



THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF
RECONCILIATION STUDIES

Thanks You *for praying*

Friends like you sent us, and carried us in prayer. We came home with jaw dropping stories of God's goodness in the midst of horror and devastation. Some moments were truly too holy for words. We stood amazed at God time after time, as we watched God's transforming power. We want to share with you a few of those moments.

Too Holy for Words...Seeing God in the Story in East Africa

God's great work rarely happens in midst of peace, but rather in the most trying circumstances, His power, His grace, His transformational power shines. It's been said that Africa's soil is red from blood shed. The death toll in East Africa is beyond credulity. The Democratic Republic of Congo has lost 5 million people making it the world's most deadliest war since World War II. Rwanda has experienced not one, but 3 genocides. Sudan, is reeling from the ravages of war. Northern Uganda is slowly waking up from a 22 year war waged by the Lord's Resistance Army. Recently Kenya, called the island of peace, erupted into violence with even pastor's killing other pastor's children. John Mulinde said about Kenya, it was as if the bowels of hell spilled over. **Yet in the midst of this devastation, God has been forming a people for Himself.** As we gathered recently for the East African Reconciler's Gathering in Gulu, leaders from Sudan, Rwanda, Kenya, Congo, Tanzania and Uganda, shared unforgettable stories of God's presence and beauty. **One particularly moving story was from a woman named Hedwig, from Paraguay, who married a man from Barbados named Colin.** As

a couple they ministered deep healing to leader's hearts across Africa. As they were crossing the Sudan border their car was attacked by the Lord's Resistance Army. Their driver fled for his life, and Colin was shot many times. Hedwig managed to drag her dying husband out of the car, as the rebel's poured liquid on the car to torch it. Many rifles were pointed on her head and chest, yet miraculously the rebels didn't kill her.

In the midst of the horror, Hedwig saw one of the rebels, a girl soldier about 14 looking at the scene with sadness, and God spoke to Hedwig's heart. "You must forgive her, she is a victim as well." Hedwig immediately forgave her, and then managed to find another car. Shesat in the back-seat with her dying husband in her lap for over 3 hours on pocked marked, pot holed roads as they made their way to the nearest hospital. .

At the hospital Colin breathed his last breath. Hedwig saw a vision of his reception in heaven, and knew she could not call him back. As he died, she immediately started bleeding, and started to loose the baby she was carrying in her womb. **Hedwig returned Colin's body to the Bahamas-**

Experienced *your prayers*

Hedwig felt Jesus asking her for a favor. She felt Jesus ask her to fight for her baby's life, and for her own. Hedwig felt like she was to spend 7 hours each morning simply worshipping. So she balanced her guitar on her ever expanding belly and sang to Jesus for 7 hours each day, speaking peace to her traumatized baby in her womb. She is now a healthy, exuberant girl of 2 years and 4 months. She is beautiful with joy. Hedwig returned to the land of her husband's murderers 4 months ago, and she has just graduated 60 students from an inner healing course she teaches. We felt we were in the presence of greatness as we listened to her story and saw the radiance of Jesus on her face.

One Sudanese Pastor told us how he forgave his wife for running off with another man who had AIDS. When the man was taken to court, the husband expressed forgiveness, and 85 people came to the Lord. They had never in their lifetimes seen a husband forgive his wife for adultery. We saw with our own eyes, a former LRA soldier who was abducted when he was 14, ministering along side his former commander. Patrick had been made to do unspeakable acts, but the team fell in love with him. He was truly along with many others, one of God's great trophies of grace.

We were invited to come to Sudan to hold a reconciliation gathering for government and church leaders. We were also invited to go throughout Uganda with the message of reconciliation. Leader after leader shared they had never been in a gathering where their stories were the main catalyst for prayer and conversation.

Pastor Jonnes Twebaze Bakim from Kansana Community Church, shared much of the Father's heart, as he took hours to individually bless each leader with a Father's blessing. We are convinced that East Africa needs the spirit of adoption, and that permanent healing from clan/tribal warfare will only come from acceptance of our place as loved sons and daughters of the King. Pastor Jonnes was a great gift from Jesus to us as he spoke much wisdom and perspective into our sessions.

There is a crucial need in East Africa for deep inner healing, wise counsel, and understanding of God's commission to His people as reconcilers. We were asked to translate the 1 year reconciliation course into Swahili and French. Which we are praying about doing soon.

In addition to the East African Reconciler's Gathering, we spoke in IDP (internally displaced person) camps, spoke to 600 prisoners, gave member care to the staff of Favor of God, loved orphans, two of our wonderful men built play equipment, one of our team, taught an Asset Based Community Development Seminar, (that is immediately bearing fruit in Gulu), and we introduced the curriculum we wrote for the upcoming Mission Training School for Western College students coming to Uganda. We were wonderfully received and given rich hospitality by Favor of God staff who endeared their hearts to us.

May you receive much reward from all that God accomplished on this trip. We love you and do not take lightly your love, prayers, and investment in our lives. Thank you for being so generous, and displaying God's heart to us, as we seek to display His heart to the nations.

We welcome your prayers for the following;

1. Jesus to get maximum glory in all we do.
2. That we would know next steps in response to what God has shown us about East Africa.
3. That each East African leader that attended would preserve in their hearts the words God gave them, especially the Father's blessing.
4. That God would refresh everyone involved as they return to their respective assignments, and challenges.
5. That we would know our own specific obedience, and not compare our life with the stories we heard.

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