

# GOSPEL FIRE NEWS



Infinite Value: Honoring the Uniqueness of Each Individual

4



Discovering God: Finding lasting Joy

5



Shaping Souls: A Journey of Humanitarian Aid and Discipleship

6

"Declare His Glory Among the Nations, His Marvelous Deeds Among All Peoples!"

1 Chronicles 16:24



## Diverse Horizons: Chronicles of Outreach Through a Visitor's Eyes

2-3

Dear reader,

The path of the Bible has been fashioned by God in such a way that whoever seeks it will find it. Several Bible verses clearly express this. God actively awaits us. He is not a product of our imagination, nor does He rely solely on mere opinions. God, the creator of all things, is indeed experiential, and millions of people today can testify that Jesus truly saves us from our sins and leads us towards a meaningful and full life.



Peter and Becky at in the refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya.

In the following pages, you will read about individuals who had a profound encounter with God when they stepped out of their comfort zones to be serve the local people here on the ground. They willingly shed their comfort zones to join us out in tre rural and remote areas. They left behind the hustle of postmodern life and witnessed God's work. These visitors will recount their experiences, confirming that God is indeed real, alive and at work today!

Leonard Ravenhill, a theologian and preacher, coined the phrase, "A man with an experience of God is never at the mercy of a man with an argument."

If we allow God to transform us into new creatures through redemption and trust in Him, it will lead us to a powerful encounter with HIM. Would you like to experience God's love too? The decision rests with each and every one of us.

Yours sincerely,  
Peter Franz

# Cultural Dive: Transformative Encounters on an African Mission



An Impromptu night by the rushing waters

Reflecting on my recent trip to Kenya and South Sudan, my preconceived notions of these lands and their people have been not only challenged but fundamentally transformed. I had heard a myriad of narratives, shaping my preconceptions. Initially met with a subtle resistance born out of unfamiliarity, this feeling soon morphed into an overwhelming sense of delight as I delved deeper into the pulsating heart of these communities.

No amount of prior reading or storytelling could have prepared me for the raw authenticity of the experience. It was the conversations held under the shade of acacia trees, the vibrant colors of the market stalls, and the melange of scents in the bustling streets that truly etched the essence of this place into my conscious-

ness. Engaging with the locals, witnessing their daily struggles and triumphs, and partaking in their ancient customs and rituals created a tapestry of understanding that transcended mere observation.

Yet, the journey was not without its unexpected trials. The meticulously planned itinerary swiftly crumbled in the face of sudden unrest, forcing us to reevaluate and readjust our path until a safer course emerged. Moreover, the unrelenting deluge of rain that transformed the arid earth into rushing rivers spoke volumes about the delicate balance between abundance and adversity. In the midst of my awe at the spectacle, I gained a deep appreciation for the locals' reliance on these seasonal waters for their sustenance, realizing that every droplet of rain held the

promise of life itself.

One particularly memorable night was spent huddled beside a roaring river. In that serendipitous moment, we found solace in collective prayer and in the mesmerizing narratives shared by the local missionaries, each tale a testament to the resilience and unwavering spirit of the human soul in the face of adversity.

This journey has left an indelible mark on me, opening my eyes to the intricacies of cultural immersion and the unyielding strength of the human spirit. Africa, with its vibrant colors, diverse sounds, and resilient communities, has taught me that true understanding can only come from embracing the unpredictable and allowing oneself to be transformed by the richness of the experience.





### **Bianca & Timm from Germany**

I alongside my husband Timm, had the privilege of joining GFI on a mission to Naliel in South Sudan. This shared experience was an extraordinary gift to us. Being in Africa for the first time, we encountered a myriad of experiences, formed new impressions, and were profoundly moved by the people.

In Naliel, we assisted a team from Switzerland in installing a solar power system at their base. We also measured the planned airstrip and laid marker points with stones. Mornings were spent at the Naliel school, where we read stories about the life of Jesus to the children and taught them new games. The joy in the children's eyes as they learned these games deeply touched my heart.

The kindness and openness of the people left a lasting impression on me. The love for Jesus was palpable among many we had the pleasure of meeting. We often felt a direct spiritual connection with the people. Back home in Germany, the hustle and bustle of our fast-paced lives, affluence, and stress often divert our focus from God. In Africa, we realized that a relationship with Jesus is crucial in a life often marked by uncertainty, hunger, and worries.

Our time in Africa has shaped me in numerous ways. I have become more open to foreign cultures, distant lands, and new situations. My bond with Jesus has strengthened after this special journey. I have become more grateful for each new day gifted to me and for all the goodness that comes my way.

Looking back, I would love to return and contribute to another mission in South Sudan. The sense of community and

gratitude was deeply moving. I will cherish these experiences, encounters, and memories for a long time. They have left an enduring mark on me.

We are grateful for the opportunity to witness the incredible work of "Gospel Fire International." It was God's plan for us to be there at that time, and this strengthens our resolve to continue supporting such initiatives.

### **Jeanine Hochstrasser, Switzerland**

Africa has always fascinated me. However, I never dared to venture there alone. Peter and Becki Franz with GFI provided the perfect opportunity. Being part of a team in a place where our presence not only nourished our souls but also contributed positively to the local community was truly enriching. I highly recommend it as the sights, the natural beauty, and the locals' warm and friendly nature make it truly worthwhile. Stepping out of my comfort zone was definitely worth it. It required courage, but it was and still is a beautiful experience for me, and it probably won't be the last.

### **Stefan Grädel, Switzerland**

This mission has opened my eyes to unreached communities and sparked a deep commitment to investing in reaching out to such people so they can hear the Gospel. I am amazed to see how God intervened in challenging situations during the mission, ensuring its success and the achievement of our objectives.

### **Anita & Chrigo, Switzerland**

Having had the privilege of journeying with GFI to Kenya on five occasions since 2003, as well as making two trips to South Sudan, our recent visit to Naliel marked a significant milestone for us. The remarkable

progress achieved by Mark and Lona, the dedicated Kenyan missionaries, in transforming the base into a flourishing hub deeply impressed us. Their unwavering commitment to sharing the gospel amidst their community-building efforts highlighted the essence of their impactful work. Eager to continue supporting their mission, we anticipate our return with a renewed sense of purpose and dedication.

For me, actively backing this Kenyan missionary couple and contributing to their initiatives is paramount. By focusing on both physical and spiritual nourishment, we aim to foster sustainable development within the community, ensuring a holistic transformation that addresses their multifaceted needs.

Sharing biblical stories at the local school and engaging in playtime with the children held a special place in my heart (Anita). The genuine delight radiating from the children as they immersed themselves in the tales, enjoyed coloring, and played with the toys we provided affirmed the significance of investing our time and efforts in their lives. Our anticipation for future visits is buoyed by the prospect of creating more cherished memories and making a positive impact on these resilient and deserving young lives.



People gather in large numbers to learn about God and the Bible.

# Unveiling Human Worth: YWAM's Journey with Josh Rex to the lost tribes of South Sudan and Pokot.



The visitors were welcomed with a great deal of love.



The Rex family on outreach.

## Honour

The entire journey was a beautiful experience. The way people from the Pokot and Toposa tribes love the Lord is so beautiful. I have never seen such faith before! I am grateful for the insight into Josh and GFI's work. This organization is doing amazing work by nourishing people hungry for the Lord and inviting them to join their team. The efforts made to build relationships with people have not gone unnoticed. We could witness how God worked alone. Thank you for allowing us to learn from you.

## Mia

My time with the tribes in Kenya and South Sudan was incredible. I had never experienced anything like it before, a completely new environment and culture. I especially enjoyed being on the go with the group and the local missionaries, hearing their stories, and sharing the gospel with the people. The locals were so open and grateful for our presence. God revealed Himself in such amazing ways: in the services, through the Jesus films, through worship, and through shared life. My time with GFI was amazing. I got to experience firsthand what the unreached people go through on a daily basis. Working with them and preaching the gospel has been

life-changing. This wouldn't have been possible without Josh and GFI. Their service literally opened the paths for us to reach the unreached people. Villages that are so remote from society were not only reached but also blessed with the good news of Jesus by the GFI team.

## Manan Acharya

The experiences will always stay with me. It was such a joy to be with the tribes in Kenya and South Sudan. I am so grateful for your willingness to reach out to unreached people groups and preach the gospel. I really enjoyed how natural everything was - no electricity, no lights. There was just a fire, a bucket, and sticks. But the presence of God was tangible. I am so glad and happy to have been a part of the GFI mission.

## Josh Rex

*As the firefight raged on, I watched in disbelief as my friends fell one by one, leaving me as the last one standing from our raiding group. The weight of the situation left me in a state of shock and confusion, In that moment, it felt like my entire world was collapsing. But then, a glimmer of hope emerged from the darkness. Faint strains of music reached my ears, and I couldn't help but wonder who could be singing in such a*

*dire situation. Driven by curiosity and the need for a change, I picked myself up and followed the sound. I found myself outside a church. Someone beckoned me inside, I entered, not knowing what to expect.*

I sat down with the pastor under a starry sky, cradling a cup of overly sweetened chai in my hands, while pesky mosquitoes buzzed around my ankles. As I listened to the pastor as he shared his remarkable testimony, a journey that had transformed his life. Just a few short years ago, he had been a youth leader, dreaming of the next cattle raid, amassing weapons and ammunition, plotting raids, and glorifying a life of theft and violence. This way of life is all too common for many young individuals, raised in an environment that idealizes proving one's manhood through acts of violence and becoming renowned warriors.

However, against all odds, God intervened and rescued him, turning his life around in ways he never imagined. When I asked if he had enjoyed his previous life, he responded with a resounding "no." He had felt trapped, scared, and utterly hopeless. It wasn't until he experienced true freedom that he realized the extent of his captivity and fear.



Baptizing new believers among the Pokot tribe with the YWAM team.



Food outreach among the pokot people.

# Discovering Eternal Joy: A huge outreach to Kakuma Refugee Camp.



In August 2023, my husband and I had the opportunity to fulfill a long-held dream by visiting Kakuma, a sprawling refugee camp nestled in the rugged terrain of northwestern Kenya. From the moment we set foot in this vibrant yet challenging environment, we were enveloped by a palpable sense of resilience and hope that seemed to permeate the air. It was a dream nurtured over years, originating from our shared experiences on a mission trip that had brought us together initially. Our desire to share this transformative experience with our own children was realized in Kakuma, a place that had become a temporary home for approximately 250,000 people from 20 different nations, each with their unique stories of displacement, loss, and perseverance.

The week in Kakuma was marked by a series of intense and deeply affecting encounters. Guided by the local pastors and accompanied by the sturdy GFI trucks, we embarked on the responsibility of leading the children's program, a task that stirred both excitement and apprehension within me. Crafting the activities and lessons for the children's program, I grappled with the weight of the impact our presence could have on these young, impressionable minds. The initial day was met with the echoes of the pastors' calls inviting the camp's residents to join our gatherings, a poignant moment that reinforced the significance of the work ahead of us.

Our curriculum aimed to weave a narrative of hope and redemption, beginning with the foundational stories of creation, the fall, Noah's Ark, and culminating in the life of Jesus and the significance of the cross. Our days were filled with music, games, puppetry, and collective prayers, gradually fostering a sense of warmth and trust within the children. Overcoming their initial hesitance, we witnessed a gradual transformation as their guarded expressions gave way to genuine moments of joy and camaraderie, serving as a testament to the power of faith to transcend even the most challenging circumstances.

In addition to the children's program, Becki and I conducted seminars for the Sunday school teachers within the camp, engaging in a collaborative exchange of knowledge and faith. We delved into strategies for creating an enriching educational environment, explored innovative teaching methods, and discussed the spiritual applications of biblical teachings, fostering a sense of collective growth and mutual encouragement. The dedication and fervor displayed by these young educators were a powerful reminder of the transformative potential embedded within the community itself.

Our days in Kakuma were further punctuated by the vibrant cultural dances, impassioned sermons led by Pastor Peter, and heartfelt communal prayers that resonated throughout the camp. Witnessing



Ein einzigartiges Erlebnis für die Kinder

the profound impact of our collective efforts, as hundreds of individuals surrendered themselves to the grace of Jesus, seeking solace and redemption, left an indelible mark on my heart. It became evident that the impact of our mission extended far beyond the confines of the structured programs and seminars, permeating the very fabric of the community and serving as a beacon of hope and resilience amidst the trials of daily life in the camp.

Reflecting on our time in Kakuma, I was filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the experiences shared, a deep respect for the resilience of the camp's residents, and an enduring sense of hope kindled by their unwavering spirit. The memories of shared laughter and moments of joy, the echoes of heartfelt prayers reverberating through the camp, and the enduring faith that anchored the community in the face of adversity would remain etched in my memory for years to come.

May the encounters and lessons gleaned from our time in Kakuma continue to serve as a testament to the enduring power of faith and the resilience of the Father. I am forever grateful for the privilege of being a part of this transformative journey and for the unwavering grace of the God we so ardently serve.

Mim Diment, GFI-England  
Board Member.



# The essence of mission: Empowering people through discipleship



**C**rafting our lives in alignment with our divine purpose, and empowering individuals to embrace their calling is where my heart truly lies. How do mission trips factor into this equation? From my perspective, these missions serve as an effective tool to live out discipleship, both for ourselves and others. They offer us a platform for personal spiritual growth, skill development, and an opportunity to embark on shared adventures. Through these experiences, we build stronger bonds, fostering a deeper sense of community.

In my view, this approach mirrors how Jesus lived discipleship, directly alongside his followers. He entrusted us with the mandate: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18-20)

## Our Impact in South Sudan

We are excited to share the ways in which our collective efforts are making a lasting impact in South Sudan. Through the investment of our time, talents, and finances, we are driving positive change in

three key areas:

**1. Infrastructure Enhancement:** We have installed and financed a solar system, contributing to improved infrastructure. Future plans include constructing a shelter for vehicles, a workshop at the mission station, and the installation of beehives. Sharing agricultural knowledge is crucial in a region where expertise, materials, and finances are often lacking for such projects.

**2. Inspiring the Youth:** Engaging with children and teenagers from local schools has proven to be a source of enthusiasm and inspiration. Simple initiatives, such as utilizing three on-site sewing machines to create school uniforms and teach mothers valuable skills, have a profound impact.

**3. Empowering Female Leaders:** We are committed to supporting and stabilizing local communities by providing training for female leaders. In South Sudanese churches, where genders are traditionally separated, this initiative fills a crucial gap in leadership training, contributing to the building of the Kingdom of God.

Daniela and Christoph Brassel,  
Pastors of EGW Church in Emmental,  
Switzerland

## Prayer request

- October 14th to 30th: We have our Service in Mission team here
- October 24th to 31st: Our 2nd Kakuma outreach in Refugee Camp No. 1. This will cost an estimated 20,000 euros
- November 24th to December 3rd: Medical outreach in South Sudan. This will cost an estimated 10,000 euros
- Pray for wisdom in decisions regarding our truck and equipment. Whether it is time to replace it with a new one.
- Pray for the Frey family, who had a short mission with us and are praying about their next steps. We thank them sincerely. May God guide and lead them and show them their place.

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
PRAYER!

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Account No. 0199712001  
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**GFI Canada:**  
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