



## **Woman Strong**

### **A success story**

## **HOLY TRINITY PEACE VILLAGE KURON**



My name is Paskah Lokumukuo Lokorae Dedemoy. I am a sixteen year old Toposa woman. I am one of the few people who know when they were born, 11.Nov.2005. My mother kept the date and told me when I was young. I was born in a small village called Napotpot between Kapoeta and Narus, Eastern Equatoria State. My father passed away a long time ago. I only have my mother and two brothers. We were five but two of our siblings die at early age.

I was lucky to be able to attend Bakhita Primary School in Narus. I had an Auntie from our village who was supporting me. When she died I had to find another way.

With resolve, I started to make alcohol to support myself. My mother used to do that to raise us children. When mother got sick I had to do something drastic. As a young girl, there were other pressures on me.

My Uncle on my mother's side is against me. He doesn't want me to be in school. He wants me to get married which would bring in cows for him. I was desperate to get out of that and stay in school. You know this is a country where the woman is seen as less valuable than even the cows. The men dominate and try to impose their will on the rest of us. This leads to early child marriage. I was caught in a similar situation.

After my father died, my mother became helpless. The family members on my mother's side are only concerned with making money. So, they wanted to marry me and get cows.

God is the reason I am here. The reason I came here to Kuron was that I just wanted to get far away. I put my life in God's hands. I had a relative in St. Thomas Primary School in Kuron Village. That relative advised me to come to this isolated place and no one would bother me. I came alone with fees from my business to pay for the first term. I do not know where my school fees for next term will come from.

I want to attend university eventually, if I can be blessed with that opportunity. I would like to be a nurse. Others have told me that this profession is good. It has been a dream of mine for a long time. Biology is one of my favorite subjects. I have seen the nurses in the Health Clinic nearby our school and they are doing good work for the community. I want to do that too.

My concerns here are that I feel lonely. I can't share my problems with my fellow students as their situation is different. I can communicate with my mother but this is not very often. My life is in God's hands. I pray every day.

( edited: 04.Oct.2021 gh )