



Thanksgiving/Christmas 2020

“The Lord will be a shelter for his people”  
Joel 3:16

Akuak Rak

We Praise God, our children are safe, and we have no cases of Covid, though there has been severe flooding in the area and malaria cases are up. Thankfully, our children are still meeting in school.

We are stocking the clinic, but medicines go quickly. We have sent in medicines to treat Covid in case of an outbreak. Costly anti-malarial drugs are always essential and especially now in the rainy season.



We still need funding for some of our eighth-grade graduates to attend high school. Out of all of the things that have been accomplished in South Sudan, education has yielded the most fruit and continues to do so. Please consider an end of the year gift to go toward supporting a student. \$550 a year supports a high school student, \$2500 a year will support a student for higher education, and any amount will help.

Three young men that were among the first 62 orphans that we started the school with are still hoping and praying for higher education. Santino says that Emmanuel, Simon and Michael are very gifted students and urges us to try to find sponsors for them. Michael wants to study medicine and return to serve the community at the school in Akuak Rak.

Santino

RADDA BARNEN ADDIS ABEBA FIELD OFF		
SOCIAL AND		
IDENTIFICATION		
1- NAME	FATHER	
BOL	AK	
2- OTHER NAME --		
2-2 CURRENT ADDRESS		
SITE PIGNUN		
2-3 DATE OF ARRIVAL	DAY	MONTH 02 YEAR 88
3 SEX	1- MALE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2- FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>
3-1 YEAR OF BIRTH	1979	
3-2 ETHNIC GROUP	DINKA	
3-3 CLAN	PACIENY	
3-4 LANGUAGE	A) MOTHER TONGUE DINKA	
	B) OTHER(S) ARABIC	
3-5 RELIGION	1- CHRISTIAN <input type="checkbox"/>	3- ANIMIST <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2- MOSLEM <input type="checkbox"/>	4- OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>
3-6 HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED	NIL	

Many of you know Santino who is the director of our clinic and orphanage. Recently, Santino shared this document with me. It is Santino's ID and grade card from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Ethiopia. In 1988, Santino and thousands of other "Lost Boys" fled to Ethiopia to escape the war in Sudan. He was 9 years old. It is amazing to me that Santino managed to hold on to this document throughout his exile in Ethiopia, his dangerous trek back to South Sudan and the years since.

While in Ethiopia, Dr. John Garang spoke to the boys in the camps and instilled in them the belief that an education is as important as life itself. If given the choice between eating and studying, they would choose to study. Dr. Garang also assured the boys that they would someday return to South Sudan and be the leaders of the future. That is what happened! Many of these young men, including Santino, are leaders in South Sudan today.

**Pastor Matthew**

Pastor Matthew and his team at Shalom Elohim ministries is in the process of opening a third church in Juba. We have supported Pastor Matthew since 2012 when he arrived back in South Sudan after 6 years in exile in Israel. He landed on his feet and immediately started a church in Juba. God has blessed his work and the people of South Sudan. Pastor Matthew oversees the two, and soon to be three, churches in Juba and travels throughout the South holding crusades. Many have been healed and led to the Lord through his ministry.



May each of you be blessed during this unusual season and draw close to the Lord. Thank you for your faithful giving. You may not know how much of a difference you have made until you reach heaven someday.

“In as much as you have done unto one of the least of these, my brethren, you have done unto me.” — Matthew 25:40

Love and Blessings,

Fran

**Longar**

Longar is enrolled in eleventh grade in a new school in Kenya. His previous school closed permanently. The new school has allowed twelfth grade only to attend in person. All other grades were doing classes online, but even those classes have now been cancelled. The online classes have not been sufficient to keep up with curriculum and students are being required to repeat this past year. The current plan is to restart school in January, pending the number of COVID cases.

Highlights of our ministry this year are the solar water project and the sewing machine projects which were featured in earlier newsletters.

We continue to need scholarships for students that have graduated eighth grade along with scholarships for the few high school graduates that we have. Several young men, that were the first orphans that we took in, graduated last summer. They have been volunteering at the orphanage to give back some of what they have received. They have high aspirations for further education. One wants to be a doctor and come back to our region to help. Another wants to be an engineer and another a journalist. Around \$550 per year supports a student in high school. It costs around \$2500 a year for higher education.

We are always in need of more medicines for the clinic. As the only clinic in the region, it quickly goes through medicines, especially malarial medications. We need to be well stocked with antibiotics if this virus comes through.

We are forever grateful for all that you have done over the years to sustain the ministry in Akuak Rak. It is nothing short of a miracle. I know that the Lord will provide even during these times of financial shortages and illness.

**We thank you for your continued prayers and caring!**

Because of God working through you, we are making a difference!

Tax deductible checks for any of the projects and for Fran's ministry support may be made out to "GNS" (Gospel Network Support). DO NOT put Fran's name on the check! Please send checks to Fran, rather than GNS, so that she can make sure that donations are properly credited to her account.

You can also make a donation via credit card by going to our website: [www.connectinglivesintl.org](http://www.connectinglivesintl.org).

In addition, donations of stock are also accepted. Contact Fran for more information.

Mail to: Fran Boyle, 4103 Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003

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