



Assist South Sudan In Strengthening Teachers in Christ

Dear friends,

It's time for me to break the silence. I haven't written any newsletter this year and I sincerely apologize for that. I surely do appreciate all your support, prayers and involvement in our ministry in South Sudan.

In April I visited the Netherlands together with the principal of ECC. We visited various donors, organizations and churches, to appreciate them for supporting the college and we were hoping to establish new partnerships.

Two days after returning from the Netherlands, we received the news that 10 people were killed by soldiers in our compound in Goli. Since November 2016, we haven't been in this compound with our college-students, due to insecurity. However we were hosting Internal Displaced People (IDP's) in the compound, we provided medical care for them and primary education for their children. Five boys from the primary school were killed in the incident in May and two girls were raped. The teachers teaching in the primary school (of which some graduated from our education program) were threatened, but survived by God's grace.

A few weeks after this terrible attack, we received the confirmation that the main donor of the college has stopped their financial sup-

port. Though this wasn't a surprise for us, it surely made our situation more difficult..

However, we are experiencing that God doesn't let go what He started. Our students really want to complete their studies, so we have decided to keep going; we have adjusted our expenditures for this year and have received some donations from friends, foundations and churches, which enable us to still help all our students complete their academic year.

Please enjoy reading this newsletter and rejoice with me as you discover that God is at work in our midst, despite the heavy storms we encounter sometimes..



Staff remains faithful in their work

The team that is facilitating the teacher training program (see picture) has been an amazing encouragement this last months. Some other staff of the college left, but this team remained faithful to their work. Even though they had not received salaries for some months, they kept teaching and mentoring the students. I have seen each one of them grow as a leader in our college.



Students are being transformed!

While Felix was teaching in the primary school of Youth With A Mission in Yei in 2015, he joined the inservice certificate program. Due to insecurity the primary school closed in 2016. However Felix decided to remain in the village. In 2017 he visited the college and shared that he started his own school in the village. This village was having serious insecurity threats. I was hoping to find support for his initiative and to help him complete his training as well, but unfortunately he never showed up that year ... In 2018 he suddenly appeared in our college. It was such a nice surprise, but unfortunately he looked discouraged, drunk and confused. I prayed that God would lead him back on a right path and He did! A few months later I met him while he was teaching in a Christian private school in town. This month he attended class again! He is doing really great and has grown so much in faith and in teaching! On the picture below he is teaching his classmates a writing-lesson.

Student filled with joy for Jesus

At the beginning of this year, Haidar arrived in the college with a big smile on his face. He was very happy to be back. He had missed one year of his studies, due to insecurity and lack of finance to pay his travels and schoolfees. Upon his arrival he came to me and said; "I have changed! I am no longer the same!". The last time we were together, Haidar was a muslim. Two years ago we had done a short study with him and his muslim friends about the bible and the koran. I had no idea about the impact it had on his personal life. He had decided to read the whole bible and God used it to speak to him about His Truth. During the first devotion in the class, Haidar stood up and shared his testimony. While quoting scriptures, he explained how he discovered that Jesus is the only truth. All his classmates were listening quietly for more than 30 minutes. His testimony made an impact on all of us.





Training Teachers in Refugee Camp Pamir and Ajuong Thok

In May we started with two new classes in the refugee camps bordering Nuba Mountains. For the third time we are implementing a one year intensive teacher training program in partnership with the organization LWF. This year we included in our program a new refugee camp called Pamir. In total 42 students enrolled for the class in Pamir and 30 are participating in the training in refugee camp Ajuong Thok. All students are teaching in the schools in the camp. Most students are refugees from Nuba Mountain (Sudan) and 10 students are coming from the host community (South Sudan). It has been special to see how the host community and refugees are working together in the class and are learning from each other. See pictures below; student teachers in Pamir are acting out a role-play in which counseling strategies are applied.



42 Students in Pamir



30 Students in Ajuong Thok



Students in Yei are overcoming challenges!

In 2016 when the war broke out in Yei, Lucy fled to a refugee camp in Uganda and did not complete her studies. Last year when she heard that her classmates had successfully completed their studies in Yei, she decided to come back to our college to complete her studies as well. This year Lucy was the first student to arrive in the college and she was also one of the first people to use the road between Uganda and Yei. While many people feared to use the road, Lucy was courageous enough to travel over the road, while being escorted by military.



During her teaching practice in June, she faced a new challenge; she was placed in a very big class with more than 160 learners. Lucy felt discouraged while trying to control all her learners. Most learners were coming from villages where the war had recently taken place and these learners were finding it hard to concentrate in her class. After giving Lucy some guidance, she discovered that she could use her gift for singing as a strategy to engage all her learners in her lesson. It was amazing to see her grow in having confidence in herself and having a great time with her learners.

Great time together in Yei!

At the beginning of this month we combined the in-service certificate students in Yei with the fulltime diploma students for the Early Childhood course. During the course the students did a lot of games and activities. They presented sample lessons for writing, numbers and sounds. (see pictures on the left).

Stella (on the picture below in yellow) assisted me while teaching the course. She will graduate from the diploma program this year and it is my hope that she can join our college as a teacher trainer. Together with Annet (black/white on picture below), she is forming a great team. Annet is the coordinator of the inservice program in Yei and is hoping to graduate this year with a Bachelor Degree.



Teacher Training Program Kicks off in Aweil!



Another dream has come true! Finally our Intensive In-Service Teacher Training Program has kicked off in Aweil!

Together with our formal students William Wek and William Malith we have been dreaming of this program to be implemented in Aweil. After making various trips with colleagues to Aweil, we could finally kick off with the program on the 11th of September.

The Minister of Education in Aweil State (see picture above) opened the program with encouraging words and warmly welcomed the college in Aweil. The education coordinator of UNICEF, the bishop of ECS-church in Aweil and the principal of ECC were the special visitors of the opening occasion.

Graduated student Ater, responsible for Quality Assurance in the ministry of education, and Malith, another graduated student who is working with the Ministry of Education in Aweil, played a crucial role in recruitment of students and establishment of the training facility in Aweil.



On the picture above, I am discussing the last student-details with Ater and Malith, before kicking off with the lesson.

The program in Aweil will have a duration of one year. All students are teaching in Primary Schools in the morning hours and attend classes in the afternoon.

Aweil Town is having 54 primary schools. The need for qualified teachers is enormous. Many children are dropping out of school and are living on the streets during the day.

The teachers who are attending the training are ready to make a difference!



Graduated students are at work!

September 2018



Joseph, Dawa, Jesca, Hellen and Leila are working with the organization Worldvision in Yambio. They are reaching out to children living in difficult circumstances.



Tutu is teaching in an international school in Juba



William (looking up in the picture above) is the headteacher of a private primary school for girls in Aweil. Marco, Dominic, Ngong and Arop are teaching in this same school. (see picture below)



Michael is assisting the ECC lecturers in Ajuong Thok and Pamir



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