CHANGE STORIES:
MORE QUALIFIED NURSES & MIDWIVES FOR SOUTH SUDAN

Achol Andrew, 23 years old is a 3rd year midwifery student at the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) in Wau. She has two brothers and 5 sisters.

“Life back home has been difficult. Nobody is able to help me continue my education. My father is a secondary school teacher but he is paid very little money and sometimes he goes up to 7 months without a salary. This sometimes meant that we would go 3 – 4 days with very little or no food at all. After seeing all the pain and trouble facing us, I really wanted to do something to help my family especially when my father could not work for 6 months. I decided that the best solution was to find someone to make me pregnant and marry me and maybe this way, through him I could help my family. I felt like a failure. Finally I decided against it.”

“One day, a friend told me about CHTI and so I applied, did the entry exam, passed and was admitted to the institute. I did not know English well, so first I had to learn it for a year before I could join midwifery training.”

“There is a great difference in who I am now. One great change in me is that I am now very prayerful. Prayerfulness was encouraged by the fact that in the morning before we start a lesson, we pray. There is also a chapel in the compound and we are free to go there when we need to. I put God ahead of everything I want to do. This has helped to open my mind to focus on my studies.”

THIS STORY IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE not only will the students leave the institute as qualified nurses and midwives but they will also leave spiritually richer, with better knowledge on how to pray and live by putting God first. Spirituality helps them to manage their daily lives as they have had so many traumatic experiences due to the war and many have had to suffer the effects of extreme poverty into which they were born.