

I WANT TO BECOME A TEACHER FOR MY PEOPLE

There was a big farewell in Kuron for the primary school leavers of St. Thomas Primary School the first Sunday of November. This year 14 pupils – 11 boys and 3 girls – have finished their first eight years of education and are ready to sit for the final exam in order to qualify for secondary education. The total number is an increase from the 8 pupils last year.



Daniel with his class mates.

Daniel Lokwar who gave a speech on behalf of his class mates, has a special history. With an age of 21 years and more than 1.90 meter tall, he distinguished himself from the other pupils at St. Thomas Primary School. He was told to cut his hair short, and he has stayed in a boarding school with pupils who are only 8 – 9 years old. When I asked him to comment on this, his reply was that he had to accept all this since he had a strong motivation to learn.

As an explanation for his desire to join school, Daniel told that he had seen some friends had changed behaviour and were able to speak English after they went to school. Eight years ago he decided to leave for Nanyangachor, which is a day walk from his home village Napwatazigiria. However, he had to leave the school after a week because he failed to pay for his school fee. A second reason was that he arrived without his parents who were too old to join him on his walk. Shortly afterwards he was admitted at St Thomas.

Most probably, Daniel will be a student at the secondary school in Narus for the next four years. This is the school nearest to his home, and the school fees are lower than in many other schools. To raise money for school fees is a problem for Daniel and many of his friends.

Daniel announced during the farewell ceremony his goals for the coming years. Daniel would like to return to his own people as a trained teacher. With only five pupils from Kauto district sitting for the final exam this year, there is a big demand for more local teachers to inspire and educate the next toposa generation.



Daniel with his friend Joseph

Kristen Fløgstad