



Jos Jottings, October 2023

“Beyond reproach and having a firm grasp of the Word”

Paul in his letter to Titus sets out the apostle’s high expectations of those selected and appointed to lead and shepherd the church of Christ. And the selection and training of those called to serve as community and church leaders in the Diocese of Jos, often into localities of strong opposition to the good news, and deadly persecution, is taken extremely seriously by our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of Jos.



You will remember that in last month’s “Jos Jottings” I reported that the Diocese of Jos had formally adopted a new charter for the *Christian Institute, Jos*, the only Anglican ministry and Bible college serving the entire northeast section of Nigeria. Just days before laying up his Diocesan episcopal staff, Archbishop Ben Kwashi was thus able to reappoint the current Dean and Rector of the Christian Institute (Ven Godwin Makabi) for a new 5-year term.

Archbishop Ben with Archdeacon Makabi & his wife.

I am delighted to be able to report that Rector Makabi has just reported that, as a result of the generosity of

Australian supporters, contributing to the Christian Institute Leadership Training project within our Diocesan mission partnership with Jos Diocese, 10 students from Jos and surrounding Anglican dioceses have been able to be offered training bursaries. This is essential assistance for students coming out of the sort of impoverished and “at risk” rural communities where they will be called to serve and minister faithfully.

Might I suggest that we all pray regularly for these bursary students, looking forward to receiving profiles and photos in due course? They range in age from 20-34, chosen from nominations from their respective dioceses, and their names are: Joshua Manasseh; Amos Philibus; Nyam Philip Agwom; Dominic Sunday; Efros Cain Simon; Ishaku Sunday; Gracious Luka; Daniel David Izang; James Agwom; and Amos Rottungmun Kwashi.

Once again, a reminder that at present, around AUD600 is enough to provide tuition, board and lodging for each of these students for a full year! What amazingly good gospel value for our donations, recalling the huge positive influence CIJ graduates have in the villages to which they are sent to minister and lead. Keep on with that generosity, and once again be encouraged by Ven Godwin Makabi as you listen to his vision for the Christian Institute, Jos, during my April interview with him (available at <https://youtu.be/Gak2fMGUMRA>).

Safe travel and safe return for Archbishop Ben and Mama Gloria

Ben and Gloria continue to travel and speak at gatherings internationally, ahead of their return to Plateau State and taking up residence in southern Plateau State at Tambes, on the “new build” Pankshin/Tambes campus of the Zambiri School for orphans and disadvantaged children. Photos

indicate that construction of the first phase of the school is going ahead quickly, and once again the generosity of Australian and United Kingdom donors has been greatly appreciated.

Ongoing persecution and attacks on Christians

While Fulani and Islamic targeted terror attacks on local-level Christian leaders and rural communities in Plateau State have reduced somewhat, individuals and communities continue to be targeted in Plateau and neighbouring states, notably Kaduna State, for killing or kidnap during October. Grass-roots emergency support via our Diocesan partnership remains vital!

- On Sunday 1 October, according to reports published by Morning Star News, armed Fulani herdsmen and other terrorists killed 8 and injured 5 Christians in Du village, in the Kwal district of Bassa Local Government Area, just west of Jos City in Plateau State. Two children, aged 9 and 11, were amongst those reported killed in a hail of bullets. This followed the killing of 3 Christians on 27 September in Atuhun village, Mangu Local Government Area, in Plateau State, south of Jos;
- In neighbouring Kaduna State, Morning Star News reported the 7 October kidnapping by armed terrorists of more than 30 Christian villagers from Chikuru village, Chikun LGA in southern Kaduna State (the third attack on the same village); the 30 September killing of 1 Christian and kidnapping for ransom of 19 others from the predominantly Christian village of Angwan Waku, Kajuru LGA, southern Kaduna State; and the 21 September alleged kidnapping and forced conversion to Islam of Dorcas Adekanola (a 1st year chemistry student, and active member of the Fellowship of Christian Students at Kaduna State University), apparently at the hands of senior Muslim academic staff of the University; and,
- On 7 October, Dr Stephen Angbas, a Christian doctor and director of a hospital in Lafia, the capital of Nasarawa State immediately south of Plateau State, was assassinated in a machete attack on him and his driver which bore all the hallmarks of a targeted Fulani attack.

Please keep praying for the displaced and traumatised survivors of these attacks, who have faced levels of trauma we can only imagine.

For prayer:

- Pray for this new intake of students at the Christian Institute, Jos, funded by Diocesan Partnership bursaries, and for Archdeacon Makabi and the staff of the Christian Institute, that they may all be kept safe, and that the students will grow in Christian character, leadership skills, and love of handling God's Word with wisdom and power.
- Keep praying fervently for protection and provision of the needs of Christian local leaders and the thousands of Christians in rural communities either fearing, or living in trauma after, violent ethnic cleansing attacks by militants, in both Plateau and Kaduna States.
- Pray for refreshment and safety for Archbishop Ben and Mama Gloria Kwashi as they continue to travel after retirement and prepare to take up their Pankshin/Tambes ministry to disadvantaged and orphaned kids.
- Pray for wisdom for the Nigerian Anglican House of Bishops as they move to select a new Bishop for Jos in late 2023, ahead of consecration in early 2024.
- Keep praying for Nigerian Government leaders at federal and state level to be convinced of the need to act to bring peace, safety and effective protection to the ordinary people of Nigeria, as well as non-corrupt government.
- Praise God for the continuing generosity of Australian donors to the Diocesan mission partnership, and pray for a continuing growth in generosity and our support base.

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", 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 .