

GOSPEL FIRE NEWS



Into the Heart of South Sudan.
Our Mission with the YWAM Team 4



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"In whom are hidden
all the treasures of
wisdom and
knowledge."

Colossians 2:3

The Greatest Prize of All – God's Love Touching Lives in Lokichar

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Dear friends and readers,

Scripture teaches us a powerful truth at the very core of our faith: our Saviour Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). In His glorious resurrection He shattered the power of eternal death. For those who belong to Him, death no longer speaks the final word.

On the third day, while Roman soldiers stood guard, Jesus stepped triumphantly out of the tomb. Yet His earthly mission did not end in that moment. During the following forty days He appeared to many—at one point to more than five hundred at once. He walked with them, spoke with them, and even ate with them (Luke 24:42–43). Many saw Him, touched Him, and witnessed the reality of His risen life with their own eyes. Then something wonderful took place.

As Acts 1:9–12 tells us, Jesus gave His final instructions and was taken up into heaven before His disciples' eyes. But the story does not end with His ascension—it continues with a promise: this same Jesus will come again.

The biblical teaching on the return of Christ is clear and unmistakable. One of the most significant events still ahead of us is what we call the Rapture—based on the Greek word *harpazo*, meaning "to be caught up." In 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17 we read that a day is coming—set perfectly by God—when Jesus will gather His born-again children to Himself, so that they may be with Him forever.

Jesus Himself declared in John 14:2–3, "In My Father's house are many rooms... I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to

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The Greatest Prize in the World!

God's Love Touching Hearts During the Outreach in Lokichar, in the Turkana Region



The crowd listens attentively as Peter preaches.



Children worship God after listening eagerly to the Bible stories. worship.

The preparations for the evangelistic outreach were filled with hope and much prayer. Amiel and Jackson spent many hours meeting with the pastors and church leaders of Lokichar. After a few early challenges, it became clear how deeply they longed to see God move in their town. When we finally arrived, they welcomed us with a warm and generous meal. In that moment I felt it strongly in my heart: God desires to do something significant in this place.

In the weeks leading up to the event, the preparation team had already hosted small film nights and sports activities in the surrounding villages. These simple gatherings brought people together and opened hearts. During the outreach itself, the

morning football tournaments became a wonderful bridge—an easy, joyful way to introduce people to the message of Jesus.

Between the matches, the field filled with moving music, honest testimonies, and short but powerful messages. Everywhere I looked, I saw bright eyes and eager faces. Again and again, it became clear: people here are longing for something more—for real hope and real love, the kind only Jesus can give.

The moment of the award ceremony Saturday arrived—a day full of anticipation and joy. It felt as though the whole town had gathered to celebrate. After two full weeks of effort, teamwork, and determination, the winners of the football

tournament were finally announced: the “Black Panther” team received the trophy. Their joy was immense.

Peter spoke to the crowd, and I could sense his words landing deep in many hearts. He talked about how often we strive in life for trophies, achievements, and recognition. Yet there is a far greater prize: eternal life with God and a love that never fades. He reminded us that this prize is offered to every person who entrusts their life to Jesus.

In that moment, I saw tears in many eyes. I sensed hope rising—new beginnings becoming possible. For me personally, it was a fresh reminder that even in the challenges of life, God is always working.



Youth never hesitate when football is on!



Celebrating the womens' team at the award ceremony



Everyone is excited about the trophy.

Foreword Continued

Myself, so that where I am you may be also.”

Imagine that day—a heavenly banquet with Jesus seated at the head of the table, welcoming each of us by name! What joy it will be when He receives us personally—not merely as servants, but as sons and daughters of the living God.

After the Rapture we will stand before the judgement seat of Christ—the Bema (2 Corinthians 5:10). This is not a place of condemnation, but a place of reward, where our lives, motives, and faithfulness will be examined. As 1 Corinthians 3:11–14 reminds us, only what was done with a pure heart for Christ will endure. Our purposes and intentions will be revealed.

Did we serve for His glory—or for our own? Were our hearts anchored in earthly things—or living daily in relationship with Jesus, with eternity in view? Let us live today with that future in our minds. Jesus is coming soon. May He find us faithful.

Until that day comes, may our lives shine as a testimony to the hope we carry in Christ.

In the love and hope of Christ,
Peter Franz



Singing together and giving glory to God.



Important values are being passed on for life.

He prepares paths full of light, peace, and unfailing love.

Lokichar has shown me once again how great God's love truly is—and how powerfully it can transform a human heart.

Becki

God's care shines like a beam of light into the hearts of the children

We prepared a wonderfully exciting children's programme for the outreach once again. Each day, hundreds of children gathered on the dusty ground in front of the stage—about 500 on the first day, and even more the next. At first they were shy, but with every game, every burst of laughter, and each small prize they received, their hearts opened wider. The atmosphere almost crackled—hope, joy, and longing mixing together. Our message reached them deeply: "God wanted you, and He made you

wonderfully."

For children growing up in the harsh, dry semi-desert—often forgotten, often without prospects—these were more than just words. They were a beam of light in their darkness, a promise they received with shining eyes.

Through every story, every dance, every moment with Lucy the puppet—lovingly led by Becki—we could feel something awakening in them. We told them again and again, "God has a good plan for your life."

For four afternoons we sang, danced, and played together. As the children laughed, teenagers and adults stood at the edges listening intently—the longing for something true and lasting was visible everywhere.

A Kenyan speaker captured it beautifully: "Just as Eli stopped listening to God, the Lord called a new Samuel—a little boy."

Our hope is strong that here in Lokichar, God is calling a new generation—bold, full of faith, ready to change the world and carry His love onward. Every one of these young souls is precious and profoundly loved by God.

Jonathan



Children's programme: Jesus has done so much for us!



SIM Team: Jesus sets people free from bondage.



God's love touched their hearts.

Signs & wonders in Lokichar



Christine had been unable to see properly because of thyroid problems. After we prayed for her, her eyesight improved noticeably!



Lea had suffered for several years with pain in her shoulder—she couldn't lift her arm at all. After prayer, she lifted it without any difficulty.



Maria had struggled with severe back pain for three years. After prayer, she was completely pain-free, able to move freely, and filled with joy! Praise and thanks be to God!

A Journey Straight to the Heart

Open Hearts and Bright Eyes – The YWAM Team on the Road



A very special time with the children; they had never experienced anything like this.

The journey into the remote Didinga Hills was an adventure of its own: rough, barely passable tracks—and our Unimog broke down just after crossing the border. Even so, we made it in the end, exhausted but safe. Our first response was a prayer filled with gratitude.

What followed became a journey straight into the heart of a people—and into our own hearts as well.

We often walked for hours on foot, over hills, through heat, dust, and thick mud. In every village we shared the Gospel. We sat with people under trees, inside small mud huts, or simply on the ground. We invited them to meet Jesus and held Bible studies with “people of peace” (cf. Luke 10:6).

What moved us deeply was this: the people listened with shining eyes. You could sense the hunger—not just for bread or water, but for truth, hope, and a God greater than pain, poverty, and brokenness. Many heard about Jesus for the very first time—yet

the message touched their hearts. God’s Word was working.

But the deeper we moved into the region, the greater the challenges became. For our team of thirteen, the outreach turned into a real test—physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

By the second week our resources were at their limit: no medical help, no electricity, no internet, and barely any clean drinking water. Only the rugged four-wheel-drive, battered by the harsh roads, was still available to us.

We filtered river water as best we could—what remained was often brown “chocolate water.” Nausea, stomach cramps, and blood in the stool affected almost everyone at some point. For one team member the situation became serious. After long discussions, much prayer, and open-hearted counsel, we faced a difficult decision: we ended the outreach earlier than planned.

Back in Eldoret, the team recovered



Heavy rains made the road impassable.



Children listen with fascination to the audio Bible.



YWAM’s camp in Didinga, South Sudan



Visitors are always welcome in the villages!

surprisingly fast. Thank God.

And yet the questions remain: Why did God not heal immediately? Why such hardship? Why end the mission so early?

We do not understand everything. But we hold on to this: His ways are higher than ours.

And sometimes God begins His greatest work exactly where we reach our limits—when all we can do is place everything into His hands.

Amiel & Melina

Dates & Prayer Requests

Service in Mission 2026

30 January – 12 February 2026

6 March – 20 March 2026

We warmly invite everyone who would like to discover missions and take an active part in an evangelistic outreach.

Please pray for our upcoming outreaches:

- 2 large open air meetings near lake Victoria in January and March.
- A medical outreach in South Sudan
- A womens training seminar in South Sudan with our GFI Swiss Team
- Ongoing work in South Sudan and the strengthening of the newly formed faith groups

Please pray for:

- Peace in Kenya as the government faces significant challenges
- Peace in South Sudan
- Full-time support for the Rex family: We would love to employ them full-time so they can continue expanding the ministry. This will, however, require increased monthly financial provision.

Up Close on a Life-Changing Mission

The YWAM Team on the Streets, in the Prison, with Children, and Serving in Local Churches



The team from Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Kona, Hawaii

Our time in Eldoret and Embu was intense and filled with deeply moving moments. Through street outreaches, children's and youth services, times with street boys in the Langas slum, at the orphanage, and among abused children, we witnessed up close what it truly means to live with Jesus—and how deeply His love touches every single person.

A very special highlight was our ministry in the prison. The atmosphere felt tense at first, yet as we sang together, shared testimonies, and spoke about Jesus, the hearts of the men began to open. Three Kenyan inmates encountered Jesus so profoundly that they entrusted their lives fully to Him and chose to be baptised—a moment of unforgettable hope and new beginnings.

Alongside the public outreaches, personal discipleship with the team members was a central part of our work.

We met regularly with individuals, had honest, in-depth conversations, prayed together, and studied the Bible through Discovery Bible Studies (DBS). Again and again we could sense it clearly: God was moving—deeply, genuinely, and in ways that changed lives.

For Amiel and me, these two months with the YWAM team from Kona were an incredibly rich experience. There were certainly cultural, emotional, physical, and spiritual challenges. But through all of it we saw God's guidance and provision unmistakably—a blessing that has shaped us deeply.

Amiel & Melina

During our street outreaches in Eldoret we met Erick, Dennis, and Edwin. Step by step we were able to introduce them to the Gospel and lead them closer to Jesus. Often we met almost daily for Bible reading and prayer. In the end, all three made the



The old is gone — God makes all things new.

decision to follow Jesus and were baptised—a joyful, unforgettable moment.

Edwin had spent one and a half years in prison though he was innocent—like so many who are falsely accused. He struggled to forgive those who had harmed him. But when he finally took that step, he felt Jesus lift a heavy burden from his heart.

Dennis had a disturbing dream shortly before his baptism: he saw himself being baptised, but the water turned black. We were able to explain to him that his dream reflected a biblical truth (Acts 22:16): his sin was being washed away. Not a reason for fear, but for joy.

On the day Dennis learned that a friend—whom he had planned to meet—had been murdered, he chose instead to come with us to a church service. That moment touched him deeply. He realised how clearly God had protected him and how deeply he was loved.

Christian (YWAM-Team member)

What Moved Me Most - Reports From the Service in Mission Team

Visiting two Turkana nomadic communities touched me deeply. It was fascinating to see how they live—and how they worship and praise God right in the middle of their own culture. One of the things that impressed me most was how Becky shared biblical stories with them in a simple, relatable way, almost like a children's lesson. The story of the woman with the issue of blood took on an entirely new depth within their cultural setting.

Another highlight for me was the times of prayer. Whether in the morning, at midday, or in the evening—the whole day was saturated with prayer. It wasn't a theoretical "programme," but genuine, vibrant spiritual life. Like the lifeblood flowing through a living spiritual body.

Lars

Our visit to Turkana was wonderful—apart from the heat! What fascinated me most were the songs the people sing there without any instruments. So rhythmic, so full of life, and sung with all their hearts. What delighted me even more was how much the children loved our action songs. I'm not sure how much of the lyrics they understood, but the moment they saw us they would run after us, start copying the movements, and hum along with the melody. Music truly connects people, and it brings such joy wherever it goes.

Another beautiful thing to see was how easy it is to capture the hearts of the children. They don't need a mobile phone, an iPad, or anything fancy—just a simple hand puppet. A puppet that "tells stories from its life" and, just like us, learns from the devotions and little messages we shared. With the puppet peeking out of the car window, we drove to the afternoon and evening gatherings—and the kids followed us with so much excitement and laughter.

It was an incredibly beautiful, intense, and meaningful time—an experience everyone should have at least once in their life!

Fabienne

Christmas Giving 2025

Putting smiles on many faces and helping where help is needed most!

Together we can help bring real, positive change into people's lives. When making your donation, simply write which project you would like to support. Our donation account details are listed in the right-hand column of this page.

You can also give online at <https://gfi-ministries.org/en/donate/>



1 Baby formula for six months for Salome's twins

Salome worked in the GFI office for six months and comes from a very poor family. Through her job we were already able to support her in small ways. Now she has given birth to twins—and she cannot provide enough nourishment for them. We want to help by supplying baby formula so the children can grow up healthy and strong.

- **Monthly support: €80**
- **Duration: 6 months**
- **Total needed: €480**

2 Urgent help: Eye surgery for a faithful pastor

A long-time friend, a faithful pastor and evangelist, is on the verge of losing his eyesight. Only urgent surgery can prevent him from going completely blind. We want to stand with him so that he can continue his ministry—with clear vision and full dedication. Let's help together!

- **Cost of medical procedure to restore his vision: €1,500**

3 Give a future through school fees

Many parents cannot afford school or vocational training for their children. We want to help—and open the door to a hopeful future.

- **Goal: Education for children and young people from financially disadvantaged families**
- **Support: according to individual need**
- **Cost: €30–€50 per month**

4 Christmas outreach:

Many families live at the edge of survival and can hardly afford the essentials. This Christmas we want to bless them—with food, small gifts, and urgently needed items.

- **Number of families: flexible, depending on donations**
- **Cost per family: €50**

5 Shaping a better future through training and outreach

South Sudan is marked by conflict, division, and deep hopelessness. We want to be a sign of peace, reconciliation, and new perspective. Lasting change begins in the heart—through encountering Jesus. Let us sow hope together!

- **Goal: Evangelism, training, medical help, and practical support**
- **Your donation helps us reach people who urgently need to hear the Gospel**

6 Aircraft maintenance

The twelve-year-old engine of our aircraft is due for inspection. Thanks to MAF's support, a large check can be carried out now, allowing us to postpone the major overhaul for three more years. However, the propeller must be fully serviced immediately. Despite the high cost, this work is essential so we can continue reaching people in remote regions.

- **Cost: €17,000**

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