



PCOSS/S EDUCATION NEWS

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

First Edition
2018

From the Education Department

We can never forget to thank you - the teachers, parents, school administrators, and pupils - for your hard work since the beginning of this academic year. You have held steadfast considering the abounding challenges you are faced with on a daily basis in the classroom, your family, the church and the wider community. As true champions of education, you are congratulated and thanked for work well done.

In April, we were blessed by the visit of Reverend Nancy Smith-Mather, PCUSA SSEPP Project Manager. Alongside the Education Facilitator and PCOSS General Secretary Reverend John Yor, Reverend Nancy was able to spend time with the teachers, parents, administrators, church leaders, and pupils of Mangateen Presbyterian Primary School, discuss the mobile teacher training program in Pochalla and Pibor with PCOSS and PCUSA's global partner Across, and engage in discussions on future SSEPP support of PCOSS schools.

"You hold your pen!"

Rev. Paska Aciya Nimiriano, PCOSS WWD Deputy Secretary encouraging learners of all ages and at all levels of education to continue their studies during a celebration of Konyokonyo IDP PCOSS and community learners and parents who successfully wrote their 2017 exams.



Above: Reverend John Yor Nyiker (left), PCOSS General Secretary Confers With the Mangateen Presbyterian Primary School and Church Community (Photo Courtesy of Nancy Smith-Mather)
Left: Reverend Nancy Smith-Mather Visits a PCOSS School

The Stakeholders in Developing PCOSS Education

by Reverend John Yor Nyiker

Three groups within the PCOSS community are responsible for the development of its schools and the education of children. As such, their responsibility must be taken seriously because it is within these schools and their environs that we are grooming the future leaders of the nation; children who will one day be the doctors, pastors, farmers, teachers, engineers, mothers, fathers, government officers, and good citizens a society depends upon for its survival. Even if "under trees," teaching and learning must go on with the stakeholders of education putting forth their greatest

efforts possible towards the highest level of success.

While it is true that education is a hard work and we are now in a difficult situation, there is much that we can still do to lighten the load. We cannot just simply say that the parents are not contributing toward school development because, as we well know, many are displaced, homeless and/or suffering for their daily meals. When in their villages, parents had a lot of resources (chickens, goats, cows, fish, milk, maize, etc.) with which to sell to pay school fees or to offer teachers for their services. But now all these things are not there.

What can parents do? As the first



In this edition of the *PCOSS Education News* we are proud to share voices from several members of the Presbyterian Church family. We encourage our school communities to continue submitting updates so that we may share them with all other PCOSS schools, stakeholders and well-wishers.

May you continue to go forth in your mission of educating South Sudan.

"Parents, teachers and headteachers, and hosting congregations, by joining and working together we can bring a good development of PCOSS schools and, thus, better learning & greater competency."

Reverend John Yor Nyiker

Presbyterian Education Complex of Pochalla (PECP): A Motto of Lifelong Learning, Servanthood and Discipleship

by Omot Mam Ochalla

The dreams and desires of the community gave rise to the name of the Presbyterian school located in Pochalla. Wanting an institution that would go beyond developing the mind to vibrantly serving the community in multifaceted

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group of educational stakeholders, parents can enroll and encourage their children in their studies, pay as much of the school fee in cash or in-kind as they possibly can, and help to promote and develop a friendly atmosphere that is welcoming to all. Being active in the Parents Council will ensure proper school supervision, the supply of classroom needs, a clean and safe school environment, and an attractive school for children. Parents are very important because they are the ones who have children in schools.

Too often the responsibility for the failure of a school is attributed to the teachers and headteachers. Poor teaching and administrative skills and lack of dedication do contribute greatly but we must also look at the degree of sacrifice they are making for the welfare of the children. In most cases, these school personnel who are with the children most of the day are doing the best that they can with what they are given to work with. They are offering themselves voluntarily to teach their younger brothers and sisters and we thank them sincerely.

We encourage them to teach and manage with gentleness and an understanding that these children have undergone a lot of trauma. As the face or representative of the school and the love of God, they must make the school environment one that welcomes children and not chase them away.

The third group which needs to be involved in school management and contribute toward every area in the improvement of the school is the hosting congregation. The pastor-in-charge, elders, and development committee are to be involved because most of the children are children of the congregational members. Members within the congregation are resources that can help connect the school with other local donor organizations and resources. If you stop from this work of school construction and maintenance, supervision, and general overall support to wait for others to do, these children will be street children.

Parents, teachers and headteachers, and hosting congregations, by joining and working together we can bring a good development of PCOSS schools and, thus, better learning and greater competency. We need to use the opportunity we have while these children are still young for we do not know what will happen, only God knows.

On behalf of the PCOSS General Assembly, I encourage you to continue this work of sacrifice; God will reward you more.

“To change your life, it needs a lot of work.”

Honourable Omot Okong, Ministry of Education

(Continued from page 1: *Presbyterian Education Complex of Pochalla (PECP)*)

ways, the Presbyterian Education Complex of Pochalla (PECP) was realized in 2016. Like all schools, political and socio-economic realities have challenged it, but the PECP continues to live out its values of *Christ-centeredness, inclusiveness, hard work, global responsibility, and critical and creative thinking.*



For the communities within Pochalla, it is more than just a school. It is a center for change and empowerment of all people. From its humble beginning of only five teachers and a few pupils, the school has grown to more than 425 and offers full primary classes as well as an adult learning program. It has served as the ACROSS NGO site of the mobile teacher trainings for Pochalla North and South teachers, administrators, and county educational officials and different government and non-governmental peace consultations and community trainings.



Part of the dream is that PECP eventually grows into a high school and university offering the four disciplines of theology, education, medicine, and agriculture.

One reason for the school's continued growth is that the parents notice and acknowledge the success of their children and support the school tangibly and spiritually and motivate the teachers to continue doing the work for the betterment of their children's future. In other words, they are always standing alongside the teachers.

In the school's quest to become self-supporting, a tea and coffee kiosk has been set up, basic catering equipment is available for rental, and a school garden is cultivated.

(Omot Mam Ochalla is a former PECP headteacher, SSEPP scholarship recipient & Student Guild President at YTTC and current King Akway scholar at Gambella University. Photos courtesy of Othow Okoti)

**From Our Experience: Advices on School Management,
Nurturing Positive Esteem in Pupils and
Fostering Good Working Relationships Among Staff**

by George Ochalla Okach, Alimo Olango Cham, Omot Mam Ochalla
and Daniel Omot Nyigwo

“I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide the condition in which they can learn.” Albert Einstein

Transparency and accountability are some of the foundational blocks for the effective development of a school. The proper utilization of the school’s resources (property, finances, equipment, supplies, personnel, etc.) in the right manner will help avoid corruption or suspicion. Having a strong relationship with the local educational authorities, parents, community and school staff will also lead to good school management because these are the actors in the support of the school’s growth and development.

For pupils to have self-esteem, teachers should role model by conducting themselves in a professional way. Dressing smartly and acting in a parental caring way will attract the attention of the pupils to imitate their character and behavior. Motivating them whenever they have done something good and trying to understand why they have done something bad will help teachers make the children view the school as a friendly and safe place and that they can grow up to be good citizens.

Providing counseling instead of always giving punishment when children misbehave will give greater insight into the problems the children may be encountering at school, in the home, or in the community. When this approach is taken, troubled pupils are more likely to listen to advice and be relieved from the stress that would have otherwise led to their dropping out of school, engaging in further bad behavior, or heartening their heart towards others.



Albert Einstein said, “I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide the condition in which they can learn.” Exposing pupils to the new world through drama, acting, games, research, sports, etc. will give them an opportunity to discover and develop their talents as well as make them develop the sense of togetherness and respect for each other. A thirst for more knowledge will be stirred up.

Career guidance is valuable in helping pupils to prepare for their future. As children are guided in the roles they take in the society, teachers should not only concentrate on book learning, but also on life skills and competences such as caring for oneself, respect for the elderly, decision-making and manners. Above all, the spiritual side of bringing the little ones to a love of God is the greatest work that a teacher can do.

To foster good working relationships among the staff, it is important that each person respects the other. Headteachers should not act as bosses but as servants and in a cooperative spirit. Motivating the staff and appreciating their work will also create a stronger bond. When rules and regulations are established together, and the professional code of conduct is adhered to by all, a climate of respect, accountability and understanding will develop. This also means that the delegation of duties and responsibilities to staff is important because it shows that they are a team with each being a key to the overall success of the school. (George Ochalla Okach, Alimo Olango Cham, Omot Mam Ochalla and Daniel Omot Nyigwo, pictured above, are former teachers at PECP, SSEPP scholarship recipients to YTTC and current King Akway scholars at Gambella University. Photo courtesy of Othow Okoti)

Below: Scenes from the Outreach Foundation’s Trauma Healing Facilitators Training & Healing Hearts Children’s Camp in Gambella. Trainers Included Dr. Frank Dimmock, Africa Mission Specialist, Outreach Foundation; Evangelist Hany Bareh & Christina Magdy, Synod of the Nile, Egypt; Mr. Thaddeus Gichana, Bible Society’s East Africa Trauma Healing Coordinator; Rev. Michael Weller, PC(USA); and P/T JJ Gatwech, PCOSS Education Coordinator, Gambella Refugee Camps. (Photos courtesy of JJ Gatwech)

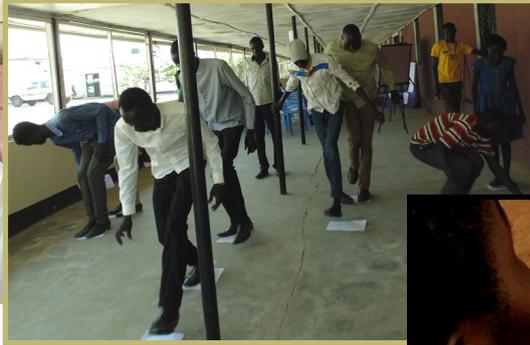




"Parents are the hope of the nation but children are its future."
 Enoch Ongwara,
 Head of Programs, Across



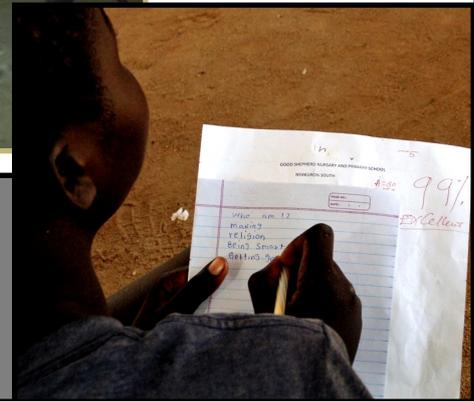
Above Left & Above Right: Joint Administrative Training for Headteachers, School Management, Parents Council, Teachers, Church Leaders & Youth Representatives of Kasire 2 & Mangateen Presbyterian Schools. The PCOSS General Secretary Stops In to Welcome Participants. Far Right: After Parents Council Training, the South Nyakuron School Parents Built Classrooms.



Far Left & Left: Training Teachers for Children's Capacity Building, Phase 2.



Right: A PCOSS Pupil: Excelling in Academics, Life Skills, Competency, Citizenship & Faith.



Above Left, Left & Above: PCOSS Accountant, Mr. John Machungo Abraham, Inspects Constructed School Desks Before Their Delivery. School Communities Celebrate the Arrival of "Brand Spanking New" Desks, Chairs, Tables and Basic Teaching-Learning Materials.

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