

**“By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe,  
 when she had received the spies with peace.”**  
**Hebrews 11:31 NKJV**

Friends: May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and yours this February! The Lord has blessed us to serve as missionaries for 20 years now, and we rejoice that the ministry in Africa continues to be encouraging to us—we hope this month’s story will encourage you too, friend.

At left is Sister Beatrice and her friend (let’s call her name Saadat which is not her real name but is a Muslim name which means ‘blessing’; her face is not shown for her privacy). Beatrice is the wife of our ministry leader in Uganda, Pastor Alex Minge, and she is a blessing in many ways in her own right. Beatrice and some women from their church, Choice Baptist Church of Wabigalo, began an outreach to prostitutes a short while ago. Interestingly the Lord had put it upon my heart (Jim) about a year ago to pray for the salvation of prostitutes.

Saadat’s story, according to friends there, goes like this (slightly edited for readability): “Saadat, a mother of three and the grandmother of one, formerly a Muslim, became a widow at the beginning of 2020. After the death of the husband, relatives sold all the family property, including the house the husband had built for her. She had no other means of income, and she was lured into prostitution by friends and became fully involved in acts of prostitution as means of survival and to provide for her orphaned children. When Beatrice and other women from the church shared the gospel with her, she surrendered to Jesus, stopped prostitution, and began to come to church. She had no income and was chased away from the house she rented as she could not pay rent.” I (Jim) met Saadat at the church when I visited there recently. She was very contrite and ashamed of her past but also hopeful for her future. She expressed her love for Jesus. I saw that she obviously feels very close to Beatrice. We were able to help with medical treatment for one of her sick children. The Lord blessed us to house and help Saadat and the children she cares for as she is in discipleship with the ladies from the church. Another woman, let’s call her name Susan, has two children and has a background like Saadat’s. She, too, will undergo discipleship and have lodging and support soon as the Lord allows in a new ministry collaboration we have with the church. We hope to continue to help Saadat and Susan for some time while they have discipleship and eventually receive training in job skills. The church has received these ladies so well!

Prostitution is very common in Africa, especially in urban slum areas, where at times, most of the women in a locale are involved in it in some measure. Many are not streetwalkers or brothel workers but practice a more casual trade. We have met several women over the years who profess faith in Christ who came from this background.

More about Sadaat: She is living very happily now and has, as a result of changes in her life, shared the gospel with many of her former fellow prostitutes, and some of these have begun to come to church and have professed faith in Christ, and some have abandoned prostitution. Beatrice and Pastor Alex are excited that Sadaat is so zealous to bring the gospel to others. Sadaat’s uncle, a Muslim, heard the gospel from her and professed faith in Christ before his death very recently. Pastor Alex and Beatrice wrote that Sadaat “is doing extremely good work” as an evangelist, and “we indeed praise God for her life.”

Beatrice is savvy to possible manipulations the ladies may attempt, and there is an accountability structure in place for the ladies, but we all have hope for truly changed lives for Sadaat, Susan, their children, and the people that can be reached through them. By faith, Rahab, the harlot, did not perish when Jericho fell, and her faith, was seen in her reception of Israel’s spies. Please pray for Sadaat and Susan and the others that, by faith their lives will exhibit such marvelous grace. Thanks for your interest, prayers, and gifts to the ministry of Mission Africa, friend!

## KAPPY'S CORNER— Of Suffering and Grace

From my heart:

I want to personally express my love and gratitude to all who have been praying for me. I also thank those of you who shared with us concerning yourselves or someone you know who had one mini-stroke and never had another. That was such a great encouragement. By God's grace and in His mercy, the Lord has answered by keeping me symptom-free this entire year. I cannot praise Him enough.

Many years ago, I memorized Galatians 2:20. In the NIV, it reads: "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." These words speak of God's redemptive grace—past, present, and future. Before Christ found me, "me, myself, and I" was the center of my version of the universe. When Jesus saved my soul, He opened my rebellious eyes to see His centrality and His power at work in all of His creation, including me. Every moment of every day, I can trust Him to direct and strengthen me in every aspect of life. He is with me constantly, giving me the ability to live for Him. Once and for all time, Jesus took my sins on Himself when He went to the cross and died in my place; He did it because He loved me. It's all of grace.

The Lord uses a variety of means to reach this slow learner who needs frequent reminders. Lately, He has used a historical novel: Steal Away Home; Charles Spurgeon and Thomas Johnson, written by Matt Carter and Aaron Ivey. When I saw the book on a friend's coffee table, I was impressed with the illustrations on the cover of Charles Spurgeon and Thomas Johnson.

Much has been published by and about Charles Haddon Spurgeon over the years, but this book goes into areas of his life that most biographies don't. He is refreshingly presented as a man rather than a legend. But more importantly, the book introduced me to Thomas Lewis Johnson. The book touches on the journey on which the Lord took him from his birth in slavery in the American south in 1836 to his rebirth while still a slave, his emancipation at the end of the Civil War, his friendship with Charles Spurgeon, and his mission to take the Gospel to Africa.

The book Steal Away Home led me to learn more about Thomas Johnson and his mission. I found the online electronic edition of the detailed account he wrote in 1892, Africa for Christ. Twenty-Eight Years a Slave, by REV. Thomas L. Johnson.

In his book, he writes: *The one motto of my soul has been--" Africa for Christ." For years this one prayer has gone up from my heart to God. Oh, God, give me Africa for Jesus. And this was not only the prayer of daily devotion, but often in the silent hours of the night, when after awaking from sleep, Africa, Africa, poor long-neglected Africa, land of my fathers, would come before me, and as I would contemplate the scheme of my life, the condition of Africa's millions, of how little was being done, of how much there was to be done, from the depth of my soul would come--Oh, God, give me Africa for Jesus."*

The message I took away from both books is hope in Christ—Christ is hope—and how God can use suffering in His powerful, redemptive grace.

**May our Lord bless you in His sufficient grace.**

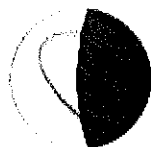
Love and thanks, *Jim and Kappy*

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