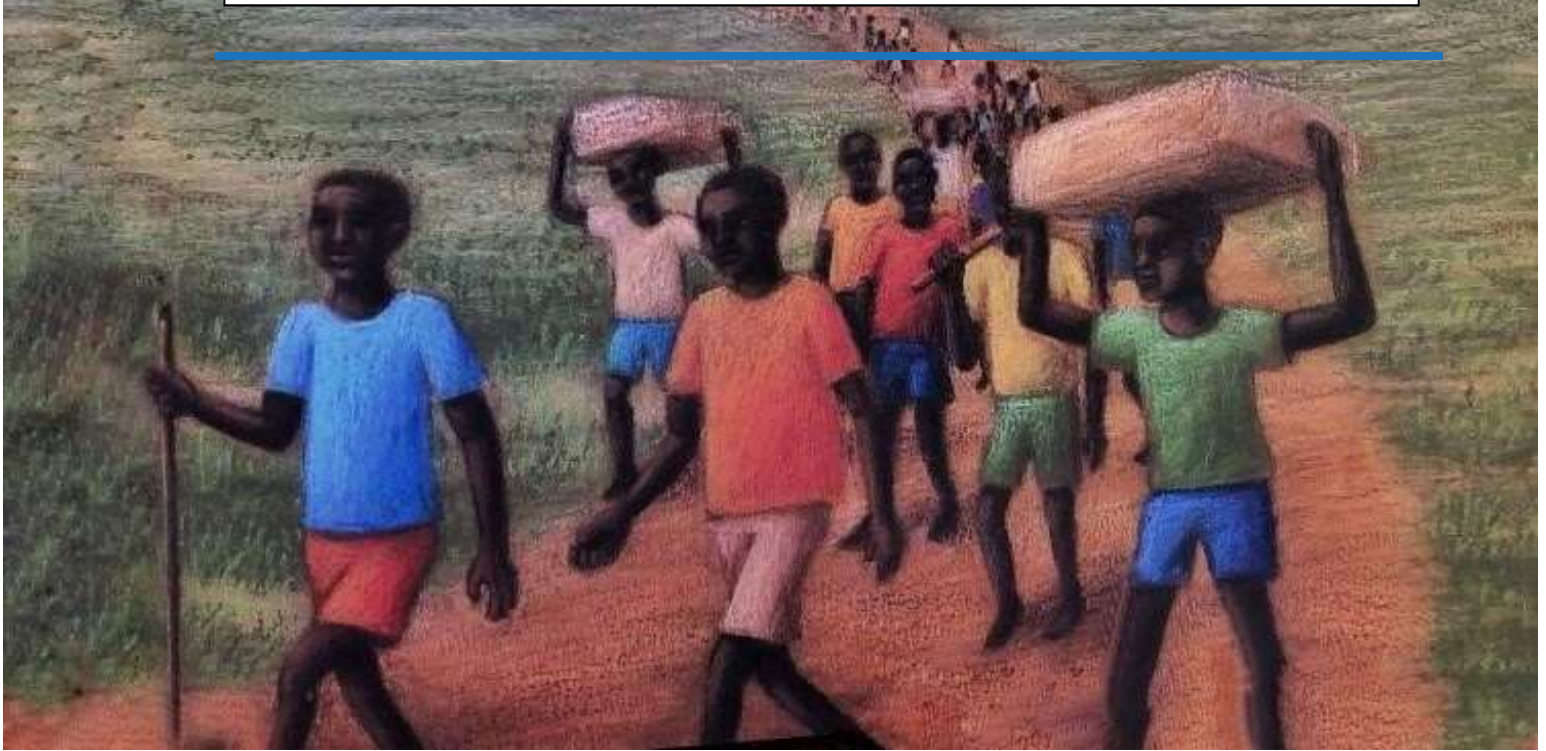


Khor Wakow Project

Looking Back – Moving Forward



Despite war and insurmountable challenges faced for the last thirteen years in this region of the world, God has allowed the Khor Wakow Project to be used in unimaginable ways during this time. This newsletter is dedicated to looking back and remembering...all that God has done through us!

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Dear Friends of Khor Wakow Project,

A 13-year story of a mission of goodwill. I am sitting here but I do not know what to write or say to everyone who has been on this journey for the Khor Wakow Project, knowing the conditions in South Sudan. My heart was filled with a fear of disappointing my friends and family for not building the permanent school in the expected timeline. I know God's time is different than that of humans as He has revealed to me so many times in my life.

Please accept my personal heartfelt *THANK YOU* to you all from my family and me for ensuring that the permanent school in Donyal Village is finally completed. My faith in God was challenged and tested in a way that I never imagined it would be. Along came faithful friends who ignited my faith in God and His mission for the children of South Sudan. I am very grateful in every way possible because God has guided us through good and tough times. Well done everyone! Your generosity and encouragement brought us to this very moment to celebrate and house 370 boys and girls in our new school in Donyal Village, South Sudan.

It is remarkable what a little faith can do, and that little faith gave us so much confidence in each other and made us accomplish so much for God's glory!!

Thank you for your trust in me and for what we can accomplish together!

Blessings to each one of you and your family!!

David Wal Jal
Founder and Executive Director
Khor Wakow Project

Welcome to our new Board Members



Brenda Hill, Board Chair

Donn Hill, Board Treasurer

Our family feels incredibly blessed and humbled not only to know David, but to be a part of supporting the Khor Wakow Project through serving in whatever way we are needed. Since 2013, Donn and I have been significantly impacted firsthand by the work in South Sudan. To say it has been a life-changing experience would be an understatement.

During this time, we have seen thousands of people touched by God through David's heart to do more for the people of the Khor Wakow region. In 2011, *God helped the organization bring access to clean water* in Duniyal Village. In late November of 2014, a year into the war, *God fed thousands of people who had not fled the very unstable region through a coordinated relief agency air delivery*. We have seen *thousands of children—and women (for the first time in history) get access to school in seven villages every day since 2016*. In the midst of a war? Yes, in the middle of a war. Finally, we have been encouraged to see *David's dream of building a school in his home village become a reality in 2021!*

Donn and I have a very realistic understanding of just how challenging each one of those things is-- and *that is why we give all glory to God for making a way where there was no way*.

Brenda is currently the administrator for Westside Christian School and Donn is Pastor of Missions and Operations at First Evangelical Free Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



Tony Burke, Board Director

Tony is an inspirational senior executive with over 25 years of facilitative leadership experience, who is a proactive, collaborative, community-focused visionary bridge walker with expertise in organizational and community change management. He leads with the values of accountability and kindness. He also excels in financial management, strategic planning, portfolio development, program creation/enhancement, public/media relations, human resource development, and facility management.

After serving almost 20 years in the fire service, he has committed himself to non-profit work and service to the community through his strong desire and understanding change is good. He currently works with the American Heart Association with the sole focus to expand Medicaid in South Dakota, serves as a commissioner on the City of Sioux Falls Human Relations Commission, and as a Rotarian chairing the Sioux 52 Mentoring Initiative.

Tony's interest in the Khor Wakow Project is a passion to look outside our privileges, seek to learn from others, and empower others to discover, grow, and be self-sufficient, by sharing in one's interest in basic human needs.



Dawn Fischer, Board Director

I was born and raised in Milbank SD and graduated from Milbank High School. I attended college for two years at the University of Minnesota, Morris and then transferred to USD where I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Social Work. I am married (Jon) and live in Hartford SD. I have one daughter (Cassandra), and a 4½ year old grandson (River). In my free time, I enjoy camping, working on our acreage, scrapbooking, playing with our puppy, and spending time with friends and family. I have worked in various roles throughout my life: working in payroll at Hamline University and Land O'Lakes in Minnesota, an Office Manager at Carroll Institute, a counselor for an adolescent residential facility, a Juvenile Corrections Agent for the Department of Corrections in Sisseton, and currently as a Staff Support person for Court Services in Sioux Falls. When I started my current position, I met David Jal who introduced me to the Khor Wakow Project. I admire David's dedication to this cause by doing everything he can to improve the lives of the people in the village. I look forward to being a part of this project in whatever capacity is needed.



Lyndsay DeMatteo, Board Director

Lyndsay DeMatteo obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Valparaiso University in 2002 before going on to earn her Juris Doctorate from Valparaiso University School of Law in 2005. She has more than sixteen years of legal experience and has extensive experience in trial law. With considerable trial law experience, Lyndsay is not afraid to fight for her client's rights. What sets Lyndsay DeMatteo apart is her unyielding dedication to her clients. Ms. DeMatteo is known for treating her clients as if they were her own family. She devotes her legal training and experience to saving her clients money, time, and pain so they can get back to their lives.

THANK YOU!

We want to send out a huge **THANK YOU** to all who have generously donated to help support the Khor Wakow Project! Thank you to:

- ✚ Aberdeen First Methodist Church and the First Assembly of God Church in Sioux Falls for your generous donation!
- ✚ Sioux Valley Optimists Club for your gift of school supplies for the children!
- ✚ First Evangelical Free Church of Sioux Falls for your continued donation for various supplies for the school children!
- ✚ Naomi and Elliot! Because of your generosity, we were able to purchase 80 pairs of shoes for the children in Dunyal Village, South Sudan. Your generosity has blessed 80 students who we would otherwise not be able to assist. With your help, we will continue to provide educational opportunities to underprivileged children in Khor Wakow region of South Sudan.
- ✚ First Presbyterian Church of Sioux Falls for your donation! We were able to purchase 25 sacks of flour, 20 sacks of maize, 10 tents and 40 mosquito nets with your generous donation.





✚ Thank you, Sioux Falls First Church family! A family from Sioux Falls First Church e in 2019. Special thanks go to Sioux Falls First and the family for donating funds to drill a well for the Muon Village, providing a living water source and for blessing the people in Muon Village, South Sudan. We thank you for your help, now and always.

✚ A special thank you to our monthly individual and organizations donors! With your donations we have been able to provide an education to children who in the past would not have had the opportunity to receive an education. We have also been able to build a new well with the donations which means fresh water for the people of the village.

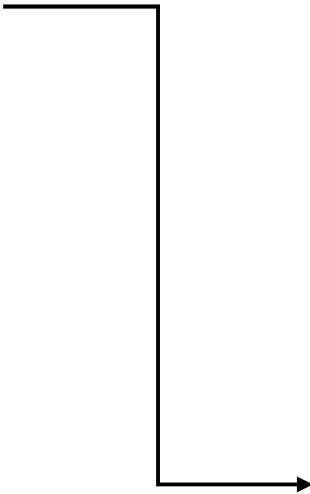
God Bless You All!



2010



David Jal took his first trip back to his home village of Donyal in 2010. Pictured here is carole cochran, colleague and team member from Vermillion. They met with village chiefs to discuss how to best support Donyal.



2012



As a result of this initial meeting, David's dream was formed-- to build a permanent school in Duniyal. David also realized that in order for girls to attend school it would be essential to bring corn grinders.

Girls with corn grinders.



In 2012, Steve Young, Joel Hirschman, and David traveled to Duniyal Village delivering six corn grinders.

They also dug the first well for the community.

Picture of Steve and Joel, in Duniyal



2013-2014

In 2013, Khor Wakow Project received a large anonymous donation, and we were anticipating construction of the school to begin in January 2014. Those plans, however, were brought to an abrupt halt when civil war broke out December 2013, just weeks before construction was to begin.

In 2014, a Team was sent to assess the needs of the refugees from the Khor Wakow region living in Ethiopia. Due to instability in the region, no travel was allowed in or around the region during their visit. However, due to this team's visit, thousands of pounds of food were delivered directly to the villages, which sustained the lives of the villagers.



2016

In April 2016, Pastor Hill provided Bible training to 35 refugee pastors. Mrs. Hill trained 12 teachers on lesson planning and classroom management.

November 2016 David and Mrs. Hill were able to get into South Sudan for the first time since the war had erupted.



At the first village, they arrived at, a group of school children greeted Mrs. Hill with a song and sang with her between the Khor Wakow villages.

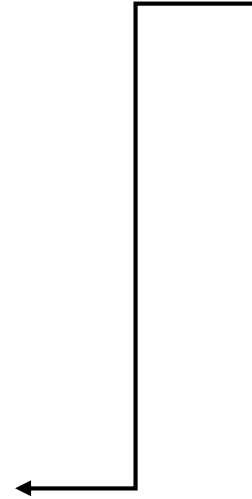
2017



Another Community Meeting was held in 2017 to address what could be done without a school. The community agreed to cut wood and construct “mud” walls in four villages. KWP provided the cost of the roof. Four Villages were impacted that year and another three the following year.



This is what the Temporary Learning Spaces look like before mudding and after mudding



These two-room structures allowed thousands of children to learn—even during the rainy season. The Christian Youth Activity League (CYAL), a local organization, provided soccer balls and uniforms during this time.

Mrs. Hill modeled good instructional practices for teachers during her visits to improve the learning environment for the children.



2020-2021

In 2020-2021 Khor Wakow Project was finally able to begin building the permanent school—one sandbag and one block made on site at a time! Despite many setbacks, the permanent school was completed in September 2021. We are currently serving **370 children!**

We employ twelve teachers, three security guards, several coordinators, a finance manager, and a logistics officer. The school includes nine classrooms, a nurse's office, an administrative office, and a storage room.



2022

A well for the Muon Village was completed August 2022. It took three (3) years to accomplish because of unrest in South Sudan. It was finally finished at the end of August 2022.

Watch for the “*Save-the-Date*” information!

**The Annual Fund Raising Event will be held in
April 2023!**

More information to come!