

# HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE KURON

Newsletter June, July, August.2021



Secondary School Students with new Uniforms

## Bits and Pieces

All the Kuron Peace Village Administrative Staff have been very busy this month meeting, planning, and writing proposals for funding for the next year.



Staff planning meeting

## New Staff

Patricia Nakolong	- Midwife at Matara Health Clinic
Simon Dralin Dradri	- Nurse at Matara Health Clinic
Stella Mindra	- Teacher at Primary School
Todo Romeyo	- Teacher at Primary School
Barnabbas Ayiemba	- Teacher at Secondary School
Sharon Nachebe	- Bonga Girls Animator
Emmanuel Towongo	- Senior Finance Officer

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A New Landcruiser has been purchased with the generous donation through the Norwegian Foreign Mission and NCA.

The Bridge was renovated and strengthened also through the Norwegian Embassy and NCA.

Brothers of St. Martin de Porres have moved to Matara and are using the staff house constructed there.

## Ghanaian Proverb

A smile A smile is the strongest weapon in the battle of life.



Meaning: One must overcome their anger and hatred and do those things which will bring peace and unity. A smile is free and costs the user nothing. The world would be better with smiles.

## Pastoral

Br. Francis has been conducting weekly Eucharist Services as there is currently no priest at Kuron Village. Pastoral work in the villages continues through the good work of the catechists.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Founder, Bishop Paride Taban is in Nairobi for treatment for a painful sciatic nerve problem.

Several staff and friends are suffering from Malaria

## Peace Program

### **Supported by NCA and PAX**

For the past FIVE months we have not seen any cattle rustling or child abductions. Although transport is difficult due to bad roads, the Peace Teams have had FIVE meetings with an average of 100 people. Women have a larger voice in these meetings from years ago. We discussed coexistence between Boma and Kuron tribes, Food Security, Theft in the Kuron Village, and education of the children. At one large gathering with the Commissioner and 25 chiefs in attendance, a resolution was passed and signed specifically addressing punishments for any breaking of the resolutions.

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Chief Comments: "This is the first time we have had so many follow-up meetings and communications. We see the impact of all these communication and engagements. We can now move more freely and our children are safer."



Large Peace Building meeting of over 25 chiefs 04-06 Aug.

## Pre-School Education ECCE

**Supported by Sisters of little Falls and Sisters of Perpetual Adoration**

A small nursery building is being constructed in Matara. Currently in three sites there are over 200 children with 8 teachers. At this age over 68 girls are in attendance. Parents are showing the desire for early education by their willingness to pay the 15.00 USD tuition fee annually. Students have been motivated to keep clean and we are seeing more and more coming to school dressed sharp and neat. The children have learned the importance of time and arrive at school on time or ahead of time. They are very eager and quick learners.

Father of nursery students: "I have seen a good thing with this education. My children are better. I want to send all my children to school."



Construction of New Nursery in Matara

## Primary Education

**Supported by Friends of Sister Emmanuella (FOSE)**

A total of 255 pupils (36 female ) and 10 teachers ( 4 female) are busy with studies and activities. There are two new teachers. All except 41 pupils are boarding. The school has attracted pupils from as far away as Juba. All 20 Primary Eight pupils (4 female ) passed the last exams and will move into secondary schools in Matara, Narus and Kapoeta.

New Curriculum text books are still in Narus awaiting transportation to Kuron. Our plan is to build four more classrooms.

Last term there were some discipline problems leading to dismissal of some students. This term there is much better discipline.

Comments from Parents: We like St. Thomas because our children are much more disciplined when they return from the school on break.

Principal Comment: We are hoping for more students from Boma ( Murle, Jie, Kachipo ) to foster inter-tribal relations in support of the Peace Building efforts.



Primary School Girls in Dormitory



Primary Boys relaxing during lunch break



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Secondary students outside during break

## Secondary Education

### **Supported by ProSudan Association**

The Secondary school has begun classes with 52 students (14 female ) each paying over 260 USD per year for tuition, uniform and T-shirts. They eat under the trees and sleep in the nearby Voc. Training Centre with the girls staying in a small building by the Health Clinic. There are five teachers. The need is to build accommodation and cafeteria as well as more classrooms in the future.

Student comment: "I never thought I would be able to attend school and in my own area!"



Secondary School Classroom



Nursery students learn to write and add



VTC students and teachers build the new Nursery in Matarra

## Vocational Training Centre

Unresolved funding sources for 2022

There are currently 28 students and 4 teachers. As part of practical application the students are helping to build the new Nursery in Matarra. New gates have been constructed for the Matarra Health Clinic and VTC and three in the Kuron Peace Village compounds.

Two water tower frames were constructed for the Brother's House.

## Livelihoods

### Bonga Girls Supported by Stromme Foundation

About 23 females from around the area meet at least 3 times a week to talk about hygiene, human rights, diseases and maternal and child health. They cannot attend BONGA without permission of parents. A support group of 9 Adults also meets to help set goals. We started a garden to increase food for cash and consumption. We have cooking classes to show them how to prepare the new foods. The ladies and primary students really liked the bread making workshop.



One challenge occurred in June as we started with 106 girls but some brothers from the kraals came and beat them. Where we meet in Napil is seen as a modern city and the men from traditional kraal life see the Bonga program as a threat to the customary role of women. They are upset that these girls would learn new things and then leave them alone in the

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kraals. We have spoken with the parents to create awareness to stop these beatings but it will take time.

Bonga Member Comment: At first I did not know how to wash my clothes and would go months without cleaning myself. Now I realize the use of soap and cleanliness and I feel cleaner and healthier.

## Health Care Centre

Many supporters and Norwegian Friends of HTPVK A nurse and a midwife have joined the team to bring the staff to eight. There were 404 outpatients seen in August. Of these, malaria, typhoid and UTI were the main presenting issues. The clinic is attending to 3 disabled children. Also in August, 120 children received vaccinations through the EPI program. Inpatients were 115 with each patient staying on average 5 days or coming for follow-up consults. There were no births seen at the clinic with most women delivering at home. Two miscarriage/abortion cases were attended to at the clinic. One person is being referred to Kapoeta for cleft palate surgery as a medical team is to have a surgical campaign in September. There was one suspected case of guinea worm in the area which was tracked down and the test results are not out yet. A report of an anthrax outbreak in some areas was noted for killing a number of cows.

A consignment of new medical equipment arrived from NCA and the staff were putting the instruments and apparatus to good use in the clinic.



Midwife Patricia consults with women during outpatient



Richard and Albert check a mother and child in consultation room using new instruments donated by NCA.



In Patient use of new privacy curtain

## Logistics

Many vehicles are not operating due to the poor road conditions and lack of spare parts. However, the ACTROS Dump Truck donated by Caritas Austria MIVA is being put to great use ferrying supplies and students to Kuron from Kapoeta and Narus some 265 km distance. As well, the truck was being used heavily for the back-fill of murram at the bridge.



Green Dump Truck loaded for trip Narus to Kuron



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Backfilling using Green Dump Truck has been done.

## Infrastructure

Supported by NCA / EU / Norwegian Embassy Bridge back fill has been completed with the gabions in place. Over 80 truckloads of murram were placed behind and on the gabions for strength and durability. Shrubbery along the roads has been cleared for better visibility. An estimate of over 461 cubic meters of stone were collected, transported and placed in 76 gabions (1m x 1m x 6 m). All of this work was mostly done by Cash and Food For Work manual labor. After severe damage due to floods in 2020, the bridge is really now renovated with metal sheets and strong protection from river currents.

## Socio-Economic Indicators in the Kuron area

South Sudan National Communication Authority and MTN have completed a Cell Phone network tower just outside the Peace Village compound. People in this isolated place can now make calls all over the country. MTN staff plan to come to Kuron at regular intervals to sell air time. The Governor and MTN and Communication ministers were to come for an inauguration ceremony end of August but the rains and clouds caused the planes to return without landing. The ceremony will be scheduled at a later date.



Secondary Students eating lunch under trees



Locals can now buy air time from MTN

An enterprising Toposa youth has started a tentative "Boda Boda" transport business in Napil which can take people to the Matara Health Clinic and other places as needed for a little more than ONE USD one way.

Another business Toposa man started a grinding mill in Napil for the benefit of the community at a reasonable cost.

As a result of Cash For Work payments made during the gabion construction and collection of stones, there was a substantial infusion of cash into the surrounding villages during the past several months. We still don't know how this has affected the community but they have more expendable cash on hand as before.



## Spotlight on Staff



Okello (Logistics) and Sarah with children