PCOSS Education News

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH SUDAN (PCOSS) EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

From the Director’s Desk

We welcome Leisa back with us after her double ankle fracture. She is again mobile and hard at work, thanks be to God. We also welcome PC(USA) Co-Workers Lynn and Sharon Kandel to PCOSS. They will assist in logistics and construction.

Our work in education is challenged by the continuing conflicts and the devaluation of the SSP. We know, however, that God’s grace is sufficient and somehow we will make it. We encourage our pupils, students and parents to never give up and teachers and administrators to go ahead in your work and to follow the syllabus. Do everything within your power to provide education even without incentives until the situation stabilizes. Despite your lack of chalk, textbooks and so on, we are impressed by your efforts witnessed during our school visits. Thank you.

This has been a time of continuous assessment, planning activities for the year, and submitting proposals. We believe that this academic year will be very fruitful.

In this edition of PCOSS Education News we offer information that may help you in your work as well as highlight some of the recent activities of the PCOSS education family through articles and photos.

Teacher Training Workshops

Education is a long-term investment that needs consistency in order to achieve its overall goal. Two trainings during the latter part of 2015 for teachers and school administrators in Juba and Khartoum, Sudan built upon the previous workshops held in Juba and Gambella, Ethiopia. Each is helping to direct the Education Department in its program of activities for 2016 and beyond.

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Behavior Management

It is important to remember that students’ behavior is influenced by the school climate, values, policies, practices and relationships. These values on their own cannot create the environment that makes it possible for students to learn and behave well. A balanced set of values will help young people become good citizens and make positive contributions to the needs of the society.

Some important school values are self-discipline.

PCOSS Education’s Mission

The PCOSS Education Department is a recognized department of the General Assembly. The department seeks to live out its work as set forth by the Church, namely, thus;

a. To give a true testimony of Jesus Christ through both deeds and words.

b. To participate in the work of the Church.

c. To obey the laws of the Church and to submit to its discipline.

d. To contribute to the sustenance of the work of the Church.

“We desire to bequest two things to our children—the first one is roots; the other one is wings.”

African Wisdom

Khartoum Teacher Training Participants

A Vision Beyond the Classroom: Teachers in Training

Eight teachers are winding up their final year of studies at the Yei Teacher Training College (Y.T.T.C.) and preparing to return to PCOSS schools to share what they have learned with learners, colleagues, parents and school administrators. During their time at the college, they have excelled in studies, one of whom has consistently placed among the top ten students.

The group was not content with just taking knowledge from their classmates and teachers but wanted to share their love for education and idea of good leadership. Omot Mam Ochalla (shown in the inset) became president of the Student Guild which provides an opportunity for Y.T.T.C. students to engage in “community service projects, learn the principles of democracy, and develop leadership and management skills.” Other PCOSS students elected to the Student Guild are Daniel Omot, Minister for Internal Affairs; Micheal Kenyi, Member of Parliament; Samuel Amala, Deputy Governor, and Alimo Olango Cham as a class coordinator.

In his inaugural speech, Omot Mam called upon his colleagues to work in “grooming strong leaders who will be acquainted with the knowledge of democracy and uplift South Sudan.” As professional teachers he urges all to fight tribalism, corruption and illiteracy.

“The brighter future of this country is lying in our hands - the youths as well as the professional teachers.”

The students have been featured in several PC(USA) publications.

Tracking School Funds

It does not have to be hard or confusing keeping track of school funds. You do need, however, a system in place. The following tips will help your records to be accurate and transparent.

- Know the account’s starting balance.
- Write down every amount you spend and what you have spent it on.
- At the end of each day, record your spending in a ledger.
- Always get receipts (which may mean

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May 2016 Events
-PTA/SMC Workshop
-Teacher Training
-PCOSS Education Board Meeting & Training
-Onsite Pedagogic Visits

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PCOSS EDUCATION NEWS invites your comments, letters to the editor, school and personnel updates and news, stories, articles on education, and advertisements.

Clarifying roles & responsibilities enable stakeholders to be held accountable for aspects of the school’s work for which they are responsible.

Above: In support of education, the Akatgol PCOSS elders and NPS school personnel and pupils attend a meeting with the PCOSS Education Department.

Below: A testimony to the collaboration of the Akatgol community, PCOSS Education Department and PC(USA) SSEPP.

Above: Meah Sabbah PCOSS NPS school community working in harmony with PC(USA) Presbyterian Women to bring water to the school.

Below: A parent shares his views on the future of Meah Sabbah PCOSS NPS with the DE and EF.

“A child is a child of everyone.”

Below: It is a community affair as many pitch in to carry sand for the PC(USA) SSEPP sponsored PECP, Pochalla school construction.

Above: Pupils, teachers, School Management Committee and parents welcome the ED and EF on their maiden visit to Good Shepherd PCOSS NPS South Nyakuron.

Above Left: Headteacher and teachers at Good Shepherd PCOSS NPS at POC 3, Jebel during an onsite pedagogic and administrative visit.

Below Left: The back view of the newly-constructed classroom block at Yei PCOSS NPS funded by Mission 21. Concerned for the safety and whereabouts of pupils during the day and the security of the compound after school hours, the School Construction Committee also built a bamboo fence.

Below Right: The importance of education - one of the adult literacy classes at Jeberona PCOSS NPS.

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Tracking School Funds
-When needed, have someone go over your numbers with you. When you really cannot figure something out do not hesitate to ask for help.
-If school financial records are well kept, there will be no stress or fear when financial reports are due or facing an audit. (Sharon Kandel)

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Behavior Management
-Clarifying roles & responsibilities enable stakeholders to be held accountable for aspects of the school’s work for which they are responsible.

-Effective classroom management, creating child friendly learning environments and the importance of teaching Christian Religious Education. Issues such as child to teacher ratio and empowerment of the girl child learner were grappled with.

-It is hoped that all PCOSS education stakeholders in attendance were encouraged and equipped in their mission of preparing our children for engagement in the world.

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Teacher Training Workshops

Help, self-responsibility for its people, democracy in leadership, equality, solidarity, openness, honesty, and social responsibility.

-To have values in school is to have guidelines which govern the school’s growth academically, financially, economically and morally. The bad thinking and wrong behavior should go away when people are following good values and the code of conduct within the school. (Rev. Stephen Nyang)

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Helping Meah Sabbah PCOSS NPS parents promote values in their home and in the community.

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