

Family News

I thank God for the past weeks since I returned from Juba. It has been a joyful time with my family in Nairobi. My boys have really enjoyed spending time with me. It's something they had been missing, and I'm grateful for these moments together.

I've also had special time with my mother, listening to stories about our childhood and the family's past. Since I've spent much of my life living independently, I missed many of these family stories, which now mean a lot to me.



Closing Message

Although my personal mission to secure work was unsuccessful, the lessons I learned and the progress I saw in the Growing Together projects give me renewed strength. The Demonstration Garden, Gel Dhiak Project and Sports Ministry all show what is possible when people come together with vision and determination.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are planting seeds of hope for South Sudan.

God bless,

Dau Mathew

Dau with Mathew, Daniel and Nyibul (niece)



Please Get in Touch

If you would like more information or to give towards Dau's support or to help fund one of our projects, please contact:

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Donations can be made to Justin Agnes, sort code 20-17-35 and account number 03926389 (Barclays Bank)



Nov
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It is with great joy that we take this opportunity to share with you Growing Together's progress. Through God's grace and your support, Growing Together has made some huge strides in helping communities and building for the future. The last six months have brought unexpected encouragement, with Dau witnessing progress across all our projects in South Sudan.



TODAY



4 YEARS AGO

Demonstration Garden – Green Hope in the Community

The Growing Together Demonstration Garden in Rom continues to shine as a symbol of life and resilience. Despite limited funding, it remains fully active and fruitful.

Guava and lemon trees now produce in abundance, offering free fruit to families passing by. Mango trees are growing strong, promising future harvests.

Manager Diing Pal shared, "Even if I gain nothing financially, seeing people pick fruits and rest under the shade brings me peace."

Alongside tree planting, we also grow vegetables such as okra, khudra, and shilli in our demonstration garden. These local crops are a vital part of South Sudanese meals. Beyond providing food, the garden has become a community hub where families gather, children play, and youth share ideas — a living example of hope and unity.

**"I planted the seed,
Apollos watered it,
but God has been
making it grow."**

1 Corinthians 3:6

Personal Reflections from Dau

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! It is my hope and prayer that this news report finds you well. I am excited to have this opportunity to share some of my experiences from the past 6 months.



Strength & Endurance

My five-month stay in South Sudan was both humbling and inspiring. I ventured out hoping to find work and reconnect with my community. Though I didn't find employment, I discovered something deeper — the strength and endurance of our people.

Life in South Sudan remains very difficult. Many families survive without daily meals, often going one or two days without food. This hunger weakens the body, so when sickness strikes, survival becomes even harder.

Health facilities are another major challenge. Many hospitals and clinics operate on a pay before treatment basis. Without money, patients are turned away or left without proper care. I personally fell ill during this time and was admitted to the hospital for four days, which gave me a firsthand experience of what many endure.



Our young people are educated and eager to serve, yet opportunities are limited. Employment often depends on connections rather than merit. Still, I met many youths determined to keep trying — proof that hope is stronger than hardship.

Churches United through Sport

The Sports Ministry in Maluth has become a strong unifying force among churches. What began with seven teams now involves over twelve churches — and interest keeps growing.

Games bring more than fun; they teach teamwork, discipline, and leadership. Youth find purpose and connection through these events, staying away from harmful habits.

Church leaders now see sports as a way to reach out to the community and strengthen relationships across denominations. The biggest need is equipment — many teams share one ball or play barefoot.

The last time we sent footballs was over a year ago. With more support, this program can grow into a regional inter-church league promoting peace and friendship.



SIC Team, Mate district

Planting with Patience

Despite insecurity and limited tools, the Gel Dhiak team keeps working faithfully. They have been planting trees and grow okra, tomatoes, and green vegetables that provide fresh food for families.



The water pump we donated 5 years ago is no longer working and without it, members carry jerrycans by hand from the river, climbing a steep slope each day. It's slow and tiring work — yet they persist with hope.

Neighbours' and children join in watering and clearing the fields, turning the project into a shared effort of love and learning. With better tools and a water system, Gel Dhiak could feed many nearby villages too.

Flooding in Rom

We heard recently that flooding has reached and submerged our Demonstration Garden, leaving the plants and trees underwater. If the flooding continues for more weeks, it could cause damage to everything in the garden.

At present, the surrounding community is also deeply affected many families have been forced to evacuate to higher ground for safety. We are keeping close watch on the situation and standing in prayer with those displaced.



Celebrating God's Faithfulness

I give glory to God for the grace to share His Word, both directly and indirectly. During my visit to Malakal, I had the privilege of speaking at the SIC Church, a congregation I helped establish years ago, on The Fruit of the Holy Spirit. We reflected on how love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and humility sustain us through life's challenges and keep us firmly rooted in Christ.

Here in Nairobi, our ministry through our church (Christ Burning Heart International Ministries) continues to grow despite many challenges. We hosted a Youth Conference where young people were empowered with both spiritual wisdom and practical life skills including financial management and Christian leadership.

In August, we experienced a historic milestone with the ordination of Pastors Mubarak and Kiden, a wonderful step forward in expanding God's work and strengthening our leadership team.



Looking ahead, we are preparing for our Sunday School Conference, to be held from November 7th to 9th, by God's grace. This special event will bring together children aged 3–14 years to learn, worship, and experience the love of Christ.

And with great joy, the church celebrates our third anniversary on November 22nd, a powerful reminder of God's unfailing faithfulness! This marks three years of ministry, growth, and transformation.