



FAR REACHING
MINISTRIES



CHRISTMAS UPDATE

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I HAVE GIVEN YOU THIS LAND TO WORSHIP ME

Captain Ismail Kombochi, chaplain C00184, graduated from the third class of the Chaplain Corp in South Sudan. For the past 16 years, he has served as a soldier and chaplain. Ismail is from the Nuba Mountain region and was redeployed there after his graduation. The Nuba Mountains was, at one time, considered to be the most dangerous place in the world. While it no longer holds this distinction, it is still rated among the top tier of dangerous localities (South Sudan currently holds the designation of being the third most dangerous nation in the world, and the Nuba Mountain region is considered the most dangerous region within the nation).

In April 2016, the enemy soldiers of northern Sudan launched an offensive in the Karkarai area with a force of 4,000 soldiers. They nearly overran the headquarters of Ismail's unit. Thankfully, the fierce determination and great fighting ability of Nubian soldiers prevailed, and they were able to hold off the enemy's first assault. Ismail's unit was strongly aware that if the enemy hit them a second time, their sheer will, and skill may not be enough to overcome the strength in numbers.

Chief of Staff, General Jagot, sent for Ismail saying, "We are in a very bad situation. We have only one 120-millimeter gun and only 10 shells of ammunition. The enemy has a superior size force and numerous weapons." Then, he said, "Ismail, we need the power of your God! I need you to come and to encourage the morale of the men." Ismail had little to bolster morale with as much intelligence he had. Knowing from his own experience that victory only comes from the Lord, Ismail went into prayer.

The Lord directed him where to fire their limited ammunition and he fervently prayed, "Lord, may every shell hit its target to protect your people." His first shell struck an ammunition truck. It ignited into a massive ball of fire taking many enemy soldiers in its flames. His second shell hit a fuel truck, which also exploded immobilizing another large number of the enemy's forces. Then Ismail paused, sensing God was leading him to allow for a brief

respite. Ismail then fired his third round and it landed in the center of the remaining troops. The enemy burst into a frenzied and chaotic terror trying to reorganize.

Even though the enemy were Islamic in faith, they also relied on the counsel of a witchdoctor, which they call "The Feki". The Feki warned the men that if all troops did not evacuate by nightfall, everyone would be dead by morning. The entire enemy force of close to 4,000 fled. General Jagot thanked Ismail and said, "We have been delivered by the hand of your God!"

The enemy tried to send another force to flank the area, and Ismail was called to join the garrison at El Azarak. El Azarak was an extremely barren and hot place. General Jagot sent for Ismail. As Ismail journeyed, he heard the Lord say to him, "Pray." Almost immediately, he ran into an enemy ambush. The bullets were so close he could hear them whizz past his head.

Ismail ran to warn the other men when a rocket propelled grenade was fired directly at him. He was zig zagging, and the grenade missed him, detonating and causing a great explosion. He retrieved the men in his garrison, and they returned engaging the enemy. They were able to soundly defeat them with about 90 soldiers, when the enemy had 300.

At El Azarak, Ismail's garrison was facing an enemy force of 3,000. It was impossible to defend themselves, because they had only seven shells and ammunition for the machine guns that they carried. Ismail went into prayer, and the Lord spoke to him from Ephesians 6, "Put on the full armor of God and prepare to stand against the enemy. Then Ismail said the Lord spoke to him and said Ismail, this is what I created you for. Stand and fight to protect your people. I have given you this land to worship Me and I will give the enemy into your hand."

Once again Ismail prayed, "Lord, tomorrow is Sunday, and I do not want to fight on Sunday. I want to worship you so give the enemy into my hands this day and let every shell



CAPTAIN ISMAIL KOMBOCHI



DESTROYED TANK

"I fire find its mark!" God answered powerfully, the first shell hit and destroyed a tank. The next hit an enemy truck with men inside, and the third penetrated a building with a large contingency of soldiers inside. By the time Ismail released his fourth shell, the enemy was fleeing in absolute panic. The entire garrison mounted vehicles, abandoning many weapons and supplies that Ismail's men so desperately needed. Not only did God deliver them, He gave them a bountiful plunder that strengthened morale.

The choices these chaplains make are shaping South Sudan's future and writing a continuing history of God's power

calling upon all His children to stand in truth and to shine in these increasingly dark days. The righteous are to be bold like a lion. If we do not step out in faith, when the odds are stacked against us, we will never know what mighty miracle God may have wrought for us!

In the Old Testament, we have 613 commands and 1,050 in



120 MM GUN



A NATION AT WAR

to overcome against all odds. Men consecrated to serve Christ face hardship and trials. Often, they must choose, when the battle is at its darkest hour, whether to walk by faith or to succumb to the weakness. Every time they choose to trust Christ, miracles like the one Ismail described happen and all the glory goes back to God. But, in my experience, over many years when men gave into weakness and fear they just seemed to fade away and are forgotten.

You may not live in a warzone but make no mistake, you too are in a very real spiritual battle. Jesus Christ is

the new. Of all the commands, the most important is that we are to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our minds. Once you truly give your all to God, your life no longer belongs to you. While we are on earth, we have the chance to choose the course of our lives, and in doing so, we choose whether we are remembered as men and women who walked out our faith. This may not seem much like a Christmas story, but these chaplains are the watchman on the wall protecting a nation through fervent prayer and action. Because of their valiant effort, this Christmas, a nation will be free to worship Christ.

Wes Bentley

Far Reaching Ministries

Jeremiah 10:23 says that, I know oh Lord that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his footsteps.



Knights



To fear God and protect His church
To serve the Lord in valour and faith
To protect the weak and defenseless
To give refuge to widows and orphans
To refrain from the giving of offence
To live by honour and for the glory of God
To fight for the welfare of all
To obey those placed in authority
To guard the honour of fellow knights
Never to refuse the challenge when the innocent are in peril
To keep faith
At all times to speak the truth
To respect the honour of women
Never to turn the back upon a foe

Code of
Chivalry

KNIGHTHOOD

When I was a child, the world looked very different from the way it looks today. As a family we never locked our doors, or had any thought that by not doing so, we were in danger. Children addressed adults as Mister or Missus. To be disrespectful was a character flaw not something to be applauded. I remember when it all began to change in the 60s. Movies about the rebel, who stood against what was accepted as the norm and broke the law, were being put in a positive light in theaters and on television. Rock bands promoted drunkenness and sex outside of marriage as being cool, or so to say. Prayer was being removed from public schools, and sexual perversion was promoted as freedom to choose or expressions of art.

See the problem is, is that you must have a higher law, which is God's law. Otherwise one cannot say that one path is better than another. You lose the ability to say Nazi Germany did not have the right to take over the world, and kill 6,000,000 Jews, nor did Stalin not have the right to starve millions of people to death and send them to Gulags never to see their families again. This is what the world does not understand, that if you do not have a higher law, that is enforced, society will destroy itself.

Pastor Don McClure came to Africa to see the work last year. He told me that I have never seen more disciplined and committed men in my life. He went onto say that I notice that you do not interact with a lot of the other Calvary Ministries in Africa. I shared that I was not trying to be exclusive, but that we had our hands full with the war. I do not train my men to be sold out for Christ, but fanatical for God's Kingdom. Service to the King is to supersede everything else. The chaplains are to love the Lord their God with great passion and devotion, and I do not want them to be infected with a love for this world. See, I believe men should live above reproach, and have a moral code based on God's law.

In this ministry, we have great accountability. On my board of directors, I have Pastor Ray Bentley from Maranatha Chapel, as well as, Dean Broyles from the National Center for Law and Policy, whose whole-life purpose is to fight to protect Christian rights. We also have on our board, one of law enforcement's top agents whose whole job is to prosecute criminals. Every year, we go over the financial records of the ministry. The only disagreement I have had with them, in all these years, is that I have refused to take a raise for over ten years. At our last board meeting, one of the board members said, "Wes, you are the worst paid mission director, for what you do, in the history of mission directors." I shared I do not

want anyone to ever look at our finances and say that he's doing it for the money. Once again, I asked not to be given a raise, but the board overrode my authority and gave me a raise anyways. I know what they did was the right decision—I'm just careful. Folks, if you want to do wrong, you do not put these types of men on your board. I have told pastors if you want to see our financial records, all you must do is ask; I have nothing to hide. My wife asked our accountant one time how our financial records compared with other Christian organizations. He responded that he does accounting for both secular and Christian organizations, and by far, FRM has the best kept records he'd ever seen. We know where every dime has gone.

What I am trying to share, is I want to raise up a generation of men where no foul language proceeds from their mouth. Men who do not use women, who are unfaithful, and throw them away for another. We are training men who are both physically and spiritually strong. We are to care for the weak, feed the hungry, and look for those who the world has rejected and befriend them, making them feel loved and welcome in our families. These men will lay down their lives to protect and save others—men who are knights for God's Kingdom. Why am I sharing these things with you—because we live in a time where many men in ministry are compromising. I believe that they have missed what God created them for, and that is to live as a Knight of the Cross.

With that, I recently decided to release about a dozen chaplains from the Corp. They did not commit adultery or commit what we refer to as deep-dark sins. What they did was they took their eyes off the Lord and started to pursue things of this world. This is not in keeping with the high standard to be able to wear the chaplain uniform. Men who are allowed the privilege to serve with us must live above reproach.

We have a code we live by which holds the very fabric of our society together. It is called the Knights Code. To wear this uniform, you must live by this code.

Wes Bentley
Far Reaching Ministries



ABANDONED

In many of the countries we work in, we cannot share the location because we are being watched, as is the case with this country in the following story. We run this under our Ghost Operation ministry, which is the invisible hand into closed countries. While this story does not come from an Islamic Country, it is still closed to evangelicals. The needs here are real, and with little, we can do much.

As a family, we are serving several single women and their children by bringing them food on a monthly basis. With each bag of groceries that we distribute, we provide dry goods, and then once we know more specific needs, we attempt to help them to the best of our ability. We are finding that there are too many needs to be met on the income that we have.

In this culture, when a daughter marries and leaves home, she is to leave forever. We have found out that once she marries, it is unimportant to her family if she is abused, neglected or cheated on, and she is to stay with the husband no matter what. This being the case, if he leaves her or abandons her, she is now shamed among her relatives and they will not help her. Of course, this is not the rule in every situation, but it is acceptable in this culture. Hence, we have met a large group of single women, with absolutely no help. They have been abandoned and literally left on the streets to fend for themselves. It makes them vulnerable to prostitution just to provide food for their children.

Many people do not understand how difficult and scary it is to be abandoned. I heard of a small five-year-old boy whose father took him to the train station and sat him down and said, "I will be back in a little while, just

wait." But the father never returned. For this child, with no mother, it was terrifying for him to realize he was all alone.

Recently, we went to a home where three single mothers live with their six children under the age of three. We walked into this house in the early afternoon, and all the children were sprawled out sleeping everywhere—these moms seemed so desperate. One mom works while the others help with the children. She works at the local grocery store full time and receives less than \$100 each month.



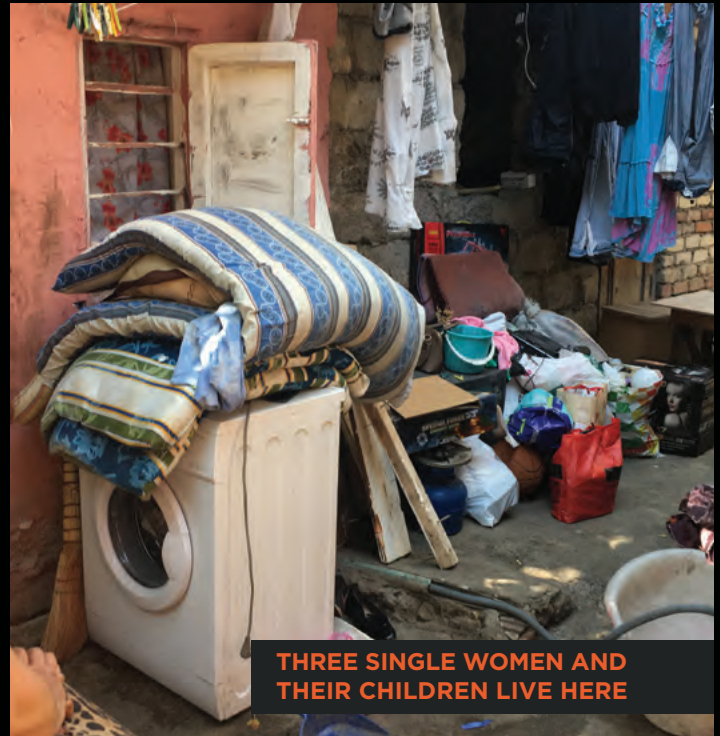
BARELY LIVABLE

In the coming months, FRM (Far Reaching Ministries) will be working more with abandon children. We have learned about groups of as many as 40 children living in basements of buildings. In one place, a team went down into a basement and found a crawl space where they had to crawl through an opening about 30 inches high, for about 15 feet, and

found a room with 40 children living in the dark. As they scanned the room, they found a six-year-old little blond girl in dirty clothing. She had not bathed for some time and her hair was unclean. She was a sweet looking child, just alone in the world, without family. When one of the team asked her why she was there, she responded that it was to keep from being beaten. I cannot disclose this location just yet, but in the coming months we will.

These vulnerable groups of people have become a new mission field for our family. We invite them to our home and cook dinner for them. We then share the Gospel with them and try to befriend them in any way. We do this so they can see that even though they have been abandoned by all relatives, and their husbands, the Lord cares for them and their children. We also help a woman and her 12-year-old son. They live in a little shack behind a large apartment building. We went in and remodeled her small home, to make it more practical. After meeting her, we quickly learned that she has been left alone, with no means of an income. She grew up in a home with drunk parents and never went to school. She also has diabetes and asthma. Since being made aware of her living condition, we take them food regularly and she has started coming to Bible study and is seeking the Lord.

As another ministry opportunity, we have opened the ESL (English as a Second Language) center for children in the month of August, and in September, we expanded classes for all ages. This ministry grew so quickly that we have funded all the startup costs to open the doors. We are lacking the resources to put the final touches on the building. At this point, we need funding for the following basic items: flooring, a TV monitor, a large white board, a couple more tables and some basic supplies. There is also the monthly rent of \$500 to be paid.



To date, we have already met hundreds of people through the ESL center. Everyone in our little region knows who our family is. This act of breaking the ice, with the local residents, allows us to witness on the street and have many conversations about salvation and the Gospel. We are excited to see what is in store for our family.

Our missionary on the ground needs some help with providing for these families. If you would like to be a part of this, kindly notate “Abandoned” on the enclosed gift card and we will make sure these families get the help they so desperately need.

Wes Bentley

Far Reaching Ministries

As we come to the end of 2019, Vicky and I want to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas. Over the last year, Far Reaching Ministries has been operating in 26 countries. Many have come to faith in Christ and lives have not only been saved spiritually, but physically as well. Many have been fed, and those who have been sick have been taken care of. There have been schools and churches built. Most importantly, Christ has been represented with great integrity.

 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** 
Wes Bentley
Wes Bentley

VEHICLES FOR SOUTH SUDAN



In South Sudan, safe transportation is critical. With the constant threat of attack from the enemy and the harsh terrain, two new specialized vehicles are necessary for the ministry. In order for the men to have their weapons on target at a moments' notice, the vehicles must have doors that can easily be taken off and put on.

The cost of each vehicle, properly equipped for the road conditions, is about \$58,000. To assist with these critical purchases, please indicate **"VEHICLES FOR SOUTH SUDAN"** on the enclosed gift card with your donation.

ABANDONED



Under Ghost Operations, our missionaries are assisting single women and their children in a country closed to the Gospel. These women are abandoned by their husbands and left to care for their children in mostly deplorable conditions. To practically share Jesus with them, we provide grocery items, then help them with more specific needs. If you would like to be part of providing food, along with other practical items, and most importantly Jesus, notate **"ABANDONED"** on the enclosed gift card.



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