

GOSPEL FIRE NEWS



The door is wide open!

3



Water bringing new life!

4



Preaching under attack!

5



“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

Luke 11:28

A run in with the police and how God protected me!

2

Dear friend,

Imagine for a moment that millions of people, all over the world would suddenly vanish in an instant. Every layer of our complex society would be affected. Young and old, people of all races, husbands and wives along with their children, men and women in all manner of business, pilots flying aircraft's, politicians and government officials, authority and responsibility suddenly disappeared! Raptured! No longer to be found anywhere.

Sounds unbelievable? Yes, this is not a conspiracy theory, it is described to us, believe it or not, in Chapter 4 of 1st Thessalonians! There are other places in the Bible that also point to this event.

Jesus even speaks of it himself in Matthew 24:40-43 “Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.”

This prophecy of the future will probably be one of the greatest challenges our world has ever faced. Pure chaos would break out on a global scale. It would dwarf the current pandemic and its aftermath.

It is interesting that since the tower of

Babel in Genesis 11, there has not been anything like this current pandemic that has brought the whole world a world into alignment. Masks, social distancing, lock-downs and so on. The dreaded vaccination is only the beginning of what is to come. On a global level you can hear the cry for more control and surveillance. You can see a dark ideology behind it. You inevitably approach a world government, a world economy, a world religion and a world currency. This is no longer a secret.

There are several clear indicators of the era ahead. For a believer in Christ it's really exciting. God's word and the prophecy it contains are being fulfilled

Preaching under attack!

Testimonials from our brothers and sisters in faith



Recently a 60 year old Toposa woman started a prayer group in a cattle camp, as soon as her eldest son got wind of it, he got irate and band her from praying, threatening her in the process. That very night all the animals, who were up until that point safely locked away, disappeared ! It seemed like they were somehow able to run away in the middle of the night despite the locked fences and the shepherds keeping an eye on them ! Some how the gates had been opened and there wasn't a single animal left in the morning. In desperation the son came to his mother and asked if she could pray and ask God to find and return animals. "Why should I pray for you now, when you have just rejected God and threatened me yesterday?" The mother asked as she knelt down and begun

to pray. Not long after, some of the animals started to wander back into the camp all by themselves and the shepherds were able to heard the rest up and bring them home. This event marked the beginning of the new cattle camp church in Losepangolol.

With the help of missionaries, this indignant young man was able to learn to read and right and can now read the Bible for himself! What is more he as also started to teach others to read and there is now a small community of people that are reading the bible regularly. Their lives will change significantly!

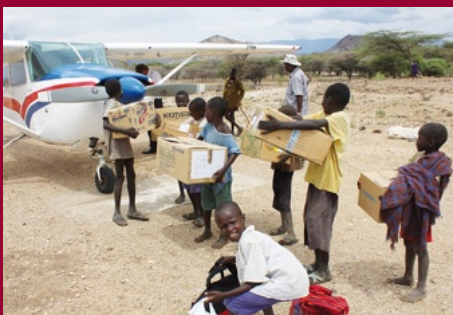
Unfortunately there have has also been a growing amount of persecutions in this area. During a recent conference with over 100 local leaders in attendance. A crowd of angry youth suddenly appeared and began

to attack the members of the meeting. Beating men, women and even their children! A young man was almost killed and thrown in a ditch, but by the grace of God, he enough strength to run to our mission station 15 km away in Naliel, where he was able to get help as well as warn people what was happening. He reported that the gang was after a man named Lucino. Lucino is the spiritual father of eleven fellowships and, has baptised over 60 witch doctors. Thanks to this report he was able to flee to a different area where he works tirelessly for the Lord, until the situation in his home calms down. The members of these fireside fellowships were beaten for three whole days. The more they were mistreated, the more they called out to Jesus.

Christmas projects that need your help! Give meaningful gifts & spread joy.



Eating is essential! Turkana food outreach.



The plane enables us to react to unforeseeable events quickly, getting the help where it needs to be!



A temporary house for staff until the new buildings are ready in South Sudan.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION!

Christmas is a time to reach out and help others. Today you can give a hand and help the people of Africa as well as help to bring about positive and sustainable change. We are invited to take part in these amazing projects, big and small that Gospel Fire International is carrying out on the ground here in Africa. Together we can accomplish great things!

1 A new guest house in Eldoret, this new guest house will help provide a small income in the future, that will help to make our mission work out here more sustainable and less reliant on donations and foreign income.
Total cost: £115,000

2 Due to the heavy rains and the pandemic, we need more funding to complete the construction of the mission base in South Sudan. We are aiming to finish this building project before the new year.
Total cost: £7,000

3 All our vehicles need to be overhauled and repaired ready to preach the gospel and carry out our aid work for 2021!
Total cost: £4,000

4 Our Cessna aircraft, that helps us avoid unsafe roads, and dodgy borders, is in need of its 6 year service.
Total cost: £3,000

5 We donate protein rich, fresh fish to needy families and children's homes. With just £20, £50 or £100, we can continue to bring joy to many families this Christmas.

6 Almost every day we face new challenges with people knocking on our door asking for urgent help, from medical emergencies to family crisis. Consider supporting us on a regular basis to help bless these people. Every donation is welcome!

A run in with police and how God protected me !

Eldoret to South Sudan and back



Children excited to see foreigners for the first time, and maybe even hoping to get a few sweets!

“If you can survive in South Sudan, you survive anywhere in Africa,” the GFI technical director said to me after I decided that I would pay a visit to South Sudan. When we left early in the morning, I couldn’t imagine what would actually await me. After only two hours of driving we were stopped by a policeman who wanted to arrest me, (my first experience of this in Kenya) because I was transporting too many people in the truck. On the way to the prison cell, my Kenyan colleagues were able to persuade the police to give me a break and prevented my first visit to prison in Kenya. It took a lot of negotiating skills and grace from God. At the border between Kenya and South Sudan where there had been tribal conflicts for decades, the exact boarder line had not really been drawn. In fact it is still being clarified, another new experience for me. This area is called no man’s land, where there is no

law or police, but raids, burglary and shootings on a regular basis. When we wanted to drive on, we were told that we would need a military escort. Then a soldier with an loaded sub-machine gun jumped in the car next to us, my seven otherwise talkative passengers suddenly became very quiet and a strange feeling spread over me. After an hour-long, tense drive, we finally reached the Sudan ‘border’. There, our patience was tested by the border control officers for 24 hours. After a huge amount of paperwork and hours of discussions, we were finally allowed in, even though the borders were still technically closed due to the pandemic. Driving the heavily laden Unimog was a huge challenge for me, but one that I readily accepted, especially as the “roads” got worse and worse. Since it was the middle of the rainy season and had rained a lot, the roads were so bad that we got stuck, and not

just once but a few times and what’s more in the Mercedes Unimog. (For those of you that know trucks, this thing doesn’t get stuck easily!) With a lot of effort and the help from our winches, we were able to free ourselves from the deep mud.

When we got to the mission station we were dead tired, but overjoyed to have finally arrived after four days of hard driving. I was able to support the team there for a few days with the construction work before I had to return home. The team that stayed on to finish the construction faced many challenges many of which were due to an engine failure on the Unimog, that grounded them and prevented them from continuing with a large part of their work. They could not carry out their work as planned. As things drag on the cost increases. Please pray for the GFI team who are still hard at work out there!

Report by Simon Haberstroh

Foreword continued

to a great extent before our very eyes! The state of Israel became a nation once again in 1948, this was long foretold in the Bible in Amos 9:14 and many other places. We are watching with eager anticipation as Israel signs peace agreements with United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sudan and other Arab countries. Countries that were arch enemies in the past are now joining finding peace. Iran, Russia and Turkey are gaining a higher profile in the Middle East and must be watched closely. Are all these events developing in the direction of Ezekiel 38 and 39? Also what is currently going on in the Mediterranean with the search for natural gas? Another indicator we can look at is the development of a global government or leadership, as already mentioned.

But the greatest event will be when JESUS comes again to bring those who he has prepared ahead of time home. According to the Old Testament, Enoch was raptured (Genesis 5:18-24) and Elijah was taken in a fiery chariot. Philip, in the New Testament, was miraculously picked up after the eunuch’s baptism and brought back to the place of departure. Nothing stands in the way of God. What He has promised will happen in His time. Jesus is coming soon! Let us be vigilant and live sincerely, awaiting his return.

Peter Franz



A typical Toposa house

The door is wide open!

News from the station in South Sudan



The Toposas listen to the Bible stories with excitement



The DDM strategy

The team of missionaries in Naliel continue to support and train the local people. There are now many leaders among the Toposa who oversee their own communities and the surrounding areas. It is exciting to know that the work can soon be continued by the Toposa themselves!

This means that soon the team at the mission station in Naliel can concentrate on other areas that have not yet been reached with the gospel.

At a joint meeting, the missionaries considered how they could reach the still unreached people groups in South Sudan. The team came up with a plan to split the whole country in 4, North to South and East to West. Each of the missionaries would research into these geographic locations to see where the unreached peoples were living, learn about their languages and culture to see how they could begin to disciple them. As they carry out this research they will continue to focus on the nine wards within their own state of East Equatorial. As part of this process, local leaders are being raised up to continue to oversee the discipleship and community development among the Toposa. Please remember these people are still very young believers, often with many cultural issues that still need to be worked out amongst them, such as the practice of polygamy.

The fellowships among the Toposa, Nyangtom, Jie and the refugees in Kakuma and Lokichoggio are doing well. New groups have just been founded among the Didinga, Buya and Murle tribes. It is so encouraging to see these groups multiply and new generations of disciples being formed across remote parts of South Sudan.

Report from our missionaries

The missionaries not only supervise the ongoing work at the site in Naliel, but also regularly visit extensive areas of South Sudan and northern Kenya. There, too, they train and teach individual people who in turn pass their knowledge on to others.

Julius Magu, for example, was out on a mission trip in their neighbouring state for a month. There he encouraged, trained and taught the leaders of the tribes and found men of peace to work with.

He worked among the Jie, the Kassen-gor, the Murle, the Buya and the Teus tribes. The churches they have planted are growing and God willing baptisms will take place soon as well. Julius will soon be taking some Toposa leaders with him over the next few months to Nawayapak to gain experience in missions and cross cultural communications as well as teaching them how to carry out this DMM work. A fellowship was recently founded there that will serve as the base for the surrounding areas.

Previously on one of these local mission out reaches, word got out that missionaries had come to preach God's word. The young people in that area joined together and took action against these eight missionaries that were seen to be bringing in change and even evil spirits. But with the help of the Jesus film it was possible to bring all the people's together and explain why they were there. As a result it was very encouraging to see the eight missionaries sent out that month were able to reach 12 regions, baptise 324 new believers, and start six new fellowships. They were even able to begin training 54 local leaders these areas! The doors are wide open for the gospel. More churches will definitely be planted and more people will definitely come to Christ!!!

Community transformation

The transformation of society goes hand in hand with spiritual transformation and revival. In addition to the main goal of making disciples, who in turn make disciples, transforming the society is another goal of the team in Naliel.

Farming Gods Way: Lorna, the wife of Mark Keter, reaches the community through the Farming Gods Way initiative. With the help of her own garden, she shows the Toposa how they can cultivate crops from their fertile soil. She gives them plants that their "students" then plant in their own garden at home. The regional chief and some elders of the village of Naliel have set a good example and have learned a lot from Lorna. In some small gardens in Naliel, plants such as moringa (a medicinal plant), papaya, bananas and lemon-grass can be seen for the first time. In the past, people from the village often came to Lorna and asked her for 'tea leaves'. But now these people have planted their own lemon-grass bushes.

Agriculture: Naliel has very fertile soil and plenty of water. There is enough space available to provide the people there with sufficient food. In order to make this possible, some of the disciples are now gradually being trained in how they can cultivate larger arable land. For this purpose, two ploughs and a small hand tractor were purchased. Some of the believers are willing to provide their bulls or donkeys to be trained in art of ploughing. The missionaries have also begun to talk to the youth of the village about the future of the community and life there, encouraging them not to live from day to day but have a longer perspective into the future and the role they can play in shaping the futures of their communities. They are positive about change and are open to learning.



Julius conducting discipleship training



Simon Haberstroh on the way to South Sudan



The new trailer has proven itself already!



The land is fertile and the harvest is great



The engine being overhauled on the field



A slash flood hitting our truck

School: Another project we are working on in this area to transform this society is the school project in Naliel. The primary school students in Naliel had to hold their classes under trees for a while before a small and simple classroom was built for them, unfortunately in June during a strong storm this simple structure was blown away by the wind. We are currently in the process of putting up a new tin roof structure so that the children can have a better learning environment.

Construction project in Naliel

The missionaries Elia, Mary and Joseph have up until now been staying in very simple and poor living conditions on the mission station in Naliel. Elia was living in 2 small tents and Mary was in a self made mud hut that would disintegrate every time there was a heavy rain. To get out of the water at night her bed was raised on some mud bricks (Her bed was mud bricks). The living situation has always been very challenging and difficult for her. But we have made it our goal to try and support

these missionaries even more. We want to give them a good home base to work from. We are currently building a building with a conference room and a number of bedrooms to accommodate these missionaries as well as to accommodate guests that may wish to stay over, either for training, or for business.

The construction work has not been easy at all. We have been plagued by a very long monsoon with a lot of rain. This has made the roads impassable, we have had multiple mechanical problems with our vehicles which has challenged us physically and financially and made everything very difficult. One of our main trucks was even caught in a flash flood! Flooding the engine and break system with water and sand! All of the sand and stones used for building material must be hand-loaded onto the trailer and truck from the riverbed some 10km away and then transported to the station and offloaded.

While writing this, it seems we have been able to catch a break from the weather and the building is going up as fast as it

possibly can, despite several of the team members getting a severe form of malaria! Praise the Lord that we were able to get this far, and we pray the buildings can be completed before Christmas.

Water is life!

In most of the areas where we and our mission teams are working and have planted churches, there is little to no access to clean water. Most of the water is left over from the rains and is shared with cattle and livestock, including washing and bathing (Animals & people).

GFI is working along side "International Aid Service" to drill six more bore hole wells along side these fellowships to ensure access a safe clean and reliable source of water. IAS has already put in 2 wells and God willing many more will be completed soon! In this way, with the discipleship work and community development work these communities will be transformed for the better. Giving them a great outlook for their future.



Six more wells are now being drilled in South Sudan



GFI home base - lots is happening !

Rex's back in Kenya!

It was a great pleasure to welcome Josh and Jess Rex with Valour, Kayda and Kiah home! We missed them very much and are grateful that they are back to help organize everything while we head back to Germany. Jessie is still busy with her kids, but since she has a work permit, she can slowly start thinking about how she can use her occupational therapy to bless people in our community. She has already received several offers to work in different clinics. Now we're still waiting for Josh to get his work permit as well.



Car lifts are up and running.

The two new car lifts have been set up and are in full use! Uwe and Thomas flew out to Kenya on the first flight available at the beginning of August. Despite all the corona regulations, they were able to come for a week and set everything up. We are so grateful that they took this step in faith and everything went well. These lifts will bless us and others for many years to come !



GFI U.K.

GFI is now a registered charity in the U.K. !!! Josh worked hard to get it registered during his time there. Soon we will have a bank account as well and be able to receive donations. This will allow us to continue expanding our work for Gods Kingdom!

Please pray for us:

- For our team in Sudan, preservation, health and the completion of the construction.
- For our Turkana mission trips: We are planning a number of smaller evangelistic campaigns later this year.
- Pray that we can plan and hold large open air meetings again in 2021.
- For Josh to get his work permit.
- For Carolin and Simon Haberstroh - they have settled in really well and are expecting their first child at the end of February.

- Pray for our finances. The mission work in Sudan is very expensive, and has used up all of our reserves. Pray that we can replenish these reserves.
- Pray for our missionaries in South Sudan. There is almost no way of communicating with them on the mission station. There is no cell phone reception, let alone internet. The only way to communicate is by satellite phone, this is very expensive. Not being able to communicate with family, friends, and your home church. Not being able to talk to anyone about your problems and not receiving messages from outside is a great burden.

THANKS
FOR YOUR
PRAYERS!

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INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR MISSION:

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