

sudan sunrise

July 6, 2022

Help in Time of Crisis

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." — Fred Rogers

On some international comparisons, South Sudan is the poorest and most corrupt nation in the world. In addition, some regions in South Sudan are gripped by food shortages, which are predicted to become severe. But as Mr. Rogers' mother would say, "look for the helpers".



In the midst of South Sudan's crises, good things are happening. This newsletter is devoted to the first students of the Manute Bol School who have now graduated from university! In addition to the Manute Bol School, there are three other schools we support. Our next newsletter will tell how we are helping combat malnutrition with the amazing Moringa tree. In addition to the distribution of seeds and empowerment of planting, we are finding many mature Moringa trees in South Sudan. People did not know the leaves are packed with vitamins and minerals, so like the woman above, they are now adding Moringa leaves to their daily diet.

Dirt ABC's to University Graduates!



Last month 21 men and women, who had studied for eight years at the Manute Bol School, graduated from The University of Wau! They began their education drawing their ABC's in the dirt because the school had no paper or pencils. They got their start and studied longer at the Manute Bol School than their secondary school or university. The MBS is so proud of them, pioneers in education for their families and their community!

Birth of a Vision

In 2001 Lost Boys, Victor Anyar and Sinjin, were in the Kakuma refugee camp awaiting relocation to the US. After 9/11 their visas to emigrate to the US were revoked. Their hopes were dashed, but not their dreams to help others. "Our village (Turalei) had no school. We will start one," they decided. Their village had been devastated by 22 years of war. Victor and Sinjin asked other impoverished returnees to contribute to a school. They raised enough to buy a board, paint it black, and buy chalk. Thus the Manute Bol School was born!

The late Abdelgabar Adam, MD, of the Darfur Human Rights Organization of the USA, also had a vision. Sudan Sunrise organized a trip for Dr. Adam and three fellow Darfurian Muslims to accompany Francis Buk on his first return to his home village. (We recommend Francis' autobiography, *Escape from Slavery*). We stood where Francis' family had been murdered and from where six-year-old Francis had been abducted for slavery in Darfur. As villagers asked us for help to build a school, Dr. Adam said softly to me, "we (Darfurians) were used against them; we should help rebuild the school and even the church."

Vision Shared

The late NBA Legend, Manute Bol, (the first African and tallest player in the NBA) told me he wanted to help this school started by Lost Boys. "The kids have no place to learn during the rainy season," Manute explained.

One critical connection was with the late National Security Advisor Bud McFarlane, pictured here with Gorbachev on the day he met Manute at the American Business Council's "Reconciliation Forum". This photo was one of Bud's favorites, and he later delivered a framed copy to Gorby.

Thanks to Sudan Sunrise Board member Amanda Jane, Bud went to Turalei, and funded the first three classrooms for the school. And thanks to connections made by Sarah Dupont, Franklin Electric drilled a well and provided a solar-powered water system for the school. Once construction began, Rudwan Dawod brought a heartfelt message to the community that he was sorry for how Darfurians had been used to fight against south Sudanese. Every brick from those first three classrooms was made with a two-person press by Fred and Harouna, a Christian and a Muslim. Their work exemplified the reconciliation of which Manute and Dr. Adam had dreamed. Reconciliation was in the DNA of the school. When conflict broke out in South Sudan, the school opened classrooms to give shelter to "enemy" widows and orphans in the classrooms.



Help is on the way!



Last year three of the eight classrooms had to be rebuilt. "When I was six years old in India, I started my education at an Anglican School, and in gratitude, I want to give those classrooms. As a professor, I have given a lot of incompletes! And being in my 90's, I don't want an incomplete!" said Dr. Saroj Mankau, humanitarian, philanthropist, and scientist whose career was devoted to researching parasites. In addition, Saroj gave three classrooms to St. Joseph's School in Aweil. Last month, Saroj celebrated her 92nd birthday! Happy birthday, Saroj! We thank God for you!

Ill Winds Blowing!

Last month a windstorm blew the roof off the new classrooms. The materials have been purchased, but Headmaster John Akot is appealing for funds to complete the repairs and provide the desks and chairs.



Cornelius Abass, who surveyed the damage last month, was advised to stay for no more than one hour due to tribal violence. Many of the people of were sleeping on the roads at night, as they defended the town from raiders. The watchword for the school is perseverance!



Back to those Caps and Gowns!

Most of all, we applaud the students who have overcome many obstacles to earn their university degrees. Congratulations to them, the University of Wau, and their secondary school. Many thanks to you, and all mentioned here, who made the first eight years of their education possible. And now! Best of all, three of these students majored in education and want to return to the Manute School to teach!

[Sudan Sunrise](http://www.sudansunrise.org) | +1 (202) 499-6984 | 10508 James Wren Way, Fairfax, VA 22030 | www.sudansunrise.org

