



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 April 2010

No question...there is a real shortage of wisdom in the U.S. today. You can't turn on the television, look in magazines, or pick up a newspaper without observing education and even intelligence, but little to no wisdom. How about our own homes and churches, are we following *James 1:5 recipe for getting wisdom?* "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously" Just because there are wisdom-less leaders—doesn't mean we are destined to be the same.

Lost Boy Goes South

"...[they] put him in prison and tortured him, hoping to uncover the possibility that Danny was actually a spy for the government forces."

South Africa

You are sixteen again. You are consumed in the world of an adolescent. A world that is made up of being fully capable and in charge, and in a matter of seconds, a world that crumbles in emotional desolation as you realize that life is so much bigger and more challenging than previously believed. This see-saw of confidence and fear, of hope and hopelessness, blinded peace and terror, repeats itself over and over until you find maturity or maturity finds you.

Danny Swaka grew up in the bustling but desert city of **Juba**. Juba was the jewel of Southern **Sudanese** Christians until it was overrun by the Islamic backed northern troops in 1983. Before the invasion Danny, the son of a



Danny Swaka

Roman Catholic preacher as he describes himself, was contently progressing through his secondary school education.

With the invasion of his home town by extremists from the north came the usual fear and persecution. The authorities kept a close watch on Danny's family's home and treated the family like enemies who "... must be involved in secret meetings."

Then one day in Danny's sixteenth year, his life was to be changed forever. Danny's dad called his family of nine together for a family meeting that turned into an intensely emotional gathering. The elder Swaka said that he loved his youngest son Danny very much, and because of this love, he was sending Danny away. He also shared that Danny needed to go away because "...he would not like to have his beloved youngest child's death on his conscience."

As a young Sudanese is expected to do, Danny accepted his father's decision and said his goodbyes as some friends of the family escorted him in the middle of the night out of town. Danny was now all alone, in the dark, dark of a Sudanese night, wondering what direc-



tion he should go to reach this mythical place called...safety. Sudan is a large, desolate and war torn country in the northwest-central part of the African continent.

With little instruction, other than these final words of his father, "...my son, fight your way to Heaven," Danny decided to try and follow the **Nile River** on his trek out of harms way. Unfortunately, this seemingly great idea, led this alone and bewildered sixteen year old directly to a settlement of the rebellion army who captured Danny, put him in prison and tortured him, hoping to uncover the possibility that Danny was actually a spy for the government forces.

With little hope of ever getting out of sub-animal conditions of a remote Sudanese prison, Danny was finally convinced to join the rebellion army. It was his only hope of surviving and it fit, as best he

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South Africa

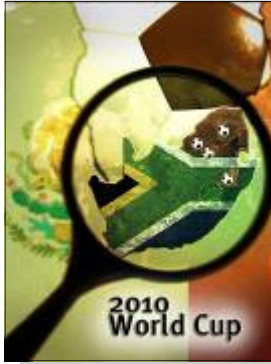
ITMI's Gerhard le Roux, of Moreson Children Haven-Cape Town, emailed me to share something that was weighing heavy on his heart. ITMI has promoted Gerhard and Elmanie's valiant effort to rescue and raise in love and hope, abandoned children. That is a passion that God planted in their hearts many years ago. The le Rouxs have been humbly faithful to that calling.

Today there exists sweet, intelligent, well-adjusted and serving children who now live and grow under the daily care of Gerhard and Elmanie. This picture is in stark contrast to the many tens of thousands of South African children who are being abused and or completely neglected each and every hour of each hopeless day. But this is not what was heavy on Gerhard's heart.

As many of you know, the le Roux children's home burned to the ground last year. It has yet to be rebuilt. The bare foundation is partially due to the local engineering officials and mostly due to lack of building costs. Even this was not what Gerhard wanted to share.

Gerhard's heart is heavy because it seemed to him that when ITMI shares about their precious work of rescuing the needy children, we might have given the impression that this was singularly their only ministry. Gerhard was concerned that people might get the idea that he and Elmanie were the only ones diligently serving in their part of the Kingdom.

Moreson Children Haven is just one part of a much larger



ministry called **Moreson Farm**. Moreson Farm has many godly and diligent co-laborers that work hard at trying not to take the limelight, but to humbly keep serving where God has planted them. More on beautiful example of partnership in future editions.

Gerhard's heart is also heavy as the **2010 World Cup** (World Soccer Championship) comes to **South Africa** in June. Organized crime families are intensely recruiting many young girls to be used to meet the sexual "needs" of the many World Cup tourists. The South African officials have displayed evilness that comes from a complete lack of wisdom.

In an article written by **Cherie Getchell**, she shares the following comments: "It was **South African police commissioner Jackie Selebi** who first proposed the idea, arguing that if prostitution is legalized, it would free up police to deal with more pressing security issues...." "**ANC MP George Lekgetho** [said]. "It is one of the things that would make it [the tournament] a success because we hear of many rapes, because people don't have access to them [women]." "If sex working is legalized...that would bring us tax and would improve the lives of those who are not working."

Gerhard and his team of concerned believers are doing all that they can to shed light on the lies of these human traffickers, and rescue these hopeless and blinded young people who need to be loved and not abused.

Please stand with Gerhard and his Moreson Farm co-laborers in passionate prayer and sacrificial giving as they seek to rescue another generation of soon to be abandoned youth.

-Gerhard le Roux and Steve Evers

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could figure, with this phrase his father had left him with, "...my son, fight your way to Heaven."

After six months of training Danny witnessed many of his fellow soldiers, some as young as ten years old, dying in battle as well as from the "meager diet" and "all kinds of sicknesses." Danny became an Intelligence Officer with the rank of Lieutenant. "By God's grace [I] was never seriously injured during all the fierce battles [I] was in on the front line of fighting." Oh how Danny wanted to be free from this terror. His heart longed to finish his schooling and to even "study further."

One night in the black isolated darkness of a Sudanese night with nothing but the host of stars above, Danny just knew he had enough of the fighting. He knew that his deepest desire and hope of further education would die if he stayed in the army. That was the night he escaped and fled to Uganda.

Danny shares, "In Uganda I met a Catholic priest, who gave me a place to hide. This priest also warned me that I could not stay in Uganda, because the Sudanese officials were looking in the city for any army officers that might be



Children Transporting Supplies

hiding there." When they noticed some officials from the Sudanese army snooping around in this part of Uganda, Danny hurriedly, at the direction of the priest, slipped out of Uganda on a bus and continued his trek south to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, via Nairobi, Kenya. The priest paid for the bus ticket, but told Danny that there was no way he could help him get through the many

border crossings without proper "papers." Danny communicated that "...a voice kept telling me to flee south...I didn't know exactly where to." By God's continued grace, Danny managed to somehow cross every border without proper papers.

[Editor note: For anyone who has ever managed African border crossings, you would know how unlikely this could be and how fearful Danny must have been.]

Danny now finds himself in the west south-central African country of Zambia.

He again "somehow" hooked up with some other Sudanese people that could speak his mother tongue and prepare home cooking. They did their best to try and convince Danny that he needed to settle there with them. Danny continued to hear the still small voice that urged him to continue his "fleeing south."

Trouble again caught up with Danny as he tried to cross the Mozambique border as he worked southward. When Danny's bus

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Greetings Team,

With great joy and appreciation, I send warm greetings and blessings to each of you. It humbles me greatly to know that you have chosen to partner with us in God's call to disciple the nations.

No matter what your thoughts and feelings, or even fears, about the overall condition of our country and our leaders be encouraged as I am, and empowered by the words in Psalm 91, "*I will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.'*" We must hold fast to the hope that He has put within us.

We now know that God had bigger plans for Charl van Wyk's and my scheduled trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo this month. After Charl's discussion with Congo church leaders it was revealed that we could impact even more people, if we allowed them some additional time to prepare for our visit. The thoughts of touching even more of the leadership later made the medicine of not going this month a bit easier to swallow.

Please pray as I am in the final count down for a trip to Chuuk, Micronesia. Last year's trip gave us the opportunity to disciple and train a group of hungry island pastors, their wives and church leaders. One pastor was so fired up by what God taught him during our week long training sessions, he raised enough funds on this tiny island and hired a boat to take him to one of the many peripheral islands that has not been visited by a missionary. Pastor Bruce Danis reported with great excitement that the discipleship material and equipment we left with him enabled him to share the gospel, win souls for Christ and even baptize the new believers in the ocean. Pray for us to be used mightily as we disciple an even larger group this year.



Would you also please pray for Christopher Hammond who has had a real tough time since his December kidney transplant. He has had to endure 9 fairly intense medical treatments due to the kidney not wanting to work right. Also pray for his mom, dad and grandparents as I would believe this is just as hard on them as it is on Christopher.

Rich Blessings on you,



"You Are A Cult"

In one of the European countries, presently called Poland, where ITMI, as you may know, is currently involved in various projects, Evangelicals for the most part, are considered to be [a] cult.

Because of this, Christians try to present themselves as friends, ready to help in the time of need. The so called friendship evangelism is very popular.

Christians try to be nice. They avoid some "controversial" subjects which could cause trouble or rejection.

Friendship evangelism however can be time consuming. Moreover after years of "friendship", when ultimately faced with a Christian challenge, people may say: No! It's usually painful. I know how much.

While conversing with the Lord about it I sensed

as if He were saying to me: "*Tell people about sin, righteousness and judgment*" John 16:8-11.

Maybe this [is] not as attractive as winning people's hearts by friendship, yet these three elements are for the Holy Spirit like *timber* He uses to build the *house of conviction*."

There is a great deal of truth about it, isn't there? After all, a healthy church is built of people radically transformed by Christ, rather than those *friendly accustomed* to Him.

Western world became politically correct. Sin, righteousness and judgment, in Christian sense, seem to be offensive to people who tolerate Christian friends, but oppose Christian message.

It's time to stand for truth politely, tactfully... but radically — like Jesus. Let our language provide the Holy Spirit with tools to transform those among our friends who, in friendly atmosphere, go to hell. Yours, as ever

— Piotr Zaremba



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arrived at the town nearest the border the police were "at the bus station." "For the first time I was really scared. I thought to myself, "How is it possible?" "I have managed to get this far!" "I can **not** be taken captive now."

Stay tuned next month for part 2 of this two part story. Find out how God graciously used YOU and ITMI to help Danny out of his fear, wandering and hopelessness. Find out how Danny trusted God to do the impossible. And find out how God showed his mercy, grace and faithfulness to this lost and needy Sudanese boy. You can also go to our web site www.intouchmission.org and find the conclusion to this story on the home page.

Helping the "Danny's" of this world find Jesus and His plan for their lives is truly one of the most pressings needs of ITMI and our partners. We seek to be faithful to God's leading and His calling in these areas.

Last month one of our dear supporters, **Mike and Charlotte Ralston** emailed me and asked me this question, "...what are your current pressing needs?"

In our passion to reach this world for Christ, the needs we are presented with are endless. We, at ITMI, humbly seek God's face for wisdom and direction in meeting these needs.

Allow me to share with you some of what I shared in response to their question.

"Thank you for your faith in ITMI and our leadership as we seek to be faithful to

God's leading in the lives of those brothers and sisters that He has put us "in touch" with. We continually seek God's direction in what He would have us do with the limited resources that He so graciously provides for us. Your sensitivity in asking what are the most "pressing needs" is a great encouragement to us, as this truly is a reality of dealing with the most pressing challenges as we minister in so many locations with so many needs."



"If I may share with you, it is my belief that the American economy and the American people, including the Church, are experiencing more challenges than the American press is reporting. With that said, the funds that ITMI receives to help us run our organization, that enable us to help the nationals, has been under funded for the last three months. People seem to want to support the needy orphans and widows and the need to train pastors, but it is a bit more difficult for them to understand that the home office has needs also. We run a very lean and tight organization. We only have two full time people and three part time peo-

ple. The full time people raise their own monthly support...which frees the organization from that burden. We use volunteers as much as we can in efforts to share the opportunity to minister and to keep the overhead as low as possible. We operate this way on purpose. We want to keep our overhead as low as possible so that we can make sure that as much of the sacrificial giving from people like you gets in the hands of the needy national partner. If you want to help support the ITMI general fund, then that would help us continue doing all that we do in Eastern Europe, Africa and now India. However, please hear my heart, God will provide. He will provide ITMI and all His servants around the world as He sees fit. I have no doubt that He will supply... in His time and in His way. "



Child Soldiers

If you feel led by God to be a lifeline for the "Dannys", "Piotr Zarembas," "John Jeres," and ITMI, we ask you to prayerfully consider how God wants to use you at this time to meet the current and pressing needs.

"...You have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until NOW." *Philippians 1:5*

-Danny Swaka and Steve Evers

For Praise . . .

1. ITMI: Praise that God allows ITMI to touch the lives of the needy in Africa, Eastern Europe, and India.
2. John Jere: Praise for God's mercy and protection as he traveled to Zimbabwe to feed physically and spiritually.
3. Cedar College of Education: Praise for the sacrificial work they do in discipling and educating all who are willing.
4. Praise for sacrificial gifts given by our dear supporters that help us serve the needy nationals.

For Prayer . . .

1. Gary Howell and Steve as they travel to the south Pacific island of Chuuk, Micronesia to disciple church leaders.
2. Gerhard le Roux—Moreson Farm co-laborers as they obediently seek God's help in South Africa's human trafficking.
3. Christopher Hammond as he had his 9th medical procedure since his December kidney transplant.
4. ITMI as we seek to find the "Danny's" of this world to serve and empower them to know and obey God's call.



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