



EPISCOPAL ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF GAMBELLA
ገንጠላ ክፍለ-መንግሥት የገንጠላ ክፍል

Episcopal Anglican Province of Alexandria



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DIOCESE OF THE HORN OF AFRICA
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Anglican Diocese of Gambella

Anglican Diocese of the Horn of Africa

Newsletter 2021

Jan- March 2021



The Ministry of Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union Conference in Matar

The Mothers' Union has had a wonderful Fellowship Conference from 12-15th of January 2021. Several hundred Mothers' Union members have attended the three days Conference. There is tremendous growth within the Mothers' Union membership.

The ministry of the mother's union is remarkable in the whole region of Gambella. Women are very committed, dedicated, hardworking and very influential in Gambella community. They play an important and indispensable role in the church. To God is the glory.



Mothers' Union Training on Literacy

The training begins from 12-15th of March 2021. Such training is of a high level for Coordinators from several Regions of Africa. This training is organized by the Mothers' Union in the UK with Naomi and Anne.



Clergy Retreat in April 2021

Our Clergy Retreat will be held on the 14-16th of April 2021 at Anglican Center in Gambella. Bishop Kuan the Commissary Bishop for the Horn of Africa declared that the Clergy Retreat to be held in Gambella will be focusing on Rooted in Jesus –a discipleship Course available for every Christian.

Two campuses for St. Frumentius

After a lot of discussion between Bishop Kuan and the Alexandria school of theology board, it was decided to have two campuses for St Frumentius, one in Gambella and one in Addis Ababa. St. Frumentius will focus on biblical studies and discipleship training for the coming 2 to 3 years. Good candidates who are academically good, will then move to Addis Ababa to study in one of the seminaries there and study an Anglican track at St. Frumentius Addis Ababa which will be attached to St Mathew church. When the time comes and education improves in Gambella we hope that St. Frumentius campus in Gambella will be a theological school (Seminary). This arrangement is somehow similar to the two campuses in Egypt (Cairo and Alexandria).



Putting down roots in Ethiopia

Rooted in Jesus has now been introduced to 92 dioceses and networks in 17 African countries.

IN BRIEF

2020 brought challenges none of us had expected. As a global pandemic swept over the world, churches closed, conferences were postponed, movements restricted, and livelihoods threatened.

We were able to run conferences in three dioceses before national lockdowns came into force, but we had to postpone an additional six conferences, all of which will be rescheduled when the situation permits.

We have kept in regular touch with Rooted in Jesus dioceses, networks and ministry partners, and have continued to support them in prayer through our regular prayer diaries and our intercession teams. We have learned to use Zoom, and have used Whatsapp to strengthen relationships with both dioceses and coordinators.

Finally, we have been able to take advantage of a quieter year both to commission and format new translations of the course materials and training manuals, and to begin work on a new Rooted in Jesus Book 5.

A new programme for a new diocese

In February a team from South Africa and the UK were invited to provide RiniJ training for those ministering in the new Diocese of Gambella.

The region of Gambella lies in the west of Ethiopia, towards the border with South Sudan. Bishops Kuan Kin Seng and Vincent Rajan had gathered the clergy and seminary students together for their annual clergy conference, and the visiting team was led by Bishop Martin Breytenbach, with Colleen Breytenbach, coordinator Ven Hectrina Tosteni from the Diocese of Free State, and Bishop John Hayden, one of the pioneers of RiniJ in Tanzania. Revd Jeremiah Paul had arranged for the materials to be translated into Thok Nath and Amharic.



Groups began straight away, and by May Jeremiah reported that RiniJ was having a huge impact in the life of the churches. By October he was able to confirm that the churches in Gambella town were seeing great growth and fruitfulness, with many new converts. Despite the real challenges and difficulties posed not only by Covid-19 but also by the severe flooding which forced many people to flee their homes, Jeremiah reported in December that there were 47 active groups with 521 members, of whom 233 were new converts. He wrote:

"Rooted in Jesus Ethiopia has been a vital instrument to Christian maturity as well as reaching out to the lost souls. The RiniJ serves a purpose during the lockdown of the Covid-19 pandemic. We witnessed how God comforted the victims of the Covid-19 and strengthened churches that started the programme. Rooted in Jesus is the core for our Church Ministry in Gambella. God has indeed blessed us with such an excellent tool for discipleship and evangelism in Ethiopia and beyond. It has become a useful tool for reshaping the direction of our ministries in the Diocese. We do not take it for granted."

Revd Jeremiah Paul, RiniJ Coordinator and Principal of Gambella Seminary.

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Land for Abobo Mission Center

One of the urgent needs was about the Church land for Abobo Mission Center. Rev. Omod Ogud and the Mission Center Council showed us how small the land was and, the Leadership Committee decided that the land should be extended for an additional piece of land for the future development of the Mission Center. So the Church in Abobo has asked for support from the Diocese to add a piece of land behind the Church Compound.

As a result, we agreed that all the Mission Centers in the Diocese of Gambella should contribute 50% of the amount, and, Bishop Kuan ordered the other 50% making up a total of 50,000 birrs. While in Abobo we see that the community around the Church is in desperate need of a Kindergarten for their children. However, the additional piece of land will at the moment be used for agriculture, to generate income for the Church.



The Good Shepherd Cathedral Building Project in Gambella

The Building Project of the Good Shepherd Cathedral has seen much progress with almost 75% of the structure is completed. The cathedral is designed by the International Design and Development (IDD). We are now in the stage of finishing the construction and will soon start finishing the cathedral. We have already spent 4,852,700.00 Birr (\$119,609.00 US Dollars) on the building of the marking of land boundaries, water technicians, and building of the cathedral.

The funds needed now are \$241,316.29 US Dollars.

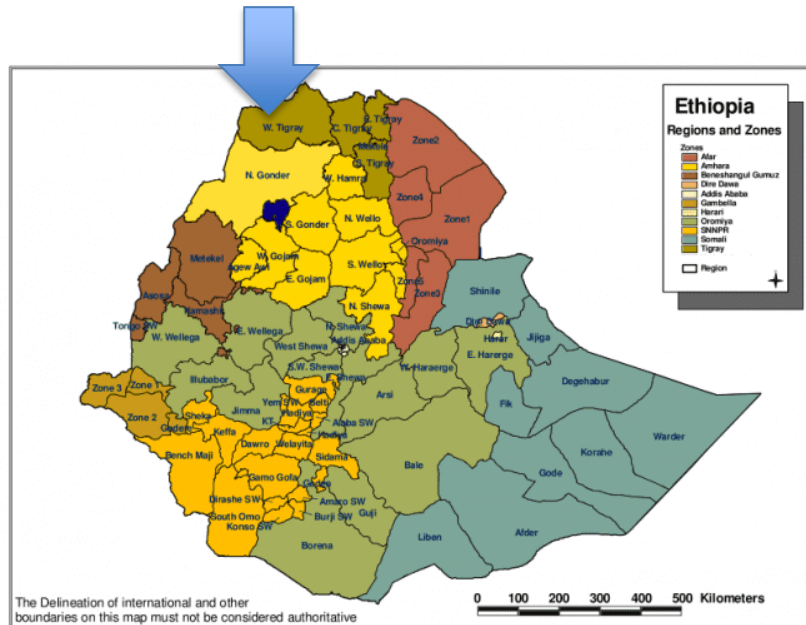


Humanitarian Crisis in Tigray Region

In Tigray Regional state since 2019 situations continued moving from bad to worse. 2019 was a tough year in the region where the locust infestation and drought in parts of the regional state affected the people. Furtherer 2020 was another tough year in the region where Coronavirus, number of rounds of Locust infestation in the region which destroyed the harvest.

Moreover, from the 4th of November 2020 up to today there has been a region-wise war between the regional government and federal government. The war has affected the whole population of the region either directly or

indirectly. The war caused multidimensional problems and losses to the people in the region. More than 50,000 civilians have been killed, more than 4;5 million people in critical need of food, shelter, non-food items, health support, etc. More than 2.4 million people are internally displaced, a wide range of rape and sexual assaults, looting, destruction of houses, property, health facilities, infrastructure, livestock, etc. No internet till today, movements are restricted



with state of emergency law on the ground. Generally, speaking the situation in Tigray is heartbreaking. Currently, it could be said that Tigray is like a sheep in a jungle that could be attacked by different wild animals or living in trauma.

Therefore, in the entire Regional state, there is a pressing humanitarian crisis demanding an urgent response from the world (from humanitarian agencies and international communities or private initiatives, etc.).

EDEN being an Episcopal Anglican Church faith-based registered NGO has prepared a Concept Note to contribute its efforts in responding to this pressing Humanitarian Need in the regional state for the people in crises.

For the aimed intervention of EDEN, the estimated budget for 4 (four) months is 350 000 dollars, which is equivalent to 13,779,500 Birr at an exchange rate of 1 dollar= 39.37.00Birr.

From the above-requested amount till now \$ 18,853 received from the Diocese of Singapore and £6000 from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Anglican Communion Fund. Moreover, we are expecting (pleaded) about \$37000 from the Diocese of Singapore, \$10000 from The Diocese of Egypt and \$10000 from Anglican relief and development fund USA.

The received funds are going to the needy people in different ways such as the provision of food and non-food items. EDEN will provide to the donors a timely report of the financial utilization.

Our sincere thanks go to the Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer H. Anis and Bishop Samy from Egypt, the Rt. Rev. Kuan Kim Seng and Noven from Singapore, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Safiya Nyirongo and Lina Lavruvianec from the UK.

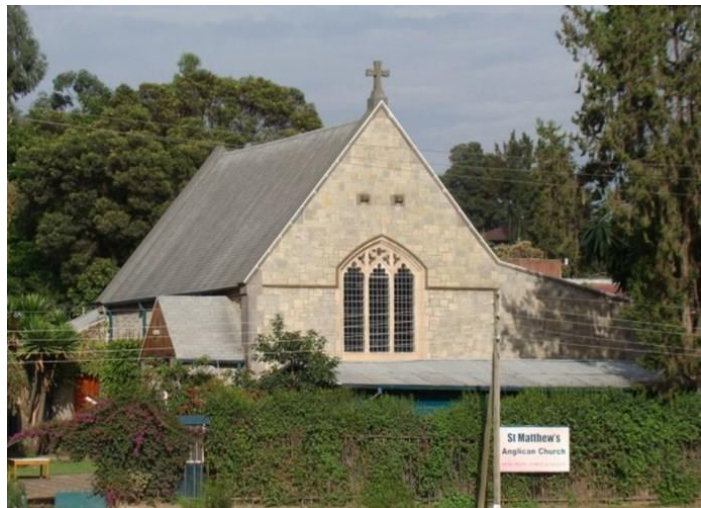
The Social and Development Organization of the Church (EDEN)

Since December 2019, the Episcopal Anglican Church in Ethiopia has established a legally registered NGO called Social and Development Organization of the Episcopal Anglican Church in Ethiopia (EDEN). The Ethiopian Anglican Church Social and Development Organization has been registered and accorded legal personality with Reg. Number 4622 on December 10, 2019, as local Organizations in accordance with the Civil Society organizations proclamation No. 1113/2019. It is meant to take care of the Social and Development Activities of the Church in the Horn of Africa. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic which distracted a lot of things, EDEN did not act as required. However, it has developed some shelved projects on potable water supply, street children, seed fair and emergency relief support in the Northern part of Ethiopia which has been hit hard with desert locust invasion and civil war.

St. Mathew's church Addis Ababa

The English language Services/programe at St. Matthew

Services were re-opened at the end of the national State of Emergency in September, 2020. Since then, service attendance has been somewhat reduced, as many expatriates have been evacuated from the country related to the COVID-19 pandemic and policy responses to it, whereas few new expatriates are coming to Addis Ababa these days. On an



average Sunday currently, about 50-60 attend the 9:00 family-oriented service and about 25 the 10:30 traditional mass service.

The Amharic language Service at St. Matthew

Amharic service has been started in 2017 by the Areal Bishop; Bishop Grant Lamarquand under the Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer H. Anis, the Amharic service has started by ordaining an Ethiopian deacon to pastor the Amharic congregation at St. Matthew's Anglican



Church. The number of Amharic service attendants (not confirmed) has begun with 12 people and was grown up to 99 people including 15 children.

Thok Naath Congregations/Nuer language at St. Matthew

The Thok Naath congregation has been started with 23 participants and now grows up to 55 including the Children. The Thok Nath Congregant meets every Sunday at 2:30 - 5:30. Youth groups of the Thok Nath Congregation who are about 18 members meet every Wednesday afternoon. Student program is scheduled for Saturday. Eight (8) students are committed to the program. Rooted in Jesus group of the Thok Nath Congregation are meeting every Monday, they have completed book one and left only with a section from book two.

The Saris Christian Center

Saris Christian Center was officially opened by Bishop Grant in 2016. Since that time Rev. Daneil Kebede is serving as the pastor of the center. Rev. Daneil Kebede has started the mission in 2008 with a small group of refugees from different parts of the world and internally displaced people from different regions of Ethiopia. Since 2011, 68 people have been baptized.

Assosa Mission Center

The Assosa mission center is mainly working with refugees from South Sudan and other countries as well. Rev Michael Anyar and Rev Isaac Moma are the clergy working in the mission area.

Tilu Dimtu Mission Area

The Tilu Dimtu Mission Center is located in the South East of Addis Ababa. Rev Deng Mark is the clergy working in the mission center. According to his reports there are about 100 people who are preparing for confirmation and taking the Rooted in Jesus course.

Prayers Request

- Pray for the completion of **the Good Shepherd Cathedral**, May the Lord provides the funds needed
- Pray for the people in the Tigray region.
- Pray for the discipleship program to start soon
- Pray for the leaders of Gambella and The Horn of Africa.



Bishop Kuan Kim Seng



Rev. Dr. Gidey Syoum



Rev. Jeremiah Maet