

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**ANGLICAN CHURCH IN ETHIOPIA**



The Anglican Church in Ethiopia opened a large community library and resource centre on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November in Gambella, the capital of the Gambella Regional State. The new Gambella Anglican Centre, only sixty kilometres from the border with Sudan, will serve the people of Gambella, regardless of ethnic background or religious belief.

Gambella, home to three major language groups, is two days hard drive from Addis Ababa, the capital. People in this tropical region are plagued by water-borne disease, malaria, flooding, drought and conflict. 35% struggle to survive. 59% of women and 40% of men have no education at all.

In the Schools, students often share one text book between four. 62% of girls over 14 are never in school; the highest in Ethiopia. Keeping children in school is a major problem simply because of the pressure to help the family survive.

The Gambella Anglican Centre was built with a generous grant from the Irish government and other major donors. Through this Centre, the Anglican Church will provide people with a real chance to help themselves.

A large community library, stocking a wide selection of national text and reference books seats 250 students at a go. Over 1,000 students registered on the first day. Training rooms will provide tutorial classes. A literacy and development programme, run from the Centre, will reach out into rural areas beyond the town. Agricultural and health programmes will be delivered from the site, where a guest block and canteen can support residential training events.

Andrew Proud, Anglican Bishop in the region said, ‘We love Gambella. This is an amazing chance for us to bring people together and to show that God’s love is poured out for everyone.’ Bishop Andrew continued: ‘It is a privilege to be part of such positive change for this region.’

The Anglican Centre is run by a professional team of qualified local staff, led by a British national. For more, go to: <https://sites.google.com/site/anglicanchurchethiopia/home>  
ENDS.

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