



New address and telephone number:

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Dear Friends

December 2009



We send you our warm greetings and wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas! In Sudan, everyday life celebration spills over into many parts of life, like this bike that has been given the honours with all its decorations. And especially at this time of Christmas, despite the hardships and political uncertainties, or rather because of them, Christ's coming into our world is so meaningful, Advent and Christmas are a time of real hope for now and the future.

Our new school in Malek has been running since April. Elias Bak, the Headteacher and Yoana Wek, the Coordinator together with the teachers are doing a good job. The political situation between the government of Southern Sudan and the government of National Unity in Khartoum is not that stable due to the disputes over the oil revenues, the forthcoming election and referendum. The credit crunch adds to financial pressures and this results in teachers and other government departments not being paid over long periods. For this reason the UTS trustees decided that our teachers should receive an allowance from us to show how much they are valued, but this has diverted some of the funds that we had hoped to use for further building and teaching material. We hope and pray this situation will be resolved soon.



The trustees are concerned about the quality of education, and we are looking into ways how to improve the curriculum given by the Ministry of Education in Southern Sudan. This will need teachers' trainers who will be able to train our teachers and also teach. Most teachers in Southern Sudan have only completed some of the regular schooling, and very few have attended a teachers' training college. The trustees are looking for teachers' trainers from East Africa. We continue to pray also for volunteer teachers from England or other English speaking countries to come to Malek for some months, or a year or two. This will help us to improve the quality of teaching.

We have had wonderful news that a church in Switzerland has pledged to build a multi-purpose chapel and they will also fund the spiritual ministry of the school including the training of a school chaplain.

We continue to need funds for the running of the school and to continue with the building work, i.e. library with toilet block, teaching material. Also, we want to set up a farming project at the school, it will teach farming methods and at the same time provide some income for the school to become more self-reliant financially.

We are keen to continue to build links with schools here. As there is no postal system, we would like to establish an internet link at the school. The internet and the computers will also be a great tool for teachers training and for the pupils in due course.

We are hoping to get a second borehole for the school, it will be a great help to continue to have access to clean water for the school and the community.

Another piece of news is that Joseph has taken up a new post as Team Vicar in Kidderminster this autumn. He had worked for 3 years as Director of Religious Affairs in Southern Sudan. Apart from that work, the time in Sudan enabled him to establish the school in Malek. Now we have a good team on the ground, so he was able to stand back a bit. He will continue to visit Malek regularly; the next visit is planned for April 2010. It has been good to also have had trustees and friends visiting Malek, and in due course some will go out to visit again and support the school.

We had an encouraging supporters' meeting in October and showed the film Ruedi Gebendinger made on his visit to Malek in April. It can be viewed here: <http://www.under-tree-schools.org/>

On behalf of the community in Malek we thank you for your on-going support in many ways. Without your help we wouldn't be where we are today!

With our warm greetings and wishing you a joyful Christmas and Happy New Year!

Joseph and Karin Ayok-Loewenberg

PS: Please let us know if your address has changed, or if we can send you our news by e-mail.
Thanks!

A different present for Christmas or special occasions?

Sample:



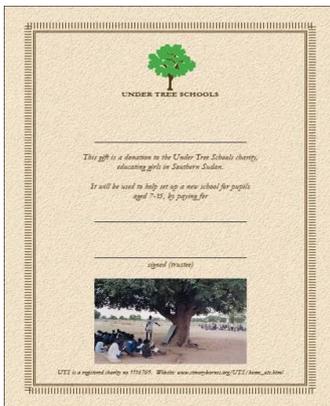
Football	£ 5
50 Bricks	£ 5
A Door	£ 15
A Window	£ 20
School Uniform	£ 30
Teacher's Bicycle	£ 75
Set of Textbooks	£ 100

1. Tell us how many of which value you would like
i.e. 3 footballs @ 5 each = £ 15, 1 school uniform @ £ 30
total amount £ 45
2. Print off and fill in a Gift Aid Form (available from the website or from contact address below)
3. Send a cheque ("payable to Under Tree Schools") for this amount and Gift Aid Form to:
Mrs K. Ayok-Loewenberg, 38 Comberton Avenue, Kidderminster, Worc. DY10 3EG
4. You will receive the vouchers signed by a trustee

If you would like gift vouchers to be **sold at a specific event**, i.e. a Fair, at a church service etc. and require a stock:

1. Let us know how many of which value you need, the date, type of event they will be sold at
2. We will send you your batch
3. Once the event has passed, return a cheque for the sold vouchers and the unsold vouchers within a week

We have a gift certificate



1. Tell us what value you would like it to be for, any amount can be inserted (it has been used it as a wedding or birthday gift, or for any occasion)
2. Print off and fill in a Gift Aid Form (available from the website or from contact address below)
3. Send a cheque for the amount chosen ("payable to Under Tree Schools") and Gift Aid Form to: Mrs K. Ayok-Loewenberg, 38 Comberton Avenue, Kidderminster, Worc. DY10 3EG
4. You will receive the certificate signed by a trustee

We have Christmas Cards

They are blank inside, size 6 x 4
They come in packs of 5 cards with envelopes and cost £ 2.50 plus p & p.
You can order them from Karin.

