

Testimonies from Africa

Timo, in Darfur

You wouldn't ever guess that he is someone called by God to reach his own people. He looks like any other young Sudanese... eating like all the others, moving around on transport like all the others, even wearing the traditional Muslim 'jalabiyya' like most Muslims in Darfur. But Timo is a light in the darkness. He brings Living Water to people in a dry and weary land. He is reaching out to those in this war-torn area.

The refugee camps spread for miles around the capital city of Darfur. Most days, Timo wakes early and prepares something to eat with his house-mate Abdo. He pulls the long white 'jalabiyya' over his head and places the small white 'tagiyya' on his head. He walks to the bus station with many others, waits a long time for the right bus, and then pays a few precious coins for his ride to the edge of town. The bus unloads at the guarded gate of the refugee camp. People wander in and out, many of them being stopped for questioning or to be searched. If Timo were white, he would have a hard time clearing security. If he announced that he was bringing the Gospel message inside the camp walls, he would most certainly not be allowed. But Timo blends right in... and no one can see the Bibles he is carrying underneath the loose outer garment.

He has come to disciple the believers in the camp. He makes this journey as often as he can to meet together with new believers who would have no other way to learn the word of God. Because of this humble, obedient Sudanese servant named Timo... light is being spread among the lost in Darfur.



Jouma

I was a practising Muslim when I believed in Jesus the Messiah in June 1999. At that time I was also married, but my wife left me because of the persecution which followed my turning to the Messiah. My larger family also encouraged my wife to leave me, disowned me and confiscated my possessions.

My pastor also tried to bring my wife back into my life but in vain. I remained faithful to the Lord despite all these events and threats. Some even tried to keep me from worship meetings which I could only attend after walking seven kilometers from my village. Finally I had to leave my family for three months in order to be strengthened and encouraged in my faith. I eventually became a pastor myself.

Laouali from Nigeria

I was Muslim and I went to a Qur'anic school in Kano, Nigeria for three years. I even studied the history of Jesus through some references in the Qur'an. When I arrived back home from my studies I started to have relationships with some practicing Christians. My father and my brothers became suspicious of me and wanted to send me back to the leader of the Qur'anic school. But when I refused to go the school leader came to me. My family promised me money for business and even a marriage if I would break off all relations with believers in Jesus but I did not listen to them. Having seen the 'Jesus' film I thought that I might even be able to deceive the Christians as a type of "secret agent" for Islam but I really did meet the Messiah myself. My family pushed me out of my home and happily some believers took me in for a whole year until I went to a Bible School. Now I am a pastor.