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Dear Friends

Our Ayok Anei girls school in Malek continues to do well! Joseph is going out to visit it next month with friends from Kidderminster and we will circulate the latest news and pictures when they get back.

Our plans are well advanced to develop the school further this year. We are starting secondary education for a few of the girls who are now sixteen years old and above the primary school age range. We are also introducing vocational training by bringing in sewing machines and a teacher, so that the girls can learn a useful skill. And this year we are creating a livestock farm, to help teach farming as well as providing food or income for the school.

We can reassure you that the various tensions in the new South Sudan which get reported in our media do not seem to be affecting the area of Malek. We hope and pray that solutions can be found to the underlying issues and people of the these areas return to a settled life.

We are so grateful to you and all our supporters for the way you have enabled us to get to this point. As a result of this success, there is also a hitch: now that the school is entering its fourth year of teaching our regular running costs are the main part of our expenditure. We have 17 teachers and 9 non teaching staff, and although the Government pays the salaries of most of the teachers, wages are still a significant cost. And we also provide funds for maintaining the buildings, running our truck, providing classroom and office necessities and training the staff. Our total running costs are now £16,000 per quarter.

We now need to establish financial assurance for the future of the school. While we are fortunate to have many generous donations each year, virtually all are one-off payments and we cannot of course assume that they will be repeated. Donations from organisations are often for a particular new project, and don't come in the form of regular payments. What would give the school more financial security would be if a substantial proportion of our income came in the form of regular committed donations.

It would be marvellous if you could help us here. Could you please consider offering the school a modest regular donation? Perhaps you might feel able to convert the amount you already give us into an equivalent periodic commitment? A standing order say per quarter would be hugely helpful to us. You can also donate online.

A standing order form is attached. And of course if you can Gift Aid your regular donation we can claim the extra 25% from the Government.

Thank you for reading this letter, and look out for our next newsletter.

God's blessings

*Joseph and Karin Ayok-Loewenberg*

