



IT'S WAR OUT THERE.

The New Testament

uses different word pictures to illustrate life in the Kingdom of God: Farming, investing, cooking, marriage, lost things, construction, treasure... and war. Though Paul paints a vivid picture of the spiritual war we are engaged in, we tend to shrink from using that vocabulary in our contemporary society – for some good reasons.

War is violent. It is destructive and it has casualties. No one likes to think about the death involved but that is the stark reality of war.

Every week at Global Teams we hear fantastic stories of how the Holy Spirit is moving through our field partners, and we love to share those testimonies. Less often, brave and wounded souls will offer their stories of setback and defeat. Those stories are needed as much as the victories to remind us of the reality of the conflict we are engaged in.

Global Teams field partners work on the frontlines of the spiritual war we are engaged in, fighting to establish Gospel beachheads among those without a church in their midst.

As you read of their struggles, let your heart be moved to prayer and empathy for them and the hundreds of others who are “harassed at every turn – conflicts on the outside, fears within.” (II Cor. 7:5)

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SHOT FROM BEHIND

It's called friendly fire: the discharge of a weapon that injures or kills a member of one's own forces

or an ally. Unfortunately, it's a common occurrence in the mission field, where Gospel workers are attacked by other believers. David knew the pain of being wounded from behind by those on the "same team" prompting him to write in Psalm 3, "You, Lord are a shield **around** me."

IBADA is younger than most of the other team leaders in East Africa and comes from a Muslim background. Perhaps it was his age, perhaps it was his fruitfulness among Muslims, or perhaps it was his youthful zeal-ousness that put off the other missionaries who weren't always receptive to his suggestions.

Ibada had of course seen his share of challenges but remained resilient. A flood had wiped out a good portion of his crops which he used to feed his family. A friend had borrowed his motorcycle that he used to make money and had wrecked it. And he had experienced persecution from the Muslims he ministered to. Throughout these challenges, Ibada and his wife's faith in God had remained strong.

At first, there were just some rumors

among his team members that he was getting funds from Global Teams that he was not sharing. Ibada shrugged them off because clearly his lifestyle and financial challenges demonstrated he was not getting money. But the rumors persisted, and a few members felt that he must be leaving them out in his reports.

He apologized saying he had fallen behind in his reporting but that the Africa Director did indeed know about their work. Still, some of them left his team to join another work.

That hurt! Unfortunately, the situation worsened. One of those who left started a rumor that he was having inappropriate relations with a female team leader in GT. He was completely devoted to his wife! And then came the blow that fell him. The senior team leader in the country, who had recruited Ibada into GT, fell seriously ill. A prayer team told him that a curse had been put on him and Ibada – coming from a Muslim people group which practiced witchcraft – was fingered as the likely culprit. Full of shame and defeated, Ibada withdrew from communication with others in GT and stopped his visits to Muslim villages.

POSTSCRIPT

Ibada finally answered the Africa Director's calls and tearfully poured out the story. Over the next 4 months, Francis visited the affected parties twice, listening and mediating repentance and reconciliation. Ibada recently wrote, "Thank you for your prayers and good leadership. I also thank the African Director for his wisdom because God has used him to free me from the enemy who wanted to destroy the ministry."



FRONTAL ASSAULT

"Finally, after two years of preparation, we are going to the Islands!"

Through support raising, spiritual growth, coaching, delays and then language learning, Roxy and Chris had tenaciously pursued their call to a isolated Muslim people group. Things were finally lining up!

God provided a fantastic opportunity through Conrad, a businessman on the island, to get visas, work and have enough time to continue language studies. "He was upbeat and totally willing to work with our situation," Roxy related, "and he was so generous with the Islanders, giving them loans to help them make ends meet between paychecks."

But Conrad was not as easy going and generous as he appeared. As Chris and Roxy started their lives on the island, the truth began to surface.

At first, Conrad requested more hours from them because of the workload, but then he began to demand it. They were shocked at how he spoke to the local employees and learned the dark side of his generosity: indentured servitude.

Locals worked long hours at pay rates that would never allow them to pay off their debts.

As their understanding grew, Conrad attempted to isolate them from other employees, while instilling fear by assuring them of his "protection" from local police who were asking questions.

When a planned visit to the USA had to be extended for family reasons, Conrad threatened them. Things became heated after he tried to extort money from Chris, and Conrad said he had cancelled their visas and opened a criminal case against them with the police that would prevent them from ever returning. With heavy hearts, Chris and Roxy left behind their dreams, their friendships and their possessions.

POSTSCRIPT

Chris and Roxy spent a year in the USA listening to God and receiving coaching through GT. The Lord brought healing, comfort and new direction. Five months ago, they moved to Asia among a new unreached people group.

ESPIONAGE

"Please pray for my health."

I have lost 23 pounds in seven months. I have been to many doctors and stayed in the hospital to have tests done. No one has found the problem. I know now that only God can help me."

Sudeep left his stressful job and relocated his family to a town in Karnataka, India to begin a new work. In addition to the loss of income, they had to move into a smaller house and his children enrolled in new schools. The area had multiple incidents of violence from Hindu extremists. The move was a big change and a serious financial strain.

As GT's new leader for the region, Sudeep is eager to move the work forward in this strategic region of India, but he has been too weak to meet with others. Fearing he might die, he called family to come pray for him at his home.



POSTSCRIPT

Sudeep agreed to meet with a doctor on GT's board to review the medical tests. As Dr. W listened patiently, it became clear that Sudeep was overcome with worry and fear. The enemy of his soul had conducted a successful disinformation campaign to the extent that he had lost his health. Dr. W's prayers released him from the lies and Sudeep is reporting that his strength is returning and he has been engaging his community with a new peace.



CARE FOR THE WOUNDED

We care for our field partners proactively as well as when they are facing difficulties. One great opportunity for strengthening them is through a partner care retreat. Our next field partner retreat will be in Kazakhstan. Your gift of \$75 provides one way travel to the site while a gift of \$350 will provide six days room and board. Give online here: or send your gift to GT designated for "Partner Care."

GLOBAL TEAMS PRAYER GATHERING

Saturday, October 19th
9am EDT | 6am PDT.



Join fellow believers from around the world as we meet on Zoom to share praises and prayers in several languages! For a link, email contactGT@global-teams.org.



Global Teams International, Inc.

800 Tuskawilla Rd, Winter Springs, FL 32708
407-388-0855 • contactGT@global-teams.org
www.global-teams.org



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