



Jos Jottings, May 2026

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." (Psalm 91:4)

Sincere apologies for the long silence ...!

In the last (November 2025) edition of Jos Jottings, I promised more on the ongoing persecution of Christian communities in Plateau State, and on progress with regard to the Zambiri/Tambes School project. Sorry! Until now, other ministry responsibilities limited my capacity to return to this reporting, for which I humbly apologise. But I hasten to add that the Missional Partnership work you support continued to go ahead, in the midst of challenging circumstances.

Progress in constructing the Tambes Campus of the Zambiri School



Back in November, I was able to accompany Bishop Kwashi and Gabor Szarka (a representative of the Rock Foundation, a large UK-based Christian charitable trust) on a visit to the Tambes construction site. Despite ongoing challenges (the continuing fragile security situation in Plateau State, together with hyper-inflation and rising building and transport costs in Nigeria), exciting progress in completing the new campus ready for occupancy is continuing. The outer and internal fabric of the **main residence building** (including chapel) was complete (see internal picture at left); the (extended and Rock Foundation-funded) impressive **bakery building** (intended to provide ongoing income support for the hostel and school when operational) was complete, baking machinery installed, and bakery

test batches were being produced ahead of full commissioning; and **mains electrical connection and basic site reticulation** (poles and wires) was complete. While work was yet to commence on the planned first **two student residential blocks**, large scale mud brick production ready for their construction was underway in December. The highest current priority (at the time of my visit and subsequently) has been the completion of a **reliable large-scale water supply** for the entire hostel and school complex. As of March this year, a borehole tubewell has been successfully drilled. More significantly, sanitation, security and technical engineering considerations led to a decision in November last year to switch from a single reinforced concrete reservoir for **water supply** to a more flexible and more sanitary arrangement of utilising 10 very large PVC tanks protected by a large basic shed structure, built over the concrete reservoir footings and base. This work was well in hand in November, and ongoing Australian support will help enable the shed to be completed and the tanks installed (see photo of progress as of March 2026). While more complex and costly than the initial solution, this will provide much more effective protection against sanitary contamination, together with greater operational flexibility (individual tanks can be taken off-line and cleaned without shutting down the entire system), and physical protection. This continues to be an important focus of our Australian assistance.



From the Australian side, I was pleased at the opportunity to work bilaterally with other significant donors (the Rock Foundation from the UK, and the pastor and Missions Committee of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Roanoke Virginia, US) to encourage the continuing wider ongoing support needed to finance completion of site



works. Next steps are likely to include completion of site infrastructure and the main residential building, followed by construction of the **first hostel residential block**, enabling initial occupation of the site and formal start of residential use of the Tambes campus. As ever, it was also a great joy to visit the original Zambiri campus of the school back in Jos, and again meet some of the younger members of Bishop Ben and Mama Gloria's extended family of 70 plus adopted kids! (see photo).

Continuing persecution of Christians

I reported in November that my liaison visit to Nigeria took place immediately after a series of attacks on Christian leaders and rural communities, including the targeted killing of a prominent Anglican priest in Kaduna State, due west of Jos.

Unfortunately, that pattern of attacks has

continued. Just focussing on Plateau State, disregarding Fulani attacks in nearby states, the media reports that:

- on Palm Sunday (29 March), unidentified gunmen shot dead 28 people in an attack on a densely-populated predominantly Christian neighbourhood in north Jos, with a further attack in south Jos on Good Friday (3 April) leaving a further 3 Christians dead;
- on the night of 9 April, 20 Christians were killed in a Fulani attack on Mbwelle village, Bokkos local government area (south of Jos City), with many others wounded or missing;
- on 26 April, Fulani herdsmen attacked a Christian village in Riyom Local Government Area south of Jos, killing a pastor, his wife and two children;
- on 8 May, 13 Christians (including 3 pregnant women) were killed, dozens others wounded, and hundreds reported displaced as Fulani attackers systematically went from house to house in Nbra Zongo village in the previously-attacked Kwall area of Bassa Local Government Area, which I visited in November along with my colleague Archdeacon Godwin Makabi (last killing reported there on 16 April); and,
- on 9 May, hundreds of suspected Fulani gunmen on motorbikes unsuccessfully attacked the town of Barakin Ladi 40kms south of Jos, being driven off by a combined force of police and locals, but not before 8 Christians (including a police inspector) were killed, 11 were wounded, and many forced to flee their homes.

I wonder how we would feel if we had first-hand experience of this sort of dehumanising violence against Christians on this sort of scale across NSW and the ACT? May it drive us to our knees as we weep!

Points for prayer:

- Praise God for steady progress being made on the construction of the new Tambes campus of the Zambiri hostel/school for disadvantaged and orphaned children, and pray for the quick provision of the necessary resources and funding to complete construction.
- Keep praying for protection and justice for predominantly Christian rural communities in Nigeria coming under relentless Islamic extremist attack.
- Pray for generous hearts within us and in others as we come to the end of the current financial year, that we and others might be moved by the pressing immediate needs of our fellow Christians in Nigeria.

End-of-financial-year generosity: be part of the answer to your prayers!

As we come towards the end of the current financial year, whether or not tax-deductibility is a consideration, our Diocesan Mission partner Anglican Aid puts before us opportunities for practical Biblical compassion:

- 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 donate to other current high-priority appeals (including post-Ebola epidemic emergency relief in the Democratic Republic of Congo), go to <https://anglicanaid.org.au/emergencyfund/>