



## Jos Jottings, October 2025

*"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? As it is written, 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.'" (Romans 8:35-6)*

### Planned liaison visit to Jos



As noted last month, your prayers would be specially appreciated as Bishop Mark, Bishop Ephraim (pictured left with Mama Esther), myself and Anglican Aid work on the timing for my next Diocesan Partnership liaison visit to Jos, hopefully late-November to early December 2025. It is always an amazing privilege to meet and fellowship with fellow Christians doing it so tough as they seek to walk faithfully with our Lord Jesus, and to assure them of our loving prayers and personal support from half a world away! I anticipate a major focus of our time together will be working to make our Emergency Relief project more effective, and to look at possible ways to step up our support for ministry training at the Christian Institute Jos.

It is worth noting that Jos Diocese has taken the lead in encouraging individual dioceses throughout Jos Province (the Anglican Church of Nigeria Province centred on Jos, but reaching well beyond Plateau State) appointing and establishing a network of Relief and Welfare officers. This so that at the provincial level dioceses can be well-placed to respond effectively and in a coordinated way to the humanitarian crisis in northeastern Nigeria caused by the sustained campaign of religiously-inspired "ethnic cleansing" extremist Islamic and ethnic-Fulani attacks on predominantly Christian rural communities throughout Nigeria's "Middle Belt". It is hoped that this nationally-inspired and nationally-led initiative, undertaken by Jos Diocese at the request of the Jos Province Archbishop, will be a great practical blessing to the Anglican Church and to persecuted communities, and an effective channel for practical assistance to affected communities. "Watch this space!", as they say ...

### A clear voice for the persecuted church...

Many years ago, the great St Paul in his letter to the Philippian church noted that his being in prison (a bad thing by any yardstick!) had actually turned out a great plus for gospel ministry. Through his time in Roman prison, "the whole palace guard" had come to hear about the Lord Jesus! And so it has turned out for Archbishop Ben Kwashi's medical treatment in the United States. Not only has he now been marvellously and joyfully cleared a second time of any blood traces of remaining active cancer (returning to Jos on 29 October), but he has also had the opportunity to give a lengthy, balanced, but really important background briefing on US commentator Bryan Stecker's "On the Line" YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/xhR6HaeVDxs?si=YIzN5WqA9qzAmWO7>).

I am sure you will find this a really helpful analysis of the roots of the current genocide, an aid to pray wisely for our sisters and brothers in Nigeria for godliness in the face of unimaginable evil, and an impetus to taking practical steps of compassion and raising of public awareness in our own lives. Other well-informed commentators are currently claiming that around 7,000 Nigerian Christians have already been killed in 2025 in northern Nigeria, a significant increase from the 4-5,000 per annum previously. This is yet to be verified in next year's Open Doors annual report, and other reports. The large-scale mid-year killings of Christians under Roman Catholic protection in Benue State seem likely to have been a major contributing factor. Watching Archbishop Ben's 95 minute video is well worth it, including engaging with the question of the right Christian response to persecution, violence and economic deprivation – a gospel worth dying for!



## ***Tambes campus of the Zambiri School (a missional initiative of Archbishop Kwashi and Mama Gloria)***



Meanwhile we hear that the work at the Tambes campus of the Zambiri School for disadvantaged and orphaned kids continues apace. A professional engineer and some workers went recently to do the final electrical fit-out for the (very substantial) bakery (pictured) which is intended to be a sustainable income-generating as well as trade-training capacity at the Tambes campus. The intention is that the bakery will be able to commence operations before Christmas, ahead of the occupation of the campus by student residents. Further engineering work is also proceeding on the site water reservoir which is also an essential part of the infrastructure needed to sustain a fully operational hostel and school on the site. I hope to have much more detail on the next stage of

progress following the forthcoming liaison visit.

Meanwhile, the mother school at the Zambiri campus in Jos City has also resumed for the new northern hemisphere school year with a new intake of students. We are confident on the basis of what we have seen so far, that this will be yet another year of great blessing. In fact Archbishop Kwashi's YouTube video also gives a bit of an update on the current status on ministry at Zambiri and the missional vision driving it. To quote Ben, "We want to show them the love of Jesus Christ, and that's the way we find healing."

### ***Thank God for the Michael Dooley and the "Anachronisms Revisited" concert team!***

We all owe a big "thank you" to Michael and his musical team, and to those who came along on Saturday evening 1 November to the "Anachronisms Revisited" concert at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Canberra. Proceeds of the concert will be going to support the Zambiri/Tambes School. It is truly amazing, in light of the AUD/Nigerian Naira exchange rate, just what incredible gospel and life-building value those funds will make to the life trajectories of hundreds of orphans and disadvantaged children benefitting from the continuing ministry of Archbishop Ben and Mama Gloria.



### **Points for prayer:**

- That the forthcoming planned liaison visit is able to proceed productively and in safety
- That work being done to enhance the effectiveness and coverage of Jos Diocese and Jos Province emergency relief work with persecuted communities be fruitful and make a real difference in delivering aid to where it is most needed both in Jos Diocese and throughout the Anglican Province of Jos
- That ongoing construction work on the Tambes Campus of Zambiri School be enabled to proceed quickly so that site occupancy is able to occur soon, and safely.
- That predominantly Christian rural communities be protected from further Islamic extremist attack, and that the Nigerian Government authorities been inclined and enabled to take effective action in this regard.
- That the gospel of Jesus continue to ring out in Plateau State, such that many – including many of those who currently persecute the body of Christ there – are brought into a saving knowledge of the love of Jesus which transforms their lives and the trajectory of northeast Nigeria.

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](mailto:pandncole@bigpond.com) .