

OK, Scrooge, the seeds are not really magic! But they are practically magic! Healing and peace spring from these seeds!

We are planting these **extraordinary seeds**, literally and figurately.

**Literally:** We delivered one million Moringa seeds to the Nuba Mountains this year with our partners.

Studies report that Sudanese have an average [IQ of 71](#). **Racist drivel**, you say!!! If you have any friends from Sudan, you will react to this as an evil lie! You have witnessed firsthand that there is nothing deficient in Sudanese DNA or IQ.



Last month I took this photo of a Nuban child with his magnetic stare. His orange hair is an indicator of [kwashiorkor](#), a common form of malnutrition. If this malnutrition is not addressed for children whose brains are developing, stunted intellect can become a life-long sentence. It's not DNA, it's malnutrition.

The extraordinary seeds are from the [Moringa tree](#), a drought-resistant tree from India, whose leaves are packed with vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and even some protein. Preliminary trials by Kush State University's nursing students have shown that Moringa leaves [stimulate milk production in nursing moms](#), thereby eliminating malnutrition in their babies. Children and adults are also experiencing a range of health benefits.

This initiative's early success has prompted invitations to extend the project elsewhere in the Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile. Because KSU's students and faculty already have full plates, we are looking for ways to mobilize more personnel to help plant Moringa, teach the benefits of adding Moringa to one's diet and to study the results. (*Please watch [this video](#) of a KSU student and the malnourished twins cured by Moringa.*)

**Figuratively:** The figurative seeds being planted by KSU are every bit as extraordinary!

Nubans value religious tolerance. That is why Kush State University is made up of Muslim and Christian students and faculty. They believe mutual respect and cooperation are essential for a better future.

The Bashir regime's strategy of divide and rule failed in the Nuba Mountains. Now as peace negotiations are underway with the new regime in Khartoum, Nuban leaders are demanding the government insure religious freedom.

Muslim and Christian students working together to end malnutrition is a wonderful way to plant the figurative seeds for peace. In addition, KSU plans to have a teachers' college. Imagine the seeds of reconciliation that will be planted in the Nuba Mountains, the Blue Nile and Darfur if the teachers have been trained at a university with religious freedom and cooperation at its core.

**Oppression and Self-Reliance:** KSU's nursing facility is comprised of several modestly-equipped buildings (classrooms, library, lab, teaching laboratory, administration, etc.) for which construction began in 2007 with a USAID grant to Save the Children. Aerial bombardment by the Bashir regime began in 2011, and in intervals when the fighting was at the worst the nursing training was discontinued. In 2016 the nursing training reopened as Kush State University, as Nubans recognized higher education was their own responsibility, despite a lack of funding. (*Pictured below is a KSU nursing student standing in their skills lab.*)



When I met with the nursing school faculty last month, I was shocked to learn that they were eight months behind in pay. "We are not going



to quit. We believe in the vision of KSU and are determined to make KSU a success.” The Nubans know KSU is **theirs**, and everyone is determined to work together to make it a success.

In addition to the nursing school campus with 196 students, KSU has 75 students at the campus for the auto mechanics program. A third campus and facility which could serve as a teacher’s college and KSU has 30 acres of undeveloped land.

Last month I met briefly with Prof. Phillip Kwesiga from Makerere University, which is one of the most prestigious schools in East Africa, and with whom KSU now has an official partnership. Sudan Sunrise is still KSU’s only international funding partner, but we are advocating for KSU and looking to recruit new partners.

In addition to KSU, Sudan Sunrise has three primary schools in South Sudan, whose work is every bit as strategic.

We are profoundly grateful for everyone who is making the planting of these seeds possible. These are truly extraordinary seeds! Thank you so very much helping plant seeds that will help bring a better future in the Sudans!

Merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah and a happy New Year to all!

May God’s peace and blessing fill your heart and home throughout this holiday season!

Tom Prichard  
Executive Director

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