



Newsletter

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Dear friends,

Through this newsletter I would like to give you an update about the teaching practice of our third-year diploma students. When the students heard that it was time for them to go for teaching practice, they expressed that they were not ready to go. They refused to go because of fears related to the insecurity situation in the town. After bible-studies related to fear and time of prayers together (see picture on right side) the students became convinced that God called them to go to the schools in Yei to do their teaching practice.



Already after the first day of their teaching practice I received a phone-call from one of the headteachers from the primary schools. He called to appreciate the students who had come to his school with an amazing cooperative attitude. After a few days we (as education department team) went to the primary schools to observe how our students were teaching. We saw that the schools really lacked regular teachers because many teachers had fled to Uganda last year and others stopped working due to delay of payment of their salary. For one month our students stood with the schools and filled the gaps of the missing teachers. This encouraged some learners to come back to school and participate in class.

The students became very excited about their work in the school and taught very well! Our student called Dawa was teaching a very big class of more than



one hundred learners, but was able to activate all her learners by using a variety of helpful teaching strategies. The interaction between our student Michael and his learners was outstanding, within one week he had identified learners with personal problems and started to counsel them. Together with his classmates he collected money to pay the schoolfees for one of the girls in his class. Another amazing teacher was Rasas, he created an amazing enjoyable atmosphere in his classroom and activated his learners through various activities like games and group-work. At the end of his lesson he said with a big smile "I really enjoyed this lesson and it was great to see that the learners enjoyed the lesson too!"



On the last day of the teaching practice learners of one primary school surprised the college when they brought the student-teachers to the college compound while singing 'goodbye-songs'. The learners started to cry when they realized that their teachers had completed their teaching practice and wouldn't come back to teach them anymore. Our students started to cry as well. It was special to see that the students who first refused to start their teaching practice, now cried because they found it so hard to say goodbye to the learners they had taught for one month. Surely, God can turn things around.

This week I am teaching our first year diploma students principles of teaching. They have just started their studies this year, but I believe that they will become great teachers too. Today one of the students was wearing a T-shirt with the text "Fear not, Trust God" (see picture). That powerful principle helped our third year students to accomplish their teaching practice and impact the lives of learners in the primary schools in Yei in a unique way.



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