



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 February 2010

How wonderful are the promises of Hebrews 10. "...the law has but a *shadow* of the *good things* to come...." "...Behold, I have come to do your will...and by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all." "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." "...Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...encouraging one another...all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Battles in Kampala

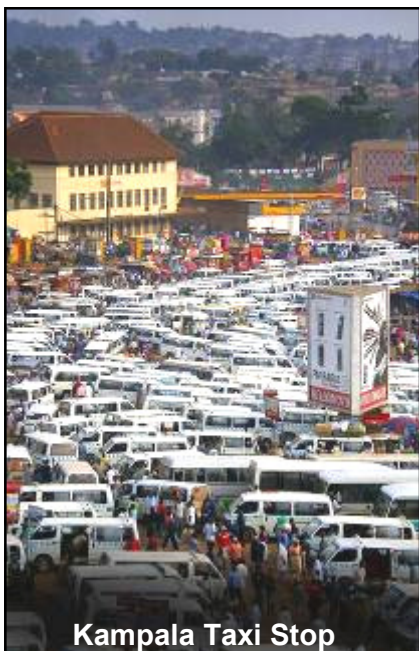
"The landlord was his pawn. No good was going to come from this."

Uganda

Kampala is a city bursting with activity. Traffic jams on the winding and ever circling streets of downtown Kampala are world renowned. Roadblocks that last.

The two million people jammed into the capital city of Uganda with the intense tropical heat and humidity, combined with the ever present underworld worship, causes battles of multiple levels and magnitudes.

Muhindo Kawede and **International School of Missions (ISM)**



Kampala Taxi Stop

have been battling the enemy and his evil-spreading witch doctors on the streets of Kampala. This past school term has been heavy on getting the students who are pastors from around this African region, out

on Fridays evangelizing, one on one, where the people live and work. Kawede shares that this outreach has given many opportunities to go back later and practice the discipleship training learned in the classroom.

Kawede is developing in his students a fearless commitment to go tell the good news of Jesus in the places that once brought great fear to the pastors. Kampala is entrenched with spirit worship and all the visual trappings that expose the bondage that grips far too many of these poverty stricken people. Kawede shares his need for our "standing with him in prayer" due to the attacks of the enemy. *"I need your prayers against all the attack[s] of the enemy as we share in the "shrines" areas...."* The many shrines are scattered randomly from one mud hut to the tallest office tower, where local residents have offered sacrifices to appease the "angry god" as they have been taught.



ISM's New Year's Pastor's meeting in Gabba

This last month, one of Kawede's worst night mares came into reality. ISM is located on the grounds of another non-profit organization in the **Gabba** district of Kampala. The rent has been reasonable and a landlord who has been willing to allow this much needed pastor and missionary training school to co-exist in spite of a beehive of school activity. Picture Kawede's face when on January 6th, he was summoned to a meeting with his landlord, and this meeting consisted of the following firm declaration, "...your school (ISM) needs to go elsewhere."

The enemy was at work. The landlord was his pawn. No good was going to come from this.

It really started a few days before the New Year's meeting, that is if you don't count the continual evangelism outings in the shrine areas. Kawede and the ISM pastors had planned a big event to usher in the New Year. Over two hun-

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Zambia

Kafue: - John Jere never seems to sit still. Even with the responsibility of feeding his 95 orphaned and ex-street children and most of their “extended” families, he does not let much African mud stick to the soles of his shoes.

For those who didn’t know, John’s activity level has been amazing when you consider that his eyes had become so bad with cataracts that two things happened: 1. he would have to strain so hard to see through the “mist,” as he called it, that the constant migraine headaches became all but unbearable and, 2. when he could read without the interruption of a headache, he couldn’t complete a single page without having to wipe the “cloud” off of his exposed eye.



God's gift of sight

Last month **Steve Evers** got the chance to share with a long time ITMI and John Jere supporter about John’s eye challenges. “What’s it going to cost to fix it?” the ITMI partner asked. Steve shared. “you could do both eyes for about \$2000 USD.” With out hesitation, the partner said, “...consider it

done.” If you could have heard how many times John said, “*Thank you, thank you, thank you*” all in a row, you would have a small idea of what your partnerships mean to these nationals whom we collectively try to serve and empower. Steve said, “...it is really not fair to be the only one [and not all of you] who continually sees the overwhelmed expressions and who regularly listens to the hushed silence as our nationals try and process the incredible gifts that are given to help them minister.”

Before John had his right eye operated on last month, he squeezed in another one of his many mission trips of mercy. This trip took him about 30 minutes south of **Lusaka** to a town called Kafue. John was asked, “... what made you go to Kafue?” John shared that the name of his home is called “Samaritan” and people from a wide area know what kind of family lives there. “*People saw the suffering [in Kafue] and came to Samaritan [for help]*” John said. John’s reputation brought a stranger who had witnessed the horrible poverty and hunger in Kafue’s **Zambia Compound**, and he was driven to seek John’s help.

John jumped at the chance to show God’s love to his forgotten people. John sacrificed at Christmas so that he

would have some extra funds to purchase food, blankets, soap and used clothes.

Even John was not ready for what he found in Zambia Compound. **Violet** and **Mangalita** are sisters.



Violet's Leper hands

Destitute is a word that is far too good for the likes of these elderly ladies. Violet is a leper who has lost not only most of her fingers and toes, but also her eye sight. Mangalita, as John describes her, is ...bewitched. Mangalita is unable to speak, and as best as John can put the pieces together, she was in a village where a spell was cast on her and she has a myriad of health issues. Mangalita has a growth on her chest that causes her intense pain most of the time.

John’s thoughts were many, as he surveyed the needs, “...human beings not living like human beings”, “Joyce [John’s wife] just continued to cry,” “...stinking, stinking, stinking...” were just a few observations.

John reminds us, “*No material support [is given] without telling them about Jesus Christ...about His love.*” “*The best help we can offer is...Jesus Christ,*” then John quoted, Acts 3:6 “*...Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee....*”

Joyce was overtaken by the odor of these two women. It was so offensive that you could almost not breath around them. This made it even tougher to serve Violet whose lack of fingers makes it quite difficult to hold even a cup of water. Joyce asked them this question, “...when was the last time you [had the privilege] to bathe?” The answer was “months.”

Joyce gingerly helped the ladies one at a time to a makeshift, short straw enclosure where she gently bathed the ladies with a new bar of soap and water. When finished washing, Joyce rubbed some lotion on the ladies dry skin. What must that have felt like? The lotion surely made a difference on the outside, but don’t you know the loving, sacrificial serving must have left an impression on the inside that soon won’t be forgotten?

John repaired the door of these ladies dilapidated hut, left some corn meal, salt and oil and as he drove back to Lusaka, he started planning how he could go back and help these ladies and this community with some simple block houses with water tight, tin roofs.

In the spring John also hopes his plans will take him to the slums of Angola where he wants to minister God’s love to the many limbless widows and children of that war torn country. John would be honored to be your representative in those areas of need. As you partner with him, rest assured that John will only sit still long enough to get his left eye fixed and then he will be off serving as a good Samaritan would be expected to do.



Mangalita waits for help from others



Violet's thankfulness



Joyce helps Mangalita drink

Greetings Team,

Hello friends, thank you for your example of trust and faith in the Lord's provision... for you and for this ministry. I share with you now that I am experiencing substantial angst due to the huge need in Haiti and my passion to "get on the ground" and see what can be done to help and minister to the Haitians. God has not yet allowed me to go there. He has not released me from His current "work" assignment of helping ITMI help our national partners.

God may not let me go to Haiti right now, but He still can and will care for them in His master plan. God may not let *you* go with me to the Congo, India, Sudan, Poland or Romania, but He has chosen to send me as His and your representative. I'm there in part, working and ministering with and for you. Your help in prayer and support empowers me and ITMI far more than you can know.

It's good to be passionate about serving...I hope that you see your real place and position more and more each day. Let's keep our arms and hands locked, serving the Lord together until He comes for us.

Blessings,



Grains of Sand

Have you ever been to a carnival and seen a "guess how many are in the jar and win a prize" contest? The jar could have anything in it. Maybe pennies, or marbles, or if you're at a county fair in the Midwest it might be a jar of shelled corn or soybeans

I have a jar of sand from Newport Beach, California. Now, I know what you're thinking...a person would have to be out of their mind to count sand in a jar.

I started on a Monday. And this is what I did...I went to the kitchen and pulled out the smallest measuring spoon I could find; one eighth of a teaspoon. Sitting at the table I dipped this measuring spoon into the sand, leveled it off with a knife, and tapped it out on to a sheet of grid paper. I turned on a small overhead light, picked up a straight pin and started to count.

Some of the grains were small. Some were very small. And some were so tiny that I'm quite sure an ant could walk over them without noticing. Guess how many grains of sand were in my one eighth of a teaspoon? Approximately 32,500...give or take a thousand. That means that in this jar there are approximately 15,600,000 grains of sand.

Have you ever been to Newport Beach? How many "15 million grain jars" do you think we could fill? In **Psalm 139**, King David paints a beautiful picture of God's intimate care for us. In verses 17-18 he makes this most wonderful statement, "**How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand.**" Imagine! God's thoughts toward us are more than all the grains of sand in



all the sandboxes and all the beaches and all the deserts of the world. God's thoughts toward us are countless.

As human beings we know what it's like to be ignored. We could all go to the mall right now and be ignored by hundreds of people. Yet the Biblical truth that God pays infinite attention to us isn't so familiar. We simply can't begin to comprehend anyone thinking that much about us. But just for a moment let's suppose that when you're born, along with a Social Security number, you're given a jar of 15 million thoughts from God for your lifetime. I wonder what kind of thoughts are in here?

There are "God thoughts" in our jar about the gifts and talents He has given us, and how we can best utilize them in ministry within the body of Christ. Thoughts about wisely using the money and resources God will entrust to us. And lots and lots of thoughts about growing and maturing into the godly person He desires us to be.

While 15 million thoughts will take us a long way, in reality our jar of thoughts from God will never be empty. In His great love for us, God pays eternal attention to the details of our lives. There is nothing that happens in our lives, whether big or small, that He is not concerned with.

With God we are never alone and never ignored. His thoughts toward us flow from His heart of goodness and kindness, of mercy and grace, forgiveness and love.

"How precious also are Your thoughts toward me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand..." - Psalm 139:17-18

- Todd Thompson

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dred pastors had been invited to the school grounds to have an intense time of prayer and preaching as the clock ticked its way into the beginning of 2010. They were prepared to pray all night in hopes of bringing a new and refreshed commitment to our Lord, to the lost of Kampala.

Kawede excitedly explained, "Among the people who attended were pastors, evangelists and the community [that live] around ISM. After [Kawede's] preaching, I managed to explain the vision and mission of ISM. We distributed 70 brochures and 30 [enrollment] application forms last night. ISM received a love offering of 60,000 Uganda shillings or \$32 US dollars." The Lord used me to explain the difficulties of educating pastors who are facing high financial poverty." "I humbled [myself] to my fellow pastor[s] and community member[s] [and asked them] to help the uneducated pastor[s] to get the training."

So far, so good, the meeting was a success for almost all parties. How can a good landlord who has a long history of excellent working relations with ISM and one, whom permission for the big event was obtained through proper channels, now come and demand a one month exit program?



ISM Pastors and Leaders Training last year

In James 1:14 we are reminded that "... each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust." The enemy is quick to take any advantage that is offered. Kawede knew that his battles were not against "flesh and blood, but "... against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness." The landlord's viewpoint and heart had ... changed... changed to the bad. Whether it was pure jealousy or just plain fear, the result was the same to Kawede and ISM.

Kawede's response came quick and swift to the In Touch Mission International (ITMI) office, "I need your prayers." "There are many obstacles to serve God [here]." "There are people who were saved in the meeting and wanted to come [to us] for follow up [discipleship training], but it is now impossible." "The Bishop of [the] Presbyterian Church of Uganda planned to send 10 pastors to [ISM], [I] don't know what to tell him."

You prayed, we prayed, Kawede prayed and the whole ISM family prayed, and God changed the "heart of the king."

On January 14th, Kawede relays the following news, "My landlord, ...[was] nervous because of the Pastor's Prayer [event] I organized on 31st December... and wanted me to go elsewhere with ISM." "But I thank God for your prayers [because] today [the landlord] said to me that she has enjoyed my working fellowship and that [of] ISM's pastors and therefore wants ISM to continue operating in the same premises...." You couldn't help but smile when Kawede immediately wrote, "I welcomed the suggestion...."

It seems "somehow" the landlord miraculously realized that "...their ministry was experiencing financial crisis and wanted me [Kawede] to cooperate [and] to continue to pay rent...."

The new stipulation by the landlord is that rent be paid in advance for January through May 2010, "by 26th of January." With some of your generous year end gifts for ISM and hopefully some additional help this month, Kawede will be able to accommodate the new demands.

We thank God for HIS provision of this current and great need for ISM's location. We ask you to continue to pray with us as we still are trying to find and acquire school land that could be used to expand ISM's influence many, many times over in this needy part of Africa. Until we have land, we seek God's help with the landlord's heart.

The battles are everywhere in Uganda and in our own backyards, but we know that our God is able to do "abundantly above all that we could ask or think." May we be sensitive to His plan and His will.

- Steve Evers



Kawede brings dinner home

For Praise . . .

1. Tim and Ashley Keller: Praise for God's protection, provision and grace in the events of baby Frederick's birth.
2. John Jere: Praise for God's mercy and grace as John and Joyce willingly show us all godly examples of serving others.
3. ITMI Donors: Praise and gratefulness for God's provision through the small and large sacrifices of each partner.
4. Piotr Zaremba: Praise and wonder as God has helped and empowered Piotr's team with the completion of Psalms.

For Prayer . . .

1. Tim and Ashley Keller: traveling mercies as they trek back home to Zambia from South Africa with their two babies.
2. Bread of Life: Provision of current and immediate needs and wisdom for the use of future funds.
3. Steve Evers: Wisdom and strength to know and to do God's will and plan for ITMI and everyone that touches us.
4. Piotr Zaremba: God ordained meetings as he travels the States in the month of February.

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