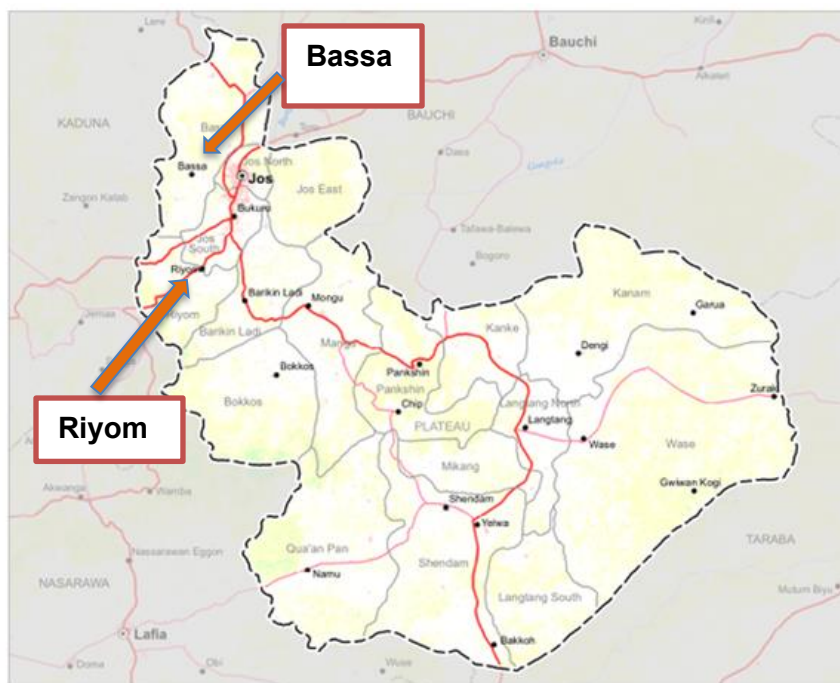
On 29 May, we received the sad news that, during a routine medical check-up during his current visit to the United States, scans detected a cancerous nodule under Archbishop Bens right lung. Further scans have been undertaken, and surgery/radiation treatment options are being developed, and Mama Gloria has flown out to join him in Roanoke, Virginia. Ben is praising God for the fact that this nodule had not given rise to any symptoms, and for the early detection which will greatly assist in treatment. Nevertheless, while thanking you all for your support and prayers to date, Archbishop Ben asks for us to pray fervently and confidently for a third deliverance from cancer, so that he may continue to do the Lord's work in Plateau State. He will likely need to stay with fellow-supporters in the United States for a number of months as the treatment proceeds. So please also pray for the smooth continuance of our Mission Partnership work back in Jos, especially the continuing construction work at the new Tambes orphanage school, and the Lord's protection of the work of the Zambiri School in Jos itself against vandalism and attack, while he and Mama Gloria are absent. Archbishop Ben has been especially thankful already for the assurances of our love, prayer and support sent him personally by Bishop Mark!



"You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies ..."

Archbishop Ben, in his response to Bishop Mark, went on to say: *"We are encouraged by your love, friendship and partnership in the mission of the gospel with us. Plateau state continues to be under much attack by the Fulani jihadists who also come as herders operating a terrorist style on a most horrible and vicious manner. They are killing farmers at this start of our rainy season in their farms. Then they attack their home lands destroying barns, homes and killing families leaving behind a river of blood. Your constant prayers has kept us."*

And, regrettably, this is indeed the case. Alongside renewed waves of horrific Fulani terrorist attacks during May on predominantly Christian villages in Benue and Taraba states (south and southeast of Plateau State, at least 86 killed in the former, and 42 in the latter, aside from destruction of homes, crops and belongings), deadly planned and coordinated attacks have resumed in Plateau State. After the April massacre of more than 50 Christians in



in Bassa Local Government Area northwest of Jos in April, reports have come in of 6 Christians being shot and wounded in May, and 3 shot and killed in an ambush on 3 June in Kwall village, 2 on 4 June in Nkienwhie village. In addition, eyewitness accounts from survivors recovering in hospital in Jos tell of a large-scale attack on the Kpachudu village on 14 May, resulting in the large-scale destruction of Christian farmers' crops in the Ngbrakunvu community, and "the destruction of nearly 100 farmsteads, covering over 40 hectares of cultivated land." Other fatalities and woundings occurred in attacks on 10 May (Kigam and Zanwra communities) and 14 May (Rikwe-Rishe village).

Meanwhile, in Riyom Local Government Area just southwest of Jos City, Fulani attacks kept coming throughout May. Over

12-13 May, Fulani attackers reportedly killed 12 Christians in Wereng, 4 in Chido, and 2 in Dachidom village, as well as burning down houses. After these attacks and killings, armed herdsmen renewed their attacks on the communities in Bachi, Jol, and Rim villages, the full details of which are yet to be reported. One resident wrote: "Please pray for my village, Jol. An attack by Fulani herdsmen is ongoing there." Another, Judith Bature, writes: "My heart is heavy as I write this. The ongoing insecurity in Plateau State, particularly the attacks on Christians in Bokkos, Mangu, Barakin Ladi, Riyan and Bass, is alarming. The Fulani terrorists' relentless assaults have left us questioning the effectiveness of our leadership... another painful reminder of the silence from Nigerian leaders."

Emergency Relief – displaced community resettled in Ancha village, Bassa LGA, with your assistance



In this photo, Mr. Bulub Toro, spokesman for families displaced from their homes in Rutsu village, Bassa LGA, expresses thanks for the re-settlement aid provided under our Missional Partnership, allowing the families' long-term resettlement in the Ancha community within Bassa LGA. This community is one of a number of rural communities displaced by Fulani attacks now finding new life and hope as a result of your generosity!

Zambiri School Pankshin/Tambes Campus and Christian Institute, Jos

More detailed reporting on both projects is on its way and will be included in the June edition of Jos Jottings!

For prayer:

- 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.
- Protection and comfort for the many Christian rural communities under deliberate attack before the new crop planting season.
- Effective use of our Mission Partnership emergency relief funds to bring hope, healing, comfort and restored livelihoods to persecuted and displaced communities.
- Keep praying also for the strategic, effective, and godly work of the Christian Institute, Jos, and its faculty.

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.