KOIYOM CLINIC BEGINS PHASE 2

By Fr. Ron Sajdak

In April of 2009, members of ROTA: Reaching Out 2 Africa, an outreach ministry of St. Martin de Porres Church, traveled to the village of Koiyom in Southern Sudan to celebrate a historic ground breaking. The ground breaking was made possible by the generous support of the “Pickle Jar Project” sponsored by our Diocesan Youth which was able to raise over $35,000 to start work on a much needed medical clinic; portions of which would be dedicated in memory of Fr. Gary Bagley and Sr. Karen Klimczak. After a few years of fundraising and appeals, Phase 1: the construction of the clinic building is majorly completed. Now ROTA turns its attention to Phase 2 of the project: the equipping of the clinic. After much discussion with its advisory board, it was determined that, though costly, the collection of quality used medical equipment and supplies here in United States, and the shipping of those supplies to the clinic would be more advantageous than purchasing poorer quality used goods closer to the clinic location. In order to begin this phase it was necessary to purchase a seaworthy shipping container. Through a generous grant from the HOPE FUND of St. Vincent de Paul parish community in Springbrook, a used shipping container was purchased, refurbished and delivered to St. Martin de Porres in Buffalo. The container mounted upon a shipping chaise and labeled with the ROTA ministry name will remain on the grounds of St. Martin de Porres until it is filled and ready for its long journey to South Sudan. Through the years the HOPE FUND of St. Vincent de Paul has assisted ROTA ministries and many other ministry organizations.

In Photo: Africa Project Coordinator and former “Lost Boy of Sudan” Fidele Diing Dhan, Ms. Angeline Pellien, head of the St. Vincent de Paul Parish HOPE FUND, and Fr. Ron Sajdak, Director of ROTA.

ROTA had received a generous donation of eleven mechanical beds from Seneca Health Care Center and is promised additional ones as the nursing home receives their electric replacements.

Pictured with a truck full of beds from left Father Ronald Sajdak, founder of Reaching Out 2 Africa, Aaron Polanski, administrator of Seneca Health Care Center, Fidele Diing Dhan, Africa project coordinator, Joan Ersing, executive director of ROTA, and Jamie Maloney, admissions coordinator at Seneca.

Fr. Ron Sajdak, Fred Mills, Board Vice President, and former “Lost Boy” of Sudan Fidele Diing Dhan, were able to purchase $1,500 worth of medical equipment at the Sheehan Memorial Hospital Auction in late March. These goods: examination tables, weight scales, blood drawing chair units, along with lab equipment, etc. will make a great impact to equip the clinic for a fraction of the cost of new materials. As the miracles continued to happen we received a call from the McGuire Group in early June asking if we wished to receive a large donation of medical supplies. Renting our trusty U-Haul truck yet again we collected and transported a truck load to our shipping container. Additional desks, chairs, and tables were purchased at the Holy Angels Academy Auction in August. Thank you Lord for the miracles that continually happen for us.
AND THE CHILDREN WILL LEAD THEM

Time and time again we are always amazed at the generosity and thoughtfulness of the children and youth who have been touched by our ministry of ROTA: Reaching Out 2 Africa. This past spring we were summoned to a musical concert program sponsored by the choir of Our Lady of Blackrock School on the Campus of Assumption Church on Amherst Street. Because of the school’s multicultural membership the students decided that the raised funds from their concert should go to an organization and ministry that touches the homeland of many in the student body. Many thanks to the school’s youth choir, music director Mary Lou Wyrobek, School Principal Ms. Martha Eadie, and Pastor Rev. Fr. Richard Jedrzejewski for the kind consideration of naming ROTA as the beneficiary of the funds raised at the concert program. In the photo receiving their funds on the left is Angelo Gum who leads an effort to supply children in South Sudan Villages with basic school supplies. (See story on page four) The students and faculty were thrilled to learn that their donation would be assisting other African children in their educations.

Youth from St. Jude parish in Sardinia’s Confirmation Program visited St. Martin de Porres for a second consecutive year in order to present Fidele Dhan a check with proceeds from their program’s Pancake Breakfast. Advisory Board members Deborah Jones and Catherine Horton joined Fidele in accepting a check for over six hundred dollars to support the many faceted ministries of ROTA.

ROTA: Reaching Out 2 Africa is invited each year to participate in the yearly Mission Cooperative. Fifty Mission Dioceses, Religious Communities, and Mission Organizations are invited to speak at one large and two smaller parish congregations per year; sharing the progress of their mission efforts and solicit financial support. ROTA has had the opportunity to visit St. Pius X parish in Getzville, St. Lawrence and St. Martin de Porres parishes in Buffalo. However, before we could even get to strategize how to do so within our home parish of St. Martin de Porres one of our Youth led the way. On the weekend of June 23rd while Fr. Ron was at St. Pius, one of our young girl scouts, Amari sought out the help of one of ROTA’s board members, Adam Sumlin. They secured a large plastic water jug that little Amari presented to the congregation and challenged other youth of the parish and adults as well to bring in their change to fill the jug so that the shipping container on our property can be filled with the medical equipment and life saving medicines that will assist the children of Koiyom Village; the home of Fr. Gary Bagley, Sr. Karen Klmczak, Koiyom Medical Clinic. Many thanks to Amari, a young missionary, who challenged us all to begin to take our Missionary Vocation seriously. It is at our Baptism, that we are all called to ministry within the Church; sharing in the preaching the Gospel and coming to the assistance to our Brothers and Sisters in the Body of Christ.

CHILDREN LEADING THE WAY AGAIN
By Mrs. Joan Ersing, Executive Director

Over the summer we were blessed with the support of three parishes and their summer faith formation programs. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Harris Hill, conducted a collection of over the counter medical supplies during their two week Faith Formation Program. Over 186 youth in grades four through ten listened attentively to Fr. Ron and Joan Ersing present an overview of the Koiyom Medical Clinic Project and its need to ‘help children’ that don’t have medical care available to them in their village in South Sudan. The youth rallied to the cause and collected over eight large boxes of medical supplies, crutches and canes. Amazing results!

At Padre Pio Parish in Oakfield, participants in the Vacation Bible School collected money to help purchase equipment for the clinic. A small group of children reaching out to children half way across the world! Job well done.

At St. Benedict’s Vacation Bible School in Eggertsville, the youth brought in bandages, multivitamins for children, antacids, pain relievers and antibiotic ointment. With each donation the youth were able to place their name on a bandage and put it on a “Koiyom Medical Clinic” Poster. Once again, we are moved by the love, determination and generosity of our youth. Thank you, to all of the youth and to their adult mentors as well as Mr. Richard Ersing our Board Member and Pharmacist who assisted the effort of sorting, listing and repackaging the items donated.
“ROTA 365” Members Thank You!

Rev. James Augustyn
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bagley
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bork
Mrs. Ann Dietterich
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dugan
Mrs. Patricia Eberle
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ersing
Ms. Kathryn Fonte
St. Francis HS Youth Min
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Heraty
Ms. Catherine Horton
Rev. Paul Juenker
Mr. & Mrs. Benoit Kahayiza
Most Rev. Edward U. Kmiec
Mr. & Mrs. James Kowalski
Rev. John Kuhlmann
Ms. Genevieve Lindenfeld
Rev. John Madsen
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Molenda

Rev. James O’Connor
Ms. Barbara Ode
Mr. Edmund Owczarzak
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Penfold
Ms. Margaret Rawski
Rev. Ronald P. Sajdak
Sisters of St. Joseph
Rev. Ivan Skenderovic
Rev. Charles Slisz
Mr. Adam Sumlin
Mrs. Denice Taylor-Sumlin
Ivano Toscani/Anchor Bar & St. Jude Confrms…Youth
Rev. Raymond Uschold
Ms. Patricia Vincent
Mrs. Jean Woods
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Young
Dan & Joanne Zwolinski

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Last spring our Advisory Board challenged many of you, our supporters, to consider contributing one dollar a day, or a one time gift of $365 either in one contribution or distributed over time, in order to purchase the medical supplies and equipment necessary to fill our shipping container and get it to our medical clinic building in Koiyom Village, South Sudan. The response that we had received was very gratifying. May God bless you each and every day of your 365 commitment year for your outpouring of generosity. This vote of confidence in the ministry enabled us to attend two different auction events and secure multiple items of medical supplies via the Sheehan Hospital auction (See the article on page one) as well as desks, chairs, and other much needed furniture via Holy Angels Academy.

Our shipping container is not yet filled to capacity but our list of needed items has quickly been reduced. Thank you one and all for your confidence in our ministry. While we continue to work to supply our needs we also have been working on all the arrangements to safely transport our container abroad to S. Sudan.

Aken who took his place in our Work Training Program. Even while in school at Canisius Jenaro often spoke of making a return visit to South Sudan and spend time with so many relatives and friends that were distant memories. One July 1st 2010 he became an USA citizen and obtained his passport. Having successfully graduated from Canisius College in May 2012 he finally began his first trip back to his homeland in November of 2012. Having met relatives from London, England, the first half of his time was spent there. Then came the journey to South Sudan. In Juba, the South’s capital city, he was welcomed by his step dad’s family. After one week he began his journey to Malakal. It had been fifteen years since he saw his dad and grandfather. As a child, Jenaro was raised by his mom and grandparents and seeing his grandfather filled him with much emotion. Finally being at home with his Africa family he met many of his cousins, aunts and uncles. Because his dad worked at Malakal Hospital, Jenaro found a great place to power up his tech tools to stay in touch with us all. He enjoyed the family gatherings, the fishing for the family’s food, and especially the eating. On his way back to London, he had a twenty-three hour layover in Cairo Egypt. Contacting relatives he was able to see the sights before beginning his journey back to London and then back to Buffalo. God bless you Jenaro and your whole family in your new homeland of Kansas City.

WE WILL MISS YOU………

It takes years to build relationships with people, years to establish that trust that helps one grow. All through our lives we also experience that tough reality of saying goodbye as friends, family and good friends relocate to other areas of the country. So it is with a bit of sadness but with confidence in his ability that ROTA says best of blessings to Jenaro Aken and his family who are relocating to Kansas City, MO. Jenaro came to Buffalo as a refugee with his family many years ago. Having been born in the city of Khartoum of the Shilluk tribe Jenaro and family were resettled on Buffalo’s west side. I had the pleasure of meeting this fine enterprising young man when he was about twelve. Even then he knew how to dress to impress, playing drums for a new Sudanese band led by Mr. John Victor. As he entered Grover Cleveland High School, we invited him into our Work Training Program at St. Martin de Porres. He worked very hard and very successfully. Graduating from high school he entered ECC city campus for two years and mainstreamed into Canisius College earning a BA in Political Science majoring in International Relations. As he grew up into a very fine adult, we welcomed Jenaro to serve on the Board of the ROTA Development Group Inc. As he acquired other employment opportunities he introduced us to his brother
SHARING GOD’S BLESSING

Last Spring we wrote a story about Fr. Joseph Kasangaki, a young Ugandan priest of the Diocese of Masaka. It was Fr. Joseph who was supposed to travel to the USA this past spring in order to both do an internship with our Diocesan Communications Office as well as participate as the ROTA representative in the Spring Mission Cooperative here in the Buffalo Diocese. After applying for a US visa over six times he was denied. Because he was not able to travel here former “Lost Boy” Fidele Diing Dhan and Fr. Ron fulfilled the Mission Cooperative assignments. Fr. Joseph did contact us though and shared with us what the additional funding would have provided for the Communications office of the Diocese of Masaka. After some consultation, monies amounting to $4,000 US dollars were freed up and were wired to him for his ministry. We received this communication from him:

Greetings from Masaka Diocese,

I am happy to let you know that I have been able to secure new and good cameras for Social communications Office out of your assistance of $4000.

I bought a Video camera Sony HDV mode, HDR FX 7 and a stereo camera Nikon D3100. These cameras together with their accessories summed up to 9,200,000/= equivalent to $3680 after being given discount. The 800,000/= equivalent to $320 that remained is to assist in the running of the Office.

I am happy to inform you that these equipments are so good and they have added value on our Office.

To update you on my journey to the USA, I am preparing to schedule for a Visa interview in the first week of the coming Month -September 2013. I hope this break time given to the Embassy is enough for me to go back. I trust that persistence is part of success. I have also been transferred to The Nativity of our Lady Bisanje Catholic Parish which is 10 Km from Masaka Town.

We wish Father Joseph many blessing and much success in his new attempt to secure his travel papers. Blessings also to all our friends in Masaka Diocese.

GOING BACK HOME CAN CHANGE ONE’S PERSPECTIVE

Angelo Gum is a young Sudanese man who came to Buffalo as a refugee in the year 2000. He lives on Buffalo’s Westside along with his four children and their mother. A rather casual return home to South Sudan in 2011 resulted in his perspective being changed and he’ll never be the same. After being here in American for so long, and experiencing the intense needs of people, especially the children in his hometown village, his heart was moved to do something. He was constantly asked by many of the children whom he met experiencing school outdoors beneath a large tree, if he could provide them at least with one pencil each. They didn’t ask for a coca cola, or new school clothes, or even a ride to their school. They only asked for a pencil. This motivated him to inquire if ROTA: Reaching Out 2 Africa could assist him. We mentioned this to the Our Lady of Black Rock School and the proceeds from their Holiday concert, see page two, helped to purchase many school supplies that eventually will make their way back to his home village.

MOVING FORWARD

ROTA continues to move ahead on our various projects. Through your ongoing support the miracles will continue to happen. ROTA Development Group Inc., has just received our tax exemption status here in NY State. Now our NGO has to complete the process in South Sudan. Then our Shipping container will be able to begin its long journey to Kenya and then by land to Koiyom South Sudan. The following is a listing of projects that you may wish to throw your support behind:

◊ Shipping Container/Transportation Funding for our of medical supplies and equipment for the Fr. Gary Bagley, Sr. Karen Klimeczak Koiyom Medical Clinic, S. Sudan.
◊ Our Work Training Program that is still in operation, now at St. Martin de Porres and St. Lawrence Parish.
◊ African Clergy funding assistance—especially Fr. Joseph who will need assistance to make his trip here to Buffalo.
◊ ROTA 365 Support: One Dollar A Day Pledge

We would be so very lost without your constant help and assistance. May Saint Josephine Bakhita warmly bless you for your help. Thanks for your vote of confidence in our ministry.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.reachingout2africa.com

Check out and “LIKE” our Reaching Out 2 Africa Facebook page as well.