

# STTC Newsletter - June 2025

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



## Open Day at STTC

Over one hundred local teachers, headteachers, education officers and others attended an Open Day in STTC on 27 May 2025. The planning was efficiently handled by the MC, Oloya Jackson, along with tutors and students, while the cooks prepared an excellent dinner for everyone.

The Principal, Br Francis Agoah, opened the day by introducing staff and student leadership, and an inspiring address on the value of education. Academic Affairs then gave a technical presentation on STTC's Certificate and Diploma programmes and the application process. Student librarians conducted a library tour, followed by Administrator Sr Elizabeth Blok leading a quick tour of the classrooms, dormitories, computer room, chapel, and other college facilities.

Testimonies from two current Diploma students from the Yambio area, Penina and Emmanuel, were among the memorable elements of the day. The celebration of South Sudan culture is always part of an STTC gathering; this time an expanded Zande group of dancers captivated the visitors.

We are grateful for the support of Mr Peter Mbia, Director General for Education and STTC board member, and Mr Hosea Nyemuyo Enosa, Senior Inspector for Teacher Education and STTC Diploma graduate, for promoting the Inservice programme among Western Equatoria teachers.

The visitors were impressed with the excellent facilities, the standard of teaching and status of the awards, the beauty of the environment, and with the warm welcome extended by staff and students. The follow-up, in terms of applications for admission in 2026, is very encouraging. Expect to see Open Day as an annual calendar event.



## Joly Phonics from WAU

22nd May 2025 was an exciting day at Inservice, Wau, as the trainees dedicated this day to creating teaching resources for Jolly Phonics in Early childhood and primary classes. The aim was to deepen understanding of Jolly Phonics and to design practical, engaging teaching materials aligned with its principles. Jolly Phonics, a systematic phonics program designed to teach children the five basic skills for reading and writing, emphasizes multisensory learning—making it ideal for hands-on resource creation.

Educators reviewed the forty-two phonetic sounds, examining the instructional methods involving storytelling, activities, and music for each sound. This not only reinforced foundational knowledge but also sparked innovative ideas about how phonics could be made even more engaging. Each student focused on an aspect of Jolly Phonics—letter formation, blending games and sound recognition.

The creation of Jolly Phonics was not about making things; it was about making a difference. It reminded everyone about the power of collaboration, creativity, and passion in shaping how children learn to read. Many appreciate the unique opportunity to create focused resources.

The return to school was notable, as most of the teachers are senior citizens who have not engaged in drawing and colouring for an extended period. It was a child like feeling to see them laugh at their own work. It was a fruitful experience and created a positive and happy learning environment.



## Sports: Football Match

On May 31, 2025, the dynamic athletes of Solidarity Teacher Training College (STTC) engaged in a friendly, yet fiercely contested match. This encounter between the diploma and preservice classes was the second of its kind. The diploma students, demonstrating their strategic prowess and sportsmanship, asserted their dominance, clinching a well-deserved victory with a score line of 3:1 even though the Preservice team displayed a fierce determination and resilience throughout the game.

Both teams displayed an admirable sense of sportsman like- a true testament to the camaraderie and healthy competitive spirit that thrives within the STTC community. This friendly encounter not only served as a platform for healthy competition but also fostered a sense of unity and mutual respect among the students. Well done to the diploma team and better luck next time round for the preservice team





## Sr. Jacinta's Birthday

On June 4, all the STTC community, students, and tutors alike, came together to celebrate the birthday of our beloved Sr. Jacinta, Director of Academic Affairs. The day began with Eucharist and special prayers, expressing our gratitude to the Almighty for blessing us with Sr. Jacinta, a remarkable person whose dedication and tireless efforts have touched the lives of many in STTC. To honour her we shared a birthday cake whilst filling the atmosphere with warmth, smiles and a deep sense of appreciation for her unwavering commitment to our college.

## Host to Major and Minor Seminarians (CDTY)

On June 9, STTC hosted major and minor seminarians from the Catholic Diocese of Tombura Yambio for their day of recollection. Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro and some formators of the seminarians led the group. The college joined the group for the Eucharist at 8 am presided by the bishop. After breakfast, our students continued with their normal classes. The gathering of this group in our college was an opportunity for us to get to interact with these young men at various stages of their formation. We were glad to host them here. They promised to keep this college in their thoughts and prayers. We wish them well!



## STTC Advisory Board Meeting

On June 18, the Advisory Board of STTC held the last of its biannual meeting for this year. This is the first time our new Executive Director, Fr Luoa was meeting the board whose responsibility it is to give advice and support him in formulating policies that will promote the growth and development of the college. We are delighted to welcome a lady, Sr. Sarah Gune and Fr Thomas Bagbiowia who replaces Fr. Morris Ibiko as advisory board member.

## New place of convenience blessed

On 21 May 2025, the College was pleased to announce the inauguration of a new visitor facility. This is the block of four toilets near the entrance gate. One has an extra-wide entrance door, for wheelchair users, and all are accessible by ramp with guard rails. There is also one shower. The security men are the first users and maintain them to the highest standard which you will see for yourself when you visit. This block is the gift of an Irish donor, Thecla Carleton and her husband Padraig McLoughlin. Thecla volunteered as a Tutor Librarian in STTC in February 2025 when construction commenced.



## Newly Employed Tutors

We are pleased to announce the employment of two new tutors following a rigorous, transparent, and professional recruitment process. We are delighted to welcome:

- Mrs. Laker Eunice - English Tutor.
- Mrs. Ndukpoi Foiza - Library Assistant/tutor

Both Mrs. Laker and Mrs. Ndukpoi demonstrated outstanding competence, commitment, and enthusiasm during the interview process. We are confident that they will significantly contribute to the academic excellence and holistic development of our student teachers.

Welcome to both. We look forward to working together in nurturing competent, compassionate, and transformative educators.



Mrs. Ndukpoi Foiza - Library Assistant/Tutor



Mrs. Laker Eunice - English Tutor

## Notable events in STTC: Calendar of activities

05 May to 25 July 2025	Second term for the Year One Certificate and Diploma students
04 Aug to 31 Oct 2025	Third term for the Year One Certificate and Diploma Students
05 May to 01 Nov 2025	Final semester for the Inservice Students
27 May 2025	Open Day: Over one hundred people attended. Several unqualified teachers applied for 2026 admission. There has also been strong interest in the Diploma programme.
08 Nov 2025	Farewell to Diploma and Certificate Inservice Students
10 Dec 2025	Year Two (Preservice continuing students) starts. They complete weeks 1-6 of term one on 19 Dec. 2025
April 2026	Possible recruitment begins
15 Dec 2025	Welcoming newly recruited Inservice students. This aims to maximize enrolment on the Inservice Certificate programme and ensure a timely start to the academic year.