

UNLIMITED

THE MAGAZINE



TRAGEDY THAT LEADS TO GLORY

Emma's Story (page 10)



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DESMOND FORD:

“The church’s final service to Christ and the world in spreading the Gospel will only come as the result of the deep conviction of sinfulness and grateful acceptance of the forgiving grace of Christ.”

FROM ELI TO YOU

Dear Friend

We have prepared this magazine for you with love. As you sit comfortably and open its pages, I want to share with you a poignant moment from India. I think it says it all...

Late one evening, in an open-air gospel meeting in Andhra Pradesh, India, Pr Joseph invited those who attended to come to the front and share their testimonies of gratitude to Jesus.

This bent, little old lady walked slowly to the front, sat down in a chair and said:

“I live alone in a hut. I have no proper food. I have no family to look after me. Sometimes I suffer depression, because I am so alone and hungry. But even though I do not have all these things, I have Jesus, and I am so grateful that he is my Saviour.”

Then there was the man who came to me and asked me to pray for him. His request?

“Please pray for me because I have not eaten for four days and I have pain in my stomach.”

You can be sure all the people were fed.

However, that is not my main point. My main point is that these people are examples of the many who are coming to a saving faith in Jesus Christ through the ministry of Good News Unlimited. That hungry man was baptised two days later.

They people are society's untouchables. If they had not found hope in Christ through Good News Unlimited, they would be among the vast ocean of people who are dying without knowing what Jesus has done for them.

Can you see why, at GNU, we take seriously the mission of Spreading the Word Fast? And we know that you do too. That's why, through your prayers and gifts, we are able to continue our work for the sake of the gospel. Thank you for your faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace

▼ ELIEZER GONZALEZ

Senior Pastor, Good News Unlimited



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EDITORIAL

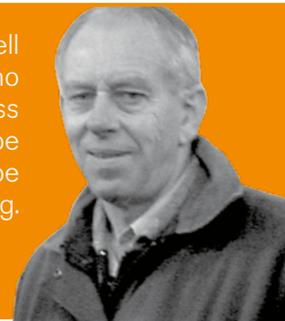
In my country, New Zealand, dental treatment has always been free for primary and intermediate school children. But when I went to school in the early 1940s we did not have the sophisticated, pain-free treatment that children have today. In those days holes were drilled in decayed teeth with slow-speed drills powered by a foot treadle. It was a process that caused excruciating pain.

Once at high school we received more professional and relatively painless treatment, but we had to pay for it. Nevertheless, on my first visit to a dentist the old memories flooded back, and I was frozen with terror. I prayed fervently that the appointment would be postponed, and promised the Lord that if he saved me from the dentist this time I would be brave next time and face up to the treatment. That was my first ever prayer to the Lord.

The dentist looked into my mouth and poked and scraped a bit before putting down his tools and going out to another room. He was there for a very long time. When he returned he said he could not do any more for me that day and would make another appointment for me to come back to him at a later date. I rode home on my bicycle that afternoon rejoicing that the Lord cared enough for me to answer my prayer. I was so grateful that on my next visit to the dentist I did as I promised

...make it your mission to tell others about the one who died for them on the cross so that all their sins would be blotted out and they would be given life overflowing.

Ritchie Way
Executive Editor



the Lord, though it was far less painful than I had expected.

You may recall the first time the Lord did something very special for you, something that established a relationship between you and God. He is our Father, and we are his children; but until he revealed himself as our loving Father we lived as though we were orphans.

There is, however, a far greater pain that Jesus is willing to save us from—a pain that we all rightly deserve—and that is the pain of being cut off from God and eternal life. To save us from this pain he himself was cut off from God and eternal life in our place.

Are you thankful? Have you told the Lord how grateful you are?

LEAVE A LEGACY OF LOVE LIKE DESMOND FORD



Legacy gifts are powerful investments in the lives of many around the world.

Through his example and sacrifice, Desmond Ford is leaving a legacy of love for the next generation. And, like Des, you can leave a lasting legacy through faithful living and by including Good News Unlimited in your estate planning.

Legacy gifts are powerful investments in the lives of many around the world, who are finding eternal hope as the Word is spread.

To find out more about including GNU in your will, please email admin@goodnewsunlimited.com or call us at 1300 013 237 within Australia or +61 247 219 051 International for more information. Thank you!

YOU AND BARABBAS

Everything written in the Gospels about the Crucifixion has infinite meaning. Every sentence, character, and event is full of significance for each of us. Take Barabbas for an example.

He was a bloodthirsty criminal, one of many who terrorised the inhabitants of Judea. He was captured and sentenced to die on a cross, but, as you know, a strange thing happened. Pilate, anxious to release Jesus, whom he knew was innocent, decided to invoke the tradition that one prisoner could be released at the Passover. He thought no one would choose Barabbas, who was so obviously a wicked felon. But he was wrong.

Perhaps this newly-released terrorist, hardly aware of what he was doing, stumbled towards the place of the skull - Golgotha. Who was this man who had taken his place? He must see him. Why should an innocent man die in his place?

Par Laagerquist wrote a Nobel prize-winning novel about Barabbas. He pictures him as being converted to the One who had become his substitute - wise intuition on the novelist's part. Barabbas was worthy of death many times over and yet to him were spoken the jailer's mysterious words: "You are free. Another man will be on the cross you deserve."

“ You are free. Another man will be on the cross you deserve.”

It is not by chance that this fragment of history is in the Passion narrative. Every character in that record represents a class of people and Barabbas stands for all mankind, for "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:20). No wonder Paul could write: "I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

There are many layers of meaning in the Barabbas story. Pilate was forced to make a choice between the two men. So are we. In every decision we either crucify Jesus, and

enthroned a murderer, or the reverse. There is no escaping this decision, which will decide everything else. The wife of Pilate pled with him by a note to have nothing to do with "this just man" - Jesus. She was asking the impossible. We are either for Christ or against him. We belong to him or to the prince of this world. Christ is a saviour of life unto life for all who make the right choice, but of death unto death for those who do not. By our lives we cry either, "Crucify him" or "Crown him lord of all."

Suppose Barabbas in his cell had met the news with incredulity. Suppose he had refused to accept his liberty, thinking it was a cruel joke. Or suppose he had told the messenger: "When I become a better member of society then I will leave this prison." Impossible? No, not impossible. Multitudes so react to the gospel invitation of grace every day. But Barabbas was not so stupid. God grant that we may not be.

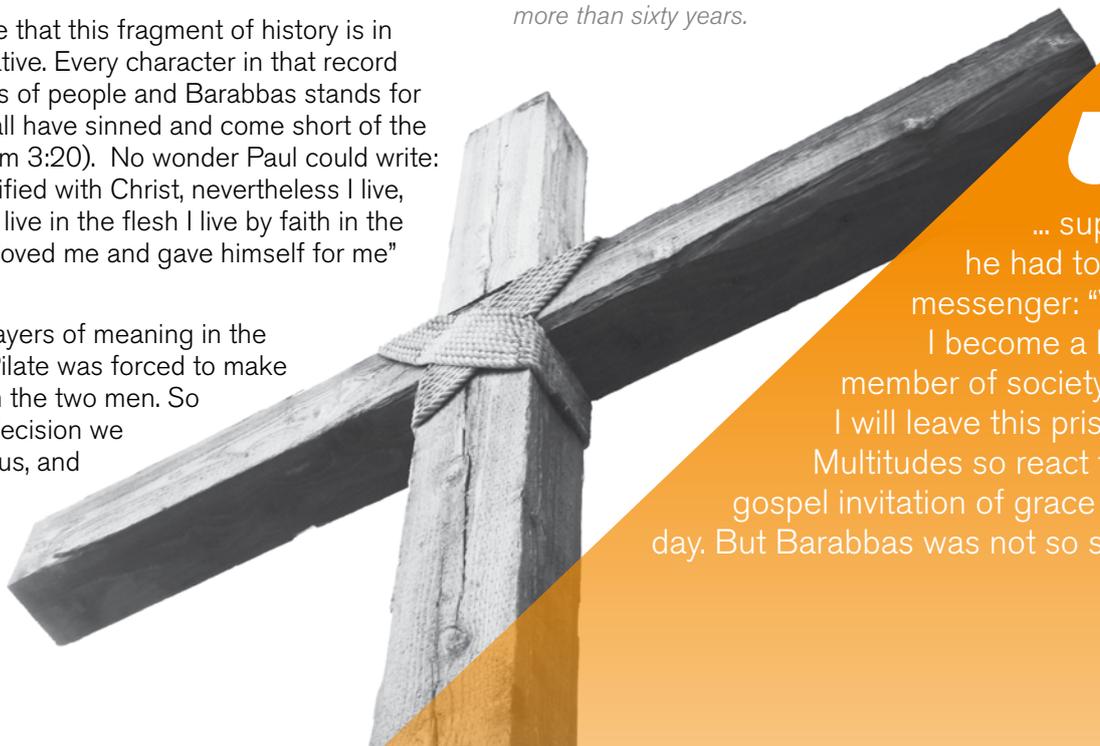
▼ DES FORD

Founder, Good News Unlimited

Dr Desmond Ford is the founder of Good News Unlimited, a transdenominational and international gospel ministry. He has been a teacher, minister and theologian for more than sixty years.

“

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THE GNU CHOIR

WINNING SOULS FOR JESUS!



The GNU Choir joyfully sing the gospel, conducted by Choir Leader, Moses Lukwago.



Some of the members of the GNU Choir, with Eliezer Gonzalez (middle).

When we arrived in Kampala, Uganda for our recent gospel meetings, we were delighted to discover there would be a “GNU Choir” singing at the meetings.

This choir, composed of Christian young people from different churches in the Kampala region, was amazingly talented. They sang beautiful a capella music with wonderful unity and harmony and a great sense of rhythm. And their evident joy for the gospel was infectious as well! They sang at every meeting; their uplifting gospel messages in song touched everybody present. Every African understands the language of music!

Duncan Wood and I found the choir members to be delightful and enthusiastic young people. They want to serve the Lord and many of them believe that this is how God wants them to spread the good news about Jesus Christ.

The choir was formed by Moses Lukwago, a great friend of GNU in Kampala, and a very talented musician. Moses even hosted the choir in his own home for the duration of the meetings!

Now that the choir has had its gospel debut at GNU's meetings in Kampala, they want to keep singing the gospel together.

So they have been sharing the joy of the gospel further afield in other public gospel meetings, often with great sacrifice. Some of the choir members are refugees and troubled young people, while others have full-time jobs, yet they still make time to travel with the choir for days at a time to spread the good news, largely at their own expense!

Muhindu Paul, who sings bass, says,

Hello GNU family! Serving God as part of the GNU Choir is one of the best experiences I have ever had. The choir is like my second family with members looking out for

each other in times of need, and having fun on long trips preaching the gospel through music. I am so spiritually enriched. We did ministry in prisons and it was really touching to see how our music touched the inmates and how some of them accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour. There is no better reward than winning a soul for Christ. I am looking forward to the next time we go to preach and proclaim the name of Jesus!

Nzanzu Luhavo Maombi, another choir member, says:

I am so excited to be part of the GNU Choir, to see many people giving their life to Jesus as we preach the gospel through music. We have sung in prisons, schools, churches, and public meetings. I enjoyed singing in front of the army and the police. In a stadium we sang a capella to motor cycle gang members. It was just amazing! Thank you GNU!

GNU currently supports the choir with travel expenses. Plans are being made, with a little bit of help from GNU, for the choir to continue singing at GNU events and other gospel events throughout Uganda. Great things are about to happen in Africa, and the GNU Choir is going to be part of it all!

▼ ELIEZER GONZALEZ

Senior Pastor,
Good News Unlimited

Eliezer Gonzalez is the Senior Pastor and CEO of Good News Unlimited. He is an international speaker and author, and is simply passionate about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Eliezer has done a bit of study in theology and also in early Christian history. He lives on the sunny Gold Coast in Australia, with his astonishingly beautiful wife Ana, two teenage children whom he never, ever embarrasses, and a crazy dog called Theo.

MIRACLES LI

HOW THE GOOD NEWS CH

God made sure the Good News Children's Centre happened. When Duncan and I visited India in July, we could see God's hand in this wonderful story. But even before the centre came into existence, Pastor Joseph could feel God's guidance. Pastor Joseph lives hand-in-hand with God, and he watched God establish this centre, step by miraculous step.

About 8% of India's population is officially classified as belonging to the "untouchables". For centuries, these people have been the most neglected and exploited in India. Prejudice against these people is difficult to eradicate, and the cycle of grinding poverty, ignorance, and misery is often impossible to break.

A Backward Village

It was one of these "S.T. Backward Class" villages, Nandiwada, which Pastor Joseph visited in his travels around Andhra Pradesh preaching the gospel. He found people so poor they caught and cooked rats and snakes to survive.

The people were distressed about their children being caught in this endless cycle of poverty and misery. They were "unhappy and disobedient, and did not go to school. From the time of their great, great grandfathers no one in this colony has education, so those families who live

there now don't have any education either. Even until today, they do not have culture."

Pastor Joseph, who takes God everywhere he goes, felt the Lord's calling to help these children. With his own meagre funds he hired a one-room building in a yard and announced the opening of the Good News Children's Care Centre. He began to teach the children the rudiments of English and mathematics. His textbook was the Bible, and he taught them about Jesus.

The Children Have Been Learning How To Pray

Sandya is the daughter of the only Christian family in Nandiwada. She had recently graduated as a teacher, and when she saw what Pastor Joseph was doing, she volunteered to help. Every day Pastor Joseph and Sandya gather between 30 and 40 children (the children are encouraged to attend regular school, although few are able to). For 2 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the evening, they teach them English and mathematics, and they feed them. And they teach them the gospel.

The children, says Pastor Joseph, "have been learning how to pray, sing and discipline. I have given four Bibles to these children, because that was all I had, and still they need 30 holy Bibles."



The current rented premises of the Good News Children's Care Centre in Nandiwada are on the right.

LEAD THE WAY

CHILDREN'S CENTRE BEGAN



The smiles tell the story! The Good News Children's Care Centre has brought Jesus and happiness into the lives of these children.

This is how Pastor Joseph spreads the Word fast in India. He sees a need, and with God's help, responds to it in the way of the Gospel. Many of the parents were so happy that their children were being taught and cared for that they stood around outside to listen as Pastor Joseph taught the Bible and the gospel.

We Have Never Seen Anything Like This!

So the seeds of Christianity have been scattered and watered in this village. And they are now sprouting for God. A number of families are interested in Christianity, and Pastor Joseph is planning to start another congregation in this village. "We have never seen anything like this before, in the way that you serve us in the name of your God Jesus Christ."

The story of the Good News Children's Centre is a story of partnership with God and faith in his leading. Pastor Joseph dreams big because he spends his life with a God for whom nothing is impossible.

A few weeks ago Pastor Joseph sent me an urgent email: would I pray for him, and ask all the GNU members to pray too. He was about to meet with a man in the village who had a block of land; he planned to ask the man to donate it to the Good News Children's Centre, so they could have their own permanent building.

God Has Answered Our Prayers!

The news came through the next morning: "God has answered our prayers! The man has donated the land!"

Narayanna Rao assembled the village elders and stood before them with Pastor Joseph,



Many of the parents were so happy that their children were being taught and cared for that they stood around outside to listen as Pastor Joseph taught the Bible and the gospel.

declaring that he was giving the land in perpetuity to the Good News Children's Care Centre. He said:

"I am very inspired by the activities of the Good News Children's Care Centre, and that it is giving a good education to the poor children, whose parents are also very, very poor. The care that is shown to the children is wonderful.

I heard Pr Joseph preach on the Good News Unlimited TV programme. I am so happy about his great works that he does for God. Now I am slowly accepting Jesus in my life. So please pray for me and my family daily."

Now they had land, but transforming it would require hard manual work. Pastor Joseph asked the villagers to donate three days' labour, and in spite of their own poverty, they responded. The land had to be cleared and levelled. Mud had to be collected and carried to the site to make bricks, before the end of the rainy season. From somewhere, someone found a truck to carry the mud.

We Have Helped Jesus For Three Days!

After three days of working together, the villagers told Pastor Joseph that they had never done anything like this as a community.

"We are Hindus and we knew nothing about Jesus Christ until now, but we have helped Jesus Christ for three days! Thank you for giving us the great opportunity to help you in this work. Now our families



Men from this Hindu community came together with Pr Joseph Usala (centre) to help prepare the newly donated land.

and our children will come to know about Jesus through this Good News Children's Care Centre.

We have been living like this until now because we are the untouchables in society. But you have brought honour and shown respect to us and our children in the name of Jesus Christ."

Through your generosity, your prayers and support, GNU is able to make an ongoing contribution to the running of this outpost of the gospel in a place where people are hungry for the Good News. The miracle of Nandiwada is continuing by God's grace.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**
Senior Pastor,
Good News Unlimited



The children all received a copy of Jesus Only for their families. At the rear are Pr Joseph Usala (L) and Eliezer Gonzalez (R).

**word
spreads
fast**

around the
world

THE GOSPEL ON THREE CONTINENTS

A TRIP REPORT



Baptisms and smiles in Uganda and India

During July and August, Duncan Wood, GNU's Production Manager, and I shared the gospel in India, Africa, and Sweden. The people were waiting to hear the good news of Jesus Christ!

In India we ministered in Pr Joseph's Prayer Meetings every evening, amid oppressive heat and clouds of insects. We ran a training day in gospel evangelism for pastors, as well as preaching in various churches.

I was amazed to see how rapidly Pr Joseph's ministry to these people – the poorest of the poor, literally the untouchables – had grown. Attendances were up by at least 60%. They meet outdoors, in town squares, wherever there is an open patch of land! What faithful work is being done there in India through Pr Joseph, with the support of the GNU family worldwide!

One enduring memory of India was baptising precious souls for the Kingdom of God, in a river with dozens of buffalos bathing themselves just twenty metres away!

In Africa we held gospel meetings in the capital city of Uganda, Kampala, hosted by Love Ministries, one of GNU's affiliated ministries. We shared wonderful music and the gospel. Almost every non-Christian who attended was baptised. Never have I attended such joyful baptisms.

This was my first visit to Africa. After the meetings, individuals and delegations from all over Africa pleaded with us, "Come and help us! We need the gospel to be preached in our communities and towns." Some of their stories were heartbreaking.

In Europe we had smaller meetings. But again there were baptisms. Europe is a "tough crowd" for the gospel!

We captured many incredible stories of God's power and grace, only a few of which we can share in this magazine.

Please look out for these stories on our website and through social media.

We believe God is leading us to focus on spreading the gospel where there is most hunger and thirst for it—in Africa—and the board of GNU has now embarked on an ambitious plan for African evangelism.

You may think, "Africa is full of Christians already, isn't it?" We found that in Africa and India, there is very little knowledge of the gospel. People simply do not know how to be saved. Even most pastors, well-meaning though they may be, have no idea, since they have never been taught themselves. Teachings are a mixture of traditional, pagan religions with the gospels of prosperity and the miraculous.

In India, vast numbers belong the untouchable caste. Sadly, we saw that the caste system even permeates local Christian churches, and they do not bother to share the gospel with these "untouchable" people.

Across Africa and India, most people have not heard the simple truth of the good news of Jesus Christ. The task is unfathomably huge. But who has been sent, if not us? Who will go, if we do not?

God has called you and me to do this work. Thank you, because through your prayers and financial gifts we can undertake the impossible and dare to stand for God to spread the Word fast to these people. If God calls you to be part of this ministry in any other way, for example, as a volunteer, please contact me and let me know. The work of the gospel needs all of us.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**

*Senior Pastor,
Good News Unlimited*



THE KING

Death is a king who rules our whole world. He rules over presidents and prime ministers, scientists and doctors, millionaires and missionaries, and the superstars in sport and entertainment. Ten out of ten eventually bow the knee to death. No one escapes him.

In his book, *Jesus Only*, Desmond Ford wrote:

"The whole earth is a grave that entombs billions of people. The world is a vast cemetery where we do a little business, indulge a little pleasure, and then lie down beside the dead. Life is but a procession to our own funeral. Man has conquered many things, but death is not one of them."

Nevertheless, in the third decade of our Common Era something momentous happened to death's unbroken reign. At that time Jesus of Nazareth was executed by the Romans outside the walls of old Jerusalem. After

“ ... something momentous happened to death's unbroken reign.

being subjected to a brutalising flagellation he was nailed to a wooden cross with heavy square-shanked nails. Six hours later, when he had stopped breathing, the Roman soldier in charge of the crucifixion squad drove his spear up under Jesus' ribs deep into his heart to ensure that he was truly dead.

If a prisoner escaped by faking death the soldiers responsible for that prisoner were executed (see Acts 12:18-19). The captain of the crucifixion party, therefore, made sure that Jesus would never take another breath.

Jesus' lifeless body was then taken down from the cross by friends and placed in a tomb that had been chiselled out of rock. A two-ton bolder was then rolled into place to block off the entrance. To guarantee that Jesus wouldn't be disturbed the Romans placed their official seal on the bolder. Anyone who broke that seal would do so at the cost of his life. A squad of Roman soldiers was then stationed outside the tomb to make sure that Jesus' body remained inside.

But, early on the third day, a mighty angel from heaven, like a blinding bolt of lightning, came down to the tomb. He rolled the bolder away and sat on it. The soldiers guarding the tomb were so terrified by this heavenly visitation they collapsed to the ground like dead men.

At that time Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead and appeared to his followers and close disciples. Later he appeared to 500 people at the same time, and then to his own blood brothers, and finally to Saul of Tarsus (1 Cor. 15:1-8).

No one had ever permanently broken death's reign before. But since Jesus' resurrection, death has no



OF DEATH

longer been king. Jesus conquered Death, and the keys of death and the grave now hang from his belt. Jesus says to all who put their faith in him, "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19).

“ Jesus says to all who put their faith in him, “Because I live, you also will live”.

Does all this mean that the true followers of Jesus will never die? No, it does not! It means that those who put their faith in Jesus will never die permanently. It means that when they put their faith in Jesus they “crossed over from death to life” (John 5:24). In other words, all who have Jesus living in them now have eternal life (1 John 5:11-12). They have eternal life because death cannot reign where Jesus reigns. Death will come to the followers of Jesus, but only as a sleep. It will, however, be a sleep as short as the blink of an eye because time does not exist in the grave. The next thing we will know, after closing our eyes in the sleep of death, will be Jesus’ voice calling us to get up (John 5:28-29; 6:39-40). We will recognise that voice and rise up, never to die again.

When Jesus rose from the dead he rose as King of both the living and the dead (Matt. 28:18). Death no longer reigns supreme. While we may die before he comes back, we will rise from the dead on that great day to live

with him forever more. And we shall rise with totally new bodies unmarked by sin or sin’s effects (1 Cor. 15:51-54).

In the world that will be our home from that time forward there will be no more death and no more mourning (Rev. 21:4), for the old order of things will have passed away.

If we don’t meet this side of the Second Coming, we will certainly meet afterwards. What a wonderful day that will be! I’ll look forward to seeing you then.

▼ RITCHIE WAY

Editor, Good News Unlimited

Pastor Ritchie Way has served as a missionary, church administrator and pastor. He earned a BA in theology, and in 1985 he graduated with an MA in religion. Ritchie has, for the past decade, been the Executive Editor for the South Pacific Good News Unlimited magazines. Ritchie is a past director of Good News Unlimited Ltd, and a published author.



Death no longer reigns supreme. While we may die before he comes back, we will rise from the dead on that great day to live with him forever more.

TRAGEDY THAT LEADS TO GLORY

EMMA'S STORY

At our recent GNU gospel meetings in Uganda, we met Emma Uwingabire. I was struck by her appearance when I saw her – a tall and elegant woman, full of life, love and joy. She was exceptionally well-spoken, and her excitement bubbled over:

“I have travelled here from Rwanda on the bus! (no mean feat), and I just have to meet you! God has called me to take the gospel to all of the people of Rwanda!”

You won't be surprised to hear that I am used to people being excited about the gospel, but this was different. As Emma told us her story, we sat enthralled by its horror and its wonder. These are her words...

A child of love and horror

My name is Emma Uwingabire. I grew up in Rwanda, the youngest of ten children. My father was a pastor in a very conservative denomination. He was an honest man, who often said he had been called by God and not by man. He loved to preach the gospel and the love of God. That was the only income that our family had to survive.



The religious people of that denomination disagreed with his emphasis on the gospel.

The religious people of that denomination disagreed with his emphasis on the gospel. He was fired, and thrown out of the church. Preaching was the only thing he had been trained to do. He had no other skills, and a wife and ten children to support. So he started to work as a barber. He got a chair and an ancient shaving machine, and he



Emma Uwingabire shares her amazing story.

would sit in the marketplace, and shave people. He also found an old typewriter, and he would type for people.

We were very, very poor, but we were able to continue living. Schooling was not possible for us. I finished school as an adult, after I was married.

My mother told me that another leader of the church, a white man, said that those people who had done such a thing were not kind at all. How could they terminate a man who had ten small children to feed, and still claim to be religious people?

When the trouble started in Rwanda, I was thirteen years old. At that time, Hutus could do whatever they wanted to a Tutsi, and there were no consequences whatsoever. I was raped by a boy who was my neighbour, and then he left me. If there has been anything that has hit me hard, that was it. And he left me pregnant, with the one who is my first-born son, whom I love. But to be pregnant in such a way in our culture in Rwanda was very shameful.

Saved by a miracle

We had a family friend who had a little money, and who had fled the country to Kenya in 1986 because he saw there would be trouble. His name was Shadrach and he was fifteen years older than me.

From Kenya, Shadrach saw that our family would die miserably because we were so poor. He loved our family very much, and so he had no peace. He heard the news in Kenya about my pregnancy, and he knew that because of my situation, I would be one of the first to be killed. He loved me even then.

Shadrach sent a friend, a truck driver, to Rwanda to ask for a man called Tensia, my father, so that he could try to save me. He said to the truck driver, "Find the youngest in the family, whose name is "Baby" (that was my nickname), and tell her that I need her."

So the truck driver came to Rwanda in a long-distance truck. But he was unable to find me. Shadrach did not give up. He then asked a friend called Eric who lived in Kigali, but travelled now and then to Kenya, to go to Rwanda to look for me. He said, "You have to help me, because if I go to Rwanda they will kill me." So Shadrach told Eric where the church was where we worshipped every week. He said to Eric, "If Tensia is not there, everyone at that church will know where they are."

This was true. Everyone knew where we lived.

So Eric went to the church but was told, "No, we do not know a man called Tensia."

Some time later, he met a boy and asked him, "Do you know a man called Tensia?" "Yes," said the boy, "He is my father." The young man was my brother. They walked for ten kilometres to our home. By then I was eight months pregnant.

When Eric came to our home he gave me a letter from Shadrach with words that made me cry. He promised me good things in Kenya, but I was afraid that I would be killed before I could leave, since I was worried that I could not travel in my expecting state. All of this was happening, and all I wanted to do was to go to school!



... there followed a series of miracles from God that allowed me to escape from Rwanda.

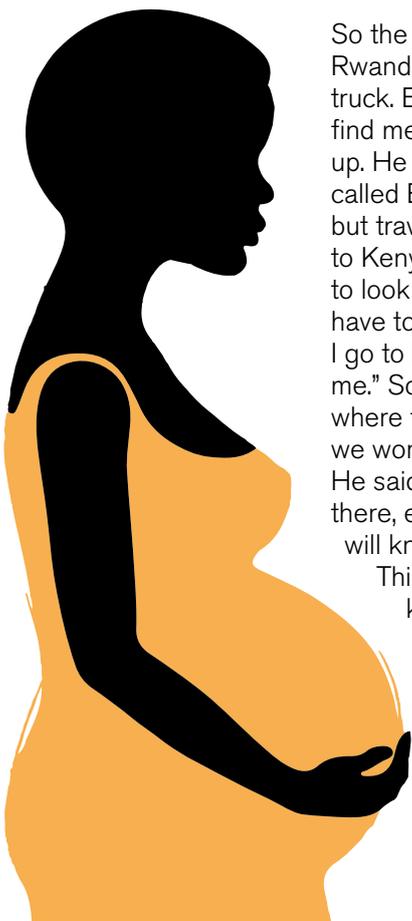
To cut a long story short, there followed a series of miracles from God that allowed me to escape from Rwanda. Among the miracles was the fact that even though I was a Tutsi, I was able to get a passport. Shadrach arranged everything, providing me with tickets and money for the journey. He said to me in his letter, "I accept the child together with you."

God had a plan

God allowed that I be raped so that I might find a way of leaving. I thank God because he has everything in his hands. The only thing we need to do is to send our thanks to him, and have faith in him, and wait upon him.

Shadrach received me and cared for me and loved me. He married me, and together we had three more children. And he called the son from my rape by his own name and loved him as his own child.

In March 1993 I arrived in Kenya. A year after I left Rwanda, my family were wiped out in the genocide. My father was betrayed by his fellow pastors and church members. Although they were all worshipping in the same church, those religious people had no kindness in their hearts, and my father was betrayed and killed with most of my family.



Only three members of my family survived – I, and two of my brothers – and Shadrach helped every single one of us. I see my husband as a true angel. I have often asked him, “Why do you love me?” And he only laughs a laugh of love. He told me once that he did not know why he did what he did, or why he loved me, only that he was doing what God wanted him to do. We have been together now for 20 years.

“ He told me once that he did not know why he did what he did, or why he loved me, only that he was doing what God wanted him to do.

Our family were a people who were despised, but when Shadrach married me, he lifted us up from shame to honour. He has done the work of God for me and for my family.

Here I am, send me

In April 2009, I was working as a nanny in Dubai for a Moslem family. I was watching a message on a Christian television programme, and it hit me like a hammer to my heart, and I started crying. I understood that because of all my evil thoughts and sins – the things I used to do – that I did not value the love that Christ had for me. Then I started asking myself, “How could God ever receive me? Is there still a chance for me?”

You see, I used to hate people. But I started to feel the need to ask these people for forgiveness. God told me I must never hate people again, in spite of what happened to my father. And so I started loving those who killed my father – those whom I couldn't love before.

“ My heart was full of love and burning to serve God. I said to God, “Here I am, send me,” just like the prophet Isaiah.



Emma preaching in Uganda, with David Kayumba translating.

My heart was full of love and burning to serve God. I said to God, "Here I am, send me," just like the prophet Isaiah. But I didn't know how to serve him.

This is my father who is still with me

Then, through a miracle, I met Sammy from Belgium through my membership in a WhatsApp group called, "The Word of God." Sammy wrote to me privately and he started telling me about a man called Desmond Ford and Good News Unlimited. He told me to go to the goodnewsunlimited.com website and read the book *Jesus Only* by Desmond Ford. Even before I read the book, I knew that Jesus wanted me to meet him through this book.

And so I started trying to find out things about Desmond Ford. I started by reading about his life, and I could only say, "This is my father who is still with me." I found that

“ This message had filled me, and I did not know how to get it out to the people. ... I was bursting with joy and the need to share it.

Des' story resembles the story of my own father. My father stood for truth and for what was right, and was mistreated for it; and I saw that Des suffered the same.

I had heard many preachers telling me about what I had to do to be saved. But when I read *Jesus Only*, I realised that I had received salvation without having done anything. I had been a very bad person, beyond evil. I understood that Jesus receives me just as I am, but he doesn't leave me as I am.

So I started reading the messages on the Good News Unlimited website. Every message was just for me. I heard God speaking to me, "This message by Good News Unlimited is the message for this hour." I started sharing these messages from GNU with as many people as I could, but

it was difficult and expensive to translate from English to Kinyarwanda. This message had filled me, and I did not know how to get it out to the people. It was as if God had given it to me alone, and I was bursting with joy and the need to share it.

Man of God, God Bless You

From the time that I read *Jesus Only*, I immediately felt that I was part of Good News Unlimited. One time, I dreamed I was at a meeting where Desmond Ford was preaching. When he had finished, I went to the front and said to him, "Man of God, God bless you." I had no more words to say. My heart was too full. I woke up that morning full of joy.

Right now I am sitting with Eliezer Gonzalez and Duncan Wood, and in my eyes they are no different to Desmond Ford. I am requesting that they take my greetings to Desmond Ford, and say to him, as in my dream, "Man of God, God bless you." What I am requesting from Good News Unlimited is to help me to get these messages into the Kinyarwanda language so that I can take them to as many people as possible. God has called me and has told me that now I am a messenger for the gospel. And now God has called me to Good News Unlimited so that we may share the work of God together.

What am I doing right now? Every Saturday at 4 pm I have a national radio talkback programme about family and relationships that I present in Rwanda. It is also heard in parts of Burundi and Tanzania. I have also started my own charity to help homeless children in Kigali, the capital city where I live in Rwanda.



God is never surprised

My final message to you is that God only creates you when he has prepared everything for you. He knows your past and your future. What you call good or bad – he knows all of that. He is never surprised. Often God does not see things the way you see them. What you call bad, at times might be good. My unwanted pregnancy turned out to be my salvation in time of war – that's a concrete example.

“Often God does not see things the way you see them. What you call bad, at times might be good.”

So just know and rest in the love of God your Creator. Know that Jesus loved you, took your place, died for you and saved you. He says, “It is not you who loved me, but I who have loved you. It is not you who chose me, but I who chose you.”

That's why all you have to do is to know him. Just like the Israelites were healed by looking at the snake on the pole, that's how we are saved – by looking at Jesus on the cross.

Jesus Only is your salvation. There is no other name under heaven by which we may be saved.

May God be praised through Good News Unlimited.

After I heard this, I said to Emma,

“I believe God wants you to take the gospel to all the people of Rwanda. Would you like to present a brand new Good News Unlimited radio program nationally across Rwanda? Go and negotiate with the management of your radio station on behalf of Good News Unlimited.”

A few days later, she reported that there had been some difficult moments with the radio station. It had gone something like this:

Manager: But Emma, you can't have your own preaching programme on our radio station!

Emma: Why not?

Manager: Because you're a woman. We've never heard of a woman preaching before. And you're not a pastor. And you don't work for a church.

Emma: That's right. I'm a woman. I'm the woman at the tomb of Jesus; the first one who saw him. I'm the woman to whom he said, “Go and tell my disciples, that I'm alive.” That's my authority! I'm not a pastor; I'm an evangelist. And you're right, I don't work for a church; I simply represent the gospel.

Manager: You're hired.

By the time you receive this magazine Emma will have started broadcasting the gospel message across Rwanda and into the surrounding nations. GNU aims to fund this through the gifts given for the gospel work by our supporters. Please pray for this inspirational woman, and for her God-given ministry.

▼ **Eliezer Gonzalez, compiled from Emma Uwingabire's recorded testimony**

“

That's right. I'm a woman. I'm the woman at the tomb of Jesus; the first one who saw him. I'm the woman to whom he said, “Go and tell my disciples, that I'm alive.” That's my authority!



(image left) Here Krishna (R) is sharing his testimony of his healing, alongside Pr Joseph Usala (L), who was translating. (image right) This is the very moment that I prayed for Krishna inside his hut, for his legs to be healed. Pastor Joseph is on the left.

HOW GOD REBUKED ME THROUGH A MIRACLE

This is a story about how much God loves me, and all who believe in the name of Jesus, in spite of our many faults and failings.

Duncan and I were ministering in the villages of India. The meetings were held late in the evenings, in the open-air, insect-infested village squares, because most people work in the rice paddy fields during the daylight hours.

Duncan, GNU's Production Manager, wanted to have some video footage and photographs of village life, so we needed daylight. I asked Pr Joseph Usala, if he could take us early to a village. So he organised for us to arrive half an hour before sunset.

That didn't leave us much daylight to capture the images, so we walked quickly through the little lanes of the village, filming and photographing as we went.

Pr Joseph paused outside many huts, asked me, "Pastor, will you come in and pray with this person?" Each time, I said no. Daylight was failing fast, and we had to get those shots! After each meeting, dozens of people would ask me to pray for them individually. So I did plenty of praying, late into each night.

As we walked past one hut, Pr Joseph invited me in to pray again, and for some reason, I said yes. I walked into the hut, where a small, older man was lying on the ground. He got up painfully when he saw us coming.

I asked Pr Joseph what the man needed prayer for. He told me that it was that his legs might be strengthened and healed. Krishna, who was sixty-five years old, had been unable to attend the prayer meetings in the village – only a couple of hundred metres away – because he could not walk. So I prayed for him in faith that the Lord would heal him.

Cut to the evening prayer meeting in the village. After I had shared the gospel with the people, Pr Joseph invited

people to share testimonies and thanksgiving to the Lord. The second person who walked to the front was Krishna.

He thanked God because he had not been able to come to the prayer meetings for a long time, but I had come to his home and prayed for him, his legs had been made strong and he had walked to the prayer meeting. He rejoiced in the Lord because of it.

I praise God for this man. However I take this as a very humbling rebuke from the Lord for me. I must learn to love people like Jesus loves people.

I am too often too busy with "things." But Jesus puts people first, and not things. While I was more interested in getting some nice pictures of people, Jesus wanted me to pray for them and love them more. So now I pray, *Lord Jesus, give me more of your mercy, more of your heart, and more of your love, for those who are hurting.*

What about you, my friend?

▼ ELIEZER GONZALEZ

Senior Pastor,
Good News Unlimited



COME AND HELP US!

On the banks of the Nile is a place with a special name and mission: The Spring of Hope. Teresha and Israel Karahukayo are an English/Ugandan couple who are passionate about caring for the disabled children of Uganda.

In Uganda, disabled children are neglected and abused, and at worst, abandoned and left to die, particularly in the rural areas. Spring of Hope provides a school for these children, as well as a medical clinic, and other care that they need, both in the home, and residential at Spring of Hope. They provide a range of services for disabled children that we take for granted, but that are largely unheard-of in remote areas of Africa.

Teresha and Israel attended the Good News Unlimited meetings in Kampala and asked to meet with myself and Duncan. They were inspired by the true meaning of the gospel, which they said they had never understood before.

They told us they were sharing the love of God already through their ministry to the disabled children, but now they saw an opportunity to share the gospel as well. They asked us if Good News Unlimited could help them do it.

Well, that's why we exist! God continually shows us more ways in which we can share a gospel that is relevant and meaningful to people everywhere. We have made firm plans for a sequence of gospel-sharing events around Kagalumira throughout the next 12 months. Good News Unlimited will do this in partnership with Spring of Hope, Uganda.

Our gospel partnership will be practical as well as spiritual, and two of GNU's younger generation are spearheading that strategy. Rebecca Gonzalez and Amy Adcock, both Christian midwifery students, will travel

to Kagalumira as volunteers at the end of this year to provide practical help and gospel messages to the local people.

Pr David Kayumba and Rebecca will preach the gospel, and Rebecca and Amy will use their skills to educate the local women in proper ante-natal care. Poor ante-natal care is one of the reasons for the high incidence of children born with disabilities.

Rebecca and Amy are busy raising the money for their airfares. They are selling their own artwork and baked treats. They have also made an appeal to any GNU supporters who feel moved to support this special gospel work. If you would like to support them, please do so through the GNU website: <https://www.goodnewsunlimited.com/donate-partner/> and make sure to mark your donation for the Uganda Mission account.



(left) Children Near Spring of Hope (right top) Pr David Kayumba with some children outside the Spring of Hope School (right bottom) Martin, a child at the Spring of Hope School says Hello



Deepak (striped shirt) with Pr Joseph Usala (L), Deepak's father, and Eliezer Gonzalez (R). Deepak's greatest wish is to one day be able to preach the gospel with his own lips.

THE MUTE EVANGELIST

DEEPAK'S STORY

My name is Deepak, and I am sixteen years old. I am telling this story to my father with sign language, because I cannot speak. My father is telling it to Pr Joseph.

When I was small I fell seriously sick, and my family prayed to God that if I was made well that I would be offered to God to do God's work. God answered their prayers and I became well but I could not speak. But from that time – while I was still a child – God put it in my heart to preach the gospel and to be an evangelist.

I have never gone to school, but I have a strong faith that God will still bless me by allowing me to be an evangelist for him, and that I will speak the gospel with my mouth to many people.

While I wait for God to heal me, I serve God in every way that I can. I go to every prayer and evangelistic meeting, and I open the places and put chairs in them and give the people water in the meetings.

When I hear that there is a gospel meeting in a very far-away place, I go to it by walking, taking shelter beside the roads when it is too hot, and sleeping outdoors against the walls of houses at night.

Three months back I began to watch the television programme presented by Pr Joseph every week, and I came to know about the gospel ministry of Good News Unlimited. Then I came to Pr Joseph's prayer meetings and they touched and moved me very much. Now I

always come to the prayer meetings and I help Pr Joseph to serve the people.

The great desire of my heart is to do the work of God, and I firmly believe that one day God will heal me completely and I will preach the holy gospel to many people. For now, I am so happy with doing what I do and with helping many people and pastors in various places in their church meetings.

I am so much impressed by seeing the Good News Unlimited TV programme, in which Pastor Joseph has been preaching. I learn so much and it inspires me to be an evangelist.

Pastor Joseph does a great gospel preaching work in Andhra Pradesh, India. I assist him in every prayer meeting and evangelistic meeting, wherever he conducts them. It is a great privilege and honour for me to help him in the work of gospel evangelism.

I thank everyone who prays for me in the mighty, holy name of Jesus. I pray daily for you all in Good News Unlimited. Please pray for me, that I might be fully healed by Jesus Christ so that I might be an evangelist for Jesus, and do great works for him by his mighty holy name.

** Deepak lives in Andhra Pradesh, India. This story is based on an interview of Deepak that Pr Joseph conducted.*



LETTERS *from our readers*

GNU is a meeting of minds from a wide range of church affiliations and therefore opinions expressed in our articles may differ from those of our readers. Recognising that opinions can differ, and that we all have much to learn and unlearn, we encourage our readers to participate in this forum.



Hi Ritchie

I have just reread the March GNU magazine and it has been a great blessing and also a challenge to me.

I was inspired to take Jesus Only from my book case and read it again despite having read it several times previously.

W. S.



I was blessed by the good news message that Dr. Eliezer and Duncan preached while in Uganda. The message of the cross was really so deep and brought spiritual uplifting in my life. God bless you.

Love Ministries International thank you for organizing. Let's keep the candle of spreading the gospel burning.

Grace, Uganda



Hello to the team at GNU.

Thank you kindly for all of the teachings you have opened my eyes to. You are helping me to develop a closer relationship with God day by day. I am 36 years old, have been saved and became a Christian one year ago. I am searching and working on my relationship with God through understanding the Gospel, which I know will be a life-long journey. God bless and thank you for everything. You guys have helped me in my daily life tremendously.

James



May I request a prayer of gratitude for the unfathomable goodness of the Lord. I thank God for Dr. Desmond Ford for allowing him to establish Good News Unlimited that feeds me, and multitudes of others, the saving truth of the Gospel. Thank you for your prayers. To God be the honour and the glory forever. God bless you.

Roslen



I love this FB page. Very happy to have found it. It's always uplifting and encouraging. No fear tactics used, no doom and gloom. Joy, gladness and best of all hope, in a doom and gloom world where all you hear is bad news! This FB page is full of good news and has renewed my faith.

Kelley (Posted on GNU's Facebook page)



Greetings in the mighty name of our Lord and Saviour. May the Almighty God bless your radio ministry for preaching the good news to our country.

Victor Gitonga, Kengeleni – Mombasa



Through your preaching many people are getting saved and now they have hope of eternal life.

*With Christian love,
Victor Gitonga*



Dear Dr Gonzalez

I take this opportunity to thank you and say how grateful I am for the program on the radio. I have confessed my sins and would like to grow in faith and request you to pray for me. I acknowledge Christ as my Saviour.

In Jesus' holy name,

*Duncan Kinuthla, Kiongwe Primary School,
Lamu – Kenya*



Dear Ritchie

You say, in your book on the millennium, that Jesus died the second death on the cross (pp.175-76). I've never read this in the Bible. What Scripture led you to conclude that when Jesus died on the cross he died the second death?

S. T.

Dear S.

There are only two possibilities: Jesus died either the first death or the second death in our place. If, as our substitute, he died the first death for us, then we believers would not die in this life. But Jesus didn't die so that we could live eternally in this present evil world; he died the second death so that we would live eternally in the world to come.

Ritchie Way



Your radio message has been a blessing to me. You have taught me so much of the Bible that I am now able to teach others. Your fundamental stand has been a blessing to us all here, although many are being led astray by fake teachers. Please continue to preach on radio.

Martin Gikundi, Kimuchia Secondary School,
Meru, Kenya



Dear Dr Gonzalez

Happy greetings to you all in the mighty name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! It is a great honour to speak out and say that through your program on Radio East Africa and your literature, I have known that truly there is a God. I pray for your ministry to continue helping weak Christians. May the Almighty God continue to strengthen you.

In Jesus' name,
Rosemary Kalnyu Irungu



I am writing this letter after listening to your radio program. I have found the answer to salvation through your sermons over the radio. May your sincere quest for the lost children of Christ be fruitful.

In Jesus' name,
Sabastian Waenaena, Kengeleni – Mombasa,
Kenya



Dearest Dr Gonzalez

I am passing my highest and greatest greetings to you in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, together with everyone under that ministry. I have heard and listened to your powerful programme on Radio East Africa. It has brought the deepest joy and comfort to my life.

Your messages come with power, and I have loved your clear and straight-forward presentation of the word of God. You are carrying the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Truly you're the servant of God and your messages are directed by the Holy Spirit.

I am praying for your ministry so that God may continue to open the windows of heaven much wider, so that finances will flow tremendously into the ministry. Please send me some Christian materials like complete Bible, tapes and books as you would see me deeply and greatly rooted in the word of God fruitfully.

You're a channel of blessing to my life. May God continue blessing you always.

Yours in Christ,
James M. Makelele

OUR HEALTH IS IN OUR HANDS

LIFE TO THE FULL

WITH DR PHILIP RODIONOFF



The action we take today will determine our health tomorrow. Our wellbeing today is largely the result of our past action.

Fads come and go. Principles endure. It is good to keep up with the latest trends, but the basics are the most important.



We need water. Clean water. Many people are dehydrated today. And with that comes toxicity, lethargy, headaches, increased arthritic pain, even irritability.



We need good, nutritious fuel for a well-functioning body - preferably as natural as possible. Processed food, often laced with artificial chemicals and sugar, adds little in the way of nutrition and puts strain on the body to detoxify the chemicals.



We need to move. Any movement is preferable to no movement. More people rust out than burn out. Movement improves circulation and stimulates the lymphatics. Critically, it increases flow of nutrients including oxygen to the cells, enhances the elimination of wastes and can improve our mood and brain function. Many believe it is the closest thing we have to an anti-aging "pill".



We need rest. In our increasingly busy world, rest is often sacrificed. But rest is critical. Our cells, particularly brain cells, need to recharge. We cannot avoid the significant health risks of fatigue.



We need relationships.

Imagine a lonely world where you were the only person. And if relationships are so important, doesn't it make sense that we should aim to have good relationships? Too often our most important relationships are neglected, and this can impact our health, happiness, and productivity.



We need God. It makes sense that we should want to know a real God, who brought the universe into being, and who loves us. He has revealed himself to us, he wants the best for us and is even inviting us to accept a free gift - the gift of living forever with him.

It is too easy to be caught up in the busy routine of life, to forget the basics. But the basics are foundational. Let's always keep them in mind. It could be a matter of life and death.

DR PHILIP RODIONOFF

Friend of Good News Unlimited

Philip Rodionoff is a medical doctor who has a special interest in nutritional and preventive medicine. He also holds a Master's degree in Religion and has presented in many parts of the world on evidences for the Christian faith. He is the co-author of the Da Vinci Decode. He is happily married with three children and lives on the Gold Coast in Australia.

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To spread the Word like wildfire through simple gospel content.

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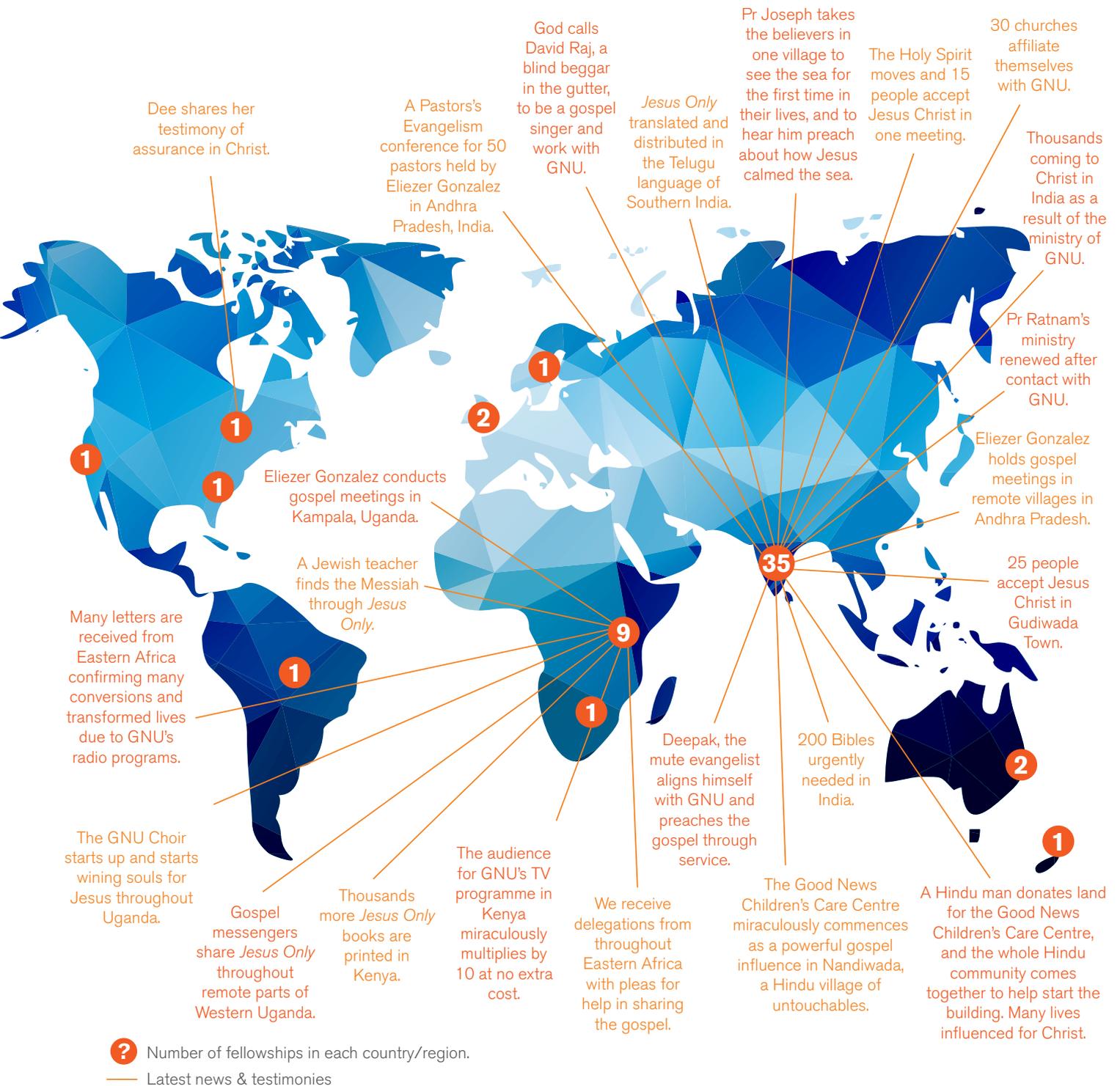
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