

Success Story

A Primary School Graduate **Returns to Teach** **at** **St. Thomas**



The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher. Luke 6:14

My name is Peter Obore Sabastian and I was born 23 years ago in 1997. My Lotuko family are from outside of Torit. We were four children but two have passed along with my father leaving only my married sister who lives with our mother, Chalamini. As a child, I would tend goats and cows and often sleep outside in the bush. One time when I was about 8 or 9 years old, I was scaring birds in the fields when my friend left to collect more stones. While he was gone, a stranger tried to abduct me. I ran away and hid from him but it was a narrow escape.

Due to the war, our family were forced to relocate to Uganda at Agago Refugee Camp. After attending nursery, I started Primary School in 2006. I was brought to Narus to continue my studies from 2007 to 2010. While I was there, a friend recommended St. Thomas Primary School in Kuron. I began my Primary 5 studies in St. Thomas and graduated with a Certificate of Primary Eight.

While I was attending St. Thomas Primary, I remember being a Scout, playing sports, and that the quality and quantity of food was not very good in those days. My teachers taught us very well at that time. We were only 10 Lotuko in those days. I remember one teacher quote; telling me that to advance in life you must respect your teachers and study hard and you will be successful. I never forgot those wise words.

I entered Narus Lopua Memorial Secondary School and finished by graduating with a Certificate of Secondary Four. At that time, I heard St. Thomas was taking applications for teachers. I felt like I wanted to help Toposa children so I took the chance. I applied and, by the Grace of God, was accepted as a Class Teacher. Currently, I teach P8 Math, P7 CRE, P2 CRE and P2 SST. I can speak Toposa because I learned it while I studied here as a



Figure 1 Peter helping a student at St. Thomas Primary

child in Kuron. I can also speak Lotuko, Juba Arabic and English. I became the Scout Leader because I had been a member in school myself.

I found in the Primary school the dormitories are worse than before. The students are lacking all the sleeping materials like mattresses and blankets. They are more crowded than what I remember. When I was studying I found that Mathematics helped me the most in my life. I am also trying to help these young children. They need an education and I want to give them good advice like I received when I was young.



Figure 2 Peter addresses the Student Assembly

Here in Toposa land, the children really want to study but it is the parents who are reluctant to send their children to school. The young boys are especially needed to watch the animals and scare the birds as I did when I was young. One of my classmates told me a long time ago that he was beaten because he wanted to attend school. I am thankful that my parents supported me in school.

I hope to be able to further my studies in the future. I have always liked Health and I hope to be able to receive a scholarship to study that subject someplace.

(Source: Interview of Peter Obore edited by Gabe Hurrish, 15.Nov.2021)