

1 February 2014

**“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” -John 4:35**

## Home Alone in a Refugee Camp

**“Jahim must have done a good job of shielding his young wife to all the terrors...”**

### South Sudan

Jahim just wasn't Jahim.

Last month ITMI's Steve Evers sat out under a Ugandan shade tree, seeking some refuge from the intense equatorial sun, while at a small guest house in Kampala, Uganda. Jahim was really glad to see Steve, and he was wanting to discuss what opportunities there were in South Sudan, but Jahim wasn't Jahim.

With what Jahim was exposed to in December in his homeland of South Sudan and with the many images of terror and death that assaulted his sensibilities and with the burned

images in his mind forever, it is little wonder that Jahim was not the same. It was just too soon for him to have fully processed all that had accosted him and his family over the Christmas season

While most of us were preparing for eggnog, Christmas cantatas, singing our favorite Christmas carols, presents, family, and celebrating Christ's birth, Jahim and Gisma Buli were trying to gather what they could carry, shield the children's eyes, and escape the war zone that had unfolded itself onto the infant country of South Sudan. A war that could take years to defuse.

The capital city of Juba where Jahim lives and bases his ministry was in complete disarray. The pent up bitterness between different tribes and its effect of unleashing all old "offences" between even neighbors, caused an anti-Christmas spirit to be released with a vengeance on hundreds of thousands who just happen to be living in its way. And the unabated violence was splattering its ugly self in colors of red, pain and death. Jahim shares that Juba



**Fatherless and Motherless child left to himself in refuge camp**

"was empty". So many had fled and were fleeing, only a few men stayed in hopes of somehow convincing themselves mentally that they could protect their meager life's valuables from looting and armed aggressors.

With your help, ITMI was able



**Favor rests on "Baba" Jahim**



**Gisma lost in her thoughts**

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# Newsbytes

## Uganda

**Kawede** and his family are reaching out to Jahim's wife and family while they are in Kampala. Gisma has a mama and a Baba to reach out to when a need arises.

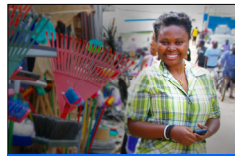


**ITMI's International School of Missions** under Kawede's leadership continues to train and graduate pastors and church leaders. There are now ISM trained leaders, touching lives with the gospel in **Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, and Rwanda**. These are pastors, church planters, evangelists, chaplains and church leaders.

**Naomi Kawede**, or better known as **Soki** (elder sister) by all who know her, has a heart for the Uganda children who live life in slums and who are at risk. Naomi, without any real supplies or support, takes God's message to the children

weekly in her own neighborhood through Bible clubs, to the children that live around the ISM property and to the many slums that dot the Kampala landscape. Her heart just loves children and it aches with desire to do more with the love of God in these little lives.

Steve brought **pillowcase dresses** for Naomi to use to clothe the needy and Naomi immediately scheduled a ministry trip to the ISM property where little girls squealed with excitement to have someone come and care about them.



**Naomi shopping in Local market**



**Naomi's heart is to reach the needy**

## Poland



We have a Polish evasion at hand. **Piotr Zaremba** is here in the States for ministry for the month of February. **Bread of Life's** Kalisz partner, **Tomek Jezyk** is introducing **Elizabeth** his wife and son to Americans who love and support what they do for the homeless there in central Poland. Tomek and family are here January 31st through February 15th.

**Richard and Brooke Nungesser** have now increased the Nungesser clan by one precious little girl on January 8th- **Josephine Diane Nungesser**, 10lbs, 10oz, 21 inches long. To say they were not excited, is to say you don't know anything about the Nungessers. For a dear lady that doctors said would never be able to have children Brooke and Richard have a rare gratitude and been abundantly blessed with dear little ones to love and raise up in "...the nurture and admonition of the Lord."



**Kawede family with Jahim and Gisma on New Years day**

to help Jahim, Gisma, and three of their four children escape South Sudan and start a new life in Kampala as refugees. They had to leave behind in Juba one of "their children", a young adolescent street boy who Jahim unofficially adopted and now cares for and mentors. New Year's day for Jahim and his family was spent around a simple table with ITMI's Muhindo Kawede's family, sharing stories, comparing cultural differences, and loving on the little baby girls who were showing the signs of having their life turned upside down. Kawede's wife, Lillian, was especially gentle and caring with Jahim and Gisma's adopted orphan baby girl.

Even though it was the first day of the year, a day in Kampala that is traditionally celebrated - not watching wall to wall football games - but with hope and prayer and family,

anticipating that God will continue to bless and provide for His dear children in the coming year, Jahim's expression was never far from that numb state of, as a young man, who has witnessed far more than he should have at his, or any age.

Before they left Juba, Jahim must have done a good job of shielding his young wife to all the terrors that surrounded them, even though he told Steve that they had the unfortunate experience of watching what the military dressed men did to his neighbor after they seized this neighbor from his house, drug him behind the vehicle down the road and then shot him out in the open for all to see. Jahim shared, "...no one should ever have to see that". Because of Jahim's actions and care of Gisma and the children, Gisma, on that New Year's day was warm, pleasant and at peace. For a woman of just twenty-one years, newly married, the responsibility of four children, three of whom are orphans, and having unfortunately lost their own baby boy at birth, Gisma was full of life and at ease in her new surrounding and among new people.

Over the next week, Steve and Jahim spent a lot of time discussing what Jahim's plans were for leaving his family in Kampala and returning back to Juba and South Sudan in order to minister to his hurting and spiritually open countrymen.

"How were Gisma and the children going to handle

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## India

Paul and Molly share with us from southern India that their new 2.5 month old church now averages between 350-380 people each week. Paul was so excited to share that he had always prayed for a "man church" as opposed to a "woman church", and God has provided. In India churches are mostly made up of women, few men see the need or have the desire to attend. Paul shares that Harvest Church Chennai has more regularly attending men than women. God is reaching down and touching the heads of the homes with His truth and love.

Paul is currently developing 27 "first line" leaders to help carry the load of ministry and serving the church and community. Twenty-seven leaders who willingly commit to caring for the flock and reaching the community for Christ. The sports ministry to the young people has been especially effective in seeing lives committed to Christ.



One young man [name withheld] met Paul and Molly at church hours before services were to start, and before Paul and Molly could spend their customary time of prayer and seeking God's help and provision, this young man shared that God had called him to preach through Paul's ministry. However, he continued, "...I cannot take my Bible home...I have to tell my parents that I am going to play sports when I come to church...I return home before they do so they don't know where I have been." Seems that this young man is tasting persecution even in his own home, but he still remains committed to follow Christ. Pray for the many who want a Savior, but who know that it will cost them everything.

Paul shares that their 19 girls are doing fine, they hungrily so want more and more of Paul and Molly. Sunday afternoons are a special time that Paul and Molly venture out, via the train to visit and love on the girls. We have heard that the squealing and the jumping for joy is a sight to behold.



**Paul and Molly with one of their precious little girls.**

Paul also shares that the Girls home has some pressing needs. They need to drill water wells for their property, which will enable them to become more self sufficient through a farming project. They also need to purchase a lot of trees to plant. This area of India is very hot and humid, the shade would give shelter as well as privacy on this barren land to the children, staff and animals. There is also a pressing need to fence the property for security reasons. This security need will grow as they become more well known and as their crops become more established.

'Daddy' or 'Baba' being gone?" "How was his family going to eat with him not there to provide?" "What was Gisma's state of mind with being left in a new country, among new people and her husband going back to the conflict zone?" Jahim quietly and calmly answered in so many words that Gisma was resting in God's provision, honoring her husband's decision and rejoicing that through Jahim's supporters, ITMI and Steve were able to bring enough funds to Uganda for them to buy food and get by in Kampala for the next three months.

During their discussion under the shade tree, Steve thought many times and verbalized to Jahim, "Why don't you just stay in Kampala for a while and rest up?" Jahim, although obviously traumatized by all that had recently been brought into his life, immediately communicated that he "needed" to go back, he "must go back".

Jahim knows what it means to be displaced, to be a refugee. He has experienced the fear of not having anything, nothing, that says "home". He knows what it is like to be a refugee that isn't registered and who doesn't have "papers" that allow him a chance at getting the always insufficient food rations, clothing rations, and shelter rations that go with being an unwanted casualty of war in a foreign country. This life was still very real to Jahim who experienced it for more of his youth than he cares to discuss.

This first hand knowledge of a refugee's life drives him back to his country and countrymen with the message of

hope and love. Jahim knew that there are now many homeless, scared, sick and injured refugees that need to hear that God loves them and God has not forgotten them.

Early morning of January 15th, Jahim climbed into a packed vehicle with the hopes of making it to the Uganda-South Sudan border by nightfall. He intended to cross the border into South Sudan and then leave early the next morning via bus for Juba. South Sudan officials don't allow night travelers on the rural dirt roads that sporadically crisscross the barren landscape due to the lack of police escorts and the high probability of robbers and thieves hijacking you and your vehicle in the dark of night.

Jahim's plan was hijacked. He did get to the border, but when he arrived, he was confronted, while still in Uganda, with a South Sudanese refugee camp. The internal pull and God provided opportunity to give back to those 20,000 plus souls that are so alone and



**Children scrambling for food under watchful eye of camp official**

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empty, was unmistakably a leading from God.

Once he arrived at the border, Jahim shares it like this, "... [we arrived] to the border [and] had a privilege to visit the office of the Prime Minister, department Refugee Desk in Pakele and they gave us the permission to visit the refugee camp and gave us police to take us to the camp."

"The refugee's transit camp in Adjumani hosted a population of 20,000 South Sudanese. When we reached the camp people are sitting under trees, there is no food to eat, medicine, tents [or] mats to sit on only few of them that manage to go [escape South Sudan] with their mattresses. UNHCR (United Nations High Court for Refugees) has tried to provide with tents but there not enough for all of this 20,000 people."

"Most of them are hopeless because they lost their beloved ones and those [children were] separated from their parents. Remember, we could not gather the 20,000 people together to speak to them that may need loud speakers to speak to all of them."

"Many of them are sick, we [were] so helpless, what we did is to gather few of them to encourage them with the Word of God



Refugees living under a mango tree at Uganda-South Sudan border



Praying for the sick

and pray for them, and then we took our time to pray for those who are sick."

"We pray for more [than] 40 children and elderly who are sick and everybody wants us to lay our hands on them. Four pregnant mothers gave birth in this transit camp with no help from medical personal."

"After we have prayed for them at 5:45pm, we can witness they have regain[ed] hope and trust in God."

"One of the community leaders said 'thank you for coming to encourage and pray for us, now **'we have hope that God will remembers us'**. We encouraged them [that] God will provide for them in a way they did not expect."

"There are more [even more] displace people north of Juba that I plan to visit them in coming days."

You may not have physically been in that refugee camp in early January, but you were there. You may not have physically placed your hands on the new young and old orphans, but you were there. You may not know how to share God's love in Arabic, but you did it that

day.

All who have helped and partnered with ITMI and Jahim and our South Sudan projects, were there helping Jahim minister to the destitute and hopeless, giving hope, giving God's love.

Jahim knows from close personal experience that "...God will provide ...in a way they did not expect..." Jahim saw it at Christmas time when God provided and allowed him to take his wife and family away from the terror to a foreign country.

God also used us to help him provide for his family while he goes back into the upturned world of refugees and the war-torn and what he once knew as home. God is using him to not just lay his hands on the physical bodies of hurting people, but using him to touch the very souls that make up this "field that is white already to harvest."

- Jahim Buli and Steve Evers



Gisma is thankful for her family and safety

## For Praise . . .

1. **USA - Richard and Brooke's** new addition to the Nungesser Clan - baby **Josephine Diane Nungesser**.
2. **India - Paul and Molly** - incredible growth of 2.5 month old church plant and the many who are growing in Christ.
3. **Uganda - Steve Evers'** trip to Uganda to minister to and encourage **Kawede, ISM** and **Jahim Buli** of **South Sudan**.
4. **Zambia - Tim and Ashley Kellers** very successful Christmas ministry to a local and mostly forgotten home for deaf children.
5. **Poland - Soon to be available** - complete audio version in mp3 format of **Piotr Zaremba's** New Testament translation.

## For Prayer . . .

1. **USA - God's provision** for ITMI, its Staff and all our partners as we seek to follow and obey God's call for 2014.
2. **India - Molly's** health/activity has been severely impacted due to acute pain in her back/hips. Boys also have health challenges.
3. **South Sudan - God's** safety, provision and wisdom for Jahim and his family as they seek to minister to the many new refugees.
4. **Poland - Piotr Zaramba** as his team moves into the layout, proofing and publishing of the new Polish Bible.
5. **Zambia - John Jere's, Sarah Phiri** to have eye surgery this month following her extended treatment for TB in the eye.

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