

GOSPEL FIRE NEWS



Eight people from unreached tribes now at bible school in Eldoret! **2**



The construction of the base in South Sudan is progressing! **4**



Jessica's work as an Occupational Therapist **5**



"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

John 3:17

Sowing and reaping spiritual fruit - as well as physical fruit! **2**

Dear Friends,

A text written by evangelist D.L. Moody, portrays the true heart of Jesus. Moody describes a conversation between the Lord Jesus and Peter that shows in a wonderful way the attitude of God's heart towards us human beings:

Peter asks, "Is it really your opinion, Lord, that we should preach the gospel to all men? Even to these sinners who have martyred you?"

"Yes, Peter," the Lord replies. "Offer the gospel to them first. Go in search of that man who spat in my face. Tell him that I forgive him.

Look for the man who put the crown of thorns on my forehead. Tell him that I have a crown ready for him in my kingdom if he will accept salvation.

Seek the man who took the reed from my hand and beat me with it. I will give him a sceptre and he shall sit with me on my

throne.

Seek out the man who struck me in the face with his hand. Tell him that my blood cleanses him from all sin and that it was also shed for him.

Seek out the soldier who thrust his spear into my side. Tell him that there is a shorter way to my heart."

I believe that if we want to please God's heart, the best way is to take His word seriously and follow HIM with all that we are and have. Jesus' last words in Matthew 28:19-20 were a clear command. Many in our time are open and gladly receive the joyful message. Jesus loves every person, no matter where they are in the world. His command to go is connected with a strong promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age". Is there anything better?

Peter Franz

The harvest is ripe and the fields plentiful (Spiritually & physically)



Everyone in the village is excited to see change



The more you experience Gods love, the more you want to know Him

It was Wednesday morning and the orange-yellow rays of the sun could be seen on the horizon to the east over the beautiful Cherengani Mountains. The altimeter was now at 10,000 feet (3,000 metres) above sea level. The sound of the single-engine Cessna 182 could be heard in the background. We had only 90 minutes left to fly to the border town of Lokichoggio. The small plane was fully loaded with spare parts for two tractors, and Jackson and Mwangi (two of our GFI staff) were also on board. Just two weeks earlier, God had done amazing things when Peter and Becki flew to South Sudan.

After talking to the Toposa tribal elders of Naliel, together with our missionary Mark, the older men from the tribe decided to give us 12 hectares of land (400 metres by 300 metres) - right next to our little mission station! We were totally thrilled about this amazing news!

Fencing in the new land

Now it was time to think about what the first steps should be. Of course, the land must be cleared of the wild thorn bushes, dug up and prepared ready to be used. But firstly we had to fence in the land as to clearly demarcate it, as well as have it in place so that the cows and goats don't

immediately eat the small, newly planted crops. We will use the land to show the local people how to use it to get out of poverty and hardship by growing different fruit and vegetables. Usually, the Toposa and their neighbouring tribes live off of their herds of goats, and cows alone. The cultivation of peanuts, potatoes, beans and melons is something completely new. Traditionally tribes would gather their wealth by stealing cows, goats and camels from neighbouring tribes, this is locally known as 'Cattle rustling'. Owing large herds and having several wives are considered a demonstration of wealth.

Over the years this cattle rustling has

Eight people from unreached tribes now in Bible school in Eldoret.

A great answer to prayer is that we were able to send eight new believers from South Sudan to a Bible School here in Eldoret. We believe that this will bolster their foundation in faith. The Bible school is a mission school where young people are specifically prepared for the mission field.

Josh and Jessie were with these eight "newbies" last week to bring them some warmer clothes as they were not prepared for rainy, chilly Eldoret weather. Life here is a total shock for these people. The language, food and climate is totally new to them. They have never attended school, so the idea of having to sit down and learn for extended periods is a big challenge. As is having to follow a schedule and lots of rules. But besides all the challenges and difficulties, they are learning and growing at a tremendous rate, they are also learning new sports like football and volleyball.

These eight students have all come from our DMM model in South Sudan and have proven themselves to be influential leaders, leading at the different fireside fellowships. It was because of this hunger and due diligence that they were hand picked to be sent to this Harbingers Bible and Missionary School.

This school is very mission-oriented and will enable them to continue as missionaries as well as to pastor other Christians when



The eight students together with the teachers and pastors

they return home. Please pray for them that they will be strengthened in the Word - and be well equipped for the time afterwards when they go back to the unreached tribes in South Sudan and Northern Sudan.



All the leaders working among the Toposa in one place to strategise.



Praise God we were able to drill another well

become more and more dangerous. Every third person in the tribe own not only a rifle, but also assault rifles. Often the young warriors don't come back because of this and die somewhere in enemy territory. This is also the reason why there are many more women than men in these cultures.

Through new-found faith, many among the Toposa and the Jiye have received the message of hope and encouragement. The glorious message of God's Son Jesus, that He took our guilt and mistakes upon Himself, that they can have a clear conscience if they accept Jesus' forgiveness, that they can even get Eternal Life - a new life after death.

This message along with its practical application brings about positive change and new life to these people.

We now have over 21,000 "disciples". People who not only profess Jesus, but are committed to following Him!

In over 80 fireplace fellowships, people gather almost every night in the villages to worship God, pray and listen to stories from His Word.

The 12 hectares of land will now help to teach these people basic farming and business principles so how they can grow different kinds of food for their own health

and well-being as well as to sell as a source of income.

Tractors "Ahoy" A story of Gods provision

During one of our last visits to South Sudan with Mark Keter (our local missionary on the ground), Mark said that they had just got a new county commissioner in that area. Mark suggested that we pay a social visit to build some rapport - which is very important for a ministry like ours. We met with the commissioner and had a nice time getting to know each other. During the conversation we noticed that behind the "town hall" there were two almost brand new tractors from Belarus that had been standing there for three years, unused and were no longer operational. No one could work with them, although one was equipped with a plough.

In our conversation it turned out that the new commissioner would be very grateful if we repaired these two tractors. Out of gratitude, we could then take one to our base (about 40 km away) and use it there for two years - with the prospect of an extension. We could not say no to this offer. Everything came together at the same time - the new piece of land and the tools to get it running! God is so good!

Back in Eldoret we immediately bought the spare parts for the two tractors: engine oil, oil filter, air filter, new batteries and other things like an ignition lock, as the ignition keys could no longer be found.

Together we (Peter, Jackson and Mwangi) flew back to the border and into South Sudan. We worked on the tractors for two days until we got them running again.

Once they were working we drove one back to our station and are now in the process of fixing the plough so that we can plough up the land and to get everything and prepare for planting.

We will now be able to offer some training with the tractor, driving, maintenance, and all the whole range of tools that can come with a tractor.

Last year we had a soil specialist come and visit to confirm that the soil is very fertile for this type of aquaculture, but has simply never been cultivated, and this is the reason the area looks like a semi arid desert. There is also a long rain season that can be capitalised on!

The Gospel, coupled with agricultural training, is a powerful combination to see change and transformation in a community that so desperately needs it, we are able to see people get spiritually healthy as well as physically healthy - isn't that great!



The repaired tractor is driven to the station



Repairing the plough

GFI in Sudan: Hooray, we have a guest house!



The material to build the fence is being loaded in Eldoret and transported to our station in South Sudan.



As there are no petrol stations, we have also had to carry all the fuel we need for 3 months of work, for cars, motorbikes, tractors, generators and welding machines!

While the world was busy with the pandemic this last year, we were able to complete the guest house at our base in South Sudan, complete with eight bed rooms and a small conference room. Naliel has now become a well-known place in Eastern Equatoria, as guests from Kenya, Uganda, Europe and America come to stay on a regular basis!

Now we have to build some wash rooms to compliment the accommodation. Building in Sudan is very expensive as we have to transport all the building material from Kenya, including all the labours! We look back and praise God for how far we have come with this base and all that has been accomplished so far!



All material for the construction for the fence, toilets, cesspit and guest house were purchased in Kenya then transported by truck for three days to South Sudan.



Completing the conference centre with guest rooms



Welcome to the new guest-house

Debriefing and member care

As the team grows so does the need for member care. Becki has had training in "debriefing" and "member care" and was able to spend time with the missionaries and their staff debriefing them and working through some stuff which has proved to be a great encouragement to the team.



Schooling for the missionaries children

We at GFI felt that it was important to support the children of our missionaries through school here in Kenya, so they are not disadvantaged in their education. This also releases the parents to fully and whole heartedly pursue their mission knowing their children are well taken care of.



GFI in Kenya: So many improvements!

We were able to use the time during the pandemic to finally tackle some of the things that had been lingering around the base for many years!

- We relocated the spare parts store after years of the old store getting flooded. A project that was always hanging.
- In August last year we were given two new car lifts, so this year we had to extend the workshop roof to make sure the lifts don't get wet. Now we have more space, and the workshop is better than ever. A special thanks to Thomas Tautenhahn, Uwe Schüppel and Diguna for making this possible.
- Renovating of the old house: After Jessie and Josh moved in to the old house, they noticed that termites were taking over the house. The tiles in the bathroom were starting to fall off the wall and the roof was causing us big problems, when some experts looked at it, we were told the plumbing and electrics had to be redone! So we have started to renovate the old building and are also adding two rooms at the same time. For the time being we are all living together under one roof again in our home.

- We are progressing with our plans to rebuild the "Hermans Klause" guest house. Once we have finished renovating the old house, we want to tackle this project next. This is of course will come at a great costs. We believe that God will also help us here as we believe this building will help us to generate finances, which in turn can further support the mission work and help us build towards more sustainability here at GFI Kenya.
- Due to the bad roads, the body of our Land-cruiser had started to break apart. Now we have given it a full body overhaul. The whole body has been reinforced and repainted. In addition, some improvements were made to the interior. The car now looks like new again.
- We have also overhauled the brakes on the Unimog so that it is ready to pull the trailer for further cinema and food outreaches. In fact we have 50 bags of maize and 20 bags of beans ready to go to take the Gospel and food to people that are really in need in really remote areas of east and central Africa.



Jessie visiting patients with kids en-tow



Fresh fish from our fish farm for the children's home!



Receiving a goat as a thank you gift



Jessie teaching at a disabilities awareness conference. Giving special time and attention to the guests, who are often marginalised by society.



Jessie explaining how to properly position disabled people and sharing how God loves these people.



The event generated great interest to even run another conference around these issues.

The A Team: How the Rex family strengthens and supports us at GFI

What a blessing to be able to work with Josh and Jessica. They are doing a super ministry and have taken a lot of the work off our hands, including most of the logistics around our work in Sudan. Josh is leading the renovation of the old house, the construction of the base in Sudan including the erection of the fence around the new compound, guest house and toilets. He is always on the road with a team, visiting the unreached villages to bring them the liberating and peace bringing message of Jesus Christ.

Working as an occupational therapist

Jessica is at a hospital outside Eldoret every Wednesday and helps the people there with her occupational therapy, and is in the process of being recognised as an occupational therapist in Kenya. We would like to integrate this work more into GFI, because there are almost no occupational therapists in Kenya, and there is a great need for them.

Hope matters Seminar

Jessie was invited to speak at disability awareness conference at the Village of Hope mission station in Turbo at their HOPE MATTERS HOSPITAL. Jessie was able to press the value and importance that every individual is made in the image of God, disabled or not. This was new to many of the listeners, as there is a superstition out here that claims disabled people are either a curse on the family or the result of a curse on the family and are often killed after birth as a result. If God the creator accepts and loves these individuals, then we also must love and protect them.

"Farming God's way"

We are using this method in Sudan to show the new disciples how to farm more effectively. Jessie and our Sudan missionary Lorna have taken a course on this in Kijabe, and have already begun to see the fruit of it.

Family News



Becki and Peter with little Malia



Miriana with Malia, Deren with Lukas, Yasi, Simon with Alina

Ziegler family

Miriana and Simon along with Lukas and Alina, who live in Stuttgart, gave birth to little Malia Zoe on 17 June 2021. We were now happy to welcome our 6th grandchild!

Deren and Yasi's wedding

On 17 July we celebrated Deren and Yasi's wedding with about 60 people. It was a wonderful celebration with close friends from America and other nations in attendance, unfortunately Yasi's family from New Zealand could not make it due to the corona regulations. Though they couldn't make it we are so glad to have modern technology that enabled those who could not make it to be there digitally over zoom.

They are now in the process of getting all the paperwork together so that Deren can get the visa needed for New Zealand. They would like to do their Bible School internship there and then catch up with the family for a Christmas wedding celebration. Pray with us, that they will be able to get all the paper work they need and the visas will be granted.

Covid-19

At the base we seem to have all caught the virus at one point or another, but praise God it was very mild and that we are back to work again, able to share God's wonderful message to the ends of earth.

Please pray with us:

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
PRAYER!

So that we can continue to 'roll' forward into the far-flung remote and unreached regions before us: Urgent call for new tyres for our Unimog: 1 tyre costs \$800 and we need at least 5 new tyres.

Prayer request:

- Pray for Kenya, that the pandemic will come to an end and situation will improve.

- Pray for our team heading to South Sudan, pray for protection on the journey and especially at the border crossings. It is often very unsafe and there are always attacks.

- Pray for the 8 young students from South Sudan who are at the mission school in Eldoret to be trained for their further work among the tribes.

- Pray for wisdom in the planning for the agricultural project in South Sudan to teach local people farming and other agricultural skills.

- Pray for the food outreach in Turkana in November.

- Pray for our team coming out from Germany to have a great outreach to

South Sudan and Kenya (from 21 August to 9 September).

- Pray for the finances we need for our building projects; The fencing and toilet blocks in South Sudan and at our home base in Eldoret.

- Pray for Jessica's occupational therapy ministry

Upcoming Dates:

25/8.-3/9: Outreach in South Sudan.

15/8.-15/11: Construction South Sudan.

30/9.-5/10 Turkana food outreach

7/11.-17/11 Sudan medical outreach

07/02-14/02 Sudan unreached survey

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