STTC Newsletter –October 2026

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



Diploma students heading towards the finish line

Time has moved on at speed, and the air is thick with anticipation and determination as our Diploma students face into the last stretch of their programme. This is the end-of-year written examinations, and the final module 'Teaching the teachers'. Preparations for the Diploma examinations is intense. Students face into the exam week with a collective resolve, constantly encouraging one another to work hard and achieve the exceptional grades they deserve. The vibrant, focused energy on campus makes it absolutely clear that serious work is being done, with study groups and revision sessions reflecting their deep commitment to performing well.



Br. Ismael Juma and Diploma teacher-students posing a photo

Amidst the intense preparation for the written exams, the departing students also hold an immense sense of gratitude, taking this opportunity to deeply appreciate all of their tutors for their tireless efforts, unwavering guidance, and hard work in steering them into this final stretch. They are especially grateful to class tutor Br Ismael Juma who has been their counsellor and champion over the past year.

Looking beyond their own impending graduation, these Diploma students are also actively inspiring their successors, urging the next cohorts to embrace cooperation, endurance, teamwork, unity, and togetherness as the essential pillars to achieving their own educational goals.



This year, the final module in School Practice, titled, 'Teaching the teachers', was taught by the visiting professors from the University of Kenyatta who worked hard with the Diploma students all day Saturday 31st October, along with Mr George Ali of the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (Juba). The learning was assessed by Professor Otim Gama, head of the Department of Education at University of Juba (which awards the final certificates), alongside a team of STTC tutors. As the month of October ends, the Diploma students await the final judgement, but it is only fair to state that we expect their hard work will be rewarded (soon).



Recruitment Update

Recruitment for the February 2027 intake is now completed, with new students expected from each of the dioceses and states in South Sudan. Successful candidates have been contacted by Mr Kirya Julius, who reports a good number of successful candidates across all three programmes: Preservice (Certificate), Inservice (Certificate), and Diploma. All the dioceses are represented in this cycle of recruitment with the exception of Rumbek and Khartoum which we hope will be included next time round.



We look forward to welcoming all our new students to STTC, where there is already a cohort eager to help them settle in.

Inservice students (Years 1 and 2) will report on 11 January 2027; all other students (Diploma, Preservice), will start classes on 1 February 2027; those in residence (Preservice and Diploma ladies) will report a few days earlier.

Diabio teachers in STTC

Nine teachers from Bishop Hiiboro Nursery and Primary School, Diabio (Shalom Christian Organization) recently completed their first full-time, residential block of teacher-training (sponsored by Caritas Austria) in STTC.



Along with the serious work of 'Role of the teacher', school practice, and classroom management, the Diabio students enjoyed learning from the Diploma and Preservice students in residence who were generous in sharing skills useful to the teacher. The smiles say it all.

* * * * *



Curriculum 'Field Mission' at STTC

As October closes, STTC is pleased to welcome an 11-person team from Kenyatta University (KU), Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI), and University of Juba, to undertake serious curriculum work on the revised (and retitled) Certificate and Diploma in Teacher Education (Pre-primary and Primary). They are joined by members of the Western Equatoria State MoGEI and other local experts, and the full team of STTC tutors and Certificate students (Preservice and Inservice).



Led by Dr Samson Kariuki (KU), the first activities on their packed schedule are the School Practice and the Inservice programme, both areas where STTC has much to contribute. We look forward to reporting in the next newsletter on the progress made while hosted at STTC. Already we can testify to the wholehearted engagement of students, tutors, workers and administration in making our visitors welcome, and pushing forward this important work.

Early Childhood never ends

The School Practice focus in Year 1, across all three terms, is Early Childhood. Preparation starts with the learning of songs, games and stories to act out in class, directed by Sr Elizabeth Blok and Madam Foiza. A favourite story is that of the hardworking Little Red Hen with her store of grain, and her ever-multiplying and noisy animal friends who refuse to help but expect to share in the fruits. Stories with a full cast of characters, lots of rhymes and repetition, and that are rooted in the local reality, are re-used with countless classes (of children and of student teachers!)



Creating and using teaching aids is a major part of preparation for Early Childhood teaching. The current Year 1 students have produced a colourful range, including 'big picture', charts, sentence strips, clocks, clay figurines, number cards, bean bags and more.





Most recently, Year 1 students were divided among 19 schools to undertake one week of interactive, play-based classes in Language Activities and Mathematics. They were assessed by STTC tutors on their preparation (simple scheme of work and lesson plans) and on their classroom performance. The driving question: is this lesson designed for how young children learn?

On return from School Practice, the Year 1 students, school-by-school, present on one aspect of Early Childhood Education. While the entertainment value is high, so too is the learning – after all, the point is that young children learn through play and through talk. A reflection paper is the final assessment piece, and then the cycle starts again with the new Year 1. Early Childhood never ends.





Environmental Education at Inservice Wau:
Caring for Our Common Home

On 16 October 2016, the tutors and students of Wau Inservice attended a session on environmental education. The modules explored different themes from *Laudato Si'*. Many challenges were discussed, especially questions about living things and the interconnectedness of all creation.



Everything in nature is connected, and all forms of life depend on one another. The discussion also raised questions about how we understand life and our relationship with nature. From the perspectives of energy and quantum physics, even things that appear non-living, such as stones, are part of the dynamic and interconnected physical world. All creation is interconnected.



This environmental education session invites us all to change the way we think, deepen our connection with nature, and recognize our responsibility to protect and care for our common home.



The session concluded with a tree-planting activity, turning reflection into action. Each tree planted became a sign of hope and a commitment to a greener future. Sr. Dolores Alphonso, FSM and Sr. Eliza Cabanting, ICM accompanied the participants throughout these life-giving sessions, encouraging everyone to deepen their connection with nature and recognize their responsibility for our common home.

Installation of flat-screen TVs

STTC has invested in modern, large, flat-screen TVs for each classroom. This is the first time tutors can use Powerpoint slides, video clips and other up-to-date teaching methods across all teaching venues. Purchased in Kampala, the installation of these high-quality screens has boosted staff morale and delighted students. With so much curriculum revision underway, this is a great boon to lesson planning and effective delivery. We appreciate very much the funding that has made this possible.

