

GOSPEL FIRE NEWS



Dancing for joy

2



GFI helps during famine

5



A new 4X4 needed

6



Father to the fatherless, defender of widows, this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families; He sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.

Psalms 68,5; NLT

On the road in South Sudan: monsoon rains, bandits & scorpions ... 3

Dear friend,

As I washed the dishes while my wife went into town to get supplies, I had a thought that began to consume my mind; If Jesus came and walked through my kitchen door and wanted to talk to me about the most important issues in life, what would He most likely talk about?

In your opinion, what is the greatest concern of our Lord Jesus today?

When I look at the perfect life our Lord Jesus had during his time as a man on earth, and as is reflected in Scripture, it is clear to me that he had a deep concern for all people. Matthew writes in chapter 9 'When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because

they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.' Jesus shared the good news, healed the sick, touched the diseased without fear of getting disease himself.

Luke writes that the Lord cared so much for people that he even raised a dead boy back to life and reunited him back with his mother out of compassion. Now up to this point everything seems to fit in with our humanistic, modern world view. However, where many begin to see a challenge is when Jesus claims to be Lord of Lords and Kings of Kings.

When I thought about what was really most important to Jesus, I had to think of the tremendous price he paid not only for

my salvation, but for the salvation of every single person in this world (past, present and future), and what it took for him to carry out this great rescue plan from the beginning of time. The Lord left his glory in heaven to become a man. He was able to master and overcome all the challenges we have come to encounter in our lives from birth, to adolescence, to adulthood, and he suffered a brutal and unfair death on the cross in order to benefit us and pay the cost required to bring us salvation.

God - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - loved the people of this world so much that He came to save us from eternal death.

Continued on page 2

Dancing with joy and gladness

A warm welcome home for the GFI team working in South Sudan



The whole village walked five kilometres to welcome the families to their new home



The children greeted our team with great joy.

It was raining heavily on the road to Naliel, our mission station in South Sudan. The roads were muddy and covered with huge puddles. Every now and then there was a huge mud hole or riverbed the team had to cross. The ride was exciting. In the car sat the Keter family and the Magu family along with Josh and Sammy who were driving. Everyone was looking forward to the end of the journey as they had been traveling for three days with little sleep.

On several occasions they found themselves stuck in the mud and needed to be pulled out with the help of a winch or passing Land Cruiser. The long road travelled was not only challenging for its terrain it was also a very unsafe area, fraught with bandits and thieves.

As the team approached their destination, with only about 5km left to drive they

spotted many people on the horizon. At first it looked like a demonstration . or was it a raid? What were so many people doing blocking the road even though it was pouring rain.

As they approached the crowd, they saw people dance and rejoice with great excitement. It was in fact a huge welcome party! The people ran in front of the car singing and dancing. Many men, women, teenagers and even children had come from the surrounding Toposa villages to welcome our Kenyan missionaries Keter and Magu with their families. This reception made a big impact on the mission families children and wives as this nomadic tribal display of love was something that deeply struck at their hearts and helped to confirm the call God had given them.

This welcome in Sudan reminds me of the welcome Jesus experienced in Jerusa-

lem when people laid palm leaves in the street. The joy when Jesus came to the city was great. Hosanna, Hosanna, everyone cried. Everyone was excited about Jesus, the Son of God.

When it comes to the kingdom of God, we should remember to keep a positive outlook. There is no better inner attitude in the light of eternity than the desire to spread the knowledge of the glory of God. Our highest priority should be to bring hope to people by introducing them to Jesus our Lord and lead them into accepting Him as their personal saviour. The good news of what God has done leads to restoration and is the best means of sustainable development and aid! In Naliel, South Sudan, we are already seeing a huge change in the community! There is a deep sense of contentment when the yearning of the heart to know the Creator becomes a reality.

Foreword continued

Now anyone who chooses HIM and receives God's gift of eternal life makes the most important decision in his or her life, and most probably in the lives of others as well. The instant that decision happens the person begins on a journey of restoration, this restoration can not be compared to any human attempt to restore a lost and broken life.

When we look at today's world, especially in our western and postmodern context, many people no longer appreciate the good news of the Gospel. Many have heard the good news and the hope of salvation through Jesus Christ, any yet they still treat it as worthless. Throughout the whole world, there are many people that will stand before the throne of



God without excuse, that having heard the gospel and yet still not accepting Christ as Lord and saviour, what a shame.

I firmly believe that the greatest joy of our Lord today is to obey His original mission and command, to bring the gospel to the last the least and to the people who have never had the opportunity to hear and respond to the good news.

Regards Peter Franz



The leaders were so encouraged to see local missionaries being sent out.



The students were spellbound watching the drama.

Monsoon rains, bandits and scorpions ...

On the way to a remote village in South Sudan, to disciple nomadic shepherds in faith



Josh had to leave the car and join in on the singing and dancing.



A typical Toposa woman with her jewellery.

We set off with the car fully loaded inside and out (10 people + all the luggage required for moving these people to a new country and home) for what would be a long and rough 4 day journey. (Held up mainly because of the monsoon weather) At one point at about 4am while most of us were sleeping we were awoken with a start ! The car traveling about 80kmph had lost control and flew off the

road into a ditch!!! We bounced up and down, doing a series of small jumps, as the car crashed through water, bushes and a small tree, sending the contents of the car flying around. People were in a frenzy, screaming and shouting, praying for protection, we all saw stars in the sky then water smashing over the car as we hit big puddles, then the sky again, then some bushes. We were so thankful that no one was hurt and the car was ok. I must admit though that we were a bit shaken after that, and didn't sleep well from that point on.

Arriving at the Kenya/South Sudan border we were held up by the weather for 3 more days. We had a number of rivers to cross and the monsoon rain had just started, making the road simply impassible, even with Marks new beefy land cruiser.

3 days later - We had a break in the

weather and we took it, crossing several small rivers we headed through "no mans land", an area rife with bandits and cattle rustlers, not somewhere you want to get stuck! Crawling up a steep muddy hill in first gear, one of the missionaries tells us of how he was held at gun point at that very spot not even a month ago, great I thought, how comforting....

To make it a proper adventure, we got stuck, of course. The tires were spinning in the deep soft mud and push or pull as we might we could not get out. Many hours later, as always seems to be the case in these parts of the world, a small crowd began to gather (Despite this being "no mans land" with no-one being allowed to be in the area). After lots of pushing and pulling we were finally able to reverse out. The new tactic to avoid spending the night in "no mans land" was - SPEED.



Testimonials from the Service in Mission 'Go4it' team.

Chris

At the end of the lecture phase with "Go4it" I went on outreach to Kenya with GFI. My biggest highlight was having the opportunity to go to the large open air meetings GFI was organising in the North of Kenya in Turkana. I loved hearing all the leaders come together from all the different Churches and carry our early morning and late night prayer walks all over the surrounding villages, from our tents we could hear the fervent prayers and worship. During the main meetings, there were teams of people praying for the event in the prayer tent, praying for the work of God. That really touched me, and I knew I needed to spend more hours praying for God to touch other people.

Michael

In my home in Switzerland, I rarely dare to leave my comfort zone, then suddenly I was in Kenya and had to get involved in new and unfamiliar situations. I discovered if you give your trust to God and allow Him to change your life, you can share the gospel with people, even though you can not speak the language or you are not feeling at home in a different culture. I am so glad that I was able to experience this myself. God has changed my heart and mind. I am amazed at what is possible with God! I had a great time in Kenya with GFI and felt that I was allowed and encouraged to grow and progress in faith.

Alena

I was privileged to be with GFI for 4 weeks. We saw different areas in mission and were able to use our own gifts during the open air meetings in Turkana and at the school & children's home. This time in Kenya was a tremendously enriching time for me, because my horizon on mission has definitely been expanded. It was my first mission trip, new challenges came to me. I learned that I need to be totally dependent on God! I was surprised by what God did when I chose not to control everything myself. Also, getting to know the Kenyans was so good, because they are really an incredible example in their open nature and joy !



We are helping in distributing solar MP4 players with the New Testament



The two missionary families, Mark and Julius

We drove as fast as we could, to get through the wet sticky mud. We bounced and slid off the road a few times and one of the bounces caused half of the luggage to fly off the roof into some deep muddy puddles! Finally we made it through safely over to the other side. (Check some of the videos on our website and youtube channel to get a better idea go what this was all like.)

As we got closer to the village we were met by a crowd of people blocking the road. At first I wasn't sure if this was a good sign or something to be worried about, but once we came to a stop they started singing and dancing, celebrating our arrival. A goat was slaughtered before us and they marched us the final 5km home. The number of people kept growing as we got nearer (I have never experienced a welcome quite like it, a testament to the



Missionary Mark gives the biblical foundations, which are then passed by the listeners in other villages.

great work Mark and his team are doing there with the local people)

Once the excitement of our arrival dwindled and said goodbye to the villagers from the front of Marks new house we looked to settle in for the night. The first order of business was to kill the scorpions occupying our sleeping quarters. I thought it best to set up a tent in the room just to keep creepy crawlies out of my bed, more on this later....

Following our arrival, Michael from MNM (Multiplication Network Ministries) began discipleship training with 30 disciples from the surrounding area. The training included discussions on how the new believers could make new disciples, signs of a healthy, how to start church plantings, going over the bible stories they had learned, giving them time to practice sharing them, seeing what questions came

from them as well as good teaching points for the stories. It was an extremely fruitful time, that worked so well in this un-reached, oral culture. Please remember dear reader these are new believers that do not have a Bible in their mother tongue. They are illiterate, nomadic herdsmen, that know a very different life to you or I.

Just as I was getting into my sleeping bag that evening I thought I ought to shake it out just in case - and guess what, I am sure glad that I did, because out came a scorpion landing on my mattress. Great I thought, hopefully that is all the trouble I will experience tonight. Unfortunately not, a few hours later I felt something uncomfortable in the mattress, I turned on my head-torch to see another little scorpion the size of a large cockroach.

Well that's when I decided getting up, "I'm not sleeping here tonight but relocating to a hammock for the rest of my time here. (The rest of our team always sleeps in or on the car or truck as they have had one too many run ins with snakes and scorpions in their own beds in this area.... perhaps I will stick to higher ground next time too.)

After just a few short days that had already been cut short by our long journey it was time to think about getting back. Flights were to be caught and life was to carry on... but then it started to rain, and rain and rain. The rivers that we had crossed on the way in, that were already deep had gained another meter or two in depth, the roads that were slippery, were even more treacherous. It seemed yet again we were going to have it wait to out. To cut a long story short we made it home after a gruelling three days driving.

God is doing a great work here and we are so excited to be the smallest part of it.

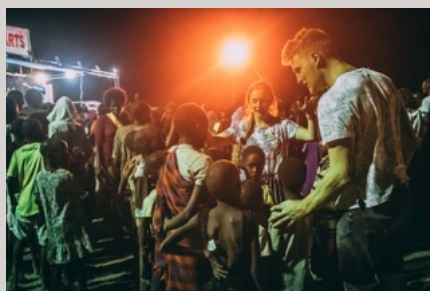
Josh Rex

Yanic

The time in Kenya with GFI has been a huge blessing to me. The loving kindness of the whole team and especially Peter, Becky, Josh, Jesse and last but not least Valour and their love for God impressed me a lot and had a massive impact to my life. They are fully on fire for the Gospel of Christ! This impressed me so much! As well as this they were so caring and were giving and showed us so many possibilities in missions. I now have a new insight into missions. The time at GFI encouraged me to have a real and faithful relationship with God. God bless you.



Alena experienced Jesus' love that connects cultures



Praying for the many children

Providing food GFI helps in times of famine



The whole village has gathered and is listening intently

This year we had a very long-lasting dry season, which of course had a very strong impact on the fertile areas of Kenya. Thus, it was uncertain how the corn and bean crops there would grow. The result was that food was very scarce in many parts of Kenya and South Sudan. Thanks to some donations received, we were able to provide help especially in the heavily affected areas.

For example, we were able to give some bags of corn and beans to our Kenyan missionary Mark for South Sudan. Mark could distribute the food where the need was greatest. Then we gave 15 bags to pastors in Turkana, bags for themselves and their communities. We were then able to unload the last load after our open air meetings in the surrounding villages near Turkwell.

Many were in dire straits. The SIM "Service in Mission" team



The families are so grateful to receive corn and beans.

from the municipality Burgdorf (Switzerland) was actively involved and able to experience how people live here.

One can hardly imagine how great the need is and how important such a food distribution is. The people's lives consist of their goats, their camels - and maybe if they are lucky they will get something to eat that day. There are virtually no hobbies, jobs, vacations or other distractions in their everyday lives. Often, when the food and consequently the animals are scarce, there is immediate despair.

That's why we say thank you to everyone who has helped us to help people in their misery. Our policy is to help people get help without becoming dependent on us. God bless anyone who gave something towards this cause.

God bless you so much!



Many are waiting in line for the food



The need is great ...



... and great is the joy after getting some help!

My contribution to the mission: A new accounting system

I left Canada to come to Kenya to join GFI for four months to set up a new accounting system and train the staff to use the program. Kenya is a country I had never visited, and knew no one there but I held on to these bible verses: Deuteronomy 31:8 "The Lord himself goes before me and will be with me; He will never leave me nor forsake me. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged". True to His promise, throughout the time I spent in Kenya I never felt alone. He surrounded me with wonderful new friends - people I hold dear to my heart. Although I came to assist in finance the Lord had other plans for me also. He provided opportunities which were outside of my comfort level, but as I stepped out by faith I began to feel my spiritual muscles grow and strengthen and the things that I was once afraid of are no longer an issue for me. In fact I now enjoy doing them, and can do them with boldness. During this time I found myself spending more time with the Lord drawing closer to Him, connecting with Him on a new level. I seem to be less distracted by the things of the world. I have so many testimonies of the goodness and

faithfulness of God and these are not to be kept as secrets, they are meant to be shared so I was happy to be given the opportunity to share a few of these testimonies with a group of young bible students from Switzerland as well as at a crusade in Turkana. It is always great to be a source of encouragement to our young people. I want to say thank you to the leadership and staff of GFI for the opportunity to be a part of their organization - I came to provide assistance, but I gained so much more and I am leaving a changed and improved me. This is due in part to the atmosphere there - daily devotional, biblical teaching and a foundation of prayer, etc. Finally, I would say if the Lord is calling you to the

mission field step out by faith and be prepared for the wonderful workings of the hands of the Lord in and through the entire process. God bless.



Savitri

Family News

We are so thankful to God for **Jessie, Josh and Valour**. They have settled in Kenya so well and are fully engaged. Although life here is not easy, they have a positive attitude.

Jessie and Josh were each sick with malaria and an infection for a week, but thankfully not at the same time. Valour broke his arm falling off the trampoline. But despite everything, they are fully committed. They also recently led the "Service in Mission" group, also called "Go 4 it" group and did a great job. Their work permit is still in progress, please pray this comes through soon as it can cause much unneeded stress.

Now for some exciting news. They are expecting twins in February. After some reflection, they have decided that they will be in Germany and then England to have the babies. They will then return to Kenya with the babies in March / April 2020. Josh will continue to lead the Social Media Department from a distance.

Deren begins his second year at Bible School in September. He is thrilled and looking forward to this next year.

Miriana, Simon and Lukas are also looking forward to a new addition to the family. They will be expecting their second child in October.



New SUV 4x4 urgently needed!

Our old SUV is used all the time in the most remote areas and in very rough conditions. Annual maintenance costs are getting very high in order to keep the car on the road... that's why we have decided to replace it with a new pickup truck. We plan to buy a double cabin pickup. This will work out cheaper and is more versatile for the work we do. For this new acquisition we need 41,000 Dollars (= 40,000 Euros).



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

Please help us with a donation so that we can continue to travel to the most remote areas of Kenya, South Sudan and other parts of Africa to help people with words and deeds. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Please pray with us:

- Pray for our next crusade around November 19th-24th in northern Kenya.
- Pray for one of our former team members who has left us in March and is now trying to extort money out of us in different ways. Unfortunately this is a pretty sad story.
- Pray for a stronger financial base so we can do more, especially in unreached areas.
- Pray for Mark Keter, who runs the station in Naliel, South Sudan. Our prayer is that we can set up two more houses. One costs, after we have checked everything, about 13.000.- Euro
- Pray for our commitment in Canada at the World Pentecostal Conference that we can build good relationships.
- Pray for our car project. Our prayer is that we can buy a new double cab pickup. Our old SUV always needs spare parts and has therefore become too expensive for maintenance, so we want to purchase a new vehicle. Our financial target is \$ 41,000.

THANK YOU
FOR YOURS
PRAYER!

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