



HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE KURON NEWSLETTER MAY 2022

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BISHOP PARIDE TABAN



Bits and Pieces

ALL OF US IN PEACE VILLAGE WISH A **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR DEAR BABA, BISHOP EMERITUS PARIDE TABAN !!**

ALTHOUGH YOU ARE FAR AWAY WE REMEMBER YOU ON YOUR 86TH YEAR OF BLESSED SERVICE TO THE LORD. MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH HEALTH AND FAITH TO RETURN TO US IN HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE. WE MISS YOU !!!

The rains started in late April, stopped, then started again in late May just in time, as many fields are already sown and prepared with sorghum. The National SPLM Day was celebrated with a parade, singing, dancing and meal.

An UNMISS delegation arrived on 20.May for one day assessment followed by a UNMISS delegation on 25.May to "Seeking Ways On How Conservation Can Be Used For Stabilization & Peace Building." For the first time in HTPVK history the Special Rep. of the Secretary General, Nicholas Haysom , visited. He was delighted by the children singing, dancing and the warm reception of all the HTPVK staff. (picture right) Also attending were 3 Ambassadors, UNMISS, UNESCO, and World Bank representatives.



An International DONOR ZOOM meeting was arranged by Mr. Per Nordmark in Norway. This was held on 18.May. Over 20 representatives were able to share and exchange information about supporting the current needs of the HTPVK programs. Bishop Paride Taban was also participating from Nairobi where he is recovering to better health. This is a good way to maintain communication with supporters and field staff.



Above: The Special Rep. for the Secretary General is greeted by Nursery Pupils.

Mr. Nicholas Haysom: From my point of view, this is a very impressive integrated project.

French Ambassador: It is a great achievement to reduce cattle raiding and abductions.

Many Thanks to AVSI for providing books, materials and supplies which have been transported to Kuron Peace Village and distributed between the Primary and the Secondary School. AVSI has also sponsored many students and will build latrines for both Primary and Secondary and a 2 classroom structure at the Secondary School.

Naturally, we are grateful to ALL the donors and supporters of HTPVK.



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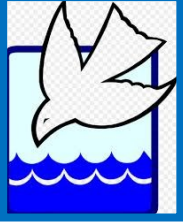
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Pastoral

Fr. Moses Lomodo came for a visit in May in order to do baptisms in Kuron Village as well as the parishes around.

Right: Fr. Moses baptizes young Toposa youth during mass.



Infrastructure

The work at Multipurpose Prayer Hall was halted in May as the workers, who are from Kenya, travelled home to see their families. The Foreman returned end of May and construction continues.

Left: Staff repaired the hand pump at Matara which sees heavy use from Nursery, VTC, and Secondary School.



TOPOSA ELDER SPEAKING AT A WORKSHOP IN HTPVK:

We Toposa women don't usually get to speak the same as the men. HTPVK always gives us a chance. We can speak more openly. Our men can listen sometimes too.

Peace Building

Several workshops were held for Peace and Civil Society. The participants were from several villages and learned how to work in small groups, role play and open discussions. Lively discussions were held on domestic violence, community violence and how these start and how to prevent them. The Toposa are really enjoying these types of discussions as they never have done that before. For the first time they are sharing thoughts and feelings which they had before kept inside their hearts.

Right: Elders doing a role play during a Peace and Civil Society workshop



TOPOSA ELDER SPEAKING AT A WORKSHOP IN HTPVK:

I tell the rest of you to never give up. I started with nothing when I came to this area and now I have land, family, cows. People come to me for advice. HTPVK has helped me a lot. I thank God for them.



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Left: Women participating in the Civil Society workshops.

Right: MAF flight arrives with supplies.



Livelihoods

Mr. Juma Chelimo continued working with the Korokochum community. Three donkey carts were assembled and taken to the villages.

TOPOSA ELDER: We are very happy to have the use of these carts. They will help us save time and energy carrying our things around and bringing produce to the market.

Right: Pictures of training for assembly of the donkey carts.

Community Managed Savings Group has met for the second time. They have increased their savings to over 110,000 SSP. It has been agreed that when they reach 150,000 SSP they will allow loans at a yet to be decided rate of interest, probably 10% to begin with. Tobacco might be an to purchase for resale.



TOPOSA WOMAN: Now make sure everyone understands how to use this money. We don't just take and disappear. We have to pay back the interest or there will be trouble.



Left: Nurse Simon Dralin attends to a sick child.

Female Patient: We come here now to give birth because we know our babies will live. Others are still not convinced but we are sure these health workers are the best. Thank you to the PHCC staff for their great work.

Primary Health Care Centre

There were fewer patients in the Centre this month. This is due to the fields being cultivated and others moving with the cattle. Eleven babies were birthed in the Centre in May with no deaths. There were 156 In Patients. Syphilis is a growing problem in the area. OPRD reports there is a 45% severe mal-nutrition rate in the Kuron area amongst under 5 year olds

Positive Outcomes: Three cases of Khalazar have been successfully treated this year. Unfortunately, many other patients "escape" before the end of therapy.



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Secondary School

Br. Francis (Principal) and Mr. Sebit Abdallah (Deputy), attended a Trauma Healing for Students workshop in Narus hosted by Solidarity with South Sudan from 25 to 28 April. At the moment, we have 57 students (14 female) Classes have begun on 17.May. Senior 1 will not be joining until further notice.

Many Thanks to CARITAS Austria for constructing a 3 classroom structure at the Secondary School.

Left: Elibu Peter from Uganda with a Certificate in Teaching

Primary School

Primary School opened with a Mass on 15.May. Two new teachers have joined the staff. There will be more students once those from Nachodokopele side arrive. There is a new grinding mill for Primary set up in Kuron Peace Village. On 25.May WFP came to assess food stocks and register students for school feeding.



Above: Head Teacher Mr. Atanga Sebit inspects books and supplies provided by AVSI.

Nursery Schools

Kuron Nursery is in full swing with over 60 children. Matara has more than 50. Nakabuse is pending due to lack of water and issues needing discussion.

Left: Painting the new Matara Nursery Classrooms. Below: Care Giver instructs students in nursery.



Madam Latiem after her baby was rehydrated and brought back to health, " The service here is much better than five years before. Now people here take notice and are nice to us. And they give good health treatment to our children."

Select Supporters of HTPVK Programs:

- His Excellency, President Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan
- European Commission - EU
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- Norwegian Friends of Kuron
- Norwegian Embassy
- PAX for Peace Nederland
- Stomme Foundation Norway
- AVSI International
- Friends of Sister Emmanuelle (FOSE)
- South Sudan National Ministry of Health - (Health Pool Fund)
- Caritas Austria
- ProSudan Association Austria
- Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls (USA)
- Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration USA
- South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)
- Diocese of Mainz, Germany
- Missio Austria
- World Food Programme (WFP), South Sudan
- UN Mission in South Sudan
- Initiative Pater Stephen
- Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
- Many generous individuals



Group photo of UNMISS delegation members who visited Kuron Peace Village on 25.May.2022.



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Woman Strong Madam Kuron Elizabeth in Napil, Kuron

“She wraps herself in strength, carries herself with confidence, strengthening her arms for the task at hand.” Proverbs 31: 16-17

My name is Kuron Elizabeth. I was born in near Nachodokopele and moved here to Napil a long time ago. We came here because my husband died and we had a relative here. I brought my children and we were living right next to the Kuron Peace Village. Then we moved closer to the river. After that we found the floods too much, so finally, we are here in Napil Village.

I had 6 sons but one died. Now I have my five sons and three daughters near me. I sent one of my sons to Narus and he graduated from Secondary School. Now he works with ACROSS in Nanyagachor.



Madam Kuron with daughter Hannah and grandchildren.

I sent my daughter (Hannah) to school because she is a clever girl. We have a saying: Educate a girl...Educate a nation. My eldest son is not educated in school but he has learned business quite well and he is able to earn a lot of income.

I am busy throughout the day with cleaning, cooking, and preparing things for sale. There are many people who come to me every day to discuss certain issues. We also have a small garden here in the compound but during the dry season we can't plant anything.



Madam Kuron speaks out at a Village Meeting



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I used to have a number of cows but some years ago many died due to a disease. Now I have some animals but they are kept a little far away. We have to always think if we will sell one to pay school fees or buy food or there many other expenses. I raise chickens and sell to Peace Village. We do have a plot of land where we grow millet and sorghum and some other small things. My son also has this small store here in Napil and we can sell some useful items to the community members.

For many years, I have been involved in some of the activities, meetings and coordination of the Holy Trinity Peace Village. I have attended workshops on beekeeping, agriculture, peace, and other things. The women also get together to meet at HTPVK to discuss business and other activities. I do attend the church services when I can. I do speak out in the community and I say what I feel. I don't like to hide behind fancy words. I just speak my mind. That is the way I am.



Madam Kuron using cell phone to coordinate activities in the village

Many years ago I was part of the Peace Village Exposure trips to Kenya and Uganda. I have even been to Nairobi and Kampala, so I have a wider vision than most Toposa women. I remember how developed the other countries were. The people dressed different and they were much better educated. I thought I wanted that for my children. So I learned that education can make a difference.

Right now you can see that we have many children here and we must work hard to feed them. School fees are also expensive. I want Hannah to continue her studies because she is clever enough to get a good job. She will become a successful person. Her two boys are also clever. We have them in the Nursery School.

Bishop did a good thing to start these schools in Kuron. I like the idea of these schools here. These children need something to do. It is a good thing to teach them many things they can use in the future. I also like the Health Clinic. I have gone there many times for treatment and for our children. It is very good that our children are healthy. And they don't charge us anything. This really helps the people around.

(sources: Interview with Madam Kuron Elizabeth and family members in Napil Village Dec.2021. by Gabe Hurrish)



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