



Jos Jottings, November 2025

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

Visit to Jos

Unusually, this month's "Jos Jottings" is actually coming to you from Nigeria, as I wind up my current 24 November – 4 December liaison visit here. My special thanks to all those praying for safety and a productive visit: those prayers have been answered, despite a series of terrorist incidents in southern Plateau State in late October, and in neighbouring states more recently. For example: the kidnapping of over 300 students and staff from a Roman Catholic girls' boarding school in Niger State on 21 November; 17 November kidnapping attacks on a Muslim girls school in Kebbi State and a Christian community in Zamfara State; an 18 November deadly armed attack on a pentecostal church in Kwara State; and the 26 November announcement of the killing by terrorists of a senior Anglican clergyman held for ransom in northern Kaduna State (adjacent to Plateau State). But these, and reporting on my visit to villages affected by extremist attack, will be for another time, as this month we concentrate on our aid to the Christian Institute, Jos, and recent fund-raising activity in Canberra for the Zambiri/Tambes Hostel School for disadvantaged children.

Encouraging progress at the Christian Institute, Jos



My 27 November visit to the Christian Institute was very encouraging (CI Rector Prof Cyril Imo and self under the campus mango tree on left). You will recall that we currently fund 10 bursary students in the BTh program from Jos Diocese and a range of other Anglican dioceses in Plateau State and other states in northeast Nigeria. This enables students from challenging economic and ministry contexts in northeast Nigeria to gain the theological, pastoral and community leadership skills absolutely vital to the word-and-deed transformation of deeply underprivileged and often persecuted rural communities. We are helping meet missional and gospel passion with material enabling support for them to study at the only Anglican theological seminary in the entire northeast of Nigeria! And friends, amazingly around \$600 is sufficient to fully fund board, lodging and tuition for a year for one student!

That has got to be the best gospel "bang for the buck" anywhere in the world, so please actively get out and promote this program as a really "high yield" investment of our earthly treasures in heaven!

In their meeting with me, all 10 of our BTh bursary students (see photo of them along with myself, CI Registrar Rev Timothy Gora, and Mrs Hannatu Yaksum, Head of Health Department) were effusively and genuinely grateful for the support from Australia, and asked that their thanks be conveyed to you, their supporters!



Meanwhile, after some stabilisation of governance and faculty arrangements, I am pleased to say the wonderful Judith Calf (Anglican Aid Head of Theological Education) and we are probably in a position to consider at least modest expansion of our current bursary program assistance. The Christian Institute would like us to examine

adding new bursary positions, notably to support students in their innovative Community Health Evangelism Worker (CHEW) diploma program. This seeks to combine the (government-accredited) skills of a community health worker with the theological and pastoral training to be a rural evangelist. The (predominantly female) graduates of the program are developing a formidable reputation in secular workplaces across Plateau State and beyond for their technical skills, their excellent Christian character, and their effectiveness in bringing hope through the good news of Jesus into rural communities. If we are able to step up our Australian donor funding to the CI project, we might be able to offer 5 new CHEW bursaries, potentially alongside another 5 BTh bursaries rolling forwards. Increased donor support might also enable us to examine creative ways to add modest non-bursary support to assist with the board and feeding costs of other non-bursary students. These are exciting possible opportunities, especially to encourage Nigerian women who have a heart for gospel ministry alongside transformation of the dire health circumstances of many rural communities. It meshes with a holistic vision of mission, making the outreach of the Anglican church in Jos and beyond truly life-changing in word and works. The CHEW option is also a particularly powerful tool in enabling the deployment of holistically-trained ministry couples into the gospel harvest field. So once again, "Please consider!"

We were also able to offer a \$5,000 grant to help CI renew and update its Biblical studies library holdings, always a challenge in the developing world where resources are meagre!

Thanks to Michael Dooley & "Anachronisms Revisited" concert team!



who came along. A grand total of \$4,750 was raised to support the Zambiri/Tambes School project, changing the life trajectories of hundreds of conflict-affected orphans and disadvantaged children, under the ministry of Archbishop Ben and Mama Gloria. With Michael and his highly-accomplished team of musicians – giving their time and talents for free – the evening flew by and our spirits truly soared!

I am delighted to report that the Saturday evening 1 November to the "Anachronisms Revisited" concert at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Canberra was an amazing evening of wonderful classical musical performance, enjoyed by over 150 of us! Once again, a big "thank you" to Michael and his musical team, the St George's Pearce support team, and to all those



Points for prayer:

- Praise God for a safe and productive liaison visit to Jos.
- Praise God also for the encouraging impact of our bursary assistance to the Christian Institute Jos.
- Pray that our 10 bursary students will continue to grow strongly in their knowledge, pastoral skills, Christian character, and zeal for ministry, looking forward to what God has in store for them in ministry.
- Pray for increased donor generosity and wisdom as we look to grow our support for the Christian Institute's strategic ministry, that more Australians might catch the vision of wise investment in Kingdom priorities.
- Keep praying that predominantly Christian rural communities in Nigeria be protected from further Islamic extremist attack, and that those in media and government seeking to deny or minimise the ethnic cleansing persecution being experienced may accept and report the truth.

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 .