

FAR REACHING MINISTRIES

THREE MONTHS BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Joseph Kuyok Lengudi, chaplain C00153, is a first lieutenant in the South Sudan Army. After his graduation from chaplaincy training, we lost contact with him for eight years as he was deployed to the farthest edge of enemy territory. After many years of no contact from Joseph, he was able to attend our 2015 refresher course, where he recounted several of the battles that he was entrenched in.

In one of the battles that he was in, the unit that he was assigned to was under the authority of a non-believing commander. Joseph's unit was facing a formidable enemy force that was much larger and better equipped. They were deep in enemy territory, fighting near Darfur, almost 400 miles away from their base.

As they prepared to go into battle, a witch doctor wanted to cast a spell on the soldiers using a giraffe tail, believing that this would give them victory. He told the men that this

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tail had great power. Joseph's commander was preparing to go ahead with the ritual when Joseph asked his commander to allow him to speak. Then, Joseph said, “You witch doctors are always trying to lead people astray and away from the Word of God. This giraffe was not even able to keep his own tail! How can it have any power?” The witch doctor started to curse and said, “You chaplains are always interfering

with our power!” Even after this reasoning, the commander would not listen to Joseph. The commander spent the night drinking, rather than preparing the men for battle.



Joseph, on the other hand, prepared his men for the imminent battle that lay ahead.

As they prepared to engage with the enemy the next day, God gave Joseph wisdom on how to protect all of the men. He saw a place where they could have the high-ground advantage. From this location, they could withstand an assault by a much larger force. Also, there was a stream where they could get water, but his commander, refused the plan. He would not listen to reason and he wanted to press ahead without sending scouts to observe the battleground. Joseph spoke up again, and said, "Let us, at least, deploy to this mountain where we might have some kind of advantage against the enemy." The commander allowed Joseph to go to the mountain with 32 men, while the three remaining groups went with the commander.

When Joseph's group got to the mountain, he prayed with his unit and read Deuteronomy 31:4-8, Joshua 24:16-18 and

Psalm 91. As they prepared by seeking the Lord, the enemy laid an ambush for the non-believing commander and his group of soldiers. By the time the commander realized that the enemy was there, he had led his group of 160 men into the ambush. They were outnumbered by a force 3,000 strong. Had the commander listened to Joseph's advice, during the initial assault, and waited on higher ground, the enemy would have fallen into their hands, giving the unit a chance to escape. Instead, the commander and his men were caught with nowhere to go and had to fight from eight in the morning until four in the afternoon.

The place that Joseph had stationed his men gave them a strategic advantage for the battle. Joseph told his men that they would not survive even one day unless they held their position. One officer refused to listen and started down the mountain. He was immediately shot in the head and killed by the enemy. This caused all the other men to realize that Joseph had a better understanding than the other officers.



The other three groups with the commander were cut off, surrounded and annihilated. Not one man survived—not even the commander.

The place where Joseph and his men held their position had a stream, which gave them drinking water. Under the extreme heat, the men were able to stay hydrated during battle and this allowed them to hold off the enemy. At one point, the enemy was forced to pull back for water. In this moment of calm, the Lord spoke to Joseph and the Holy Spirit showed him a way of escape. Joseph had already lost four of his men in the battle and he knew they were almost completely out of ammunition. They would

not withstand another attack. During a brief lull, he told his men how God had shown him that they must make their escape immediately through the streams or that they would all be killed in the next assault. The 28 remaining soldiers moved quickly and escaped into the bush.

Joseph prayed that the Lord would spare all of the men who the Lord had entrusted to him so that he could get them to safety. Surrounded by the enemy, the Lord did not allow any of the men to fall into their

hands. The Lord's direction at each point allowed them to avoid the enemy patrol. However, their troubles were just beginning as they were nearly 400 miles from friendly lines.

**“BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT FEAR
OR BE IN DREAD OF THEM, FOR IT IS THE LORD
YOUR GOD WHO GOES WITH YOU. HE WILL NOT
LEAVE YOU OR FORSAKE YOU.”**

DEUTERONOMY 31:6





"Be strong, therefore, and prove yourself to be a man."
- King David



Chaplain Joseph Kuyok Lengudi



Surviving the bush

Among the many obstacles they faced, the most vital was the loss of all their food. Joseph realized that if the men died, it would be because of starvation. Since they had very few bullets left, they were forced to choose the best marksman in their group so no ammunition would be wasted. They prayed every time a shot was taken and the bullet never missed its mark. Once the animal was shot, they would quickly cut off its legs and leave the body behind. They would run for cover because the enemy would come in the direction of where the shot was fired. At night, they would dig a hole in the ground and roast the meat so a fire would not be seen. All the men were careful with their food, because they did not know when they would eat again. In the bush where the men were, the covering was only a couple feet high so they had to lay down during the day and move by night. As the weeks went on, the men became weak from hunger so they took off their boots because they were too heavy and traveled barefoot. They survived this way for three months.

During the refresher course, Joseph told us that what kept the men strong was by reading Deuteronomy, Joshua and Psalm 91. Daily, Joseph prayed and encouraged the men, and after three months, they were able to reach the safety of their lines. Joseph prayed all along the way that not one man would be lost and God honored his prayer.

Joseph's testimony had a great impact on all of Division Five. Even his divisional commander said that the non-believing commander was dead because he did not trust the Lord. Joseph shared with me, "Wes, the training at the chaplains' base is tough, but it was this training that saved my life." The Lord had not only honored Joseph's faith, but He had answered his prayers, too.

The Division Five commander requested that Far Reaching Ministries take another 30 men for the 10th class of chaplaincy training, which began its session on August 1, 2015. The commander realized that it was Joseph's prayers that had saved the men in his unit.

As a footnote, after being away from his family for eight years, Joseph learned that his wife had left him for another man. Joseph told me that he would not hold any anger against her. Joseph realized that he is in the hands of God, and he has chosen to forgive and move on. God has honored Joseph's heart and brought him into a new relationship. Joseph will be getting married this September. He is 41 years old.

Wes Bentley

Wes Bentley



THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEMBER OF OUR STAFF HAS FALLEN

I have had to write too many of these letters over the years and it is with great sorrow that I must once again relay the death of another chaplain, who was shot and killed. On August 2, 2015, Gabriel Makou Mayak, chaplain C00163, was killed in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Gabriel shared about his life before Christ in this short testimony:

I was sent with six others to a cattle camp. We were worshipping idols and we believed that the idols could protect us. One day, the Arabs attacked us and the six others with me were all killed. I then realized the idols were powerless. A pastor from my village told me that if I put my trust in Jesus, I would see real power. He used the book of Job as an example of someone who suffered loss, and through faith Job survived. He told me I was a sinner and led me in a prayer to accept Christ as my personal Savior. Since that time, I have been following the teaching of the Bible. I was referred to the chaplain training program by my pastor.

I am so happy for this training. I have learned many things about the Bible, and now, I am ready to go to the front to preach. If peace comes to Sudan, I will continue to serve in the church. My life belongs to Jesus Christ and where He sends me, I will go.

Gabriel's favorite scripture:

Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth, go ye therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:18-20

You can never underestimate a Godly foundation, or the witness of a Christian testimony in an individual's life. Gabriel had accomplished a tremendous amount in the years that the Lord had given him. He had planted a church and raised up a senior pastor and turned the church over to him. Gabriel remained as the assistant pastor while this man established himself.

Gabriel served with such distinction as a chaplain that the local community recognized his gifts and had elected him to the mayor's office. Through his witness, many had come to know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Gabriel was a good father and husband and leaves behind five children. While his family greatly misses him, they know that he was called by the Lord.

Wes Bentley
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NUBA MOUNTAIN **MEDICAL RELIEF**



LAST YEAR, NEARLY 300,000 PATIENTS WERE TREATED AS A RESULT OF THE EIGHT METRIC TONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES THAT WE DELIVERED TO THE NUBA MOUNTAINS:

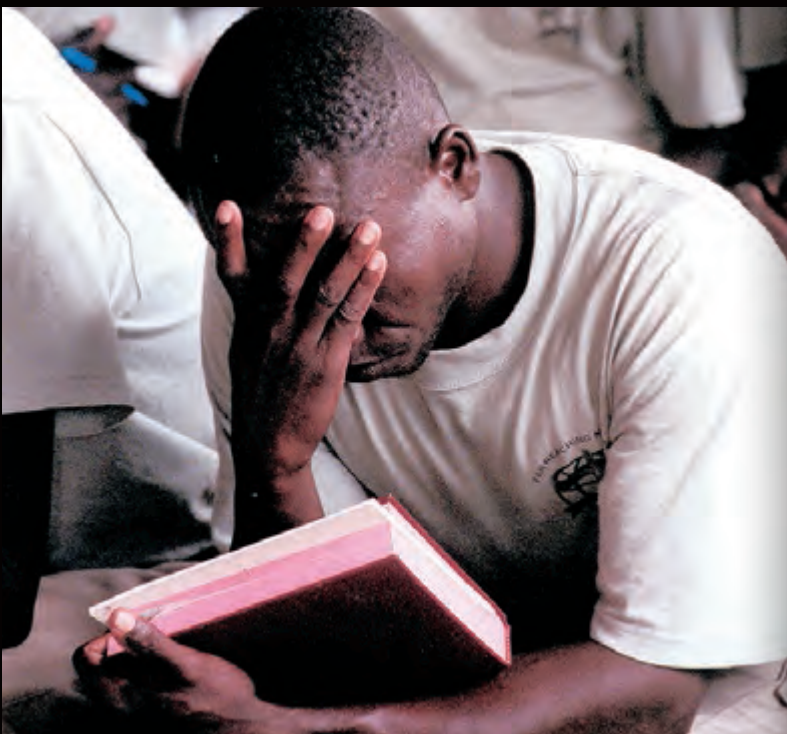
Although we cannot stop the suffering that impacts millions of lives across the globe, Far Reaching Ministries (FRM) has been called to take God's love right into Satan's fiercest strongholds. In the face of this adversity, last year nearly 300,000 patients were treated as a result of medical supplies that we delivered to the Nuba Mountains. One of the major generals of the Nubian Forces Army, personally came to our compound in South Sudan to thank FRM and said, "What our government was not able to accomplish, you have done. You have come from the furthest corners of Sudan to help us. You will never know the lives you have saved." He has asked FRM for continued provision of medical supplies and for two mobile-surgical units. When the men are wounded, many do not survive because the nearest hospital is four hours away. To respond to this important need, please notate "**Nuba Mt. Relief**" on the enclosed gift card with your contribution.



WE NEED YOUR **HELP!**

This past August, FRM launched our 10th class of chaplains! Comprising 106 students, this is the largest and most diverse class of chaplains in the history of FRM. For 12 months, these chaplain candidates will undergo intensive Biblical training as they go verse by verse through all 66 books of the Bible. When they graduate, they will be deployed to the frontlines where they will minister to the military and plant churches in rural villages.

The cost of training one chaplain is approximately \$4,000, for the whole year. Would you prayerfully consider investing in the future pastors and chaplains of South Sudan? To do so, please indicate "**Chaplain Cadet**" on the enclosed gift card along with your donation. Upon graduation, you will receive a dossier of your chaplain in his new uniform.





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