

Panhom News

Delivery of Christmas Gifts



Purchase of 'Christmas' goats

In February 2007, two of Panhom's Board members, William and Mel, traveled to South Sudan. During this time we implemented the highly successful Christmas Gift Program. A total of 21 goats, 19 school bags and 24 mosquito nets were donated to those families most in need living in the Aweil region of Bahr el Ghazal state in South Sudan.

One of the most challenging aspects of the program was identifying those families most in need, as the need of

every family is so great. One goat was given to each family who was known by the Chief of the area not to have any livestock with the aim that the goats would breed, thereby providing the family with milk and an investment that builds with time. All of the 21 goats that were donated were female.

Collecting all the donations was another challenge that took almost a week. We had to travel to several towns in the region to purchase the school bags, books, mosquito nets and goats. Funnily enough, the most difficult things to purchase were pens and pencils which were a struggle to find at almost all of the markets. The program was a huge success and will be moni-



'Christmas' goat recipient

tored with great interest over the coming year. Due to the fantastic response of donors in Australia as well as the immense need seen in the people of South Sudan, the Christmas Gift program will run again in 2007/2008 with the addition of blankets, saucepans and bicycles to the list of gifts.



Donation of school bags



In February 2007, we delivered 200 birthing kits donated by Zonta International to traditional birth attendants in the Aweil

region of South Sudan. These birthing kits help to provide a clean birthing site which may decrease the risk of maternal and infant death through infection. The birthing kits were received with much excite-

Donation of Birthing Kits

ment and even a statement of "How do those people all the way over there (in Australia) know what we need here to deliver a baby!" The birth attendants indicated great interest in receiving more birthing kits, and as such it is hoped that we will be able to make this an ongoing project.

Special points of interest:

- Panhom was established in late 2004 during the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Sudan.
- The literacy rate in the Aweil region of South Sudan is estimated to be less than 5%.
- The childhood mortality rate in Sudan is more than 12%.

Wäramoth Primary School



Current school in Wäramoth

Panhom is currently undertaking the construction of Wäramoth Primary School in Wäramoth, Aweil region of Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan. When two of our Board Members initially

arrived in Wäramoth, they were astounded to see an under-tree school run by three volunteer teachers who come from the local community. Many students sit on the ground or on benches constructed of tree trunks. The teachers use 'boards' accidentally delivered by the UN in the form of pallets protecting food-drop parcels during famine times.

There are no student or teacher resources. School closes when it rains. The school construction was discussed in detail during a videoed consultation with the elders of the Wäramoth Community. It was agreed that as much of the construc-

tion as possible would be completed free of charge by members of the community whose children attend the school. In this way, the use of the sd434, 000 (US\$2170) donated by Panhom can be utilised for those resources most desperately needed.



Community consultation

Digging of a Bore Hole

Panhom is currently facilitating the digging of a bore hole in Wäramoth, Aweil region of Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan. This project was very generously sponsored by the Denton Family. Madäga (a nodding donkey water pump) was like a new Dinka greeting

term. It was the next thing you heard in Wäramoth after general greetings. This project, like the school, will also be implemented in Wäramoth village. A village, like most villages in South Sudan, that was completely devastated

Wäramoth walk for up to four hours (plus waiting time in the queue) each day to carry at most 20Lt of water to their families for cooking, washing and drinking. This forces them to leave young children unattended at home for long periods so that the woman can walk faster while balancing a 20Lt jerry can of water on her head and carrying additional 10Lt on her hand. The digging of a bore hole in Wäramoth will allow women to do other essential household chores, and remain with their children, while avoiding wastage of up to 6 hours a day in water collection.



Children carrying water from a bore hole

“Currently women from Wäramoth walk for up to four hours each day to bring at most 20 Lt of water.”

by the war. During the 22 years of Civil war, natural water sources dried up. Currently, women from

Panhom Fundraising Movie Event

Panhom's third fundraising movie event will be held on Sunday, August 5th. We will be showing the recent Oscar award winning film, 'The Last King of Scotland' as well as a brief DVD detailing the implementation of Panhom's projects in South Sudan. Please join us at 6.30pm at the Windsor Theatre in Lockleys for pre-dinner nibbles, drinks and a chat.



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