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May 2020.

The Episcopal University of South Sudan University Partnership.



Celebrating the laying of the foundation stone on the land for the new university administration block in Rokon, South Sudan - December 2019. The local community and Juba Diocese raised funds to start building work and a number of dignitaries attended the event.

Whilst all of us across the world are experiencing a different kind of life as we seek to slow the spread of Covid-19, we thought we'd take the opportunity to kick-start a regular newsletter to say thank you for supporting the University and to let you know how things are progressing. You're receiving this newsletter because you have supported us and the university in some way - whether by donating money, time, interest or prayer. We hope you find it informative and uplifting and if you have any feedback, please let us know. If for any reason you'd like to opt out, please edit your preferences at the bottom of this email.

Thank you for helping ECSSSUP, making the dream of quality higher education in South Sudan a reality.

In the news...

President Kiir and Vice President Machar signed a new peace deal in March with the intent of forming a national unity government. It included important discussions around the number of states and integrating the rebel forces into the military. The Church in South Sudan remains a crucial player in the push for peace, bringing groups in conflict together around reconciliation, forgiveness and healing.

Like other governments across the globe, South Sudan has moved into lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19, and there are bans on inbound and outbound flights, prohibition of mass gatherings (including church services, schools and universities) and construction of emergency treatment centres. Currently, confirmed cases are low, but with more than 1.5 million people internally displaced due to conflict and living in cramped refugee camps or detention centres, the burden of an outbreak on the nation would be huge. Reports on the ground state that food prices have tripled and many are worried about food shortage and the impact of the virus on their already suffering economy.

ECSSSUP is committed to funding the salaries of the university staff throughout this period. If you would like to donate at this particularly challenging time to enable us to continue doing this, please click [here](#).

New land given to TEU by the Rokon community.

December saw much singing, dancing, speech-making and food shared to celebrate a momentous occasion - the laying of the foundation stone that marks 12 sq km of land given to TEU by the community of Rokon, a county just over 50 miles outside Juba City. Attended by senior members of the community, the Archbishop of South Sudan, Senior Government officials, a number of Bishops and some ECSSSUP trustees, this land will be used to build the University's administration centre, as well as teaching and living facilities. It will provide sources of employment and the potential of new small businesses for the wider community. As Archbishop Justin Badi said during his opening speech, "maybe God has a plan to make this a centre of construction, where previously it has been a centre of destruction."

Development of a common curriculum is underway.

A key focus for TEU is the development of a common curriculum across all of the participating colleges, spread out across the country. Development of a common curriculum, including a Foundation Programme that seeks to bridge the gap between high school and further study, is a crucial next step to provide quality academic learning through standardised grading, common administration structures, individual support and ensuring high quality teaching.

In February, members of the participating colleges and Higher Education experts met to agree their approach and formed committees to divide up work to complete this across seven subject areas. They plan to meet again in July to finalise and review content, before submitting it to the Ministry for Higher Education.

ECSSSUP AGM: September 5th 2020.

We are holding our inaugural Annual General Meeting and you are invited! If you'd like to hear what we've been up to, join in our successes and challenges, and better understand how you might support us, please do come along. Location is yet to be confirmed but we are also planning to stream the meeting so you can join digitally.

Hold the date in your diaries and more information, including an invite, will be coming soon.



Verse of the month

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man planted in his field. Although it is the smallest of all seeds, yet it grows into the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

Matthew 13:31-32

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