

GOSPEL FIRE NEWS



They came to kill...
...but Jesus was might to save.

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**It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick...
For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."**

Matthew 9:12-13

A long journey, but so worth it - medical outreach in South Sudan

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Dear friends,

Is it really possible to know God? Can we really know the one who created everything? Is He approachable, is He relational? If so, how? Or what do I need to do to get to know Him?

There is an old African story that tells the take of an old Mzee (Elder) who's name is Ekitela. He was the wisest and most experienced man in the village. Everyone held him in high esteem. His house was near the big mango tree at the edge of the village, right by the rivers edge. Anyone who needed wise advice went to sit with him by the river and learn from his wisdom.

Now there was a scheming young man in the village who was determined to prove to the villagers that he too was wise and could indeed out fox the old Mzee. So he came up with a plan to show everyone that he was clearly the smarter man.

So He called the villagers together and announced to everyone how he was going to prove he was the wisest man in the village, he asked all the villagers to follow him down to the Mzee's house

where he would catch a butterfly and hold it gently in his hand behind his back so the old man could not see it. Then he would ask the wise old man, "is this butterfly I am holding dead or alive?"

Should the old man say the butterfly is dead, he would simply open his hand and let the butterfly fly away, proving the Mzee wrong. Should the old man say the butterfly was alive, well then he would simply crush the butterfly, killing it and then show him a dead butterfly, proving again the Mzee was wrong.

All the villagers gathered around to watch the scene unfold with excitement. The old grey-haired Ekitela was sitting there whittling a stick with his knife, when everyone had finally gathered, the young man made the first move. "Mzee, I have something in my hand. It is a butterfly! Mzee, tell us ... Is it dead or alive?"

The old man got up from his Akicholong (a small stool) and thought for a moment and then said, "Dead or alive, it's up to you. It is solely up to you!"

A long but worthwhile trip

A Kenyan medical outreach to South Sudan.



Peter teaching new believers under a tree



The Dr consultation station

Two doctors, three nurses, two pharmacy assistants, two laboratory assistants, two pastors and two other staff members. Together we headed north to South Sudan. Most of the team were Kenyans and had never been this far from Eldoret before. We were on the road for three days until we finally reached our station in Naliel.

But even on those 3 days of travel we encountered God's greatness, again and again. It was the rain season which meant we had to ford river after river. At a number of rivers we had to wait for hours until the river level dropped enough to be passable by a 4x4. In other places, we safely crossed a dry river moments before a flash flood came behind us and filled the riverbed with roaring brown water! At one point we even encountered a UN truck stuck in the

riverbed, we spent hours trying to pull it out with our Unimog. Then finally, just as we were about to give up, having failed to remove it with the truck and even a winch kit, a miracle happened. We laid hands on the truck to ask God for help, the truck driver got back into the driver's seat, shaking his head but willing to give it one more try, started the truck up, took a running start and drove out of the riverbed without any help. What a miraculous intervention of God, the driver was now able to get this precious food to people in need!

Medical camp in the bush

When we finally arrived, we set up four medical stations. The first was a laboratory under a tree, testing everyone for malaria and STIs to help us get an understanding of

the health of the community. The second was a consultation station, which consisted of a Dr. diagnosing patients under another tree. The third station was a "treatment room" which consisted of a tarp that was tied to the roof-rack of one of our vehicles, here the team treated wounds, applied IV lines and helped to treat those as best they could. The fourth was the pharmacy under yet another tree where we were able to hand out the various medicines we had brought with us. While people waited Peter and the Pastor would teach from the bible, share stories and share the Gospel.

It was tough going, we were in a tough environment facing many challenges but we were encouraged knowing we were there to demonstrate God's love for these people in this very practical way!



Laboratory under a tree



Everyone gets a de-worming treatment



The "treatment room"

Continuation of the foreword

You see my friend, the same is true for us in our life. We have all been given the opportunity to choose death or to choose life.

If we accept Christ's offer of salvation and choose to make Jesus our Lord and Saviour, if we apply the truth of God's word in our lives by asking Jesus to be Lord of our lives, then we are choosing life.

Jesus said in John 5:24, "He that heareth my word, and believeth in him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." A.W. Tozer, (1897 - 1963) a great pastor and author of the Christian Missionary Alliance expressed this phenomenon like this.

"The supreme adventure for this generation is to seek the Lord

Jesus Christ. There can be no greater endeavour than to know Him as personally as one can know Him. The Scriptures promise that if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us." (A. W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God)

1 Peter 1:8-9,12 says: "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently... which also the angels desire to behold."

Many have set out in search of the meaning of life and have come to know God in the process. Chase after God, desire to know Him.

Sincerely, Peter Franz

They came to kill but Jesus was mighty to save.



This is what the fireside fellowships look like, where up to 200 people gather every night, for hours and hours to hear more of the Bible, sing and thank God for his greatness. This is what 'church' looks like here.

He raised the rifle to his shoulder and slowed his breath. His scarred cheek rested on the old wood stock as he gazed down the sights with bloodshot eyes. His finger rubbed nervously at the rough rusting trigger. A trigger that had seen many wars. It wasn't the first time he had killed a man, but today was different he was about to shoot his friend, and he was about to shoot him in the back....

The Bible tells us that the enemy prowls around like a roaring lion seeking to devour and destroy us. He is hard at work, a master of miscommunication and false accusation. Today was no different.

There was a group of old men, whose faces were shrouded in the dark of a moonless night. Their whispers were hard to make out as clouds of smoke swirled around them, emanating from their long tobacco pipes that rested on the floor. It was after dark and the enemy was at work in their midst. Rumours were being shared, and seeds of lies, false accusations, exaggeration and doubt were being planted, watered and nurtured around that fire.



Their cluster of villages had been shaken to their core. The Gospel had come to this place and people were beginning to change. Men, women and children were all starting to walk, talk and become totally different. The very fabric of their community was starting to be re-woven, this tribe was changing.

These men, sitting around the fire had decided that they did not like it one bit, they did not like it at all....

Three assassins are chosen...

You see there's something about the work of God that the devil just hates, and what Lochino was doing was no exception. Without any rhyme or reason whatsoever (to the natural mind that is) there were crazy stories going around the villages. Tales of what a bad guy Lochino was, for example, people would say that at night he would turn into a serpent, that he was involved in evil witchcraft that involved kidnap and many more unspeakable things. These were the types of stories these old men were spinning around the fire late into the night. Stories that they would later share at home with their wives and sons.

Soon enough these villages felt there was nothing they could do for fear that Lochino would curse them or bring some kind of magic against them. The old men had done their work and now the people of the villages were of one mind, they needed to get rid of Lochino. They needed to kill him!

The village elders came together and chose three men to assassinate him. Word gets around in the village fast and in no time at all Lochino knew they were coming for him. Filled with a mixture of faith and exasperation he decided to sit outside his house and wait for them to come and kill him.

Time passed and he opened his bible and began to read. A short distance away the assassins had arrived, one readied his

rifle and looked down his barrel. Suddenly a pang of guilt took hold of him. He was a warrior and knew there was no honour in shooting a man in the back. He shouted a warning. But Lochino just ignored him and kept reading. This infuriated him even more. He lowered his rifle and proceeded to try and start a fight. "Hey, why don't you turn around and fight me?" he demanded. "Why don't you run?" "How can you just sit there and read in a time like this? Don't you know we have come here to kill you?" The reality was he had no idea what he was doing there. As he started to speak out some of the lies that he had heard, the words just fell flat on the floor. He knew in his heart there was no truth to what he was saying. He had known Lochino his whole life, he knew his wife and knew his kids, he knew his whole family and he knew Lochino's character. Personally, I think the moment he spoke, he felt a deep shame. I wonder if the people who put Jesus on the cross felt that deep shame too, or maybe we are all too far gone in our sin and I am being naive about our true state, apart from God....

Redemption

Lochino responded to the accusations but used the opportunity to share from the bible. He shared why he was telling people about Jesus and why there was a change in people's lives after meeting Jesus. He told them what Jesus had done for others and what he could do for these men.

He told them the gospel. I believe Lochino could only have done this because he counted his life as lost. Instead of trying to plead for his life, or rebuke these men, or run, or fight, he shared the Gospel.

Lochino led those men to the Lord that day.

Imagine they came to kill him but he led them to the Lord. They came to take life but instead, they were given life, eternal life.

That's the kind of God we serve.

Reaching the lost

Testimonies from F&F South Africa.



The YWAM F&F South Africa team on outreach with us in South Sudan.



Walking to the well to wash dishes is a daily chore but it is also a chance to wash cloths and have a bath. (with some spectators)

This June we had a team from YWAM F&F South Africa on outreach with us for a few weeks.



Hi I am Awie Visser and I am 21 years old and from South Africa. My time in Toposa land was just awesome. I've never been in a place so unreached and it was awesome to see how Jesus changes everything the moment people meet him.

I am taking back so many testimonies from my time in Toposa Land. In one place we came across a blind women, so we started praying for her and after a while she started seeing the outlines of people for the first time and she could identify the colour of the translators shirt and she could see the roof for the very first time.

While we were there we were planning to go 100 km north to visit a village but as soon as we left, about 20 minutes into the drive the 4wd system of the car broke and we had to head back to the base because it was in the middle of rainy season and very likely for us to get stuck along the way. So we decided to visit a nearby village that was about half an hour away instead.

The new village we were heading to had experienced a lot of persecution in the last few months, people were beaten and the Christians had stopped meeting together

and the meetings around the fire at night had also stopped. Just as we arrived and finished setting up tents a man approached us. We met him and start talking not long into the conversation we realised he was the chief. He asked about Jesus and we shared the gospel with him. The next thing we know he accepts the gospel of Jesus and gets on his knees and proceeds to confess all the crazy things that he has done. in his life. After he confessed his sins and gave his life to Jesus we prayed for the infilling of the spirit and he got touched. He literally explained it like he felt something was watching over him and experienced a touch of God. A few minutes later and we gave him an audio bible and he started listening to it. He could not believe that God speaks his language and his face lit up like I've never seen before. Afterwards he told us that he was actually responsible for sending the younger youths out to persecute the church and stop the believers from meeting. With tears in his eyes he was repenting and swore to make things right, to pull back the youth and allow the church to meet again. He told us we would have no more problems in this place. We realised that we were caught up in something much bigger. God was literally redirecting our steps from one village to another, changing one man's to bring about change in his church.



Hello! I am Rosa!

I am 24 years old from Germany and I had the privilege to go on a two-week-outreach to Toposa land, South Sudan in June 2022.

In Toposa land I got the privilege to witness the beauty of what happens when the Gospel reaches a region that has never heard of Christ before! Jesus marked me deeply with His desire for every people group to get to know Him! And that He wants to use us to fulfil this dream of His, the Great Commission. So that one day when He comes back and the wedding bells ring, it can be said of us that "the bride has made herself ready" - Songs of Solomon

After my time in Toposa Land I am not the same! My love for Jesus and my intimacy with Him have deepened so much and I personally got so much freedom there! Because I realized that I don't have to fear people, nor can I waste my life on selfish things!

Jesus is truly coming back for His bride and this earth is not my home, if we trust and follow Him, He will always be with us and He will reveal Himself to us and to the people around us in His love, power and truth!

God bless you and this great work.



The church meeting for the first time after the persecution ended.



The chief hearing the word of God in his own language for the first time.

Farm with a prayer garden

Next steps for the demo farm at the mission station in Naliel

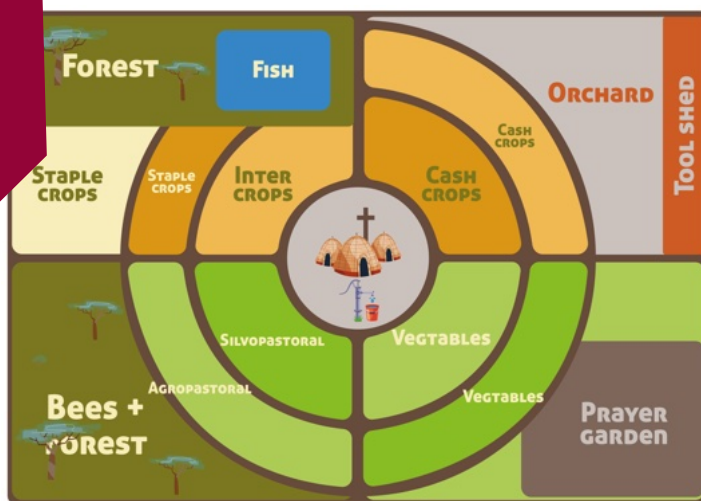


The mission station with the farm in the background.

We received a 250 x 300 metre piece of land from the elders in Naliel. This will be used as a demonstration farm to show the local people how they can make the most from their land, and run business if they want to.

We have designed this farm in a unique way to mimic the typical Toposa boma layout. In the centre we hope to have a toposa house, water well and cross to symbolise that Jesus died on the cross for the Toposas: if we accept him as our Lord, it is like fresh water that enriches our lives and brings forth much fruit.

From this centre point, there are a range of different fields that emanate out connected by walk ways. Each field is intended to be a different type of crop or inter crop. Near the corners of the field



A sketch plan of the farm with the model village at the centre.

we hope to have bees, fish, chicken, sheep, goats and cows. In this way we hope to show that through good stewardship, God gives us many possibilities and allows different things to grow and flourish.

This land has already been cleared and ploughed. Seeds have already been planted to begin to prepare the soil. Now we must pray that the rains will continue so that the seeds will sprout, grow well and bear fruit.

We would like to install a drip irrigation system next year. This drip system will cost about 15,000 Euros and will help to be an effective use of water in this hot climate. We are excited to see how the project grows and develops!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION!

Happy Feet: 130 pairs of top quality school shoes donated

At GFI, our focus is evangelism, let's get the gospel out there, let's win souls and let's focus on the big picture and live in light of eternity. But as we encounter the lost and the broken we try to see what we can do practically to help ease the suffering, especially when there is no one else around at can. Over the last few years, we have had a number of small projects with a school several hours outside the city in Kenya. In 2018 we were told that the school's toilet floors would often collapse and the students would fall into the cesspit below.

This was shameful and we had to do something to help, so we organised for a toilet block to be built to end this problem. When we were there we saw they had no reading or writing materials so we donated books and pens. We also saw that very few of the students wore shoes and had to walk many miles to get to school and many were turned away for not adhering to the proper school uniforms. Upon talking to the principal he requested that we donate school shoes to help the students.

We pulled together a fund-raiser and sent out newsletters and videos to see what we can do, after all, we can only steward the finances God has given us through donations from you. We had no means of our own to buy these shoes. Well, years went by until I met a lady in the UK who was passionate about school

shoes for kids in Africa. I spoke to her and asked her if she would raise some funds for this school. Sure enough, a few months later we received a donation, enough to buy 130 pairs of top-quality leather shoes. Shoes that will last a child, and their brother or sister and so on for many years to come. We could have bought hundreds of cheap shoes but we know the lasting value of a good pair and the blessing it will bring more than those 130 students.

As I said our main thrust is to share the gospel and see people meet Christ, and our time with these students was no different. We spent a whole day with them, ministering to them, praying for them, and playing games. With each pair of shoes we tied a red ribbon, something the donor asked us to do. This red ribbon symbolised Christ's blood, poured out of us, a message of hope, a free gift an opportunity for not only a better life here on earth but for all eternity in heaven. Each time these students where these shoes we pray they remember Christ's open offer for salvation.

Please consider supporting our work out here on a regular basis, we are hard at work trying to seek out the lost to share God's love and free offer for salvation for them and of course help them practically when no one else can or will.

Family News

- The Rex family is in Germany right now, and will be going to England in September as they are expecting their fourth child. Josh will use this time to work on his pilot's licence as well as aim to expand GFI in the UK. Please pray that the pregnancy will go well and that they will be able to make some good contacts in the UK.
- Pray for Deren and Yasi in New Zealand as they finish their Bible School internship in October. Then we are excited to see how God will lead them on.
- Our time in Germany is coming to an end will soon come to an end and we are still enjoying every minute that we can spend with our children in Germany.



Peter and Becky Franz surrounded by their grandchildren

Please pray with us:

Refurbishing of Mission House

Our old mission house had to be renewed and renovated. We are now in the final phase. When Jessica and Josh come back to Kenya in January, they will be able to move in. Pray that we will have the necessary finances (approx. 8,000 Euros) for this, as the building costs have risen enormously.

Repair of the Unimog

We have put a lot of work into our Unimog this year. The engine had to be completely overhauled and some parts broke during our last outreach forcing us to leave it in Sudan. We had to remove the engine there and transport it to Eldoret, overhaul it and then bring it back to Sudan, reinstall it then drive back to Eldoret. All this came at great hardship and costs. There are still a few things to be repaired before it is safe to be used again on the next outreach. (The remaining repairs cost an estimated 5,000 Euros).

CFAN Outreach

Networking is an important part of what we do. We have learned that you can achieve much more through partnering with others than you can on your own. A CFAN team used our base as their base in July and August to carry out their youth crusades. They reportedly saw 96,000 decisions for Christ during this time. It was a pleasure being able to work together to see God's Kingdom advance. Pray that the young people who have made a decision for Jesus will grow in their faith.

Other prayer requests:

Pray for us to find new staff for our base in Kenya. It is always difficult to find trustworthy, Godly staff that can work with us. Pray we find the right people to carry out the work here.

We thank God that the elections in Kenya were peaceful thus far. Please continue to pray for peace as the nation enters a time of transition.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
PRAYER!

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