

ABOUT THE INITIATIVES

“Peace means development. Peace means education. Peace means when you are sick, you get treatment. Health and education go hand in hand. They are not separate things.”

-Gabriel Deng, featured in *Rebuilding Hope*

Rebuilding Hope is not only documenting the efforts of three Sudanese to bring development to their homeland; the film is also seeking to support those efforts. Proceeds from the film go to the projects described below.

EDUCATION

Gabriel Bol graduated from college with a degree in math education just days before his first homecoming trip to Sudan. Believing in the power of education, he was determined to build the first ever school building in his village, Ariang. Gabriel Bol started a non-profit organization called Hope for Ariang Foundation, and, even before his trip home, began raising money for the future school by selling t-shirts and speaking to high schools and universities all over the country. When Gabriel Bol witnessed the state of education in South Sudan during his homecoming, it increased his determination even further. Sudan has the second lowest access to primary education in the world, ahead of only Afghanistan. Currently, only 25 percent of children in Southern Sudan are enrolled in school, and less than 1 percent of girls complete primary school. Gabriel Bol returned to his village again in February 2009 to begin the process of making the bricks for what will soon be the Ariang School and consulting with engineers for the overall cost of building materials and construction of the school.

HEALTH CARE

Koor is studying to become a Registered Nurse and works as a Licensed Practical Nurse. On Koor's first trip back home to Sudan in 2007, he raised thousands of dollars to bring medical supplies and mosquito nets to distribute to the newly built clinic in Akon and to remote villages. In January 2008, he returned to South Sudan for three months to treat patients at the Akon clinic, provide health education, and supervise under-trained clinic staff so that they could continue the work after he left.

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Rebuilding Hope

Upon his return to the United States he founded Ubuntu, a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide health education and services to people in Southern Sudan. Koor is working in partnership with HOPE for Ariang in health education and plans to return to Sudan to begin Ubuntu's work in December, 2009.

CLEAN WATER

When Garang went home to Lang Village to find his mother in the summer of 2007, he knew he wanted to do something to help his community but he was not sure what it was. Garang soon realized the overwhelming need facing the people in Lang. There are 10,000 people living in Lang village and surrounding villages. They are a three-hour walk from the nearest river and nearly a two-hour walk from the closest water pumps. He saw people drinking water directly from puddles on the ground—the same ground where, for lack of latrines, people used to defecate. Hundreds of villagers, Garang was told, died of cholera (a preventable water-borne disease) in the past year alone. During the long, hot dry season, the cows and goats become vulnerable and die from contaminated water as well, depriving the villagers of their chief source of income. Garang decided to raise money to build a system of water pumps, providing a source of clean water to Lang and neighboring villages. Garang returned to Sudan with Gabriel Bol in February 2009 and oversaw the drilling of six wells in both Lang and Ariang villages. He is continuing to raise money to drill more wells.

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