

# Episcopal Church of South Sudan Episcopal Diocese of Ezo Anglican Communion

## Activity Updates for the Months of September – October 2024

Dear friends, greetings to you from Ezo in the name of Christ.

Thank you for your prayer and support towards the Christ for peace convention organized by the Episcopal Diocese of Ezo. Here are updates from the convention.

### *Christ for peace mission's convention held successfully*



Second phase "*Christ for Peace Mission,*" a community peace outreach programme initiated by the Episcopal Diocese of Ezo took place from October 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> this year at St. Paul's Cathedral - Ezo. The Diocese of Ezo is one of the Dioceses of Western Equatoria Internal Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) that covers the 3 Counties of Ezo, Tambura and Nagero. The initiative integrated peace programming in to the day today activities of the Church including Bible Study Conference in accordance with the theme: "A FUTURE AWAITS THOSE WHO SEEK PEACE" (Psalm 37:37). The program aimed at addressing the effects of the community violence which has been happening in Tambura and affecting the surrounding Counties including Ezo.

### *A big number of people including important Church leaders and groups, Government Officials and Community leaders attended the event*



Over 3,530 people including 3 Archbishops of our Internal provinces namely Archbishop for Central Equatoria Internal Province (CEIP), Archbishop for Western Equatoria Internal Province (WEIP) and Archbishop for Amadi Internal Province (AIP), Bishops of other Dioceses or their representatives also attended including Bishop of wandi, Bishop of Olo, Bishop of Nzara, Bishop of Ibba and Maridi were represented by their delegated Canons and Archdeacons. Priests from the 3 Internal Provinces represented and from sister churches from within South Sudan and neighbouring DR Congo and Central African Republic also attended as well as different groups such as Mothers Union and Youth also attended. A team from Tearfund also attended and introduced CCT (Church & Community Transformation). Government officials including Former Deputy Governor of Western Equatoria State, Ezo County Commissioner and head of departments and Payam Administrators attended. Community Leaders including Paramount Chief of Ezo and Payam chiefs of the 5 Payams of Ezo attended the event.

***Government officials and community leaders attended the event***



Government officials and Community leaders attended the event. Government officials including Former Deputy Governor of Western Equatoria State, Director General of the State Ministry of Health, Ezo County Commissioner, head of departments and Payam Administrators of the 5 Payams in Ezo and Tambura attended the event. Community Leaders including Paramount Chief of Ezo and Payam chiefs of the 5 Payams of Ezo and Tambura attended the event. Most of them made commitment to avoid sentiments and decisions that causes violence and ruin peace.

***The program included ordination, licensing of MU and Lay Readers, Matrimony, confirmation rite and graduation of health workers***



The initiative integrated peace programming in to the day today activities of the Church including Bible Study Conference in accordance with the theme: “A FUTURE AWAITS THOSE WHO SEEK PEACE” (Psalm 37:37), ordination of 3 priests, licensing of 16 (12 male; 4 female) Lay Readers,

commissioning of 20 Mothers Union members, confirmation rite for 35 (15 male; 20 female) candidates and graduation of 23 health workers from our Amos Bible School – Health Department.

***The first two days of the convention and the session***



In the first two days of the convention, a number of facilitators engaged different groups in sharing lessons on peace and the roles of the groups in promoting peace and co-existence. Mothers Union Leaders, Youth Leaders, Tearfund representative, Archbishops and Bishops facilitated the sessions for different groups.

***Three Priests were ordained to serve in the Episcopal Diocese of Ezo***



Three priests ordained and deployed for different roles. The three were ordained deacons during the first phase of Christ for peace mission's convention which was conducted in September last year. They all studied at the Episcopal University in Juba though they could not complete their courses due to shortage of funds. They are resourceful to the Diocese currently.

**16 Lay Readers were licensed to support ministry in our Parishes**



16 Lay readers licensed to support pastors in different parishes within the Diocese

**20 Mothers Union commissioned to support ministry of women in Ezo**





20 members of Mothers Union Commissioned for ministry among women and families everywhere as well as building up Christian families and encourages women towards resilience.

***Conducted confirmation rite for 35 candidates***



35 candidates confirmed into Christian family

***Youth fully participated in the convention with music presentations***



The youth fully participated in the program with special presentations of peace messages through music, and activities which attracted many youth from across the Diocese of Ezo and other dioceses within WEIP.

**10 Couples had their marriages blessed in a holy matrimony**



Conducted matrimony rite for 10 couples; a practice that signals transformation in marriage across the communities living in Ezo and promotion of Christian/biblical marriage among the people.

**23 health workers graduated from Amos Bible School, Department of Health**



23 (15 Male; 8 Female) health workers graduated from our Amos Bible School Health Department after they underwent 3 years training with approval and support of County health department and Western Equatoria State Ministry of Health. The support was mostly allowing the doctors in the government hospital in Ezo to participate in training the students. The graduation was attended by Director General of Western Equatoria State ministry of health.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Tribal conflict killed over 200 people in Tambura from the year 2021 to 2022 and displaced over 85,000. It was activated recently where over 20 people reported killed, properties and houses burnt down and unconfirmed number of people including a Catholic priest and his driver went missing since 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Right now many people have been displaced by the conflict and others locked themselves up in UN protection sites in Tambura and other places where they are not able to move out to access basic necessities or to visit their farms due to fear that they may be attacked by rival groups. They are at risk as they face malnutrition and diseases due to the limited or no access to food. In Ezo, three people were shot on the same Sunday when the Catholic Priest disappeared and two of the three died instantly and one was hospitalized.

#### **IMPACTS OF THE PROGRAM:**



Over 50 key people who believed in witchcraft and had many elements of the witchcraft that they were using to terrorise or cause fear to members of the communities and mislead others came out openly to surrender and abandoned the belief and the items. The items were burnt and they (the witchdoctors) gave their lives to Christ. A number of people reconciled with their advisories after hearing the message of peace preached by the great men of God. Many leaders committed to become agent of peace in their communities.

#### **APPRECIATION**

We highly appreciate your prayer and every support you give to our people. We shall share financial report separately. Please, know that you are ever in our prayers. May our Lord Jesus Christ keep you and your families in good health.