New Bishop Gwynne College
Beginning Again

The fate which threatened all the provincial colleges, bankruptcy and closure, befell the college in February when the Archbishop ordered the closure. Staff had not been paid, debts were mounting, standards were not being verified, electricity and water had been cut off causing health hazards. The fifteen students, who were in the midst of their second year, had to be told that their course was suspended. In the belief that every problem is an opportunity, a new vision for the college has been born.

As Bishop Gwynne is the oldest training college and has been the most respected the plan is for it to re open in Juba on a new site with new staff and that it will be raised, in due course, to University status and become the "mother" of all the theological centres in the Province, a hub of learning.

First the debts had to be cleared. A property in Malakal belonging to the college was sold for a substantial figure and the unpaid wages, including severance pay, were met in accord with the Labour Office requirements. The college owns other properties, all in need of renovation but capable of providing good income in the future.

Canon Trevor Stubbs, formally a parish priest in the Salisbury diocese, is now resident with his wife Tina, and is the moving spirit charged by the Archbishop to bring the new vision to birth. A new site is being negotiated with the present owners (SUDRA) and the college re opened in 2010 with the fifteen suspended students and ten more.

At first the working conditions will be primitive, but it will be "up and running" and running within it's means. The long term University plan will take several years and estimates run at a million pounds . But the work will soon restart and with it a spirit of prayerful purpose.

See pictures of New Bishop Gwynne College

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