

# GOSPEL FIRE NEWS



Pairing the next generation to love and serve

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A witch doctor get saved

4



We welcome donations for this years Chrstimas projects

5



All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

Psalm 22:27

## Celebrating our first harvest in Naliel

3

Dear Reader,

In the sacred pages of the Bible, nestled in the book of 1 Samuel 10, we find Saul thrust into an astonishingly immense challenge. Imagine, for a moment, being an ordinary citizen of Israel, merely searching for lost animals, and suddenly being anointed as the king over the entire nation. It's a narrative that almost seems plucked from a modern blockbuster film!

The enormity of this task is truly staggering. Leading a nation is no ordinary feat; it cannot be distilled into a short-term leadership training program or a crash course. There is no school for kings, and the question naturally arises: Who prepares individuals for such a monumental responsibility? What Saul desperately requires now is a profound transformation, one orchestrated by the divine hand of God. He must permit God to reshape every facet of his existence. But does such transformation transpire overnight? No, it does not. It necessitates an ongoing process, a conscious reliance on God, and a profound change of heart. This transformation

typically unfolds through a shift in mindset, God's Word, repentance, and conversion when one's relationship with God is unclear. Saul finds himself in dire need of God's unerring guidance. Wearing a crown and occupying a throne will be insufficient; the challenge before him is too colossal.

Nevertheless, God affirms Saul's path by assuring him that, with His assistance, this colossal task is surmountable. Saul can bring all his concerns and needs before the Almighty. The Holy Spirit will aid him in resolving challenges, just as in the story of 1 Samuel where his lost donkeys were found. However, Saul must learn a crucial lesson: Ruling in tandem with God necessitates the utmost trust and faith in Him. He must recognize that God desires to be his provider, as exemplified by the episode of the two loaves in 1 Samuel 10. Saul is permitted to lead the people alongside the Creator and God of Israel. To undertake this colossal responsibility, he must first undergo a profound encounter with the Holy Spirit.



# Preparing the next generation to love and serve

## IDLF training in South Sudan



Prayer for the IDLF Group



IDLF training in South Sudan

Every March and September, key leaders from the planted churches gather at our Naliel mission station for a month-long training program organized by Mark and the SLM team. These dedicated leaders travel great distances, up to 200 kilometers, often hitchhiking or walking under the scorching sun, all with an eagerness to deepen their walk with the Lord. This September, it was a privilege for Peter and me (Becki), alongside Bishop Boniface Runji, to teach and delve into topics such as church planting, baptism in the Spirit, personal faith growth, and providing encouragement to those facing

persecution.

What deeply touched us was the unwavering commitment these individuals demonstrated. For many, simply holding a Bible brought immense joy, even if reading it was a challenge. Their dedication to learning, despite limited literacy, was inspiring. They absorbed every word spoken during the training, eager to practice and share it within their communities.

During the closing prayer sessions, their seriousness and reverence toward God were palpable, even among young men who

bore physical scars from recent persecution. Instead of being discouraged, they sought to deepen their understanding of God's greatness and strengthen their faith.

This experience challenged me personally. It led me to ponder whether I possess the same fervent desire to grow in God's presence, the willingness to lay down my life for Him, and the deep love for God that these humble leaders exemplify.

Becki Franz



IDLF Group Training



Praying for fresh strength



The hunger for more of God's presence is great

### Continuation of the Foreword

In our own lives, we repeatedly encounter our limitations. Some tasks are undeniably beyond our human capabilities, necessitating divine intervention. Just as with King Saul, who embarked on a promising journey despite his initial shortcomings, God promises to stand by us in all circumstances and challenges.

Saul was, in the beginning, a raw and unrefined leader, struggling with self-doubt. When he was summoned to present himself before the prophet Samuel and the people, he hesitated and attempted to evade the spotlight. This offers us hope. If God could transform this timid and inferior man into a king, then there is hope that God can also work wonders with someone as insignificant as me, all for His glory.

Saul's leadership secret resided solely in his authentic relationship with God. God would be his unwavering support and provider; all Saul

needed to do was maintain unwavering faith. The Holy Spirit would fill him and bring about a profound change of heart.

In our own lives, we become truly available to God when we wholeheartedly surrender ourselves to Him, along with all our abilities and resources. It is through faith that we can truly please God.

Are you also confronted with monumental challenges? Is the task before you colossal? Know that God desires to assist you, infuse you with faith, and fill you with His Spirit. Unfortunately, Saul did not enjoy a favorable ending to his story. He began well but succumbed to stubbornness and poor decisions. His downfall was a consequence of his refusal to surrender his ego completely to God. Let us chart a different course. Let us afford God the opportunity to work in our lives.

Yours sincerely, Peter Franz



# We're filled with joy over our first harvest!

## Nutrition programme launched



The schoolchildren enthusiastically harvest the first fruit



The millet harvest is threshed by hand

**W**ith great enthusiasm, we celebrated the first harvest from a piece of land that, just a few months ago, was overrun with scrub and deemed unusable. Now, it has transformed into fertile farmland, and after only five months, we reaped our initial harvest—a tremendous blessing! Initially, watermelons were harvested, followed by lentils, and now millet, a staple in South Sudan.

This harvest serves a vital purpose, providing breakfast and meals to the schoolchildren. Their joy, along with that of the adults, is palpable. It's astonishing to witness such abundance from land

that lay dormant. God's goodness shines through; it's evident that when we dedicate our lives and knowledge to noble causes, God bestows His blessings, transforming nothing into something remarkable, valuable, and fruitful.

In future plantings, we plan to diversify our crops. This agricultural endeavor serves as a gateway, showcasing the local community the wide variety of fruits and vegetables that can thrive in this fertile Sudanese soil. It's a tangible demonstration of the potential of this wonderful land.



Green Grams (a type of lentils) are very nutritious



Even watermelons grow on the farmland



Great help: the tractor borrowed from the mayor



Green Grams Grow on the Bush



Millet plants in the field



The first yield of the millet harvest - this is the basis for feeding the school children.



First harvest - and more every day!



# A witch doctor finds Jesus

## How God meets an enemy of Christians



Worship in South Sudan



Rebekka meets Rebecca

Losike, a respected chief overseeing several Toposa villages, was a man deeply entrenched in his traditional beliefs. Alongside his 15 wives and numerous children, he held a prominent position in the region. However, his skepticism towards Christianity was unwavering. He was a staunch tribesman, unwilling to relinquish the old, albeit negative, traditions. Initially, he resisted the idea of accepting Jesus as the Lord of his life and even took steps to make life difficult for the newly committed Christians. He encouraged and financially supported young men to raid the Christian communities' hearths and mistreat young women.

In the Western world, people often romanticize African animist cultures as content in their traditions. But a closer look reveals the grim realities, including

brutal rituals like cattle and goat theft from neighboring tribes, resulting in the loss of many young lives, often due to the use of automatic rifles. These individuals, just like us, experience the same emotions, endure profound suffering, and are tragically victimized or killed.

One day, Losike journeyed to Naliel, our station, to incite young people against the Christians there. However, on the way, he suddenly fell seriously ill, to the point where he could no longer walk. Local elders residing near Naliel carried him on their backs to our co-worker, Mark Keter. Mark provided him with pain relief and fresh water, offering a heartfelt prayer, entrusting the situation to God's hands.

Approximately four hours later, Losike awoke, fully recovered. Overwhelmed with gratitude for Mark's assistance, he had a

transformative experience. He decided to give his life to Jesus, and God began working in him. His entire outlook and behavior underwent a remarkable transformation. He found joy and contentment, realizing that a relationship with the living God through Jesus Christ brought fulfillment. From that moment forward, he no longer opposed Christians; instead, he began sharing the story of his illness and the incredible miracle God had performed.

When we, accompanied by Mark Keter, visited him, Losike gifted us a large sheep as a token of gratitude for our work in his area. We are profoundly thankful for witnessing God's work among the tribes of South Sudan.

## Impressions from our mission station in Naliel, South Sudan



The school now has 150 students



Meeting with the village elders



One of the village elders



Some of the students and teachers



One of the many wells we have drilled and set up in the area



Meeting with the staff



# Donate!!!

## Christmas donations, that change lives

Join us in bringing Christmas joy to those in need. Your support makes a significant difference. Specify your project when making a bank transfer (details on the back) or donate online at [gfi-ministries.org/doante/](http://gfi-ministries.org/doante/). Brighten lives this season with your generosity. Thank you for your kindness and for helping us make a positive impact.

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
HELP!



### 1 New tyres for our truck

GFI, a mobile ministry, undertakes arduous journeys to remote regions, offering spiritual guidance and practical aid like medicine and food. Regrettably, the challenging road conditions take a toll on our tires. Furthermore, tire quality in Kenya has declined, leading to faster wear and tear. Your support can help us continue our vital work in these challenging environments.

**5 new tyres - Per tyre 200-400 Euro**



### 2 The Gospel brings hope to the lost

In March, we are gearing up for a significant crusade in northern Kenya, an area untouched by major crusades before. This region is plagued by drug cultivation and abuse, resulting in rampant violence and theft. Our mission is to bring a message of peace. Organizing a large-scale crusade with seminars, training workshops, and a children's program, along with advertising and associated expenses, presents a significant cost. However, our primary goal is to provide an evangelistic event with meticulous follow-up procedures, ensuring lasting transformation in the people and, consequently, the entire area. Your support will help us achieve this vital mission.

**Major evangelisation 20,000 euros**

### 3 Motorbike

Rising fuel costs have prompted a shift towards motorbikes. One will serve local trips in Eldoret and nearby areas, optimizing efficiency. The second motorbike is designated for Sudan operations, streamlining our outreach efforts. Your support in this transition is greatly appreciated.

**Per motorbike 1.000 Euro**

### 4 People in need

Amid widespread need, it's challenging to discern where to begin. Guidance and wisdom from the Spirit are crucial. However, this Christmas, our aim is clear: to bring joy by providing financial assistance to those in need, ensuring they can celebrate without worry. Your support is invaluable.

**Between 50 and 100 euros per family**



### 5 Famine in Turkana

Annually, from November to March, the Turkana region faces severe famine, exacerbated by soaring maize prices, which have doubled in recent months. The increased transport costs, owing to long distances and nearly doubled fuel prices, compound the crisis. Consequently, we aim to organize a hunger relief mission to deliver food to the most affected areas. Your support is crucial in this endeavor.

**Famine relief:**

**5,000 - 10,000 euros**



### 6 Aeroplane

Airplanes significantly reduce travel distances and enhance long-distance journeys' convenience and safety. However, they require annual check-ups to ensure their reliability. Your support can play a vital role in getting our plane back in the air and continuing to serve those in need!

**Cost of the certificate: 5,000 euros**

### 7 Orphans

We would like to give 20 children a special treat.

**Per child: 20 euros**

### 8 Monthly support for our employees

We employ ten dedicated full-time staff members in Eldoret who receive their monthly salaries. They consistently go above and beyond their duties. Starting in January, we plan to adjust their salaries due to the increased cost of living in Kenya. We would greatly appreciate finding "sponsors" who can contribute a set amount each month to support our ten GFI employees. Your generosity can make a significant difference in their lives..

**Monthly: 20,- / 50,- / 100,- or ... Euro**

## News from GFI Base Eldoret

Conducting encouragement services in the Eldoret bush is a source of great joy. These remote areas don't often receive many visitors, making each visit a profound blessing for the local people.



### Renovation work

Extensive renovation work was required, including the removal of bats that had taken shelter in some rooms. The old living and guest house is now nearing completion and should be ready for Jessi and Josh, along with their four children, when they return to Eldoret in February. During the renovation, we also decluttered and donated unused items, including speakers, to churches where they can serve a new purpose.

### Big thanks to Thorsten Hultsch and David Frey

Thorsten, hailing from Romania, skillfully constructed a stable staircase within the renovated guesthouse, and we are immensely grateful for his exceptional work! David also assisted us in completing several unfinished tasks. Together, we conducted an outreach in Kalokol at Lake Turkana, where we had the privilege of baptizing 33 individuals and engaging with the local church community.



### Nathan - Faithfulness in person

After 25 years of dedicated service to GFI, Nathan Wanjoni has retired. In Kenya, the retirement age begins at 60, and at 65, Nathan is embarking on a new chapter in Kitale to be with his family. There, he plans to oversee his farming endeavors among other pursuits. Despite his retirement, Nathan remains energetic and intends to develop his farm.

### Supporting the practical training of young people

Our aim is to provide young people with a promising future, empowered by education, and with God's guidance, to inspire positive change within their nation. In recent years, GFI has had the privilege of offering quality education to several young individuals. Today, some of them are teachers, successful entrepreneurs with their sewing shops, leaders of various organizations, or have answered the pastoral calling. Presently, we are proud to support Stacy and Abiganka, both pursuing their dreams of becoming laboratory assistants.



## Pray with us for the year 2023:

- For wisdom in all the planning
- Preservation in all the ways
- 23-31 January: For the preparation team as they travel north to the Embu area of Mt Kenya to prepare for the outreach. Pray for good contacts people and a good preparation time.
- 1-5 February / 24-30 March: Outreach in South Sudan.
- 15-19 March: Major crusade in Kiritiri near Embu.
- Visit and help of the teams from CFAN, Germany and Switzerland. Pray for the many participants of the teams who will join us in Kenya next year. Pray that they will be a blessing to the local people and that through their presence a positive change will be passed on into the lives of these people. And also that God will kindle a heart for mission in them.

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
PRAYER!

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**GFI Schweiz:** Post Finance  
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Spenden an GFI Schweiz sind vollumfänglich bei der Einkommenssteuer absetzbar. Spendenbescheinigungen werden bei Adressangabe nach Ablauf des Jahres ausgestellt.

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CAF Bank  
Account No. 00033996  
Sort Code: 405240

**GFI Kenya:**  
**MPESA NUMBER** 0722492202  
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Diamond Trust Bank, Eldoret Branch  
Account No. 0199712001  
Swift Code: DTKEKENA

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

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