

1 January 2015

"...and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort."- II Corinthians 1:7

God's Miraculous Protection

"The Future is the Past unless You Change Something Now"

South Sudan

Dan Rockwell says, *The future is the past unless you change something now.* For the last year in South Sudan the future has been very much like the past. **In Touch Mission Monthly** reported last January about the tribal conflict that was rearing its



ugly head in South Sudan between warring tribes.

Many outside of **South Sudan** are claiming that the atrocities against mankind runs on par with what happened in **Rwanda** and in **Yugoslavia**.

ITMI's **Jahim Buli** reported firsthand the human devastation seen just outside of his family compound and littered throughout the capital city of Juba. He also experienced persecution and threats from government officials due to his ac-

cepting the book of James definition of "true religion", as he cares for widows and orphans from all tribes. "*Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father ...to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*" James 1:27

For years the people of South Sudan had a common enemy in the Islamic North government. For decades they battled against all odds, being underfunded and unequipped as they tried to hold off the Islamic North invasion into southern Sudan. In 2011 after 22 years of civil war, South Sudan received their independence



Jahim sharing the Gospel in rural mud villages.

and became the newest created nation on this planet. Unfortunately getting independence does not guarantee peace. ITMI's **Steve Evers** regularly comments, "*If we don't deal with our anger we will soon find some other 'adversary' that will*



Parentless children that Jahim and ITMI have provided new pillow case dresses.

take the place of our previous challenges."

December 15, 2013 a fierce tribal conflict spilled into the streets and into the villages of South Sudan with many, many innocent casualties, and a government unable to deal with the aftermath and devastation. Many were killed. There are upwards of 500,000 to 600,000 homeless refugees that now struggle to survive on a daily basis.

Jahim Buli was himself one of the "**lost boys of Sudan**". As a young boy he had no family, no home, no food, no protection, and no hope. Yet, God had a plan for



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INDIA

Paul and Molly have had the most eventful winter months. Paul bringing a barely-able-to-walk Molly back from India in order for her to have major back surgery, Paul leaving a few days later to return to India to be back with their three little boys, nineteen girls and an ever fluid and growing church plant. Prior to all this, Paul realized that the current church location owned by a non-believer, was no longer where God wanted them. So Paul and Molly and their support team began fasting and praying for a new location for their church. God led Paul to an excellent building that



was for sale. Paul's small church had no money to speak of, and there were 3-4 other motivated "buyers" that had cash in hand, ready to close the deal. Paul and his team continued to pray asking God to provide a miracle. They were sure that God wanted to put HIS church in that building and not the Eastern religion's temple that was ready with available cash. Last month, through the generosity and sacrificial giving from Paul and Molly's Stateside home church and friends, God provided the funds to tie up the building and land for Paul's growing church. Paul and Molly and this young church now need us to pray and support them as they work to convert this once commercial building into a Biblical church for the Indian people.

POLAND

The Andrew and Anna Gorski family is in the growing mood!



Not only are they adding to their personal family, but they are being used to add to God's family. Andrew shares, "This last Sunday we had a little 'Billy Graham crusade' ...at Gospel Joy... Almost 100 people prayed to receive Jesus! For the first time we did [an] invitation ... during both concerts. Over 40 counselors from different churches in Poznan came to help. My faith was just too small to ask 100 people to come to help...Some of us spoke and prayed with three people at the same time!" Also last month Anna gave birth to their third child, Maria.



Jahim's love and passion is to teach God's truth and disciple leaders of South Sudan.

Jahim and God knew where Jahim was and what he needed at all times. Jahim willingly shares of the fears and the dismay he had in the refugee camp as a young boy when he couldn't get official "papers" that

would allow him permission to share in the meager food rations. He shares that "somehow" every day God caused one of the other refugees to be his "raven" bringing enough food to sustain him for that day. This went on for years. This knowledge of hope and provision permeates Jahim's DNA and message to the lost and needy of South Sudan.

This message also is what he shared with the government's secret police personnel who were threatening and persecuting him for "feeding the enemy" - because he was feeding widows and orphans from the rebel tribe. ITMI reported that finally during a face to face meeting, Jahim courageously shared truth, to the government officials who were persecuting him.

One of the secret police came to Jahim sometime later after hearing Jahim preach a gospel message, and asked him "...can your God forgive me for all the people I've

killed?". After sharing how the Apostle Paul persecuted the Christians, and how God redeemed him and revolutionized his life, "the Hammer" (his nickname is used to protect identify) asked Jesus into his heart and life.

This was not without great risk. As Jahim disciplined the Hammer, the Hammer knew that he could not continue torturing and abusing the people that God wanted him to love and help. Hammer also knew that "...no one ever leaves the secret police except through death." He knew that he knew too much, and his newfound desire to follow God's plan was in direct conflict to the government's way of dealing with enemies. Yet the Hammer, after advice from Jahim and Steve, chose to not run from the country, but to stay and become a "Daniel" within the government.

Hammer trusted that God would take care of him, he didn't yet know how, but he, by his new found faith, decided to trust God's provision and protection. What happened next caused great concern for everyone who was close to the Hammer.

Towards the end of the 2014 summer, Jahim contacted Steve and said "...the Hammer is missing!" His family knew not of his whereabouts. Jahim could not get in contact with him. None of his associates knew where he was. He had disappeared.

There was a fear that the Hammer had really "disappeared" as had many who happen to disagree with the ungodly government methods of abusing and persecuting the south Sudanese people. Jahim said, "all we can

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ROMANIA



Adi and Ema Ban never seem to stop ...ministering to others. In October, Steve visited again with the Bans and was excited to see all the areas of ministry that the Bans are involved in. Adi and Ema have a passion for reaching families for Christ.

Adi and Ema spend more hours in a week serving others than they do any other thing. The picture above is of Adi and Ema's Young Couple discipleship group, not only growing as young families, but also learning to reach out to the community by using their gifts and talents of music. This small Baptist church in Oradea was absolutely delighted to have "someone" come and sing and minister to them. This is a common activity for the Ban's discipleship

group. Because of Adi's reputation and character, Adi always has invitations to come and preach God's word. When Steve is in Romania, Adi graciously allows Steve to preach and teach to always grateful believers.



Another way Adi and Ema reach out to the lost Romanians is to touch them through their young children. There are many who would not attend a church on Sunday. So Adi and Ema started a daycare with Adi's niece, Corina,



who loves the Lord and loves these little impressionable lives.

Adi took Steve to visit the daycare to see how God was using it to reach parents and families. It was October and already quite cold in the almost century old and unheated Romania building. Because of ITMI's sacrificial donors and partners, ITMI was able to help Adi install a heating system in the day care.

Before the heating system, the rooms were past the uncomfortable and into the unhealthy stage. The ancient wood fired heater was not only non-effective, it was also prohibitively expensive to operate.

Adi tells us that this gesture of providing heat and warmth for these little children was a great testimony not only to the unsaved landlord, but especially to each parent who entrusted Corina/Bans with their dear little ones.



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Even at \$45-\$68 USD per gallon the waiting for fuel is consuming (4) hours of Jahim's time.

do is pray that God will comfort the family and protect the Hammer wherever he is. We may never know where he is...what happened to him."

Hammer would've never known the peace of Christ if Jahim had not stayed in South Sudan during his time of persecution. Last year during December, when the conflict was at its height in intensity and Jahim was fearing for his life, he humbly shared "... If I leave, who will tell these people about Jesus and the only hope for this country."

It was almost a month before Jahim finally received a phone call from the Hammer. The Hammer had been transferred from the secret police to

commanding a squadron of government soldiers on the front line in direct fighting with the rebel forces. No one knew where he was and what he was doing, not even his family. Hammer shared with Jahim that his faith in God was sustaining him in the intense battles against the rebels. The Hammer carried into battle his military equipment as well as his most prized possession, a Bible Jahim had given him.

Because the Hammer was growing spiritually he wanted to share with his soldiers the truth and light that he had found. His regular Bible studies on the front line included over 100 of his soldiers who were coming to know Christ and who were hungry for discipleship help.

November 21, 2014 Jahim received another call from the Hammer. Hammer shared a story that is almost impossible to get your mind around, but "with God all things are possible."

Jahim relays the story like this:

"The Hammer called me on the phone asking me to keep praying for him. He said, 'Jahim I was ordered by my top commander to attack [a] rebel position with 500 soldiers[.] As I was leading these troops I felt deep sleep [felt very sleepy] and ordered my troops to rest[.] I sat down under a tree and I was half awake and half asleep and I had a dream. In the dream I saw all the [my] soldiers killed[.] I and three others were [the only ones] left and as we [four] were running [in my dream] I woke up from my sleep.

We came under attack by the rebels just a few minutes after I woke from the sleep, out of the 500 [government soldiers] only four of us were left [got away]. As we were running the distance between us and the enemy [was only] 1000 meters. The three soldiers that were with me overrun [run past] me. I was tired, I gave up my life[.] sat down [to] wait [for] the enemy to do away with my life. As

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the enemy approaches just 50 meters away, to get hold of me, a rescue team of 200 soldiers arrived in Toyota pickup[s]. I was picked up from under the tree[, and] drop [ped] in the pickup. I was drove away to barracks. All the [200] rescue team - none of them have returned alive - all of them died because of me. God cause[d] this people to die because of me."

It's difficult to impossible to confirm all the individual facts of the story, due to the current government officials not wanting to display before the world their real or rumored losses. Steve hopes to meet with Jahim and the Hammer early in 2015 to discuss further the first hand details, if the Hammer will be awarded time away from the warfront.

The Hammer is feeling personally conflicted because of the loss of lives in this



Sanitary challenges in Refugee Camps where Jahim ministers

conflict. However he is very grateful for the gift of life that God has given him. He is very thankful that at least 100 of his soldiers chose to hear him share the gospel, repented of their sins, asked Jesus to be their Savior, and were being discipled. The Hammer knows that God has a plan for his life that is yet unfinished, and cannot be

stopped by any army or forces seen or not seen.

Jahim continues to disciple the Hammer via conversations over the phone from the frontline. The Hammer regularly calls and asks Jahim to explain a certain passage of Scripture or share with him God's truth on a particular issue, so that he can better disciple himself and his troops.

Wikipedia's article *Economy of South Sudan* states, "South Sudan is one of the poorest countries in the world. Most villages in the country have no electricity or running water, and the country's overall infrastructure is lacking with few paved roads anywhere in the country."

Jahim's heart and passion is to reach the country of South Sudan for Christ. He does as much ministry as God provides funds and resources for. He continues to make ends meet for himself and his family by taxiing people daily on his motorbike.

Jahim also started a Bible study in his courtyard surrounding his home that is now expanded to over 100 people. Jahim is asking if we can help him purchase 100 plastic chairs for the people who come to his new church plant. ITMI would like to help him get at least 150 chairs at a cost of SSP\$55 or \$19 U.S. dollars per chair. Jahim's new church also needs a generator to power the small sound system and a few lights in order for everyone to hear and see God's truth.

A. T. Robertson in his book *Types of Preachers in the New Testament* con-



Jahim's Home Church has grown to over 100 people.

tends that "the Word of God is not bound by human shackles," and that God uses ordinary people from diverse backgrounds to preach and teach. God is using Jahim to reach South Sudan for Christ, He is using the Hammer to evangelize and disciple government soldiers, He is using ITMI to oversee and empower godly nationals in South Sudan and abroad, and He is using you, your "fingerprints", and your sacrifices to give the story of eternal life and make disciples in far, far away places.



Jahim helps out with cooking for the family on a charcoal fired outdoor stove.

For Praise . . .

1. **South Sudan - Jahim Buli** - Much thanks for the sparing of the Hammer's life and the soldiers lives that he is touching for Christ .
2. **India - Paul and Molly** - Much praise for God directing them to a new, available building for the church, and providing the funds.
3. **Zambia - Tim and Ashley Keller** - have notified us that they will be parents again to their fourth child in August.
4. **Poland - Maria Gorski** - Andrew and Anna are humbled and grateful for God providing them with this healthy, beautiful baby girl.
5. **Poland - Andrew Gorski** - 100 lost Poles who now have their sins forgiven and have started a new life in Christ.
6. **South Sudan - Jahim Buli's** - continued work with displaced women and children in refugee holding camps in South Sudan.

For Prayer . . .

1. **South Sudan - Jahim Buli** - as he grows his home church to reach more and more hungry South Sudanese souls.
2. **India - Paul and Molly** - Pray that Molly's back will heal properly and that she will be able to return to her family and ministry soon.
3. **Zambia - John Jere** - Pray for John as he works through many tough issues at this season of his life and ministry.
4. **Romania - Adi and Ema** - Pray for their health, strength and resources to carry the family, church, and ministry load.
5. **India - Paul and Molly** - Pray for wisdom, strength and God's favor as they continually face India's challenges.

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