



Village News from BMIS

From Our Village to Yours

www.buildingmindsinsudan.org

Fall 2011, Vol. 1

Ground Breaking News!

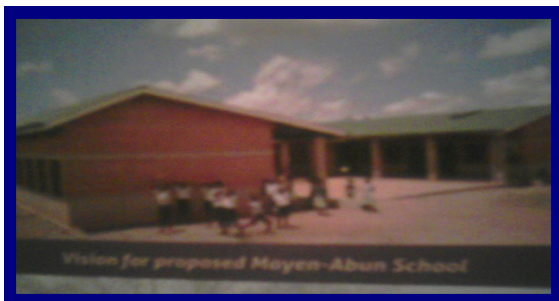
In January of 2012, shovels will begin digging the first new set of latrines for the school. Soon after, classrooms will be constructed, marking the beginning of PHASE 1. Thanks to donations from people like you, the Construction Committee feels that sufficient funds will be raised by December, 2011 to break ground.



Interesting details

PHASE 1:

- * Three new banks of pit latrines will be built—one for boys, girls and teachers. They will be constructed of bricks-termites infect wooden structures!
- * The first 4 of 8 classrooms are also in this phase. The teachers and village elders feel the older students should be educated in the new classrooms...giving the younger students something to look forward to.



Have you met cousins, **Mathon Noi** and **Sebastian Maroundit**? If you have, you surely will remember them and their personal story.



If you haven't...they are the co-founders of **Building Minds In Sudan (BMIS)**, a 501 c 3 non-profit organization which is building a school in their home village of Mayen-Abun in the new Republic of South Sudan. Fleeing for their lives as children, due to a civil war that arrived at their doorstep, they walked over 1,000 miles on their journey with other "Lost Boys of Sudan". Refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya housed them for 11 years before they were relocated by the United Nations to Rochester, NY in 2001. They have lived, studied and worked here since then. They are now following the American way of life of "giving back" by building a school in their home village. The mission of **BMIS** is to help these young men achieve their dreams.



Words from the Chair...

Welcome to our first newsletter. On behalf of the **BMIS** Board, I want to thank you for your interest, support and donations. A year ago **BMIS** had raised approximately \$5,000. As of the Fall of 2011, contributions total \$85,000. We are well on our way!

This past July, I spent two weeks in South Sudan with Sebastian. Each day was filled with eye-opening images, bumpy roads and a deeper appreciation for all that we have. Most meaningful to me were the mothers' beseeching looks and words as they explained how much they want their children (especially daughters) to be fully educated and to have better lives. I humbly volunteer my time and energy on their behalf.



And, again, I thank those of you who have helped **BMIS** thus far. A school is on its way... Won't you join us on the journey?

-Susan McDaniel,
BMIS Board Chair



Great Gift Idea For the Holidays!

___ bricks have been donated in honor
of _____ by _____

Get your brick gift certificate now!

Fund Rai\$ing

Order a BMIS T-shirt! \$10.00



Youth S___

Youth M___

Youth L___

Adult S___

Adult M___

Adult L___

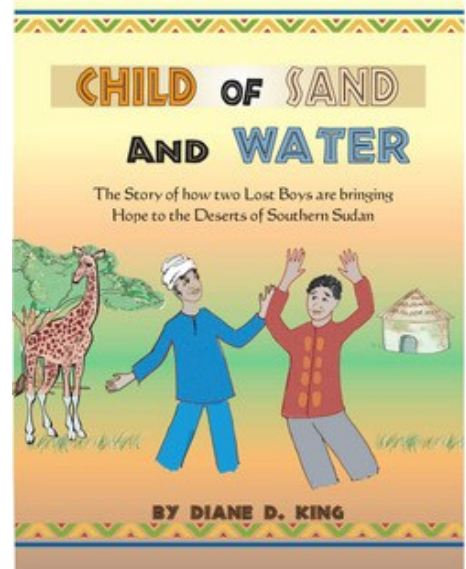
Adult XL___

Checks payable to: **BMIS**

5880 Pittsford-Palmyra Road

Pittsford, NY 14534-2444 (include phone #)

Child of Sand and Water, written by **BMIS's** own Diane D. King, is a heartfelt story of two boys overcoming tremendous adversity.



The story encourages multi-generational involvement and discussion. This book is most appropriate for ages 4-11. Order on our website: www.buildingmindsinsudan.org

Building Minds In Sudan Board Members:

Sebastian Maroundit, Co-founder
Mathon Noi, Co-founder
Susan McDaniel, Board Chair
Cathy Snider, Vice-Chair
Mary Rees, Secretary
Jim Rees, Treasurer
Bonnie Lloyd, Fundraising Chair
Jim Tiefenthal, Construction Chair
Judy Schwartz, Ambassador
Ellie Stauffer
Reed Summers
Ted Avgerinos

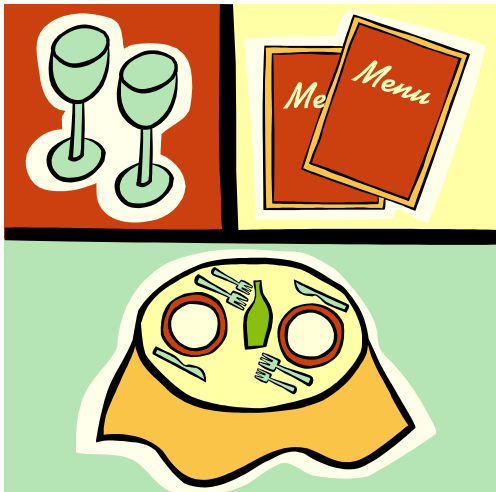
Diane D. King, Honorary Board member and co-founder
Deng Mayen Deng, Honorary Board Member, South Sudan

Friends of the Board:

Dayle Bird
Kathy Cleary
Andrew Soucier
Rev. Pat Youngdahl

Coming Soon! Spring Dinner!

We are looking forward to celebrating the first phase of construction with a dinner. Tickets will be on sale in March.



Ambassador Program

Building Minds In Sudan's Ambassador Program provides advocacy and education, as well as fund-raising. Judy Schwartz, a Board member who travelled to South Sudan, coordinates talks and slide shows for faith groups, schools, civic organizations, public libraries, and private house parties. Please call 585 442-5111 to arrange a speaking engagement with Sebastian and/or Mathon.

Recent BMIS Presentations

Lima Presbyterian Church
 Fairport First United Congregational Church
 Temple B'rith Kodesh
 Perinton Presbyterian Church
 Jewish Community Federation
 American Association of United Women
 Mendon Presbyterian Church
 Cloverwood Senior Living
 Palmyra Macedon Central Schools
 Churchville Chili Senior High School
 Citibank

Independence Day for South Sudan



BMIS and friends celebrated in style with talks, music and dancing on a sun-filled day at the Unitarian Church in Rochester, New York on Saturday, July 9th, 2011.

I want to help **Building Minds in Sudan** with a gift of:

\$25

\$50

\$100

\$500

Checks payable to:

BMIS

5880 Pittsford-Palmyra Road

Pittsford, NY 14534-2444



www.buildingmindsinsudan.org

NEWSLETTER

Building Minds In Sudan...
Brick by brick



BUILDING MINDS IN SUDAN
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121 North Fitzhugh
Rochester, New York 14614

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