

HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE KURON

Newsletter **NOVEMBER** 2021



Bits and Pieces

H.E. Ambassador/ Netherlands Embassy, Juba, Mr. Jelte van Wieren, along with security advisor, Mr. Fred van der Steen, and Rule of Law and Peace Advisor, Mr. Rob Sijstermans, visited Kuron on 23.Nov to tour the programs. Accompanying them were Mr. Ira Emmanuel, Country Director Pax for Peace, HTPVK Program Manager and HTPVK Peace Coordinator.



Figure 2 Nederland Ambassador van Wieren receives a warm welcome at the airstrip in Kuron. Students presented flowers and singing and Toposa provided a display of traditional songs and dancing.

Ambassador van Wieren was cordially greeted at the airstrip by Toposa dancers and singers along with the Secondary School students who presented flowers and greetings. After spending some time at Matara VTC, Secondary School and the PHCC, the



Figure 1 Dept. Heads and Senior Staff of HTPVK

delegation stopped by Katanya Village and were once again regaled with singing and dancing. The Peace Academy and both bridges were next on the agenda. before arriving in the Administration compound. After a hearty meal a brief meeting was held with senior management staff, the embassy delegation and Pax for Peace

On Nov.06.2021, an all Staff Budgeting and Planning meeting was held. This was an excellent opportunity to learn how to formulate and write budgets and how to plan for future activities. It was also good to have all the staff provide input and see what other departments are planning for 2022.



Figure 3 Senior Staff plan programs and budgets for 2022 together.

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The 2021 HTPVK Board Meeting has been postponed indefinitely pending the schedules of the members.

A delegation from WFP arrived on 24. November for one day of discussions with the school leaders about food and nutrition programs.

Livelihoods Officer, Mr. Sam Juma Chelimo is recovering well in Uganda from his wounds last month. However, Founder Emeritus Bishop Paride Taban is in Nairobi, Kenya for medical check ups.

African Proverb



Where there is dialogue and agreement, there is God.
Burundian Proverb

Meaning: God must be at the center of all we do as people dealing with others. When we put God first we can come to mutual understandings.

Pastoral

Land to the south of the Primary School is being prepared for construction of a multi-purpose hall to be used for prayers and meetings.

The cemetery has been cleared and fenced to maintain a proper burial ground and to encourage the people the importance of burial for the dead.

Peace Building

Program Manager, Mr. Edward Okot, and Peace Department Coordinator, Mr. Elish Lokii were in Juba for a one week Action Plan for Peace Meeting sponsored by Pax for Peace. This was an end of program evaluation and reflection.



Above: Netherlands Ambassador and Pax for Peace visited Kuron Peace Village.

Ms. Millicent Oucho Otieno, Pax for Peace Consultant, was in Kuron Peace Village for a couple of days to conduct field level evaluation of the APP program.



Figure 4 Chief of Moruese, Lonkongitoe and Peace Coordinator, Lokii Elish

In late October, six stolen murle cattle were recovered by a local chief within 24 hours. It was discovered later there were actually twelve cows

COMMENT of Peace Dept. Coordinator, Mr. Lokii Elish: *"The challenge now is that the thieves are becoming more astute, careful and shrewd. They are learning how to steal in a more complicated and sophisticated manner. It becomes more difficult to track them down and bring them to justice."*

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but the chief himself kept six at his kraal not telling anyone. Through the use of cell phones, the other chiefs were able to get to the bottom of this theft. By mid-November, all cattle were returned to Boma where the Commissioner was informed and would handle the return. The situation of how to handle the chief is now under review. Again, cell phones were instrumental as it made the recovery and capture of the cattle much faster.

There was a Peace meeting in Boma with the Chief Administrator of Greater Pibor and the Commissioner of Boma. This happened in late October. They were following up on lost cows and peace initiatives. It seems communication is still sometimes not easy but the cell phones are very useful for quick and efficient action.

Livelihoods

The Bonga Girls held a wonderful "Theatre Play on HIV AIDS" in Murachieng Village. Elders and community were surprised their girls could do so much. This stimulated a good discussion on how to prevent the spread of this disease.



ECCE Nursery

Meetings were held with Baba/Mama Club, PTA, Central Management Committee, and end of year Parents meetings. There were also term exams for the young children.

Primary School

Exams will be administered early December. Teachers are busy copying and collating the tests. Debates finished with P8 the eventual over-all winners. The Spiritual Counseling sessions have continued throughout the month.



Figure 5 Primary Teachers preparing exams and lessons

Secondary School

Ambassador van Wieren to all students: *"Keep pushing....Keep dreaming.... You make your own decisions because you have your own dreams.....One day you will get your chance... Maybe you will even be an Ambassador someday..."*



AVSI visited for two days of discussions about Education and Food Security as well as the importance of Primary and Secondary Boarding Schools.

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On Sunday.28.Nov. State Minister of General Education and Instruction, Hon Lopeyok Sammy visited from Torit for one day consultation with the Head Teachers of the schools.

Term exams were administered the last week of November.

Secondary student, Mary Notabo, to Ambassador Van Wieren: *"We have hope because you, as Ambassador, have come to visit us."*

Vocational Training Centre

The awning for shade/rain protection around the VTC building as well as expansion has been coming along well.



Figure 6 New expansion of dormitory on the north side of VTC building



Figure 7 Program Manager Edward Okot, stands in front of new latrine at Health Centre

The latrine at the PHCC is almost complete. There will be four stances: A wash and bathroom for patients and a wash and bathroom for Health Center staff.

The grinding mill from Kuron Village has been moved to the VTC to service the students in Secondary and VTC as well as the nutritional program at the Health Centre. This saves time and money.



Figure 8 The grinding mill transferred to VTC.

Construction of tutors residence has made great progress to date which will provide adequate accommodation for the tutors.

COMMENT from Elder: *"Your presence here is enough for us....we appreciate that you come and stay with us."*

Primary Health Care Centre

November of consultations in November: outpatients under five were over 110, adults were over 250, and inpatients were over 95 patients.

Three months supply of medicines and supplies were delivered 05.Nov.2021.

Nurse Simon attended a GBV workshop sponsored by CCM on 25.Oct. to 26.Oct. Kapoeta.

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Clinical Officer Richard Leonard attended a District Information Health System DIHS workshop on tracking medicine supplies, record keeping, and recording of infectious diseases sponsored by WFP 27.Oct. to 31.Oct Juba.

COMMENT from Parent: *"...I think the schools are also very important. Before the schools began, children were roaming and now they are in school and learning something.... Now even people without any money are sending more children... Before the Kuron Peace Village started, the local people didn't send their children to schools. Now, there is a change as they have seen the previous graduates and they have seen the benefits so they want their children to learn."*

Nurse Patricia Nakolong attended a 10 day workshop in Narus on Promoting Mental and Disabled Persons sponsored by CCM.



Figure 10 Lab Technician Albert Enzama shows the Ambassador how he tests for malaria and other diseases

LIVES SAVED !!! On 22.November, Ms. Napir, from Namuton Village, presented at the PHCC with a severe complication of delivery. She was at risk of losing the baby and her own life. Immediately, health staff arranged a vehicle to Kapoeta accompanied by Nurse Patricia. Praise God, Ms. Napir had a strong and lovely baby boy! Both mother and child are safe and healthy

due to the quick and professional response of the PHCC staff.

Logistics

Food supplements have been transferred to the Food Security Building for safer and more effective management of these valuable supplies.

A new water tower with tank was erected behind the chapel as the old tower was rusting out.



Figure 9 Mr. Ira Emmanuel, Dir. Pax for Peace, leads the Embassy delegation on a tour of Kuron Peace Village

The tractor trailer has again broken and will need extensive repair to be functional. The big machine operators have been busy with hauling gravel and sand to the construction sites. The JCB backloader continues to have maintenance problems, therefore, little road maintenance was done this month.

COMMENT Napil Businessman: *"I think the [hospital] is the most important program of HTPVK. That one helps people stay healthy and save the children. Many come from very far and before we saw so many people dying but now it is much better."*

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Figure 11 VTC Head Teacher Mandela Emmanuel explains the workshop to Ambassador van Wieren with Advisor Rob and Fr. Henry looking on.

Spot Light on Family



Ambayo Martens serves as Store Keeper and Pastoral Team Leader. His wife, Catherine Simiyu works as Nursery Teacher in St. John Paul II Nursery.

COMMENT Nursery Teacher: "We can begin with as few as 2 or 3 children and then as the class continues more and more come even up to 100 sometimes. Even the adults like to learn and our cook and watch man are eager to listen to the lessons. They often join."

EXCHANGE between Head of Nursery and a Chief: *'HTPVK must include tobacco and alcohol or we won't come to the nursery meetings.'*

...one day later...

"We are sorry and we apologize for our previous meeting behaviors. Our children come to the nursery because of you, Madam Chandia. We are appreciative of what you do for our children."



Figure 12 Exec. Dir. Fr. Henry explains the footbridge problems after the flood damage to Ambassador van Wieren

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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. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)**
- 2. European Commission - EU**
- 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**

attached article below



Success Story **A Graduate Returns** **to Teach at** **St. Thomas Primary School**

The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher. Luke 6:14

My name is Peter Obore Sabastian and I was born 23 years ago in 1997. My Lotuko family are from outside of Torit. We were four children but two have passed away along with my father, leaving only my married sister who lives with our mother, Chalamini. As a child, I would tend goats and cows and often sleep outside in the bush. One time when I was about 8 or 9 years old, I was scaring birds in the fields when my friend left to collect more stones. While he was gone, a stranger tried to abduct me. I ran away and hid from him but it was a narrow escape.

Due to the war, our family was forced to relocate to Uganda at Agago Refugee Camp. After attending nursery, I started Primary School in 2006. I was brought to Narus to continue my studies from 2007 to 2010. While I was there, a friend recommended St. Thomas Primary School in Kuron. I began my Primary 5 studies in St. Thomas and graduated with a Certificate of Primary Eight.

While I was attending St. Thomas Primary, I remember being a Scout, playing sports, and that the quality and quantity of food was not very good in those days. My teachers taught us very well at that time. We were only 10 Lotuko in those days. I remember one teacher quote; telling me that to advance in life you must respect your teachers and study hard and you will be successful. I never forgot those wise words.



Figure 13 Peter helping a student at St. Thomas Primary

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I entered Narus Lopua Memorial Secondary School and finished by graduating with a Certificate of Secondary Four. At that time, I heard St. Thomas was taking applications for teachers. I felt like I wanted to help Toposa children so I took the chance. I applied and, by the Grace of God, I was accepted as a Class Teacher. Currently, I teach P8 Math, P7 CRE, P2 CRE and P2 SST. I can speak Toposa because I learned it while I studied here as a child in Kuron. I can also speak Lotuko, Juba Arabic and English. I became the Scout Leader because I had been a member in school myself.

I found in the Primary school the dormitories are worse than before. The students are lacking all the sleeping materials like mattresses and blankets. They are more crowded than what I remember. When I was studying I found that Mathematics helped me the most in my life. I am also trying to help these young children. They need an education and I want to give them good advice like I received when I was young.

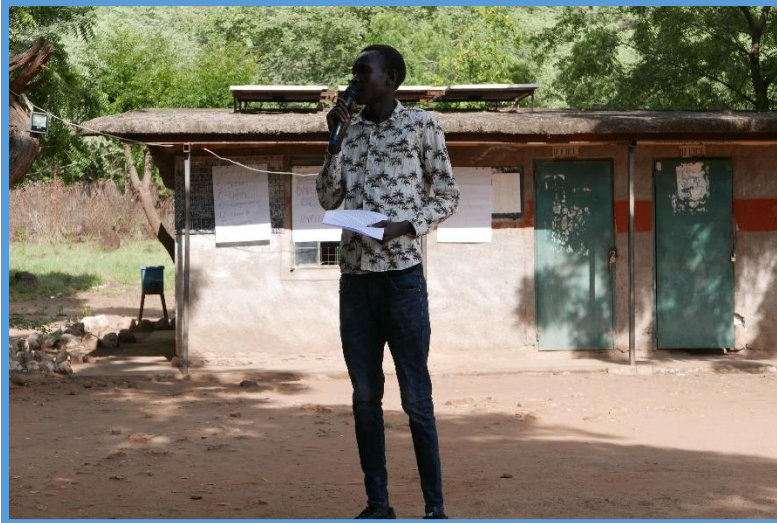


Figure 14 Peter addresses the Student Assembly

Here in Toposa land, the children really want to study but it is the parents who are reluctant to send their children to school. The young boys are especially needed to watch the animals and scare the birds as I did when I was young. One of my classmates told me a long time ago that he was beaten because he wanted to attend school. I am thankful that my parents supported me in school.

I hope to be able to further my studies in the future. I have always liked Health and I hope to be able to receive a scholarship to study that subject someplace.

(Source: Interview of Peter Obore edited by Gabe Hurrish, 15.Nov.2021)