

# GOSPEL FIRE NEWS



Medivac  
A last minute rescue flight

3



Two special gospel festivals:  
One in Kenya ...

4-5



... and one in Migingo

4-5



"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

Isaiah 9:2

## Remote and unreached: A visit to the "Jiye" people

2

Dear Friends,

Our world today is desperate for solutions that will bring stability, peace and hope for the future. Controversial opinions are deliberately silenced while globalist, socialist and often atheistic thoughts are promoted and reinforced. The topic of the need for more global control seems to be on the horizon. Through social media we are wonderfully connected, but what strings are being attached behind that scenes that we don't know about?

Slowly but surely, global systems are moving into place, creating the conditions for a more centrally operated global governance. The call for for a strong leader is becoming louder and louder. An economic, political and religious platform is in the making.

Its amazing to see the tides change so that now there seems to be the apparent sudden willingness of nations to support conflict with the governments of our world sending weapons,

artillery and air defences in the name of "humanitarian aid".

The aggressor must be stopped at all costs. This is also partly understandable.

What was a "no go" in the past is now being reassessed. Previous guard rails are being shifted, red lines are being crossed, and this, despite the fact that nations are armed with nuclear capabilities that could potentially change the face of the earth many times over. Nonetheless, life must go on... some hoping for the best, others are simply afraid.

Jesus predicted in Matthew 24: Nations will rise against nations and there will be wars and rumours of wars. In Revelation 9:18, John even describes a scenario that looks very much like nuclear war. The words of our Lord Jesus ring loud and clear. He says them many times in Scripture, "In the world ye are afraid; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Many people today are afraid of the future, but when you

# Remote and unreached

## Visiting the Jiye people



The Jiye people are very special people whom God loves!



Meeting on the village square

As the four vehicles, all of them four-wheel drive, made their way through the thorny terrain in Eastern Equatorial, Southern Sudan, the underside of the vehicle could be heard dragging all too often over the rocky, uneven rutted road we were one. The bonnet and body scratched as we pushed through the thorny bushes on either side.

We had a long road ahead of us over the next two weeks. We were a team of 16 men from 11 different mission organisations, we had a clear task ahead of us: we were going to explore the country to collect data on a tribe that was considered "unreached" and "unengaged".

When we arrived in the village, we set up camp right next to the cane huts of the Jiye people. It was obvious to us that the villagers had never had visitors before - and certainly not visitors from so many different

nations ... Our team included Americans, Germans, English, Kenyans and Sudanese.

The first thing we did was to sit and meet with the villagers around the fire. This was the cultural meeting place of the village community. Each of us shared our testimony about what Christ had done for us and means to us. It was a wonderful experience to see the hunger for more knowledge about God in their lives.

After these long talks, we finally lay down to sleep in our tents after a long day on the road. The night was filled with many different sounds: The sounds of goats, sheep, cattle ... and at four in the morning the rooster!

Before we could go further into the land of the Jiye, we of course had to meet with all the elders and listen to their hardships, difficulties, trials and joys. What really shocked us was that the women have to

fetch water from a seasonal river 12 km away. It takes them so long to fetch the water that they also often have to spend the night there.

The Jiye are a very special tribe who speak their own unique language, who have their own culture - but sadly until now have had no knowledge of the Gospel and live completely lost in darkness.

After another full day of driving, we finally arrived in Lopiet, the centre of the Jiye community. This is where commissioned our Kenyan Turkana brother Elia. We carried his belongings into one of the small round huts, which are similar to the huts of the Maasai. Elia seemed content with the very rudimentary dwelling he was now to live in. We laid hands on them, blessed him and asked God to protect him in this extremely hostile environment.

There is so much that needs to be done



On the way to the village



Old and modern "huts" - our tents in the middle of the village

### Continuation of the Foreword



know God, you get an extraordinary world view.

According to the Scriptures, there will be an earthly, satanic plan for a world ruler and world order, but in Romans 15:12,13 we are given a picture of the final reign of Christ: "There shall come forth a root of Jesse (Jesus the Messiah), which shall rise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentile nations shall hope." Verse 13 is a clear reference to our times as well: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in

him, that you may overflow with hope in the power of the Holy Spirit."

In these times, wars and rumours of more wars, may we find our hope in God.

May HE fill you with "all joy and peace" despite the turmoil around us. In Him we can overflow with HOPE when things around us still seem so hopeless.

Yours is Christ, Peter Franz



Part of our international team



The roof of a hut on stilts

among this tribe. We have to build a better shelter for Elias and his future team, since leaving him he was robbed, he got sick with malaria and later typhoid, and more I am sure. We also have the issue of "water": everywhere we went there is a great need for accessible water. It seems drilling wells has not been possible here and the people rely on rain water collecting in pools and damns.

But by far the the greatest need is for people to know Jesus in a personal and tangible way.

On our 6-8 hour drives between stops, we saw what a whole generation of war had done to such a beautiful country: there is

valuable, good farmland, yet not a crop in sight. No life, not even wild animals, no birds chirping, no monkeys roaring or rhinos crashing... We drove past an abandoned military tank and wondered if there were also land mines left over from a previous war ...

After a week in the bush, on roads not worthy of the name, it was confirmed that the Jie people not only need the Gospel, but that they lack far more: There is no infrastructure, no church, no school, very few humanitarian organisations, very few water wells, no functioning hospitals - SO MUCH NEED! This trip has left a lasting pain in my heart for these people who are so desperate. May God help us to reach them!

**Statement by Greg, a leader of "The Pentecostal Holiness Church" in Kapoeta, South Sudan:**

The trip to the Jie tribe was one of the greatest missionary experiences I have had in the last 15 years of mission work in South Sudan.

I thank God and GFI for being part of this amazing trip. We are now considering how we as a mission can get involved to help these people in the Jie tribe. What a great privilege to work together as a mission organisation in this project!

## Medevac: A rescue flight from the border...

**I** (Josh) received a call from our Sudan missionary Mark Keter: his youngest son had fallen while climbing and twisted and broken his arm in a complicated way at the mission station in South Sudan. 7-year-old Jared was in terrible pain, but there was no medical help for him on the ground. I thought about what we could do: Help from Kenya was hard to come by and even our partners - MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) and AIM (Africa Inland Mission) - were not able to send a plane to this location at this time. There was no other way but for Peter and I to fly to Lokichoggio to take little Jared and his mum Lorna to Eldoret where the boy could be operated on.

Actually, Peter was supposed to preaching at an event, but I pressed the issue and we agreed to postpone the speaking engagement. Lorna and Jared set off early in the morning by car on the

bumpy road to meet us in Lokichoggio, where we landed just as they arrived. Once there, we first filled up the plane with gas.

AIM was kind enough to provided us with gas, which we used to fill up the plane. Wherever possible, AIM and others help each other, and we were very grateful for this quick support.

With Lorna and Jared on board, we flew the small cessna 182 back to Eldoret. There we were met by Becki who took us straight to the hospital, where the boy was immediately examined and operated on the next morning. How grateful we were again to have a plane and to be able to respond so quickly! A heartfelt thank you to all who helped to pay for the treatment. Thank you for your prayers, for thinking of our missionaries in South Sudan and also of us. God's protection and provision is so important!



The Cessna is refuelled



Little Jared with his mother Lorna on the flight to hospital

# Two special crusades in Kenya and Migingo



Many children responding to Jesus



An open air event in the middle of the street

## Open Air Outdoor Cinema

It is amazing how many film outreaches we have had in the last few months and how many people have been reached through these smaller open air events!

We were showing the Jesus film every night for weeks before our first meeting in Kenya, then again for about 2 weeks before our second meeting in Migingo, working with local pastors we selected key market squares where we were sure to get a crowd.

Despite social media and mobile phones, the film outreaches are still a crowd puller, with people excitedly listening to the word of God.

These outreaches are also a good opportunity for our young people (and potential workers) to discover and use their gifts.

In the two major outreaches in Kenya Kisii and in Migingo Kisumu, which are close to Lake Victoria, we were able to introduce so many people to the Gospel through this tool. These people recognised their "shortcoming" with God, but also personally experienced God's great grace.

## Please don't rain!

When we arrived in Migingo, it rained so heavily that we had to spend a full day pulling the truck and our cars out of the mud. Pray requests were sent world wide, asking for God to hold off the rain. When the crusade started, the rain stopped and it didn't start again until we had dismantled everything and were already on our way home.

Thank you Lord Jesus, you have done another miracle!

## Fishing for people - how does it work?

One morning at sunrise, we went to shores of lake Victoria. It was just the time when the fishermen came back from the lake and sold their valuable goods. We had set up chairs, loudspeakers and sought personal conversation with the fishermen. When the music started, they left their work and gathered around, listening



Fisherman at the shores of Lake Victoria

intently. After an introductory speech, Peter was able to explain God's good news of Jesus' salvation and how important it is to be reconciled with God. By the end of the talk around 50 fisherman came forward to get right with God. It was very moving to see the reverence with which they spoke to God. Through their profession and their connection with nature, God is not an abstract concept for them. He exists and must be reckoned with. After a time of prayer, they wanted to give something in the way of a gift to us as a sign of their thanks to God. We watched as some of the fisherman pulled fresh fish out of their boats, Tilapia, Mudfish and Carp, which we could then prepare for lunch as a team. Delicious fresh fish from Lake Victoria! (Interestingly, the same tilapia fish are also found in the Sea of Galilee.

In Israel they are called "Saint Peters fish". God's word brought us all much joy once again!

## 35 students enthusiastic for God's cause

A great enrichment of this outreach in Migingo was a group of 35 university students came to join us on this outreach, they focused on "door-to-door visits" every morning. They told people about Jesus all over the neighbourhood. In this way, about 100 people made a decision to follow Jesus. On Saturday evening these same students ran a youth programme from the main stage. It was touching to see how about they sang and testified what faith in Jesus meant to them.

Migingo is known as an area where many people live in addiction, particularly to drugs and alcohol. There are also many who make great compromises regarding sex outside of marriage. Even in church circles, it is normal to view sex with different partners very loosely. One can deduce why the society around Kisumu is at such a spiritual low, and why there is a so much despair and hopelessness. Yes, even suicide.

But we brought a message of hope: knowing God gives life, and His ways lead to real joy!



The fishermen leave their nets to listen

# Two special crusades

## Continued



Everyone loves Football

### Jonas Walliser - a real German footballer!

A huge highlight in Misingo was the football tournament led by Jonas. With football jerseys from Germany, footballs, trophies and prizes to be won everyone was excited to come down to the field and support their local teams. Jonas ran a men's tournament and a women's tournament leading up to the finals on Sunday afternoon. During the breaks we would have speakers to come and share testimonies of what God had done in their lives, ensuring everyone was able to hear the joyful message of God's salvation and love for us, throughout the day.

Each day as the last football match was played famous local musicians would come and perform their hit songs, then Peter would preach and pray for the sick, then we would run a youth program late into the night. It was a great way of gathering a large crowd sharing the gospel with them.

What was extraordinary was that pastors from all the local churches were present during the football tournament. Bishops, professors, teachers, students, young, old, people from every walk of life were there to hear the gospel and presented with a chance to respond. Rich and poor came together, many of the people have experienced great hardship in their lives. Many have experienced loneliness and rejection, you could often see that their lives were



Jonas and Peter with the winning teams.



Footballers responding to the Gospel



People responding to God's word in Misingo

only hanging on by a thin thread. Despite all this there they were praying for each other. Tears flowed and the presence of God was strongly felt and many shared experiences divine healing. People left the field late at night, filled with joy.

God came through again. HE makes all the difference!

### Relationship is half the life

In Africa, everything is built on relationship: Doors suddenly open and you wonder how many strings God has in his hand. This is how our messages came to be broadcast on radio and television, even though we had not made any effort to do so.

We also found private accommodation for over 75 staff through a long standing friendship with the then "Provincial Commissioner" Hon. Peter Raburu. So God wonderfully helped us to keep the costs of this meeting down. We were often even fed breakfast, lunch and dinner by our hosts. It was like living in a country where milk and honey flowed. The people were so generous!

The fact that Peter Franz was born in this very area 60 years ago made the people feel that the evangelist had come home again.

Here in Africa, relationships will open many doors for the Gospel!



African worship



In Kenya, about 630 decision cards were filled out and given to the local pastors. In Misingo we counted 1050 decision cards, but we were told there were many more who made a new decision for Jesus! Hallelujah!

## Harvesting crops instead of bullets...

In Sudan, the work is going on wonderfully, especially on the 27 acres of land we received from the village elders. We were able to fence this land and are now starting to clear it for crops. Jan Mühlen a soil scientist from Bonn made a wonderful plan for us and after the result of the soil test we begun to plough the fields. We want to show the Toposas how to plant different varieties so that they no longer have to depend on the traditional cattle stealing for their supply. This tradition kills many young warriors ... We want to encourage them through God's word to go new ways. Now we are curious to see how the land develops and how God will use it to bring about lasting change.

In December 2021, I was diagnosed with a tumour in my right upper arm, which was to be removed at the beginning of January. However, since I had planned to visit GFI with Stefan Viertel, the surgery was postponed until February. During my time in Kenya, where we worked on the GFI vehicles, various people prayed for me. Three days after our return from Kenya, the tumour was removed. The pathological examination later revealed that it was an aggressively malignant G3 sarcoma. I received prayers from my whole community in Zwickau and some even fasted. Because of the malignant diagnosis, I was then operated on again. In addition, a CT of the lungs was done, as this type spreads very quickly and metastases. But the diagnosis showed that there were no more cells of the sarcoma!

This is a miracle of God, as purely medically there must be cancer cells in this tissue. I give God the glory for my healing!

*Thomas Taudenhan*



Peter speaking on the radio in Migingo



The Rex Family

## Please pray for us:

### Prayer request:

- Pray for Josh who is planing on getting his pilots licence. This will cost \$12,000
- Pray for the work in South Sudan. The toilet block still needs \$6,000 to be completed.
- We are currently sponsoring the children of the Sudan missionaries through school. For this we need \$1,800.
- Pray that we can finally finish renovating a house for Josh and Jessie: There is still work to be done on the kitchen, the staircase and the outside area. We still need about \$10,000 to finish this.
- A Unimog tyre burst during our last crusade, and needs replacing at the cost of \$400.
- Pray for Peter and Becky's work in Switzerland and Germany.

### Dates:

- 27 May to 5 June - in Switzerland:
- 28 May - PFIMI Grünenmatt
- 5 June - EGW Weier, 9.45 am service, lunch and afternoon
- GFI partner meeting with exciting stories and testimonies. (Registration and info from Heidi Graedle Tel: +41 (0)786172397)
- 12 June - Magdeburg, Scala Community
- 19 June - Skyline, Hanover congregation
- 26 June - GeGo, Albershausen
- 10 July - GeGo, Sindelfingen
- 17 July - Volksmission, Freudenstadt
- 24 July - FCG Zwickau

We are looking forward to seeing you! You are welcome to contact us, so that we can also come and visit your church.

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
PRAYER!

## GOSPEL FIRE INTERNATIONAL



**Germany** - Gospel Fire International  
Rathausplatz 2, 70794 Filderstadt  
Tel: +49 (0)173 3053299



**Schweiz** - Verein GFI Schweiz,  
3465 Dürrenroth BE  
Tel. +41 (0)62 964 11 01



**Kenya** - Gospel Fire International,  
P.O. Box 759, 30100 Eldoret,  
Tel: +254 (0) 20-2410900,



**Australia** - GFI Australia,  
c/o Rod Winter,  
5 Zephyr Court Surrey Downs,  
South Australia 5126,  
Tel: +61 (0) 8 825 17112,



**U.K** - Gospel Fire International  
Exeter, EX2 7DW  
Tel: +44 (0) 7535883479,



**USA** - CITA Ministries,  
P.O.Box 953696, Lake Mary  
Florida 32795



**Canada** - ICMS  
Box 24 Stn. A  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z4

## INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR MISSION:

### GFI Germany

Volksbank Nagoldtal  
IBAN: DE97 6039 1310 0007 9710 01  
BIC: GENODES1V8H

### GFI Schweiz:

Post Finance  
IBAN: CH67 0900 0000 6016 9091 0,  
BIC: POFICHBEXXX.

**GFI Kenya:** Gospel Fire International,  
Diamond Trust Bank, Eldoret Branch  
Account No. 0199712001  
Swift Code: DTKEKENA

### GFI UK:

CAF Bank  
Gospel Fire International  
Account number: 00033996  
Sort Code: 405240

### GFI USA:

Cheque payable to: CITA Ministries  
Note: to Gospel Fire International Kenya  
Tax receipt will be issued from CITA Ministries

**GFI Australia:** Bank of South Australia,  
BSB 105011, Acctn: 100593040

### GFI Canada:

Cheque payable to: ICMS  
Note: to GFI Africa/Canada  
online: <http://canada.gfi-ministries.org>  
Tax receipts will be issued from ICMS

### PayPal online:

[www.paypal.me/gfiministries](http://www.paypal.me/gfiministries)

[contact@gfi-ministries.org](mailto:contact@gfi-ministries.org)

[www.en.gfi-ministries.org](http://www.en.gfi-ministries.org)

