

# sudan sunrise

December 15, 2022

Imagine that your family members are suffering from malnutrition, and you have lost hope. A neighbor gives you a handful of seeds and explains how the leaves of this tree can improve your family's health. The tree will have nutritious leaves, grow 30 feet tall, and live for 30 years. Some of these trees are already growing nearby, and you can benefit immediately by adding leaves to your food. Then she gives you an extra handful of seeds and a challenge, "Help someone even worse off, and it is even better if they are from a different tribe or religion."

Canon William, of the Diocese of Aweil, said over the phone "In the six months since my family has added Moringa to our food, we have made half as many trips to the local clinic! And my stomach problem has cleared up!".

South Sudan is the poorest and the most corrupt country in the world. Flooding and internal conflict have exacerbated food insecurity. In addition, "learned helplessness" from years of dependence on foreign relief has worsened the endemic malnutrition. The moringa project empowers people at the grassroots and helps them be the solution. In the past year, we have widely distributed millions of Moringa seeds, along with teaching on growing the trees and adding the leaves to one's daily diet.

Moringa leaves are filled with vitamins and minerals, and word is spreading that both children and adults experience health benefits from the leaves. But among the added benefits have been empowerment and reconciliation. From Sudan Sunrise's very beginning 17 years ago, we have focused on empowering people at the grassroots. People are feeling empowered to improve their family's nutrition and empowered as agents of health and reconciliation in the community.

Cornelius Abass and volunteers from Bishop Abraham Nhial's diocese have taken Moringa and other seeds to refugees from Darfur. This project was made possible by gifts in memory of David Marblestone, who founded the "Darfur Interfaith Network" in Washington DC. There is something especially holy about contributions in memory of a remarkable Jewish man that facilitated Christians who suffered at the hands of Muslims to take these trees to Muslim refugees in their hour of need, empowering reconciliation. For generations, these trees of life will be healing people.

In Rumbek, Pastor Paul Nak is now called "Doctor Moringa" by those whose health has improved. Cornelius Abass worked with Paul and his volunteers to distribute seeds and to teach on Moringa not only in Rumbek, but in remote areas. As a result, several communities in the region have heard of the benefit and are asking for the same help.

When beautiful things like this happen, one can often spot God's fingerprints! Dr. Saroj Mankau, age 92, who had previously given six classrooms, told me earlier this year that she wanted to do something special in memory of her recently-deceased husband, Dr. Ron Mankau. I prayed and proposed to expand the Moringa project. Saroj laughed and said, "Tom, you have no idea! I have Moringa on my breakfast table, a Moringa tree in my yard, and when I was little, my mother would send me out to pick from the Moringa trees!"

In addition to the wonderful Moringa work by Cornelius Abass, special mention must be made of Juma Seif Shaibu, who took Moringa, other seeds, and sanitary pads to refugees in Uganda, South Sudan, and to a population center in Darfur. Juma, himself a Muslim from Darfur, is currently asking for our help so that, once again, Muslim and Christian refugees at a camp in Uganda can gather to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. Juma has been the catalyst with the pastors and sheiks to facilitate this special celebration.

The news from the schools is both good and bad. 150 Darfurian refugees have been welcomed in the Diocese of Aweil schools. This was partly made possible because of the classrooms funded by Saroj in 2021. The schools are all performing remarkably in their national testing of graduates.

Sadly though, the roof blew off the three new classrooms at the Manute Bol School in Turalei. The roof needs to be replaced, and the classrooms need to be furnished with desks and benches. Our support for the teachers and school staff for the Manute Bol School and the Future Generation school has declined this year. We hope to provide greater help to the heroic teachers and students who depend on us.

*"How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given".* Most people would hardly notice these beautiful things by people so poor. But you do. And you are making it possible for people to do such beautiful things in the world's poorest and most corrupt country! My heart is full when I reflect on what is going on, and I thank you for all your kind help.



Tom Prichard  
Executive Director

info@sudansunrise.org ♦ 10508 James Wren Way, Fairfax, VA 22030-8117 ♦ (202) 499-6984 ♦ [www.sudansunrise.org](http://www.sudansunrise.org)

