

STTC Newsletter –September 2026

Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio, South Sudan



Inservice Year 2

Perseverance is the key to success, and our Inservice Second-Year students embody this truth. In February 2025, six dedicated teachers—Dungufura Gabriel David Kumboti, Hamad Samir Saeed, James Philip Manzigo, Nyamuse Hozana Natale, Singba Tereza Wilson, and Virginia Mborigie William Luciano—joined STTC with determination to balance their roles as educators, parents, and learners.



Sr. Sherly and IS2 teacher trainees posing a photo

Their daily routine is demanding: teaching until 2:00 p.m., attending college training until 5:30 p.m., and then returning home to fulfill family responsibilities. This balance requires sacrifice, discipline, and unwavering commitment. Yet, despite the challenges, they have pressed forward and will graduate in November as fully trained teachers.

The Inservice Teacher Training Programme offers a golden opportunity for communities — empowering teachers to grow professionally while continuing to serve their schools and families. But such success is possible only through perseverance, discipline, and hard work.

Special recognition goes to Sr. Sherly George, their class tutor, whose patient guidance, encouragement, and mentorship have been a source of strength throughout their journey. Her belief in their potential has inspired them to keep moving forward even when the path was difficult.

The story of these students is a powerful reminder that true success is not achieved overnight but through perseverance, sacrifice, and support. Their journey stands as an inspiration to all who strive to balance responsibility with ambition — proof that with determination, success is always within reach.

RECRUITMENT UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2027 INTAKE

Recruitment for the February 2027 intake officially commenced in August 2026 and will run until the end of September 2026. To date, the Diocese of El-Obeid has recorded the highest number of applicants compared with other dioceses. However, we have not yet received applications from the Dioceses of Rumbek, Wau, and Khartoum. With only a few days remaining before the deadline, we continue to look forward to welcoming applicants from these dioceses.



We strongly encourage interested candidates from all dioceses—particularly those that have not yet submitted applications—to take advantage of the remaining recruitment period and ensure their submissions are received before the closing date.

PS2 FAREWELL AND CULTURAL DAY AT STTC

On September 28th 2026, STTC held a farewell ceremony for the 30 students (15 women, 15 men) who have successfully completed their two-year Certificate in Primary Education. This coincided with the annual Cultural Day in which the diverse cultures of South Sudan and Sudan are exhibited by the students of STTC.



The occasion was graced by the presence of His Royal Majesty Atoroba Rikito Gbudue, the king of the Azande kingdom alongside His Lordship Barani Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala, the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio, Fr. Thomas Bagbiowia (STTC Board member) and the Director General in the Ministry of Education, Western Equatoria State, Mr. Zingbondo Jeremiah Emmanuel.



All the students of STTC received the king in traditional manner at the gate, kneeling and bowing as he entered; he then continued with a brief tour of the college guided by Sr. Jacinta, Fr. Louis and the bishop. The cultural programme included Acholi, Lotuko, Nuba, Azande, Shilluk, Dinka and Nuer cultural songs and dances. It was interesting to notice that almost all the students participated in all the presentations. This was a strong and practical message of unity and peaceful co-existence that is needed in South Sudan.



Sr. Jacinta Prunty, Director of Academic Affairs department, and also the acting principal, welcomed the king, the bishop and the distinguished guests, before giving details on the programmes at STTC. Ms Nyanthiey Reat, the Students' Representative Council (SRC), emphasized girls' education and called upon the graduating group (PS2) to go and put into use what they have learnt for the good of the children who will be entrusted to their care. Mr. Kizito Madani, a representative of the Diploma students, also called upon the newly-qualified teachers to use education as a tool for nation building and change in Sudan and South Sudan. On behalf of the PS2 class, Mr. Lokejumoi Victor thanked everybody who was concerned for and involved in their training.



In his brief speech, the bishop emphasized the importance of the Azande king in the struggle for peace in South Sudan and also his closeness and support to the church. The king has offered scholarship for five students from the kingdom to study at STTC. Mr. Zingbondo encouraged all the students, current and graduating, to value their profession of teaching despite the challenges.

The king appreciated the services offered by the church and by Solidarity in particular. While praising the unity in diversity that is exhibited by the STTC students, he called them to go and spread the same message of unity and peaceful co-existence, and to restore the good but lost cultures of their different communities. He called upon all the stakeholders; the church, government, partners and parents to support this teacher training college as it is important for the kingdom. He also cautioned the graduating teachers not to go and sit to wait for American companies or NGOs to flock to South Sudan with employment opportunities, but rather to go and help their own people by creating jobs.

CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS FROM UNIVERSITY OF JUBA

The marks for Certificate (Inservice) students (2 females, 5 males) from Sept. 2025 and Diploma students (16 females, 12 males) from Nov. 2025 were recently endorsed by the University of Juba and the official transcripts and awards issued. In the Diploma group, 4 men and 3 women were awarded First Class Honours (average marks >80%), showing that gender equity goes hand-in-hand with high standards at STTC. Academic Affairs is very pleased to report that the processing of results for all students who successfully completed at STTC is now fully up-to-date; thanks are extended to Professor Sibrino Barnaba Forojalla and all involved for making this happen. The joy that comes with the distribution of the final papers makes all the effort worthwhile.



‘Conceptualisation of CPD’ curriculum meeting in Juba

Sr Dolores Alphonso (Wau) and Sr Jacinta Prunty (Yambio) were the STTC representatives at the most recent Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) and Kenyatta University curriculum unit meeting in Juba, 15-16 Sept. 2026. The task this time was to work on the complexities (and contradictions) of the various modes of ‘on the job’ teacher-training in South Sudan that come under the headings of ‘Continuous Professional Development’ and ‘Inservice’.

The pressing need for more flexible routes to Qualified Teacher Status is widely acknowledged (in addition to the existing Certificate programme). The Ministry and the Kenyatta colleagues are trying to untangle these knots and come up with a workable ‘third way’, something STTC is keen to support.

Christian Religious Education Curriculum Writing in Yambio

On the sidelines of the latest Juba curriculum meeting, the Kenyatta University team agreed to a request from Br James Omoya and Sr Jacinta Prunty to bring together a small group (Fr David Tombe, Bishop Peter Aduma Deng, Fr Louis Nvukama Zamoi) to work closely on the curriculum design for the interdenominational course Christian Religious Education (Certificate and Diploma). This agreement is subject to a tight deadline as no one element can be allowed to delay the larger project.

Within days, the writing team assembled in Yambio, where the office of Fr Louis (STTC tutor) became ‘CRE Headquarters’. Br James (Education Executive Secretary, Sudan and South Sudan Catholic Bishops’ Conference), chaired the proceedings and kept us focused, contributing much of the final design and content. Both Fr David (St Mary’s University Juba), and Bishop Peter (Episcopal Church of South Sudan and MoGEI) have long experience of curriculum writing in South Sudan and are members of the Ministry’s review group for the 2026 CRE materials.



After some further meetings in Juba with Bishop Peter, the revised documents are en route to Kenyatta where we are hopeful that they will be received well. At the very least, we know that the final CRE will be better than the first draft, and the process itself forged lasting bonds between the group members.

Br. Bruno Dada and Sr Christine Janet (CUSS-Juba) visit STTC

Just as the CRE writing team began their work, another group of Juba visitors was welcomed to the compound. On Wednesday 30 Sept 2026, Br Bruno Dada, Vice-Chancellor of Catholic University of South Sudan (CUSS-Juba) and Sr Christine Janet (Deputy Vice Chancellor) paid a courtesy visit to STTC in connection with their visit to the St John's Yambio campus of CUSS. Br Bruno and Sr Janet were escorted by Dr Paul Alela Oguta (Director) and Prof Noel Mborigasie (Academic Registrar) and other colleagues from CUSS-Yambio.

Sr Jacinta Prunty, acting as principal, conducted them around the college where they were impressed by the spirit of hard work in evidence (afternoon classes were underway).



This was an opportunity to develop the good relations that are to be expected among Catholic institutions committed to the education of the young people of South Sudan. We look forward to welcoming our friends back for a more substantial visit soon.

Gangura and Diabio teachers in STTC

Nine teachers from St Peter's School, Gangura returned to STTC as full-time, residential students for the next block of the teacher-training programme agreed with ICODO (Integrated Community Development Organisation) and generously sponsored by Caritas Austria. Another nine teachers, from Bishop Hiiboro Nursery and Primary School, Diabio (Shalom Christian Organization) arrived for their first full-time, residential block of teacher-training (also sponsored by Caritas Austria, and still underway). The STTC students extended a friendly welcome, recruiting the newly-arrived into the flag ceremony and demonstrating the making of pencil bags. 'We met with students in different parts of the country, were interacted with and shared ideas together'. That is the spirit of Solidarity.



Students of the Year, Namaku and Deng

'Student of the Year' is awarded on the basis of all-round, holistic achievement. The criteria are taken from the College's mission statement, including competence, motivation and commitment in teaching; and demonstrating the skills of peace building, respectful dialogue, gender equality and environmental protection. The exceptionally large number of students proposed by the tutors for the 2026 Preservice award testifies to the high standard of the graduating class. Ms Namaku Nganzuo John Daniel, and Mr Deng Nyier Monyroor were presented with their awards by Fr Louis, the PS2 class tutor. They are worthy ambassadors for STTC and we wish them well on the next stage of their journey. Well, done!



Safeguarding Orientation of Delegate Madam Foiza

Safeguarding orientation with STTC's newly-appointed Safeguarding delegate, Madam Ndukpio Foiza Borozagi, was conducted 24-25 August 2026. Mr Ohide Joseph from the Juba HR department of Solidarity met with Madam Foiza, a tutor-librarian at STTC, to strengthen awareness and understanding of safeguarding principles and responsibilities. Madam Foiza's very full report on all she learned, concludes with appreciation of how this training will help all of us to uphold the organization's commitment to "Do No Harm" and maintain the highest standards of integrity, accountability and respect.



China Aid books

Through the initiative of Tutor Apiku Emmanuel who made contact with the state Ministry of Education, STTC now has a near-complete set of the teacher and pupil books (x10 copies) in English, Mathematics and Science produced by China Aid for the Ministry. We thank Mr Isaac Malish, Director of Finance and Administration, who approved the transfer of the text books to the College and has since added copies of the syllabus and pupil books in Pazande. The library team of Madam Foiza and student assistants are delighted to process this most useful donation.

Evaluation of STTC

A very thorough evaluation of STTC, sponsored by Misereor, has been in hand by the consultants Nicole Moran and Nyokabi Kahura, for some months. The process culminated in the visit of Madam Nyokabi from 14-24 September 2026, when she worked through a very full schedule of workshops and interviews, in small groups and with individuals, tutors, support staff and administration, students from Inservice, Preservice and Diploma, alumni, headteachers, church authorities and State ministry officials - indeed, anyone with connections to STTC was interviewed by Nyokabi.



While the main aim of the evaluation is accountability towards its valued donors, the process itself is useful to STTC as it plans for the coming academic year and the longer term.

Nyokabi's excellent skills as a consultant and her genuine warmth and friendliness, ensured the free and open sharing of views that is essential to such a process. We will work on the feedback already given, and look forward to seeing the final report, in due course.

External observation of School Practice, Inservice, Wau

The final School Practice for Inservice Wau Year 2 students took place from 28th September to 9th October 2026. The external examiners from University of Juba were Dr Otim Gama, head of the Department of Education and Coordinator for Teacher Training, and Dr Kennedy Crispo, head of Biology within the School of Education.



Together, they supervised 19 students working in four different schools, meeting the students individually and in groups for feedback. As this was the first external examination at Wau, the Director, Sr Dolores Alphonso and the local tutors were happy to have the assistance of Tutor Emmanuel Apiku (STTC-Yambio) with the preliminaries.

The University professors expressed satisfaction with the standard of classroom practice they observed and the efforts invested by teacher-students and their tutors in the preparation of schemes and lesson plans.

They were highly impressed with all they saw of the Inservice College at Wau and the good work that is continuing there. Congratulations all round!

