



HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE KURON NEWSLETTER JUNE 2022

**“You shall not pollute the land in which you live...”
Numbers 35:33**



Bits and Pieces

Stromme Foundation visited Peace Village from 31st May. to 6th June. They worked with the Finance and Program staff to improve reporting. From 21st—23rd June, Stromme Foundation held a Finance & Compliance training in Juba which was attended by top HTPVK Managers. An annual Partners meeting Organized by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) was attending by Mr. Elia Lokii, Margaret Kayi and Fr. Emmanuel Wani. This was the first MCC partners meeting for HTPVK as a new partner to MCC.



In cooperation with Kroc Institute for International Studies, Notre Dame University, USA , Holy Trinity Peace Village-Kuron worked with Mr. Cesear Montevecchio, Asst. Dir. at the Keogh School of Global Affairs, to highlight the work HTPVK has been doing the past two decades in South Sudan in the area of Peace Building. The Village was featured in the Expo Section of the International Virtual Conference held June.20-23. We thank Notre Dame University and Mr. Montevecchio for his efforts in promoting peace and justice in the world.



The Grinding Mill, **(left)** is functioning for Primary, Secondary, and Nursery Schools. It was donated through South Sudan Council of Churches. This will not only save time and money but all the schools will have food prepared in a timely and efficient manner. Mr. Albert is in charge of maintenance and upkeep of the new machine which is

at the Food Security Compound.



Above Left: Transplanting trees for World Environment Day June.05

Above Right: Bonga Girls show off their home made bread.



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Infrastructure

Three (3) hand pumps have been repaired in different areas around Kauto West. Many others still remain broken.

Several vehicles, including both lorries, had to be repaired.

Right: An erosion spot on the airstrip was repaired.



Left: Secondary Classrooms being constructed in Matarra with the aid of Caritas Austria.

Right: Repaired section of airstrip where erosion was creeping in.



TOPOSA MEN: We are pastoralists but we know if we grow food to eat like sorghum, our children will be stronger and healthier. Our cows are being watched by others while we help each other to cultivate,

Right: Group of men clearing a field for planting.



Peace Building

On 8.May.2022, Toposa youth were involved in a theft of 19 cattle from the Murle in the Boma region. The Commissioner was informed and certain meetings were held to find a solution to this theft. One Toposa was reported killed. This event reflects the flowing nature of trying to gain peace between communities and keep the dialogues going.

A private lorry was looted by unknown criminals in the second week of June just north of Matarra. The criminals took a lot of food. Five days later, another private lorry was robbed of all the food and supplies it was carrying in the same area. The thieves shot the tires to stop the vehicle. The people from around took advantage of the incidents, carried sacks and jerry cans of oil to the bush. None of the criminals have been identified yet. Peace Village is investigating along with concerned government offices.



Toposa boys attending school are less likely to engage in cattle raiding in the future.

From January to June.2022, Peace Village has recorded five (5) cattle thefts and nine violent acts in the immediate Kuron area.

A new Peace Department Field Officer was recruited at the end of June.



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Right: First loan in the CMSG given out to three individuals.

Below: Bonga Girls learn how to make bread in a workshop for baking.



TOPOSA WOMAN: My husband does work in the field too. We discussed and it is better if the men also help with this work. We all benefit.

TOPOSA ELDER SPEAKING ABOUT EXPOSURE TRIP: We never thought this was possible to use cows to plow. We Toposa don't like to use our cows for work. But we will use donkeys. It saves time.

Livelihoods

Mr. Juma Chelimo took several members of the villages around Kuron for a one week exposure trip to Uganda. Mr. Romano was the host and the visitors were shown how agriculture and animal traction work together to produce more food in an efficient and effective manner. Other groups have prepared some plots for vegetable planting once rains arrive. Animal traction training of animals continues in several communities. If there were multiple year funding for these types of food security projects, the idea would be more deeply embedded in the people. Bee Keeping has been implemented in Lereboi community. Nawayapeta village has received two donkey carts for use in transporting supplies and water.

Mr. Okori Emmanuel organized over 60 BONGA Girls and 20 women who participated in a baking class.

Community Managed Savings Group has met numerous times and reached 150,000 SSP. The first loan has been made for 90,000 SSP to three members of the group. They should pay back with 10% interest in 4 weeks.



Midwife in PHCC: Spacing of babies as part of our Family Planning programs, is a difficult concept to teach as there is a Toposa cultural “competition” of sorts, to have more babies in the family. The Toposa women find fulfillment the more babies they have. It will take time to work with them.

Left: Lereboi Community members make a bee hive from local materials.

Challenges in the PHCC: A young Toposa woman presented her baby with severe malaria. The child began the 5-day treatment, but after one day the mother decided to leave. When confronted by Nurses that it was dangerous to the life of the baby and it could die on the road, she simply replied: “I am young and my blood is still good. I can easily get another one.”



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Primary Health Care Centre

Lab tests are averaging between 30 to 40 per day. Supplies are very limited and even paper and staples are in short supply. Water has been severely lacking. Chicken Pox has run through the schools affecting about 75% of the student body. Many of them do not have any vaccination coverage. The Nutrition Department has been carrying out a de-worming campaign this month. CCM /Amref has carried out a measles vaccination program in the area.

There was a noted decline in patients at the clinic after a road robbery as many people were hiding in the bush with their stolen merchandise.

Left: Lab Tech Albert Enzama takes a blood sample.

Right: Woman with one day old baby boy.

There were 21 births at the centre with no deaths.

300 under five year olds were seen in Out Patient. 475 over five year olds were seen in Out Patient. 70 patients were held over night at In Patient Wards.



Nursery Pupils responding to the question; What do you want to be when you grow up?
...I want to be an airplane pilot. ...I want to be a teacher.

And one boy said: ...I want to be a Kwaja ! (a Foreigner)!!!



Left: Mr. Mawa Augustine measures for the new classroom building at St. Thomas Secondary School in Matara.



Left: Madam Nakuru assists in cleaning the compound, arranging events, helping in the kitchen and greeting visitors upon arrival.

Left: With only two computers at the Secondary School and limited power, Teacher Elugu Peter introduces the basic concepts to the students, many of whom are using a computer for the first time in their lives.



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SURVEY

An informal survey of twenty Primary 8 students found that most of them are satisfied with the teaching and the school. A few admitted it was better than marriage or working in the field. Most felt that the students should speak English more to improve their language. Over half, felt the mix of ethnic groups was good for them to learn from others. However, many were not happy with the fighting and poor condition of the classrooms and the crowded dorms. Many wished there were more supplies and books available. The students were split between those who liked the food and those who thought more variety was needed. Most stated they would like to be doctors or teachers.

Spotlight on Family

Mr. Todo Romeyo from South Sudan and his wife, Mary with their child Sunday, have settled in Kuron. Mr. Todo is a Primary School



Mr. David Taban is from South Sudan and is teaching in the Primary School.



Mr. Abogo Freddy James is from Uganda and is teaching in the Secondary School.



Mr. Ijjo Godfrey is from Uganda and is teaching in the Primary School.



Left: Rose Sebit hands out snack time food for the children in the nursery.



Right: Primary 4 classroom students studying their lessons.



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Secondary School

Mr. Aboga Freddy James from Uganda has joined the staff. There are now 5 teachers and Br. Francis on the team. Mid-term exams were held this month. There are 55 Secondary Students with 13 females. The new classrooms structure foundation and walls are almost complete.



Select Supporters of HTPVK Programs:

Personal contributions from His Excellency, President Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan

1. European Commission - EU
2. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
3. Norwegian Friends of Kuron
4. Norwegian Embassy
5. PAX for Peace Nederland
6. Stromme Foundation Norway
7. AVSI International
8. Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
9. Friends of Sister Emmanuelle (FOSE)
10. South Sudan National Ministry of Health - (Health Pool Fund)
11. Caritas Austria
12. ProSudan Association Austria
13. Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls (USA)
14. Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (USA)
15. South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)
16. Missio Austria
17. World Food Programme (WFP), South Sudan
18. UN Mission in South Sudan
19. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
20. Many individual supporters
21. Embassy of the People's Republic of

Primary School

Currently, enrolment is 412 pupils with 78 girls. AVSI recruited about 50 students from the Nyanyangachor area. There was a chicken pox epidemic running through the school but now all students are fine. Two new teachers have joined the staff: David Taban from Magwe and Ijjo Godfrey from Uganda.



Primary TWO class of 97 students

Nursery Schools

115 registered in Matara nursery. 60 to 75 attend each day on average. There are 85 learners in the Kuron Nursery School. Ms. Vicky Adongo has been hired as a Nursery teacher at St. John Paul II Nursery school. Nakubuse Nursery remains closed due to lack of water.



Kuron Nursery students clean the grounds before class.



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Toposa Student Emmanuel Napuon A SUCCESS STORY Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4: 12

My name is Emmanuel Napuon. I was born in 2002 in a very small village called Lotakawa, only 15 minutes walk south of Napil. My parents are still alive although my father, Lucino Lopun is quite old now. I am the last born of nine total children born of my mother, Elizabeth Nakitibo: 5 boys and 4 girls. Of course, we are Toposa pastoralists and my father has many cattle.

As a little boy I was looking after the animals. I went to the cattle camps far away. I never carried a gun. I ate milk, posho, dry sorghum. Yes, we ate it just like that. The lions and the hyenas would come to our camp at night. One time a lion tried to catch our animals. We tracked it. Then it actually turned on us and came after us. It became crazy. It wouldn't run away. The big men tried to shoot it. I ran away. I was quite scared.

Out there in the bush, we always encountered snakes. Those days were so long ago I can't remember so much but there is one incident which haunts me to this day.

We were just with the goats. We went to water the goats in the river. You know, we go into the water just like the animals and we drink too. We did not see the python in the water. It reached out and grabbed my friend and killed him. I ran away. People tried to shoot it but it was so difficult. Then the snake took him away under the water.

The first time I saw a Kwaja in those days there were some NGOs that would come to work in the Carter Centre. I was surprised to see someone so different. People would say so many things about those kwaja. They would say they were devils. The first time I talked to a kwaja was in Peace Village when I was in Primary. I knew by now that they were not devils. I wasn't afraid because I knew they were human.



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As you know, in our Toposa culture, it is not common to go to school but two of my older brothers finished basic education and are now at the University in Juba. I, myself, started in Kuron Nursery in 2012 June. In 2019, I graduated from Primary School. (I was advanced one year due to good grades) I went to Narus Secondary because there was no school in Kuron at that time. Later, when the Head Master came to get me, I returned to Kuron to attend Secondary School in Matara, Kuron.



St. Thomas Secondary School in Matara. Emmanuel is the first on the left.

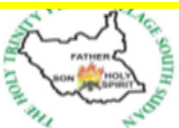
My father and mother didn't want me to go to school. My older brother is the one who pushed for me to attend school. That first time, my father came and took me out. Then my brother talked to my father and my father changed his mind. He was illiterate so he did not understand the implications of education.

My father would not even allow me to sell one animal to pay for the school fees. My elder brother was working in the Kuron Theatre group and he paid for my fees. Later, my father paid school fees through the sale of some animals. Sometimes the teachers or the Kuron Peace Village helped us with school fees.

I remember that being in Primary School was something to finish and become a president or governor. They said we could choose any job we want. So we were keen to study. We thought we would become great. Later we realized our opportunities were more limited.

I was the Deputy Head boy elected by the other students. I was controlling the students and making them get to their classes on time. I would ring the bell and wake them up and get them to bathe before classes. If they were sick I would report them. If the food was not enough, I had to report that too. Any complaints I would take to the head teacher. So I was well respected.

This year I am in Secondary Three. There are many challenges in the Secondary School because it is so new. The institution is nascent and we don't have the dormitories, latrines, kitchen or anything. Everything is difficult. I want to continue here even though the conditions are bad. We are the pioneers of this school and we have to persist. I feel duty bound to see it through.



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My dream is to graduate and continue my education. I don't want to drop out like others. I want to go further for my University education. Political Science is one of my interests.

I feel that HTPVK are helping us a lot. If Peace Village was not there, so many Toposa would suffer. People would be fighting in conflicts. They were not working for peace. Now they think about these things. It has helped a lot of young people who would have been raiding cattle. Now those who graduated for example, a year before, they go to other places to keep studying and making a better life for themselves. The Peace Village gives a lot of things to this community.



Emmanuel works with another students to study.

I am different from my parents now because my parent were not educated. I know the importance of education. They rely on their animals and agriculture. I now can see many opportunities. I am starting to advise my parents because I know so much now. I was able to influence my parents to send two of my sisters to school in Narus Bakhita Primary school. So I feel girls are important to be educated. Yes, that is a new attitude for Toposa men which came about due to the influence of HTPVK.

I do have a cell phone and find it quite useful. I use Facebook for communication with my friends. There are even some friends in Germany.

I counsel my parents that animals are not the only way you can live. Education is now important. My siblings are also able to support this. You need to put your children in school. We have to change our life through education. We aim to achieve something in our life. We have to be ambitious to raise up our family from illiterate to literate.

We were the first in our area to go to school. Now I am seeing a change and many people are taking their children to school. They have seen the importance. We are the agents of change.

(sources: Interview with Emmanuel Napuon and HTPVK teachers. edited: 05.April.2022 Gabe Hurrish)



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