

IN TOUCH MISSION

i n t e r n a t i o n a l

Monthly

1 January 2014

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? ...how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? ...how shall they hear without a preacher? “ - Romans 10:14

HOPE for SOUTH SUDAN

“Tribal conflict was cultivated and encouraged for decades ...”

South Sudan

"I'm hiding on the floor with my family." "We didn't sleep much last night with all the bullets and artillery...." "Two hours ago [Monday, December 16th] a military truck with soldiers came to my neighbor's house, pulled him out and shot him dead. He is still laying out there and no one can go out to get the body [because all were afraid to show their faces in public]."

These were the chilling comments **ITMI's Director Steve Evers** heard over a long distant phone, in broken South Sudanese English on that fateful Monday morning.

In our **August 2013 ITMI Monthly** we shared with you that ITMI partner and local pastor in **Juba, South Sudan, Jahim Buli**, was asking for urgent prayer for his country of South Sudan. The president of South Sudan, **Salva Kiir**, a **Dinka** tribesman, had enough of Vice President **Riek Macar's** verbal sniping and criticism



President Salva Kiir

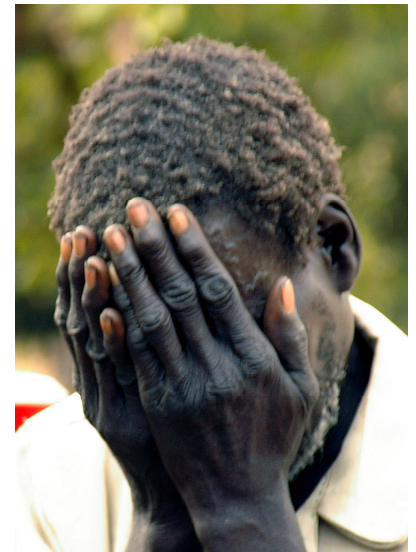
and relieved him of his position.

This seemingly routine action is not completely understood until you realize that President Kiir is from the largest tribe in South Sudan and ex-Vice President Macar is from the **Nuer** tribe which is the second largest tribe.

Tribal conflict was cultivated and encouraged for decades by the Islamic **Khartoum** government that held control and faithfully persecuted the southern tribes of the old Sudan. In fact, it was one of the Khartoum government's most effective tool for destabilization in the south.

In spite of the general euphoria that has presided over this new and independent country since July 19, 2011, South Sudan has continued to carry this intense tribal cancer that gurgles to the surface in these "kill anything and anyone that is not one of us" conflicts.

Jahim claims that this current "angry and hate filled terror" started in a military base when an unorganized band of rebels tried to break into and commandeer the



Weeping for Peace

base's stock pile of guns, ammo and artillery. This sparked the current indiscriminate death march through Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

ITMI's Timothy Keller, now in **Kabwe, Zambia**, has long said that he was most afraid of this tribal conflict in his beloved South Sudan. As Timothy states, "... for decades the South was at war with the North [Khartoum] Islamic backed government and when that 'opponent' 'went away [through the secession], the tribes needed something to war against. I was afraid that this was going to happen."

What Timothy didn't verbalize specifically, but clearly knows to be true is this - if the anger and bitterness in the hearts of the South Su-



Tribal Conflicts Boil Over

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Newsbytes

Poland

Don't know if you heard the celebration, but on Saturday the 21st of December at

2:31pm **Poznan** time, **Piotr Zaremba** completed translating the last remaining chapter of the Old Testament.

Fifteen years of diligent, painstaking attention to detail has passed since Piotr willingly accepted the call to "**Translate for Revival**". This call from God was clear in Piotr's mind. There are about 40 million Polish speaking people on this planet as of 2007 per Wikipedia. Piotr was being called to give the Polish speaking world, all 40 million of them, a



chance to have an accurate and beloved translation of God's word. This is a gift of unspeakable value and unspeakable cost.

Don Christensen, a key support to Piotr's translation project shares, "...I met Piotr in 1996 when he told me his vision for a new translation of the Bible for the Polish people. He allowed me to become one of his partners in this endeavor, and I am so thankful...."

Don further states, "I would tell the Polish people that they now possess, in my opinion, the finest translation of the Bible in any language of the World.

The unique resources and manuscripts that Piotr researched made sure of the extreme accuracy of this translation."

Erik Thompson, ITMI Board Member - "For the last decade I have known Piotr Zaremba." "I was intrigued

by Piotr...His diligence in learning Greek and Hebrew (along with numerous other languages), his deep study of the scriptures, and his God-given insight have made him one of the deepest theologians I know." "I have met many great men around the world. But, of all of them, Piotr Zaremba stands out. He is one I wish I could sit at his feet and learn from."

Now because of this translation, many Polish speakers will be able to sit and read God's truth in their mother tongue. Piotr also included notes and cross references so that they too can "sit at His feet" and come to know and understand truth as never before.



danese, planted and nurtured by the brutality and atrocities of the Khartoum thugs for decades, is not dealt with correctly, there will *never* be real peace. There will always be a need to find a "new" recipient of this anger and bitterness. Only God can take these two very crippling diseases called "anger and bitterness" away, and only when God's men and women are empowered to take this truth to the people.

As Jahim and **Gisma**, their two baby children and a cousin of Jahim and her baby lay on the floor trying to not be the next victim of the out of control and mad tribal vigilante justice that had enveloped the city of Juba, he carefully conserved his dying cell phone's battery. Jahim doesn't have electricity in his modest home and has to go into town to have his computer and cell phone recharged. His phone this morning was his only human lifeline to any civility and the outside world. He was concerned that soon it would die and he then would be all alone.

With only three days worth of beans, flour and oil, Jahim didn't know how his family was going to survive if this new brutality continued. But he was steadfast in his faith in God to know that somehow God would provide.

Within two days, Jahim was able to mount his trusty motor-bike and venture out to find some food and assess the devastation of this conflict. Jahim reported to Steve that "...there were many bodies laying [on the ground] everywhere...no one to pick them up, no one to care for them...there was [already] a stink in the air from the bodies." "It is an empty town, they are all fleeing."

Another day passed and even worse news came to Jahim. One of the chaplains that Jahim trained with the SALT material



that ITMI provided, who lives around the city of Bor, which is in another state about 120 miles north of Juba, called Jahim to warn him of serious impending doom. The report was that the Nuer tribe had captured the town of Bor. They are now amassing all the Nuer tribe members they can in order to launch a "revenge attack" on ...Juba. The conflict is not over! This report is credible enough to cause President Kiir to declare...war. The conflict is not over!

ITMI has partnered with a few special donors and we are getting Jahim and his family out of South Sudan to Uganda. No one wants to be a refugee, especially Jahim who has lived a major portion of his life as a refugee due to decades old North-South Sudan civil war. However, Jahim can't do ministry in South Sudan and be moment by moment concerned with the welfare of his wife and children. So when Gisma and the children get set up in Kampala in early January 2014, Jahim is planning to return to South Sudan as soon as possible.

CNN reported on 26th December, "Even with additional

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From the Director

Dear Team,

In *Moments of Peace in the Wisdom of God*, we read the following, "Some things are small, but powerful. An ant, for example, can lift fifty times its own weight. With that kind of power, you could toss an automobile around like it was a toy!"

"In the same way, your words may seem unimportant, but they carry tremendous power."

Just the other day God brought into my life some words that at the time were insightful and interesting to me, but they absolutely jumped off the page when I needed those words to help Jahim process the gunfire, lack of sleep, fear and death of the current conflict in South Sudan's capital of Juba.

Maybe one of you sits there and reads this newsletter and you are also in a difficult situation with little to no idea how you are going to get out of it. This was Jahim's situation. The words I shared with Jahim came from a Nashville, Tennessee pastor named Robert J. Morgan. Pastor Morgan was also in a real tough situation and in this situation God shed new light on the Bible story of the Children of Israel as they exited Egypt.

They ended up in a major jam, the Red Sea was before them as impassable as the Pacific ocean, and the Egyptian army was hot on their rear flanks. These Egyptians didn't have good thoughts on their minds and intentions. Hopeless! Yes, it was looking quite hopeless! Can't you just visualize the despair that was wafting over and through those Israelites? Well they needed to hear what Pastor Morgan calls, "The Red Sea Rules."

Allow me to share them with those of you who are in a fix, or will be in a fix before you know it.

THE RED SEA RULES

1. Realize that God means for you to be where you are.
2. Be more concerned for God's glory than your relief.
3. Acknowledge the enemy, but keep your eyes on the Lord.
4. PRAY!
5. Stay calm and confident, and give God time to work.
6. When unsure, just take the next logical step by faith.
7. Envision God's enveloping presence.
8. Trust God to deliver in His own unique way.
9. View your current crisis as a faith builder for the future.
10. Don't forget to praise HIM.

Pretty good insight and reminders! We encourage you, like we did with Jahim, to really practice owning these nuggets of truth.

Allow me to close with some great news at the Evers' home, our youngest son Luke recently married his best friend of six years, Lacey McMullen. We are glad to have Lacey as part of our family. We at ITMI are also exceptionally glad that we have you as part of our family and as partners in reaching the world for Christ. Thank you!!

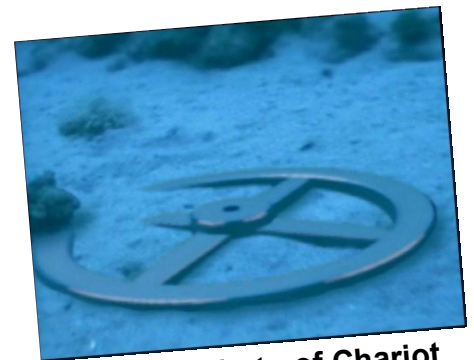
In HIS Service,



Photo: Google Images



Jahim smiles at pastor's training



Actual photo of Chariot wheel found at bottom of Red Sea



Luke and Lacey Evers

(Continued from page 2)

capabilities, we will not be able to protect every civilian in need in South Sudan," said UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. General Ban continued, "There is no military solution to this conflict."

The latest accounts from the local Juba Medical Teacher Hospital is that over 3000 bodies have been confirmed by their staff. There are reports also of finding rape victims and mass graves.

Why would Jahim return into the mouth of the lions? Doesn't he know that he is not from either of these two ruling tribes and thus at great risk?

Jahim responds this way. "Yesterday [on December 23rd] we baptized a lot of people down in the river." "This is the same White Nile River that on December 21st, Radio Tamazuj, a short-wave radio broadcast into South Sudan, claimed eyewitnesses reported, 'many bodies floating in the river'." Jahim informs us that "many people now want to make right with God." "They see how easy



Jahim and Gisma's Juba Home

life is taken away and they know they are not ready to meet eternity." "They are very afraid."

"We need to disciple the people, and this is why I want to teach the SALT material to all the pastors". Jahim shares.

He further stated, "I will go back. I will take my family to safety and then I will go back. I will do intensive door to door evangelism, I will train pastors, I want to be [in Juba]

to help people deal [with all the death and fear], the loosing of family members."

This opportunity is too great for Jahim to care about his personal safety. He wants to be used by God to meet the greatest needs of these people...complete surrender to Jesus Christ.



Steve asked Jahim what he and the family were going to do about Christmas. "...there is no Christmas in all of Juba." "Everyone has left...we have no open air meetings like in the past...we have no Christmas services...we have no Christmas this year."

ITMI wants to help Jahim. We want to help Jahim care for his wife and children when they are in Kampala, Uganda. Jahim's Uganda pastor friend has graciously offered a small cottage for free for the next 90 days. Jahim is responsible for food and other family needs. He will also need help with ministry back in Juba, as well as travel expenses.

South Sudan needs Jahim and his passion to scatter God's truth to anyone and everyone that will listen. There are many, many that very much want to listen right now.



Steve and Jahim in peaceful times

Jahim has committed to "carry the heavy load" over there in South Sudan. Maybe God wants us to help "hold his arms up" while he engages the enemy for the hearts and souls of his country men.

If you are so led, know that ITMI will gladly assist you with connecting to Jahim and what God is going to do through him.

We will do our part to help and support Jahim's efforts. If you know of other friends, family or churches that might have a heart for Jahim and his South Sudan country men, please, please share this unique and special opportunity to impact many lives.

- Jahim Buli and Steve Evers



Gisma and the Children

For Praise . . .

1. **South Sudan** - Current safety of Jahim and Gisma, and Jahim's commitment to give Christ to the broken people of South Sudan.
2. **Poland** - After 15 year of steadfast work, Piotr Zaremba has now finished the translation of the Old and New Testament.
3. **South Africa** - **Charl van Wyk's** recent mission trip to **Zimbabwe** and his desire to help build an orphanage for parentless children.
4. **Poland** - **Kalisz Baptist Church** and **Tomek Jezyk** ministered to almost 7000 people and fed 1500 during the Christmas Outreach.

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. **Uganda** - Steve's January 2014 trip to meet with **Muhindo Kawede** and **Jahim Buli** in Kampala.
3. **South Sudan** - God's safety and provision for Jahim and his family as they seek God's will for South Sudan ministry.
4. **Poland** - **Piotr Zaremba** as he moves into the layout, proofing and publishing of the new Polish Bible.
5. **Zimbabwe** - Guidance as **Charl van Wyk** seeks the next step in Zim. ministry and building a home for street children.
6. **India** - Strength for **Molly Yuvaraj** as she deals with health challenges and the onslaught of ministry in intense India.

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