

HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE KURON

Newsletter September 2021



Bits and Pieces

The new cell phone tower was inaugurated on 02.September.2021 attended by various distinguished guests from Juba, Torit and Kapoeta: Guest of Honor Hon. Mr. Baba Medan - Deputy Minister of Telecommunication and Postal Services, H.E Loise Lobong Lojore – Governor Eastern Equatoria State, Hon. Mr. Napoleon Adok – Director General South Sudan National Communications Authority, the Honorable CEO of MTN South Sudan, Mr. Anjelo Lokinga – Area Member of Parliament, Hon. Titus Lokwachuma, - (Board HTPVK), Hon. Dr. Margaret Itto (Dep. Chair of HTPVK Board) and many other dignitaries, attend the Inauguration ceremony of the new MTN Network Station in Kuron.

14.September UNMISS Torit Head of office, Ms. Caroline Waudu and her Security and Gender teams arrive for updates and consultations on security.

Program Manager, Finance Officer and Logistics Officer were involved in training workshops: Juba...Stromme Foundation – Internal Control/Anti-Corruption. Torit...Norwegian Church Aid – Logistics and Quick books.

An NCA Consultant on Mapping of existing Peace Structures Consultant arrived on 17.Sept. for one week

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discussions. NCA is supporting Kuron through funds from European Union. The program is supporting peace, livelihood, road, capacity building, personnel, various operations, etc.



Suzan corrects Primary 1 and 2 pupil notebooks

PRAYER REQUESTS

Son of Nandasi in hospital in Uganda.
Lomilo wife gave birth to a girl
One Toposa boy drowned in the river.
Many staff and local community with malaria

UN International Day of Peace 21 September
Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action 2021

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African Proverb



Peace is the rain that makes the grass grow and war the wind that dries it out.

Meaning: We must use good methods and correct language to bring peace. If we act harshly to another, they will not want to make peace with us.

All staff are busy with end of quarter reports as well as planning for 2022 with proposals and strategic plans.

Nursery School Pupils Comments: *“Teacher we love what you taught us yesterday. We want to learn more.”*

Peace Program

On 02.Sept. 8 cows were stolen by Toposa from the Murle in Boma. Within days the locals of Kuron area knew who the rustlers were and where they were keeping the cows. A team from the HTPVK was dispatched and Mr. Lokii Eliah, supported by several local chiefs, facilitated an intervention with these people. The result is that the cows were returned on 15.Sept, the thieves paid a 10 cow fine, and may have to go before the police from Kapoeta. All this was stipulated in the recently signed Resolution Agreements. This is the FIRST TIME that a fine has been applied and paid.

An interesting point is that with the cell phones operating Mr. Lokii has been in constant contact with the Governor of East Equatoria, in Torit. The Gov. has been kept informed and really appreciates

the Peace Dept. efforts. In fact, one time while he was talking on the phone with Mr. Lokii, the local people could hear his voice and this gave much more urgency to the decisions to be made. The people decided then and there to carry out the resolutions. The Governor has promised to send police to assist with the guilty people.



People discussing how to stop cattle rustling

Pre-School Education ECCE

The Nursery Teachers held the first Parent Teacher Assoc. (PTA) meeting since before the Covid 19 pandemic. There were 31 parents out of 87 total who attended. All the women and men participated fully. Topics were the school fees, child’s hygiene, and parents involvement in the upkeep of the grounds.

What is amazing to hear is that some of the parents don’t know their own children’s names. Men have several wives or women have children by different men. This causes confusion in the School Roster.

Comments by a Chief’s daughter: *“I regret leaving school in early Primary. I wish I had stayed. Now I feel somehow left behind. I don’t want my children to make the same mistake.”*

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Parent Teacher Meeting 13.Sept.2021 at Nursery



Primary staff teachers prepare their lessons in the staff room

Primary Education

New Curriculum text books have finally been delivered to Primary and Secondary. There are fewer copies than needed but this is a benefit to teachers and students. Assessment tests are being given to all students.



New Primary Teachers: Stella and Todo review notes



Secondary School Teaching Team

Vocational Training Centre

The school has kept occupied making chairs for the Secondary School. The construction of the new Nursery building is also ongoing. The Brothers house is getting a new septic system. All VTC teachers are now residing in the house at the Health Clinic until the Carter Centre can be remodeled for housing.

Secondary Education

Classes continue and 52 students and teachers are busy with mid-tests. The Secondary School Students and Village Staff enjoyed a friendly football match. Village Staff won 5 to 2.

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Br. John Ogenda teaches Math to VTC students

Nurse Comment: "When I first arrived I wondered what kind of place is this? But now I see the clinic is really serving these people where no health facilities are found anywhere near."

Livelihoods



Parents, Bonga Girls and HTPVK staff met to clarify what the girls are learning. Some parents felt they were being taught to disobey their parents. Now everyone is clear and satisfied.

Nursery Teacher Comment: "I have learned so much by teaching. I feel I can help my people but if the ideas are not the traditional way, they will be against me and I feel strange."

Health Care Centre

There were more than 750 outpatients seen in September. Of these, malaria was the main presenting issues but we also see conjunctivitis and anemia cases. Inpatients were over 260 with most being malaria. There were six births seen at the clinic. Although, generally the area has seen better nutrition levels, there are still cases of extreme and moderate malnutrition. People are eating the Dapal beans from trees which are tasteless, but as a supplement which can

provide some protein. Five villages were visited for outreach programs.

Logistics and Infrastructure

MANY vehicles saw multiple problems this period. From broken axels to punctures, to bearings wearing out in alternators, to a shock absorber that came loose and fell off. The Mechanics were kept busy repairing the vehicles over and over again. Presently, all Toyotas are operational. The JCB spare parts and the Dump Truck new alternator finally arrived and both machines are busy hauling murrum for projects back fill at the bridge which is almost complete.



Broken axel which fell off of trailer.

A bore hole was repaired in Napil Market by Mr. Micheal from Nanyangachor. A septic system was dug for the Brothers of St. Martin DePorres at Matara.



Typical wheels damaged by roads and stones

All staff and students spent one Saturday morning slashing and cleaning the airstrip. This was a team building effort as well with lunch at Matara.

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A Toposa Care Giver of Matara Nursery says:
"Education has made my life better. My mind is wider. I learn different things from different teachers. It is good."

Socio-Economic Indicators

MTN Cell Phone Tower: This tower has really had an immediate impact on the operations in the isolated Kuron area. By using phones, leaders of communities and HTPVK staff can now communicate much easier and quicker. This has especially helped with the organization of the Peace Meetings. Coordination with Matara can happen much more efficiently. When a vehicle breaks down or gets stuck in the mud, the driver can call for help if within the range of the tower.

The phones have facilitated work in all aspects. Project managers can talk to donors and supporters much easier. Finance can coordinate much quicker on the needs for reports. Administration can get vital information faster and confirm things much more effectively.

We have heard from the MTN seller that within this past month of September alone, over 100 cell phones have been sold to local community members. It is yet to be seen how this development impacts the traditional ethnic cultures.



Back fill finished at bridge with gabions

Spot Light on Family



Head Master of Primary School, Mr. Sebit Atanga with his wife, Rose and three children: Rebecca, Francis and Per

Programs of HTPVK are supported by the following:

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