

Joy's Special Edition '09 Monthly Memo

Joy Phillips serves with World Gospel Mission in Sudan

Pots full of oil

The Word

"The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my boys as his slaves."

Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?"

"Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a little oil."

Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side."

She left him and afterwards shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one."

But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing.

She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts.. You and your sons can live on what is left."

2 Kings 4:1-7



In a seminar that our team recently attended this Bible Story was presented. Powerful themes that arise include:

- Trust in God's provision
- Faith in action
- God is enough

Yesterday morning I reread this story after completing our WGM Sudan Board meeting the day before. I was thankful for the many ways we have seen God's provision during this past year.

Yesterday morning Reuben Kirui, one of our team members, also told this story to the hospital staff where he and Joseah are based in Sudan.

Little did either of us know that the truths of this story would soon be proven in a very real way!

This is what happened

Reuben and Joseah were traveling on their motorbikes yesterday when Reuben was stopped by two men who jumped into the road. One man carried an AK-47 rifle. Reuben was not able to alert Joseah, who was in front of him, to the situation before Joseah rounded a corner and was out of sight. The men forced Reuben to push his bike into the densely overgrown bush. When pushing the bike became too hard they left the bike and went deeper into the forest. The men searched Reuben for anything of value with a gun pointed at him. Reuben feared he would be shot. The sound of a motorcycle (Joseah had doubled back to search for Reuben when he did not show up at their destination) scared the men and they left Reuben lying on the ground in the forest. After hiding in the forest for over an hour he was able to return to the road and was helped by some cattle herders and eventually found a vehicle to take him back to town. The army assisted in the retrieval of his motorcycle with a failed attempt to apprehend the two attackers.

My heart was in my throat as Reuben shared this story with me via satellite phone this morning. I could not help but observe several similarities to the incident that occurred to Dr. Carol Spears and I in 2003. Pointed guns and the fear of death. It was the sound of a plane, not a motorbike, which frightened the men away six years ago. God allowed the retrieval of my vehicle as well. God had given me words from Daniel 3:16-18 as an encouragement through that incident.

The story of the widow's oil is comforting. We know that even in times of despair God has a plan for meeting our needs. As we faithfully walk in the way He calls us - just like the widow's meager supply of oil ended up providing abundantly for her family's needs - we believe God will continue to pour out His blessings on Mango Ministries.

We are praying and trusting Him to provide for our team: safety and protection from harm, health, resources to carry out the plans He has given us, and wisdom in maneuvering in a difficult and complicated situation.

Please pray with me that His healing oil will continue to strengthen and give peace to Reuben, Joseah, and their families. I remember how comforted I felt being surrounded by the family of God after the incident I was involved in in 2003. If you would like to send Reuben and Joseah an email note I know it will be a big blessing to them. They retrieve Email via satellite connection so simple text only and no attachments please.

reuben@wgmsudan.org

joseah@wgmsudan.org

Thank you for holding the Mango Ministry team before the Lord in prayer. We are depending on you to keep us going.

Shalom, *joy*



Reuben on his motorbike in Sudan

Prayer

- Praise for safety in this recent attack on Reuben
- Praise for local community support of our team
- Pray for emotional healing for Reuben and Joseah after this trauma
- Pray for the gospel message to transform people's lives in Sudan
- Pray for safety in travel!

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