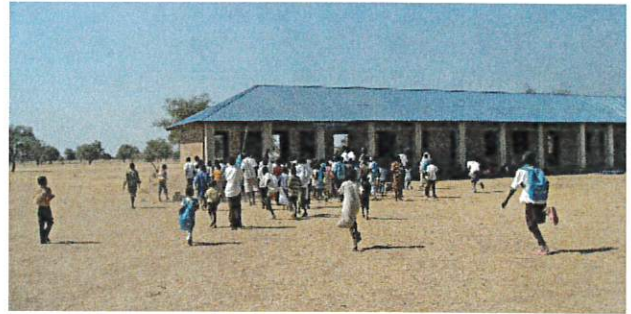


St. John's and Global Missions Offering for the benefit of The Nyarweng Primary School

St. John's relationship with the former Lost Boys of Sudan began in 2001 when 45 of them were brought to Charlotte as part of a refugee resettlement program. Our very own Martha Kearse had a chance encounter with them in a grocery store and her invitation yielded two dozen strangers, soon to become friends, at our next worship service. As these men shared their stories, wisdom, and humor with us, our minds and hearts were opened and our congregation was forever changed. One of these men is James Lubo Mijak.



Children run to school

St. John's ministry to The Nyarweng Primary School began in 2008 when Lubo, then age 25, returned to his village for the first time since fleeing at the age of 8. What he found was the sad truth about family members who died during the years of fighting. He found a people beset by preventable diseases, starvation, inadequate supply of food, medicine, and water. He also found a hopeful people, holding classes in the shade of trees or in makeshift temporary structures. The literacy rate in Nyarweng, as in all of South Sudan, was under 10%. When asked what they most wanted, the village leaders answered, "We want a better life for our children. We want education. We want our own school."

When Lubo relayed his message to his friends in Charlotte, the dream took root. In partnership with a local 501c3 organization, Mothering Across Continents, the fundraising began in earnest in 2011. In March 2013, the school was completed and about 85 students attended the first year. In this current year, 478 students from ages 5 to 14 are attending.

On two occasions, SJ members have visited the school, but it is not an easy trip as the transportation to this remote location in Ruweng State, South Sudan, can be unpredictable. Further, while there is no fighting in the area, the country of South Sudan is suffering from civil unrest that makes travel there unwise at this time. However, we maintain a direct connection to the school through Lubo who is the Country Director for the project, Raising South Sudan, which Mothering Across Continents manages from Charlotte. Lubo regularly visits his home village of Nyarweng and brings us uplifting stories along with the harsh news that necessarily accompanies life in one of the world's most challenging places.

In 2016, St. John's raised over \$13,000 during the Global Missions Offering to benefit the Nyarweng School. In 2017, we raised over \$23,000 with more than 90 families contributing. Including gifts made directly to Mothering Across Continents in support of the project, SJ members provided the lion's share of the funds need to operate The Nyarweng School. In 2018, we established a restricted account for The Nyarweng School to which members can give throughout the year.

During this year's offering, **we are hoping to raise \$15,000 (send checks to St. John's and write "The Nyarweng School" on the memo line)** AND we want to send a backpack to Nyarweng full of good will in the form of letters and art. **Members of all ages are asked to address the letters to a young or older child or to a teacher or parent.** Share a piece of yourselves in your letter, perhaps even a picture of your family. What unites us – our love of God, hope for our children, and appreciation of a dependable friend - is far greater than what separates us. Remember that these people are Lubo's people, they have heard of you and St. John's, and they pray for you when they worship on Sundays in the school. Perhaps we will hear back from some of Nyarweng's students and teachers.

Thank you for choosing to be God's hands and feet in Nyarweng!

This is the staff roster as of December 2017. The 3rd listed, Jacob Chol, a former Lost Boy from Charlotte now living in Nyarweng.

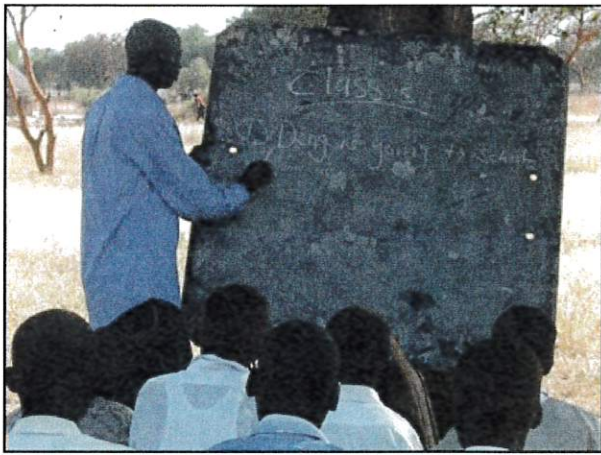
Name	Position	Grade
Monyjok Thon Mijak	Headteacher	1
Michael Miakuach Miaker	Deputy head teacher	2
Jacob Makol Chol	school officer	3
Tiop Diran Agok	Director of studies	3
Chol Monyjok Dau	Senior teacher	4
John Miabil Dau	Senior teacher	4
Bith Arop Jau	Senior teacher	4
Angelo Miakuach	Senior teacher	4
Khat Rebort Mabek	Senior teacher	5
Thon Aguer Thon	teacher	6
Nyanlueth Kuol Miabek	teacher	6
Achan Miabil Chol	Cook	
Nyanbith Kur Chol	Cook	



Nyarweng's payroll expense is about \$34,000/year. Our Global Mission Offering goal is \$15,000.

(Above) Phillips Bragg with some of the teachers.

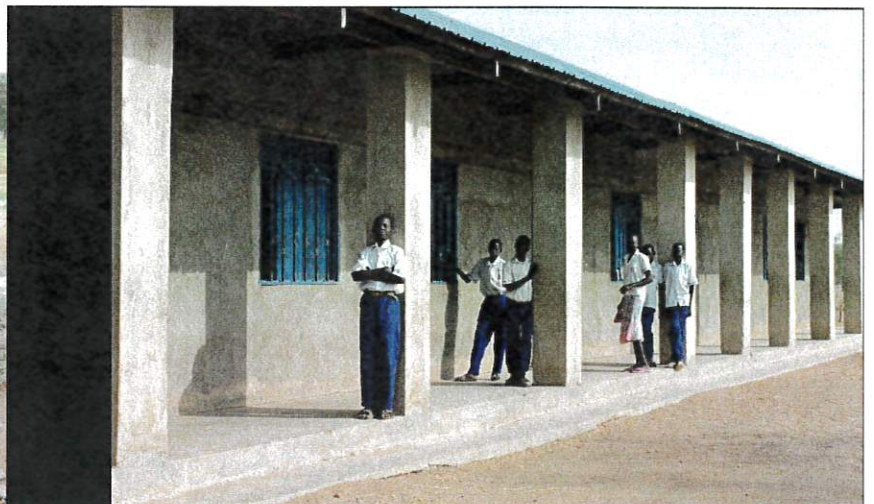
From Lubo's 2008 visit- Lubo teaching in the shade. Students enjoy new desks. Transported by plane and assembled on site.



Martha Kearsse with Nyarweng boys in front of the school.



Students in new uniforms on the porch of the Nyarweng School.



The school also serves as a community center and house of worship. Please participate in our Global Mission Offering by giving and by writing a letter to a student, a teacher, or a parent. What do you want to share with your friends in Nyarweng? A part of yourself? An encouraging word? Your favorite bible verse? A picture of your family?