

Seeds of South Sudan NEWS UPDATE

Seeds of South Sudan
P.O. Box 232
Arvada, CO 80001

HELP US SEND MAMER BIOR ALEER TO LAW SCHOOL



New SoSS Students Left Kakuma IN APRIL

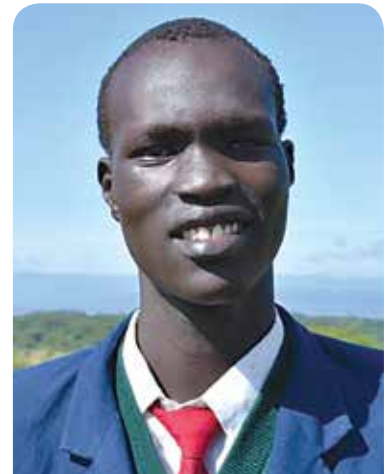
Three Kakuma youth: Magai Thiong, Adut Ayuel, and Aleer Jok Atem (2) joined the Seeds of South Sudan family in April and enrolled in Roots Academy last May. The South Sudanese custom is to carry the names of their parents and grandparents, so many people have similar names. We already have an Aleer Jok Atem among the students, so the new student is Aleer 2!



From left: Magai Thiong, age 14, was born in the Kakuma Refugee Camp and wants to be an electrician. Adut Ayuel is 10 and wants to be a science teacher. Aleer Jok Atem is 14 and wants to be an aid worker.

SEEDS OF SOUTH SUDAN has now helped more than 100 children escape the Kakuma Refugee Camp for a high quality education in Kenyan schools. We have secured funding for seven high school graduates to attend college, but more are coming through the pipeline!

Of the 13 recent high school graduates, we have donations to send two to the University of Nairobi. Generous donors have pledged to cover the first year of Deng Dhieu's study of international relations, renewable if he continues to make good grades. The other top scoring graduate, Mamer Bior Aleer, did not have an individual sponsor. However, SoSS board members felt strongly that Mamer should also begin university this September. Five board members pledged \$1,900 to support this



Mamer Bior Aleer

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**NUTURE AND EDUCATE REFUGEE CHILDREN
TO BECOME LEADERS OF SOUTH SUDAN**

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Malachi 3:10 — "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

SOSS HIGH SCHOOL GRADS ARE VOLUNTEERING IN SOUTH SUDAN & KAKUMA REFUGEE CAMP

BY CRYSTAL HAYWARD

Thirteen recent high school grads have been volunteering as teachers in South Sudan and Kakuma Refugee Camp while awaiting funds to continue their education. “Our students are filling a vital role in South Sudan and Kakuma because there is a shortage of teachers, especially in Kakuma,” said SoSS founder Arok Garang. While these high school grads are not yet qualified teachers, “they are eager scholars, able to teach major subjects such as math, English, science, business and Christian education.”

Six grads have been in South Sudan, teaching various subjects and assisting other teachers as needed. Arok believes the grads are motivated, “by their love for the motherland” as well as wanting to give back and help children.” Volunteering

is also a way for them to reunite with surviving relatives in a safe area of South Sudan.

Kakuma Refugee Camp

Nearly three-fourths of the 188,000 refugees in Kakuma are from South Sudan. Most are women and children desperate for peace, freedom and education. Our SoSS scholars have been blessed to receive a high quality education, and the seven in Kakuma “want to use their knowledge and skills by volunteering as Lead Teachers,” said Arok. Five of the seven graduated in 2017 and have been volunteering in northern Kenya for more than one year. The other two have been volunteering since early 2019. The seven include five males and two females. The grads wish to study pharmacy and nursing, engineering, business administration and business information.

South Sudan

“The biggest benefit of teaching the children in South Sudan is to give them hope and inspire them,” said Arok. Recent grads serving at Kakuma “feel really good about giving back to the children.” All SoSS recent grads are going to continue volunteer teaching until they receive funding to attend school.

In August, three of the recent grads returned; two to study at the University of Nairobi. Awan Mawut (center photo on page 3) aspires to be a nurse and returned to Nakuru for the Girls Leadership Seminar. She will serve as an assistant to in-country director Deng Kuany. The board approved this new position as Deng is now responsible for managing the education of 100 students.



Six SoSS high school grads have been serving as volunteer teachers in South Sudan. These four taught primary school in Paliu, Arok's home town.



Girls Leadership Seminar EXPANDS STUDENTS' HORIZONS

Middle School master teacher Sue Counterman and Pastor Heidi McGuinness designed and led a one-day Leadership Seminar for the 18 Seeds of South Sudan girls who had returned home to Nakuru for school break. The theme was

You Are A Promise. Topics covered: confidence, self-esteem, team building, menstrual health hygiene and habit two of ***Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens: Begin with the end in mind.***

Pastor Heidi provided a Christian education message.

“The Girls Leadership Seminar was a huge success,” says Sue. A highlight was Blessing Books created by SoSS board member and artist Wendy Satsky. Wendy provided each girl with her own art kit and a special message for each girl. The girls created their



own booklets sharing personal blessings.

“The girls eagerly participated in all the activities and asked if we could make this an annual event,” Sue added. “They reported learning so much and loving it. The topic of

menstrual health and their changing bodies had not been discussed with them in this way before.”

Supporters of SoSS who have never been to Kenya are invited to consider traveling to continue this exciting, enriching program. If you’d like more information, contact peggy@seedsofsouthsudan.org.

Thanks to St. Philip Lutheran for providing the funding to host the event at a local sports club, including luncheon and materials.

MAMER BIOR ALEER continued from page 1

outstanding young man.

In 2009, Mamer was selected by SoSS and sent to Roots Academy where he was one of the school’s star basketball players. He was admitted to Maseno High school, one of Kenya’s top schools. Since graduating, he volunteered as a math and English teacher in Paliau.

Tuition fees and expenses are \$3,000 a year

at the University of Nairobi, where Mamer will begin studying law. We need more donations to cover Mamer’s tuition and books.

To help pay for Mamer Bior’s freshmen year at the University of Nairobi, please donate securely at <https://seedsofsouthsudan.org> or by sending a check to SoSS, P.O. Box 232, Arvada, CO 80001. ***Thank you for your support!***



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR KIDS!

Please pray for the safety of our students who are volunteer teaching in South Sudan and the Kakuma Refugee Camp. Please pray that SoSS will find sponsors for the 46 children in Kakuma we have interviewed who are waiting for sponsors.

Finally – please pray for peace in South Sudan so the many refugees can return home where they can support themselves and eat three meals a day. Kakuma is so crowded, the UNHCR can only afford to provide one meal a day of beans and corn, which is shared.



Annual Luncheon — November 17 at Montview Church

Plan to join us Sunday, November 17 at 12:30 p.m. at Montview Presbyterian Church, 1980 Dahlia Street in Denver, to hear about the 2019 trip to visit SoSS students and interview more refugees at the Kakuma Refugee Camp. Arok Garang, Sue Counterman and Pastor Heidi McGuinness interviewed 40 prospective students in Kakuma and met with all six university students in Nairobi. Sue and Heidi also worked with 18 of the SoSS girls on leadership. Mark your calendar! If you can't make the luncheon, Sue and Arok will be describing their trip Nov. 10 at 9:30 am at Montview.

Proverbs 16:3 — “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope in the future.”