



*Photograph by Margie Nea*

# HOPE FOR HUMANITY, INC.

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Contents

Executive Director's Letter	1
Flourishing together	6
Making an Impact	9
Contact Information	18
Company Information	18
Appendix	20



*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 destruction of war. After collaboration with The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, The Episcopal Missionary Society, many local congregations in Virginia and California, 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 the people in southern Sudan move from poverty and help 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 the southern Sudanese "Lost Boys" to building and operating Hope and Resurrection Secondary School (HRSS) in Atiaba, South Sudan. In 2018, the eleventh year of offering education at Hope and Resurrection Secondary School, we continue to see the transformation being made through the education of each student. The reality of what has been made possible through this work is more profound than anyone could ever imagine when it began.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Hope for Humanity, Inc. reached its 2015 organizational goals to transition and expand its operations and administration by increasing its professional working board and by hiring a professional Executive Director in order to prepare for expansion of its mission in South Sudan. Beginning in 2018, working from the Hope for Humanity, Inc. 2016 organizational expansion goals, the Board and Executive Director began to implement the following:

- Expand the number of students being served,
- Transition to South Sudanese leadership and teachers as we increase our teaching staff with an emphasis on gender equality in hiring,
- Improve the school campus' facilities with solar and internet capabilities.

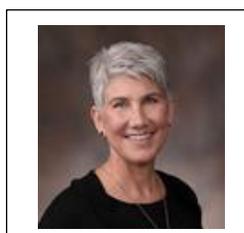
At the end of 2018 year, we successfully met each goal and the following was accomplished:

- Over 300 students were enrolled,
- Three South Sudanese professionals were added to the teaching and administrative staff, two of whom were female,
- Additional solar power units and the internet were installed in the Administrator and Principal's office.

In 2019, we have set plans to continue our growth and hope to implement the following over the next few years:

- Expand the number of students being served to 325,
- Improve the facilities of the school campus by building additional administrative offices, a storage facility, a library, and a guest house for visitors.

*For our Hope for Humanity, Inc. friendships and all God's blessings we give thanks as we continue to grow through friendships and faith to act courageously in the world for the transformation that God makes possible.*



With kindest regards,

*Suzanne*

Suzanne M. Hicks, M.Div.  
Executive Director

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

## VISITING HOPE AND RESURRECTION SECONDARY SCHOOL (HRSS)

With great excitement and anticipation, James Wright, Hope for Humanity (HFH) volunteer, and Executive Director, Suzanne M. Hicks arrived at Hope and Resurrection Secondary School in Atiaba, South Sudan, on October 26, 2018. The goals for this trip:

- Installing an internet connection at the school. Thanks to the generous donations from the Western Henrico Rotary Club, SoloGrid, Inc., and Patient First, James Wright, whose job at home with Patient First is working as a network professional, worked closely with in-country technicians from RCS Communications and Thon Bec, a HRSS teacher who is the school's designated trouble-shooter on-site, installed satellite internet at HRSS.
- Meeting with our partner, The Catholic Diocese of Rumbek (DOR); the HRSS teachers and administrators; and Maker Mabor to collaborate on needs at the school as we continue the good work being accomplished by the Hope for Humanity mission.
- Holding discussions with parents and students to learn about their hopes and dreams for education in Atiaba, South Sudan in order to best meet the needs of the Atiaba community and South Sudan.
- Participating in the joyous celebrations of the 2018 Commencement Exercises for the Hope and Resurrection eighth graduating class.



Pictured Above: Executive Director Suzanne M. Hicks and Board Director James Wright travel to HRSS on UN helicopter flight from Juba, South Sudan carrying all the equipment necessary to install the internet.



Pictured Above: Arriving at HRSS, James Wright, the RCS technician, and Thon Bec get to work installing the internet. Executive Director, Suzanne Hicks; and HRSS Administrator, Awut Agok, help by asking, "Is it working?"

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



**Pictured Above:** PTA Meeting led by HRSS Principal, Anthony Wal, and Administrator, Awut Mayom Agok. Parents share their desire for education to expand and HRSS to allow more qualified youth to attend secondary school during the discussions.

**Pictured Below:** Executive Director, Suzanne Hicks; Board Advisor, Maker Mabor; and Board Director, James Wright speak and meet with the Atiaba community, Atiaba leaders, HRSS students, and HRSS teachers to collaborate on the educational needs in Atiaba, South Sudan.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



**Pictured Above:**  
Left: James Wright teaches Thon Bec and Awut Agok the basics of trouble-shooting on the internet.  
Right: Thon Bec, Awut Agok, and Suzanne Hicks discuss peaceful reconciliation with HRSS students.

**Pictured Below: Hope and Resurrection Secondary School 2018 Commencement Celebration**



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER



# FLOURISHING TOGETHER

WHO WE ARE: Board members with a wide variety of professional experiences; University-trained teachers from South Sudan and Uganda; Students; Graduates; Field Partners from Kenya and South Sudan; Missionaries; Parents; Leaders; Churches; Founders; Donors; Executive Director; Families; and South Sudan Ministers of Education.



**Pictured above - left: Hope and Resurrection Secondary School Teachers**

**Pictured above - right: James Wright, Network Architect and Board Director, with HRSS students**



**Pictured above - left: HFH Board Members with Founders at 10<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration**

**Pictured above - right: HRSS Administrator, Minister of Education, HFH Executive Director**



**Pictured above – left: Nancy, HFH Partner and Book keeper for Catholic Diocese of Rumbek with Awut, HRSS Administrator**

**Pictured above - right: HFH Executive Director with Atiaba Chief and local leaders**

## FLOURISHING TOGETHER

Dear HFH Friends and Partners,

A relay race is won or lost in the passing of the baton, and the passing of the baton is an excellent metaphor for the last fifteen years of Hope and Resurrection Secondary's evolution. The group headed by Jennifer and Darryl Ernst ran the first leg of the race by raising money and overseeing the construction of the school buildings. The baton was then passed to Jim and Mary Higbee who opened the school to its first freshman or Form 1 class. Jim and Mary handed the baton to two African educators, Anthony and Cleous, who co-administered the school with the members of the Board of Hope for Humanity. The staff grew with dedicated teachers from Uganda in response to the increased student population. Prepared and ready, two South Sudanese teachers joined the staff in 2017. For the last fifteen years, donors' interest and donations have made the funding of the school possible. Not once, even in the face of challenges, has the baton been dropped or fumbled.

The dream of a Hope and Resurrection Secondary is a reality and more dynamic and important than was ever imagined when the school was first envisioned. Many people contribute their wisdom, talents, and passion for education, and donate and raise funds that support the school's operation. Playing a role in the school's success is like being on a race team, and as we pass the baton from person to person, we each become a weaver of dreams and sustainer of an extraordinary opportunity for young people on the other side of the world.

**Hebrews 12:1 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..."**

Blessings,

*Jim and Mary Higbee*

Episcopal Volunteer Missionaries



# FLOURISHING TOGETHER



Pictured above - left: Founders of HRSS. Pictured above - right: HFH Board Director, HRSS Administrator, HFH Executive Director, HFH Board Advisor to Operations



Pictured above and below the Church in partnership



Pictured above - Left: HRSS female students. Right: 2018 HRSS graduate, Deborah Malith and her mother

## 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 11 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 2018, our 11th year of operation, our student body has grown to over 300 students (110 of whom are female). The school has successfully graduated eight classes.

The school's academic year runs from February 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. Classes are led by university-trained teachers from South Sudan and 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 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 projects them into the role of future leaders.



**HRSS prefects being recognized for their leadership by Principal Anthony Wal and Executive Director Suzanne Hicks at ceremony in November 2018**



## MAKING AN IMPACT

In 2018, David Marial, S4, was the head prefect. He is pictured above receiving honors for his leadership from Anthony Wal, Principal; and Suzanne Hicks, Executive Director. As an elected head boy and/or head girl by the pupils, head prefects are responsible for representing the school at events, and therefore make public speeches. They also serve as good role models for students and share pupils' ideas with the school's leadership. They are expected to lead fellow prefects in their duties as well as take on the day-to-day management of helping to look after the management of the school with teachers, principal, and administrator.

Leadership at HRSS helps our students become leaders in their communities after graduation. Meet Awut Mayom Agok, School Administrator, and 2011 HRSS graduate and head prefect.



Pictured above: Awut Mayom Agok, Administrator, with HRSS female teaching staff and with HRSS students

Awut was one of three female students who came to HRSS in its first year, 2008. She graduated in 2011, attended university in Kenya and France, and while attending university, she was an excellent student and became the first female president of youth organization. She graduated with a Business Commerce degree, opened a business in Kenya, and in 2018 became the first female to lead a school as an Administrator in Lakes State, South Sudan. She is a sought-after speaker in South Sudan and internationally, promoting women's equity, education, and peace. She is also trained in post trauma healing. She brings all her education and experience as a leader to the teaching staff and students at HRSS. Awut was recognized for her

## MAKING AN IMPACT

leadership in March of 2019 on International Women's Day. A radio interview featuring her accomplishments can be heard at <https://soundcloud.com/suzanne-hicks-80151625/deborah-awut-mayom-agok-international-womens-day-2019>

Awut is an example of the success of the mission of Hope for Humanity Inc., "Equipping South Sudan's Girls and Boys for Leadership through a Quality Education with a Christian Foundation."

### Gender Equity

In addition to providing strong academics, we are committed to teaching gender equality and peace reconciliation. Our teaching staff and leadership are both female and male, professionals from South Sudan and Uganda. With this co-ed environment in place, students see directly what gender equity looks like in a relative context.

Our professional leaders are educating girls and boys in a co-ed environment that promotes gender equity and convincing young South Sudanese women of their created value and teaching young South Sudanese men that girls are their equals as they compete with them in the classroom.

Our female students live safely on campus in a dormitory built in 2013, and they perform academically as well as the male students. These changes are also helping to end the practice of child marriage. Gender equity is critical to developing a nation.



Science teacher, Tifina, reviewing with HRSS students for preparation of exams

## MAKING AN IMPACT



HRSS female students leading worship services in Atiaba as preacher and translator

### 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 Expanded in 2017, and Continues to Thrive in 2018

We work in partnerships with USAID through the local NGO, VISTAS, to expand the peace message to our students and the community. The goal is to continue passing on messages of peace and coexistence. Topics often covered are revenge killing and female child-marriage. 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 2016 this program was implemented at HRSS as the host site for several high schools in the area. In 2017 we extended our peace project message and training to five primary schools in the area and Atiaba Integrated Youth Peace Club.

In November 2018, the Atiaba community was devastated with the news that a HRSS student, their beloved chief, and the chief's son were murdered on the road on their way to a peace conference. Years of educating the HRSS students and the Atiaba community with peaceful messages equipped them to respond without violence. In the appendix there is a reflection by Maker Mabor Marial about the Atiaba communities experience and response to the violence in 2018. I encourage you to read his words.

### Lunch Program

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.)

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 enjoys broadly-based multi-disciplinary education and training which make him or her capable of approaching the 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.



Priscilla, graduate of HRSS and now a college student in Wau with Administrator Awut Mayom Agok

# MAKING AN IMPACT

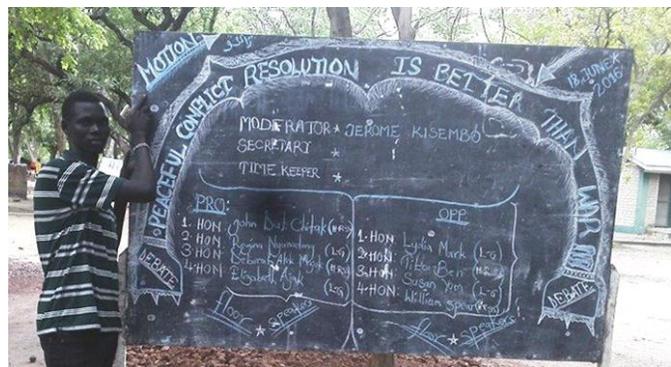
MEASURABLE PROGRESS DEMONSTRATED BY STUDENTS

MEET JOSEPH THON BEC ATER, 2013 GRADUATE OF HOPE AND RESURRECTION SCHOOL.

We can see the transformation that is taking place through the mission of Hope and Resurrection Secondary School by the positions that the graduates have secured as leaders in their communities.

HRSS graduate, Joseph Thon Bec is now a Deacon of Atiaba Episcopal Church and a HRSS teacher of science, math, and peace. He has been equipped to be a leader in the community and share what he has been given with others. Without the education that is provided at HRSS, he would not have been able to teach science to other high school students. He would not have been able to study theology and help deliver the Gospel in the world. He would not be a mentor to the children and youth in Atiaba. This mission continues to help equip youth to move themselves from impoverished situations to thrive and help others.

In the appendix is a reflection written by Thon, about his young life experience and education, titled 'The Kawajeet (white people) Are Constructing a Saanawei (school) in Atiaba.' Please read it as it captures what this mission helps to do in the lives of students at HRSS.



# MAKING AN IMPACT

Hope and Resurrection school has 213 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

**SUZANNE M. HICKS, M.DIV.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



[HopeForHumanityInc@gmail.com](mailto:HopeForHumanityInc@gmail.com)

**CATHERINE O. PERRIN, MBA  
BOARD PRESIDENT**



[robertperrin@acm.org](mailto:robertperrin@acm.org)

**ANN MACDONALD, CPA  
BOARD TREASURER**



[annietmac54@gmail.com](mailto:annietmac54@gmail.com)

**STEPHEN C. HALL, J.D.  
BOARD SECRETARY**



[shall@shall-law.com](mailto:shall@shall-law.com)

**FAITHE M. NORRELL, M.ED  
BOARD DIRECTOR**



[mickensiii@verizon.net](mailto:mickensiii@verizon.net)

**LELAND C. MUCKEY, BOARD  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**



[Lee@Muckeys.com](mailto:Lee@Muckeys.com)

**JAMES E. WRIGHT, BOARD  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**



[Wright.JamesE@yahoo.com](mailto:Wright.JamesE@yahoo.com)

**BRIDGET G. BOSWELL, PHR  
BOARD DIRECTOR**



[b.boswell.rva@gmail.com](mailto:b.boswell.rva@gmail.com)

**MAKER MABOR MARIAL, MPA  
ADVISOR OF OPERATIONS**



[mmarial787@gmail.com](mailto:mmarial787@gmail.com)

## COMPANY INFORMATION



HOPE  
FOR  
HUMANITY<sub>INC.</sub>

### Company Information

Hope for Humanity, Inc.

PO Box 29117

Richmond, VA 23242

Executive Director Telephone: 804-516-1890

HopeForHumanityInc@gmail.com

[www.hopeforhumanityinc.org](http://www.hopeforhumanityinc.org)

## APPENDIX

### Appendix 1: *'The Kawajeet (white people) Are Constructing a Saanawei (school) in Atiaba'* by Thon Bec Ater



*Deacon Joseph Thon Bec Ater, teacher at Hope and Resurrection Secondary School with children and youth in Atiaba, S. Sudan*

#### **The Story Begins:**

In the December holiday of 2004, our English teacher told us that in 2005, we would become upper class pupils in the primary school. He emphasized the importance of looking smart in class. I was in grade 4 in 2004 and would be joining grade 5 the next year, so I dreamed about how smart I would look in that class.

My family then traveled to the PDU brick-making site to work during the scorching heat of the summer.\* The whole summer I dreamed of my new smart look. Even though I had this in mind, I did not keep any of the pounds I was earning from making bricks to buy for myself two or three aliwara (second-hand clothes) in the downtown of Rumbek. I wastefully spent all my wages on simple stuffs such as alaawa (sweets) and bithkuwit (biscuit) with my friends from the brick-making site and others from the streets of Rumbek town.

In April 2005 after our family had spent the summer at the PDU brick-making site, we began our journey back to our home in Makoolgook for the planting season. Upon reaching Barpakeny, a small and famous town in the Yeek rural area, I knew we were getting close to home. We went to the house of my aunt, who was married to a priest named Sapono Dongrin (famously known as Akemteet) in Barpakeny town, to stay the night. I knew I didn't have much time to convince my mum to buy me the outfits I would need for school. I began to tell my mum that the school would require me to have two to three sets of clothes and I would not be allowed to wear the 'number plate' kind of clothes again because I was now a tueeny (educated one). My mum tenderly told me, "Xen aci dak aret manhdie abuk kuanyc nhiak (I am tired my son, we shall discuss it tomorrow)." I went to sleep with the hope that she would take me shopping after we had discussed it because I knew she had some pounds with her.

In the morning, I repeated my plea to her, and I narrowly escaped a terrible hit followed by the lamentation of how she was struggling to take care of us and chastised my failure to recognize her toils. "You have wasted your money on alaawet and biscuits; let your friends with whom you were eating now

## APPENDIX

buy for you the clothes. You know I don't defecate money." I became bitter and went away swearing that I would never return home again. To cut the long story short, I did not return home until 2007 after truly hearing the meaning of a song from Teresa Nyankol that said, "A child who left his father and mother will never see something good."

### **The Prodigal Son Returns:**

It was 2008 after I had a good taste of the prodigal life for almost two and a half years that my hope returned. My spirit renewed the following year. All that happened to me during that prodigal period, my heart only knew. My return was like a dream! I told my parents that I was going to resume my studies. I jumped directly to grade 7 and I was immediately in trouble. My former schoolmaster was also in this school as a normal teacher and he knew everything about me. During his CRE lesson he found me in grade 7 and without even saying, "Hi," he sent me to the office. I went and I waited for him. After his period was done, he came to the office and called me in front of him. "You are supposed to be in grade 5 not even 6," he told me. I replied that I had done this because my friends whom I left in 2005 were in this class. Since I did well in the math exercise given to us by the current schoolmaster, I was allowed to stay in Grade 7 (I got five out of five problems correct, while the next closest student only got one correct). In the first term, I outworked my classmates in all the subjects and I got out of trouble. In 2008, we all passed to grade 8 and became the first grade 8 at Dongic Primary School. Though we knew that we would pass, we were not sure of where to go for high school as the closest secondary school was in Rumbek town and far away from our area. Then we heard the good news, "The Kawajeet (white people) are constructing a Saanawei (school) in Atiaba." Between February and March 2009, we sat for Primary Leaving Examinations. The results were released in early April, and our school was among the top ten schools, which passed with 100%. Indeed, the Kawajeet had already completed the construction of the school and they named it as Hope and Resurrection Secondary School. I was admitted immediately and told to look at the books I would be studying. The books were very new and smelled very nice. With hunger, I took four books immediately, and I was allowed to go home with them.

**My four years at Hope and Resurrection Secondary School were amazing and liberating. We were told that we were in a Christian based school, and we saw on the piece of cloth hanging above the board on which the school timetable and statistics were displayed, the following words: "Christ Church School, Virginia USA." I do not know what my schoolmates took away from this school, but I know what I took away with me, "Christ has a purpose for humankind, a purpose beyond the humankind's borders and colors."**

\*Author's Note: Even though school in South Sudan is supposed to start in February according to government education policies, in my region very few schools are actually open because of the extreme heat of February and March. Local school officials are faced with many trials to actually make this happen. School infrastructure is minimal and many schools (especially primary schools) are conducted with nothing more than the trees overhead acting as classrooms. Faced with these conditions, school openings are delayed. Operations are moved closer to the rainy season, but this is only a partial solution as schools may then be interrupted by the rain.

Executive Director of Hope for Humanity, Inc.'s Note: Thon Bec Ater graduated from Hope and Resurrections Secondary School (HRSS) at the top of his class, went to University and is now teaching math and science at HRSS. He was recently ordained as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. Thon works daily to share the love of Christ with his students and the community in Atiaba.

### **Appendix 2: Peace Awareness Averted What would have been the Catastrophic Event in Atiaba and Aluakluak Payams**

*By Maker M. Marial – January 24, 2019* – as sequence of horrendous events were taking place in Atiaba Payam in 2018 – people were grinding their teeth and bracing for the worse – as the local community feared that the local youth would be forced to re-arm themselves and retaliate in kind to the aggression and threats from the youth of the neighboring Aluakluak Payam of the former Yirol West County.

The situation was worrying and people were just waiting to see what would happen next. However, the trainings on conflict resolutions for community members and students at Hope and Resurrection Secondary School's peace club with support from Viable Support to Transition and Stability, a USAID funded program through AECOM International in 2016, help ward off what would have been the worst scenario and many lives and properties were saved as a result.

Over the past few years, cattle raids and random killings were common along the border of Aluakluak and Akot Payams and many lives and properties were lost as a consequence. To worsen the state of affairs, the governments from both sides were unable to bring the situation under control, and the condition continued to go downhill as people continued to lose their lives and their properties.

Some government officials from both sides were being accused of corruption and collaboration with criminals and cattle raiders in animal's theft and killings of the innocent people. The situation was deteriorating day – by – day and people were just readying themselves for the bad thing to happen.

In the midst of this worsening insecurity in long border of the two payams, a student from HRSS, Steward Mocda Dut Aciek, was gunned down by suspected gunmen from Aluakluak in the morning of September 21, 2018. He was walking from home to school after a holiday break. The local community in Atiaba was shocked by the killing of Mr. Dut but controlled itself from reacting negatively and taking revenge.

A month later, two college students, one from Upper Nile University in Juba and one from Rumbek University were killed as their car stuck in the mud between Akot and Aluakluak by gunmen also suspected to be from Aluakluak. Three people were also killed on a motorbike between Thou-adel and Paloc two days later, and the suspects were from the same community.

Because, the killings became rampant, the local community was outraged, but continued to remain calm and seek peaceful solution to the problem between the two communities. For this reason, a search for a peaceful solution was launched, and the leaders from both communities reached out to the Nongovernmental organizations operating in the area and asked them to fund their peace dialogue. And Saferworld, A US based NGO supporting peace in the area, responded positively to their calls and brought delegates of the two communities together in a border town of Akot. The move was applauded by the members of both communities and hopes were high that the senseless killing of the innocent people would be put to an end once leaders sit and dialogue amongst themselves.

However, those who were orchestrating all the crimes in the areas and profiteering from the mess of mayhem and killings wouldn't give peace a chance. They laid an ambush between Atiaba and Akot and killed an Ex. chief Mayek Billing with his son Ater Mayek, a career soldier, on a motorbike as they

## APPENDIX

traveled to Akot to take part in the peace conference on November 12, 2018. The whole community was shocked by the news, and the possibilities of all out violence were very high. Consequently, the peace conference was dispersed and governments from both sides were put on high alert for possibility of a full-scale violence. The situation was tense as retaliatory attacks were on sight.

Nevertheless, the youth from Atiaba, whose chief was killed and who were expected to retaliate, chose to remain calm and seek peaceful resolution of the problem instead of taking revenge. This was unusually in a community where revenge was always the first choice in murder situations. The youth resorted to peaceful resolution of the conflict over revenge because they were trained intensively on conflict mitigation and peaceful resolutions of conflict instead of violence means.

Because of having skills in conflict mitigation and conflict resolutions, they controlled themselves and prevented what would have been a catastrophic event between the two communities. They did not retaliate and chose to work on possible solutions to bring the suspects to book instead.

Equipping youth with knowledge on how to resolve issues peacefully is what can prevent intra/international community violence in South Sudan, which always results in the loss of lives and properties. The killing of chief Mayek would have triggered all out violence between the youth of Atiaba and Aluakluak if they youth and the rest of the community members weren't trained on conflict mitigation and conflict resolution.