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Under Tree Schools is a Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1117679
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Dear Supporters

March 2026

We are happy to share with you our latest news from the school in Malek-Alel, South Sudan.

Despite the hardship of everyday life in South Sudan, the school is going from strength to strength. This year 494 girls have registered to join or to continue coming to Primary 1 - 8 (aged 6-15), a very encouraging number!

And really importantly, the number of girls who have moved on from the top year of our school to go on to secondary school has continued to increase. As you know this is central to the mission of the school. We want to give the girls the opportunity to get careers. This means having options and independence - not just getting married at the age of 14 and having babies as has been traditional in South Sudan. To get careers they need academic qualifications, and for that they need the four years of secondary school.

This year 164 of our girls are at secondary schools in each of those four years. This is a big increase from the 129 we told you about last year. Girls (and their families!) are really enthusiastic about getting qualifications. So our charity's aims are being fulfilled before our eyes. This also encourages the younger girls to aspire to further education.



But this does not come without a cost. Because the fees for secondary school are substantial, UTS has undertaken to pay the school fees for the girls. We know that this help is crucial in enabling our girls to take up their places and continue their education.

However, the pot of money we set aside to pay the secondary school fees is now exhausted. Additionally, the fees this year in all the local secondary schools have gone up substantially. We learn that the Government is not helping secondary schools with their costs – including wage rises that the teachers need to offset high inflation in South Sudan.

The result for our charity is that we need to fund the fees of over \$160 per year for each of the 164 girls. That is currently about £20,000 a year. We were able to fund that from our reserves for this year, but we need new funds to enable us to meet the expectations and hopes of these girls into the future.

We rely on supporters for our current funding that enables our school to thrive. May we ask you for your help in raising these additional funds? What we need are new donors, ready like you to understand the need and respond to it.

May we ask you to consider whether among your many contacts you could enthuse some of your friends, work colleagues, churches, schools ... to join you in raising the funds we need?

You will see that we need a big push over the coming year to find new faces to support us. And we come to you because your combined contacts across the country can do so much to find additional supporters.

Our website contains lots of photos of the school and the girls, the history of the charity and information about how to become a supporter.

Key pieces of information are at the bottom of this newsletter.

And news about Tom Wright's adventure ahead!

Meanwhile back at the school...

You will know that we have an Anglican chapel as part of the school. It was built by our wonderful Swiss supporters in 2013 and has been very well used. Indeed, the chapel is well known in the diocese. The Anglican young people of the area use it to host events. Last Christmas the chapel hosted a Carol service, organised by the young people, to which groups came from far and wide. It attracted three bishops from Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal state based in Aweil. St Peter's chapel is chosen annually because it is well organised with good accommodation and electric power.



Angelo, our IT teacher asked us to provide funds so that the school could get a connection to the Starlink satellite internet system. Apparently, the school's only connection to the internet was via the mobile phones some of the teachers have.

We paid for the system needed to get the signal. This requires two tall poles, one for getting the signal and one for providing security for it.

That is all now in place and the signal is being received.

The school will pay the monthly cost of the system from within their regular running costs budget.

So not only will the girls be taught as before in computer skills (Word, PP, Windows etc.), but Angelo can teach how to use the internet.

One of our trustees, Helen, remains keen to visit the school, with her husband who is South Sudanese. Plans to go this Easter had to be put on hold for personal reasons, but we hope to continue the stream of visits that trustees have made over the years to maintain personal relationships with the staff of the school.



While speaking of our Swiss supporters, this year is the 20th anniversary of their organisation that supports Under Tree Schools.

We wish them very well for their celebrations in May, and huge thanks for their vital contribution to the life of the school!

Two of our trustees, Dan Sullam, and Tom Wright, will fly out to join them for the event.

The school community and we, the trustees, thank you all for enabling our school to continue its important work.

We send you our best wishes

Dan Sullam (chair), Peter Boyling,
Helen Chauncy, Tom Wright
UTS trustees



**Land's End to London
in 4 days**

**I'm raising £1500 to
support girls' education
in South Sudan**

Details here:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/tom-wright-65?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=LFCCFUK_Day1_SD&mi_u=1180651&mi_ecmp=LFCCFUK_Day1_SD

Donations, one off or regular, can be made through our website, at no administrative cost to you or us.

We can recover Gift Aid on top of the donation.

<https://www.undertreeschools.org/support-us.html>