

GOSPEL FIRE NEWS



Our 10-ton trailer tipped over!!!

4



Mission building in South Sudan

6



Our 2024 Projects

8



"Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses"

1 Timothy 6:12

Soccer by Day, Worship Services by Night – Evangelism in Uganda

2-3

Dear Reader,

If there was ever a time when our vehicles and we as a mission were pushed to our limits, it was in the last two months. Our vision was to provide our SLM disciples in the remotest areas of South Sudan with two large buildings. These buildings would enable them to meet, regroup, and send people to these untouched regions with the wonderful message of salvation from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

However, it had rained, our vehicles were heavily loaded, and the roads had turned into muddy quagmires in some places. We could only make progress with the help of 4-wheel and 6-wheel drive, differential locks, winches, and pulleys. Our truck and trailer were loaded with about 10 tons of steel, corrugated sheets, screws, bolts, necessary tools, and personnel. What we planned to accomplish in two days turned into a whole week. We slept in tents by the roadside and occasionally welded broken parts back together. Water and food supplies ran

low, especially during the time when everything was stolen from the team.

It was a time for us to reflect on our calling and ask ourselves: "Why are we doing all this?" Even one of our main sponsors asked us this question: "Did you have to go so far to erect the two buildings? Couldn't you find a place closer to home?"

The answer is simple: In Loitamor, west of the Ethiopian border in South Sudan, there is a cluster of more than 12 groups of the Discipleship Movement (DMM). This region is strategically important for reaching the unreached tribal groups. We prayed about which places were most in need and, with the verbal confirmation of the district leader of Kapoeta East, we saw that this was the place we had to build, no matter the cost.

Soccer by Day, Worship Services by Night

Bringing the Love of Jesus: Two Evangelistic Efforts in Uganda



Ajumani, Northern Uganda

In Northern Uganda, Melina and Amiel played pivotal roles in organizing two significant evangelistic campaigns, demonstrating exceptional dedication and resilience throughout the challenging preparation phase. Engaging in lengthy meetings with pastors from Adjumani, they meticulously arranged logistical details such as securing venues—a large football field and community buildings. Coordinating advertising through flyers, banners, and orchestrating the uplifting Jesus March, they also conducted extensive training sessions for intercessors, ushers, counselors, translators, and managed accommodations for guest musicians and dancers.



Melina und Amiel

Despite facing frequent power outages due to ongoing road construction and navigating obstacles like torn-down advertising banners and inter-church conflicts, Melina and Amiel maintained unwavering commitment. Working tirelessly in sweltering temperatures, they ensured the events proceeded smoothly, even amidst logistical challenges and late arrivals during training sessions.

One particularly impactful moment was their screening of the Jesus film in a predominantly Muslim area of the city, potentially introducing many to the Gospel for the first time. This outreach underscored the transformative impact of their efforts and reaffirmed their commitment to spreading the message of love and hope in challenging environments.

Despite personal challenges and cultural adjustments, including Melina's previous experiences in South Sudan, their unwavering dedication to their mission shone through. They not only coordinated events but also empathized deeply with the local community's struggles and needs, fostering

genuine connections that transcended language and cultural barriers.

Reflecting on their experiences, Melina expressed profound gratitude for gaining insights into the immense effort and dedication required for such endeavors. Their time in Uganda not only strengthened their own faith but also unified the GFI preparation team, emphasizing the power of collective effort in advancing the Gospel. Despite facing adversity, their perseverance and deep sense of purpose exemplify the impact of faith-driven service in making a lasting difference.

Melina and Amiel's dedication and resilience exemplify the essence of service and outreach, demonstrating that even in the face of challenges, the transformative power of faith and community remains steadfast. Their story serves as a powerful testament to the enduring impact of faith-driven service and inspires others to embrace the call to share God's love and salvation with unwavering commitment and compassion.

Forward continued...

Tribal groups like Toposa, Nyangatom, Njie, Kachipo, and Suri along the Ethiopian border are desperately waiting for the Word of God. Some of these tribes may have had some contact with the Gospel, but other villages remain completely in the dark. Animism, witchcraft, raids, and murders are often part of daily life. Only those who know God intimately can effectively change things on the ground.

Everywhere we go, we experience that where the Good News of Jesus Christ is shared, people respond positively. They join a discipleship group and their lives are completely transformed for the better. People break through to a living faith in God. Values develop that are conducive to family and community life. People become responsible citizens and even begin to make significant

contributions to society. We hear wonderful testimonies from people whose lives have found meaning and purpose and who are now important actors in their villages and communities.

This also happens in Europe, Asia, and America, where people realize that God's Word is true and let HIS Word speak into their lives. People are the same everywhere. Cultures may differ, but deep in the hearts of people, there is a vacuum that only God can fill. Every man, woman, and child should have the opportunity to be reconciled with God, their Creator. He gives life color, hope, and a true future.

Yours,
Peter Franz



Jesus March with a brass band



Football: A thriving passion in Africa!

Gospel Celebration in Adjumani

We were delighted as the rest of our team gradually arrived in Adjumani: our tech team, Peter, Becki, Josh, Jessie with their children, a chef, several pastors from Kenya, four guests from Germany, and a young couple from Uganda. While Amiel took charge of coordination in Adjumani, Pastor Murithi headed to Kitgum for preparations. I trained the guests in the skit I performed during the Kakuma evangelism, which we had the privilege to showcase almost every evening of the celebration. In Kitgum, the team also had opportunities to present the evangelistic skit in schools and at the main event.

During the Gospel Celebration days, a football tournament attracted many non-believers. Evenings featured children's programs, professional dancers, worship, skits, sermons, and prayers. Many needed deliverance, and countless were personally touched by God. Some men discarded their drugs and cigarettes, while others testified to God healing them of illness. These experiences made the investment of energy, time, and sometimes frayed nerves worthwhile, ensuring the evangelism took place and people heard the liberating message of Jesus, transforming their lives anew.

Melina und Amiel



The trophy is eagerly awaited – and serves as a symbol for the Gospel.

Gospel Celebration in Kitgum

It was so great to see so many young people participate in the football tournament. It brought us immense joy to collaborate with Jonas Walliser from Uganda, who organized and led the entire football event. The seamless integration of football action with the large-scale evangelism was remarkable. The main highlight was the awards ceremony on Good Friday, eagerly awaited by all for the presentation of the grand trophy.

Through various speeches, the Gospel and its message of hope were proclaimed, even in the context of the trophy. It's fascinating how we can integrate our faith with football: we are all striving towards the goal and refuse to be distracted from it by any means. Our ultimate goal is to be united with God for eternity. While we are still here on Earth, we aim to be a testimony by practically demonstrating God's love and living a victorious life.

Becki Franz



SIM team drama



Bianca helping out with the children's program

Service in Mission

In our recent evangelistic efforts, we were fortunate to have visitors join us who actively participated in our missions. Here are some heartfelt testimonies from members of the SIM team:

Lars Kanzenbach shared: "It was a privilege to participate firsthand in a large-scale evangelism and witness the GFI team serving God together. Praying for the local people deeply touched me, and their gratitude was humbling. I wholeheartedly recommend the SIM mission to anyone seeking to experience mission work up close. You return home changed and filled with gratitude." **Daniel Melinda reflected:** "I was personally moved by the authenticity and humility of our visionary leader, which permeated our entire team." **Bianca Kalmbach recounted:** "My time in Adjumani and Kitgum was deeply impactful and intense. I witnessed Jesus reaching people in profound ways and performing miracles. The camaraderie within the GFI team is warm and familial. Remembering those moments fills me with love and gratitude." These testimonies illustrate the profound impact of our collective efforts and the transformative experiences shared by those who have joined us in spreading the message of hope and love. Each story reflects the power of faith in action and the blessings that come from serving others with dedication and compassion.

Our 10-ton trailer overturned stranded in the depths of the bush without food or water



Despite many challenges, the Gospel reaches the most remote areas.



Despite technical challenges, progress continues.

Our work in South Sudan has expanded significantly. Local staff now venture into the remotest areas, carrying the message of Jesus Christ to the people. This vision led us to establish central meeting points for new believers to gather and grow. The first of these locations is in Loitimor – a place far removed from civilization yet strategically vital for surrounding villages, situated approximately 220 km north of our mission station in Naliel.

However, setting up the multipurpose buildings there posed numerous challenges,

transforming what was supposed to be a three-day journey into a grueling ten-day expedition.

Josh recounts:

The Journey Begins

As our convoy set off from the mission station, the anticipation in the air was palpable. We were about to embark on a journey through some of the most beautiful and challenging landscapes Africa has to offer. Rolling out onto the dusty road, we were greeted by an expanse of untouched wilderness, where vast thorn tree forests stretched endlessly under a sapphire sky.

The beauty of the land was mesmerizing. Towering mountains and rock formations rose majestically in the distance, their peaks bathed in golden sunlight. The landscape, any adventurer's dream, a place where every turn revealed a new, stunning vista. But this beauty was coupled with the harsh reality of our path. The roads were a test of both our vehicles and our resolve. When dry, the roads were rough and rocky, forcing us to navigate treacherous rock beds. Each sharp bolder threatened to pierce our tyres or scrape our undercarriage, and many did! Often, we had to stop, jump out, and move boulders or stack

A transformational time for all during our Kitgum and Adjumani outreaches in Northern Uganda.



Finally, walking again without crutches!



Training and prayer with the children's ministry workers.



Two drug addicts surrender their lives to Jesus!



Imparting a Vision for Life to Children



On the last day, we also had a baptism.



The overturned trailer.



We used the unplanned breaks to tell people about Jesus.

stones to create a passable path. The team worked like a well-oiled machine, each member knowing their role in this delicate dance with the landscape.

When the rains came, the roads transformed into quagmires of sticky, clinging mud. Without winches on our vehicles, we found ourselves bogged down, sometimes for days. We became adept at cutting down trees to create makeshift bridges and new paths around the worst sections. River washouts created massive ruts, some three or four meters deep. Navigating these required precise teamwork and nerves of steel. Many times, our vehicles hung precariously, with the rear tyres spinning helplessly in the air, saved only by a timely push or pull from another vehicle.

Nights were spent under the brilliant African stars, camping on the roadside.

The cool night air was filled with the sounds of the wilderness, and occasionally, the distant hum of animal herders moving their cattle under the cover of darkness. The tranquillity of these moments was a stark contrast to the trials of the day, a reminder of the raw and unfiltered beauty of creation.

The trailer has overturned !!!

Challenges were relentless. One day, our trailer hit a patch of soft mud and flipped over, breaking the tow bar and air pipes. It took all day to unload the 10 tons of equipment, right the trailer using a winch and pulley of a tree, and reload it. From that point on, the trailer's weakened tow bar broke every few hours, necessitating constant re-welding. The air pipes, too, were damaged, bursting every few days.

Josh, we have run out of water!

One of the most harrowing moments came when we ran out of water while stuck in a bog. It was a situation that brought us face-to-face with our vulnerability. We were miles from any reliable water source, and the oppressive heat was relentless. Our supplies dwindled until we were forced to confront a grim reality: we needed to find water, and fast.

With one vehicle still mobile, we scouted the area and found a muddy river. The water was thick and brown, swirling with sediment and who knew what else. We had no choice but to use it. The risk of diseases like dysentery, typhoid, or worse loomed large in our minds, but dehydration was an immediate and deadly threat. We had no filters—only our wits and prayers.



The wheels are hanging in the air.



Welding work in the middle of the bush.



Overnight stay in the wilderness.



Stuck in the mud – finding a way to move forward...



Searching for drinking water in a river bed.

As we filled our containers with the muddy water, a heavy silence fell over us. The decision to drink this water was not made lightly. Each of us knew the potential consequences. The first sip of muddy chai was a moment of collective dread and reluctant acceptance. We looked into each other's eyes, the sugar masking the earthy taste of mud, our expressions mirroring a mixture of fear and determination.

Every sip was a gamble. We drank slowly, and cautiously, each swallow accompanied by a prayer for health and safety. This water, vital yet dangerous, sustained us for three to four agonizing days until we were free from the mud's grasp. Those days felt like an eternity, every stomach ache or uneasy feeling sparking fear of disease.

We can't go any further

With the steering system of the truck irreparably broken, we faced a gut-wrenching decision: to abandon our vehicle in the heart of the wilderness and 'fail' the mission or to sit and slowly starve as we

Check out our YouTube page to watch a clip of this tale here.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4r-r8URsHsI&t=20s>



ran out of supplies. It was a choice borne of necessity, as our supplies dwindled and the harsh reality of our predicament settled upon us. Leaving behind the truck, laden with over 10 tons of invaluable material, was a leap of faith tinged with uncertainty. Yet, with heavy hearts, we entrusted everything to God and to a local village, praying for its safety as we embarked on the arduous journey back to Kenya. It was a bitter pill to swallow, a humbling acknowledgement of our limitations in the vast expanse of the wilderness.

Mission success

Armed with fresh supplies and spare parts from Kenya, we returned to the wilderness a week later, finding our equipment miraculously intact, and preserved by the villagers. This moment reignited our hope and resolve, propelling us forward with renewed determination. As we conquered the final 15 kilometres to Lotimor. Mission success! At last, over 3 weeks of struggle, we had made it!

The warm greetings from the local people upon our arrival in Lotimor were laced with bitterness. It soon unfolded that they were not willing to assist us in building their own building. After enduring the hardships of the journey and the challenges of navigating through the wilderness, their demand for payment for even the simplest tasks like fetching water from the well or collecting sand and stones to mix with the cement felt like a stab to the heart. It was emotionally devastating, a stark contrast to the gratitude and camaraderie we had hoped for. The realization struck hard: despite our efforts, the community's lack of ownership and gratitude mirrored the challenges of years of war, NGO work, cultural barriers, and I'm not sure what. It was a painful reminder that without their involvement,

our mission faced an uphill battle towards sustainability and transformation. Navigating through what felt like a sea of ingratitude, we grappled with the challenge of loving and serving amidst the overwhelming need surrounding us. Providence led us to delve into the timeless story of the Good Samaritan during our journey, sparking discussions about who our true neighbour was in a nation teeming with suffering and desperation. In Luke 6:35, we found solace and guidance, as these passages urged us to love our enemies, do good to those who mistreated us, and give without expecting anything in return. They were a guiding light. I felt the need for repentance in my own heart, to release bitterness and continue forward in love. Much like the Samaritan who showed compassion to the wounded Jew regardless of their circumstances. I felt called to extend the same unconditional love to those who may not appreciate or reciprocate it. In the face of this, I felt renewed purpose: to reach the unreachable, and love the unlovable, regardless of the response, maybe a silly use of words because Christ teaches me that there are no unreachable or unlovable, that there is no 'great suggestion' from Christ only a Great Commission. A commission every follower of Jesus is bound by and will be accountable for one day. Love knows no bounds, and service knows no limits.

We're not done yet

The first building is now complete, and we are yet to start on the second. The truck remains broken down, awaiting a solution, our mission continues. We ask for your prayers and support to finish this mission. It has cost more than you can imagine, but the rewards, immeasurable.

Joshua Rex

Multipurpose Hall in Loitmor

The organization "Helping in Partnership" funded the construction of two multipurpose buildings for Loitmor, South Sudan. These buildings serve as training centers for the surrounding discipleship groups. There, people can receive practical training and deepen their faith in the living God.

Throughout this entire region, there are very few other durable structures. Otherwise, there are only local nomadic huts and no other place where believers can gather.

However, setting up and transporting materials to these remote areas posed extreme challenges, as Josh recounts in his report (from page 4).



Finishing off the hall in Lotimore, South Sudan



Multi-Purpose Hall in Naliel – GFI Switzerland Project

In Naliel, our team from Switzerland, in collaboration with a Kenyan missionaries and GFI, are dedicated to constructing a 15 x 20m multi-purpose hall. This facility will serve crucial roles in agriculture by storing significant quantities of seeds and harvests, and will include a small workshop. Moreover, it will provide a sheltered space for leadership training at least twice a year. To achieve our goal of completing this project by November 2024, we rely on your support. **Would you consider sponsoring 1 m² of wall or even an entire metal beam to help address the food scarcity challenges faced by the people in Naliel in a practical and sustainable manner? 1 m² of wall costs CHF 100.**

Total project cost: CHF 30,000.-

Donations to GFI with the reference: "Multi-Purpose Hall Project"
Bank details: GFI Switzerland Post Finance
IBAN CH67 0900 0000 6016 90910

Prayer requests

THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR
PRAYERS!

- Please pray for our team as the past few months of construction in South Sudan, especially in Loitamor, have been very challenging. The construction site was far from Naliel, our base station in South Sudan. Please also pray for Jackson, the leader of our technical teams, who is facing health issues.
- Pray that we obtain the spare parts needed for the truck. Our equipment with the trailer is in Northern Uganda, so we can conduct the next two evangelistic events there, which are planned in two Islamic cities.
- Pray for the preparation of the upcoming evangelistic events, especially that we choose the timing wisely and that our truck is repaired by then.
- Pray for our truck project. So far, we have received just over 3,000 euros towards purchasing a new truck. After the recent challenges, we urgently need a truck for the next evangelistic missions to navigate the local roads safely. Watch our video clip on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl-UB4kbeMs>
- Pray that we can expand our support base. Prices and wages in Kenya have skyrocketed, causing our monthly budget to increase by over 1,000 euros. With more income, we can help more people and do even more.
- Please pray for Jessi and Josh's family, who are taking on more responsibilities as Peter and Becki are often on travel duty. Josh's pilot license will likely be postponed to 2025.



Providing children with education

David is one of the 21 children and teenagers whom we enable to attend school or continue their education. He has completed the first part of his training as a mechanic. He thoroughly enjoys the practical work but struggles with the theoretical aspects. Due to poor family circumstances and financial constraints, he was unable to attend school.

Together with his entire family, David extends heartfelt thanks to all supporters.

Upcoming Dates

Kenya and South Sudan

- 01.–31.7. 'GO for it' Discipleship School team from Switzerland with us on outreach to Pokot and Turkana area
- 01.–30.8. Youth with a Mission team from Hawaii on outreach with us in South Sudan.
- 15.–31.8. Preparation for our outreach in Yumbe, Northern Uganda.
- 03.–15.9. Large open air outreach in Yumbe, Northern Uganda.
- 08.–17.11. Swiss team on outreach in South Sudan (constructing multipurpose hall)
- 16.–23.11. Medical outreach in South Sudan

Peter and Beckys German travel plans..

- 16.06. "Life Church" Plüderhausen
- 23.06. "Alb Church" Asch Blaubeuren
- 30.06. "Evangelical Church" Community Wart
- 02.07. "Seniors' Circle" (VIA – VM Freudenstadt)
- 07.07. "Scala" Magdeburg
- 10.07. "Trinitatis Community" (Magdeburg)
- 14.07. "Meeting Point Life" (Ditzingen)
- 21.07. "Filder Good News" (Bernhausen)
- 28.07. "Agape Gemeind"e (Freudenstadt)
- 22.09. "Skyline Kirche" Hannover
- 23.-26.09. "BFP Konferenz" GFI Stand
- 29.09. "Gemeinde Gottes" Allmersbach
- 06.10. "Neues Leben" Bramsche
- 27.10. "Cross Roads" Freudenstadt

Interested in having us speak? Reach out to us at germany@gfi-ministries.org or message us on WhatsApp at +254723838368.

Our Projects for 2024

So that we can continue to reliably meet the needs of people in need in the future

1 The wheels must keep turning: We need a new truck

For over 20 years, the renowned evangelist Reinhard Bonnke traveled across Africa in a magnificent Magirus truck. We had the privilege of taking over this truck and used it for another 25 years, traveling to some of the most remote areas to bring the Gospel to places where no one had ever been. This has left significant wear and tear on the vehicle. Repairs have become increasingly difficult, spare parts are nearly impossible to find, and it's rare to find drivers who can operate this older model. After more than 45 years of good service on rough roads, it is now time to replace this truck.

We need your help to purchase a new, robust "Howo-Truck." This Chinese-made truck is widely seen on roads all over Africa. It offers good repair options, readily available spare parts, and plenty of drivers capable of operating it, even when we are far from our base. The power steering, air conditioning, synchronized gearbox, and a 2023 engine will help save fuel and reduce costs. For our team, it means renewed energy, strength, and joy to reach the most remote areas.

Join us in leading GFI into the future. Help us to reach the suffering and continue spreading the Gospel. Let's build God's Kingdom together!

Cost: 80,000 Euros

3.230 Euro

Donation Status as of May

80.000 Euro

Goal

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



Our old truck has been through a lot.



The HOWO Truck

2 Supporting Josh's Pilot License to Reach Remote Communities

It's time to invest in the next generation. Therefore, it is necessary for Josh to obtain his pilot's license so we can make even more use of the aircraft.

Flying makes many things easier. Reaching our mission sites in South Sudan or northern Kenya by land takes an average of two to three days. With our aircraft, the same journey takes only two to three hours. This is not only a huge time saver but also has health and safety benefits. We can reach people faster and more spontaneously, be more flexible, and gain more time for other tasks. Moreover, we spend less time away from our families.

The most affordable and best way for Josh to get his flight training is in Florida, USA. Can we count on your support for this important endeavor?

Cost: \$15,000 for the pilot's license, plus travel and accommodation expenses.



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