



# EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SOUTH SUDAN

## LIWOLO AREA DIOCESE

### OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



**Founder and CEO CRESSUK  
Knighton Manor  
Broadchalke  
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Dear Caroline & CRESSUK

#### **Introduction**

CRESS and DOL share one common goal. I am indebted to CRESSUK for their ongoing support throughout this period of unrest. I believe this is a testament of the nature of true Christian unconditional love for your neighbour. CRESS provide us with reason to smile. DOL is delighted to be acting as agent on behalf of CRESSUK in South Sudan, and now in Uganda. I outline below a summary report of our activities during January – August 2018, reflecting my two roles as Head of CRESS Projects in Uganda and as Bishop of the Diocese of Liwolo.

#### **Pastoral care to south Sudanese refugees and internal displace persons (IDPS)**

- ❖ My team and I carried out regular monthly visits to the refugee camps, with weekly visits by project leaders. We completed training to provide 35 licenced lay readers in Imvepi (photo below) and the ordination of 24 deacons and 15 priests in Bidibidi with Bishop James Kenyi of Morobu Diocese and 12 in Morobi with Bishop Emmanuel Murye. We have established churches in the new refugees' settlement of Amugo. We provided a Holy Communion service, sharing the gospel in Yangani refugee's settlement, where over a hundred people gave their lives to Christ and thousands, predominantly young people, chose to forgive and be reconciled. We also assisted at an interdenominational pastors' conference organised by Herald Anchor.



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### **Pastoral care and ministry with natives**

- ❖ We have a very good working relationship with the Bishop of the Church of Uganda, Madi and West Nile Diocese, Rt Rev Charles Collin Adaku. He has on several occasions asked me to delegate for him. For example during the first synod, he invited me to preach the Gospel. Furthermore, I officiated at Bishop Charles Collin's silver wedding anniversary celebration.

### **Capacity building of church leaders and clergy**

- ❖ We started the year with the Clergy Trauma conference, inviting Sunday school teachers. This attracted participants from Imvepi, Bidibidi, Mijale and Gobor. This conference was financed and facilitated by the CRESSUK team. Hopes were restored and the miracle of inner healing was felt by those who attended, which has helped to a build strong relationship amongst participants.
- ❖ A one day workshop was organised for the diocesan staff regarding capacity building. This was facilitated by Rev Denis Onzima, International Relations Officer, Uganda Christian University, Arua study centre, where he is also a PhD student. All my staff really appreciated the workshop and the feedback was that this type of event should be organised again.

### **Discipleship and evangelism**

- ❖ My strong passion is discipleship. We have opened over 80 bible study groups in Imvepi and Bidi Bidi in partnership with precept ministry. We completed a ministry institution intensive training course over 2 weeks, training 21 Clergy on evangelism and discipleship. The training will continue for the next 3 years.
- ❖ I have found some useful discipleship training materials and I have shared this with all my staff. We intend to roll out this training in all churches in Amogu, Imvepi, Bidibidi and in Mijale and Gobor. Our goal is to strengthen the Church through establishing the word of God, so that the Church can be instrumental in supporting the transformation of South Sudan.



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### **Peace quest and advocacy**

- ❖ Our unrelenting pursue and quest for lasting peace for South Sudan at grass root level, took us to meet those in opposition and government forces, to endeavour to make the voice of the voiceless heard. To effectively challenge the injustice in the government and those in opposition.

### **Education sponsorship**

- ❖ This project is close to my heart. I am grateful for the addition of the new Education Coordinator Jeska Poni. I am guiding and coaching Jeska as well as presided over the parents' meetings in Arua and Moyo. I continue to supervise and monitor Jeska's work so that her knowledge grows and she is able to carry out her role effectively.

### **Health care services**

- ❖ As Bishop and Head of CRESS in Uganda, I made several visits to the Majale CRESS clinic to oversee the management committee. I am satisfied with the work of Acting Chairman MC, Canon Charles Kenyi Logo. I created the vision, mission and core values of the clinic and developed the strategy, logos and secured the land. As part of the development process I met with representatives from the Yumbe district health and local government authority to iron out issues challenging our activities. Thankfully, we were able to build a good working relationship going forward. I am pleased with the leadership team and staff working at the clinic. The clinic is thriving and we are meeting our goals and vision.

### **Agriculture**

- ❖ My leadership role is key to achieving the desired outcomes for the various projects for the Diocese, as well as ensuring quality, efficiency and effectiveness of delivery of our goals and services. I carry out my role through a mix of meetings, telephone conversations and personal visits, with administrative support, as required. The agriculture project groups are doing very well and this project is helping to raise the hopes, as well as providing a healthy diet and potential income for the families of those involved. This has also raised the self-esteem and helped to heal the groups from the trauma they have experienced, as they see that they are doing something productive for their families.



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### **Other business**

- ❖ In my two day's work for CRESS related duties and activities, I conduct meetings every Monday with my staff team; have facetime with CRESSUK team members and attend to enquiries from heads of departments and clients. I also respond during the week to other requests, when I am able to, although this is not strictly within the time allocated for these duties.
- ❖ Due to funding made available by CRESSUK, I was able to attend the enthronement of our new primate of Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS).

### **Challenges/Prayer Points**

There are numerous challenges as a new Diocese, created during a time of war. The most pressing are as follows:

- ❖ Lack of partners: leaving the workload solely to CRESSUK. The needs of the new Diocese are overwhelming at times. We pray that God will bring in other partners to support this new Diocese to bring the kingdom of God to the people.
- ❖ Capacity building: as new Diocese we lack a trained and competent work force, across all roles, including clergy, church workers and other professionals.
- ❖ Discipleship and Evangelism: the hope of South Sudan depends on the Church, in helping to transform the lives through the Gospel. There is a distinct lack of Bibles, hymn books, prayer books, and Christian literature among the refugees. We pray that God will open doors for the provision of Bibles.
- ❖ Lack of projector and generator: it is critical for us to introduce film. As we visit the camps, we teach discipleship, healing and forgiveness and then we could also reach the young people through film. We pray that God will help provide this much needed equipment.
- ❖ Lasting and genuine Peace. You must be aware of the peace talks and signing of protocols, which were due to take place in Khartoum. You may also be aware that South Sudan breached that peace on the day and hour of signing. We pray that God will help melt the hearts of our leaders and bring about lasting peace to South Sudan so that we can go home.
- ❖ CRESSUK: we continue to pray for CRESSUK, so that we find a new chair for the board of Trustees, for friends and partners.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, we thank you very much Caroline, as CEO of CRESSUK and the board of Trustees, donors, sponsors, partners, friends and well-wishers. Your prayers and financial support have changed our lives and will continue to do so. Thank you very much.

RT REV Joseph Aba Nicanor,

**Bishop of the Diocese of Liwolo and Head of CRESS Projects in Uganda**

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