

KONDOA THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Update - September 24th 2025

Summary

The Kondoa Theological College continues its important education programme, largely in the background at the moment.

Under the new Principal, Moses, and with Peter Akester (the former Principal provided for 3-years by CMS) still assisting—the work continues.

Despite the St Peter & St Paul Parish, Tonbridge, regular quarterly donation to the college, the college continues to struggle for funds.

Unfortunately, the initiative of asking for donations of £750/student/year have not really materialised—more funding is needed.

The students are from very poor rural areas and although they are required to bring two bags of maize to help fill the larder—few can afford even to do this. They soldier-on in very difficult circumstances.

Also, at present the Diocese is finding it very difficult to pay the college staff—even a basic amount. It is hoped that this will change as the two schools begin to contribute to the Diocesan Budget—from 2026, St Peter & St Paul School will be in a position to contribute something.

The current intake includes:

- Ordination Students – a 3-year course – 15 men and women enrolled currently.
- Evangelists/Church Planters – a 2-year course – 12 men and women.
- Women's Empowerment – up to a year's course – 22 women enrolled.

With the building of St Paul's Cathedral in Kondoa and with the Diocesan Offices under construction behind the Cathedral, it is hoped that the Theological College can eventually expand into the Church of the Good Shepherd (the old cathedral—they now worship there every morning) and the old Diocesan Offices. This will help and give much needed space for the Theological teachers in particular.

Importantly Bishop Given is focussed on succession planning—an issue which most of this fellow Bishops in Tanzania do not seem to prioritise. Bishop Given has been searching for a

replacement for himself to take-over the running of the Diocese in 7 years' time when he is due to retire.

Importantly, this individual should be from within the Kondoa Diocese—as is the case with most Bishops in Tanzania. Bishop Given has 3-4 individuals (1 female and 3 males) in mind whom he is fast-tracking and testing for the future. One of these candidates starts teaching at the Theological College from October 2025.

[Bishop Given, himself of course, is from the Dodoma diocese – the Diocese of Central Tanganika (DCT)—his home village is just 20km north of Dodoma. He was very surprised when he was asked to become the Bishop of Kondoa, whilst he was concluding his PhD studies in New Zealand. At first, he thought the Bishop of DCT was trying to sideline him! But truly, as an Evangelist and Church Army Captain it was an inspired choice—God has been with Bishop Given and his wife Lilian as they have worked tirelessly to make Kondoa a sustainable diocese.

As an example of this—just before my 4-day visit—Bishop Given and Pascal drove for 14 hours to attend a 20-minute meeting in Tanga—just to ensure the best possible chance of 3 Masai villages in the Diocese receiving fresh water through the agency “*Water for Survival*” (the Ethiopian gentleman running the charity insisting he met Bishop Given in person)—an example of true sacrificial love for the people under his spiritual responsibility.

When Bishop Given first arrived in Kondoa in 2012, the diocesan finances were in a mess—the diocese was effectively bankrupt—under very difficult conditions, the former Bishop had not really managed. Canon Linda Wannachi of the Rochester Diocese—a book-keeper by profession—stepped in to help sort-out the accounts. Bishop Given accepted the post of Bishop of Kondoa knowing that he would not be able to draw a salary for many years—nor provide properly for many of his workers. It is only from 2026/2027 that the prospects of a fully funded Diocesan Budget may be realised—largely due to receipts from the two schools under-pinning the future viability of the Kondoa Diocese.]

Action Items

- Prayer – for the Principal Moses and the teachers at the Theological College in Kondoa.
- Prayer – for the new Theological teacher that he may grow and prosper in the Lord.
- Prayer – for the students at the Theological College.
- Prayer – for increased funding of the Theological College to pay teachers salaries and to enable the students to have enough food.
- Prayer – a sincere thank you to all those who are praying and assisting the Kondoa Diocese.

Peter Ruxton – Visiting Kondoa between September 19th to 23rd, 2025.