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CHANGE STORIES:

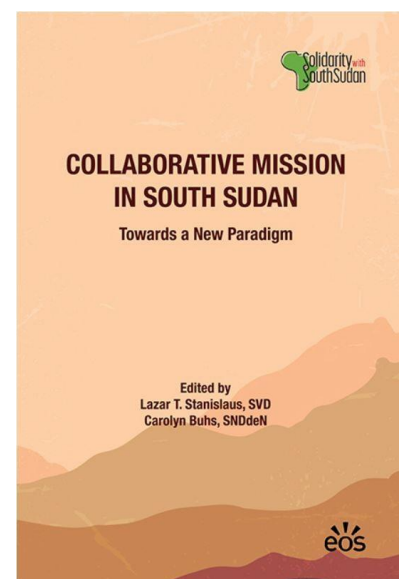
*MORE QUALIFIED NURSES & MIDWIVES
FOR SOUTH SUDAN*

William Mayiik, 26 years old, is from Twic State, South Sudan. He is currently a nursing student at the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) – Wau. He has 2 sisters and 2 brothers. Before joining CHTI, William worked for an NGO as a hygiene promoter. The Diocese of El Obeid then sent him to CHTI. After graduating, he plans to go back home to work there because there are only very few qualified nurses.

“The training at CHTI has helped me to understand what it means to be a nurse. I had thought that the work of a nurse is just to give medical attention to a sick person. Our communities also thought that only a woman could be a nurse. Now I know that a nurse is a person trained and licensed not only to nurse patients when they are sick, but is also an advocate for the patient, a teacher, a planner, and someone who has to collaborate with the government in tackling health issues. A nurse is a teacher because he or she can provide health education to patients which helps in prevention of diseases and prevention is better than cure. The nurse can advocate for the patient because the nurse knows patient’s rights .

The nurse collaborates in the promotion of public health initiatives. For example, if there is a vaccination campaign, the nurses administers those vaccines and gives feedback to the physicians.”

THIS STORY IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE for a long time the role of nurses has been misunderstood and many thought that only a woman could be a nurse. Now men are not shying away from training either as nurses and midwives. This is important because there is a great need to increase the number of qualified nurses, be it male or female. Additionally, the personnel being trained can provide better services to the patients once they understand that they need to advocate for, teach, and represent their patients – a Nurse is more than just a care provider.





CHANGE STORIES:

PASTORAL WORK TO STRENGTHEN FAITH AND SOULS

Dominica Anthony is passionate in her pastoral work – and she is known for it. She is currently working in the Archdiocese of Juba as a pastoral minister. “I was brought up in a Catholic family. My father used to be a head catechist when we were living in Uganda because of war in South Sudan.”

“I got married, and had two children, both of who died, and because of that, my husband left me. At that time, I enrolled in a college teaching church history for a 3- year diploma in Catholic theology. The education office of the Church thought that there was a gap and so they provided me with additional training and I headed the office for 11 years. I am currently heading the Women’s Desk Office.” I formed a group of about 110 women, whom we called Daughters of St. Teresa. We usually move house-to-house, teaching the Bible, praying, advising, and contributing financially to the well-being of the families that we visit. In the Catholic Church, it is often the case women are very shy and do not get involved teaching of the church activities In this group, we aim to empower women to be stronger in prayer, express and defend their Christian faith, and to know the doctrines. To enable us to do our work, Solidarity offered workshops in which we were taught about project planning, proposal writing, project reporting, and more. We are now able to generate project ideas, write proposals, and source our own funds.”

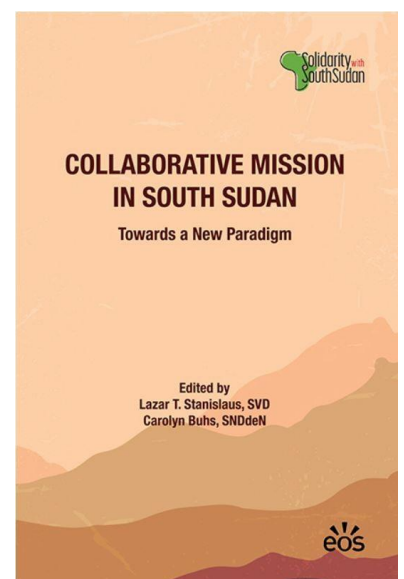
“In the future, we hope to do much more pastoral work by deepening the faith life of the people. We are shaky because our foundation is not strong and we need to build it through pastoral work through which we can reach many people.

THIS STORY IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE through the training given by Solidarity, individuals have been empowered to conceptualise and implement activities geared towards growing the spiritual life of communities and supporting the activities of the church in a time where its efforts are being impeded by the war.

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CHANGE STORIES:

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN WESTERN EQUATORIA: A SECOND CHANCE FOR WOMEN, MEN AND FOR SOUTH SUDAN

Mekelina Severino, 39 years old, is a casual worker at the Solidarity with South Sudan farm in Riimenze. She is married and has 8 children. At the farm, she can be assigned different tasks: watering, weeding or harvesting. Once she learned new agriculture techniques at the farm, Mekelina is able to use this knowledge in her own home garden.

“Since I was small, my parents were not able to send me to school so I never got educated. Instead, they gave me away for marriage when I was only 13 years old. It was really a tough life for me. Right now, by working at the farm, I earn some money and so far I have been able send 4 out of my children to school. I do not want my children to live the same life that I lived. When they get educated, they will hopefully get good jobs”.

An increasing number of poor families in South Sudan marry off their young daughters, some as young as 12, so that they can receive cows or money, which for many is a way out of poverty. This is especially a problem in rural communities where other forms of employment or opportunities are completely unavailable.

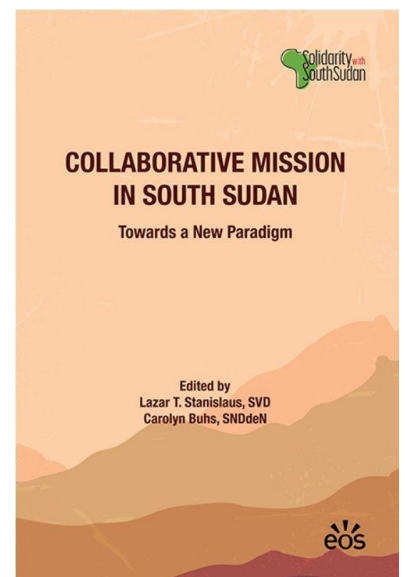
By working at the farm, Mekelina and many other women get the opportunity to earn an income and in turn are able to provide opportunities such as education for their children. This is especially important because according to the Strategic National Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Sudan, one of the ways to bring about change in the fight against child marriage is by ensuring access to education and promoting girls’ empowerment.

THIS STORY IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE of the impact of capacity building for the community in Riimenze since once the casual workers acquire different skills from the farm, they are able to implement the same in their own gardens. In addition to that, the farm provides an income and employment close to home. This is especially important in a society where women are usually forced to get pregnant or married early so as to escape poverty.

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CHANGE STORIES:

QUALIFIED TEACHERS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN IN SOUTH SUDAN

Samson's school, Tambua Nursery and Primary School in Yambio, South Sudan, has more than 600 students.

Samson is in Primary 8, before he take to do a final national exam that will allow him to go to secondary school. "I am not sure how I will perform in the national exam because the teachers in the school are not well prepared so not much learning is going on." In addition, most of teachers are untrained high school graduates, some of who do not have a good understanding of the subjects they teach; others find it difficult to manage the classroom and a majority are highly unmotivated. "Right now, we don't have a teacher and even yesterday, we only had only one lesson in the whole day because there was only one teacher who could teach us."

During the teacher-training course, the teacher trainees are given the chance to practice their teaching skills at local primary schools while being monitored by their tutors.

"When the teachers from Solidarity Teachers Training College (STTC) come to teach us, I am so happy because I know that I will get a good chance to learn a lot of things. They are always in class and on time. They really know how to teach well. They teach in a way that I can easily understand and remember what I have been taught. When they left, I cried. I cried real tears. I felt very bad because I had been enjoying classes when they were here."

All of Samson's classmates agreed in unison that they really enjoyed being taught by the teachers from STTC and look forward to being taught by them again. In the meantime, when the teacher trainees graduate, they will go back to their communities all over South Sudan with the task and with the challenge of bringing new and much needed changes to their communities. It is a step-by-step process towards re-educating the children of South Sudan.

THIS STORY IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE the trained teachers are going out into their respective communities that either lack teachers or have untrained teachers - a situation which has been made worse due to the many years of civil war, to competently and professionally educate to their students and therefore raise the level of education in South Sudan, which is crucial for South Sudan's future.

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