

GREAT SACRIFICE



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GREAT TREASURE

THE HEAVILY ARMED REBEL BAND COMMANDED JOHN TO GO WITH THEM AS THEY MOVED OUT OF DARFUR.

For three weeks he traveled with them, sharing his life - and the Good News. One day, he told them, "It is time for me to return to my family."

"No!" they begged. "Please stay with us and be our priest. You bring the peace of God with you."

Eventually, with their reluctant permission, John crossed the border to Uganda to return to his South Sudanese family in the resettlement camp.

"When we lived in South Sudan, we were not true followers of Christ," John reminisced, "but the war changed us. We had to flee to Uganda where God met us and transformed our hearts. Through Jesus' sacrifice we experienced true freedom and the love of God."

"But I remember what it was like in the war for the South Sudanese. I still heard the cries of my friends from Darfur as they suffered in 2003, so I began praying for them. After the conflict, there was not even one secondary school in Darfur. I prayed more and told people about their suffering. I asked God to send someone to them."

continued

“ AS I WAS PRAYING,

the question rose in my heart, “Who will go?” I started to feel ashamed.” John continued, “I have freedom, but they are enslaved - enslaved to Islam. I speak the local Arabic and God began challenging me to go to them.

“Honestly, it is not easy for me in Darfur. I am looked at with suspicion as people wonder whose side I am on. I am alone and often feel unsafe and know that if I offend someone, they could stab me on the spot. Even the women carry knives. During times of gunfire, I crawl under my bed and pray to God. And he delivers me!

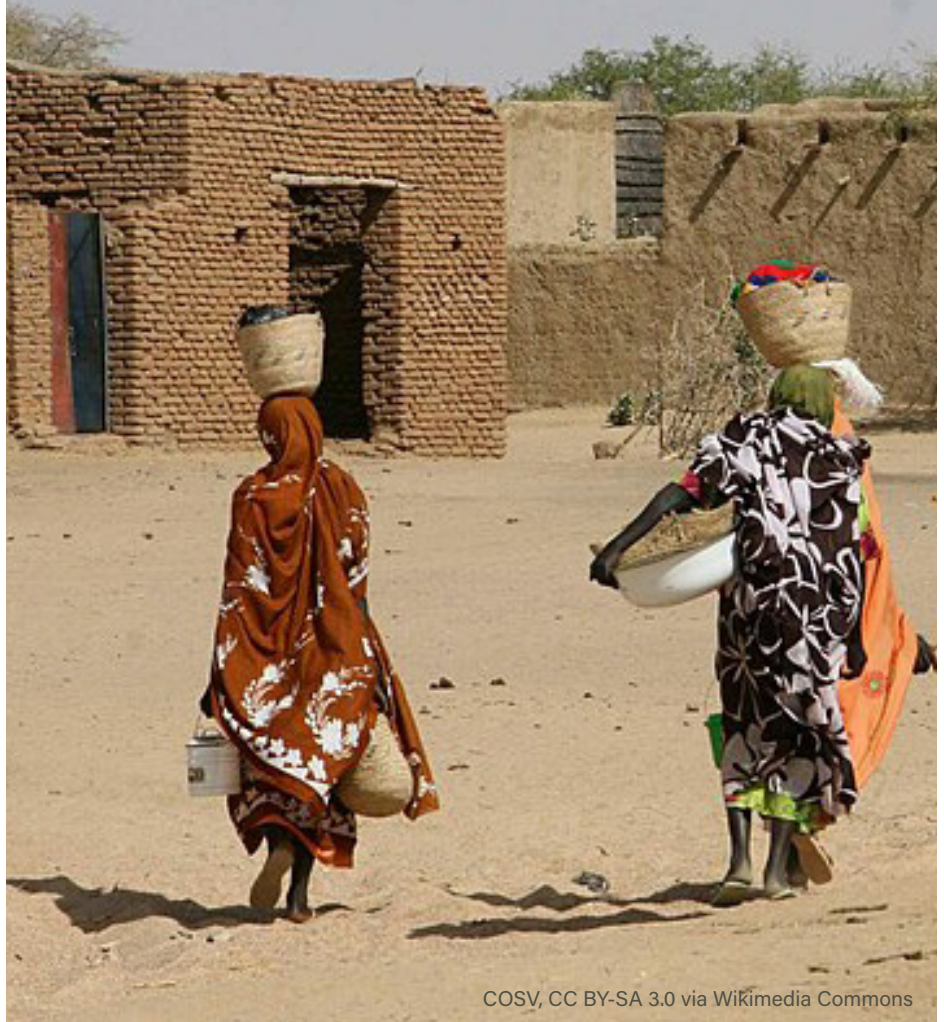
“But these people have no hope. There is no church that they can go to. I am not coming to change the situation or culture, but to bring the Gospel which will change things. I love to talk with Muslims about Jesus and I know that when they become Children of God, they will be transformed and then change will come to the society.

“I know three things for sure. These people are loved by God. They are suffering without God. And I must share with them. They are not free, so I am not free. I am returning to them.”

PLEASE PRAY FOR JOHN AND THE LARGE FAMILY HE LEFT BEHIND THIS MONTH TO RETURN TO THE PEOPLES OF DARFUR.

"THESE PEOPLE ARE LOVED BY GOD. THEY ARE SUFFERING WITHOUT GOD. AND I MUST SHARE WITH THEM.

THEY ARE NOT FREE, SO I AM NOT FREE. "



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SACRIFICES MADE



- Missing celebrations and milestones with your family and friends
- Not having the encouraging fellowship of your church
- Oppression from the overwhelming spiritual darkness in an unreached community.

- Giving up financial security and a “career” path
- Being a disappointment to family
- Doubt, discouragement, and fatigue
- Threat of arrest, attack or serious illness that cannot be treated

TREASURE GAINED

- Increased prayerful dependence on God resulting in deep joy with His answers
- Gaining new friends and “family” and being enriched by their differences
- Understanding the Bible and the character of God in new ways by seeing Him through the eyes of a new culture
- Being deeply changed into Christ’s image through suffering
- Great joy at seeing the Kingdom of Heaven come to a new people group



GETTING AHEAD BY GETTING BEHIND

LUCY DONATED HER LANGUAGE SCHOOL MONEY TO SAMUEL, AND SAMUEL HELPED HER WITH TRANSLATION.



Tran Phu on Unsplash

I SET FOOT IN VIETNAM

fifteen years ago. After

committing my life to missions and moving from my home -- Korea -- to another country, I was disappointed to discover that I did not possess a natural aptitude for languages. I struggled not only with English but with Vietnamese.

At first, I assumed that my troubles were due to lack of diligent effort on my part. But no matter how hard I worked, I still had difficulty learning Vietnamese. I felt shame. How could I be a true missionary if I could not speak the people's language?

Then I met a Samuel, a young believer in Vietnam who was also called to reach his people. I decided to suspend my Vietnamese studies and to redirect my education funds for him to learn Korean. Samuel quickly achieved proficiency in Korean and not only assisted with everyday translations but also served as an interpreter for my lessons.

As I started mentoring Samuel, he brought his friends into our church planting work. We would meet at 5:00 a.m. for prayer and Bible study to launch them into their days. We shared meals together and came together in the evenings for worship, debriefing and coaching.

Many times, I had to cry out to God for lack of funds for daily living. At times, I could only sit in tears before God because of how overwhelming the difficulties were. At those times, God graciously brought individuals into our lives who provided support, even without prior connections. God knew where I lived!

Our ministry progressed and today we have a growing church and new leaders. One of the greatest challenges -- and successes -- of church planting is recognizing when someone from the local church is ready to assume leadership. That time has come for us! God's grace has blessed me with exceptional leaders and remarkable individuals, enabling me to surmount challenges and continue my ministry to this day.

DO NOTHING
OUT OF SELFISH
AMBITION OR VAIN
CONCEIT. RATHER,
IN HUMILITY VALUE
OTHERS ABOVE
YOURSELVES, NOT
LOOKING TO YOUR
OWN INTERESTS
BUT EACH OF YOU
TO THE INTERESTS
OF THE OTHERS.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

PRAISE GOD WITH US FOR THESE ENGAGEMENTS:

1. Swahili Muslims of DRC
2. Swahili Muslims of Rwanda
3. Orma of Kenya
4. Somali of Kenya
5. Swahili Muslims of Kenya
6. Swahili Muslims of Malawi
7. Gujarati of Malawi
8. Yao of Mozambique
9. Makonde of Mozambique
10. Zaghawa of Sudan
11. Ik of Uganda
12. Dodoth of Uganda
13. Yao of Tanzania
14. Makua-Meeto of Tanzania
15. Makonda of Tanzania
16. Ndengereko of Tanzania
17. Swahili Muslim of Tanzania
18. Comorans
19. Golla of India
20. Odde of India
21. Perika of India
22. Lingayath of India
23. Kalash of Pakistan
24. Magsi of Pakistan
25. Bihari of Bangladesh
26. Manipuri Muslims of Bangladesh
27. Muslim Refugees in Spain
28. Dari speaking Afghans in the USA
29. Pashtu speaking Afghans in the USA
30. Karakalpak in Aktau
31. Turkmen of Istanbul
32. Afghan refugees in Tajikistan



PRAY URGENTLY FOR THESE GROUPS WE ARE CLOSE TO ENGAGING:

- Turkic Muslims of Astrakhan
- Segeju of Kenya and Tanzania
- Turkana of Ethiopia
- Uzbeks of rural Andijan
- Kurds of Kyrgyzstan



WHO'S ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST?

Christmas is a joyous season of giving. We get joy in giving largely because God is a giver. He so loved the world He gave – and continues to give – His Son Jesus.

Soon we'll write you to let you know how your gift can go farther this season to bring the message of Christmas to the least reached parts of the world. We wanted to let you know so that you will be ready!

Please add GT to your list.



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