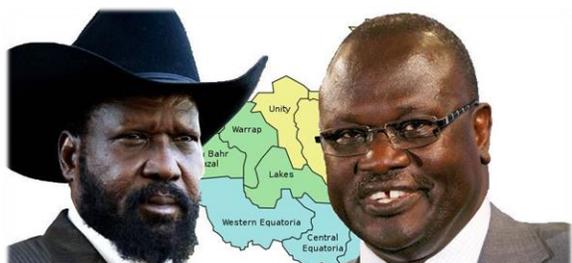


The McClerkin Messenger

August 21, 2018

Dear Friends,

After 5 years of civil war in South Sudan, the nation's leaders finally agreed to resume peace talks again this past June. The threat of international sanctions, a failing economy, and the determination of the South Sudanese people combined to create a wave of momentum towards their peacemaking efforts. Only two days into the negotiations, however, President Kiir nearly shut the talks down by refusing to work with opposition leader Riek Machar. The country began to fear the worst. Then, six weeks later, on August 5th, the tide turned. Warring parties signed a peace deal which made Riek Machar "First Vice President," one of five vice presidents.



President Salva Kiir and his political rival (now First Vice President), Riek Machar

Some are applauding this agreement, while others warn that this kind of power-sharing among so many leaders could lead to another explosive situation. Thankfully, for the moment, it has led to a better economic situation and a huge sigh of relief among our neighbors. *Pray with us that this arrangement will foster lasting peace and growth in the nation.*

Cultural Note: Better Homes & Gardens

Family life in Toposaland centers around cattle grazing and gardening. Boys usually take care of the cattle, and anyone left at home tends to the garden. A good rainy season is vital to the success of both. It makes it easier to

find good pasture for the livestock, meaning families can stay closer together. And it produces greater harvests, meaning families will eat better. ...We're thankful that this year we've had a particularly good rainy season!

Save the Children, Train the Midwives



Last Thursday, the directors of Save the Children (U.S.A.) arrived at our compound. They travelled here to hold a workshop for more than 30 midwives who serve women and deliver babies in our area. It was a blessing to be part of this important work by offering a "classroom" space!

Meet Our Boys

Featuring Amos Lonok

Amos is one of three siblings. He is 11 years old and in the 2nd grade. His parents are cattle keepers. Amos was abandoned by his parents in 2015 when he came down with TB. An American girl employed by the Carter Foundation found him wandering around the villages and decided to take him in. She got him treatment and started to nurse him back to health. After caring for the boy for about a year, the young lady had to return to the States. Since she'd heard about Hope4Sudan, she determined to pay us a visit to see if we could take him in and continue his treatments for TB. Of course, we did. "Carter Center," as he has come to be known, has made a full recovery. He loves church, soccer, and playing in the mango groves. He is very, *very* witty and as mischievous as they get. He hopes to become a businessman one day.



Ethan & Colton's Corner

School break for **Ethan** means bare feet and playing in the great outdoors. It also means more time for teaching his little brother new tricks, like how to eat sand. Although he loves going to school, Ethan has certainly been enjoying a few extra freedoms over the last four weeks!



Colton has been a real joy to us – a happy, laidback baby who loves to laugh. For the most part, he's quiet and enjoys crawling and playing alone. We're starting to think this is because he can do more mischief. This kid gets into everything.



*“I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart.
And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give.
So don't be troubled or afraid.” John 14:27 (NLT)*