

Renewing HOPE Pray • Serve • Grow

One of the answers to Bishop Nicholas' question 'What renews your hope?' must surely be 'the Chalke – Cueibet Partnership'. Praying for our fellow Christians in South Sudan, serving God through helping our brothers and sisters of the Diocese of Cueibet, and the growing number of people in our parishes who wish to do so, is a great sign of hope. If it can be for us, surely it is also a cause for hope in Cueibet.

The last newsletter reported on the deanery visit to the diocese in November 2014. This one gives details of our plans for 2015 arising out of discussions with Bishop Elijah and how you can help. In addition to our continuing support for the work of Daniel, the agricultural advisor and our commitment to running the annual conference for clergy and women leaders (some of the clergy are women), we plan to support three new initiatives:

- A radio station, run for Cueibet and Rumbek dioceses
- Mothers' Union training programme
- Sponsorship of three pastors for a three year theological course



But does it work?

Radio Station (£1,200)

Much of our practical support for Cueibet is dependent on fundraising. However, we are also developing links with other charities and negotiating alternative means of support. Radio South Sudan is funded by churches in the USA and is working to provide radio stations to support local churches in spreading the Gospel, addressing issues of conflict resolution, mediation, forgiveness, and reconciliation, as well as broadcasting information on health, education and local government services.

So far, two stations have been established in the dioceses of Kajo Keji and Yei. Working with our American contact, it has been agreed to put a new station in Rumbek which will cover the two dioceses of Cueibet and Rumbek. The Americans will cover the £13,000 cost of the station. We have agreed to donate £1,200 for the government licences for the station to operate. This has involved Bishop Elijah negotiating his way through three government departments this month – bureaucracy can be the same all the world over!



All we need is patterns

Mothers' Union Training (£2,200)

Our last newsletter showed Dr Sherwood Elcock teaching the basics of the sewing machines that our deanery donated. Many traditional skills were lost during the civil war when families were displaced or depleted. Skills such as dressmaking and tailoring have to be learned over again. We began the process by providing seven machines and now the Mothers' Union plans to run a training programme for local women. Teaching to a standard which will produce garments that can be sold to provide an income requires an expertise not readily available in Cueibet. The cost of employing a trainer from Juba for 21 days and accommodating and feeding 12 women is approximately £2,200.



Renewing Hope!

Sponsorship of Three Theological Students (£12,500)

American Professor Andrew Natsios has served as the US Special Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Sudan and Special Envoy to Sudan. In his book 'Sudan, South Sudan & Darfur – What everyone needs to know', he writes *'The three most functional indigenous institutions are the Christian churches, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Of these, the most powerful by far are the churches. The values the churches inculcate and the extent to which they use their influence to pursue the public good, will determine the South's future. The role of the churches should not be compared to that of the Christian churches in the current day West, where churches – however influential – make up only one of many institutions that guide the building of a modern civil society. In South Sudan, Christian churches are the central private institution, exercising a powerful influence in the development of the emerging social order'*.



Kajo Keji Christian College Campus

All the clergy in Cueibet Diocese, including Bishop Elijah are non-stipendiary or self-supporting and the level of education, especially theological education varies considerably. As part of our approach of Educating, Training and Enabling, we aim to support the diocese by sponsoring the education of clergy identified by Bishop Elijah as future leaders. Three young pastors Daniel Makol Majak, John Madom Agaany and Michael Makajah Manyieel have been selected to begin a three year course at Kajo Keji Christian College in August.

The full cost of three years' course fees, food and accommodation and termly travel from Cueibet to Kajo Keji is approximately £12,500. We have already received generous commitments from individual sponsors to enable us to confirm their attendance on the course. We are now seeking **£4,000** to complete the funding for the three years.

Annual Conference (£4,000)

A group of three will travel to Cueibet for this year's November conference: Canon David Henley, former Rural Dean, Revd Mark Hayter, Curate, Nadder Valley Team and Geoff Taylor, Deanery Lay Chairman. Some of the costs of running the conference and the travel of the group are already covered. However, we still need to raise £4,000 to pay for food, accommodation and travel of both the clergy and leaders from Cueibet and the visitors from Chalke Deanery.



What's on the menu - 2014

Other Projects Being Considered

We are also exploring the cost of providing an oil press for lulu fruit – the basis of shea butter – through a South Sudanese women's co-operative with the aim of identifying charities to fund it. The possibility of finding sponsors to fund six children to be educated in Kenya is also being explored.

Our Target for 2015 - £11,500

Thanks to the generous donations and pledges of some individuals and PCCs, we are making steady progress towards achieving our goals for this year, but still need to raise £11,500. Your prayers, help with publicity and donations can ensure that all our projects in Cueibet can be fully supported this year while gradually building up funds for the future.

Your contacts for further information on **Talks, Publicity, Giving through Gift Aid, Being a Sponsor and Fundraising** are:

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