



HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE KURON NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2022



BITS AND PIECES

In January, HTPVK staff have been returning from the holiday vacation time. Schools have re-opened, programs have started up, and pastoral activities are on-going.

Bishop Paride Taban is in Nairobi recovering from hip surgery during the Holidays. He is still in Nairobi doing quite well and in good spirits.

Mr. Sam Juma Chelimo HTPV Livelihoods Officer has returned after an extended medical leave due to the stabbing in October. After several corrective surgeries, his wounds have finally healed and he is happy to return to work.



Figure 1 Toposa Women do most of the manual labor such as collection and sorting of stones for construction projects

Hot weather reflects the dry season as many Toposa have gone off to the bush kraals. There are not many animals around these days. A few days of rain cooled things off for a while but shortly after the temperatures rose to above 38 degrees on a daily basis.

We thank our faithful and hardworking drivers who have transported over 300 students and pupils from Kapoeta to Kuron for the new term. The roads are not easy to manage, but by the Grace of God all students arrived safe and sound.

Three Kuron Education Staff attended a one week Child Safeguarding workshop in Narus at the end of January. This was sponsored by the St. Patrick Priests for the Diocese of Torit.

Finance Staff have been working hard to prepare all documents for the annual Audits.

Program Manager has been in Juba from 3rd – 28th January working on reports, annual plans including follow-ups, and meeting various partners and supporters of HTPVK.



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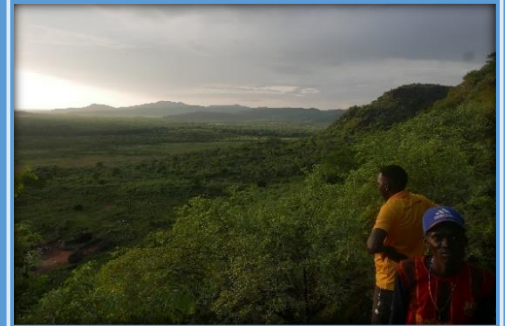
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AFRICAN PROVERB

"Earth is the skin of God." Kenyan Proverb

Meaning: God graciously created the world and all that is in it. We humans are charged to take care of this Earth with sincerity of heart. By caring for the Earth, we care for God.



MULTI-PURPOSE PRAYER HALL

The construction of the Multi-purpose Prayer Hall has continued throughout the Christmas Season. Despite the brutal heat of the dry season, casual labor of the Toposa women steadily collected stones and then sorted them which were then used for the concrete mixtures. Mr. David Tibesigwa, JCB operator, was busy hauling murrum, cement and large stones to the work site. To date, the foundation is placed, the floors have been laid and the walls are going up. The completion is estimated to be by end of February.2022.

NURSERY SCHOOL

The nurseries in Matara and Kuron have opened and the children have enrolled. There are currently 66 attending learners in Kuron Nursery out of 84 registered. In Matara, 35 have started attending out of 76 registered. The learners are coming in slowly as they must first complete their home chores and duties.

Figure 2 Children playing on nursery slide during break time



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PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Primary school pupils began cleaning, organizing and arranging the rooms and the teachers had their lessons plans made up and classes resumed on the week of 18th Feb 2022. There are over 300 pupils attending classes in the eight levels.

Lt: Teachers welcome back some of the students

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Most of the students are back and attending classes. Only the Boma students who have to find their own transport have not yet arrived. The majority of the 47 students are currently at the Secondary School studying.

However, classes have begun in earnest with five teachers present. Br. Francis is hoping for an additional teacher to arrive to assist with the teaching duties.



Figure 3 Using the New Curriculum as a guide, Dean of Students, Julian explains the lessons to Secondary Students



Comment by Namuton Chief: "We are so happy to see the violence has decreased but our youth need jobs. They are hard to handle if they don't have work to do."



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Comment by Ms. Lopir Joseph, who has walked two days to come to the clinic. "...we heard from others in our village who came here and had good results. Even though it is far, I came here with the others because we know the service here is good.



PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE

The Health Centre is one of the few programs to run continuously throughout the year with no break. The dedicated health staff worked every day through the holidays to continue to provide health care and treatment to the community who attend. Mother and Child Health, Pre-Natal and Health Education classes were held Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Outreach to villages were made as staff were available.

In 2021, there was an average of 17 people per day for 365 days of the year.

Many patients have to be kept in outpatient to ensure that they complete the total treatment plan. Many will "escape" when staff are not looking and return home before completing treatment.

Major diseases were Malaria, Typhoid, UTI, and flu.



Figure 4 Mother and Child Health Sessions are an integral part of the Health Services

Primary Health Centre Statistics for 2021*

Total Outpatient	6,080
Under 5	2,190
Adult	3,890
Total Inpatient	1,234
Total nights	6,170
Ave. patients per night	10

*from health record books and reports



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Figure 6 School Children lend a hand to bring in the food supplies for the school.

Peace Building

This month has been relatively quiet. Only one incident at the end of January where some Toposa youth killed one Jie youth. The investigation is ongoing. One child was abducted and then rescued.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

All teaching staff now have their own housing at the previous Carter Centre next to the Health Centre. The Brothers of St. Martin de Porres continue renovating and modifying the community house to suit their needs.



Figure 5 New Housing for VTC teachers



Figure 7 Matara Nursery Head Apio Immaculate teaches the learners under trees



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Some 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. Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
8. Friends of Sister Emmanuelle (FOSE)
9. South Sudan National Ministry of Health - (Health Pool Fund)
10. Caritas Austria
11. ProSudan Association Austria
12. Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls (USA)
13. Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (USA)
14. South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)
15. Diocese of Mainz, Germany
16. Missio Austria
17. World Food Programme (WFP), South Sudan
18. UN Mission in South Sudan
19. Initiative Pater Stephen



Figure 8 Christmas service in Nakabuse

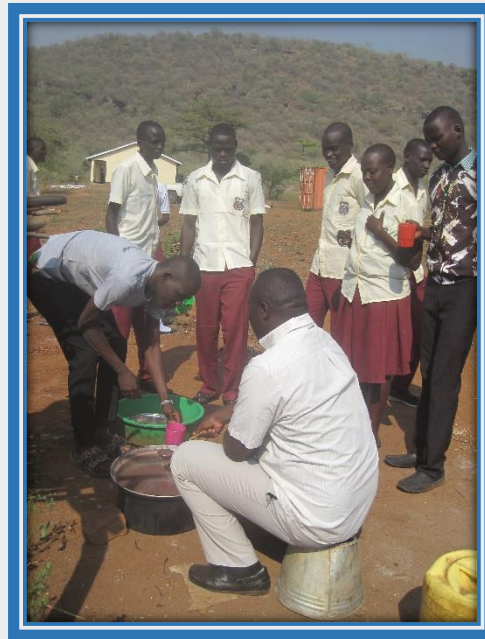


Figure 9 Br. Francis hands out breakfast to secondary students



Figure 10 Taking measurements for nutritional growth



Figure 11 Welcome back to school best friends



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A Students Story Matara Nursery School

“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.”
Psalm 127: 3

Mr. Paul Lorii, caregiver, at the Matara nursery interviewed:

Learner Losikiria Nakidori from Namuton village

My Name is Losikiria Nakidori. I am 12 years old. My father is Nakidori Marino, also commonly known as, Agwak. St. John Paul Nursery school in Matara is only three minutes walk from my home village of Namaton. Up to now, I have not yet been baptised. That is the reason I share my father’s name. It is the Toposa custom for the majority of people in our land to use their father’s names. I hope to be baptised in the future.



Figure 12 Losikiria is the 2nd from the left with his friends

Life at home had been so hard due to too much work such as scaring of birds, digging the fields, and rearing of goats and other animals. I am always hungry. Many times we had to walk long distances to go and get food from our relatives in Namurupus Village. (about 4 hours walk) I had little food to survive on so I was actually drinking goats milk right from the teat before getting home late in the evening. Many times I was beaten when a goat or goats got lost or were missing



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One day, my father came and talked to me and my brother, Lotalia Nakidori. He said that we needed to go to school. He wanted us to become helpful in the future like other people who are educated. This way we would be able to provide basic needs to our families in the future. So in 2019, I enrolled in school.

From that time I started schooling. Life is great for me since I am at school. I am able to receive porridge with sugar, balila (boiled maize & beans or boiled sorghum & beans) I can play football with my friends or sing and dance. I can even go bathing in the river on Fridays with soap. We didn't get these things at home.

What I have learned in the school is prayers before starting the class. Sweeping the compound and picking up rubbish and burning it to keep the place clean. I take a bath every week and try to wash my clothes before coming to school. The teachers taught us to clip our finger nails and cut our hair to be clean and tidy. We learned to say sorry when we are wrong and forgive others when they are wrong. We draw many pictures of things. I can now look at a picture and identify it and also to draw it myself.

We learn all these things in the school. In our village our people don't know these things. Only fighting and arguments.

My prayer is that God (Akuch) will help me through studies. I want to become an important person. I want to build a better house. I want to buy my own clothes, put on shoes. I want to be able to speak to our helpers that do come around rather than needing translation. I would like to one day, visit places like Narus, Kapoeta, Juba, and even Uganda and Kenya. If I could become a doctor so as to treat my own people I would be so happy. This is because when I feel sick and go to the PHCC facility in Matara, I am treated and get well. This is much better than depending on our local medicine where they just guess on the kind of sickness to be treated and the duration for treatment is longer. They eat all our money for nothing.

My prayer is that the school will at one time in the future have boarding rooms. This way we can live at the school and only go home on holidays. That is when I would have to resume the gardening and rearing of goats while I am home.

(Source: Interview by Nursery Care Giver Paul Lorii and edited by Gabe Hurrish 15.Jan.2022)



Figure 13 Nursery pupils write on black board



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