



*Photograph by Margie Nea*

# HOPE FOR HUMANITY, INC.

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

*Equipping girls and boys for leadership through quality education with a Christian foundation*



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*Photograph by Margie Nea*

## Hope and Resurrection Secondary School Atiaba, South Sudan

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Partners,

In 2004, a group of Christians in the Richmond, Virginia area felt compelled to expand their response to the impoverished circumstances in southern Sudan due to the destructions of war. After collaborations with The Episcopal Diocese of VA, The Episcopal Missionary Society, many local congregations in VA and CA, and many southern Sudanese people living in Sudan and in the United States as refugees, the founders of Hope for Humanity, Inc. decided that education was the best way they could help people move themselves from poverty to helping with the rebuilding and development of their country. The mission to equip leaders through education began through friendships and the love of Christ.

We have grown from fundraising for scholarships awarded to southern Sudanese "Lost Boys" to building and operating Hope and Resurrection Secondary School in Atiaba, South Sudan. In 2017, we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> year of offering education at Hope and Resurrection Secondary School. At an event in Richmond to celebrate this milestone, one of the school's founding builders and missionary teacher, Mary Higbee said:

The motto of Hope and Resurrection Secondary is from Matthew 19:26 "With God all things are possible." In the school's first year of operation the motto proved to be true and has remained true even in the face of violence and civil unrest of the last few years. To date nothing, even warring governmental factions, has stopped the education of students.

Each school day at Hope and Resurrection begins with student-led devotions. Their devotions end with singing, and one of their favorite hymns is "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." The chorus ends with the phrase "no turning back, no turning back." For Hope for Humanity, Inc., there is no turning back which will involve some challenges ahead such as building more classrooms and enlarging the teachers living quarters.

The dream of a secondary school in rural South Sudan is a reality and more dynamic and important than any of us in this room ever imagined ten years ago.

*For partners in the mission of Hope for Humanity there is "no turning back." We continue to grow through friendships and faith to act courageously in the world for the transformation that God makes possible.*

### LOOKING AHEAD

Hope for Humanity, Inc. has reached its 2015-2017 goals to expand the operations and administration with a professional working board and to hire a professional Executive Director in order to prepare for expansion of its mission in South Sudan. In 2018, the Hope for Humanity, Inc. team will begin implementing the following:

- Expand the number of students being served,
- Transition to South Sudanese teachers and leadership while also emphasizing more females to fill these roles,
- Improving school campus' facilities with solar and internet capabilities.

For our Hope for Humanity, Inc., friendships and all God's blessings we give thanks.



With kindest regards,

*Suzanne*

Suzanne M. Hicks, M.Div.



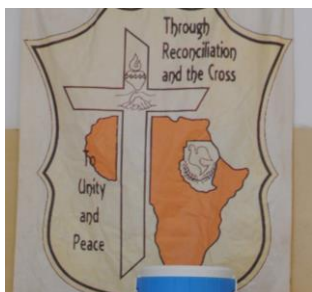
# FLOURISHING TOGETHER

WHO WE ARE: Board members with a wide variety of professional experiences, University-trained teachers, Students, Graduates, Field Partners from Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan, Missionaries, Foundations, Parents, Leaders, Churches, Founders, Donors, Director, Families, Ministers of South Sudan in areas of education, agricultural, and communications.





# FLOURISHING TOGETHER



## MAKING AN IMPACT

### HOPE AND RESURRECTION SECONDARY SCHOOL

#### QUALITY EDUCATION

- Equipping South Sudan's girls and boys for leadership through quality education with a Christian foundation.

#### GENDER EQUITY

- Co-education helps to shape gender equity in South Sudan's future leaders.

#### PEACE AND JUSTICE

- South Sudanese and their friends inside and outside the country must work together for peace and stability.

Hope for Humanity, Inc. (HFH) is committed to the idea that education is the best way we can help the South Sudanese develop their nation. Its commitment is manifest in Hope and Resurrection Secondary School (HRSS) in Atiaba, South Sudan. Conceived in 2004 and built in 2007, the school has been providing secondary education for 10 years.

The school, a ten classroom, two-building structure, opened in May 2008, with a freshman class of 64 ninth grade students (four girls and 60 boys). Now in 2017, our 10th year of operation, our student body has grown to 300 students (110 of whom are female). The school has successfully graduated seven classes.

The school's academic year runs from March until December with a three week break in August. The school's permanent structure allows classes to continue through the rainy season. Textbooks and school supplies are provided for each student and classes are led by university-trained teachers from Uganda. Students are empowered to become leaders in their communities.

## MAKING AN IMPACT

### Leadership

To equip students for leadership through education takes many types of lessons. Our students are engaged in a rigorous high school academic program that includes a full curriculum in subjects such as math, chemistry, English composition, history, geography, agriculture, business, and religious studies, but they are taught to become leaders by leading. It is the culture of our school that the day-to-day running of the school includes student participation.

Every year students are allowed to exercise their democratic rights by electing their own leaders. These student leaders are meant to be a bridge between the students and the school administration.

A ceremony of swearing in and official hand over is done each year. New student leaders are ceremoniously handed their duties by their predecessors. It is a motivational time in the life of a student and mentoring them into future leaders.



### Gender Equity

In addition to providing strong academics, we are committed to teaching gender equality and peace reconciliation. Educating girls in a co-ed environment that promotes gender equality is convincing young South Sudanese women of their created value and teaching young South Sudanese men that girls are their



## MAKING AN IMPACT

equals as they compete with them in the classroom. These changes are helping to end the practice of child marriage.



Pictured above, this young girl was presenting an argument in a debate held at the school in 2017, that when a groom's family pays a lower dowry price to his bride's family it is better than if the groom's family had paid a higher dowry price. The main reason that she would argue this is because she has seen that most marriages with a lower dowry price make for healthier and happier relationships between husbands and wives and between the families of both.

When a small dowry is given it is usually done, as it was intended, as a gesture of respect and not for competitive purposes. When a high dowry is paid it is often done for social status or business deals. When it becomes known in a community that a girl of 14 or 15 from a family of status will be married soon, many men will come to her father offering many cattle for her. This competition will result in a large dowry price. The groom and his family have only offered this large price because of the status the bride will bring to them. The dowry is no longer being given as a gift of respect to the bride and her family. The girl bride will be reminded by her husband how much he paid for her, and his view of her will be as his property throughout their marriage (providing it even lasts).



## MAKING AN IMPACT

The practice of arranged marriages and marriages that require a dowry be given to the bride's family is something many cultures have practiced throughout time. There are still many cultures that practice arranged marriage, providing dowries, and early marriage (child marriage). South Sudan is one of those cultures. South Sudan ranks 6th in the top 10 countries with the highest child-marriage rates according to the 2015 UNICEF report, "State of the World's Children." This is why one of the founding principles at Hope and Resurrection Secondary School (HRSS) was to emphasize the importance of educating girls and to provide a safe place to accomplish the delay of marriage, with the ultimate objective of eventually ending this practice.

The current famine that was declared in 2017 in South Sudan has only exacerbated the problem of fathers giving their daughters in early marriage for the dowries they will bring. Due to the poverty and starvation that is rampant throughout this country, girls are being given in marriage at a much younger age. It has been reported to me by South Sudanese women that girls are being given in marriage after their first menstruation. In order for fathers to be able to make better decisions for their daughters, they need to be informed. Education makes a difference for these girls and their families. For more information:

- South Sudanese Girls and Education:  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/inpictures/2016/09/educating-girls-south-sudan-160927081830159.html>
- An article LA Times: <http://www.latimes.com/world/africa/la-fg-south-sudan-child-marriage-snap-story.html>
- For more information about humanitarian concerns:  
<http://www.hopeforhumanityinc.org/South-Sudan>

Our female students live safely on campus in a dormitory built in 2013, and they perform academically as well as the male students. Gender equality is critical to developing a nation.

## MAKING AN IMPACT

### Peace and Justice

As part of the academic preparation for our students' success, our teachers are also preparing students to become leaders and advocates for peace and reconciliation in South Sudan. Students are provided a safe space to share their grief and concerns about conflict. They voice their experiences through a variety of writing forms such as poetry and speeches. They are taught the art of debate as a peaceful means to discuss and then collaborate on resolutions. These reconciliation experiences inspire students to become advocates and trainers promoting peace in their community and country.

### Peace and Justice Program Expands in 2017

In 2017, Hope and Resurrection Secondary School (HRSS) expanded the peace messaging project by continuing its partnership with USAID through the local NGO, VISTAS, which is based in Rumbek, South Sudan. The goal is to continue passing on messages of peace and coexistence. In 2016 this program was implemented at HRSS as the host site for several high schools in the area. In 2017 we have extended our peace project message and training to five primary schools in the area: Atiaba Primary School, Living Water Primary School, Abundant Life Primary School, Mathiangic Primary School, and Atiaba Integrated Youth Peace Club.

The topics covered were revenge killing versus compensation; and female child marriage practices for dowries. The peace project training helps teach a community how it can restructure its practices to reduce violence and allow peaceful coexistence.





## MAKING AN IMPACT

In addition to providing a quality learning environment, we also provide a daily nutritious lunch of rice and beans so that our students are well-equipped to learn and perform. This is likely to be many students only meal for the day. (Currently, as many as 7.5 million people, nearly two in every three people in South Sudan are food insecure, according to the UN Humanitarian Overview in 2016.)

With a hot meal, textbooks, permanent structures, and trained teachers, our students are provided a safe and focused learning environment. Our partners' support provides an exceptional and unique education for the youth of this region.

Hope and Resurrection Secondary School fulfills three of the Millennium Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2000:

1. Universal Education
2. Gender Equality
3. Ending Poverty and Hunger



## MAKING AN IMPACT

MEASURABLE PROGRESS DEMONSTRATED BY STUDENTS

PRISCILLA AMAT GABRIEL, 2012 GRADUATE OF HOPE AND RESURRECTION SCHOOL.

Priscilla graduated in 2012, at Hope and Resurrection School. She is currently a student at Catholic University of South Sudan in Wau (CHTI), studying in the department of agricultural science. This is her final year of education in a rigorous five-year program; she will graduate in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science Degree (Honors) in agriculture sciences. “The primary objective of the CHTI Faculty is to provide a rigorous training in the agricultural science so that graduates have the needed skills to address the needs and aspirations of urban and rural communities and to meet the national needs for agricultural scientists and policy makers. A graduate of the faculty of Agriculture Sciences studies therefore, enjoys broadly-based multi-disciplinary education and training which make him or her capable of approaching development and management of natural resources.”

To learn more: <http://www.cuofss.org/facultyofagriculturalsciencecu.php#.php>

Her success has been made possible by her courage, and perseverance against many adversaries; the friends of Hope for Humanity, Inc who send resources necessary to equip the future leaders of South Sudan; and her parents and other family members who stand by the decision to support delaying marriage.



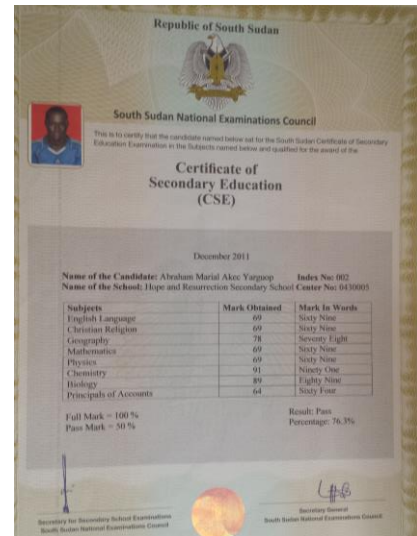
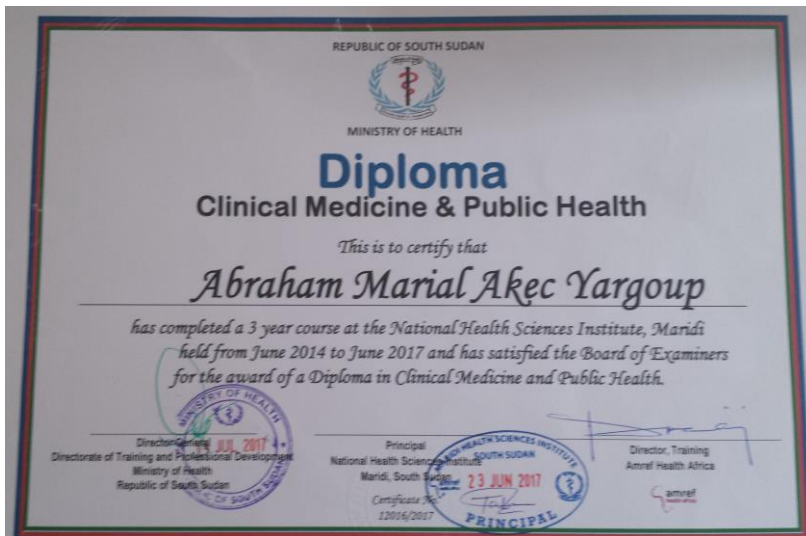


# MAKING AN IMPACT

MEASURABLE PROGRESS DEMONSTRATED BY STUDENTS

MEET ABRAHAM MARIAL AKEC, 2011 GRADUATE OF HOPE AND RESURRECTION SCHOOL.

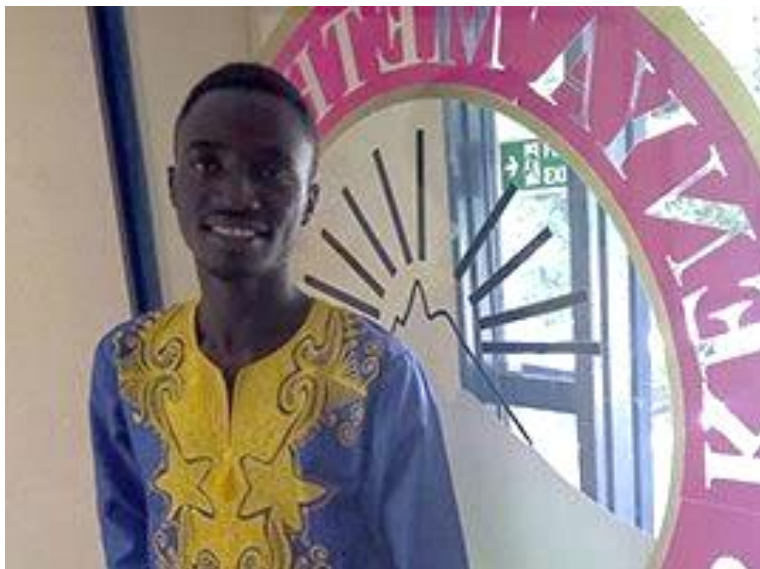
Abraham graduated in 2011, at Hope and Resurrection School at the top of his class. He performed well on his national exams, and then continued his education at Maridi Health Sciences Institute while working to pay for his continuing education. After completing his medical training, he began working at the state hospital in Rumbek, South Sudan in 2017. Abraham is a lab technician and phlebotomist and hopes to continue studying to become a medical doctor specializing in obstetrics and gynecology because he is passionate about the health of women and children in his country.



## MAKING AN IMPACT

Hope and Resurrection school has 186 nationally recognized graduates.

Alumni are training to become, and many have already become doctors, nurses, teachers, government officials, ministers, business administrators, peace advocates in NGO's and other strong leaders in South Sudan.





## CONTACT INFORMATION

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