

Promised Land Primary & Secondary School- Juba South Sudan.

Jok Abraham Thon

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Some links to my articles

1. [Transform Mid-Atlantic Fellowship 2023-2024](#)
2. [Changing Minds from Bullets to Books Documentary](#)
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South Sudan

July 9th, 2011

Population: 12,444,018

- 70% under 30 years
- 75% illiterate
- 70% of girls don't finish High School due to force marriage and poor culture.



Promised Land Secondary School, EST. 2015.

Changing Minds from Bullets to Books.

- 2016

280 students

- 2023

1,500 students

In the last 7 years we have graduated Six batches with total of 1460 Alumni.

We have two Alumni studying here in the U.S. Princeton and Anderson Universities

The first building I constructed in 2015 with my hands.



Teaching and South Sudan Curriculum.

❖ Subjects

Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, English, C.R.E, Citizenship, Agriculture, Accounts, Commerce, Geography, History, & Computer

❖ Teaching materials & number of periods.



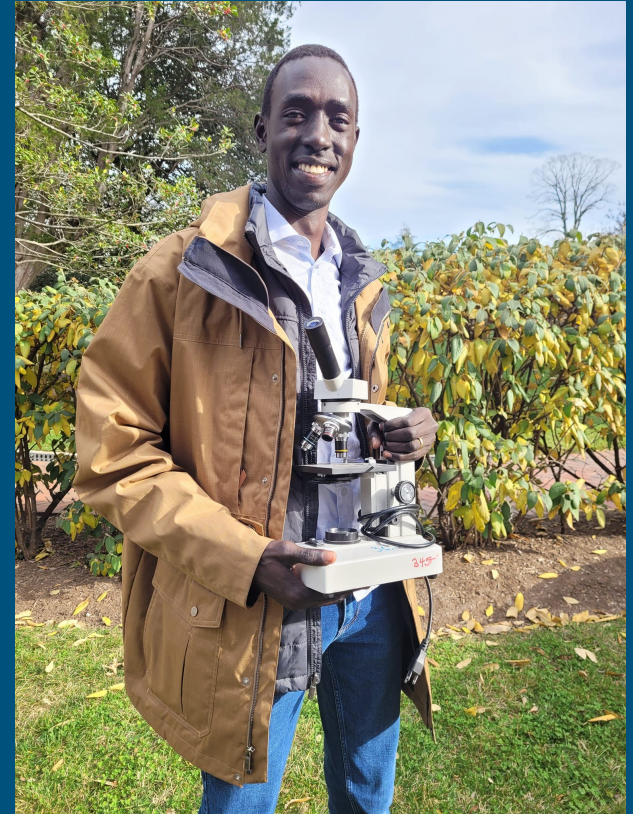
Students in class.

Our classrooms are overcrowded due to the number of students, in some classes we have 294 students who are divided into two sections making it hard for us to get more classrooms to accommodate all the internally displaced students. In such crowded classroom, its not giving students space to write properly.



Teaching science subjects.

Montgomery Blair High School donated this Microscope in 2021 when I spoke to their students, it has become our only Microscope which is now been used by all the entire school as a teacher take it to the class when they have Biology lessons that need Microscope.



South Sudan is a difficult world for young girls and women as young girls are denied education and forced to marry at every young age to men they don't love. 70% of the girls in South Sudan don't finish High School and the country has a high rate of death at Birth of women and young

Amour, 16 year old

girl who was denied school because she was a girl & her brother was sent to school by her father. I brought her to Promised Land and she is now happy with her colleague hoping to finish High School next year 2024.



Akuot-18 year old

girl who became blind after her father destroyed her both eyes because she refused to get marriage two weeks ago.



Ayuen, 18 year

Is an orphan who was forced to get marriage by her uncle but we gave her opportunity to finish her high school.

Girls' Accommodation Program.

We established girls' accommodation program in 2018 to provide a safe and secure environment for girls to avoid forced marriages, violence and discrimination in the community.



Girls leaving the school premises after their National Examination-March, 2023



Girls Dormitory home to 300 girls but has become small to accommodate 624 girls who are currently enrolled at our school.

Girl education



Students Dancing in the rain after finishing their last High School Examination. 2023.



97 girls out 273 candidates graduated in March, 2023.

School clubs

1. Peace & Community Outreach
2. Agriculture
3. Entrepreneurship
4. Journalism & writers
5. Debate, Music & Drama
6. Health & Environment
7. Game & Sport
8. Gender Based Violence
9. Scripture Union
10. Leadership & Career guidance



The clubs are great ways we train our students on skills various & programs, as they come from displaced communities, they go through a lot of trauma and stress as some of them lost their parents and love ones during the conflict. We have been able to organize Landmine and Gender Based Violence awareness, debates and (Soccer) football and other activities that connect our students with other schools to make new friends.

Peace & Community Outreach



U.S Embassy Public Affairs Officer speaking to our students at our Peace Wings Hall.



Former U.S. Ambassador to South Sudan at Promised Land Secondary School during a celebration of results when our students became the best in South Sudan National Examination

School Activities.

Students dancing on school cultural Day.



Students at the Mentorship and prayers by Bishop Dr. Isaiah Dau



Parents attending school meeting on Gender Based Violence among students and families.



Girls enjoying their soccer (Football) inter-class competition.



Promised Land Primary School

EST. 2020.

- Age 5-15
- Class one to Primary Eight
- 537 Pupils
- 500 graduates



Primary pupils in the assembly, the teachers at our primary school section are our former students who came back to teach their brothers and sisters.



Returning of internally displaced children to their camp; these children were provided free education at our school. 263 beneficiaries.

Ubuntu- Campus

Students in front of our Peace Wings Hall; this Hall is where we organize students engagement events, like Debates, Prayers, Drama and Career, its used as two classrooms due to shortage of classrooms, we have to construct more classrooms so that it will only be used as Hall.



The above building has four classrooms, four offices & a computer. In the school Design Master Plan, it's only for offices, Bullets to Books Library, Laboratories. Actual classrooms have not been built, it's a ground plus one eight classrooms block which we hope to build if we get resources.

Computer training.

Through Billion Act of Peace Prize from PeaceJam in 2021, I was able to use the grant to buy the computers for our students' training. We also invite neighboring primary schools' children to have the opportunity to learn about the importance use of a computer. Most of the children have never hold or touch a computer before.

We build in giving every child the opportunity to be able to dream and access the tools they need to thrive without being judged by their genda, ethnicity & religion,



Promised Land Guest House.

The Guest House will be used for hosting our school exchange guest to give them a sense of living with the local community.

- Adults' Education
- Computer Training
- Guest Accommodation
- Mini Gyg & Supper Market.



Future Projects

The farm will be a one Stop-shop for Dairy, poultry, vegetables and agroforestry, we will be able to train local women and youth on farming and project management.



Clean • Green • Fresh

New Promised Land Secondary School will be our 3rd Branch in Jonglei State to provide education to the out of school children.



The college will provide lifelong skills through vocational training, Entrepreneurship, Computer training & Adults' education

UMBC's First Global Peaceworker Fellow and first Students from South Sudan.

Studying Master's of Professional Studies in Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Leadership.

Last year during my first semester I did very well, all my Grads were "A" and it was due to St. Bartholomew Congregation warm hospitality.

This year during my second semester, I am having great classes including Legal & Ethics taught by St. Bartholomew member Prof. Michael Sarbanes.

In my Design Thinking class, we are designing United for Childcare a new Initiative for United Way of Central Maryland.



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QUESTIONS



Jok Abraham Thon, Short Biography.

Jok Abraham Thon is University of Maryland Baltimore County's first Global Peacemaker Fellow, where he is earning his Master's in Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Leadership while working with The Shriver Center and Center for Global Engagement. He is the Founding Director of Promised Land School, which educates over 1500 internally displaced students in Juba-South Sudan and integrates conflict resolution and peacebuilding principles for these future leaders of South Sudan. Promised Land students regularly achieve top scores in National Examinations, and its graduates are studying at universities in Africa and worldwide. Jok holds a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Juba and a Bachelor of Biblical Studies and Community Development Outreach from Nation to Nation Christian University. In 2018, he was a Mandela Washington Fellow studying Civic Leadership at the University of Delaware. In 2019 he received the Ron Kovic MY HERO Peace Prize for the Bullets to Books documentary about his work. He received the 2021 Billion Acts of Peace Award from Peace Jam, participating in an online dialogue with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. Jok is currently the African Union Youth Charter Advocate for South Sudan and seeking the adoption of the youth empowerment policy act.

Contact: jokt1@umbc.edu / 443-316-9224