



Seeds of South Sudan HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

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seedsofsouthsudan.org

THANKS FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT

In this Holy Season, Seeds of South Sudan Founder Arok Garang, as well as board members and volunteers, wish to thank you, Seeds' many sponsors and supporters, for your generosity this past year. Even with the pandemic, we found blessings in our donors who were able to support us through these uncertain times and made it possible to continue our work at Home Base with our students in elementary through high school.

Earlier in the year, generous people donated four computers and one tablet that Arok took with him to Kenya in August. These computers make it possible for the students to get help with school work via YouTube videos and programs such as Kahn Academy, a free, online resource with videos on algebra and many other classes.

"My prayer is that donors will continue to support us through the end of the year," Arok said. "We are also very thankful that 17 students will graduate from Roots Academy (8th grade) in March."



SEEDS SCHOLARS COMPLETE SEMINARY

Garang Manyok and Dau Machar Jok graduated from seminary this year at Africa International University. Both wrote recently about what seminary has meant to them. Garang wrote: "In simple terms, I have a different world view: a Christian world view, which I believe has made a radical paradigm shift not only in my life, but presumably will be evident in the life of those who will interact with me."



Garang Manyok



Dau Machar

Dau Machar wrote, "Attending Seminary has shaped my perspective on God unlike before, of which I am really grateful to Almighty for such a great chance of knowing Him better." Both Garang and Dau are now back at Home Base where they have initiated a daily Bible Study program where they expose the younger students to different books in the Bible.

Both university grads express "a great thanks to Seeds of South Sudan and its supporters for making their seminary education possible."

FIVE SEEDS STUDENTS HAVE LOST PART OF THEIR SPONSORSHIP. CAN YOU HELP? See page 2



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



FIVE SEEDS STUDENTS NEED YOUR HELP



Five of our students have lost their sponsors. Seeds is committed to making sure each South Sudanese orphan we rescue from Kakuma can continue attending school through high school in Kenya as part of the Seeds family. Here are the students, the amount of sponsorship needed and their current grade in school. **Nuul Deng**, age 10, is in fifth grade at Roots Academy. He needs a full sponsorship, \$1,500 a year.



Nuul Deng

Payments can be made two to three times a year or monthly as fits your budget. You can share a sponsorship with another person or family.

Ajang Lual Deng, is 11 years old in grade 5. He needs a half sponsorship, or \$750 per year.



Ajang Lual Deng



Aleer Deng Ghai

Aleer Deng Ghai, is 18 years old in grade 8. He needs a one-half sponsorship; \$750 a year. Some of our students spent many years at Kakuma and are older when they start at Roots Academy.

Apajok Dhieu, is 16 years old in grade 9. She also needs a half- sponsorship (\$750).



Apajok Dhieu



Ghai Deng Ghai

Ghai Deng Ghai is 21 and is completing 12th grade.

Please let us know if you can support any of these students or know someone who might be interested. For more information or to begin sponsoring, contact Roger Maynard: Roger@SeedsofSouthSudan.org or at 303-870-3667.

KENYAN SCHOOLS PARTIALLY REOPEN

COVID-19 closed Kenyan schools in March. Our students have been tutoring each other over the months that schools were closed. Each day there is a study and question time. When Arok returned to Kenya and college students were home, Arok established a two-week career counseling session for high school students, emphasizing the importance of technical courses. "It was eye-opening for them," Arok noted. "They are learning a lot about the importance of choosing careers early and knowing the grade requirements." Arok started a formal math tutoring program for students who needed it.

On October 12, schools reopened for grades 4, 8, and 12 because they must pass final exams to advance to the next educational level. Seeds has 34 students in those three grades! The remaining 34 students in K-12 will resume school in January 2021. They must repeat their current grade because the school year started in January 2020, so they only received 2 1/2 months of instruction this year. The pandemic continues to impose new expenses on Seeds of South Sudan. All returning students must bring 12 new face masks and hand sanitizer. Seeds appreciates the support of donors and sponsors to help pay for these increased costs.

SEEDS HOLIDAY WINE SALE

We'll have sets of white and red wine from Bonaquisti Winery available for sale and delivery by mail for your 2020 holiday celebrations. Bonaquisti will donate a portion of the proceeds that will be used to support the college fund of Mamer Bior Aleer, studying law at the University of Nairobi.

Mamer attended top-rated Maseno High School in Kenya and is completing his first year of law school. Your purchase can help ensure that Mamer's education is not interrupted! Check the Bonaquisti website and look for more information in upcoming electronic newsletters. www.bonacquistiwine.com



Mamer Bior Aleer

PRAYERS FOR OUR KIDS AND FOR SOUTH SUDAN

Seeds founder Arok Garang asks your prayers for our students in Kenya and South Sudan. "Pray for the safety of the high school graduates teaching in South Sudan because of insecurity and flooding in Jonglei State," Arok writes. Also pray for peace to prevail in South Sudan.

Please pray for the Seeds board to have God's guidance and wisdom as they try many things to raise funds to feed Seeds students at Home Base during COVID-19. Also, pray for the safety of our students at home due to the pandemic as well as for the safety and protection of those in grades 4, 8 and 12 who have returned to school.

We need to pray for the orphans who are waiting at Kakuma Refugee Camp for Seeds sponsorship. These children need God's protection over them as malaria and cholera cases are increasing on a daily basis at Kakuma, a UN refugee camp with nearly 200,000 residents.

GIVING THANKS AND PRAISE

Arok and the board give thanks and praise to God for continued good health of the children at Home Base, who are free from COVID so far. We give thanks "for the commitment that board members and volunteers, sponsors and donors have shown in this difficult time." Arok is personally thankful to God for him to have the opportunity to stay longer with his family and the Seeds kids. And for Roger Maynard resuming bookkeeping and sponsor tracking until "by God's grace, we shall find another person." If any supporters would consider tracking sponsorships and donations, please reach out to Roger Maynard. He has done this task many years and would be happy to train a replacement! You can reach him at Roger@SeedsofsouthSudan.org.

TWO WAYS TO SUPPORT SEEDS ALL YEAR

If you shop for books, groceries or other products through Amazon.com, please select Seeds as your nonprofit partner at smile.amazon.com. Then, at no cost to you, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to Seeds.

Another powerful way to help is to become a monthly donor. Choose an amount that is comfortable for you and donate at seedsofsouthsudan.org or through coloradogives.org. Especially this year during the pandemic, our monthly donors have made a big difference. **Thank you!**

HIGH SCHOOL GRADS REMAIN IN SOUTH SUDAN

Since February, 18 of Seeds' high school graduates have been in South Sudan to volunteer as teachers. When COVID-19 closed the schools, our grads helped in Paliau with the cattle and chores. Then massive floods came and the students were moved to Juba and Bor town. The flooding has subsided, and schools are beginning to reopen. Since the border with Kenya is still closed, our grads are looking to volunteer as teachers where they live now.

The people of South Sudan are still struggling from the floods and locusts. Arok asks that we pray for our students and the people of South Sudan.



Seeds of South Sudan

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CONVERSATIONS WITH AROK, SAT. NOV. 28

Arok has returned to Kenya for six months to be with his family and provide leadership during the pandemic. Seeds is planning a number of virtual events, so sponsors and donors can see Arok and hear from some of the students they are supporting. Mark your calendar for the first conversation **Saturday, November 28 at 10 am**. We will let you know via the Seeds e-newsletter how to join us. If you do not have email and want to join the online session, call John Gonder at 303-949-6890 to let us know, so we can notify you how to join by phone. You will need a computer, tablet or smart-phone to see the conversation. More sessions will be planned in coming months.



Community First Foundation approved Seeds of South Sudan's application to join the Colorado Gives Day state-wide giving network. Please plan to support us this December 8 and invite your friends to learn about us at **coloradogives.org** by selecting "Seeds of South Sudan" in the search box. Your friends and family can read about our work and watch some videos to be inspired about how Seeds is transforming the lives of South Sudanese orphans. This is a great opportunity to expand our base of supporters during the pandemic! We appreciate your help in spreading the word about Seeds of South Sudan.

Colorado Gives charges a lower processing fee and Community First Foundation is donating \$1 million as a match to dollars contributed to all of its nonprofits on Colorado Gives Day. You can pre-schedule your donation starting November 1.