

GOSPEL FIRE INTERNATIONAL (Australia)

c/- Rod Winter Pty Ltd, 198 Greenhill Road, Eastwood SA 5063

Phone: (08) 8251-7112

Email: australia@gfi-ministries.org



www.gfi-ministries.org

MARCH 2005

Tribe Worships Goat....

On a recent trip into the Sudan, Peter Franz and his team discovered an isolated tribe who've rarely seen a white person. There in the middle of the village, in a circle of stones, stood a lone goat that had been carefully chosen to be endowed with all their worldly gifts of



blankets, necklaces, beads and adornments. This most treasured possession was oblivious to the honour being unknowingly heaped upon it. The goat never moved from the circle, whether by force or by choice, and daily as the people would pass by, they would pay homage to the "blessed one". Then, on one very special day of the year, this much revered benefactor was led gently from the circle it had known as home for many months, to a place where many of its ancestors had been before. Trailing its kingly possessions along, it stood quietly on the edge of the river, laden with gifts. The tribal elders began to wade into the river, all the while pulling gently on the rope to coax the creature away from the safety of the bank.

As happened every year, the people gathered solemnly at the river...not just to watch, but to participate in this soul stirring event. Stepping cautiously into the shallows as was led further into deeper waters, the ritual was almost complete. Unable to struggle and weighed down with the treasures of its subjects, the sacrificial "lamb" disappears from sight. The people were silent but happy, as inwardly they know that once again they have been vindicated of their sins. But all too soon, the symbolic process would start all over again in readiness for next year's atonement.

What a miraculous opportunity for Peter and his team to be able to share the wonderful story of the real Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The way was paved, and many found true life that day through the Saviour.

Animism, Bombs and Witchdoctors....

This most current of reports comes from Pastor Kasii who sets up and runs all of GFI's African crusades. With the challenge to get the name of Jesus into tribes who have never heard, GFI's huge semi-trailer, laden with generators, speaker towers, musical equipment and

lights, food, water and the basic necessities of life, struggled over bush tracks, sand dunes, swollen rivers and dry creek beds to bring the life giving gospel to the tribal people of African. 'Roads' in Sudan are terrible...40km takes six hours to cover in a good vehicle and the truck covered over 400 kilometres inside Sudan.

What a pleasure it was to share with the people in the villages in the Didinga hills and the especially small town of Chukudum, recently shattered by war, and Kapoeta recently flattened by bombs. To this day, the town is still surrounded by unexploded mines. But best of all was the privilege of sharing the gospel for the very first time to the unreached Tobosa tribe in Karokomuge. But what a surprise to see these people living almost completely without clothes...unheard of to us. But the team carried on with showing the Jesus film



The response of these people to the message was overwhelming and left the team wondering if they should stay longer. These tribal people have only ever been exposed to animism (the belief that everything has a soul) and are fully dependant on their witchdoctors for everything.

What a joy it was to give them The Solution to life.

Only a few weeks ago now, the team went to Isiolo and Nkubu planning up-coming crusades with the pastors. Isiolo is a very strong Islamic town where not long ago, Christians were stoned while preaching the gospel. But still the GFI team, headed by Evangelist Peter Franz, press on in obedience to God's leading.

Special Thank You To Australia...

Peter, and his team pass on a big *thank you* to the Australians who continually pray for the work in Africa. The team appreciate your prayers, not just for the work, but also for them personally as they face the every day challenges that we do. But they love to praise God who always answers their prayers and supplies all of their needs.

Coastal Crusade...many saved and healed....

Just before Christmas Australia's GFI director Rod Winter travelled to Malindi on the Kenyan coast together with Peter Lynch (Vic) and Graeme Plant (Qld). "Sin City" as it's known was impacted by the GFI crusade that saw many give their lives to Christ. Excitement grew as people watched in awe and praised God as a little girl who came to the meeting paralysed on one side, walked home completely healed. The crusade and pastors meetings were also a great success, and the Malindi church is now growing at a rate of 50 additional people a week since then...proof positive that in the midst of a Muslim stronghold, heaven is claiming back its own...!

Oz Donations...

- Thanks to those who gave over \$30,000 to GFI in 2004
- Unimog (truck pictured above) was bought by us in Australia for outreach into tribal lands – cost \$20,000
- Please consider donating for the 2005 crusades which will reach millions for Jesus Christ



GFI Africa 2005 Timetable....

- Peter & Becki in USA & Canada
- April – Sudan crusade Isiolo & Nkubu
- April – Graeme Plant and his wife return to Kenya for Sudan crusades and revisit Malindi

Watch This Space → → →

- Listen to GFI on Life FM Sunday 20th March 2005 at 10pm
- GFI Australia web site launch soon
- New GFI brochure will be available shortly