



Seeds of South Sudan SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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seedsofsouthsudan.org

SEEDS STUDENTS ARE SAFE AT HOME DURING THE PANDEMIC

All 66 students from kindergarten through high school are safely sheltering at Home Base in Nakuru, Kenya. Several older students are taking turns teaching the other students in the garage, including Deng Mading, grade 8, pictured here teaching a science lesson on animal adaptations. Cattle are a major source of the economy and culture of South Sudan. Other students are teaching English, math, history, Christian Religious Education and Kiswahili, the local language of the people of Kenya. As of mid-May, there were 715 COVID-19 cases in Kenya, and six in Nakuru County, including some who have recovered.

Home Base sits in a secure part of Nakuru. Staff is emphasizing good sanitation and hand-washing to keep everyone healthy. Generous donors contributed money to purchase Home Base for Seeds in 2018. The budget included money for remodeling some outbuildings and upgrading the Wi-fi. The remodel added four more sleeping rooms and four additional toilets. These improvements allow greater social distancing. Students still sleep in double bunk beds, but there are now fewer students per bedroom. The additional faucets for washing are a big help in the pandemic. Seeds thanks all the generous donors who helped finance purchase of Home Base and the remodel.



SHARE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER

Seeds is now publishing an electronic newsletter several months of the year. Our volunteer communications staff is only able to publish two to three print newsletters a year. If you have an email that you have not yet shared – or your email has changed in the past year, please share your new email at info@seedsofsouthsudan.org. If you did not receive newsletters in April and May, we need your email!

For those who do not use email, we'd like to hear from you as well. Let us know how you'd like to hear from Seeds in between print newsletters. Would you like a postcard to hear about events? Are you connected to Seeds via a church? The more information you share, the better we can stay in touch. Thank you!



Our Mission: To educate refugee children to become 'Seeds of Change' for South Sudan



SEEDS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES VOLUNTEER IN SOUTH SUDAN

Eighteen Seeds high school graduates traveled with founder, Arok Garang, by bus to Paliau, South Sudan in February. The journey took 30 hours on non-paved roads to see and serve their homeland. Parts of South Sudan have been devastated by drought and locusts, while Paliau has suffered flooding. The students spent several weeks as volunteers teaching in schools. The people of Paliau were overjoyed to see so many former refugees as well dressed young adults. Their hosts butchered goats and cows over days to celebrate this reunion. Most of the students have no memory of their home country.

The high school grads taught science, including the importance of hygiene with toilets and hand washing – a lesson that was very important before the pandemic, but is now even more so.

Others taught English and religious education. Since schools in South Sudan have closed due to the pandemic, the students have been helping with the cattle in the village and with chores. The students will return to Kenya to continue their studies once the border between Kenya and South Sudan is reopened.

Three more high school graduates have been in Kakuma Refugee Camp, teaching classes to the students there. Seeds of South Sudan emphasizes giving back to their community, so all high school graduates volunteer where needed while waiting for funds to continue their education or training.



Thuch Mawut Mapior teaches the 10 Commandments in a school near Paliau.



The Seeds students are helping with the cattle after schools closed.



Founder Arok Garang visits with elders in his home town.



The entire community of Paliau came to welcome "home" the Seeds of South Sudan high school graduates.

MUSICIANS FOR SEEDS OF SOUTH SUDAN

Several fund-raisers have been cancelled during the pandemic. In response, musicians have stepped up to donate videos of themselves singing and playing instruments to encourage people to support the mission of Seeds of South Sudan. John Odell sang "Bring Him Home" from Les Misérables at a concert in the picture here. He recorded a message on why he sponsors a student. Brian Counterman recorded "Amazing Grace" and Dave Erickson and Brian recorded "Sudden Samba." Thank you to John, Brian and Dave, for sharing your wonderful music on behalf of Seeds! You can view the musician videos and some student videos on the website under **Media > Videos** at www.seedsofsouthsudan.org.



COVID-19 CARES ACT EXPANDS DEDUCTIONS ON DONATIONS

The Coronavirus CARES act allows taxpayers who take the standard deduction to take an additional \$300 for cash donations made to 501(c)(3) organizations. The act also relaxes the limit on charitable contributions for itemizers – increasing the amount that can be deducted from 60% of adjusted gross income to 100% of adjusted gross income for the 2020 tax year. Check with your tax advisor for more details.

AMAZON SMILE BENEFITS SEEDS



When buying books and other materials through Amazon, please sign up to purchase at smile.amazon.com and designate Seeds of South Sudan as your charity of choice. Seeds will receive a percentage of the sale as a donation. Thank you!

FIRST ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY 'VIRTUAL' WALK

Seeds of South Sudan is implementing its first annual virtual or remote Father's Day walk in celebration of Father's Day, Sunday June 21. Walkers are encouraged to get sponsors for the walk or donate outright. Our goal is \$5,000. We encourage walkers to commit to their own fundraising goal and invite sponsors to contribute. Plan your walk anytime beginning June 14th and June 28. Be sure to share pictures and your story of fathers that you are honoring with your friends and family. Seeds is sponsoring this fund-raiser because the pandemic has meant Arok can no longer speak at schools – a major source of income and sponsors.

The Father's Day Walk is especially relevant to Arok's story. As one of the Lost Boys, Arok walked 1,000 miles from Ethiopia to northern Kenya, where he found refuge at Kakuma Refugee Camp. In his nine years at Kakuma, Arok felt called by God to help the other children in there. Over the past 10 years, Arok has been a father figure to the more than 100 students who have received an education and leadership training to become "seeds" of a future, prosperous South Sudan.

Watch the Seeds website and our Facebook page for more information. Questions? Send them to info@seedsofsouthsudan.org or call Pastor Heidi McGinness at (720) 984-4488.



Seeds of South Sudan

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SEEDS NEEDS YOUR HELP DURING THE PANDEMIC

The government of Kenya closed schools March 18 due to the pandemic, so our 66 students in grades K-12 are home on an extended school break. The second term, due to start May 4, has been delayed at least a month. During the school year, the 66 students receive their meals at boarding schools. During the shutdown, Seeds is feeding all the students at Home Base.

"We really need your help," said Seeds founder Arok Garang. With 66 active children at Home Base, expenses are increasing. "Nearly every day

when the children are home, someone gets sick or gets hurt playing," he explained. "We have lots of medical bills with this many children to look after."

Since the pandemic arrived in Africa two months later than the US and Europe, the students may be home for many more months

Please make your donation securely online at seedsofsouthsudan.org or send a check to Seeds of South Sudan, P.O. Box 232, Arvada, CO 80001.



1 Timothy 4:4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.

