



Rev. Joseph and Mrs Karin Ayok-Loewenberg

Stanley House | The Street
Charmouth | Dorset DT6 6PN | United Kingdom

Tel: 0044 (0) 7731 670 928

Mail: ayokloewenberg@fastmail.fm

Web: www.undertreeschools.org

April 2018

A registered charity no 1117679 A registered limited company no 5969781
Registered office: 11 Foinavon Close, Rowley Regis, West Midlands B65 8QB

Dear Friends

We are getting ready for the new academic year starting this month, our **school is starting in its 10th year!** We are looking forward to this new year and look back with gratitude at what has been possible to achieve in a challenging situation.

We happily brag that our end of year results are nationally again in the top. This is thanks to an incredibly dedicated team of teachers and pupils. Staff salaries from the government are erratic or at times non-existent. **Thanks to your help** we are able to give a regular monthly incentive. This reduces the time teachers work outside the school.

The girls are encouraged by their families to attend school. The majority of girls walk several miles daily. Supplying the girls with a hearty meal gives them not only the stamina to study and walk far, but also shares the families' burden of providing food for some of their children.



We continue to provide a **nursery** and welcome boys as well. Once the boys reach school age, they go to other local boys schools. The swing which was built by the school team together with some of our visiting supporters is still in full swing!



Sport continues to play a strong part in school life, also once the lessons are over. Again we welcome boys and girls in the teams, not only from our school. Spot the young woman in the boys team!



The school has a big herd of cows to give us milk, meat and also to generate income. In the last months we had 11 calves. In Dinka culture cows are a lot more special than just a commodity, and the community in Malek holds our school in great esteem to place this value on investing and looking after cattle alongside school life. We have built them a formidable shed where they are kept safe at night from other preying animals.



The first cohort of the secondary school girls we paid bursaries for have now finished their four years. We are proud that two have gone on to nursing courses and one to a teacher training course. The others would have wished to do the same, but the courses are in Juba or Wau, and it is only safe to go there if the girls have family with whom they can live and be protected. Boarding schools are not sufficiently well supervised. The seven remaining girls are doing IT and sewing classes at our school in the afternoons. We are hoping to get them sewing machines in the near future to setup a cooperative in the local market. We continue to support 35 girls in secondary school bursaries.



In our last letter we wrote that we will be having a **big Christmas celebration** and meal for the pupils, school team and wider community. Many of you provided extra funds for that – **THANK YOU!**

This brought people together and resulted in the wider community seeing the important work of our school. Many decided to roll up their sleeves to help us make bricks for a fence around our large school compound. Building material is incredibly expensive, more than in the UK (yes!), so self made bricks are a cheap alternative. We will provide food for the people helping while they give their time for free.

Thank you for all your efforts and rolling up of sleeves to keep our school going! We value your prayerful and practical support.

We thank God that in the political instability our area has remained so far safe enough to be able to keep the school open. We continue to pray for a peaceful resolution to the on-going conflict, the hardship and unrest has displaced so many.

May we all be strengthened and renewed in the Hope of Easter.

With our warm wishes,

Joseph and Karin Ayok-Loewenberg