

God's Mercy on 9/11



Interviews with the victims were sometimes so overwhelming for Breven Warren, daughter of EMI Director Don Warren that upon editing the video footage in the evenings she often did not recall some of the details that were captured on film. The brutality and wickness imposed upon victims was often incomprehensible. On 9/11, after a day of interviews, the camera batteries were dead and the next day she was again scheduled to open up her heart and take in the stories of those living in the refugee camps.

Breven rode on the back of the motorbike driven by Chief Martin, her spiritual brother, whose life had been saved by her father, some years prior. Breven, riding behind Chief Martin was headed to Medecins Sans Frontieres to recharge the camera batteries. The road in Yambio had recently been improved, so much so that vehicles now drove at faster speeds. After the crash, they found out that 8 people had been killed on this road in the previous two weeks. They were hit as a bike entered from a sidestreet, coming up the bank onto the new road. Chief Martin and Breven didn't see the lights of the other bike. It

side-swiped them, knocking them both from the bike. They skidding along the boulder-filled road. As Breven slid along the road she was hit by another motorbike. She then dragged herself to the side of the road. As she huddled beside a wall of a hotel, a Muslim man jumped over the wall, saying "I had a vision that I was to cross this wall into the street to help someone!" He got his car and took her to Medecins Sans Frontieres where she recieved medical care and much needed antibiotics for her wounds, which were open abrasions from head to toe. Miraculously she had no broken bones.

Suzy, Breven's mother received a call from Don saying Breven had been in a terrible accident, asking her to notify prayer chains. It had taken him several hours to locate Breven after he was appraised of the accident He also told his wife that his phone was almost out of power and he may loose the connection. Suzy called many to pray, knowing the severity of any injury there is compounded by possible infection and that the LRA was still in the area and attacks were daily. It was three long days later before Suzy heard that Breven was recovering. This was a faith-building experience for the entire Warren family.



Warren's MISSION NEWS

Touching Lives by Telling and Teaching the Good News of Jesus

www.equippingministriesinternational.org

EMI
Equipping Ministries
International

November 2009

Don & Suzy Warren
P. O. Box 1125
Washougal, WA 98671

DnWar3@aol.com
(561) 252-1088 Don
(561) 254-0212 Suzy

Projects through EMI
EE Intl. Account #1365

Paralyzing Fear Strikes The Church

Our brothers and sisters in Christ are afraid and hurting. The feared Kony Rebels, a terrorist group also known as the LRA have moved into the very epi-center of where EMI works in Western Equatoria. Our friends, out of fear for their lives, left their homes and gardens to band together for some modicum of safety. When the community gathers together, they rebuild huts for housing in the refugee camps which are remote and scattered. Very little aid reaches these camps. There is no clean drinking water and only minimal food and security. Still the people feel safer being together.

The LRA's disruption in South Sudan is complex. After causing destruction in Northern Uganda for the last 20 years, they have moved their bases amongst the Azande tribe, wrecking havoc in South Sudan, D.R. Congo, and C.A.R. (Central African Republic). This is the same area where EMI set up a Community Christian Radio Station on Bangani Hill, outside the town of Ezo.

Don met with many people earlier this summer that were victims of the LRA. Their plea was for help with the immediate crisis. These people are subsistence farmers who eat what they grow. If they do not plant, they do not eat. They had already missed the first planting season because of the marauding LRA. Many were starving yet land was available around the camps to plant. Our friends had left everything behind. They needed help and asked Don to assist them. They needed tools and seeds so they could plant gardens around the refugee camps. With a very short window of time to respond to this crisis, help came in and Don returned with needed supplies.



An Unexpected Challenge

First confronted with the desperate situation of our friends last summer, Don supplied water filters, seeds, mosquito nets, clothing, soap, cooking utensils and some medication. The outstretched hands of the older women (pictured center) haunted Don when he ran out of supplies. He vowed to return with whatever help EMI could bring before the second planting season ended in late September, early October.

Don then met these two pastors. Pastor Gungbare Genegate (on right with clerical collar) is now working with EMI to bring aid to refugees. He came to Yambio, South Sudan to buy salt, sugar, and flour because of rumors that the LRA were coming. While he was away, the LRA came. His wife and ten children escaped from their home to Congo. Currently they are seperated because of the unrest. On the left is another Congolese pastor in front of a group of newly orphaned children from his church. While he was away teaching, the LRA attacked his church. When he returned he personally buried 49 bodies, including his own wife and children. They had all been burned alive inside his church.



Just in Time for Planting EMI Helps Stem Starvation



Not early, but not too late either, EMI delivers seeds, tools, and walking tractors to the church. Three seed banks for future crops are established. Although the crisis is not over, the church knows that they are not forgotten as they face the current persecution. EMI will continue to help as you support us in our effort to "help them help themselves".

Headlines of Despair



The newspaper headline reads, **KONY KIDNAPS 200 IN CONGO.** The LRA rebels, led by Joseph Kony, disrupts families and communities as they rob, destroy, rape, kidnap, maim and murder. Kidnapped boys are used as child soldiers and girls as sex slaves. Churches are being burned to the ground and church leaders are being nailed to trees and crucified.

The Victims Tell Their Stories



Suzanna Luka escaped from the LRA terrorist two days before Don Warren met her and spoke with her. Her father is on the Board of Directors for the Community Christian Radio Station in Ezo. Suzanna was unable to speak her own tribal language, Azande and only able to speak in the language of the rebel army, Acholi. She had been abducted a year and a half ago at the age of 14. For the past year and a half she had been a part of unthinkable tragedies. She was forced to be one of Joseph Kony's (the leader of the LRA) personal sex-slaves. When Don asked her what was it that finally made her risk her life and escape, running for 48 hours straight, knowing she would be hacked to pieces if found. She told a story of how they entered a home in Congo and she was forced to kill three babies that belonged to a family that reminded her much of her own. The LRA kills infants by grabbing a baby's leg and smashing its head against a wall or tree.

Tomayo Willko was away hunting to gather food for his family. When he returned home he found pieces of his two small babies that had been violently smashed against the walls of his home. His wife and two older children had been abducted by the LRA. Here Tomayo is fashioning himself a weapon to go and get his family back. The LRA have AK47's and surface-to-air-missiles, but he is going to get his family back with his bow and arrows and this club with a spike.



Margaret sits in this picture with her four children behind her. Her husband, Pastor Paul has been working with Don Warren for five years. He had been involved in many of EMI's projects with the radio station and pastoral training. Their family was forced to flee to the refugee camp, but with no access to food, their children were starving. Pastor Paul wanted to go to his own farm only meters away to gather vegetables to feed his children. His wife did not want him to go alone. While gathering vegetables the LRA attacked them. Margaret was gang-raped and tortured while Pastor Paul was forced to watch. Afterwards he was brutally beaten to death in front of her. Don Warren met with Margaret only days later.

Josta, the young boy pictured on the left was with his family on Christmas Eve December 2008. His father had forgotten his Bible and sent Josta back home to get it. Nearing the church he heard noises that were not the familiar songs of worship. He hid in the bushes and watching the LRA attack his family and friends. Four babies were beaten to death, 13 young girls were abducted and 70 people, including his family were burned alive in the church building.



The Spiritual Battle

After hearing the cry of the people, Don Warren responded to this crisis. He returning mid- August to Africa, staying stateside only four weeks, returning with a team to help raise awareness of the situation. They transported supplies, seeds and tools to those who are in desperate need. It was hard. There were many obstacles. So many in fact that Don was constantly reminded that this is an epic



spiritual battle. The Warrens oldest

daughter Breven was in a serious motorbike accident in Yambio, South Sudan on 9/11. God provided in miraculous ways to preserve her life and grant her health to continue.

Finally word was received from Don that on Sunday September 26, the supplies, seeds, and tools were delivered and distributed to those who remain in desperate need of these goods for their very survival. Don said his heart was breaking for the current situation they are enduring, yet with gratitude they received these gifts, knowing they are not alone or forgotten in this trial. After hearing this news, a team member who had accompanied Don into Sudan, but had returned to the US the week before the goods arrived in Sudan, writes the following:

....a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. (I Corinthians 16:9)

These certainly are words that have been tremendous encouragement to the team in South Sudan with EMI Director Don Warren. It seemed that at every turn there were delays...delays...delays. Then there were unexpected changes and unforeseen diversions. The time frame for the opportunity to deliver seeds and farming tools to the beleaguered town of Ezo, South Sudan looked on numerous occasions as if it had completely elapsed and collapsed. Don was loath to give up and with dogged determination changed his own itinerary in order to press ahead and finish what he had started. So, here's what I have heard so far. Don, Breven and Wes Parker left Yambio, South Sudan on Friday September 25th to traverse the 100 miles or so to Ezo with a contingent of soldiers for protection. But having gone only part way, they stopped, having been alerted to LRA activity on the road ahead.

They were also told that the SPLA would be going up the road the next day so Don decided to spend the night and settle in with the expected military convoy. Saturday came but the SPLA-soldier-convoy did not, so the truck with its seven tons of seeds, walking tractors, a thousand tools for hand farming, the unit of soldiers and Don and team went up the road. They were slowed by the road of which 70 miles of the Ezo line is not repaired...they are in the midst of the rainy season and the truck failed numerous times on the way. The last breakdown occurred just four miles outside the Ezo town and the team was forced to make the rest of the way into town on foot in the dead dark without using lights so as to attract the attention of the LRA. They entered the SPLA military camp site nigh unto midnight. As the EMI team trekked into one side of town, an LRA raid was on-going on the other side of town opposite and in another location away from the road. Details are scant because of limited contact but this much is known. The seeds and tools were distributed. They were the "delivery of hope" they were intended to be. Don proved his mettle by keeping his promise to deliver the goods and to be there to do it. The plan is to return to Yambio beginning Monday morning. Don expressed his sorrow at having to leave so soon. There is great misery and suffering all around and many of our Sudanese friends in faith and ministry continue to labor on in Ezo. We can only hope that the film and photos are able to portray the drama that such a scant verbal description has brought to mind. Ezo is ground-zero for a major presence of the LRA in the Western Equatoria State. While many huge international agencies pulled out because of insecurity, Don fulfilled a promise to go in with what may prove to be the seeds and tools that will effectually save thousands of lives in the months ahead from starvation. Continue to pray earnestly for the team to come out safely and for the church in Ezo, that the grace of the Lord is sufficient.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS-There were many adversaries to this trip.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT-The project to get there was a great opportunity for effective service.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP-The door is wide open when the Lord leads the way.