From the Education Department

We are grateful for the Lord’s help as we have sought to do our work this year. There have been many challenges for all of us: teachers, learners, parents, administrators, and partners in education. Our ability to endure and stay the course, however, is testimony to the commitment we have to educating and inspiring anyone wanting to learn — whether young or old.

As we evaluate our work in 2017, let us seek to celebrate some of our achievements as well as identify and strategize ways that we can better serve our school communities in 2018.

We welcome our new school communities and look forward to helping you as well as all PCOSS schools improve the educational ministries you are engaged in. Thank you for all of your efforts — big and small.

If the PCOSS Education Department has not received your yearly report, it is important that you submit it as soon as possible. These reports are vital to our planning process not only for the upcoming academic year but for long-term planning. As a reminder, they should include the school’s general learner, staff and administration statistics, plans of action, successes, challenges, and Parents Council and School Management Board activities.

May God continue to bless you abundantly in the new calendar and academic year. Trust in Him.

“Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.” — Socrates

Developing the Capacity of Children

One of the focuses of the education department is increasing children’s capacity to think, act and be. Classrooms where children are expected to sit quietly and memorize facts are not spaces for learning but indoctrination. Evidence overwhelming supports that a child’s learning is not his/her ability to recall the teacher word-for-word or pass examinations but to integrate what he/she is learning into real life experiences. Learning must be relatable (Continued on page 2)

Good Shepherd Nursery and Primary School in Bor to Reopen

In 2013 the situation in Bor caused most of its residents to flee. A year later when people began to filter back into the area, the PCOSS was not able to reopen its school. Rather than leaving the property empty and thus risking vandalism and vagrancy, another church group was given permission to utilize it with the understanding that it would not be permanent. When the PCOSS felt that its membership and a significant number of its school population had returned to the area in 2016 and wanted to again carry out ministry on their property, the occupants did not vacate as requested. To resolve the issue, the PCOSS General Assembly commissioned its education director and Northwest Jonglei Presbytery Moderator Rev. Michael Kat to travel to Bor to

“No, the Lord has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God.” — Good News Translation
The best teachers are those who show you where to look but don’t tell you what to see.
Alexandra K. Trefor

facilitate the process. Because of their visit, the school and church compounds were restored to the PCOSS with the cooperation of the current occupants and government officials.
The PCOSS community in Bor feels that its school-age population needs schooling and there are dedicated teachers willing to teach. The pastor-in-charge is also a teacher and the infrastructure is still intact. We look forward to the reopening of the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Nursery and Primary School, Bor in 2018 with the full support of learners, parents, community leaders, government officials, and other stakeholders.
Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.
Albert Einstein

Above: A New Classroom for a New Academic Year at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Nursery and Primary School, South Nyakuron. Left and Below: PCOSS Scholarship Student Teachers Making Use of Their Time Away From Studies at YTTC. They Were Observed During the Education Department’s Visits to Schools.

Left and Below: Reading Education for Teachers. Schools Received Books to Encourage Reading for Fun.