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God Intervenes in Powerful ways in the lives of Hands Across Nations Ugandan workers.

It isn't often that we see a definite supernatural intervention from God in a person's life. However, in the past two weeks, four of our staff members have had life saving interventions from God's hand that could not be doubted. They all involved motorcycles or a bicycle. Most people here do not have a vehicle of any kind, except possibly a bicycle. So walking is used by most people. That's a mighty slow way to travel so there are plentiful bicycle taxis and motorcycle taxis called "boda bodas" which crisscross the town of Lira from early morning until very late at night. They carry people, animals, furniture, bags of charcoal and produce, roofing and long pieces of rebar, and for us....stacks of books, teaching materials and glasses that are delivered to our village literacy and teacher training classes. Having to travel the narrow roads shared with giant busses, semi tractor trailers, cars and slow moving tractors, as well as pedestrians, goats, cows and chickens makes safety a bit "iffy". Regularly we see and hear of accidents and incidents, many of them fatal, involving motorcycles and bicycles.



At any function out in the village, we will find many bicycles neatly stacked by their owners.



Motorcycles will be found in abundance as many people travel far to an all day burial, marriage or special Prayer and Thanksgiving to the Lord, and a motorcycle "boda boda" is necessary to get there and back in the same day.



After a teacher training workshop two weeks ago, our lead teacher trainer, Peter, was riding home and somehow lost the license plate off the back of his motorcycle. It's a big issue here because without a plate, your motorcycle is considered a stolen vehicle and you can be arrested. He finally tracked down the person who found it on the dirt road out in the village, paid the man who held it hostage for a hefty sum, and headed back to our office. Suddenly a group of goats ran across the road directly in front of him. He was able to avoid all but the last, very pregnant goat. She took a direct hit and Peter keeled over to the right, cracking the windshield scraping the new paint, taking the hide off his right shoe, scraping both knees and landing on his outstretched right hand. Peter thought he was badly injured and laid there, so the crowd carried him off the road. The goat had a broken spine and her hind legs were paralyzed. Just a week earlier a man had been beaten to death in that very place on the road by a group of drunk men. However, he had his fuel money which he used to pay off the goat, and he was allowed to leave unharmed by the gathering crowd. He should have had a fractured wrist according to a surgeon, but had just a few minor flesh wounds which have healed well with charcoal.

Lucy, our fabulous housekeeper and printing machine operator, was traveling last weekend on a boda boda home from a dental appointment out of town, when the driver who was "overspeeding" hit a "hump" in the road, put there to slow drivers down. She was sitting side-saddle. Immediately she and her bags flew into the air as the boda boda continued on. Suddenly Lucy found her hands on the back of the luggage rack, her feet on the ground leaping along behind the motorcycle. Once the driver finally stopped, horrified onlookers came to tell her she must be protected by God because she should be dead!

That same weekend, Richard, our one armed translator was traveling home in the dark. Reaching the crest of a hill six thugs jumped out of the bushes in front of him blocking his way. He said "I found myself jumping strongly off my motorcycle and saying to them 'What do you want? If you want my life you can take it, if you want my motorcycle you can take it, but you will be answering to the Lord because I belong to Him!' Then, I don't know why, but I put my hand in my pocket and for some reason I had carried a multitool that day. (which had been given as a gift years before) that day. As I pulled it out, the men thought I had a pistol and all ran away leaving me to ride home unharmed." He said he knew it wasn't himself talking but God giving him the words.





Richard, Victor and Lucy playfully reenact their motorcycle/bicycle incidents for our camera. We thank God all of them were not injured in the slightest, and can laugh about the memories.

Just this week, our other translator, 83 year old Victor, was riding to our office on a bicycle boda boda. Without warning, a motorcycle whizzed past them and turned directly in front of them. As Victor told it, "I unexpectedly found myself jumping off the back of the bicycle, landing in the middle of the road. The bicycle boda boda smashed into the reckless motorcycle while other motorcycles and bicycles were all around me, but no one hit me!" Victor normally has a very distinctive shuffling gait and is not someone who you would expect could quickly jump anywhere let alone off a bicycle in the middle of traffic. We know God's protection was over him.

Last week, the day after our Teacher Training Workshop ended, a pastor who had attended and given an inspiring speech to the graduating teachers, then closed the training with prayer, was killed on a motorcycle when hit by a bus as he turned into a gas station. The bus was passing illegally and kept going after hitting the man. Any one of our staff members could have had the same outcome. Life is fragile, treasure it and live every moment as if it is your last because it could be.

All four of these staff members are sold out in giving themselves to the work God has given them to do. Peter is a single father. Lucy was orphaned at 8 years old and completed only the 3rd grade. She is a mother of two children, and is also caring for a third orphan girl. Richard who had his arm amputated at age 12, is a pastor, farmer, teacher and translator for Hands Across Nations. And Victor, is a very elderly yet sharp retired teacher and principal of a school, who is our extremely valuable translator. All have seen and experienced God's protection and help powerfully in their lives. All believe that the work God has given them to do is more wonderful and important to complete than anything they have ever done in their lives. We all believe and have experienced the truth from the Bible in 2 Chronicles 16:9 which says "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." He is still strengthening us daily. What a wonderful way to live!

Your prayers and support do not go unnoticed by the God of Heaven and Earth! He is looking for those who are sold out to Him, to show Himself strong on their behalf! Thank you from Hands Across Nations, and the poor and needy illiterate Lango people who are now rising up out of their poverty of life and spirit because of your generous support in so many ways.

Keith and Carolyn Jones, sharing the love of Christ in practical ways

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