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## VISIT REPORT 1 - JUBA - MARCH 2017

### THE “BE IN HOPE” PROGRAM FOR STREET CHILDREN

Our local partner, the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) Juba has been supporting this program **for two years and a half now**. It had been initiated by two former street children who themselves had been beneficiaries of a similar program set up in Khartoum by SVDP in the 80s. Then, one of them became an employee of SVDP Khartoum until 2011.

Martin and William A. are now employees of SVDP Juba: Martin is a social worker who spends all the week-ends in the home with the 15 beneficiaries; William A. is now more often in SVDP offices in Lologo, where he is in charge of all administrative tasks related to the program, in addition to other functions.

The buildings of the home were constructed in 2015 in the village of Rajaf, about ten kilometers from Juba.  
In 2016, a well was drilled inside the home compound.





Every Saturday, and sometimes when they return from St. Tereza school (in Juba), the boys do some agricultural work on the vast land (2.5 hectares) of their home.



I saw them preparing the seeding layer of a parcel (above), to cultivate, during the impending rainy season, **vegetables**, such as "mollokhiya" (*Corchorus olitorius*).

Another cross plot is reserved for **corn**.

The teens are trained in agricultural work by Nyawelo, the foster father (who is a farmer's son), and occasionally by SVDP's teacher of the Household training of Lologo vocational training Center.

The young Paul Allafi (see photos), being himself a farmer's son, is also able to help initiating his comrades into farming.

He is seen here cooling off at one of **the three taps that are delivering water from the well**.

This water is a bit salty, and they do not drink it yet. They have to fill the water reservoir three times a month (2700 SSP / month, \$ 22). The water tank for sanitary and kitchen purposes is filled with water from the well. According to SVDP, this salinity is common at the beginning of the extraction of water from a well. This phenomenon used to be observed in the well located just outside the limits of the home: now the neighbours come and drink its water. In a few months, the water should have softened.







Beneficiaries eat meat or fish twice a week.

Here is one of two chickens remaining out of the **21 hens provided to the Be In Hope home by the SVDP poultry unit in Lologo.**

This income generating program resumed some months ago.

In these times when food is scarce and expensive, this kind of overall desired effect is welcome!

After ten months of quite troublesome coexistence of the boys and William A. one one side and the former foster parents - Dominic and Dawa - on the other side, SVDP preferred, in the end of October 2016, to dismiss the couple.

SVDP has assigned Dominic with a new mission in Lologo's offices: he is now responsible for developing and implementing a child protection policy.

Nyawelo (below), his wife Veronica (35 years), and their children have been immediately adopted by the boys. As the boys put it themselves in their short testimonies hereafter: they get along well with Nyawelo, and find him supportive and attentive to them.

I could note it myself: **the atmosphere this year had nothing to do with that of last year: it is much more peaceful and harmonious.**

A sign: the eldest son of the couple (13 years old) is sleeping with the other boys. The one of Dominic and Dawa did not dare: he feared Angui James' bites (sic!)

Meals are common and shared, contrary the previous couple's custom.

The improvement of the general atmosphere is much due to the management by SVDP senior staff of William A. The latter had become a nuisance element, but by dint of firmness and patience, Betram and his deputy William T. succeeded in obtaining from him a radical change in behavior, that I could notice myself.



Nyawelo Gwang Kiir, 42, the new foster father





**The common building has 4 rooms:** those shown on this page + kitchen + office.

Some **maintenance** work seem necessary. One wall has two long cracks. And some tile elements are to be fixed.

#### Refectory / Study Hall / TV room

The two tables and the wooden chairs were provided by the carpenter of SVDP Income Generating Program in Lologo.

**The room below will accommodate the three young Egyptian volunteers who come each summer to tutor the beneficiaries and animate their vacations.** Last summer, their stay was disrupted by the fighting: only Shadi came, and he left after two weeks. Their faithful involvement is to be credited to Michel Fleury's valuable support: Michel is a Brother of the Christian Schools. He too comes every year to contribute to the education of our protected.



Since my visit last year, the furniture has been improved. The room below, where Martin usually stays on weekends, has three beds.





Another significant improvement over last year: **all squatters have left the compound.** The last ones left in November 2016. They all received a compensation to help them rebuild a hut a little further.

The huts in the background of the photo opposite are located outside the boundaries of the home. The fence is now closed everywhere, and there is **only one entrance, through the portal, which is guarded by Samson.**

**In 2016, Joseph Lui (opposite) and Michael Lochpy - see the last two testimonies hereunder - could visit their respective families in Kapoeta.**

The trip lasted nearly two days. They were accompanied by Martin.

They then spent two weeks with their relatives. Their family are living in a state of extreme poverty and they struggle against famine. They were relieved to see their sons alive, given the circumstances... and happy to know them benefitting from living conditions that themselves were less than ever able to offer.

The boys have no more foot balls. The least expensive would be to buy some in Uganda,

with a pump. Below, they play the cards in one of their rooms.

The new school year started on 6 February.

**The results in 2016 were generally less satisfactory than the year before.**

This is due to a lack of supervision from Dominic, the former foster father.

But obviously, the boys have also been disturbed by the climate of violence.





**At Sunday Mass in Rajaf, the four choirboys were from Be in Hope!**



Seven beneficiaries have made their First Communion May 29, 2016, after several months of catechism given by sister Fernanda, under the guidance of Father Nicholas Kiri, the pastor of All Saints Rajaf parish

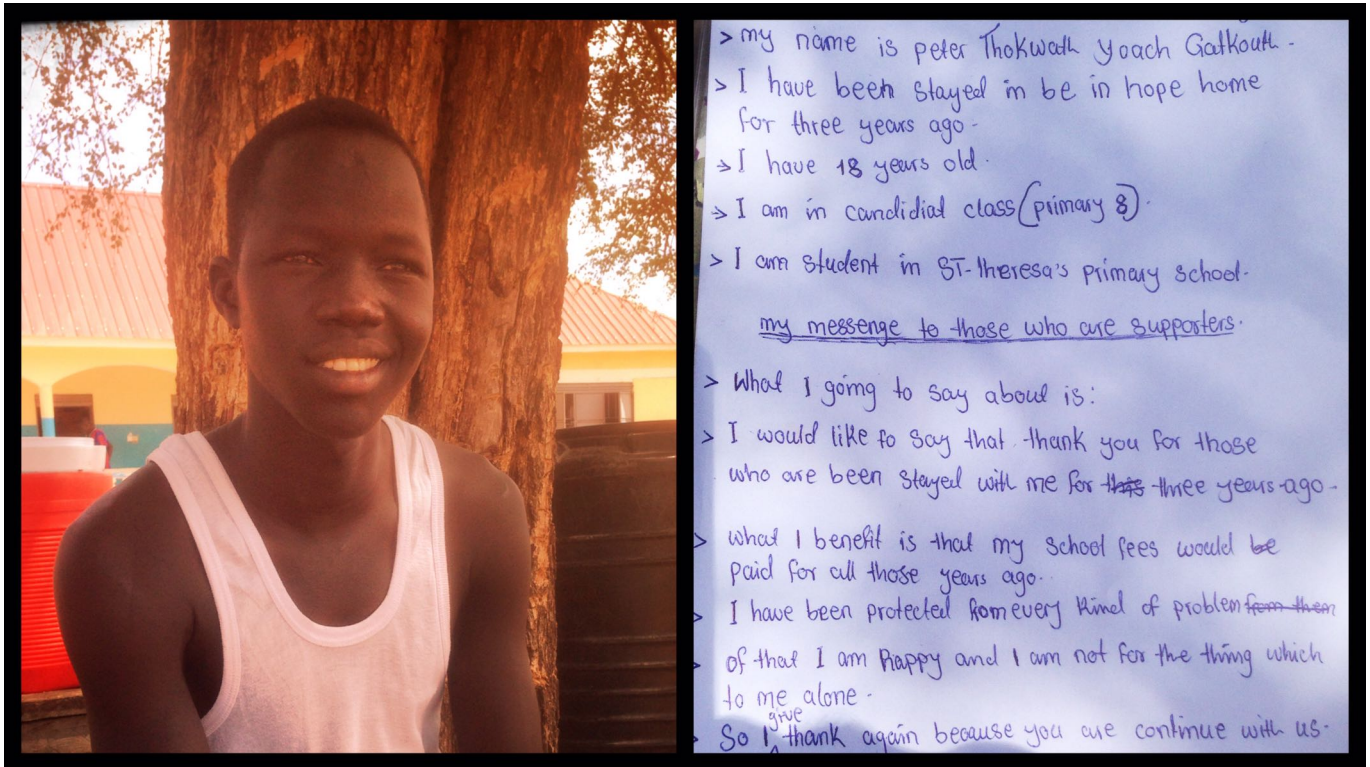
**Four of the beneficiaries are already 18:** Peter Tokhut, Lemi David Augustino, Philip Joseph Garang and Gatkor Matai.

SVDP offered them vocational training, but they declined the offer. They all prefer to continue their education. As an exception, we let them finish the school year that just started.

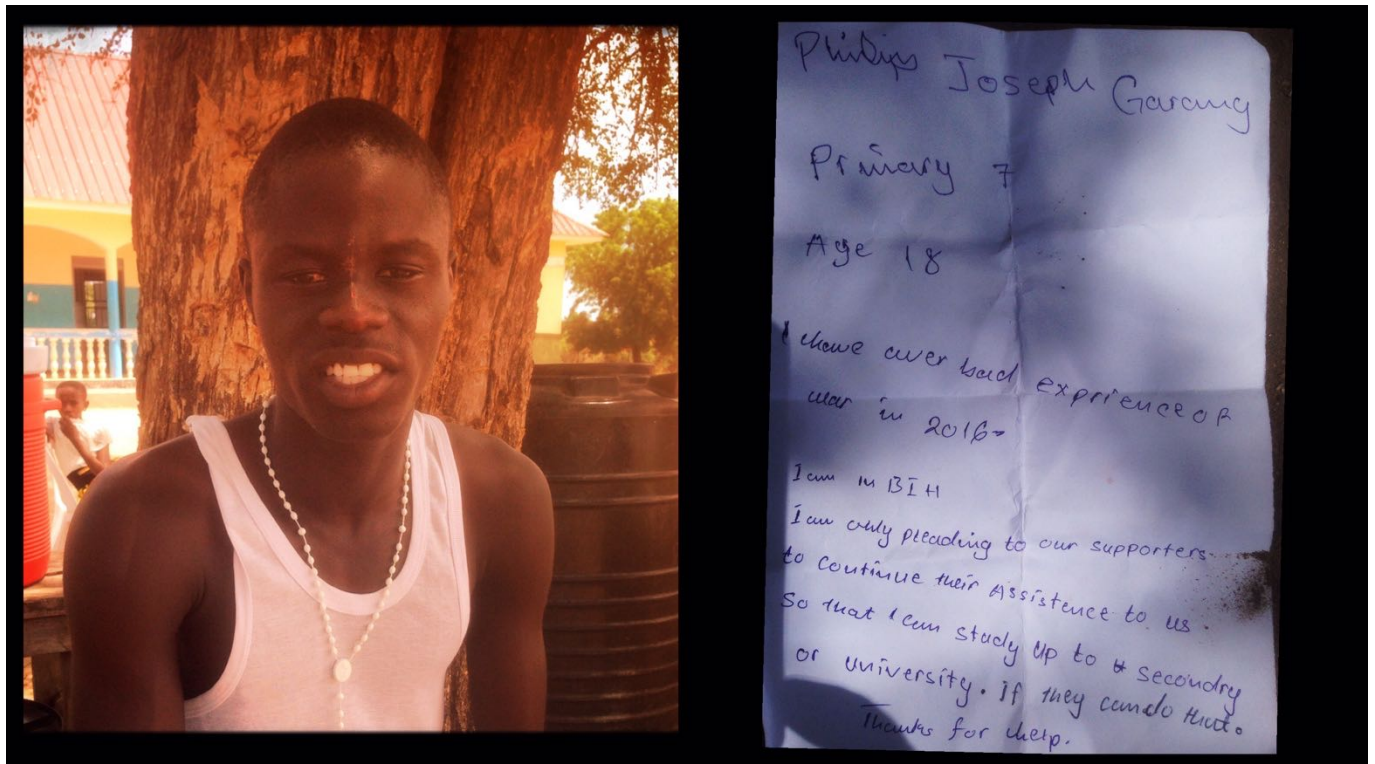
Anyway, at 19, they will have to leave the program. They will be replaced by new beneficiaries, preferably orphans under 7.





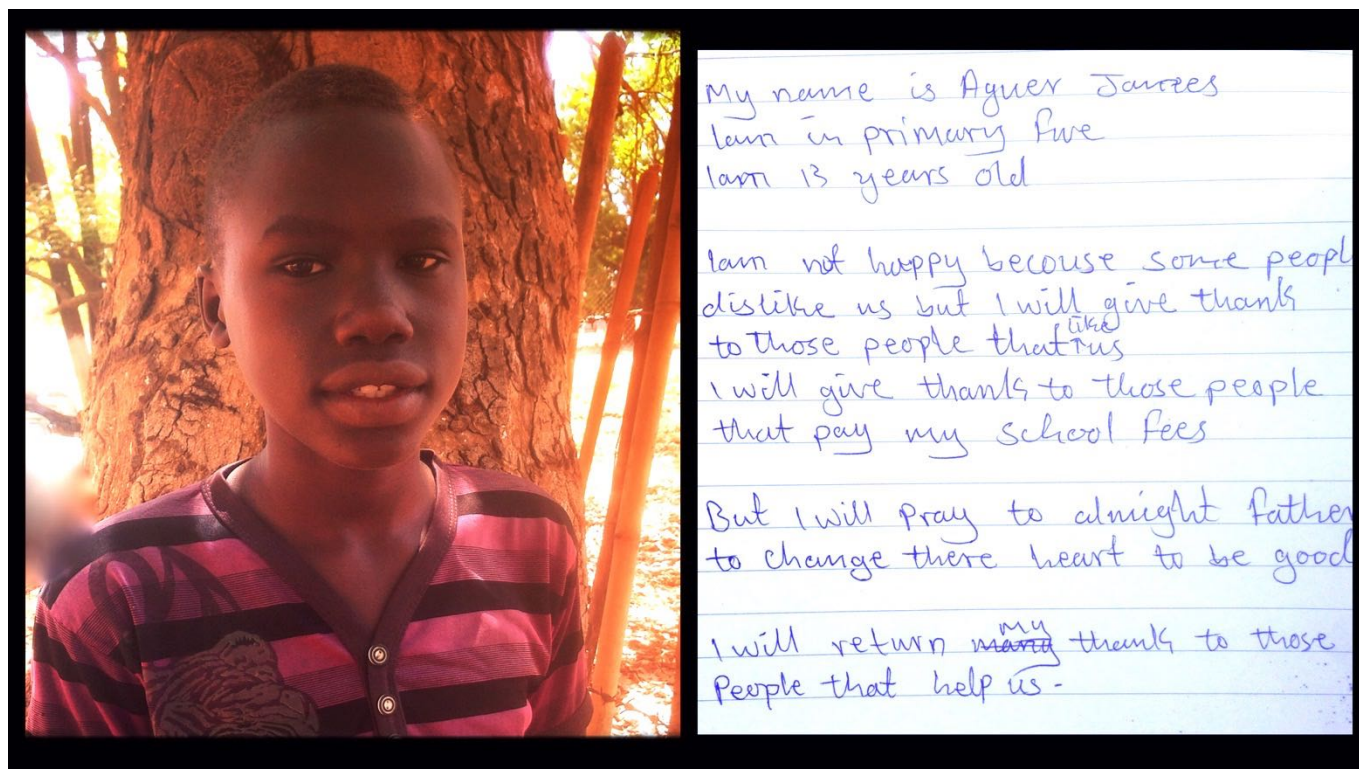


"During 2016, the description of what happened was very dangerous. I was here, and also the people I have seen there, I'm not happy for them and what happened. We could hear the fighting in the city. Some soldiers came in Rajaf, checking."

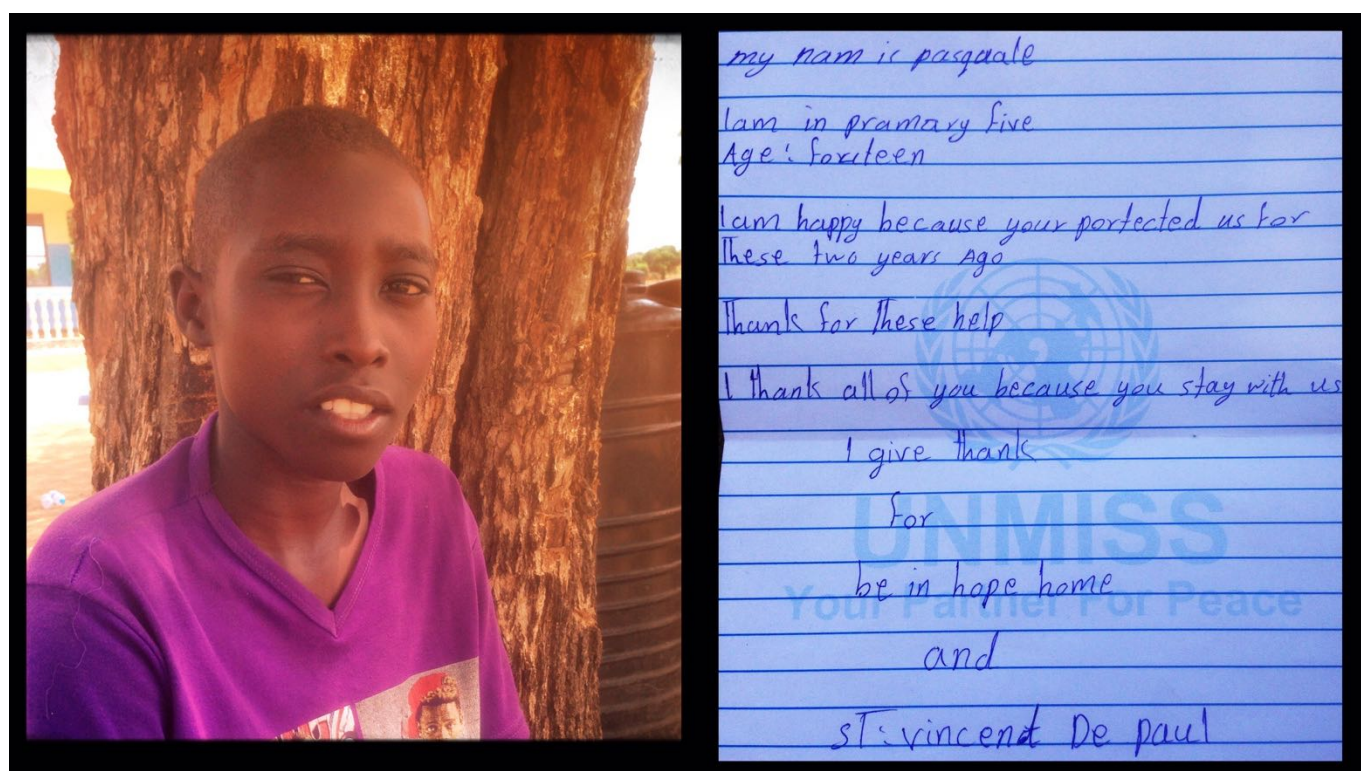


"Nothing bad happened to me in 2016, but in July, when I heard of what happened to people in Juba, I was not happy. I passed the class. My scar on my forefront and nose is just an accident that happened here, playing with a stick with my friends. They did not do it intentionally, that was not a problem to me."



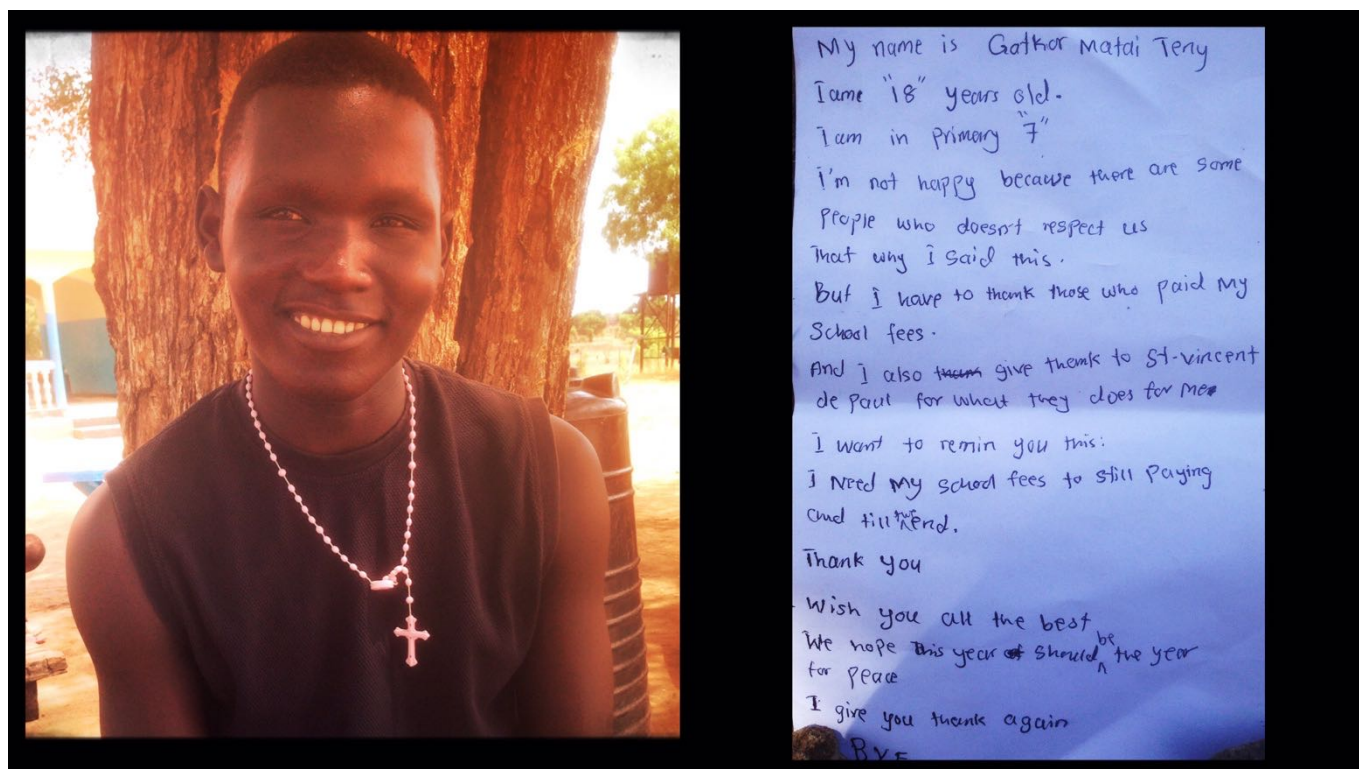


"I was not happy during the war. I was afraid, not for myself, but for the others. I'm now an altar boy at Church in Rajaf. We don't have any foot balls to play with anymore."

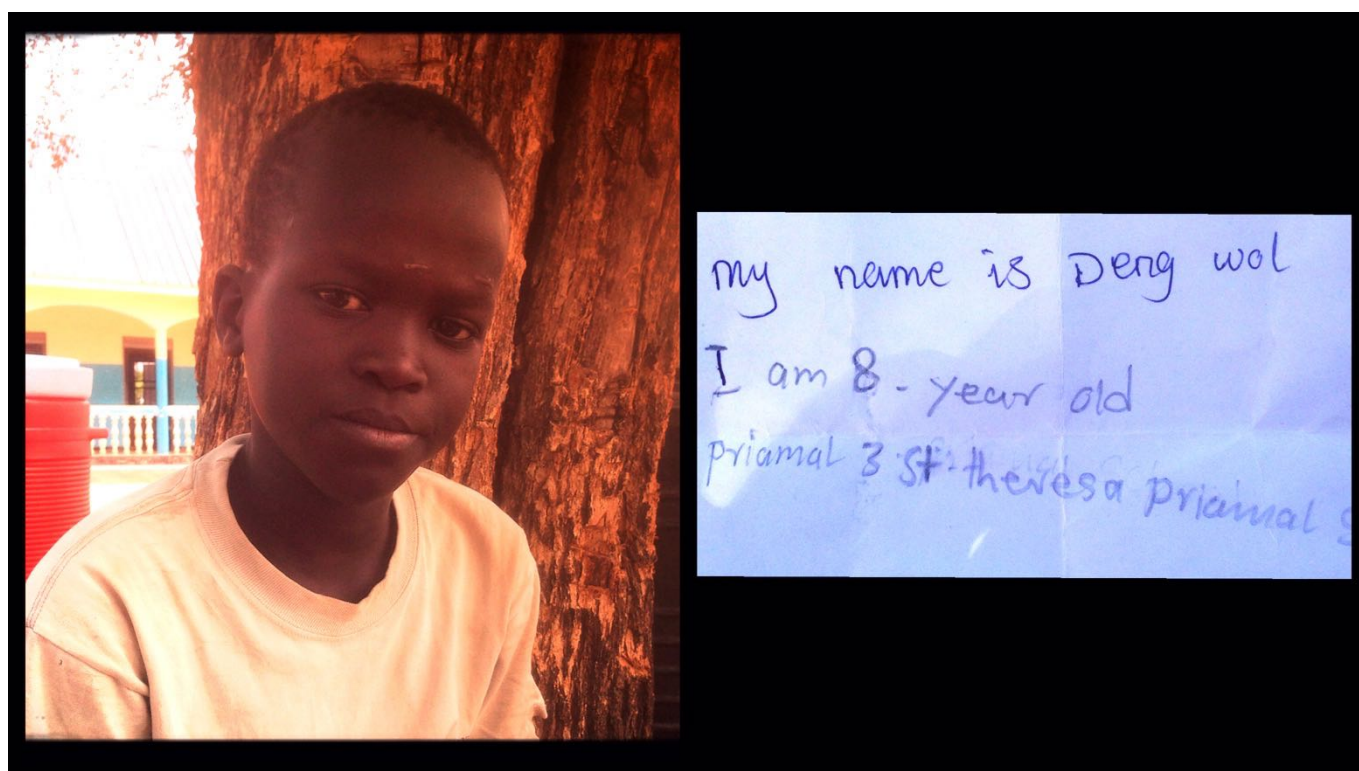


"There was no problem in 2016. We were living well here. But sometime the food was late. Now that Dominic has left [the former foster father], things are going better."



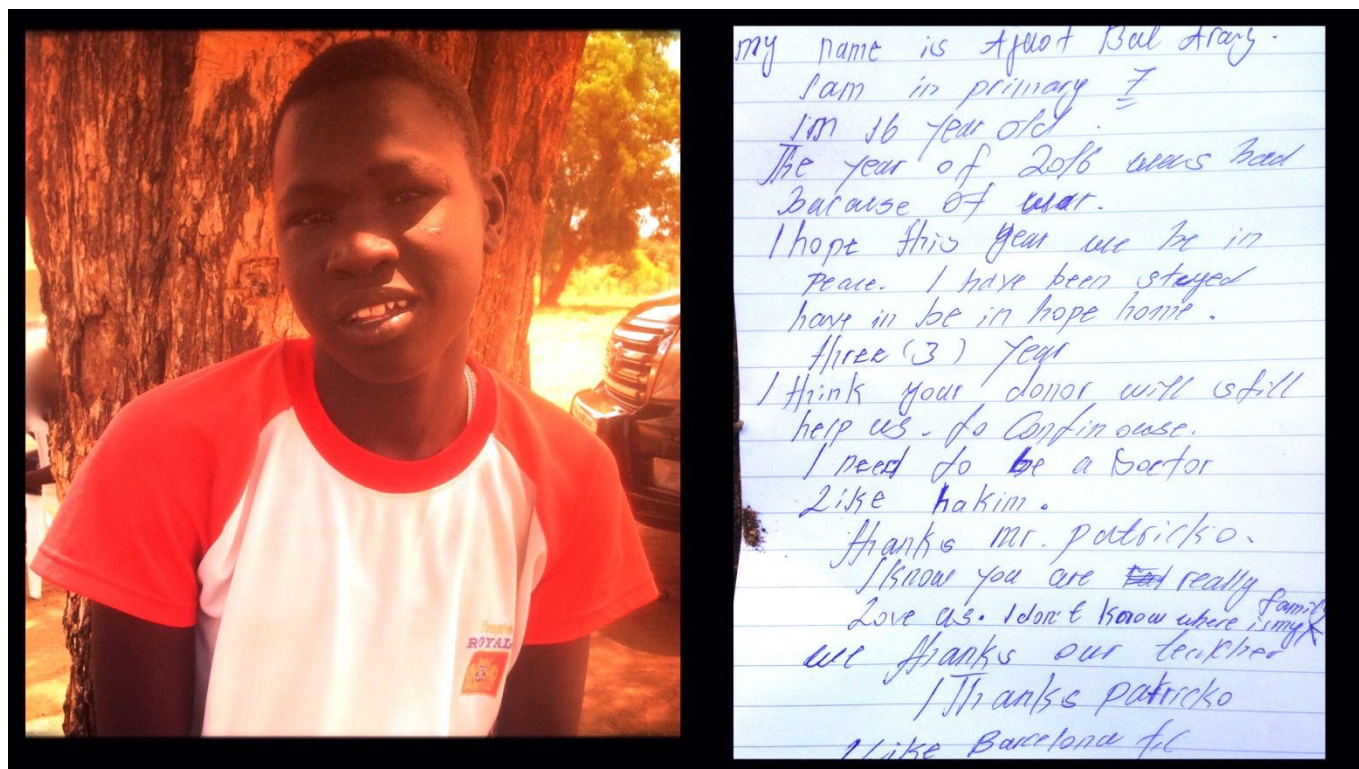


*"The first thing is that I'm sorry for what happened in July 2016. I'm happy because I passed from P6 to P7. I'm singing in the Church choir of Rajaf. I wish that our supporters will continue supporting me until I finish school."*

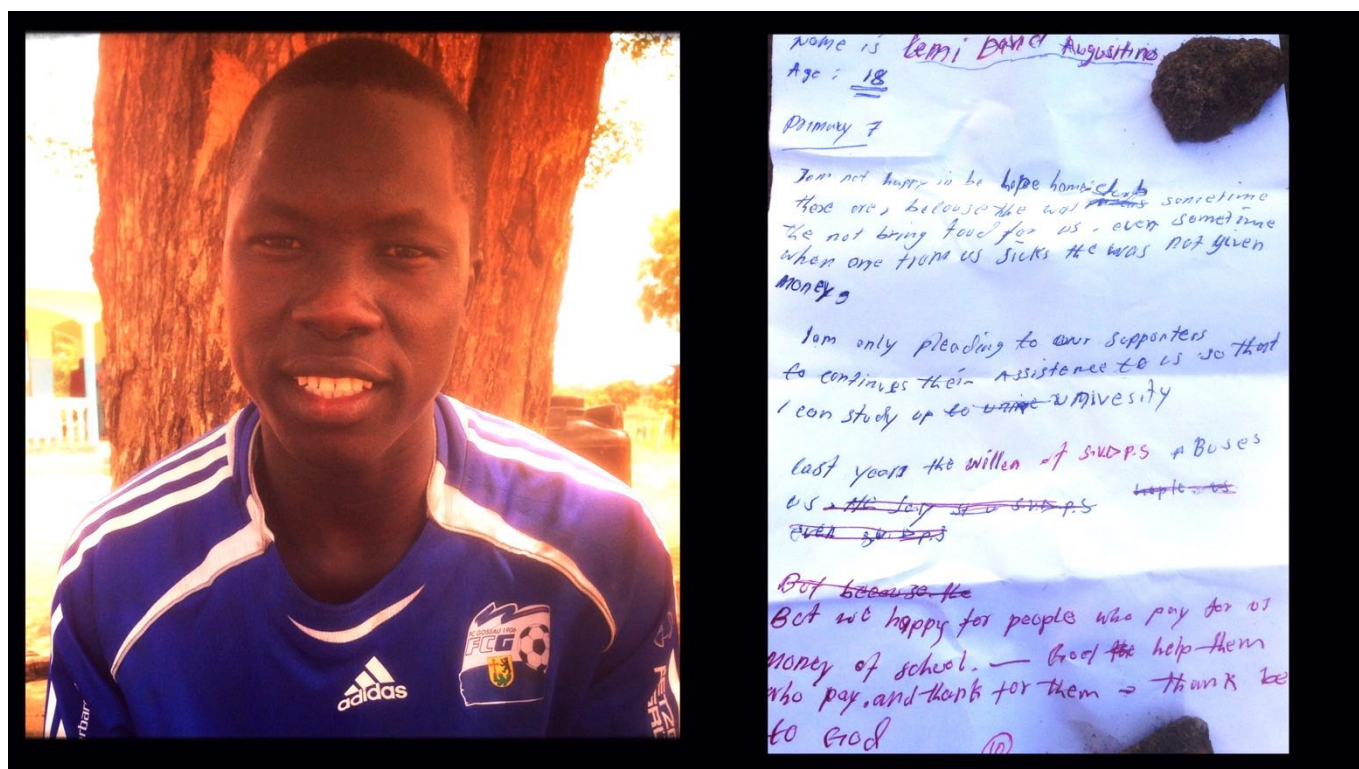


*"In 2016, I liked to prepare the garden here. But I was upset that there has not been enough rain. I get hurt on my forefront while playing here. I fell down. I was taken by Dominic to nearby hospital."*





*"As you know, in 2016, we had a problem of war that happened here in July. It has no effect on me personally. I hope that 2017 will be a year of peace and that everybody, including myself, will be happy again. At school, everything is ok, I'm going on well. And in the home here, we are happy and everything is ok."*



*"In 2016, when Dominic was here, there were a lot of problems here. Now, with Nyawelo and Veronica, everything is going well. My standards at school are improving. I'm improving in football too: I'm playing in the Rajaf Club, a third division club. We train three times a week. We play against the Juba team. There is something I'm not happy about: you had promised last year to buy us a TV card to watch international football games..."*





Name: Paul Abasi Lemi  
 Age: 16  
 primary 4  
 I have a very bad Experience of War in 2016 which cause a lot of pain to me but I am happy now because the donors are still helping us but I don't know where is my family.  
 please continue to support me.  
 I thank & BE IN hope home  
 the end of my words is this

"2016 was not nice. Because there was war, and a lot of bullets around, people running everywhere. We can hear a lot of shootings from here. And Dominic was not so serious. When there were problems among us, he did not come and solve them. And once, when there was a lot of shootings at night, Dominic ran to the church with his children and he left us here alone. Now when there is any problem at night, Nyawelo comes and see how to solve it. If there is anything unusual, any sound. And he is always here with us, sitting here, talking with us. Dominic was always sitting on his own. I don't know where my parents are, but I'm happy to be here and I thanking you for that.



My name is Koang Kueth Deng  
 I am 13 years old  
 I am in primary 4  
 I study in St. Theresa's primary school.  
 I am happy because you protected for those two year ago.  
 I am happy because you are continuous with us- thank you for your help.  
 Okey

"In 2016, I broke my arm playing football, and I went to the hospital. The plaster has just been recently removed."





Staying  
My name is Simon Gebit Deng Kueth.  
years 15 years old.  
I have been stayed in be hope home.  
for two years ago.  
I am in class (primary 4).  
I am student in St-therese's primary school.  
Thank for this help.  
Thank you in St Vincent de Paul.  
Thank God for this help.  
Support Real MADRID F.C.

"Last year, with the war and all, school was not functioning properly. We used to go there by the minibus, and they taught us one lesson only. Now they teach us four or five lessons per day, it is ok. What I like best at school is social studies."



Lual (Luka) has written no message.

He had never go to school before entering the Be In Hope Program.

He lived his early years in a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

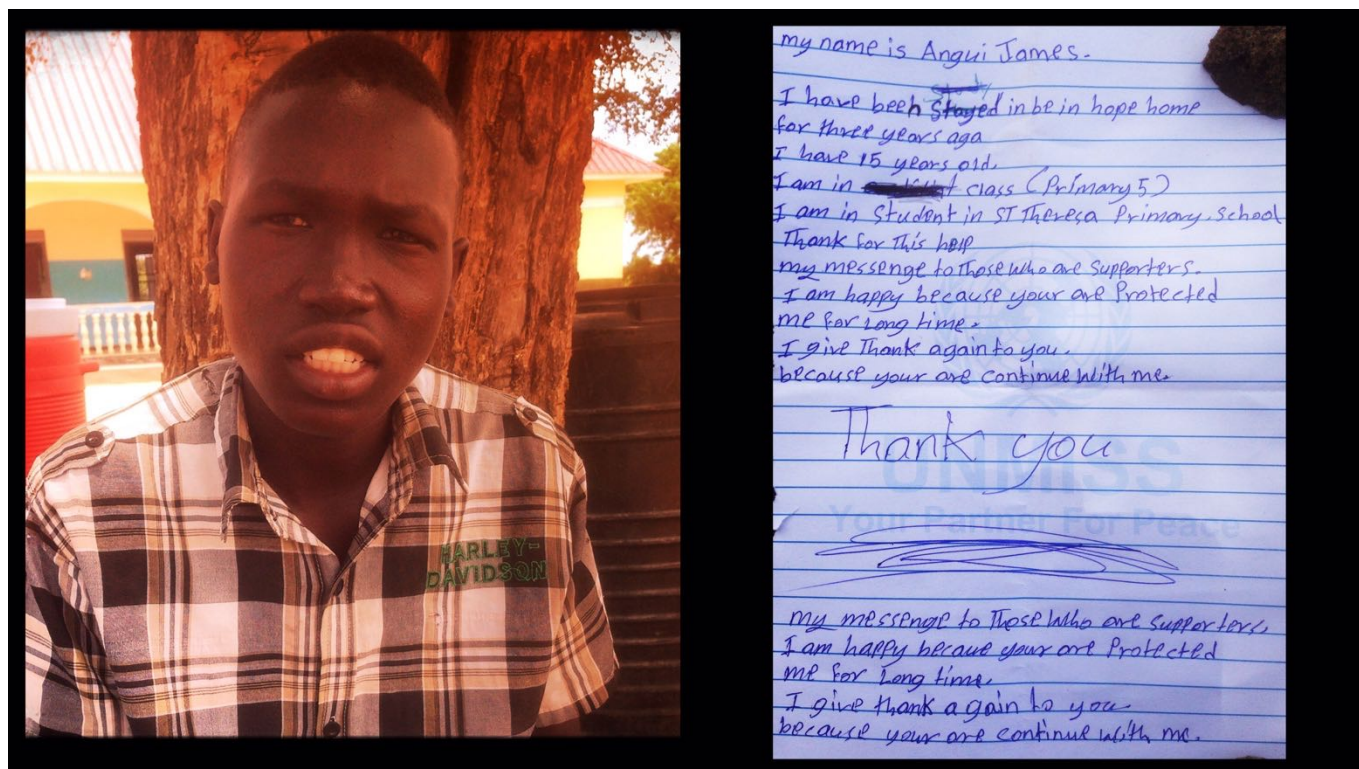
He lived for two years in the streets.

He used to sniff glue, but does not anymore.

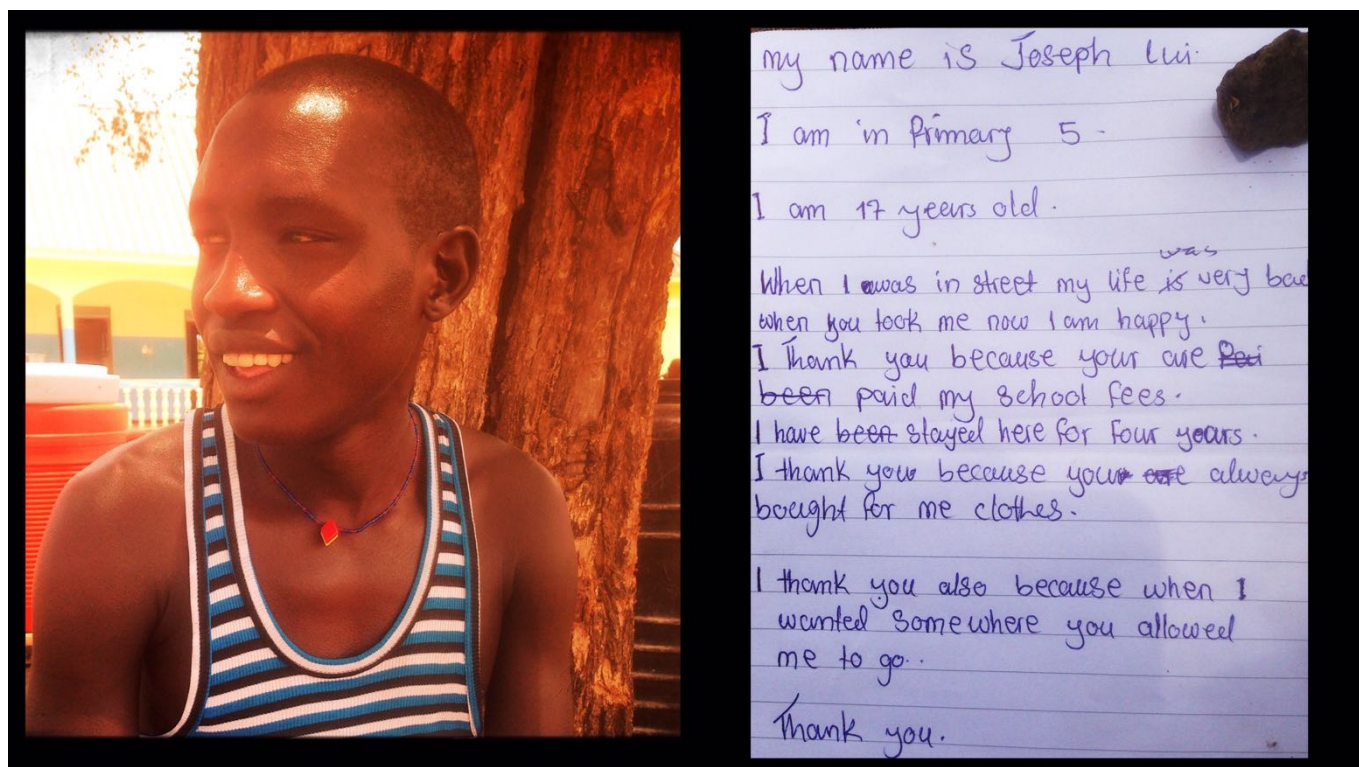
He is 15 years old, and in Primary 6.

"Last year, at the beginning, I was very happy, because I had many friends at school. But when the war broke up in July, many of them ran away... and they did not come back yet. I have no news from them, I don't know where they went..."



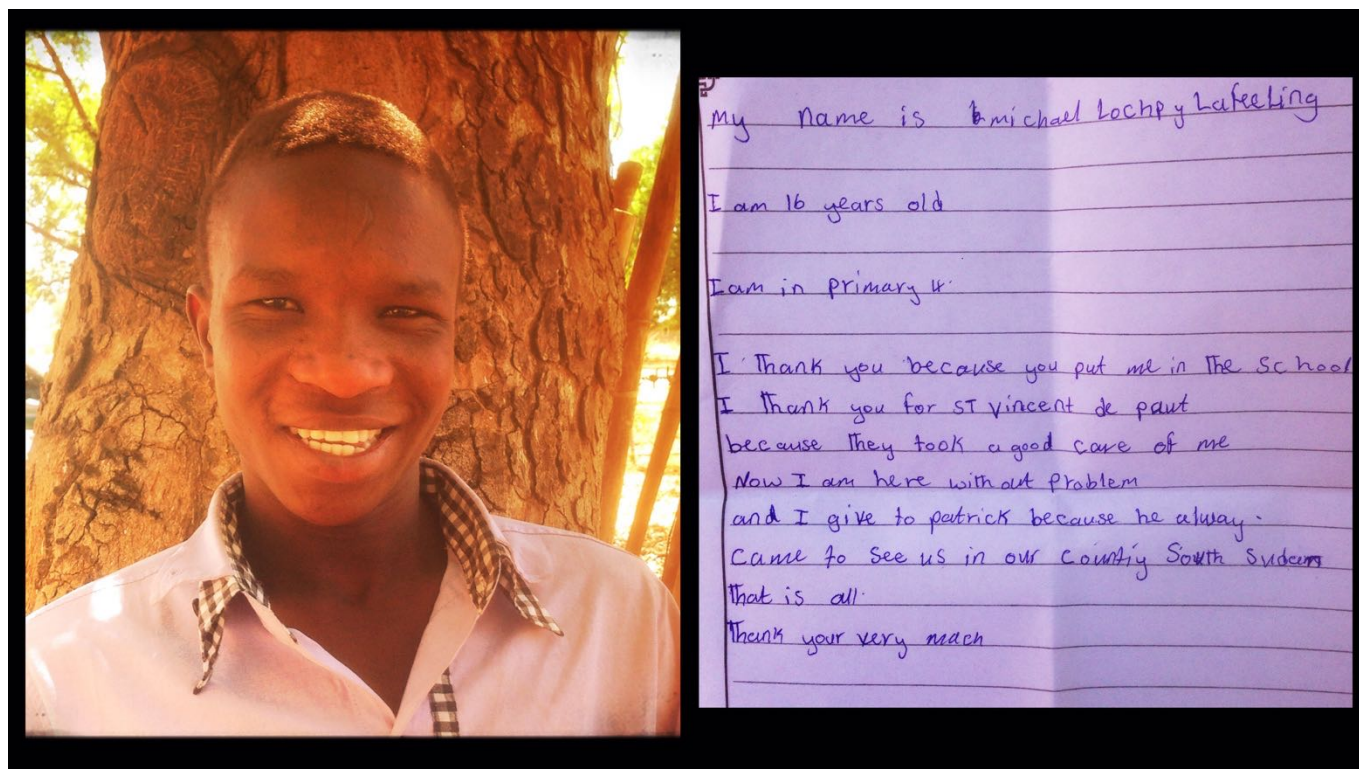


"Like many of my friends here, after the fighting of July, my marks at school dropped down, because of fear... Before that, I was passing very well. I was among the first best three in my class."



"Since a long time, even before I joined the Program, I had no news from my parents. Then last year, I met somebody from my village, and I asked him about my parents. He told me they were in Kapoeta. I told him: "As you are going back, tell them that I'll be coming soon to visit them." Then I asked Martin [the social worker] if I could go in Kapoeta and see them. Then in June, Martin drove me there. It took us two days to go there. I saw my family again, and I stayed with them for two weeks. We were all sleeping together in the same house. I was happy to see them, and they were also very happy to see I'm alive, because they were afraid I got killed during the war. And then they told me: "My son, don't stay here. You better go back to the place where you eat and study." Anyway, that was my intention since the beginning."





*"In December 2016, I went to visit my relatives in the village. I was accompanied by Martin. We first travelled to Torit. And then the day after, we arrived to Kapoeta. I saw my mother, and my siblings. I was supposed to spend almost three weeks there, but, because of the very poor conditions in the village, I came back before that time. They are cultivators, doing little jobs. But last year, there was a shortage of rain."*

Heartfelt thanks to all the donors who enable these children to piece themselves back together, despite all the ordeals they had.

Thanks especially to Ian Mawdsley and Terry Brown of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society England and Wales, which contributed to 52% of the 2016 costs (notably by financing the well in the home).

ASASE and Opération Orange have funded 43% of the 2016 total budget and Hilfswerk Sr. Emmanuelle 5%.



This year, in addition to these donors, we can rely on an exceptional contribution from the Commission for International Aid and development (CIAD) of the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society in Paris, which is funding 18% of the 2017 budget.

Finally, thanks to Brother Michel Fleury and his many contributions to this program,

Patrick Bittar  
Director of ASASE, March 2017