

Returning to Akuak Rak - Scott Thompson Spring 2026



In January 2015, I had some one-on-one time with the teachers at the Hope Mission Primary School in Akuak Rak, South Sudan. Of their many questions, one was “When are you coming back?”. As best as I can recall, my response was that only God knew the answer to that one. As it turned out, over the next 11 years, God called me to 7 different mission trips, mostly working with South Sudanese in Kenya and Uganda, but not to Akuak Rak. When I arrived late at night on 31 January, I was greeted by a crowd of dancing people and ululating women. It was good to be back!

A lot of things haven’t changed. Some of the same teachers are still there, and they are still using the original primary school buildings for the ~380 students in grades 1 through 8.



The original hand-pump well is still servicing the school and village. The massive sycamore fig tree still provides enough shade for over 100 people.



The same Darfurian nomads who were there in 2015 were there again, and their leader recognized me from my earlier visit. The goats and chickens were still as unruly as I remembered. A lot had changed, however. The original clinic that Fran Boyle built in 2009 had become dangerously unstable, but a new, larger clinic funded by a church in Florida had been constructed.

The same church built a secondary school for grades 9-12, roughly a half mile away from the primary school, complete with a separate well that served the school and the people living nearby. Unfortunately, the government funding that paid the secondary school teachers ended after only one year. The school has been vacant for the last two years. The building is still in good shape, but the well was dry, as the solar panels that powered the pump had been stolen. Sadly, the Florida church that had been so generous is no longer able to partner with CLIM in providing support.



Virtually everyone I met was thankful for the ongoing support from CLIM and the many visits by Fran since 2009, but also expressed a desire to reopen the secondary school. Only a handful of graduates from the primary school can manage to attend the nearest secondary schools in Marial Bai (over 30 miles away) or Awiel (85 miles away). A local secondary school would allow those who pass the standardized entrance exam to continue their education.

After prayer, CLIM has decided to step out in faith and invest in the infrastructure repairs needed to get the secondary school operational again, and to begin hiring teachers and buying the books and supplies needed to resume classes. When full, the secondary school will need roughly \$2,500 per month for 12 teachers, 3 support staff, as well as food and school supplies for students. For now, \$1,500 a month will get us started and carry the school this year. We are deeply thankful for and blessed by the prayers and financial backing that we receive to support “the least of these”, in elementary school, but it is not enough to cover this new high school. Please consider a one-time gift to support our start-up costs, or become a monthly donor.



And from Fran --

We have received reports of the encouragement that was spread in and about Akuak Rak from the visit by Scott. It is great to hear his firsthand report on old programs and new challenges. Not shown here was the rebuilding of the teachers' building, which our church here supported in the restructuring after being demolished by flooding last year. We are thankful for that and for the initial support that we have received to restart the Secondary School. We have stepped out in faith and sent in funds for the initial start-up costs. School opened this month. We trust the Lord to keep it going! We continue to minister to the Muslim Darfurians, who, as Scott mentioned, have been coming to our area for many years seeking aid. Their country is bombarded by Khartoum, where a radical form of Islam has been in control. We have helped them through our clinic, have brought in veterinary medicines for their cattle, and now have some of their children in our school. We have been unapologetic in sharing that this is the Love of Christ for them. May the Lord use this witness to bring Christ to a people who have had no Christian witness in their country.

Thank you for your faithful support!

Love and blessings,

Fran Boyle, Scott Thompson, CLIM team

Make checks out to GNS c/o Fran Boyle. Mail donations to 4103 Hummer Road Annandale, VA 22003

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