



Jos Jottings, September 2025

"O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;" (Psalm 43:3)

Christian Institute, Jos: growing and nurturing those who will bring light and truth.

One of the 10 Partnership bursary students currently in training at the Christian Institute, Jos, is Cain Efros Simon. Cain comes from the Anglican Diocese of Gombe in Gombe State, the capital of which is some 200kms due east of Jos in Plateau State. And Cain is a very good example of the mission-minded "multiplier effect" of our support for the Christian Institute. For Gombe State, due east of Plateau State, has a clear Muslim majority population, mainly ethnic Fulani and Hausa-language tribes. 40-45% of the population identify as Christian. Amongst the majority Muslim population, there is an internationally-recognised very strong tradition of memorising and reciting the Koran. And it is in this context that the Diocese of Gombe (part of the Anglican Province of Jos) works with a particularly strong missional focus to make known the good news of Jesus, working against the prevailing religious tide. Cain is in his second year BTh studies at the Christian Institute, and tells us that meeting fellow Christians and meeting new lecturers has been a joy to him, as he has learned preaching, teaching and study skills, alongside more mundane – but absolutely ministry-vital – subjects like "Agricultural resources"! He tells us that his engagement in a prayer group and praise team at the Institute has greatly helped his prayer life and music ministry, as the college's various activities have helped mould his life and character, even as he learns things "the hard way"! While he asks us to pray for enabling grace, he also thanks you, his supporters, for enabling the seeds of training for gospel ministry to be sown well in his heart. He is confident that these seeds will multiply in his ministry to the glory of God and prosper his church! Let's be faithful in prayer to uphold him as he prepares to return to ministry in Gombe, and faces challenges there that we could only imagine!



Celebration of first year of Bishop Ephraim Gongden's episcopacy as Bishop of Jos



On Saturday 27 September, a service in Jos marked the first anniversary of Bishop Ephraim's consecration and installation as Bishop of Jos. And this is a great time to remember to keep praying for him and Mama Esther (pictured) as together they continue to get across all the minutiae of leading Jos Diocese well and maintaining the missional zeal and momentum established under Archbishop Kwashi. Please particularly pray for wisdom for the Bishop and Anglican Aid as together we work through the nuts and bolts of updating project agreements and implementation and reporting details. Diocesan resources are always tightly stretched in Jos Diocese, and diocesan personnel carry many different responsibilities at the same time, requiring godly wisdom in prioritising needs and appointment of the right personnel for the job.

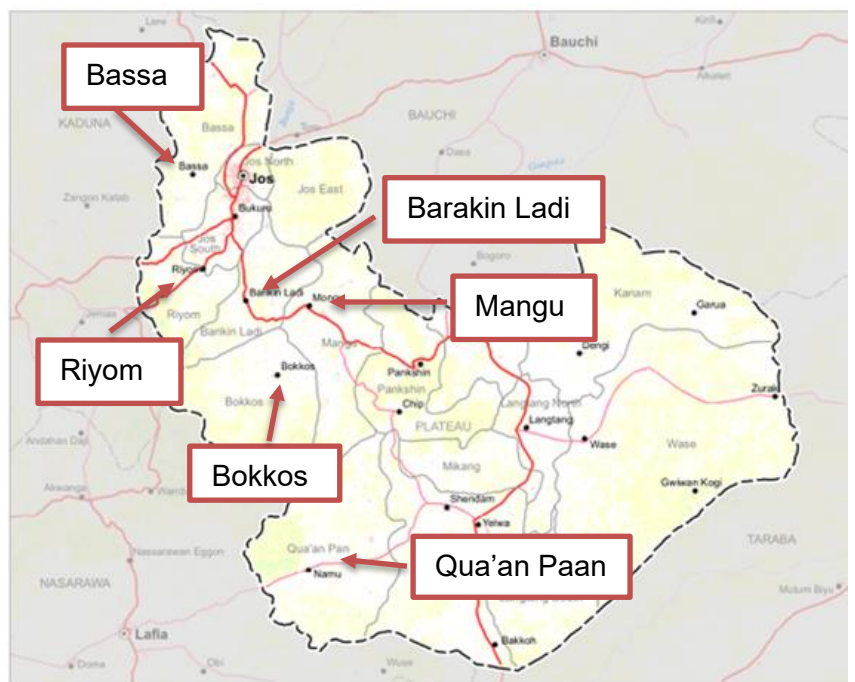
Your prayers would also be appreciated as we, together with Bishop Ephraim and Anglican Aid, discern the best timing for my next Diocesan Partnership liaison visit to Jos, hopefully in late 2025. This will be an opportunity to gather information on the ground across all our projects ahead of Christmas, and the opportunity then to consider not just our usual family giving, but also giving to help meet the needs of our sisters and brothers in Nigeria. Especially to support those likely to be facing deadly anti-Christian violence over the Christmas weekend, as in previous years!



As noted in last month's Jos Jottings, there will be a special fund-raising concert in Canberra in support of this school for orphans and conflict-displaced kids under the theme "Anachronisms Revisited (A Classical Journey from Baroque to Tango)" at 7.30pm Saturday 1 November at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture auditorium in Canberra. Save the date now! Further information and tickets are at www.trybooking.com/DFGUC, courtesy of Michael Dooley and the organising team. Michael has (very appropriately!) themed the evening "Music into mud bricks", the basic environmentally-friendly, cheap, technologically-advanced and very sturdy construction method used in the building work (see photo of yours truly removing a "finished product" from the production press, ready for drying!). Anglican Aid and we ourselves are in conversation with the other major donors to the project, working together with Archbishop Kwashi and his team on plans for ongoing hostel, classroom and chapel construction schedules over coming months. We look forward to being able to report further next month on progress.

Terrorist attacks continue...

Those of us attending the Canberra-Goulburn Diocesan Synod 12-14 September, where we unanimously passed a motion supporting and commending the Partnership, were reminded of the unpleasant truth that continuing persecution of Christian communities is likely to continue, and that international attention and pressure on the Nigerian authorities is important action we can take. That truth has been underscored by reports of a series of coordinated Fulani herdsmen attacks on 11 predominantly Christian villages in the Qua'an Paan Local Government Area in Plateau State in early September, to the south of previous attacks (see map). When reported on 12 September, more than 300 Christian villagers had been displaced, and more than 30 homes burned. Of still greater impact were late-August/early September Fulani attacks on Christian villages in Kachia and Kauru LGA's in Kaduna State, due west of Jos, with one 24 August attack targeting children (killing 7: Jacob Zaka, 12; Magret Mathias, 5; Delight Paul, 1; Sati Markus, 9; Confidence Yakubu, 15; Veronica Paul, 25; and Felicia Francis, 30; and wounding 8: Mathew Sunday 14; Jethro Istafanus, 7; Jackson Istafanus, 5; Emmanuel Morris, 14; Agatha Sylvester, 9; Joy Markus, 9; Devine Paul, 6 months; and Mary Ishaya, 12). Those names and ages tell a hideous story, don't they? They are the individual human faces of the victims of mindless and evil brutality, whom we name before our compassionate Lord!



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Points for prayer:

- That the compassionate and life-changing work of our Diocesan Missional Partnership continues to flourish and bear eternal fruit and comfort here on earth to the body of Christ in Africa.

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.