

Update on Sudanese Students attending Meserete Kristos Seminary

In response to your inquiry on behalf of Mennonite Church Alberta (MCA) regarding the progress of Gatjiak Tongyik and Khan Gatkuoth Issac, South Sudanese students at our seminary, please find the requested information below.

Both students are performing well in their studies. Khan Gatkuoth Issac has been studying at our seminary for approximately three years and has one year remaining to complete his program. Gatjiak Tongyik has been with us for two years and has two years of study remaining.

Both students have expressed that their seminary education has been invaluable to them. They return to South Sudan twice annually during holy days and actively serve their communities by preaching in their respective churches. They have indicated that they are satisfied with their experience at MKS.

The ongoing conflict between the Nuer and Dinka tribes is creating disruptions for the students, as they have reported that some of their relatives are currently residing in refugee camps.

When the seminary increased tuition fees, we chose not to impose the increase on Gatjiak and Khan, recognizing the potential financial strain. The seminary continues to support them by providing accommodation and cafeteria provisions. However, the seminary's support does not extend to pocket money, airfare for travel, or other incidental expenses. To date, the seminary has received 2,000 this year (2024/2025) towards tuition fees for both students, with a remaining balance of 600 outstanding.

The seminary is committed to supporting our international students. Gatjiak and Khan are encouraged to participate in our International Chapel programs. We provide translation services to ensure their comprehension. They also have the opportunity to participate in a weekly International Students Bible Study program and are included in a special meal program designed for international students. The Dean of Students' office and the administration are readily available to assist them with any questions or concerns that may arise.

MKS extends its sincere gratitude to Mennonite Church Alberta (MCA) for their continued support of these two South Sudanese students. We trust this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further clarification.

Their photos are attached to this email.

Blessings,

Gishu Jebecha Ebissa
Principal, Meserete Kristos Seminary