



HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE KURON NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34



Bits and Pieces

On the 10th of August, a delegation from Norway Stromme Foundation came to visit HTPVK. Sec. General for Stromme Foundation, Mr. Erik Lunde, along with Mr. Titus Tenga, and Mr. Gase Handeland, all from Norway, and South Sudan office staff, visited for one day to see the Nursery programs, and to speak with the Bonga Girls and CMSG participants. The delegation was entertained by the singing and dancing children and the Toposa people. The tour included a visit to a typical Toposa Village and a look at the bridge and office compound. After fruitful meetings the delegation returned to Juba via MAF plane.



Mr. Titus and Mr. Erik are received by the singing and dancing groups of HTPVK.

Bonga Girls: “At first, our parents refused us to join. They thought we were being trained to be stubborn. But another group continued. The parents of the first group saw how the Bonga Girls were better and more productive. They then allowed us girls to join again.”

Bonga Girl Member: “Our hygiene is one thing that has improved. We are not ignorant anymore. Before, our culture was not to wash. Now we know the importance of keeping clean.”



The Green Dump Truck and the Green Tractor are inoperable until the spare parts can be brought from outside. The Yellow lorry also had to be serviced and repaired before it moved on to Juba to pick up needed construction materials.

The Grinding Mill was repaired and it is working. It is currently grossing between 10 and 15 USD per week. The funds generated are used for operation and maintenance of the machine.

One staff was injured when his motorcycle fell on his leg sustaining only a swollen ankle. He is recovering in HTPVK.

Stromme Foundation Secretary General: “...It is impressive to see all that you have accomplished here in Kuron Peace Village. It is inspiring to hear from you and how you are ambassadors. You can discuss the changes you want in the Bonga group and then take your ideas to the village. I am happy to hear you are doing this.”



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Updated



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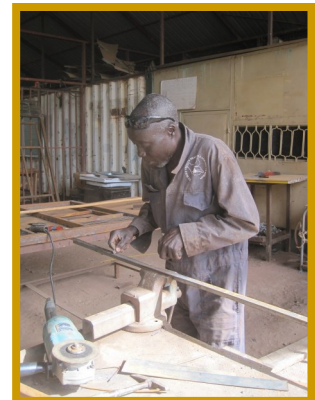


Vocational Training

Brother John Ogenda has been giving ongoing lessons on Simple Mechanical Service training. There are 11 enrolled students and 7 attend full time. Students are from P8, S1 and S2 and are given theory and practice for how to maintain a vehicle. A supplemental Vehicle Driving Class had 11 students who have received Certificates of Participation.

Practical use and care of tools is another class offered to the students by the VTC teaching staff.

VTC TRAINER MR. CHARLES DIRICI: “We clean the spark plug of the chain saw by putting it in the sand, pour petrol on it and burn it. This takes all the charring off of the plug. Then we brush it off and it works! This is African technology. “



Toposa Elder talking about the Community Savings Management Group:

“At first we did not think this was a good idea. But now we know. Money won't die. Your cows will die.”

Above left: Br. John gives a class at VTC.

Above: Mr. Mawa and Mr. Dirici repair the chain saw.

Right: Mr. Omal cuts, grinds and welds for the Secondary School construction.

Peace Building

In Late July, Toposa youth stole 7 cattle from Jie in Kasangor. There were no injuries. These cows were promptly returned as the chiefs said there has not been any serious problems between Jie and Toposa for almost 5 years and they wanted to maintain the peace. There was no punishment for the theft.

In August, 4 Toposa youth killed one Murle man and were captured shortly afterwards in the Boma area. They were placed in detention in Boma and are told they must compensate the family before release. The case is at the State level.

A meeting was held in HTPVK to address these issues with the chiefs and local elders. This meeting also included discussion about the robberies at the Primary School.

A Survey on Sexual Exploitation was done with 5 workers interviewing some 100 participants in Kapoeata Town. Results are still pending as the staff collate the data.



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Mr. Lino talking about saving money: "...We were in darkness only believing in cows and animals. Now some of us can speak a little English. We use this money to buy things and sell and make a small amount. It was not in our thinking before. Now we are getting the idea..."

Livelihoods

Even though the drought continues, it is amazing how a little rain can help. After just one day of light rainfall, the sorghum crops somehow recovered to the point of at least producing small fruit on the stalks. This hardy cereal grain is really appropriate for such semi-arid climates. It seems the Toposa of this area will have something of a small harvest to help out through the coming months. Honey also has been plentiful this harvest season. Many of these beehives are a result of the motivation and training of the Peace Village staff. The sale of honey brings cash income to the family.



Primary Health Care Centre

On the 19th of August, a government Covid 19 vaccination program through MOH was done in the surrounding villages with the help of the HTPVK Clinic staff.

Since the nutritional supplements were stolen in July, fewer women have come to the PHCC this month as there are no food hand outs.

The PHCC currently has: 1 Clinical Physician, 2 midwives, 4 nurses, 1 lab technician, a registrar and a cleaner.

Primary Health Centre Statistics for August 2022

Total Outpatient	(calculations)
Under 5	267
Adult	557
Total Inpatient	69
Lab Tests	487

The vast majority of patients presented with malaria and pneumonia. There were no deaths in August in the In Patient wards.

Upper Left: Clinical Physician, Richard Leonard, checks a baby in the waiting area.

Right: Midwife, Alia Beatrice, hooks up a patient to an IV.



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Secondary School

The Second Classroom structure for the Secondary School, funded jointly by Caritas Austria and ProSudan Assoc. Austria, has the roof trusses in place and zinc sheets are placed. The foundation for the Third Classroom structure, funded by the People's Rep. of China Embassy, has been dug and leveled. Preparations for the latrine has begun. The Secondary School administration will accept few female students this term due to limited space in the dormitory.

Primary School

WFP brought a truck and parked it in the School Compound. A gang of youth came and took the oil and some food. The children were traumatized. Some days later some more youth came and took cooking pans from the kitchen. The recently installed new inverter has burned out and the school is without power again. Another inverter will have to be purchased. A temporary latrine is being dug near the boys dormitory until funding for a permanent structure can be secured. **(right)**



Select Supporters of HTPVK Programs:

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

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18. World Food Programme (WFP), South Sudan
19. UN Mission in South Sudan
20. Initiative Pater Stephen
21. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
22. People's Republic of China Embassy
23. Many individual supporters



The second block of classrooms for the Secondary School, funded jointly by Caritas Austria and Pro Sudan Assoc., has been constructed and the roof is complete.



NEW STAFF

Mr. Abraham Ayiik Deng Atem has joined Peace Village as Finance Admin. Manager.

POSITIVE OUTCOME: All 23 Primary Eight students passed the National Exams and will matriculate to Secondary School.



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Success Story Peter Lomoje Lotyam A Primary School Graduate Returns to Serve His People

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6



Peter Lomoje Lotyam visits his old Primary School

My name is Peter Lomoje Lotyam and I was born 25 years ago in 1997. My father is Lotyam Lopuson and my mother is Namerimong Lotyam. I am the oldest of nine children but my father has five more wives so I really don't know how many children we are. I was born in Napwatasigiria Village, Kauto Payam which is about a days walk from Kuron. As a boy I tended goats and cattle just like the others. I slept in the bush, and shot the gun. Once I met a hyena and had to yell for help and it ran away.

Even though I was the eldest with lots of responsibility, my father let me go to school at my insistence. He had other children to watch the animals so I was allowed to follow my dream.

I started nursery school at Kuron Peace Village in 2007. I entered the St. Thomas Primary School in 2008 and finished my study in 2015. I went to Narus and attend-

ed Secondary at Lopua Memorial government school which is helped by the St. Patrick Fathers. I graduated in 2019 and was lucky to get a job right away with OPRD, an NGO that helps with food aid in Eastern Equatoria. So now I am a Food Monitor and I have chosen to work right here in my home area. My parents are so proud of me and my father said that now he can be happy that his son is able to help the family in case of a food shortage or other problem. I am currently planning to send several of my family members to school.

Peter in Primary 1 as a young student receives his marks from the Teachers



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I remember one of my teachers telling me to work hard so one day I will help my family and community. And it seems that is what is happening now. In my adolescent years I was rather destructive and head strong. I would break school rules like meeting with girls and walking with them. I remember early on in my school studies I was very stubborn and undisciplined. With some of my classmates, we broke into the school garden and ate all the harvest destroying the garden. I got 30 lashes with the cane for that but I was lucky they didn't kick me out of school. Thanks be to God I was allowed to stay in school.

Principal of Primary School: I remember Lomoje as a very responsible and determined student. He was elected Prefect of the school which shows his leadership skills amongst the other students.

One thing that changed me was the Church. I kept close to the Church. We had a very serious choir. I read the Bible. This is probably what saved me from more trouble. I also stayed in the Peace Village Compound during breaks with friends. I also had a cousin who is older and he gave me advice. He was a good role model. He took me under his wing and kept me from making bigger mistakes.



The toughest thing for me was getting school fees. I come from a pastoralist community so we don't pay in money. We give a goat, but then my family thinks that one goat one year will cover all the years of the school. Toposa don't like to give away their animals for anything.

Holy Trinity Peace Village Kuron has contributed not only to me but to the entire Toposa community, especially in Kauto County. If not for HTPVK I would still be in the village and even most likely dead from a cattle raid or some violence as our people like to do. I really thank the Founder of this place. (Bishop Paride Taban) I was fed, educated and really raised as a man in this village.

Peter assists with OPRD distribution of food aid in the Kuron area.



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I remember one day in Church, Bishop saw that I was playing around during the mass. He looked at me and said, “ Christ is here. He is watching you.” From that point on I learned of the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and changed. Bishop always encouraged us to grow up and influence other relatives in a positive way. Bishop had a lot of sayings that made me think: “ Don’t frown as you grow up, or you will grow old fast. Smile and be happy and your face will shine as a youth forever.”

My dreams for the future are to improve myself. I want to be able to get a good salary and use that to educate all of my family members.



Peter gives advice to some the current St. Thomas Primary School students.

(Source: Interview of Peter Lomoje Lotyam 14.March.2022 edited by Gabe Hurrish)



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