



**ACK DIOCESE OF UPPER
SOUTHERN NYANZA -
KISII**

BISHOP'S CHARGE



THE RT. REV. CAPT. JOHN ORINA OMANGI

**THEME: ACCELERATING MISSION & EVANGELISM
(STRATEGIC APPROACH 2024-2030)**

**ENTHRONEMENT SERVICE OF THE FIRST
DIOCESAN BISHOP ON 27TH AUGUST 2023
AT KISII NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC**



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DIOCESAN BISHOP'S CHARGE
THE RT. REV. CAPT. JOHN ORINA OMANGI

Your Grace the Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya, Bishop of All Saints Cathedral Diocese and Bishop in Ordinary of the Kenya Defense Forces, The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit, Bishops of the Anglican Church Present, Bishops from other denominations, Archdeacons, Priests, Deacons Present and the Laity.

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander in Chief of the Kenya Defense Forces, Dr. Willian Samoei Ruto, Your Excellency the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Rigathi Gachagua, the Governor of Kisii County, Hon. Paul Simba Arati, the Governor of Nyamira County, Hon Amos Nyaribo and all other County, National and Political leaders present, ladies and gentlemen.

I wish to express my heart felt gratitude for finding time to grace this important occasion in the History of the Anglican Church of Kenya most especially in this new Diocese of Upper Southern Nyanza - Kisii. This is indeed the day that the Lord has made.

HISTORY OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA IN GUSII LAND

The Anglican church of Kenya (ACK) began in 1844 when Dr. Ludwig Krapf and his wife arrived in Mombasa on behalf of the church Missionary Society (CMS). IN 1946 John Rebman joined them. Together they established a station at Rabai, near Mombasa. From this humble beginning by now the ACK has over thirty-five Dioceses and approximately 5.5 million members concentrated in urban and rural areas in Kenya.

In Gusii Region, the first Anglican Service was done in 1938 in the house of Mr. Zedekiah Oyando at Mwembe Tayari Estate in Kisii town. He was working with the ministry of Agriculture and hailed from Bunyore near Maseno.

The church was then known as Christian Mission Society (CMS). Later prayers moved to Kisii School because the European principal was also an Anglican. The in charge of prayers was Mr. Zedekiah Ogonchi. Canon Ezekiel Apindi used to visit the school for prayers, baptism and celebration of the Holy Communion. These prayers continued even to the late 80's. Canon Joel Nyae-ema was the Principal of Kisii School at the time. From Kisii School they moved to Kisii Court of Appeal where they were 17 Christians.

At the time the Bishop of East Africa, the Rt. Rev. Beecher, stayed in Mombasa

Finally, we wish to state that we come to this office with openness and humility. We shall aspire to serve God and the people and our charge diligently. Southern Nyanza Diocese still remains our source and going forward they will be our partner in mission. We shall endeavor to preach the gospel in season and out of season.

We thank the ACK fraternity for the confidence they have in us, the faithful of ACK Upper Southern Nyanza Diocese and the great people of Gusii and beyond. We also thank all partners in mission including Church Army Africa, Carlile College for the increased support in the training of our Clergy, the All-Saints Cathedral Diocese who supported us in the initial start of the Kisii Area Bishopric and the all the Bishop's who stood with us. We also thank the ADS Nyanza for the support. We look forward to have an ADS Office in Kisii for the special interests that we have. We are hoping for the best in the Nyanza Region Fellowship and the Vidic as we join them . GLUKS and other provincial institutions will be of great significance to us. We also want to state that we shall initiate a dialogue within Nyanza Region and if necessary, extent it to the Province to ensure that ACK St. Barnabas Misambi Parish belong to where it is supposed to be in accordance with the recommendations of the Provincial Permanent Commission of Division and Creation of Dioceses.

I want to ask our people in Gusii especially the political class and the professionals and all people of good will to rise up and support this new Diocese. Invest your money where it will not be lost. In doing so, you will be investing for eternity and for generations to come. And to the national and county government, I will be available to be used in making any meaningful contributions whenever needed.

May God bless us all, MAY GOD BLESS THE UPPER SOUTHERN NYANZA DIOCESE. Grace and Peace.

By us: THE RT. REV. CAPT. JOHN ORINA OMANGI
FIRST BISHOP OF UPPER SOUTHERN NYANZA DIOCESE

SIGN&STAMP: _____

as the smallest structure of the congregation. The selected will be collated at the church, where additional applicable indicators will further be collected and analyzed. The congregation data will be submitted to the parish for collation and mega analysis.

By midyear of 2024, the parish will conduct midterm evaluation to measure the achievements of the objectives. This will be followed by the end term evaluation by the year 2024. The planning will assume the duty of implementing and coordinating the plan through the oversight of the vicar in charge. Through the direction and advisory opinion of the vicar from time to time may incorporate other professionals from the church to support the implementation by the steering committee and evaluation team. The M&E system will be developed to conclude the key performing indicators by strategic objects. This will then be shared across the Diocese for ownership and participation. To undertake both the midterm and end term evaluation of the plan, implementation plan will be developed based on log frame, teasing out key indicators by the objectives and activities. Changes will be tracked on annual basis and accumulated at the end of the seven [7] years.

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR THE BISHOP'S KITTY

Today is a historic day for the calendar of the Anglican Church of Kenya in Gusii land and beyond. For us to keep the frames of this day alive, I wish to put up a seed project of a Vocational Training Centre in Marani worth five Million Kenya Shillings [KES. 5,000,000]. I want to appeal here today for friends who will stand with me and help me raise this amount for this purpose. You can write a cheque in favor of;

ACCOUNT NAME: KISII AREA BISHOPRIC
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 11 66 39 92 06
Or by ;
KCB PAYBILL NUMBER: 522 522
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 11 66 39 92 06

For those who have it in cash, I kindly request your Grace the Archbishop to allow me an opportunity of just fifteen [15] minutes for these great men and women of God to greet me with any amount that their heart is willing to donate.

CONCLUSION

as a missionary. The few European Anglicans Christians plus Africans joined hands and built the first CMS Bookshop in town and behind was a hall that served as a church. This building was later sold during the time of the late Rt. Rev. John Henry Okullu.

As time went the Rev. Dr. Barret who doubled as inspector of the Anglican schools in Kisii and Southern Nyanza, helped mobilize resources and constructed the St. Philips Church, Kisii and in 1959 it was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Festo H. Olang', the Bishop of Maseno. The church was given the following plots for development and schools to sponsored.

- CMS Bookshop plot (sold)
- St. Philips Church plot No. 127 in Kisii township
- St. Philips plot 111/146 - current church plot
- CMS graveyard Mashauri
- ACK Misambi in Nyamira County
- ACK Nyabite Secondary
- Nyakegara Kemo Primary School in Bobasi
- Riomego - In Nyamira County
- Daraja Mbili Primary & Secondary in Kisii town and others.

(The key informant is the Rev. Daniel Masira, the first Anglican priest whom we celebrate. I wish to recognize his presence by requesting him to stand and wave to the congregation)

The Anglican Church in Gusii continued to suffer a lot of setbacks, most of which were historical and responsible for the stunted growth of the church in Gusii over the past years. For instance, the only Anglican Church in Gusii was St. Philips, which fell under the Diocese of Maseno and was being administered from Kisumu. Over many years, the church did not penetrate the Gusii interior region because the priests who were sent to minister in St. Philips only spoke English, a language that was not familiar with most of the residents. Even in my archives, one can find some of the minutes written in Dholuo. The ministers by then did not consider going to where people were. The language barrier, distance and lack of ownership was a major challenge. The locals felt unwelcome and considered the church to belong to the Europeans and a few elites. They didn't recognize the cultural issues of the Abagusii especially with respect to elders who could influence the growth and ownership of the church.

During the time of Bishop Olang, we had St. Philip's and St. Barnabas Misambi

Parish, which was created by Bishop Okullu, as the only local congregations. Between 1993 – 2004, the Rt. Rev Haggai Nyang’ added St. Stephen’s Nyamira. Following the retirement of Bishop Haggai Nyang, Bishop James Ochiel took over and created Gucha Outreach in 2010 and ordained the Rev. Capt. John Orina Omangi.

In 2010 the Diocesan synod of Southern Nyanza under the leadership of the Rt. Rev. James K. Ochiel, attempted to explore more ways to unlock the potential for the growth of the Anglican church in Gusii. It was on this basis that the synod passed a resolution to make Kisii region a missionary Diocese. However, the Provincial Synod objected this resolution. In his wisdom, Bishop James Ochiel decided to create an Area Bishopric and appoint a Suffragan Bishop to be stationed in Kisii to establish the Gusii Region to become a fully-flagged Diocese in the future. On 14th February 2016, I, John Orina Omangi was consecrated as a Suffragan Bishop with the task of growing the church in the Area. By then, we had three [3] parishes and a total of a thousand [1,000] Christians. We must celebrate Bishop Ochiel for his firm leadership even though he faced a lot of opposition for this initiative. I salute him for supporting me in terms of leadership and creating an enabling environment for mission to thrive in this Region.

After our consecration as a Suffragan Bishop, we encountered challenges and dilemma in terms of how to start the work minus resources and how to relate with the Diocesan Bishop and the wider Anglican Church. But by God’s grace we formed an Area Bishopric Council and set up the below vision, mission and objectives that aligned to the overall vision of the Anglican Church Kenya.

Vision: To be a fully-fledged growing, caring Anglican Diocese boldly proclaiming Christ by 2020.

Mission: To equip God’s people to transform the society with the gospel.

Objectives:

- [I] Evangelism & outreach
- [II] Leadership selection, training and development
- [III] Resource mobilization, development & investment
- [IV] Social responsibility/community services
- [V] Partnership & networking

It is through the implementation of the above that we were able to raise the Parishes from three [3] to twelve [12], translated the Book of Common Prayer

- Strengthen inter-Anglican institutional partnership within the areas of our jurisdiction.
- Strengthen inter-relationship between the departments.
- Strengthen the Diocese by enhancing departmental participation.
- Enhancing partnership with the county governments of Kisii and Nyamira which are the areas of jurisdiction.
- The Diocese has clergies who are members of Kisii Pastors’ Interdenominational Fellowship which is very pivotal for the spreading of the word.
- Regain ownership/sponsorship to some of the schools which were initially sponsored by the Church.
- Develop public-private partnership and enter in a memorandum of understanding to financing or support the development of identified feasible economic venture in serving the people of God.

[6] Infrastructure and Institutions Development

As a Diocese, we aspire to set up basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of the Diocese, with respect to our organizational structure, built infrastructure, digital artefacts and people.

To acquire own land and build permanent churches and other structures such as the vicarage and departmental offices in each congregation will be an ongoing activity.

ACTION AREAS

Emphasis will be given to the following;

1. Build a bishop’s residence and office at the Cathedral.
2. Acquire church owned lands with title deeds and other relevant documents.
3. Build modern church structures for worships at all parish headquarters with St. Philip’s as the Cathedral of the Diocese of Upper Southern Nyanza - Kisii.
4. Take deliberate action to resolve all the pending land issues and properties that are not in control of the church/church leadership.
5. Establish a physical and vibrant youth office and other departmental offices where applicable to parishes.

[7] Monitoring Evaluation and Learning

There shall be quarterly and annual monitoring of the plan to measure the progress. The unit of monitoring will at different levels begin from the cell group

mental management, climate change, human rights and emulsification of the vulnerable while maintaining political neutrality in the land.

We shall consciously trigger the minds of the unemployed youth to engage in productive functions and activities in all our parishes. The Diocese will focus on supporting efforts to ensure primary health care (preventive, curative and rehabilitative) school health program, HIV/AIDS program and outreach services in Gusii counties and maintain strong interaction with government and other partners to take forward the national and county agenda. The Diocese will leverage on our existing plots of land in Marani and Mwangori to set up this important healing ministry.

[4] Resource and Investment Management.

We shall seek to develop innovative mechanisms that guarantee stewardship from the members of the Diocese to giving through tithes, offering and thanksgiving in fulfilling the financial obligations and identified investment options with each parish initiating at least an income generating activity by 2025 for a Wholesome Christian community. The Diocesan Tumaini Building is going to be one of such projects envisioned in our parishes especially those located in towns. Each parish will come up with a contextual income generating activities.

[5] Networking, Linkage, Collaboration and Partnership building

We shall strengthen linkages, networking, collaborations and partnership building, in the Diocese through mission by establishing at least one well-functioning synergistic relationship per year for the next five years among various partners by 2025. We shall achieve these by implementing the following;

- Develop networks and collaboration frameworks with other surrounding institutions and the organization in support and growth of the Diocese and spread the gospel particularly in the two counties.
- Strengthen network linkage, collaboration and partnership building with other church institutions for interdenominational spreading of the gospel and evangelism of the region.
- Promote inter-congregation relationship through mission work exchange.
- Strengthen public-private partnership focusing on areas of influence and capacity to strengthen/radiate the gospel.
- Strengthen and develop new inter-archdeaconry and deanery collaboration and participation in all spheres of the church wholesomely.

to Ekegusii, raised the number of clergy from three [3] to fifteen [15], raised the number of lay readers from sixteen [16] to seventy [70], raised the number of Christians from one thousand two hundred [1,200] to nine thousand [9,000], bought land (where most churches are planted) to tunes of millions, established income generating activities and sent interested Christians to Theological Colleges using our local resources. We appreciate the fact that there is a sense of ownership in the church today compared to before. We thank all our Christians who have supported us in this journey, we still bank on you for the success and prosperity of this new Diocese.

THE WAY AHEAD

[1] Accelerate Evangelism & Outreach

We, in the Diocese of Upper Southern Nyanza under our charge, we shall rally all our members and remind them that the mission and the church calls us to perpetually proclaim the gospel afresh to each generation. Planting of new churches is not an easy task and out of experience, I now understand that a church planter is someone called to lead in evangelistic mission, developing new leaders and starting new churches. All these breathe new life into existing ones. This is what we've been trying to do in Gusii Region for the last seven [7] years.

However, going ahead in Upper Southern Nyanza Diocese, for us to be able to plant new churches and grow them, we shall require ministers who are entrepreneurs, dreamers, missionaries, strategists, evangelists, fundraisers, team leaders and even more. All these skills are essential to enable one to penetrate into the thick walls of the modern world and be able to accomplish the key goal of planting more churches in this region. Planting churches has been and will be my way of sharing in the Apostolic Mission by bringing more people to Christ's fold and participation to the church's life. A revived church with members filled with the Holy Spirit will carry the gospel to the world, and this is a goal we shall all strive to achieve.

Furthermore, we do not want to plant churches which are blind to the needs of the society and which does not address the questions that people are asking. Churches should be designed to address the questions that people are asking. We shall continue to plant churches in strategic places and ensure that they have functioning departments such as Kenya Anglican Men's Association (KAMA), Mother's Union (M.U.), Kenya Anglican Youth Organization (KAYO), Children Ministry, Mission and Evangelism Music and Information

Communication Technology (ICT). The concept of having a missionary church is something that we shall explore and embrace. We want churches that are incarnational, sacramental, creational and eschatological.

We shall continue and advance the Radio Ministry, improve fellowship and pastoral services, encourage the continued use and improvement of the Ekegusii Prayer Book and eventually double the number of parishes in the next seven [7] years. Through the Standing Committee of the Synod, we shall find ways of establishing and budgeting for the Mission and Evangelism desk. A church in mission is a true church.

This mission desk will be studying the environment, take time to understand the people residing in this Diocese; their tribal, cultural and traditional worldviews and behavior, making decisive effort to research and gain a careful understanding of the people whom we are called to serve. We shall focus on how to win the people to Jesus Christ and make them disciples of Jesus, so that in turn they may be effective missionaries and transformers of the society. We need to know where we are serving and what's the Lord's desire for us in this particular place (Kisii). This is important because it is the only reason why we can claim a vision for serving in a place at any given time. Those who will be serving in full time ministry of the church must remember that in accepting the call to ministry, they accept to go wherever they may be sent by us, without complaining. If this is not so, the mission suffers and becomes self-centered and self-serving.

We dare not miss our opportunity for missions for it is the mission of God. Having that in mind, we come to office and humble ourselves and become servants of all, including social outcasts, the poor widows and widowers, the dying thief, the youth and all the forgotten in the society. We find ways of shepherding those who are struggling on the day of worship and desire to be Anglicans.

[2] Leadership, Governance, Stewardship & Management

We come to the office knowing that we will not be judged on how we preach and how many will come to the Lord, but how efficient we can run this Diocese. In this view;

- We shall improve governance at all levels of the Diocese through consultation and participation.
- We shall be working on our constitution to be relevant to the needs of this Diocese and that of the Province.
- Initiate and develop human resource manual spelling out employer - em-

ployee agreement in the line with the Kenya labor laws and other applicable statutory.

- Enhance mechanisms that guarantee acquisition of all title deeds of the land owned by the church under the custody of the Diocese and the church commissioners for Kenya.
- Provide continuous theological education by extension to all church leaders.
- Together with the standing committee of the synod, and all Christians we shall constitute the cathedral chapter to in accordance with the law to run the affairs of the cathedral with a view of starting to build the cathedral by Jan 2025.
- For immediate action, we shall recall all church teachers' licenses to officiate and issue afresh the Diocesan ones as from January 2024 after undergoing a refresher course. This will be an annual activity in Upper Southern Nyanza Diocese.
- We shall have one archdeacon and regional deans for a start as we assess the opportunities for growth.

[3] Community and Social Services

Based on the needs and the doors open for mission in Upper Southern Nyanza Diocese. We see Education, health care, media, Agriculture and Sports.

We still consider educational work to be one of the best avenues for church growth in Gusii. However, lately, many churches now look at education and schools as a means of generating money as opposed to expanding mission. Furthermore, there is a general feeling among the Kenyans that the government regulations have become so intrusive and oppressive that education has practically ceased to be viable form of mission and outreach. Our motive for education is and shall be to train the children to grow in the fear and love of God, in love for neighbors and to participate in community development and in evangelizing the society. We shall seek to recover lost founder and sponsored schools. The ACK will still support education that brings up a wholistic developed child.

In Upper Southern Nyanza Diocese, we shall create and facilitate enabling environment that empowers stakeholders, nurture the inherent capacity of individuals for a just-lasting society in service. We shall engage and sensitize people using prophetic voices for public participation for social justice, environ-