

ACDP NEWSLETTER

ABEK COMMUNITY CONFERENCE IN DALLAS, TX, NOVEMBER 26, 2005

When the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in January 9, 2005, the Abek Community Development Program held its second annual meeting of its kind to discuss the transition of the Abek Community addressing the social issues and ways toward development in Abek Community. The Abek Community Development Program was held last year in November 26, 2005 and 27, 2005. The Abek Community Development Program members living in the United States coming from different States attended the conference. The conference was attended from the grass root, elders, ladies, youth (Mostly Lost Boys and Lost Girls), and children



The Abek Community Members during conference in Nov. 26-27, Dallas, TX

FIRST PRIORITY BASIC GOALS

The Abek Community Development members have identified and realized the challenges Abek Community are facing and need to be put in place as immediate priorities.

According to two of the Lost Boys, who went back home and experienced the challenges our people are facing, "There is any non existing school structures, health care centers, and cleaning water systems," Daniel Atem Deng said. Daniel Deng spent 10 months in Africa because his Travel Document was expired while he was trying to help people back home by volunteering his time to teach kids, who are eager to learn. Daniel Deng is one of the Lost Boys and he is a member of Abek Community, left here in December 29, 2004, to see his family in first time since he was separated 1987. Joseph Garang living in Pennsylvania, when

back home alike Daniel Atem Deng, but before he have seen his family, he experienced flooding in the area, which was another disaster brought shortages of food because there no farming and fishing when Nile River over flood. Joseph Deng said, "People are suffering emotionally, physically, economically, socially, and educationally, but they have hope that one day there will be bright future for them to enjoy". Joseph Deng brought message from Abek Community Development Program members in Southern Sudan that they need School, as first priority in the area because 500 kids are living without school but the only thing kids could do is to look after cattle and go fishing.

BUILDING PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WERNYOL, SOUTHERN SUDAN

The whole Southern Sudan become a place somebody could be surprised when seeing no any kind of development but much destructions from war. Abek community is one of the communities affected by the war. Many members from Abek community perished their blood during the war and many generations never gone to school. Therefore, the first priority to transit suffering to bright future is to let new generation to school. Since 1983, non of Abek community generations never engaged in education but focusing to win war against Khartoum regime, and some were been displaced in neighboring countries in which most of them are lost boys. There are now 500 children seeking education in Abek

Community areas and every month the number is increasing because the refugees are going back home. Some of the Lost Boys from Abek Community done with their high school level and could not get chances to higher education have decided and volunteered to go and teach the kids in wernyol. The volunteering teachers have lack of training they need to teach. But the school still lacking mediate basic materials such as: textbooks, excise books, pens, and pencils.



Teacher teaching at Wernyol Primary School. Photo credited to Joseph Garang Deng



The Students at Wernyol Primary School. Photo credited to Joseph Garang Deng

ANOTHER CONSIDERED PROJECT IS WATER PROJECT

Before the war, The Abek Community was having four water systems in the area but when the Sudan government destroyed them during the war period, now there only two water stations, which are not enough to the population in drying season. Therefore, the Abek Community Development Program proposed to have an urgent work to have more water system in the area and put some sort of program that would encourage people to filter water before they drink them.

In addition to immediate projects, Abek Community has seen the need of providing the mosquito nets to the returnees because at the movement they arrive into the area mosquitoes can absolutely victimize them, which cause malaria disease.

SHORT HISTORY OF THE ABEK COMMUNITY.

The Abek Community is one of the Dinka clans of the Sudan belong to Eastern Dinka call Bor, geographically located in Jongulei State, Southern Sudan. The Abek Community belongs to Lith Payam (Lith District) and its district town call Wernyol. The Abek Community has major section groups namely: Roordior, Pagueng, and Pan-Aleu section. According to the statistic of 1972, the Abek Community was estimated with population of 10,000. But during 21 years civil war between Sudan people's Liberation Movement/ Arm (SPLM/A) and Khartoum Regime, the Abek community lost most of it half population in which quarter of its population is displaced indifferent part of the world. The Sons and

Daughters of the Abek Community in uniform bravery fought the Khartoum regime to stop oppression of Khartoum Government against Africans and Christian group. During the war era, the Abek Community has experienced so much suffering, mourning and sorrowing period. The Abek Community has seen killing and destructions of its common wealth such as: shelters, medical centers, water systems, school destruction and massive killing of its cattle and destruction of the agricultural by the Khartoum Government.

The Abek Community practices the same culture alike other Dinka tribe communities. The main cultural practices are wrestling, dancing, marriage, age groups and etc. Due to long civil war between SPLM/A and Khartoum regime, most of cultural practices were almost lost but the Abek community members encourage and promote conference among themselves to sustain culture practice.

Before the war, Abek community was and stills a self-sufficient community although the war made a lot of damages. The Social economic of the Abek Community was invested in keeping cattle and rearing crops but today every thing is gone.

THE ACDP NEEDS YOUR HELP.

The Abek Community Development Program has identifying circumstances affecting their commitment to achieve its mission. The most but not lest challenges is financial support to ACDP; however, the members have shown generosity of pledging to contribute money toward Abek Community Development Program. ACDP believes in need of friends, donors, and goodwill people to join them and work with a purpose of achieving building Wernyol Primary School, next year if possible.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- *Invite one of the ACDP members to speak at your school, church, and your community to spread awareness about the mission of the Abek community Development Program.*
- *Volunteer yourself and tell your colleagues to join the Abek community members to achieve the mission of Abek Community Development Program.*
- *Donate money to assist fund ACDP Wernyol Primary School Project and other purposes.*
- *Please visit our web site at www.abekcommunityusa.com and you will find more information about us.*

SEND YOUR DONATION TO:

Christ Church
Attention to: ACDP in memo
470 Maple Street
Winnetka, IL 60093

Your donation is tax deductible

“Every dollar you pledge makes different in the life of hundred kids who are never seen education in Abek Community, Southern Sudan”