



CHURCH OF UGANDA
NORTH KARAMOJA DIOCESE
P.O. BOX 26, KOTIDO - UGANDA

DIOCESAN HALF-YEAR REPORT: January – February 2016.

Human Resource: Changes in the Diocesan Secretariat

In February this year, the Diocesan Staff Board sat and made a few changes among the staff. At the Diocesan Secretariat level the following changes have taken place.

1. Rev. Caleb Omwony who has been a tutor at Lotome Diocesan Lay readers' College has become the Diocesan Land and Estates Officer.
2. Rev John Robert Lorech who is the Diocesan Secretary has been given additional role of being the Sub dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Kotido.
3. Mr. Alfred Etyang has been appointed as acting Diocesan Development Coordinator
4. Mr. Shadrack Chuna has been appointed as Project Officer for the MCC Project and as in-charge of the Diocesan Youth and Children Ministry.

The Diocese is still looking for someone to be fully responsible for Mission and Youth work though it is still temporarily care-taken by the Diocesan Education Coordinator, Mr. John Bosco Achilla.

Confirmations in Kaabong, Karenga, Orwamuge and Kotido



This quarter has been so busy with the confirmation of over 300 young people by Bishop James Nasak in the parish churches of Kaabong, Karenga, Orwamuge and Kotido. These brought together a lot of young people both in and out of school and had opportunity to receive the Gospel once again with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. 57 elderly Christians (mostly women) were also confirmed in Kotido Parish

Theological Training

There is more urgent need for theological education for many young people given the widening gap of shortage of ordained ministers in the Diocese created by a big number of old clergy who are due for retirement at the end of this year and next year (*6 clergy retiring at the end of 2016 and 4 others at the end of 2017*) and the opening of new churches throughout the Diocese. The Church in Karamoja is trying to encourage young people to do theological training for ministry in order to reduce the gap.

With the financial support from GZB, Alton Deanery in Winchester Diocese in UK and the locally raised funds, the Diocese has continued to support theological education of young people who have felt called by God to do ministry in the Church. They have been facilitated to do their theological training at different levels. However, the continuous challenge of not being able to get sufficient funds for training is still limiting our capacity to send many people for training. The Bishop of North Karamoja is lobbying his fellow bishops from other dioceses to consider



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providing scholarships to some of our students from Karamoja. So far, the Bishop of Mityana Diocese has agreed to support 2 students from North Karamoja Diocese, starting in May this year for a three year certificate course in Theology at Bishop Lutaaya Theological College in Mityana. We also hope to send one person to Uganda Christian University for a bachelor's degree, starting this year if we get some funds for theological training.

8 students who have been doing a Lay readers' training course at Lotome Diocesan College for two years have completed and have been deployed to serve in some parishes and sub-parishes. In May this year, we have 6 more students for the same training at Lotome.

Florence Adong, female student is doing a diploma course in Missiology and Theology at Carlile College in Nairobi. In April/May, this year she was attached to Christ Church, Kotido Parish for her internship training to support the parish ministry during her one month's vacation. She will completing her training course from Nairobi in December this year.



Adong Florence – a student at Carlile College, Nairobi

Youth Leaders' Conference: 7-10 January 2016

With the financial support from Alton Deanery, the Diocese of North Karamoja was able to organize a Youth Leaders Conference for two full days at the Diocesan headquarters in Kotido on the theme “**Rise and Shine**” got from the book of Isaiah 60:1. The conference was attended by 50 Church Youth Leaders from all the parishes in the Diocese. Each morning started with praise, worship and sharing of God's word. During the rest of the day, the Conference Facilitators talked to the Youth Leaders on different topics: Christian leadership, Evangelism, Discipleship and Current Challenges faced by the Christians, especially the Youth, which include Homosexuality, Sex and HIV/AIDS, and Cults. Every evening after supper, the Youth had fellowship where they were able to share their testimonies and various experiences of their Christian faith.



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At the end of the Conference, the Youth Leaders expressed joy and gratitude to the Diocese for organizing the conference specifically for the youth leaders, which they said had spiritually uplifted and motivated them for mission and youth work in their churches. They agreed on the following action points for implementation when they return to their parish churches.

1. To share what they have learnt in the conference with the youth in their parish churches.
2. To mobilize the youth in their parishes for mission outreaches and youth conferences at parish and archdeaconry levels.
3. To mobilize the youth to begin raising funds for the Diocesan Youth Camp at the end of this year and encourage most of them to attend the Youth Camp.

The Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. James Nasak closed the Youth Leaders' Conference with a challenge to the youth to surrender every area of their life, including their sexual desires and future plans – to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. He told them that it is only by surrendering your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ will you be able to rise and shine, even to say 'No' to pre-marital sex, homosexuality and cultic influences.

Sunday School and Early Childhood Development Centres Opened

All our parishes run Sunday School classes on Sundays for all children in order for them to benefit from the specific lessons prepared for their spiritual and moral development. Sometimes, children are given opportunity to sing and present drama or skits in Churches. In this way they bless the adults and challenge them to mind about the role of children in the Church and at home.

The Diocese has established 8 Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres throughout the Diocese which are supported by 6 trained Care Givers and 2 Trainers of Trainees (TOTs). Three of these ECD centres are now being run as Nursery Schools; one at Christ Church in Kotido and the other two at St. Paul's Church, Kaabong Parish and St. Peter's Church, Kiru Parish.

A lot of Christian books given by One Hope have been distributed to schools and Churches for the teaching of Sunday School and Christian Education in Schools in the Diocese. Some text books for teaching P.4 – P.7 have also been given to some Church of Uganda founded schools and are being used by heads of departments.

9 Focal points Child Protection persons in the Diocese including Church Leaders have been trained as TOTs in the districts of Kotido, Kaabong and Abim to support the programmes for child protection. This programme and the Early Childhood Development programme are being



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financially supported by SAVE THE CHILDREN through the Church of the Province of Uganda under the SAFE programme.



Mothers' Union Seminar and Mothering Sunday in Christ Church, Kotido Parish

The Mothers Union of Christ Church Cathedral conducted a refresher conference on 16th April 2016 and celebrated mothering Sunday on the following day during which time the mothers took charge of the day by fully participating in leading of service and preaching the gospel. New members of the Mothers' Union were also received and commissioned by the Sub dean of the Cathedral.



MU members making presentations in the Cathedral

In this quarter, the Mothers' Union members continued to engage themselves in the following activities:

- ✓ Bible Studies
- ✓ Mission outreaches and home visitations
- ✓ Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) which have helped them to save money to meet the various needs of their households.
- ✓ Participation in districts' celebration of the International women's day on 8th March 2016.



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Mission out-reaches to villages and schools

The Christians of Christ Church, Kotido parish, especially the church youth have been organizing mission outreaches and crusades in Kotido town and some surrounding villages. The Church Youth and Mothers' Union members are also actively engaged in School and Home ministries which have helped many people to receive salvation and build the faith of many in Christ. As a result of mission outreaches and evangelism, over 50 small congregations have been opened in Kotido Archdeaconry at village level. Some of these are now being merged to form sub-parishes. Congregations praise God and pray under trees.



Ecumenism in Mission

Good Friday, 25th March 2016 was a wonderful day of a joint walk of the Bishops and Christians of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches in Kotido to commemorate the death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Leaders and Christians of the two denominations have been enjoying very good cooperation.



Humanitarian Support

With the financial support of 1,400 pounds sterling from Alton Deanery as a discretionary fund for the Bishop to help the Church workers and the community members who are in greatest need



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of food aid or financial support. The funds were used buy food items, including kgs of maize grain, kgs of sorghum, litres of vegetable oil for needy patients in the Diocesan Health Centre III and people who lost their food and property to wild fire when the fire burnt their homes. The rest of the money was used to support 4 of our clergy and their families who lost their loved ones and those whose members of their families were hospitalized. Hunger continued to bite many people in the villages and some children and elders were reported dead due to hunger. Towards the end of June when the rains returned, most people are surviving on green vegetables. We expect food from gardens to be ready and available for most people by the end of August and beginning of September 2016.



Food distribution

Launching of the celebrations of 10th Anniversary of North Karamoja Diocese

North Karamoja Diocese was carved from the great Karamoja Diocese and inaugurated on 1st July, 2007 with the Rt. Rev. James Nasak as the first bishop. Next year, on 1st July 2017, North Karamoja will be celebrating its ten years of existence and mission work. The Diocese decided to start preparations for this celebration one year ahead of the main celebration by organizing a launching ceremony on Sunday, 3rd July 2016 at Christ Church Cathedral, Kotido. Bishop James invited his colleague, Rt. Rev. Joseph Abura, the bishop of Karamoja Diocese to preach at the function and flag off the preparations for the celebration next year. A number of key activities have been planned by the Diocese of North Karamoja to take place between now and the celebration on 1st July, 2017. This will include but not limited to the following:

- All Clergy Conference which will bring all the clergy of both Karamoja and North Karamoja Dioceses together for reunion, fellowship and learning.
- Environmental week which will be observed by both dioceses and will be used to sensitize the communities on environmental protection and preservation.
- Diocesan Youth Camp in December 2016.
- Diocesan Mothers' Union, Fathers' Union and Youth Leaders' Conference
- Mission out-reaches and crusades at archdeaconry and parish levels.
- Exchange visits of Clergy, Mothers Union and Youth Groups to different parishes and dioceses.



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- Securing Church land by surveying and processing land titles.



On the same day, sensitization on Kingdom Development Organization (KIDO) was also launched in the Diocese. KIDO is an initiative of the Archbishop; The Most Rev. Stanley Ntagali of the Church of Uganda geared to stimulate community based resource mobilization and investment.

Development and Health Services

North Karamoja Diocese continues to provide development and health services to the people of North Karamoja through its development arm called “Diocesan Community Development Support” (DCDS) and its 3 Health Centres located at the districts of Abim, Kotido and Kaabong (*KDDO Health III in Kotido, Kanu Health Centre II in Abim and Lotim Health Centre II in Kaabong*).

The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is providing us with the financial support to implement a food and nutrition security project in Kacheri Sub-County in Kotido district where 8 farmer groups have been organized and equipped with various skills on modern agricultural methods and practices, especially conservation agriculture. In June, we had a mid-term review of the programme which was successful.





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The WASH programme of the Diocese greatly supported the whole community of Kotido Town Council with the supply of clean water during the months of April and May 2016 when the water pump of the Town Council had broken down. The programme has continued to supply very many community members of the Town with water even after the water system of the Town Council was fixed. This has been greatly appreciated by the community and the local government.

The Diocese received support from the Uganda Government through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, particularly from the department of New and Renewable Sources of Energy to repair two windmills of the Church located at Kotido Town and Lokitelaebu Sub-county.

The Health programmes are mainly supported by Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau (UPMB), SDS, UNFPA and the Government of Uganda through the District Local Governments. So far, this is the largest and most active department of the Diocese with over 25 health staff. KDDO Health Centre III runs functions that surpass its level as far as health services is concern. It has several clinics; ART, Maternity (which includes Deliveries, ANC, PNC, PMTCT, EID, MBC Point), OPD, IPD, YCC, Minor surgical theatre and Eye services, Youth friendly services and Adolescent clinic among others.



Community dialogue with the help of the VHT in Narengmoru parish

In May, this year, a medical camp was conducted for 3 days by a team of medical doctors from USA at KDDO HC III in Kotido and over 1,000 people from Kotido district received free medical services. Some equipments and drugs were given to the HC by the medical team.

Challenges

- i. Insufficient funds for training young people for ministry.
- ii. 10 clergy are due for retirement at the end of this year and next year, creating a big shortage of personnel for ministry in parishes and archdeaconries.
- iii. Lack of funds for mission and evangelism.



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- iv. The welfare of Clergy and Lay readers is so poor that it is negatively affecting their moral and commitment to the work of the Church.
- v. Lack of food for most of our communities due to last year's drought which destroyed crops.
- vi. Lack of Bibles and Christian Books like Uganda youth praise, come and worship for use in Schools.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the above mentioned challenges that God may provide the resources for His work in Karamoja.
- Pray that God will call more young people to the ordained and lay ministry.
- Pray that the Clergy and Lay readers will remain committed and faithful in the service of God despite their poor welfare.
- Pray for all the preparations and success for next year's celebration of the 10 years of North Karamoja Diocese.