



A PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

**DIOCESE OF JOS, NIGERIA;
DIOCESE OF CANBERRA & GOULBURN;
TOGETHER WITH ANGLICAN AID**

The Anglican Diocese of Jos is part of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), and covers the greater part of Plateau State in Nigeria's troubled central / northeast region. The Diocese has experienced dramatic numerical growth since the 1990's. But this in a context of widespread poverty, health and education challenges, corruption and poor governance. More recently, there has been deepening ethnic cleansing and violence targeting Christian leaders, communities, institutions and ethnic groups. In the midst of this, Anglicans and members of various other denominations seek faithfully to proclaim and live out the Bible's liberating and transforming gospel of Jesus, to bring peace, justice and life in all its fullness to all people.

In January 2017, our Bishop Stuart Robinson and Bishop Ben Kwashi of Jos agreed to develop a diocese-to-diocese partnership in mission. Post-COVID, Bishop Mark Short and Bishop Ben are seeking to re-launch this partnership, and your support is invited.

THE CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE JOS

The Christian Institute (CI) is Jos Diocese's front-line training facility where students are trained and equipped for ministry and mission in the tough missional environment of northeast Nigeria and beyond. CI aims to prepare students for demanding lives of ministry, in order to build up the body of Christ and work powerfully as salt and light in a needy world. Full-time and part-time Bachelor, Diploma and Certificate courses are offered in theology, and full-time Diploma and Certificate courses in community health.

CI does not just teach academic subjects. Students are trained holistically in a residential setting to be people of scriptural faith, integrity and endurance, skilled in pastoral care and teaching, and also equipped in primary health care, community development and local leadership.



- **Gifts of \$750 can provide full tuition, board, and scholarship for one year for one student (a really big strategic need).**
- **Gifts up to \$5,000 will help build additional classrooms and other facilities.**

ZAMBIRI OUTREACH & CHILD CARE CENTRE

Fifteen years ago Dr. Gloria Kwashi, the Bishop's wife, was so disturbed by the plight of the increasing number of widows, orphans and vulnerable children, who had little or no shelter or food, no education and no money or facilities for health care, that she was determined to do something about it. As a result there are now over 70 children living with the Bishop and his wife as their family. A short distance away, Zambiri School now has over 400 students from disadvantaged backgrounds, all of whom receive free education, uniform, feeding and medical care. The school is well equipped and runs both primary and secondary sections. It has been approved by the government as a centre for national examinations. Four cohorts of senior students have graduated, some of whom have gone on to tertiary education in college or university.

All of this has been achieved through the grace of God alone, and is a great cause for thanksgiving. But it is not enough! Last year 150 children had to be turned away because there was simply nowhere for them to live: this was heart-breaking. The urgent need now is to build more hostels, places where children can be secure and safe from the prevalent scourge of abuse of all kinds.



**STRENGTHENING CHURCHES:
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Bishop Ben says, "This situation together with the ongoing attacks on the villages and the persecution of Christians is such that we have purchased over three hectares of land in Pankshin (about 75 miles from Jos). We have a vision to establish a second Zambiri campus there, with some of the children from Jos in addition to many new children. A friend has donated a full set of the machines necessary for a bakery, and Gloria and I have invested our money to build the bakery house, which should be completed this year. This will provide food for the children, make a small profit from bread sold to the community, and also teach a few of the older ones the skills necessary for the running and working of such a small-scale industry.

The land we have acquired is sufficient for farming (I already have a tractor). Even now in Jos we already have a piggery, cows, sheep and goats. We believe that we can feed ourselves from our farm. With the bakery in place, and if we have a donation of a sausage making machine, the whole Zambiri ministry will be sustainable. Moreover it will provide training and employment for some of the children as they grow and graduate, as well as providing a small scale industrial support for the whole ministry. The Pankshin campus and the Jos campus will together be able to look after many more than we can cope with at present."

- **Your gift will help with the building of the much needed accommodation, classrooms and other school facilities including equipping laboratories, library, & sports areas (especially new hostel, classroom and staff quarters at the Pankshin campus).**

DIOCESAN EMERGENCY RELIEF

Ongoing attacks from Islamist and other militia groups in northern Nigeria have generated unspeakable hardship for thousands. In 2022 alone hundreds of Christians in farming communities have been killed in Plateau and neighbouring states. Others have been kidnapped and held to ransom, villages and churches have been burned, and many thousands displaced. Various individuals and groups are working with the Diocesan Relief and Welfare teams to bring help and assistance, but more is needed.



- **Your gift can help in many ways, including the provision of:**

Food for IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camps;

Medicines and medical supplies;

Clothes and personal items for those who have lost everything they ever possessed;

Educational and agricultural materials;

Where possible, the rebuilding of homes, communal facilities, and churches.

GIVE GENEROUSLY LET GRACE FLOW

The apostle exhorts us in 1 John 3, **"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."** Dear sisters and brothers, let the Spirit move us, let us truly live in the love of Christ, let grace abound!

Bishop Mark, Bishop Ben & Canon Tim Swan

ABOVE ALL, PLEASE PRAY!

Please sign up for our Canberra-Goulburn Diocesan monthly news and prayer notes focussing on the situation facing our Anglican sisters and brothers in Jos. As James reminds us, prayer is powerful, especially when the odds humanly-speaking look overwhelming. So may the challenges faced by our family in Christ drive us to our knees as well as to take compassionate action.

Contact Rev Canon Patrick Cole
by phoning 0438 490 023
or emailing pandncole@bigpond.com.



Donations over \$2 for these projects in Nigeria are tax deductible.

Please send your completed form to **Anglican Aid, PO Box Q190, QVB NSW 1230.**

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