



### **A mystery**

I was standing in front of 64 students, but you got my attention. Your skin much darker, you are skinny, you are looking anxious and shy. While I am looking at you, you look so familiar to me. Maybe I have seen you before in a newspaper with a weapon in your hand? Your colleagues have given you a nickname which refers to the national army of South Sudan (SPLA), because you did your presentation about this army during your first course. Also in another assignment you seemed to refer back to your military background, when you explained that teaching is a noble profession like military work.

You are making me curious, what did you experience in your life? What has made you to be so frightened? And suddenly, during a reading-aloud presentation I discover another personality hidden in you. You picked up your book with a big smile on your face. You are becoming softer while reading the story aloud. I can see you reading with passion. I am so happy to discover that there is a great teacher hidden inside of you! God is changing you and I am looking forward to see how He will give you a vision for whatever comes next in your life. Even though it is a mystery for us, it is in God's hands.



The student on the picture is not the one from the story.

### **Personal..**

Finally a newsletter! I am sorry for taking so long. Despite the successful stories and the growth of our programmes, the last 6 months have not been very easy for me. Personal illness, worries about relatives in the Netherlands who were ill and other changes that took place in our department in South Sudan, resulted in emotional distress. I went to the Netherlands in May for a holiday and had a great time there. After two weeks I returned back to South Sudan with new energy. I received lots of compliments from colleagues and students. One guest-student from America wrote to me that she saw the Holy Spirit shining through me while I was teaching. In the last months I have learned so much more about Jesus and how He wants to live in me. I realize more than ever before, that I can only do what I do in South Sudan, because of God's grace and strength. My passion for this ministry is growing more every day. Although I might still struggle with cultural differences and I might still experience spiritual and emotional battles, it is my desire to train myself to give that all to Jesus every time again. I am constantly searching for ways to keep myself more healthy in this environment and to prevent myself from falling sick again. Unfortunately, it is more expensive to eat more healthy food and to rest/go for holidays more often. In August I will go back to the Netherlands for a medical check-up, I also might have to do some fundraising and gain energy for the next coming months. September, October and November are always more intense, so I hope to prepare myself for that.



[Www.assistinchrist.org/nl](http://Www.assistinchrist.org/nl)

[Www.eccollegess.org](http://Www.eccollegess.org)

Financial support for my personal expenditures can be send to:

International Teams (Ermelo) Accountnummer: 1556 67 777 T.n.v. Impact Zuid Sudan.

**Visit..**

It was 7 o'clock in the morning when I left with our team to Yei to supervise our students who participate in the program for teachers who are already teaching in Primary Schools. Our students for this program are coming from more than 15 different schools, so every colleague went to another school. I visited Salaam Primary School where 8 teachers are participating in our program. When I arrived I received a very warm welcome. The teachers were very happy to see me and expressed that they were so grateful for the training they received so far. A few weeks ago government inspectors visited them and were very excited about the way the teachers were teaching. The student-teachers were asked which training they had done and they explained that they had just started their training in ECC. The government inspectors were surprised and wanted to contact ECC, but unfortunately our phone numbers were not going through. The government inspectors decided to make a special notation in their report about the impact of the ECC training seen in Salaam Primary School.

The next day I visited another Primary School. While visiting that new primary school, I realized that the only 3 teachers who are actively teaching in the school are the once who are participating in our program. There are 150 children in the school, but most classes do not have a teacher. The 3 active teachers were discouraged because of the school-situation, lack of a building and teaching materials. In our conversation we realized that they are having a great potential to make a difference in the school. Three very good teacher have an opportunity to move the school forward. It was encouraging to see that this hope also developed in the heart of the teachers. They will go on!



On this moment we are having 55 students in our program for teachers who are already teaching in the school. Next year we are expecting even more participants for this training.



The picture above is made during a birthday party of our one year old neighbouring child Anita.

**Early Childhood Specialisation..**

Every day I am active with our team to improve the quality of education. Since the beginning of my stay in South Sudan I have the desire in my heart to use my expertise for the development of education for young children. Every year I was able to introduce something new, but still much more could be done. Next year I hope to teach 2 new courses, while using a new handbook with lesson-suggestions for teachers. I am in touch with a publisher in Uganda about this handbook. The publisher is willing to make illustrations for 50 worksheets, numbercards and lettercards. Professional consultants are ready to improve the handbook in order to make it useful for all teachers in South Sudan. The cost for doing this and for printing 200 handbooks is 6000 euro's. I am still looking for ways of raising this amount.