

Province of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan

**Archiepiscopal visit by His Grace
the Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul
to
Western Equatoria State**

Report to ECS friends and partners

Thursday 11th – Saturday 20th September 2008

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1. Introduction:

His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Daniel Deng Bul, Archbishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, conducted a provincial visit to five out of the six ECS dioceses in Western Equatoria State in September 2008, ostensibly to install and enthrone the new Bishop of Ibba, Rt. Rev. Wilson Kamani, on Sunday 14th September, but also to visit the other dioceses on the way and to spend several days in the Diocese of Yambio - preaching, greeting and visiting. The Archbishop was accompanied by his wife Mama Deborah, the Provincial Secretary, the President and Secretary of the Mothers' Union for Sudan, the Provincial Communications Secretary, the Provincial Youth Co-ordinator, the Provincial Education Development Manager, two drivers and his chaplain. Bishop Anthony Poggo of Kajo-Keji also accompanied the party as far as Ibba. The idea behind this delegation was that the Archbishop should be accompanied by those who will be assisting him in implementing provincial policy and programmes, and to allow a large proportion of the provincial staff to visit other dioceses in order to understand their circumstances better.

The party proceeded from Juba on the morning of Thursday 11th September, passing through the Diocese of Rokon in Central Equatoria State for breakfast. Entering Western Equatoria State, the party were welcomed in the Diocese of Lui and shown around Lui Hospital and Health Worker Training Centre, before proceeding to the Diocese of Mundri for a late lunch. The delegation spent Thursday night in the Diocese of Maridi and on Friday morning was welcomed with a celebratory reception in Maridi Cathedral after visiting the primary and secondary schools, the theological college and the social centre. On the afternoon of Friday 12th the party proceeded to the Diocese of Ibba and was warmly welcomed by +Wilson. Saturday 13th was spent in retreat and in rehearsal for Sunday's enthronement, which took place at 9.30am in St. Barnabus' Cathedral, Ibba, and was followed in the afternoon by a programme of speeches, songs, presentations and prayers.

After dedicating the Pastor Riani Memorial Health Centre in Ibba on the morning of Monday 15th, the delegation proceeded to the Diocese of Yambio, where +Peter Munde, the County Commissioner and Roman Catholic Vicar General gave a warm welcome several miles from the Cathedral. On Tuesday 16th a celebratory service was held in Yambio Cathedral at which the Archbishop preached and was formally welcomed. This was followed by an evening programme of entertainment and speeches and on Wednesday 17th the party visited the Governor of Western Equatoria State, Yambio power station, the ECS secondary school, the vocational training centre and Bishop Yeremaya Theological College. In the afternoon, the Archbishop visited Nzara, earmarked as a new diocese in 2008, and returned to Yambio for dinner at the Governor's residence. On Thursday morning the Archbishop addressed a meeting of Yambio diocesan clergy on the role of a pastor, followed by the County Commissioner's briefing on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and what a pastor's role in its implementation is. The rest of Thursday was kept free for His Grace to rest, before the delegation proceeded back to Juba on Friday 19th, sleeping in Mundri on the Friday night and returning to Juba at 4.30pm on Saturday – after negotiating some terrible road conditions between Mundri and Lui.

2. Personal account of the visit from an outsider:

What follows is a detailed summary of the places visited and events attended from my point of view, giving an idea of the needs of the areas and the feelings of the participants.

Diocese of Rokon:

Bishop Francis Loyo met us at the smart privately-owned guest house just passed Rokon Payam centre, and gave us tea. The delegation then walked with +Francis around the centre of Rokon – a tiny village 50 miles NW of Juba which, during the war, was a Sudan Army garrison town, hence the almost total destruction of pre-war permanent buildings here. The Catholic church is one of the few still standing, which we looked inside, before being shown the Payam (local government administrative unit) HQ and health centre, at which +Anthony prayed for the health care it provides. The ECS use an old native-material army mosque as their church here, and another similar mosque is used as a primary school by the Payam. The ECS Diocese of Rokon own a huge swathe of land running along the south side of the road as you leave Rokon travelling west – a huge opportunity but one that can only be exploited with the correct manpower and technical expertise, both of which are currently lacking in Rokon as most of the population were displaced during the war, and many are still away in Juba or further afield. Two new ECS achievements are a bore-hole well in the middle of the ECS land, around which +Francis is planning his future diocesan HQ, and the first two classrooms of a new “St. Joseph’s Primary School” just up the road from the



Provincial Secretary Canon Enoch and ++Daniel test the new bore-hole well.

bore-hole, funded by the Edith Jackson Trust, Durham, UK, in March 2008.

Diocese of Lui:

We continued on from Rokon to Lui, passing out of Central Equatoria and into Western Equatoria, before passing through Jambo and Buagi into Moruland as the road climbs up to pass over the range of small hills called “Jebel Ess-ess”, before dropping down again to Lui. Bishop Bullen Dolli and his clergy welcomed us to his SCC-built 1970s cathedral, which is actually a very big church, set in a small town which feels very much like an old mission station – because it is. Lui was one of the first places in Equatoria to receive CMS evangelisation in the early 20th century through Dr. Fraser,



L-R: +Anthony, ++Daniel, Canon Enoch Tombe and +Francis walk into Rokon, 11/9/08. All the land to the left of the road is owned by ECS.



The party looks around Lui Hospital

who began the three-fold mission station there: church, clinic, school. Today Lui boasts two large schools, a large hospital, and a medical training centre, the latter built by the NGO Samaritan's Purse. The schools are now run by the government, but +Bullen gave us a guided tour of the hospital, and it was a truly depressing experience, especially as it was my first visit to Lui and I had heard so much talk of the hospital in other parts of Southern Sudan.



The Archbishop and delegation pray for the patients in one of the wards

also looks like it is from the 1970s, and I'm no medical expert, but the general level of sanitation looked very bad. Due to no money to buy fuel for the generator, all the electronic equipment cannot be used, and there is only one doctor for the whole hospital, assisted by very few nurses. The training centre, which was built and operated by Samaritan's Purse when they were assisting the school, is now lying idle, V-Sat internet connection and all. We were introduced to two newly trained midwives whilst there, but there was no evidence of any other trainees still around. It certainly seems criminal that no organisation has yet offered to assist the hospital after the withdrawal of Samaritan's Purse, as to be properly self-supporting the hospital needs proper long-term assistance, with human capital taking priority over money as the facility is already there. The lack of trained health and administrative staff is certainly the biggest problem, and one which the Archbishop sorely recognised. Another major problem is simply that no one knows how bad the situation there is, as communications with Lui are almost non-existent. If the hospital had access to telephones and the internet it could at least show the world – and potential assistants – what conditions there are like, but this is impossible at present. Even if the means were there, the capacity and willingness to do so might still be lacking. The ECS province's installation of internet access at the Diocesan HQ in Lui will assist in breaking this silence, though it is hoped that this report will also contribute. Health organisations, the UN, partners and other churches need to be aware of the situation here – not just the local church and government; which incidentally is not doing much to assist either and itself does not seem to have the capacity, hence the handing of the hospital back to the church.

In his plan for his archiepiscopacy, Archbishop Daniel would like to see four hospitals across Sudan being run by the ECS – one in the North, one in Bahr El Ghazal, one in Upper Nile and one in Equatoria – the latter of which would be a fully renovated and operating Lui Hospital. However, he recognises that Lui must be "put in order" before any others are

Lui Hospital: The hospital is on a large compound with many buildings, most of which date from the 1970s, during the era of peace in Sudan brought about by the Addis Ababa Agreement in 1972. Whilst it and the next door brand new training centre constructed by Samaritan's Purse obviously represent a huge church asset, the greatest shame is that all the buildings and equipment are being underutilized so much due to a lack of trained personnel and income. The Diocese has very little money to give to the hospital and due to the poverty of the vast majority of the patients cannot charge large fees. Most of the equipment



The state of the art training centre left by Samaritan's Purse – now unused due to lack of personnel and funds

begun, and is committed to finding assistance for the hospital to provide once again quality healthcare to the region.

Diocese of Mundri:

Proceeding the 15 miles to Mundri and being welcomed by Bishop Bismark Monday and the Mothers' Union of Mundri Diocese, we were treated to lunch after welcoming speeches in Mundri Cathedral. On leaving Mundri for our overnight stop in Maridi, +Bismark showed us the new Mundri Diocesan HQ building – a very impressive modern permanent structure set in a large piece of land with its own bore-hole well. The Archbishop and party looked in all of the rooms and prayed for the success of the building and the work to be done there in the future.



The new Mundri diocesan office building, still in progress.



The pupils of Haddow Primary School line up outside to greet His Grace and party, 12/9/08.

Diocese of Maridi:

We arrived in Maridi at 8pm on the evening of Thursday 11th September and were shown to our rooms in an excellent guest house built by the NGO ACROSS and left to the diocese. It is now being used by the NGO ZOA and members of the UNMIS team in Maridi. A very pleasant night was spent here, and on the Friday morning Bishop Justin Badi gave the delegation a tour of some of the services now provided by the excellently organised and very well set up diocese:

Haddow Primary School: The ECS primary school directly adjacent to the cathedral in Maridi is named for the

missionary Haddow, and is the largest and best performing primary school in Maridi County with 433 boys and 401 girls at present, making 833 pupils in total. We were welcomed to the school and the Archbishop gave a short address, after hearing a speech from the Maridi Diocesan Education Co-ordinator (DEC). The school prides itself on dedication and commitment to academic standards and a Christian education, and is certainly one of the best ECS schools in all of Sudan. It has 16 teachers, all of whom are on the Western Equatoria State Ministry of Education (WESMoE) payroll and a large and effective parent-teachers association, which is helping to support the school in order to keep standards high. However, there are still problems with class sizes and a shortage of teachers for the number of pupils attending – P1 is 136 pupils, P2 135 and P3 85, for example. Other problems are the lack of fence and therefore security, especially for the girl students, many of who



The Archbishop greets students of Haddow Secondary School

suffer an abrupt end to their education through pregnancies and early marriage. Both were highlighted as major problems.

Maridi Diocese runs 10 church schools in total across the diocese, serving a total number of 2115 pupils and is the biggest and best provider of non-government education in the area. In Maridi itself there is an ECS pre-school which feeds Haddow Primary, **Christ the King Pre-School**. The DEC told the party that their ultimate aim is to provide boarding facilities at Haddow in order to combat the loss of girls to pregnancies and early marriage, and all the schools need more learning materials like text books, nursery school kits, chalkboards and science equipment in the secondary school.

Haddow Secondary School: The secondary school is currently sharing buildings with the theological college, but is also operating effectively with 96 students at present: 53 boys and 43 girls at enrolment in May 2008. The main needs are science equipment for more practical sessions, furniture, text books and some infrastructure of its own – the land for this is already available.

Chaima Theological College: This operates out of a building funded by CMS Ireland, and currently has 17 students studying theology, though the diocese is in the process of introducing 10 different professional courses so as to be able to award by affiliation certificates and diplomas – which would constitute an invaluable service to the entire Maridi area.

All of the Maridi educational facilities lack computer equipment, which is seen as essential to those learning in the 21st century, and the DEC is also keen to begin making the schools self-supporting in case the government ever stops paying salaries. Whilst in Maridi the Archbishop's party also saw the new Clinic and Youth Social Centre, both of which were funded by ERD through SUDRA, and both of which are now fully complete and serving their purposes. Maridi then welcomed the Archbishop with a formal programme in the Cathedral, before we proceeded to Ibba.



His Grace is welcomed in Maridi Cathedral by the choir



Newly enthroned +Wilson Kamani is presented to the congregation by Archbishop Daniel, 14/9/08.

Diocese of Ibba:

On arrival in Ibba diocese on Friday afternoon we were welcomed on the road by all the clergy, Dean Clement Fuokpio and Bishop Wilson Kamani, and led to the diocesan HQ. The Saturday was spent in retreat and rehearsal, Sunday morning being the enthronement service itself and the afternoon being given over to an entertainment and celebration programme of speeches, songs and presentations.

The enthronement itself went smoothly, with the Archbishop guiding those taking part in their legal and ecclesiastical roles in the proceedings and their duties thereafter. +Wilson knocked at the cathedral door with his crosier, signed the Mandate of Enthronement after the Archbishop had officially relinquished episcopal oversight, and was seated in his chair in the sanctuary. Archbishop Daniel preached on +Wilson's new responsibility and that it is when we forget our responsibilities to God and our nation that we find ourselves in disunity and conflict. He outlined ECS provincial policy for the next ten years, listing internet,

peace building, income collection of 1% from all parishes, agriculture, clerical training and stewardship as key priorities, putting a special stress on the church's role in the approaching elections, referendum and in working for the maintenance of the CPA – “when you don't want your brother next to you, you are saying God is wrong!”

ECS Ibba Primary School: The only primary school in Ibba has now been completed with assistance from CMS Ireland and ERD. Only a pit latrine remains to be finished. The eight permanent classrooms now serve all the pupils in a 9 mile radius, though the quality of the teaching staff is still lacking – though the 7 teachers are all on the WESMoE payroll, some who are teaching P7 have not themselves completed P4. Education is +Wilson's top priority for the diocese.



The ECS Ibba Primary School site



The Archbishop speaks after dedicating and opening Pastor Riani Memorial Health Centre, Ibba, 15/9/08

Pastor Riani Memorial Health Centre: On the morning of Monday 15th September, the Archbishop dedicated and officially opened the new health centre, named for the late Pastor Riani, helped with the holy water by myself. The clinic was funded in 2007 by ERD, and now has a resident health worker who is pursuing preventative instruction and operating a dispensary. In fact many of the visiting provincial delegation including the PS and Bishop Anthony Poggo had been accommodated in the centre's several rooms. After a short prayer and tour, the Archbishop's party proceeded to Yambio.

Diocese of Yambio:

The welcoming delegation in Yambio included the ECS bishop, the Roman Catholic Vicar-General Fr. Mark and the Yambio County Commissioner, and set the tone for the next few days – that of a very successful and good working relationship between the major churches, the government, and each other. The main welcome was actually the following morning on Tuesday 16th September at a service of Morning Prayer in Yambio Cathedral, at which His Grace preached and which was attended by both Fr. Mark and H.E. Governor Jemma of Western Equatoria State. She welcomed the Archbishop by quoting President Salva Kiir's speech at his enthronement when he said that the church and the government were working in partnership, and affirmed this position in Western Equatoria.

The Archbishop again preached on unity and peace, thanking the dioceses of MIYE cluster for electing him and promising that



The Archbishop enters Yambio Cathedral to preach, 16/9/08.

they would not be disappointed. He firstly stressed the church's major role in enlightening people about the CPA – highlighting that those who wish to destroy Sudan's fragile peace live amongst us, and that the church should not be afraid to unite against them, instead of quarrelling amongst itself on tribal lines, as this plays directly into the hands of those who want a return to war. This statement came in the wake of Zande-Dinka clashes between Lakes and Western Equatoria State over cattle grazing, and so coming from a Dinka bishop in the Zande heartland was a very powerful statement of unity and gave an example to be followed. The Archbishop repeated his Ibba message – that to have a problem with living beside neighbours in the south who God gave us was tantamount to criticising God Himself. To combat this, he announced a new evangelism drive in the ECS which would require Zande clergy to be posted to other parts of the Sudan and clergy of other tribes to be posted to Zandeland. "If the white men could come here and preach the Gospel, why can't we do that elsewhere in Southern Sudan?" he said. He continued to stress that this Church responsibility for unity and peace was especially necessary in the run up to the 2009 elections and the 2011 referendum on secession. "Only through Jesus Christ can the South be fully united, peaceful and saved".



The delegation is welcomed at Timbrio Secondary School, 17/9/08.

ECS Timbrio Secondary School: On Wednesday 17th the Archbishop and party were taken on a tour of Yambio diocesan institutions, beginning with the secondary school. Rev. Charles Isaac Bangbe, the well-organised Headmaster, had arranged a short programme of welcome and information, in which he and his students reported on their school. There are 14 teachers in total – 4 degree holders, 5 diploma holders, 2 with teaching certificates and 3 with East African educational certificates. There are 3 Ugandan teachers and a Congolese teacher of French, and the school has 96 registered students this year. The school was originally started as a community school by a group of parents and is now benefitting from the WESMoE

salaries, spending the income from a termly fee of 25 SDG on materials, exams, printing, etc. The major constraints at present are an unfinished classroom block, no latrine, no fence, lack of supporting staff, no nearby clean water and a lack of training, though the major plan for the school is to offer boarding as well as proper science lab and IT facilities – if the school offered the latter they would be the first in Western Equatoria State to do so. The school is seeking a partnership with St. Michael's School, Colehill, Wimborne, in the Diocese of Salisbury, UK.

Zindo Technical College: This operated well during the war from the volunteered time of the instructors. Now the buildings are falling apart or overgrown, and it is no longer operating. The official who welcomed us said that the college required "another push" to get it started again.

Bishop Yeremaya Episcopal Evangelical Theological College (BYEETC): The College operates out of a single native material chapel, a single tukul office and underneath the mango trees, though the students are all accommodated in tukuls behind the office. Once ACROSS and ZOA have moved out of the compound adjacent to the road and the current BYEETC, the College will move back into these permanent buildings and operate out of proper offices. The Archbishop gave a lot of advice on the trainees learning practical development skills as well as theology, and suggested that the students should help to cultivate the large wet lands along the stream behind the College, where the SUDRA-ERD-funded **agriculture project** is taking a bit of time to get going.

The Archbishop's party were accommodated in the new Guest House, which is operating well and is very comfortable – when one has a mosquito net as I discovered to my

disadvantage on my first night! On Thursday 18th the Archbishop addressed a workshop of Yambio diocesan clergy on how to be a good pastor, to be followed by the Yambio County Commissioner's briefing on the importance of the CPA and how to promote it as a pastor.

Mundri-Lui road on the return trip:

Due to the lack of a WFP flight back to Juba on Friday 19th September, the party proceeded back by road, overnighing in Mundri, and proceeding to Juba on Saturday 20th. To highlight the appalling conditions on the Western Equatorial roads I shall briefly relate the Mundri-Lui section of the return journey – 15 miles which took us 3 hours to complete.

Just out of Mundri across the new bridge

there is the first section where water seeping under the soft soil of the road has caused the roadway to collapse into a sea of mud, resulting in truck after truck lined up along both sides of the road prevented from proceeding by their compatriots who are stuck in the mud. On one side of this obstacle is an impassable teak forest, and on the other side is a camp of a Joint Integrated Unit of the Sudanese Army/SPLA. It is consequently impossible to pass – unless of course you are travelling with an Archbishop. Archbishop Daniel asked permission from the commander to pass through the camp in order to avoid the blockage, which he agreed to, but even bypassing the main area of mud through the camp required 4 wheel drive to be used.



The Archbishop leads the party in beginning to dig out the mud next to the stuck bus

standing around, rolling up his sleeves, removing his shoes, and getting stuck in. All the delegation – the PS and myself included – followed suit, to gasps of astonishment from the idle onlookers, and eventually we cleared enough of the mud for driver Rev. John Vero to try driving through on 4 wheel drive. He made it and the second vehicle followed suit, to just rejoicing from the whole party.

A similar situation was discovered just outside Lui at a third point of road collapse, though this time due to trucks blocking both sides of the road before and after the blockage, we paid our way through a local field in order to drive around the obstacle – only to come across another bus stuck in



A truck overturned by the muddy road between Mundri and Lui, 20/9/08.

The second bad section was a few miles from Lui, and was the worst blocked road I have experienced in a year of service in Southern Sudan. Having got out of the vehicles to assess the situation and seeing that a coach had got stuck, blocking the way past a muddy trench filled with water that had obviously been overused as a route to the point where the road level had sunk about a metre into the mud, we realised that the only way past this was to re-open this ditch manually as a thoroughfare by digging out the mud which had accumulated in the centre. Archbishop Daniel, declaring that unless we actually did the work we would be stuck potentially until the bus was towed out, led the way, borrowing tools from those



The Archbishop continues the digging...

the cassava and groundnut garden we were



Rev. John Vero finally plunges the first vehicle through the cleared muddy ditch.

attempting to drive through. Eventually we bypassed this as well, and proceeded to Juba, thankful for a safe journey, but with the intention of bringing this matter before the government. Such transport problems are really keeping Southern Sudan back in development terms, as these blockages prevent goods from getting to their destinations, drive up prices and cause instability in the areas in which they occur, due to the stuck drivers eating all the local food – a case highlighted by +Bullen when he said “they’ve eaten all the pumpkins”. The Archbishop should also be praised for his practical and lowly actions, and appeals to the government to act.



A good day's work by Archbishop Daniel!

3. Archbishop's findings and recommendations on the visit:

On 24th September 2008, the Archbishop held a visit debriefing meeting in All Saints' Cathedral, Juba, in order for all the provincial staff that travelled with him to share their observations. The Provincial Secretary outlined the visit's numerous objectives:

- (i) To enthrone the Second Bishop of Ibba, Rt. Rev. Wilson Kamani.
- (ii) To greet the bishops in the dioceses visited, especially the retired bishops, in order to encourage them in their continuing work and ministry.
- (iii) To monitor and evaluate diocesan performance in all fields, though especially the performance of the bishop himself, often after a long absence from the diocese.
- (iv) To monitor and evaluate those development projects being implemented by the dioceses.
- (v) To spread news of provincial policy direction – especially that on peace-building, implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), internal fund-raising through 1% contributions from the faithful, spreading of evangelism and training of pastors both spiritually and practically.
- (vi) To visit the proposed Diocese of Nzara to get an up to date picture of its capabilities.

The Archbishop shared the following:

Yambio: Here the government thought it was good to see +Peter Munde back in the diocese and to be able to properly consult him on various issues such as the use of church land for a power station and collaboration on educating the public on the CPA.

Nzara: On Wednesday 17th September, when the party visited Nzara, about 20 miles west of Yambio, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) attacked Sudanese villages on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) some 19 miles away. Anything could have happened, and this visit demonstrates commitment to Nzara as a proposed diocese. All areas in the south of Western Equatoria have recently been affected by LRA attacks – especially Ibba Diocese that was attacked in June 2008, causing large numbers of displaced people to Ibba Town from Nabanga on the DRC border. Nzara will be upgraded to a full diocese in the near future, so the visit was paid as a final assessment.

Ibba: The new clinic is very encouraging to see, and will improve with increasingly better management. The Cathedral will be given a permanent roof in zinc sheets.

Maridi: This diocese seems very well organised and +Justin Badi has really set a standard that should be encouraged throughout the ECS – especially on income generation, motivation of staff and therefore sustainability. All the ECS bishops should try and either see the diocese first hand or talk to +Justin in order to emulate his practices and commitment.

Lui: The hospital is in a dire state and needs serious support from many people, which the province can help to facilitate. The management structure and the distinction between government and church ownership and management need clarification. The administration, technical expertise and medical equipment are the three greatest priorities. The Diocese of Missouri, the Salisbury-Sudan Medical Link and the Christian Health Association of Sudan will all be approached.

Taking both vehicles away from the Provincial Office is never a good thing, and in future should be avoided. All efforts need to be made to secure other vehicles or funds for travel in the future. A letter of gratitude and appreciation will be sent to H.E. the Governor of Western Equatoria State.

4. Observations from various other members of the delegation:

Communications Secretary:

The receptions by faithful in the dioceses as well as the local government and administration along the way were all very good, which shows that people can be united in the Church through their leaders. The reception of the Government of Western Equatoria State and in particular that of Her Excellency the Governor, was exceptional, and shows how committed they are as a government to working with the churches and in particular the ECS. The ecumenical representation in Yambio was also very encouraging.

It was good to see the bishops in their dioceses along the way.

For future journeys, tools need to be taken in the vehicles with the travelling party so as to be able to dig vehicles out of the mud if they ever get stuck or need to use them on the road. The Archbishop really requires his own vehicle and driver for these visits instead of borrowing the SUDRA vehicle, as this handicaps the SUDRA office in Juba whilst he is away.

Youth Co-ordinator:

The large provincial delegation which accompanied the Archbishop was very good, as it gave the Archbishop "several pairs of eyes" through which to see each place he visited. It was also a profitable visit as all the participants learnt from the experience and from the time together.

It was an excellent opportunity to meet the youth leaders in the different dioceses, and to encourage the increased organisation of youth activities in Western Equatoria.

Mothers' Union Secretary:

The Mothers' Union President and Secretary very much appreciated the opportunity they were afforded by the Archbishop in accompanying him to Western Equatoria, and have had their eyes opened to the state of the Mothers' Union on the ground in the dioceses.

Maridi has an excellently organised MU with a smart central office, trained and pro-active leader, and committee membership.

Let us pray for similar MU organisation in all other ECS dioceses. The provincial MU leaders' only organisational regret on the trip was that they did not get enough time to see all the women they would have wanted to due to the Archbishop's programme, and look forward to the next opportunity to visit the dioceses of Western Equatoria.

Education Development Manager and SUDRA Assistant:

Individual projects and schools are covered in Nic Ramsden's report from Page 4. Statistics from schools in Maridi and Yambio are attached in the annexes.

The **Diocese of Rokon** is constructing two new permanent classrooms at the new site of St. Joseph's ECS Primary School. The site is about a mile out of Rokon Town centre on the south side of the road as you travel towards Lui, and is part of a large area of church land on which +Francis Loyo plans to construct a Cathedral and Diocesan Headquarters. There is already a bore-hole well on the site which was drilled in December 2007 and funded by Hope Japan. The classrooms at St. Joseph's are being funded by the Edith Jackson Trust, a Church trust foundation based in Durham, UK, with which +Francis has links from his period studying for his MA Theol. at Durham University. The Trust plans to raise £100,000 over three years to build a full school, of which the present construction is the initial phase. The money is being channelled through the SUDRA account at NCB Juba.

Lui Diocese has a bore-hole well project supported by Hope International through SUDRA pending implementation in 2008. (For the hospital, see the full report in the annexes.)

Haddow Primary School, **Maridi**, is probably one of the best ECS schools in all of Sudan, and appears to be operating very well, despite a few continuing problems. Haddow Secondary is also operating smoothly, though needs its own buildings. Both SUDRA funded projects from 2007 are now up and running – the Youth Social Centre and the clinic.

The ECS Primary School in **Ibba** is now fully constructed – four classrooms being funded by ERD through SUDRA and the other four being funded by CMSI. The biggest problem here is lack of qualified teachers – there are only 7 teachers for 8 sizable classes, and most teachers have not themselves completed primary education. The Pastor Riani Memorial Health Centre funded by ERD through SUDRA is now running.

ECS Timbrio Secondary, **Yambio**, is quite impressive – the teachers are all well qualified and paid by the government. The Guest House, funded by ERD through SUDRA is now fully operational, we stayed in it, and it is of a very reasonable quality for Yambio.

Provincial Secretary:

The PS was grateful to be with the Archbishop for this visit, and appreciated in particular the specialisations of the accompanying delegation for reporting purposes.

ECS Province needs to produce a standard liturgy for enthronements (and other major services) so that all the legal and ecclesiastical requirements are always done.

The meeting with retired bishops was a very good aspect of the visit, as it makes them feel “still wanted” by the church, which they should be as they are so valuable a spiritual resource. We must remember that they have only “retired from the management, not from the Church”, and must encourage the use of retired bishops – especially those with the experience of +Eluzai Munde – in all the dioceses, for spiritual guidance, support, retreats, assisting the current diocesan bishop, and other small duties.

In future the financial planning for archiepiscopal visits needs more careful planning. The money taken for this visit proved to be insufficient for the fuel required along the way, leading to delegates having to pay for fuel with their own money. The money for this visit was borrowed against a promise of money from GoSS Ministry of Religious Affairs which has not materialised – a mistake which should not be repeated. The issue needs to be followed up with the Ministry and either a vehicle or travel expenses extracted from them.

The issue of return flights to Juba not arriving and the lack of communication with Juba from Yambio points to a possible solution: always having a provincial Thuraya in Juba so that the archbishop may contact his HQ whilst in the field.

5. Recommendations and appeals:

- (i) **Lui Hospital** needs urgent support from partners of the ECS. Renovation and sound operation of the hospital to a level where it provides decent medical care for its huge catchment area is Archbishop Daniel's number one health priority. ECS Province appeals to the Diocese of Missouri, the Diocese of Salisbury's Medical Link, the Christian Health Association of Sudan (CHAS) and any other partners working in health to assist the province and the Diocese of Lui in getting the hospital running properly again. The first step would be a professional assessment of the facility by qualified medical personnel. This is urgent.
- (ii) **Peace building** between Zande and Dinka in Western Equatoria State, Lakes State and Warrab State, as well as within Western Equatoria between Zande and Moru and the Ambororo is a second urgent priority in which the church can and should take a big lead. The Archbishop has announced a Western Equatoria-Bahr El-Ghazal ECS-led peace conference for 2009. Any partners with interests in peace building in this region should contact His Grace for more information and to see where they could fit in. The proposal has the full backing of the ECS dioceses in Western Equatoria and Bahr El-Ghazal, as well as the Western Equatorial State Government.
- (iii) **Ibba Diocese** is now blessed with a new bishop. Please pray for +Wilson Kamani and the task that lies before him in developing his small rural diocese. Any assistance that can be afforded to him especially in the fields of education, training, health and theological instruction will be greatly appreciated.
- (iv) **Capacity building** in all the dioceses and at all levels is a pressing priority – theologically, ecclesiastically, liturgically, technically, and, most important, in management and administration. If any partners can assist in this – ideally by sending specialists rather than money – it would be greatly appreciated.
- (v) The Archbishop requires a **vehicle** of his own for his field visits in Southern Sudan from Juba.
- (vi) The Provincial HQ in Juba needs to be equipped with a **Thuraya satellite telephone**.
- (vii) Tools should be purchased and carried with the provincial motorcade in future.
- (viii) Individual provincial departments to look into the specific problems in their respective fields in the dioceses visited.
- (ix) Constant prayer and support if possible for the Archbishop, the dioceses visited, and all the issues raised in this report.

If any more information on any issues raised is required by any partners, please do not hesitate to contact the following:

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