



Message from Sister Mūmbi

Happy Spring,

Even though this newsletter finds me in South Sudan, my weather app and friends have kept me up to date about the warmer and brighter days on the East Coast. In South Sudan, we are experiencing extremely high temperatures of more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit each day. The heat is felt more acutely in a country where air conditioning is not common. Even then, I am blessed and privileged to be able to have a fan and sufficient water to take a couple of showers each day.

The mango trees are laden with fruit that will be ready for consumption in another couple of weeks, and in Western Equatoria where I spent six days, the farmers are all preparing the land for the rains and planting season. There have been a lot of changes since my last visit 13 months ago. Some Solidarity missionaries have left, and new members have arrived. Programs have grown, been adapted, and improved upon, and so many students have graduated and are now positively impacting their communities in the areas of health care and education. A definite highlight of my trip was visiting a school where eight STTC graduates are doing extraordinary work, to the mutual delight of students and parents.

On a sad note, the South Sudanese pound exchange rate has more than doubled since I was here last year. The value then was 700 South Sudanese pounds equal to one U.S. dollar, and as of this



morning, it is 1,780 SSP = \$1. This depreciation in currency has not been met by an increase in salaries or income, and thus for many we have met, their primary concern is hunger. As we look to the months ahead, we anticipate that the prices of all commodities will increase, also raising the level of need.

However, the work being done by Solidarity with South Sudan continues to make a palpable difference in communities throughout the country, and that is so very hopeful.

Above: Mūmbi with students from St. Augustine Nursery and Primary School in Ezo County, Western Equatoria State, South Sudan. Eight of the teachers at the school are graduates of Solidarity Teacher Training College.