

**You have become a powerful role model by using your high school education to gain admission to a nursing school. And now you are a practicing nurse in Juba! Project Education South Sudan is so very proud of you Abuk! God Bless you!**

**Yin ca leec areetic,  
Mama Carol Ayen tong Pagook  
Co-Founder of Project Education South Sudan**

1. Why did you become a nurse?

It had been my dream to become health care provider since I was in primary but by then I didn't know different professions in health sector. When I joined secondary school I made up my mind to be a nurse, but still I didn't know how to go about it. In a year 2014 when my late father got admitted in juba teaching hospital, seeing nurses providing care to patients gave me a big courage to be in this humble profession. I chose this profession with the desire to serve individuals, families and communities to achieve their physical, mental and potential wellbeing in whatever situation and environment they are living. I can say this profession is a call from God.

2. How do you feel about your accomplishment and reaching your goal?

I am very happy and contented as the proverb says journey of thousand mile starts with one step. I can say this is not my destiny but cornerstone of my destination. And I hope I will do much more than this concerning my profession.

3. What were the influencing factors that made you reach your goal? How did PESS help with you reaching your dreams?

One of the factors was self-confidence. My performances in the school give me hope that I can do something better to achieve my goal. Advice from my late father and other relatives specially my uncle Panther. Friends who shared their life story experiences with me. And on the other hand PESS gave me a lot of encouragement the time they chose for

me Salam nursing school in Uganda though I didn't continue with the studies from there. With the help of PESS mama Carol has been in touch with me throughout my studies since I joined in Juba College of Nursing and Midwifery (JCONAM). Her advice has been very supportive throughout this academic journey.

4. What kept you going when things got hard and difficult?

Being determined and hardworking has been my principle. In proverb it says Commit your work to the lord and your thought will be established that verse in the bible has been my guiding principle either in thick or thin situation. And constant hope which I always have in me, these things keep me very powerful when it comes to hard and difficult time.

5. What advice and encouragement would you offer to younger students, especially girl students, as they set goals for themselves and face challenges along the way?

My advice to young girls as they would pursue their studies is commitment. I know is very hard to overcome some challenges especially here in our country where girls are put to be sources of income in form of marriage, but they should try by all mean to achieve their goal first. Don't get married because your age mate has got married. Marriage is a plan and also gift from God so there is no need for you to rush. Once you married when you have not reach a certain level of your dream, my dear sisters it will be very devastating. Put in your mind that you have a role to play to yourself, family, community and country at large with your education. Set your goal and be focused like an eagle and you will appreciate it in the future. Nothing is better than fulfilling your dreams especially in education you will be an exemplary to others and a pride to your family.

6. What does your family think about your accomplishments?

They think by the accomplishment of my course I will be helping them. Especially my younger sisters and my brother they have entrusted all their hope to me. Even though I

would not do everything for them, they hope I should be providing them with most of basics needs as I will be doing some works. They have taken me as a role model in the family and they encourage me to pursue the same course for my further studies.

7. How could PESS do more to assist students beyond high school on their path toward reaching their career goals?

I know PESS has been such a good project, helping students to achieve their dreams in different fields. As the project concern, most of the students before finishing high school when they are in their last year, they need to be asked of the field an individual need to specialize. This will give students encouragement and readiness to go for further studies. Enquire from student where he /she want to go from the countries the project as chosen for them to have their studies. Allow the students to choose the school of his \her choice from those countries the project has allowed the students to go. Provide a full sponsorship to the students who are going for further studies including transport and accommodation because most of the students are very vulnerable if it comes to financial issue.

8. What are your future dreams and plans in life? Nursing, family, etc.

After this course I have to work for some 2-4 years in order to support my Younger siblings for them to reach certain level in education particularly my first and second followers. For them also to have some responsibilities to help the youngest ones when I go back for my studies, because if I continue with my education to bachelor they will be left behind. I will continue with nursing as my profession by specializing in either of the followings; pediatric nursing, community health nursing, anesthetic nursing or ophthalmology nursing.

9. What is your hope for the future of South Sudan?

My hope about my beloved country is that no matter how the situation now is in this country. All these things which are happening are normal process for people to settle different ideologies they have. My country will be one where everyone has freedom of expression, freedom of movement, basic education will be free for every child, men and women will be treated according to their characters but not according to their gender, unity among people and justice will reveal in every act. With our natural resources the country has, it will be one of the richest countries in Africa.