


sudan sunrise

Dec 15, 2021

Once upon a time, there was a woman with eight children. She didn't know how she could feed them all. "Plant your crops right away," said a big man from town. "But I have no seeds!" replied the woman. She cried and cried, not knowing what to do.

Then a kind-hearted stranger from far away gave her a large bushel bag of peanuts. She was so thrilled that she didn't mind that she had to plow barefoot. She prayed as she carefully covered each seed with the rich dark soil. As days passed, her peanuts burst to life and then grew and grew! "Nyandit, how is it that your single bushel bag of seeds has turned into a harvest of ten overflowing bags?" asked her friends. "We planted the same, and we only have four sacks!"

Nyandit can now feed her children and pay the fees to get them back in school. Best of all, Nyandit is giving one bag of seeds to her friend Abok so she can plant peanuts in the next growing season.

 Do you recognize the kind-hearted stranger who saved the day? That is you! You rescued Nyandit and scores of other families in South Sudan. I have a 45-second video for you that brings tears to my eyes. Nyandit doesn't speak English well, but she wants to thank you. (Update: Since this video, Nyandit has decided to save two full bags of seeds for the next growing season!). Scan the QR code to watch the video. With your help, seeds have transformed Nyandit from a victim into a businesswoman, philanthropist, and example for others.

Unfortunately, of the 55 families in Rumbek to whom we gave seeds, 25 lost their crops to flooding. This week CNN broadcast a report describing the flooding in South Sudan as a catastrophe of "Biblical proportions." The 25 families in Rumbek found higher ground and asked us for vegetable seeds. They are reporting that their vegetable crops are doing well. Flooding has seriously impacted the regions where we work. We are currently exploring with our volunteers on the ground what we can do together for those deeply hurt by the flooding.



Empowerment is a buzzword used so often that it has little meaning. But it is the perfect word to describe what happened to Nyandit. The right sort of aid has made her more powerful than she has ever been. She doesn't need our help again!

Sudan Sunrise has always aimed to empower. Two Lost Boys had their permission to emigrate to the US revoked after 9/11. In their loss, a new dream took shape: return to their hometown to establish a school. That school is the Manute Bol School, with 700 students (girls and boys) and a distinguished history of accepting children of whatever tribe and religion. They began

with classes in the shade of a tree, and the students practicing their alphabet in the dirt. This year thanks to Dr. Saroj Mankau (age 91) both the Manute Bol School and the St. Joseph's School in Aweil have three new classrooms apiece. A grant from the **Annenberg Foundation** made it possible to finish the current construction phase at the Manute Bol School, and provide funding for teachers, staff and program. We provide critical funding to four schools in South Sudan. Our funding helps the remarkable teams of largely volunteer staff and teachers fulfill their dreams to educate children.

In addition to empowerment, the other word so important to us is **reconciliation**. We got our start in 2004 helping south Sudanese Christians take aid to Darfurian refugees from the population that had been their enemies.

This summer, Sudan Sunrise helped Darfurian peace activist Juma Seif Sheibu deliver blankets, food, soap, and mosquito nets to disabled Sudanese refugees in a camp in Uganda. Juma met with the local pastors and sheiks to devise plans to help these especially needy refugees. With our help, they would like to gather the wheel-chair-bound, blind, deaf, and dementia-afflicted refugees for a Christmas dinner and gifts!

Our work has had some tough setbacks. Our most strategic effort, Kush State University abruptly closed. We enabled KSU's President and his family to escape to safety.

There are some strategic opportunities: a fledgling agricultural institute in Rumbek that is asking for our help, and leaders from a region where extremists burned churches have asked for our help planting Moringa trees. Reforesting with Moringa could help ameliorate child nutrition and give lasting symbols of reconciliation.

As a Christian, I love the befuddlement that Jesus weaves into his parable of the end of times. On the last day, the righteous are perplexed and question the King, "When did we feed you, clothe you, or visit you when you were sick and in prison?" The King replies, don't you understand? "Whenever you did it to the least of these, you did it to me." I smile with a vision of the King asking all of us, "Remember when you gave me peanuts?"

God's blessings and love to you all this holy season,



Tom Prichard
Executive Director

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