

GOSPEL FIRE NEWS



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“For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring”

Isaiah 44:3 KJV

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Dear friend,

It is a phenomenon that the gospel has still not reached every corner of the earth, even after 2000 years of missionary work and church efforts. Recently we were at the World Missions Congress in Madrid, Spain, where more than 1400 executives from 91 nations came together. The theme of the event was “How can we reach every ethnic group in the world for JESUS?”

There is still so much to do. From out of 16,800 ethnic tribes, there are still about 7,000 un-reached, these tribes and ethnic groups have never heard the good news of the gospel. With the world’s strong population growth, one must assume that there are more and

more people who have never heard the message of Jesus Christ.

Jesus wants the whole world to be saved. The disciples of Jesus were scattered all over the world and even gave their lives for the sake of the Gospel. There is a wealth of amazing Christian leaders and missionaries scattered across history that have set an example for us to look to. That is why we are challenged again here in 2019, because we still have not fulfilled the task set for us.

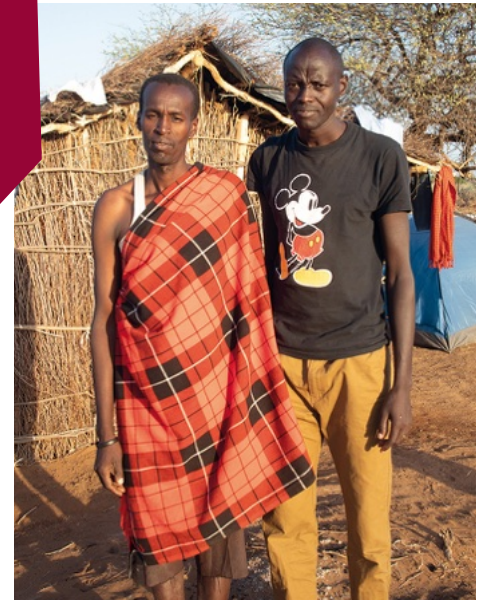
It is very encouraging to see where the Holy Spirit is focusing. Everywhere we go we see churches and individuals who pray more, support more and become more involved, despite the many who sleep spiritually. At the conference in Spain, the pastors and

leaders of many ministries and different movements have set themselves the goal of finding 20,000 new mission workers by 2023 who will be missionaries to these remaining un-reached tribes. It is so exciting!

In the communities we are working with, we try to draw attention to the work of such tribes. On the basis of websites like www.joshuaproject.net you can get a lot of helpful information, even being able to download apps that help us see all the different People Groups and learn about them. I believe that at the moment a change is taking place as many of God’s children renew their commitment to go to the nations more than ever before.

Reaching out the hard way

Progress despite the difficulties of construction work in South Sudan



The two Kenyan missionaries Mark and Julius

We bravely push forward our vision of setting up 100 churches in five years amongst the Toposa people. We are now almost one year in on site and are privileged to witness the foundation of 23 village fellowships (churches).

We've started to build a mission station in Naliel (South Sudan) with four houses for the missionaries and their families to live in. However in December 2018, we had to stop work because the costs had risen exorbitantly. The foreman had underestimated the amount of sand we would need. More sand meant more rent for trucks, more workers, higher visa costs etc. Transporting

a load of sand with a truck would have cost us \$1000, even though the sand was free for us to help ourselves to at a nearby dry riverbed and we needed a lot more than just one load, there had to be a better way!

So we decided to set off for South Sudan with our Unimog and a big trailer. We wanted to shovel sand to and from the riverbed for a whole week to avoid further costs, and bring the project to a successful conclusion.

The team needed two days to reach the border. We had two punctures along the way and, to make matters worse, the brakes failed on a two-hour steep descent. Our

driver Jackson did not tell anyone about the problems, fearing that everyone would jump out of the truck. He could only drive in 4th gear, because he did not dare to touch the clutch, in doing so the car would have increased in speed. Later he told us that he really thought this would be the end, on the one side there was a sheer cliff and on the other side was a lot of oncoming traffic. Praise the Lord! - We arrived safely in the valley and Jackson was able to run the truck to a safe stop.

Crossing the border was as hairy as ever, 20+km of no mans land with bandits hiding in the bush. Occasionally you could hear

Continuation from foreword

As we continue following in the footsteps of the Holy Spirit, we realize that He has a great multitude of peoples in His mind.

We are thrilled to see what is happening among such tribes now: In East Equatorial, South Sudan, lives the Toposa tribe, together with our team, we feel that we can hardly keep up with what the Holy Spirit is doing! One year ago we started a small village fellowship, a gathering of new believers that would meet daily around the fire place at night under the stars. This quickly became several fellowships, spreading from village to village. Even the children are catching the fire of the Gospel and are started their own gatherings around the fire in their villages, in some of the meetings hundreds come together to listen to the Bible stories, sing songs that play of MP3 players.

After a year, there are now 23 such fellowships. The big challenge is to keep up with all these people, to teach them in true discipleship so that they can understand God's word better and learn what it means to have a relationship with our Creator. As this is also a discipleship making movement and there is multiplication effect happening we also want to ensure that the truth is being effectively communicated by these new believers to others.

Despite all our strategies and plans, we often can not keep up with what God is doing. The fact that these tribes that have remained un-reached for so long are only now starting to respond to the message of God could be a clear indication that the Lord is preparing to return soon.

I believe that every Christian should have a multifaceted approach to mission: working at home is extremely important and necessary. The Christian community at home has to be alive to be able to move out, and whilst at home and carrying out everyday life, everyone should somehow also campaign for world mission. Every part of the Christian body is needed to do this great job. We urgently need a paradigm shift among the children of God and if we can not go ourselves, we should be looking to send someone who can.

Pray, study, train, support, finance and / or go yourself. This world needs to hear the good news of the gospel! As a ministry, and in our hearts, we have committed ourselves to tackling the un-reached ethnic groups and seeing that this number of 7,000 un-reached tribes and ethnic groups will diminish over the next few years.

Revelation 7: 9-10 prophetically presents a clear picture: "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."



May this happen in our lifetime.
Your Peter Franz



Women building the houses in South Sudan

someone popping off a few rounds in the bush - were they army? Bandits? Herdsman? - who knows. We even came across a armoured tank that was just firing sporadically in the bushes to warn people off coming near the dirt road.

After driving another 6 hours or so we were pulling into the compound that we were setting up - wow it had changed the first house was almost complete, the well we had put in 6 months earlier had a flurry of green all around it, plants, vegetables and animals all enjoining the new water source. The fence was up and a large gate with a watchman was protecting it. We all slept in tents and the sand would fill them in the day as the wind washed over them, people stepped on scorpions in the night by accident, the occasional snake was seen slithering around, but we finally felt a sense of peace as we settled.

After our arrival, we did not waste much time and began to shovel sand from the riverbed 10 km away into the trailer as quickly as possible. A few people from the team visited the surrounding villages that we had not visited before. (It seems like there are thousands of these villages in the area)

It was not long before we had our next puncture, so the trailer for the sand was no



longer in action. We decided to keep using the back of the unimog and keep going as we had come so far.

The next morning we set off to the nearest town, a good 100km away to meet the district governor (a formality to introduce ourselves and the work we are doing) on our way back, in the evening we found the Unimog sitting on the side of the road. It turned out the clutch plate had shattered! The technical team got straight to work removing the clutch - a long process as we first had to jack up the cab to get access to the engine. (Just lifting the cab took a good 4 or 5 hours) Once we got the clutch we started brain storming what to do. The chief had called a big meeting the next day to meet all the local leaders and chiefs to discuss the needs of the community and for us to push them to support attendance at a school we were planning to build. Then there was church, being a guest speaker in the region was a big deal as they are so remote, but we couldn't leave the truck standing in the bush for many reasons - Bandits might raid it and take it to bits, the sand would get inside the engine and gear box, and most worryingly snakes would make it a new home.

So, late in the night sitting under the



Children grinding the millet

stars we decided to split in two. Team 1 heading back to Kenya to find a new clutch and a Team 2 was to remain and meet with the elders, speak in the churches and build relationships with the community. So early in the morning we said good bye to half the team and off they went to get the clutch (I can't overstate how isolated this location is with no phone reception, no sat phone connection and no other way to communicate with the outside world, I don't even think smoke signals would have worked! It was often weeks or even months before a car passed by on the very unused road that lead nowhere in particular)

Not long after they left, the winds picked up and we were in a sand-storm, the tents were lifted up and thrown into the nearby thorn trees destroying one of them.

We spent most of the day trying to hide from the sun and wind as trees and tents provided little shelter.

Later that night we saw some lights from a car and wondered who it could be as we were not expecting to see the team for another 3 or 4 days.

It turned out there was a shooting near the boarder and several children were possibly killed. As a result the border had been closed until further notice. We went back the next day with a larger team to see if we could get through, but the situation was the same. Later that afternoon after sitting on the hot dusty road for 7 hours we decided to try and cross the border, figuring the Kenyan army could not leave us stranded in "no mans land" to be shot. The bet paid off and it wasn't long before a team of Kenyans highest trained officers came to pick us up in a Toyota Land-cruiser, armed to the teeth (Sadly no photo).

Skipping on with the story, we got home and Jackson set straight off to find a new clutch. First searching all the shops in



Eldoret, then in Nakuru (3hr drive), then in Nivasha (another 2hr drive) then in Nairobi (another 2hr drive) and then finally he heard rumour that there may be a part down near the coast (another 8hrs or so) ! 2 or 3 days later without sleeping a wink, he returned home triumphant with the part!!! Peter didn't waste a second firing up the plane he flew Jackson back to South Sudan.

In the end we ended up leaving the tuck in South Sudan so that when we go back in April 2019 we can carry out a full survey to discover the extent and number of

un-reached peoples in the south east regions of South Sudan. Read our next newsletter, check out our facebook and instagram accounts to see how we got on, on this last trip as well as upcoming trips !

All in all this was a great adventure, a good cultural learning experience, but despite all the fun, there is a spiritual war raging, the enemy is not happy with the work we are doing, with the thousands upon thousands that are coming to know Jesus as their personal saviour. Mark and Julius are hard at work discipling an entire people group, the cost is very, very high -

So please pray for the work here to continue, to grow and to flourish, the labours are few and the harvest is great ! Please also pray to see if you can help support these endeavours. Because Jesus.

Joshua Rex



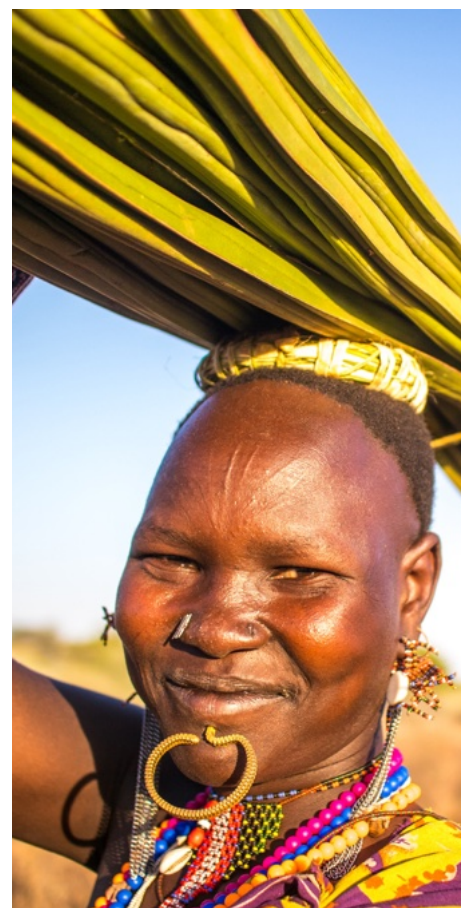
School building under construction



The second mission building is under construction



A little glimpse of the compound.



A Toposa woman

Jesus alone can truly transform!

Evangelism in Northern Uganda



Following this exciting time in South Sudan we drove 3 days to the once largest refugee camp in the world in Northern Uganda. The camp extends over 250km². This was a tough crowd, starting with the Pastors and elders of churches, there were pages and pages of demands, requests and even some threats that if they didn't get what they wanted from us we would regret it, every point we conceded on just didn't seem to be enough for them. We felt that one of the key struggles of coming and working amongst the refugees here was; they have so many aid organisations coming and offering so much free aid, that their expectations of what they were entitled to were so high, the idea of what aid is, seemed to have gone out the window.

We spent a good three days driving in a number of different vehicles. Why drive so far you might ask? Well wanted the reach broken hearted! We wanted to bring the hope of the gospel to the people that so needed it to try

to re-introduce Jesus to those who may have a totally wrong picture of who God is. Despite the many above-mentioned difficulties and despite all these struggles, the meetings got off to an amazing start with the kids programs, thousands came and with our passionate youth team we were able to act out bible stories, play with puppets and so much more. Seeing the seriousness nature of their response helped us to know God was at work and at the centre of it all. This continued the whole week with the football tournaments in the morning, youth events in the afternoon and the main event in the evenings. Many people were coming to the Lord for the first time or were re-committing their lives to Him every single night.

In the evenings, building up to the event, some of the team would go out into the different villages in the camp to show the Jesus film and share what God has done in their own lives, to give testimony of his goodness and power. You can really see how

much GFI wants people to hear the good news as there isn't a minuet in the day where something isn't happening, early in the morning before the sun rises people are preparing, late into the night teams are out in villages, sharing testimonies of the goodness of our marvellous creator.

Joshua Rex



The Jesus movie is shown in different villages late into the night

Youth Evangelist Allan Murithi

The Twins

Some time ago, Jane, one of the twins, called me. She was totally upset and said that her sister Grace had extremely severe anxiety attacks, respiratory problems along with discomfort. She would say again and again that she is not sure how long she will live.

Since childhood, she had struggled with these feelings again and again. At one time, a woman told her that being a twin was not a good omen ... in most cases here, a twin would die early. Only that very morning in our team devotions we had talked about this phenomenon in Africa: Previously, the opinion was widespread that twins bring a curse. Yet, many years ago, missionaries used the word of God to bring new thinking to the people: in contrast to animism, the Bible makes it clear that every child is wanted by God. God gives life and frees people from fear and despair.

We as leaders did not know that this thinking is still common in Kenya, even today! We talked to Grace about what God's Word says and that He has a good plan for everyone. He wants us to have life in abundance. People should not scare us. Jesus has triumphed on the cross and conquered fear and death.

After we prayed for them, they happily went back to university. They kept calling and reporting how well they are getting on. Six months later, they were happy to report that they had received the top marks out of some 450 students at the University. What a gift from God and what encouragement for the two!



School fees for kids

Many thanks to all who have donated towards school fees. We were able to pay for 4 children to go to school and university this last year. May God help us send even more children this next year!

YOU
CAN HELP
HERE

Josh and Jessi

Jessica, Josh and little Valour have settled in well in Africa. Jessi had a tough test straight away, a week after we were back from Uganda, she contracted a stubborn strong form of malaria. She had to take two different types medications to get over it and for the first few days she had a fever over 40 degrees, even cold showers and baths wouldn't bring it down. Thankfully now everything is over and the whole family is doing well.



Looking ahead

Pray for our active and busy team as we are spread all over.

THANK YOU
FOR YOURS
PRAYER!

- From the 15th to the 30th of April we will be back in South Sudan. We are looking to gather information about the un-reached tribes there. In Naliel, South Sudan, we are finishing off the houses. In May, we are hoping the Kenyan missionaries will move in.
- In June we will be working with Eunice Njeri in Germany. There are still a few dates free, if anyone is interested, please e-mail becky@gfi-ministries.org
- In July we will have a "Go4it Team" from Burgdorf, Switzerland on assignment in Kenya. They will be fully engaged with outreach in schools, as well be part of the big open air meetings in the Turkana.
- In August, mission trips are planned in Turkana and South Sudan.
- In September, we will be attending the World Pentecostal Conference in Calgary Canada. Afterwards we will be preaching in Alberta, B.C and Ontario.
- In October, we have further engagements scheduled in Canada and Germany.
- In November we currently planning another large open air meeting in Kenya.

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