

1 August 2016

"...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

OUT OF THE ASHES: *What Will Rise?*

What Dule's sister was worried about turned out to be the answer to his prayers.



SOUTH SUDAN

Dule's sister looked worried.

She waited anxiously with her eyes on ITMI's [Jahim Buli](#). As soon as he was finished with the mid-week service, she jumped to approach him.

Thirteen-year-old Dule is one of Jahim's most faithful disciples. Since he joined God's family in 2015, he has exemplified a passionate love for Jesus. He never misses the church's Bible study or prayer meetings. His courage and boldness in sharing Christ led Jahim to identify Dule as a future leader.

"God brought him to me and I should teach him. He is one of those God is raising to be a leader in the future," Jahim said.

Dule's parents were always drunk. Their children often went 3-4 days without food. Dule had been praying feverishly for his parents' salvation, and for God to help his family.

Little did anyone know, the answer to his prayers would come in the

most unexpected of ways.

His sister reported to Jahim that Dule had been in intense pain for four days. Jahim and some members of the church went to see him immediately.

The teenager's tongue was green and he was in such overwhelming pain that he couldn't sit up. Jahim and the other believers prayed for Dule.

The prayers of God's people enabled Dule to get up and walk. Jahim gave Dule's sister \$400 SSP for a life-saving visit to the local hospital.

As it turned out, Dule had appendicitis and needed an operation immediately. At 11 pm that evening, after 2.5 hours of surgery, the doctor emerged. "This boy's survival is a miracle!" the Doctor reported, "The appendix burst and had started to infect the stomach. We were able to do the cleaning and he is fine."

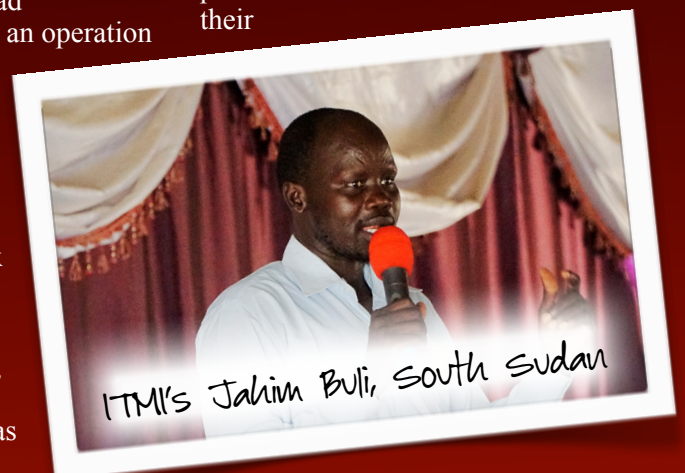
Later that week Dule was discharged from the

hospital, and Jahim's church was able to pay for his treatment.

It was through the church's demonstration of the gospel to Dule's family during his illness that Dule's mother received Christ!

Jahim's church is committed to spreading God's Word in their communities. God has blessed these efforts, and their services are jam-packed with both English and Arabic speaking worshippers of all ages.

They are asking God in faith to provide them the means to extend their



ITMI's Jahim Buli, South Sudan

(continued from p.1)

reach into the lives of more youth like Dule through the construction of another structure where children's services and outreaches could take place.

Indeed, the world will be a better place if the next generation of South Sudan rises from the ashes of its bloody, painful past and chooses unity, peace, and the perfect love that casts out the fear and hate of those who have gone before them. This choice can only be made through the empowerment of God's Spirit.

Last month, as the world's youngest country celebrated its 5th birthday, violence broke out between the opposing political parties in the nation's capital. Three hundred souls were added to the countless others who have met violent ends in this war-torn nation.

Al Jazeera reported that the conflict has been "characterized by horrific rights abuses including gang rapes, the wholesale burning of villages and cannibalism." They also reported that the UN said the number of South Sudanese refugees could reach *one million* this year.

Days after the most recent outburst ignited, Jahim's church gathered, though attacks rang out nearby. "Despite the war going on for an hour in Juba and much displacement [of people], we are having our normal [Sunday] service," Jahim reported.

This tribal conflict is yet another incident in a long string of uprisings that began at the end of 2013. But the history of violence and destruction has raged for



Dule with his mother and sister.



ITMI's Steve Evers preaches for the youth of Jahim's church.



Jahim's church services are packed with English and Arabic-speaking worshippers of all ages.



ITMI's Timothy Keller equipping the Sudanese Church (2002).

decades as the country that was once Sudan tore itself to pieces in civil war, the Islamic North attacking the non-Islamic South.

ITMI partners have been offering hope and aid for over 2 decades, entering the warring country when others left, to encourage and equip the local church to reach her people.

Jahim's own history again and again mirrors the story of the mythical Phoenix, continually rising from the ashes when all seems lost. But there's nothing mythical about the power behind Jahim's resilience. It is clearly God's hand, lifting Jahim as on eagle's wings.

Jahim was just a boy when his village was attacked and he became a refugee. He was stuck in a refugee camp without the required paperwork entitling him to food and life's necessities. Yet God provided for Jahim's need for 5 years using the sacrificial hand-outs of countless other refugees.

After being equipped by ITMI to train local pastors using the Seven Areas of Life Training (S.A.L.T.) Material in

2011, Jahim stepped out in faith and stayed in South Sudan to offer hope to those around him instead of fleeing the violence in 2013.

God blew him out of the water and answered his step of faith by bringing so many to faith so quickly, that almost accidentally, he planted a church!

Then God did it again. He allowed this fledgling church to raise funds to build a place to meet in a war-torn economy!

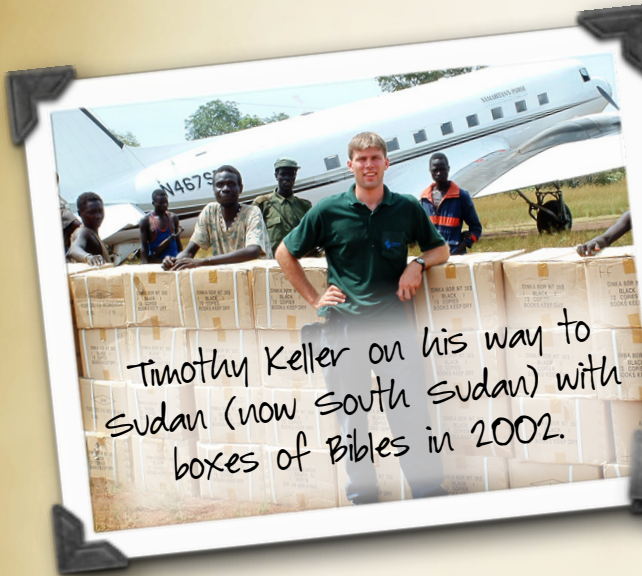
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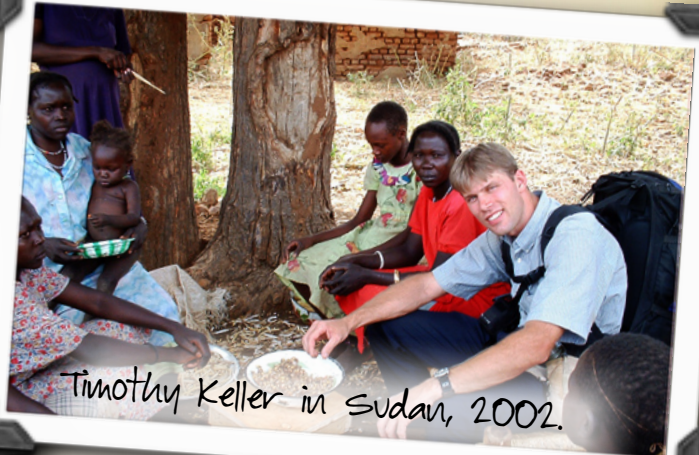
From the Archives

“Sudan: Mayhem in Moruland” - January 2002

To commemorate your 35-year ministry as partners with us, we're publishing stories from our ITMI Monthly newsletter archives. We're praying with each article, you'll be reminded of all God has done and moved to give Him glory and praise.



Timothy Keller on his way to Sudan (now South Sudan) with boxes of Bibles in 2002.



Timothy Keller in Sudan, 2002.

It was 6 p.m. on December 8 when rogue elements from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), acting without official orders, arrived unannounced at the Frontline mission base in Mundri and demanded that the missionaries immediately hand over their radio equipment.

ITMI's [Tim Keller](#) tried to defuse the tense situation by offering them food. When it was clear they had no intention of leaving he gave them overnight accommodation, hoping for a resolution in the morning.

The next day Frontline representative Hansie Steyn took the mission radio operator, John Akoi along with the soldiers to Kotobi to appeal the decision to confiscate private mission property. The trip was fruitless, as the responsible person was not there, however on the return to Mundri they met up with the district communications director. He knew nothing about any orders to confiscate the mission radio, but promised to radio his headquarters to see if they were aware of any orders or the reasoning behind them.

The standoff continued for several days with threats of arrest. When he continued to refuse to give in to their demands, Timothy was arrested at gunpoint and marched by night over 26 miles to an army base. There they

confiscated the mission radio, solar panels and batteries needed to provide lighting for the students in the mission's school library. Tim's pistol, which he needs for protection from wild animals and snakes in the bush, was also taken.

The students and school staff, who witnessed the forced abduction and heard the threats to shoot the missionaries, were in a state of shock. From church authorities the missionaries learned that three other short-wave radios (entrusted to the local churches) had been confiscated by the same renegade elements of the SPLA.

On his recent visit to Sudan, U.S. special envoy and former Senator John Danforth asked the Muslim government in Khartoum to stop bombing churches and schools in the South. They did not deny the bombing, but justified it by claiming the facilities were being used as military installations – which is patently untrue.

Please pray for the Christians who live in South Sudan and face the wrath of Muslim fanatics from the north who want to steal their oil rich land.

[This report reached us in mid-January when Tim returned from South Sudan, driving overland to Cape Town. Ed.]

-Bill Bathman



(continued from p.2)

At each step of faith, it seems God takes great joy in His ability to resurrect hope from ashes. One of the many that came to faith through Jahim's ministry was a high-ranking government official who originally had it in for Jahim. He was nick-named "the Hammer" and he didn't like Jahim bringing food and aid to a refugee camp of the other tribe. Jahim stepped out in faith again and spoke truth.

The domino effect of that leap of faith was that the Hammer became saved and was shipped far off to the front lines of conflict by his superiors for his newly-found faith. In that incredible-but-true tale, he ran into Jahim's mother, a slave for almost 20 years, who Jahim had been separated from as a boy. He brought her to Jahim in Juba! The miraculous reunion turned into an adoption months later when Jahim's mother received Christ.

It was God's faithfulness to continually bring Jahim through the ashes of the destruction around him that gave him the faith he needed most recently when soldiers knocked on his door, urging him to evacuate his home. The enemy was advancing. A bomb blew up just 600 yards from Jahim's house. The concussion and blast scared all of Jahim's neighbors from their homes and mud huts.

With nowhere to go, he told the soldier, "I and these people you see are children of the King, He will send His soldiers to command, no bullets or bomb will land here into my house and the enemy will not come near us."

Remarkably, the enemy "turned back" for no discernible reason. The result of that bold demonstration of faith and peace? The commander recognized the peace Jahim had and wanted it for himself. That commander was saved!

We can't help but notice that our South Sudanese brothers seem to see things so differently than we do. These giants of faith rely on God alone. The struggles have stripped away everything they might otherwise rely on. They simply rely on Him with a faith that looms larger-than-life, and God has provided in a myriad of creative and unexpected ways!

But here's the really great part. We get to be part of God demonstrating how big and worthy of their faith He is to His people in South Sudan. God often uses *us* to provide.

We are part of this almost unexplainable hope that our South Sudanese partners demonstrate to everyone around them!

Who will rise from the ashes of this turmoil because of how God uses you and me? Who will love and serve Him more devotedly as a result of your faithfulness? Who will believe God is bigger and greater and stronger because of your partnership? *Many. Thank you.*

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

"UN: South Sudan Refugees Could Soon Hit One Million." - News from Al Jazeera. July 15, 2016. Accessed July 25, 2016.

From the Director

Dear Team,

Matthew Henry, born October 18th 1662 in Wales, was a minister and author who spent most of his life living and ministering in England.

Anyone who has ever studied the Bible with the use of a commentary have most assuredly been influenced by his work. Matthew Henry is most known for his six-volume *Exposition of the Old and New Testaments* (1708–10), which were used and spoken well of by George Whitefield, Charles Spurgeon and John Wesley.

However, some of us may or may not have heard his insightful quotes. “The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”

“Extraordinary afflictions are not always the punishment of extraordinary sins, but sometimes the trial of extraordinary graces.”

And this beauty: “Peace is such a precious jewel that I would give anything for it but truth.”

Our ITMI partners would like to be excluded from the “extraordinary afflictions”, yet willingly journey through these on many occasions in their intense desire to serve God, bring honor to His name and see Him lifted up in the lives of all walks of people.

Timothy and Ashley Keller in Zambia are taking God’s truth to those that are bound to keep law and order in Zambia. The police in Africa, for the most part, are a people forgotten by their superiors and mistrusted and even despised by those that are subject to their inconsistent implementation of everyday laws. The only consistency in much of the enforcement of local laws is that there is no consistency.

Timothy explains that due to many who cannot read or write, “...the police, as leaders in the community, have a huge influence on people’s understanding of right and wrong, the value of life, and their hope for freedom and justice.” Timothy continues, “...because of fear and bitterness, the Zambian church has shown little interest in ministering to police officers.” This is why Timothy is rejoicing that God has given him a wonderful connection within the Police Commissioner’s office who is not only allowing Biblical World View and Leadership training amongst her most senior officers, but is encouraging it.

ITMI’s **Johan (John) Leach** just returned from a weeklong trip out ministering on “the plains” west of the Zambezi River in western Zambia. You might remember this is the area that ITMI has sunk water wells to help keep village women from getting eaten by the crocodiles. John shares that there is “...a lot of voodoo and a confused and compromised 'church' out there...a lot of work [to do].” ITMI is hoping in the next month or two, with John’s assistance, to send a drill rig out into a few key villages and give them the gift of fresh, clean water, along with the most valuable of all water, the Living Water. These are villages that feel they have been “forgotten” by civilization and God’s people. John doesn’t care what the difficulties are getting to these villages, he takes his GPS with him, a few local men that he is mentoring and they head off into the brush encroached paths covered in deep sand that the locals use to walk and move livestock.

Matthew Henry reminds us, “In times of great difficulty and great expectation, it is our wisdom to keep our spirits calm, quiet, and sedate; for then we are in the best frame both to do our own work and to consider the work of God.” God is working and you and I are on the front line watching and helping those who have left everything in order to reach the lost. It doesn’t get any more exciting than that!

In His Service,



Surprise Inspection Gets **Unexpected** Results

A gruff voice announced, "Surprise inspection!" as a government official pounded on the door of the home where [Paul and Molly's girls](#) live in Southern India.

The home, called "Sunshine Home" by the girls on the memorable day when they first ran through its halls, can be inspected at any time by government officials, who may or may not be interested in supporting Paul and Molly's goals of raising the girls in a loving home where Jesus is Lord.

The inspectors' tone softened as they walked through the rooms. They smiled.

The men shook their heads after checking the water, the bedrooms, the farm and every corner, "We have never seen such well-cared for children - or such a beautiful home for little ones. We will make a note in our public records of the standard of excellence here. We will never forget this visit."



They loved the animals, ate some fruits and made comments on all the greens the girls eat.

What a testimony to the difference it makes when you believe that all are made in the Image of God and treat them that way!

What a foretaste of His Kingdom, where all His precious Image-bearers are treasured!

Paul and Molly have even taken things one step further than making sure the girls have healthy food, a clean place to live, an education and a chance to hear about Jesus' love for them.

They are adamant; this is *not* an orphanage. These are *not* orphans. These 19 girls are *theirs*. They have a Mom. They have a Dad. They have a family. A family that knows and appreciates their unique gifts and personalities. A family that does fun things together.

A place where they belong.

For Praise

1. Zambia - Johan Leach - Mission trip out to west of Zambezi River, much voodoo and confusion confronted.
2. India - Paul & Molly - Many salvations through summer outreach, VBS and camps.
3. Romania – [Bethesda Foundation](#) – New supporters continuing to help the Pops care for the widows.
4. Poland – [Piotr Zaremba](#) – Delivery of the newly printed, complete Polish Bible and dedication ceremony with K5N.
5. USA - New addition to the ITMI administrative staff, Alycia Walsh.

For Prayer

1. S. Africa - [LeRoux Family](#) – Elmane requires a second surgery needed to repair another problem.
2. S. Africa - [LeRoux Family](#) – Healing following daughter Loretta's eye injury and surgery.
3. S. Africa - [Charl van Wyk](#) - Upcoming camp for boys in Zimbabwe, similar to outreach in Stone Hill, South Africa.
4. Poland - [Tomek Jezyk](#) - Tomek's son, David, is in the hospital being treated for complications related to his Hepatitis.
5. Zambia - Johan Leach - working to restart our water well drilling ministry in western Zambia.
6. India - Paul & Molly – 1)Visa renewal. 2)Upcoming trip to the USA for delivery of baby #4.



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