



Assist South Sudan In Strengthening Teachers in Christ

Dear friends,

Thank you very much for all your prayers and support this year. All students have gone for holidays and we are very grateful for everyone who supported our college this year. It is because of your prayers and financial support that ECC was able to finish all programs and provide transport for the students. As "Christmas-gift" I am sending you a longer newsletter with reflections and highlights of this year.

This year wasn't an easy year. Due to insecurity reasons we had to move all our college activities and students from our main-campus to Yei town. Only a few people could access our campus by using 'special roads' through the bush. In Yei there was still tension due to the presence of hungry (and sometimes drunk) soldiers. It has been a miracle that we were able to continue with all programs without major interruptions.

After the experiences of last year and while being together in Yei, students and staff developed closer relationships with each other and with Christ Jesus. We all embraced it as our calling to be peacemakers in Yei town. The ongoing activities of our college encouraged people to change their perspective on the situation in Yei town and we have seen people returning back from refugee-camps in Uganda to Yei.

March: First Graduation in Ajuong Thok

In March this year we celebrated our first-graduation in the refugee camp Ajuong Thok. In partnership with LWF we graduated 72 students from Nuba-Mountains who are already teaching in Primary Schools in the camp. The main donor of this program (UNHCR) appreciated the training very much and granted us more funds to continue with a new class. Immediately after the graduation a new class of 67 students enrolled for this training.



April: Despite all challenges classes are going on very well in Yei and Ajuong Thok



Lecturers constantly balance between teaching theory and guiding the students to practical implement learned concepts in various activities.

Different tribes are studying together and are taught by national and international lecturers.



June: Third year students did their Teaching Practice in Yei

When the third year students heard that their teaching practice was going to take place in Yei Town, they expressed fear and doubt due to the insecurity situation in the town. After prayer and bible-studies God convinced the students to go. The students embraced it as their calling to teach the young children in the primary schools. They taught amazing lessons and build friendships with the learners.



July: Celebration of graduation principal

Daniel Ohide showed real leadership skills and courage during the tense time we went through as a college in 2016. This year he has become our principal and was also able to complete his Masters! That was worth a celebration! Together with the students we surprised him with a big party.

As education department we tried to make it a habit to celebrate special moments and special people this year.

August/September: New born babies



As education department we have been blessed with new born babies! Elias who is our lecturer in Ajuong Thok was blessed with a new born baby boy called Nelson.

A month later Annet, who is our coordinator for Yei-certificate program gave birth to her daughter Emily.



September: Students are moving forward together!



The students in Ajuong Thok were very committed and performed very well during their training.

Second year students presented great lessons during their Early-Childhood Course & Teaching Practice!



October: International Friends

This year I have personally been very blessed with international friends in Yei, especially with Vivian from Sweden (working with UN OCHA). We also developed new friendships with Kim, Lance and Joshua from the USA working for an orphanage in Yei.

As Education Department we were encouraged and inspired by the visits of international lecturers. In May Matt & Melodie came from Canada and in October: Ruth Radley came from UK, Judi, Steve and Christine came from the US, Elke from Germany and Simone from Switzerland (who is now a full-time staff in ECC as well).



October: Orientation visit in Aweil



At the beginning of the year some third year students from Aweil presented a serious request to the principal and I. They had the vision for ECC to start a branch in their home-community in Aweil state. In October I visited Aweil together with colleagues/members of the Management Team to explore the potential to start a training there.

It was an amazing surprise to discover that the Minister of Education in Aweil State had the vision to implement Christian Quality Education in his region. Students who graduated from our education program last year had shared with him about ECC and he got excited. "I want ECC to come and train teachers here.



ECC is a Christian institution and is faithful to its calling. We will do whatever we can to help you facilitate your program here."

It is our hope to launch an In-Service certificate program in 2018 for untrained teachers teaching in primary schools in Aweil South.

November: Graduation in Yei!

The graduation ceremony that took place on the 24th of November has been a celebration of hope. Hope for peace and a better future for South Sudan. It encouraged many people in the town to see that despite the tension and unrest, students were able to complete their studies in this place. Some students graduated from the programs of Theology, and Leadership & Management, but the biggest number graduated from the Education Department: 43 students graduated with a Diploma and 11 with a certificate.

The Founders Bishop Elias Taban and the chairman of ECC Board George William spoke encouraging words to the congregation. Many more officials spoke that day, like the Minister of Education and the Governor of Yei.



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December: Second Graduation in Ajuong Thok

It was amazing to finish our academic year with a big celebration in the refugee-camp Ajuong Thok. 59 student-teachers had completed their 9-months intensive teacher training and received their certificate on the 5th of December.



We celebrated this historical moment with our partner Lutheran World Federation and its donor UNHCR. Government officials came to witness the ceremony together with all residence of the camp. Many children celebrated the graduation of their own teachers.



At the end of the celebration, there was enough food for everyone to enjoy!

Thank you!

Thank you for your support this year! Thank you for your encouraging messages! Thank you for your prayers! Thank you for your generous donations! Thank you for giving our students the chance to study! Thank you for making children smile because they love their new teachers!

Together we are transforming South Sudan as a nation, for this new generation!

May God bless you as we continue this partnership and continue to walk in His plan!



Christmas donation?

Would you like to give children in South Sudan a special Christmas gift?

Give them a new trained teacher! It will be a gift they will never forget in their life!

The costs to train one teacher is 1500 euro a year.

Every contribution is welcome!

And every PRAYER is as much appreciated!

Donations can be send to: International Teams (Ermelo),
IBAN: NL33 RABO 0155 6677 77,
T.n.v. Impact South Sudan.

