



Assist South Sudan In Strengthening Teachers in Christ

# Newsletter

Hilde van der Draai

November, 2014.

## Graduation Party!

After a difficult and uncertain start at the beginning of the year, ECC had a very good reason to celebrate the graduation party this year! We thank God for His faithfulness and protection. 25 students graduated in our department with a Diploma of Education of which 9 students graduated with a distinction!

The month-of-celebration started with a gathering organized by the group of students from Nuba Mountains region. More groups organized parties for the graduation of students from their region. During these parties we shared special meals, lecturers encouraged their students and the students expressed their appreciation for the training and experiences in ECC. The final party was the big graduation party. Government officials and leaders from NGO's were invited for this party. Joke den Haan from the Netherlands also came to celebrate the party with us. Her presence made the party complete for me! After all the speeches, everyone ate a meal and many pictures were made. It was a great party, but it was also a bit emotional for me. It is painful to let the students go after living and working with them for three years. I start to understand a little bit how hard it must be for parents to let their children go (how much I respect my own parents for having to let me go to South Sudan!). It is not only painful, but it is also a dream coming true. I am looking forward to hear and see what our students will do in South Sudan. They are having so many plans and dreams!



## Simon's wife

In my last newsletter I wrote that Simon will graduate this year, despite all the difficulties he went through this year. During the graduation party it became clear that Simon is not the only one who is brave. His wife is a very pro-active and brave women as well!



Just before the graduation party Simon's wife decided to leave the refugee camp in Uganda and went back to Juba. Simon was very surprised when his wife called him from Juba. During the graduation party, his wife surprised him again. On her own initiative she came to ECC to celebrate Simon's graduation party with us!

## Moving together?!

After the graduation party we came together as education department to welcome our five new colleagues in our team (see previous newsletter). Our new colleagues expressed that they are happy to work in ECC in our department, but they are also having a passion to teach teachers in their own regions. We are planning to train teachers in their regions and some other regions in 2015. We have started with the preparations of this project. We have already made a collection of 5000 euro for the training. **We still need 20.000 euro to implement all our plans in 2015.** I will be in the Netherlands for three weeks in December/Januari and I would love to share more about our plans in churches, groups and organisations. It would be great if you could share our mission in South Sudan with more people and make them excited to support our plans. **Together we can help more people in South Sudan!**

## Pray with us for Nuba!!

T-shirts with an ECC logo in different colours were sold during our graduation party. Two students from Nuba Mountains discussed which colour they would like. **"We shouldn't choose white or yellow, because those colours make us so visible, they can easily drop the bombs on us"**. Despite the heat and sunshine they choose a black t-shirt, because that one was more safe. Most of the students from Nuba Mountains have decided to spend their holidays with their families in Nuba Mountains. They flew by plane to their region. They are fully aware of the dangers, but want to see how their family is doing. They are asking you to pray for them. Pray that they will all come back safely. The students from Nuba Mountains challenged me to preach during their celebration. On the picture you can see how I encourage the students to hold on to their experiences with God and to share with others what they have learned. Because we can only stand firm in difficult times when we focus on who God is.



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