As we begin this new year it is a time of reflection on the moments that have helped to shape who we are as a school community and to strengthen us. While we may have had greater plans and expectations for 2016, an everchanging environment called for innovative responses and a deeply rooted Christian faith in order to develop learners, teachers, administrators, parents and department capacity and rise toward success.

Due to the inability to publish a newsletter during the last two quarters of 2016, the current edition is being presented in a photo journal format to accommodate the amount of news we want to share with you.

Three significant 2016 education moments are the election of a new PCOSS Education Board, permanent office space at the PCOSS headquarters, and the graduation of the Education Director from CORAT/Daystar University in School Management. Congratulations on these milestones.

Partners, thank you, and God’s continued blessings.

From the Editor:

“A what you help a child to love can be more important than what you help him to learn.” African Wisdom

2017 Program
Parents Council/SMC Workshop-Teacher Training-PCOSS Education Board Meetings, Structuring & Strategic Planning-Children’s Trauma Healing & Peace Play Camp-Onsite Pedagogic & Administrative Visits-Teaching Reading Skills-School Construction-Developing Children’s Capacity/Self Esteem

John Jock Gatwech is Ed Coordinator, Gambella

Perhaps Elisabeth Nyabel Gai puts it best when she praises John Jock Gatwech for his “courage and hard work for making it possible for both the adult and our small children to have schools in our churches.” Having “benefited a lot” and “now knowing how to write a letter and my name,” Gai testifies to the rippling effect of his efforts. “The rest of my classmates got employments in organizations for the little knowledge they have got in the church schools.”

Education has been a focus of the PCOSS/S ministry since our friends, the American Presbyterians arrived in the Doleib Hill area of the UNS in 1902 and continues today as The Outreach Foundation and Sudanese American Presbyterian communities.

“A Friend is Someone You Share a Path With.”
African Proverb

(Continued on page 2)
The board members are Rev. John Gatwech Turial (Chair), Mrs. Martha Joshua Kwaci (Deputy), Rev. Elijah Agor Nyani, Mrs. Elizabeth Nyakup Kiir, Elder Peter Yak Pathot and Rev. Andrew Mayan. Rev. John Yor Nyiker (PCOSS General Secretary), Rev. Stephen Nyang (Education Director), and Ms. Leisa Wagstaff (Education Facilitator) complete the nine-member board.

During the second sitting of the board a committee was given the task of developing the department's structure and answering the question: What makes a school PCOSS?

Offer support to the refugee populations in the Gambella area. This includes the 21 primary, preschools and adult learning programs in the Gambella camps. So far, over 3000 learners of all ages and sixty teachers have been positively impacted.

Prior to the civil unrest of 2013, John was serving as a teacher at Good Shepherd NPS and an assistant to the Education Director in Malakal.

“As a PCOSS son in Christ, I really devoted my time to teach the children and ... it has come into my understanding that what I am doing is one of the gifts God has given to me and I shall exercise this gift to do God's work if I have capacity and support to do it,” says John.

Two of his main goals are to tailor the regional education curriculums to suit the educational needs, language, culture, social and economic situation of the learners and to encourage the PCOSS teachers to be committed to the church schools.
Children succeed when schools, parents, the Church and communities work together.

Clockwise: New classrooms for Presbyterian Education Complex of Pochalla (PECP), Yei PCOSS NPS, Jeberona IDP PCOSS NPS & John Doki Area PCOSS NPS.

Left: PCOSS Education Director Rev. Nyang Bang & PCOSS Moderator’s spouse are all smiles at his graduation.

Above & Right: Taking advantage of an opportunity to become skilled teachers and materials such as chalkboards for all Pochalla schools through a mobile teacher & school administrator training course.

Above & Right: School supplies and new uniforms to happy PCOSS learners in Kakuma, Kenya area refugee camps.

Above: Handing Over John Doki Area PCOSS PNS to the Church & community.

PCOSS/S EDUCATION NEWS, sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA) South Sudan Education and Peacebuilding Project (SSEPP), invites your comments, letters to the editor, school and personnel updates and news, stories, articles on education, and advertisements. Pochalla Photos Credit: Elder Othow Okoti.

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