



# PCOSS/S EDUCATION NEWS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH SUDAN/  
SUDAN (PCOSS/S) EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Fourth Quarter 2017  
Volume 3, Issue 3

## 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.

*"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

*"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 overwhelmingly 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)



Scene from the Developing Children's Capacity Training

## 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



Northwest Jonglei Presbytery Moderator and PCOSS Education Director on a Mission in Bor

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1: *Developing the Capacity of Children*)

for them so that they can make it relevant to their lives. In other words, they must “own” the information with a resultant change in understanding, attitude and behavior. Training in developing children’s capacity was carried out over a three-day period in December. Activities geared toward young people’s self-esteem, conflict resolution and decision-making skills, accepting self and others, relationships, and gender equality were experienced by the eight PCOSS teachers and two YTTC student teachers present. Analysis and reflection followed each activity. The second phase of the training will be facilitated in 2018 after which a pilot afternoon club program focusing on the above areas will be implemented in two PCOSS schools.

**The best teachers are those who show you where to look but don’t tell you what to see.**  
Alexandra K. Trefor

(Continued from page 1: *Good Shepherd NPS, Bor to Reopen*)

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.



Good Shepherd Nursery and Primary School, Bor Built by Our Friends at Trinity Presbytery, USA



Left: Trauma Healing and Peace Camp in POC3: “God Loves Me. I Am Special!” Below: Demonstration Lesson by a Building Children’s Capacity Training Attendee.



Below: Seeking the Way Forward: PCOSS Education Board, Education Department, Headteachers, School Management Committee and Parents Council Joining Minds, Hearts and Hands to Educate for the Future.

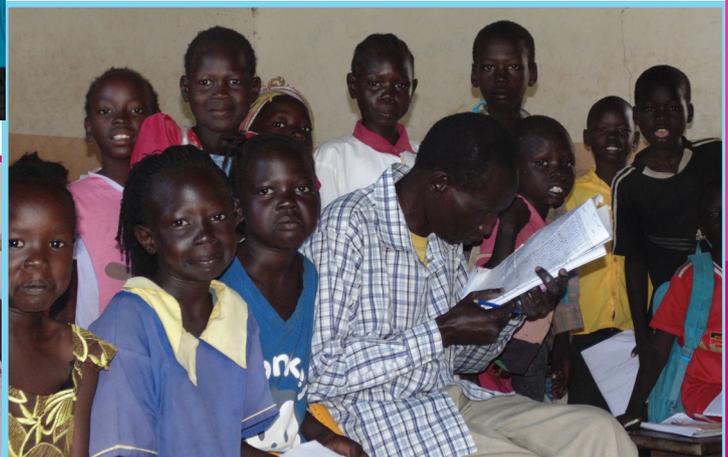


Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

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.



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH SUDAN/SUDAN (PCOSS/S) EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
**Rev. Stephen Nyang Bang, PCOSS/S Education Director**  
**Leisa Wagstaff, PCOSS/S Education Facilitator & Editor**  
 Email: [pcosseducationproject@gmail.com](mailto:pcosseducationproject@gmail.com)  
 Cell: +211 928315129 or 954946653

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

*Photographs courtesy of PCOSS/S Education Department*