



EQUIPPING

December 2010

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Keith Martens, M.Div.
Executive Director

Use it or Lose?

On December 30, 1994, the *Washington Post* reported an amazing story about an orphanage director's experience during the tsunami that devastated Sri Lanka, along with 11 other countries, at a cost of over 77,000 lives. On Sunday morning, December 29, the founder and director of the Samaritan Children's Home, Dayalan Sanders, was relaxing on his bed thinking over the sermon he was planning to deliver in the next half hour in the seaside chapel located 200 yards from the beach in the small fishing village of Navalady. Suddenly, his wife burst into the room frantically urging him to come outside to look at the sea.

He tried to calm her saying, "God is with us. Nothing will ever harm us without His permission." He then ran outside to see on the horizon what he described as a "30-foot wall of water," racing toward their seaside orphanage. He immediately yelled out for everyone to gather the children and get down to the dock and onto the boat. Their small boat was docked in the lagoon on the other side of the narrow peninsula where the orphanage was situated. Fortunately, in the midst of all the holiday preparations and events of the preceding two days, Sanders had forgotten to detach and store the boat's motor as he usually did each night. After a lot of commotion, every one of the 28 kids and support staff were accounted for and in the boat. With a beyond capacity boatload, Sanders went to start up the typically temperamental engine. To his surprise the motor started with only one pull—something he reports had never happened before. "Usually

you have to pull it four or five times," he said.

As they pulled away from the dock, they looked back to see the massive wall of water overwhelm the orphanage and submerge it to the height of the roof's rafters. "It was a thunderous roar, and black sea," said Sanders. They continued to watch in amazement as the raging current continued its devastation on surrounding property. Even though their boat was safely on its way, their ordeal was not over.

The wall of water had not only made its way to the orphanage but was now cascading down onto the lagoon and the dock from which they had left. It was now heading toward the lagoon and their boat. At the same time, the impact of the wave further up the shoreline was flooding the estuary leading into the lagoon that Sanders and his group were trying to cross. Caught between two currents, the fear was that this convergence of water would swamp their small and overloaded boat. Sanders reported that it was then he recalled the words written in the Book of Isaiah, "When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall raise up a standard against it." With that in mind, Sanders raised his hand in the direction of the torrent and shouted, "I command you, in the name of Jesus—stop!"

Sanders then reported that the water seemed to "stall momentarily." "I thought I was imagining things," he said. The water began to roll back out to sea and the torrent subsided. As the sea flattened out they began to see a

number of people in the water who were calling out for help—other villagers who had been swept off the peninsula. People were crying out, "Help us, help us," Sanders and his wife were able to rescue one man. But they had to leave the rest behind because there was not any more room in the boat.

While the orphanage was completely devastated, the staff and children escaped with their lives. While surveying the wreckage, Sanders broke down and cried, "Twenty years of my life put in here, and I saw it all disappear in 20 seconds." Yet with gratitude, amazement, and relief he expressed, "If there was anyone who should have got swept away by this tidal wave, it should have been us." "We were eyeball to eyeball with the wave," he said. Amazing—praise God!

A story like this raises this question for me: **do we have something to lose if we fail to use the authority Christ has given us?** For example, would the tsunami have overtaken the boat with the orphans had the director not addressed it as he did? Would Jesus and his disciples have found themselves hanging on to debris in hopes of being rescued had Jesus not spoke to the storm (Mk. 4)? Could some have drowned? And what could be the outcome of not using Christ's authority to speak to the various types of storms or mountains we face in the course of living out our lives?

(This is an excerpt from the chapter entitled, "A Tale of Two Storms," by Keith Martens. To view entire chapter, please go to <http://kingdomministriesintl.org/onlineResources.htm>)

Jimmy's Story



Jamie Barker, Director
Dakota House, Fresno, CA

“ Jimmy is wanted by the police in another county; his mother is hateful to him and he has no idea who or where his father is; he has dropped out of school; he can hardly read; he never has money, or food, or any of the things most kids his age have; he lives in a rat hole apartment in a ghetto”



George Freeman,
Administrator, Kingdom
Ministries

We sat at a table smudged with paint and marked with scars from dozens of children's agitated hands. Jimmy sat with his head down, his fingernail running back and forth in the groove another child had made with those kid scissors that don't really cut paper but apparently work well enough on wooden tabletops.

Jimmy was seventeen years old and considering the biggest decision of his life: whether or not to give his life to Jesus.

For eleven years I have been the director of a community center I founded in an impoverished neighborhood in Fresno California. The ministry is called Dakota House; it sits in the middle of a spiritual wasteland. All around us are people suffering from every kind of abuse, neglect, and sorrow. **Our kids' parents are gangsters, drug-addicts, and prostitutes: the lost.**

Jimmy and I sat with my friend George Freeman, who had been the speaker at our youth group that day. Earlier, when all the kids were still there, the conversation had gone all over the place-- from demons to drinking, sin to sex, Eternity (the concept) to Ecstasy (the drug) and back again.

One of the kids blurted out, "Hell ain't a real place. It's just made up. Right?" Before George could answer **Jimmy replied quietly, "I live in Hell. Every time I walk through my door I'm in it."**

I looked over at Jimmy and nodded; I couldn't disagree with him. Once when I hadn't seen Jimmy for a few days I knocked on his apartment door and his mother answered.

"What the @#\$\$* do you want?" she demanded of me as she opened the door a few inches wide. Her eyes were bleary and bloodshot. A Pit Bull was going mad with rage, his nose pushing at the crack in the door.

"I, uh, I'm just looking for Jimmy. Do you know where he is?"

"I don't know and I don't give a @#\$\$*." Then she slammed the door.

For a moment I stood there, stunned. I have encountered this sort of behavior many times, and it always disturbs me. 'That is Jimmy's mother,' was all I could think. 'His *mama*.' My heart ached as I walked away, the dog still lunging and growling at the door.

Jimmy is a funny, smart, and intuitive young man. He is a born leader. He is hardened, but his heart is eager for love. He does things to help out other people, but tries to hide those selfless actions from others. And Jimmy is protective. More than once he has stepped forward, appeared out of nowhere just to walk with me or stand by my side when he thought I was being threatened or in danger.

"Hell is a real place," George answered the other boy. "And believe me, you don't want to go there." After an hour or so the kids lost interest in our conversation and wandered over to play the Wii system, or just hang out on the couches in the adjoining room. But Jimmy stayed.

George cautiously leaned in towards Jimmy. "Are you interested in giving your life to Jesus? Because we can make it happen, right here and now." Jimmy looked up at George. Finally, he said, "But I'm afraid. I mean, what if it's boring?"

This is a logical question, as far as I'm concerned. I asked the same thing years ago before I finally made the decision to quit screwing up my life and let God take the lead.

But, still--think about it. Jimmy is wanted by the police in another county; his mother is hateful to him and he has no idea who or where his father is; he has dropped out of school; he can hardly read; he never has money, or food, or any of the things most kids his age have; he lives in a rat

hole apartment in a ghetto neighborhood; he believes his life is Hell, and what he is worried about is if he is going to be BORED.

And I get this. Because everybody wants to live a good story. And we as Christians sometimes don't do a very good job of sharing the good story of our lives, so it might not look that appealing to other people. We are good at making long lists of what people can or can't or should or shouldn't do. And to speak the truth, some of us come across as downright joyless. Judgmental and joyless are not traits that draw people.

George and I sat silently as Jimmy's eternal life toppled on the fragile edge of his decision. "It's your choice," George assured Jimmy. And no one can make it for you."

Jimmy still sat silently on the bench seat, his chin in his elbow now, leaning on the table. I tried to look in his eyes but they seemed very far away from me.

George must have felt a shift in the universe, because **I heard him quietly proclaim, "Get ready, angels."** I looked up at George expectantly. I know he is alerting the angels to get ready to celebrate, because that's what they do when someone enters the kingdom. They party.

Jimmy dropped his head and said, "I wanna do it. I just don't know the words to say." You should have seen George and me. Our faces lit up like pinball machines. I'm sure we looked ridiculous. "No problem," George said. "I can help you with the words."

Then I had the privilege of watching Jimmy, whom I love, enter into all eternity with Jesus. With all of us.

-Jamie Baker,

Director, Dakota House

Event Calendar Christmas List Prayer Needs

November 8-12: YWAM Disciple-ship Training in Honolulu, HI

December 7: New Harvest Church Leadership training

February 8-10: TREK Disciple-ship School, Abbotsford, BC

February 21-25: YWAM Disciple-ship Training in Honolulu, HI

1. Attic Insulation
2. Rain Gutters
3. A New Front Door
4. Gas-Powered Leaf Blower
5. Window Coverings for Counseling Offices
6. Outdoor Patio Furniture
7. Flat-Screen Computer Monitors
8. Bistro Table

1. Please pray for a church willing to host the **Prayer Ministry Workshop**.
2. Please be praying for our staff as we work to complete **our new Bible Study curriculum**.
3. Please pray for God's provision for the **financial needs and health concerns** of our staff. Our need is **\$49,813**.

Financial Update

Expenses YTD

\$308,189

Income YTD

\$258,376

We currently need

\$49,813

To cover 2010 expenses

Would you please consider giving generously as the lord directs you?

In Their Own Words

The other night, our 6 year old son woke up multiple times in the night and came into our room. Each time, we said a quick prayer and sent him back to bed. My husband got up around 4:30 am and left for the gym. Shortly after he left our son came in again, this time crying and very frightened. He said that he was hearing a woman's voice talk to him but when he closed his eyes he was unable to tell if it was a boy or girl because all he could see was an eye.

As he said this, I immediately remembered that the day before my friend was sharing with me over the phone about a powerful prayer experience that she had at Kingdom Ministries. God had given her and her husband an opportunity to be trained in some pretty intense spiritual warfare.

She said that the night that she and her husband had this opportunity, their youngest daughter woke up terrified in the night and all she could see was a monster's eyes.

As I put this all together, I realized that whatever was trying to attack their daughter was now trying to attack our son. **I began to pray and use the tools that we have been taught through Keith and his team.** I, too, could feel darkness and evil in our home. I continued to pray and pray, really believing in the authority that Christ has given us as believers to contend for our homes, families, and communities.

Finally, I heard my husband come home from the gym and I went out and told him what was going on. **He immediately began to pray with authority over our**

son and over our home. I felt the oppression break and leave.

We went in to our son to check on him. He said that he felt better, so we said that we should give praise to Jesus. Our son started the prayer by saying, "Thank you, Jesus, for making me feel better and thank you that I have a dad and mom who pray over me."

We are truly thankful for these truths and that we have been taught and how to use our authority in Christ! I was able to see the importance of praying with "two or more." My husband and I are firm believers in the importance of prayer in marriage...**now we are committed to using the authority that Christ has given us when we pray!** Thank you!!!

Brodie and Jen Johanson



As you do your holiday shopping, you can earn money for Kingdom Ministries for free! Each time you search the web or shop online, a percentage will be donated to Kingdom Ministries. Just download the GoodSearch-Kingdom Ministries and Counseling Center toolbar at www.goodsearch.com/toolbar

Thank you to those using GoodSearch—we received \$200 this year!

Kingdom Counseling Center



Joan Martens, M.A.,
L.M.F.T., Director

What is unique about our counseling center? We not only provide the tools and insight provided by behavioral science, but also utilize the counsel of the Holy Spirit to expose and resolve the roots of emotional and behavioral issues.

Our goal is to provide professional counseling in an environment where we also allow the Spirit of God to reveal His truth to people directly.

If you or a friend would like to pursue freedom and healing, please call us: **559.226.2750**



Carrie Wood, M.S.,
Intern Counselor

In Their Own Words: YWAM Hawaii

November 8–12, Keith Martens, George Freeman, Kelly and Gabriella Rosenthal offered training and ministry at the YWAM base in Honolulu, HI. Following are some testimonies from the YWAM students:

“Thank you for instilling truth and such practical, powerful principles about the authority we have in Christ!”

—Honolulu DTS

“Thank you so much for sharing your stories, experience, and love with us. I plan to use the tools you’ve given us to further advance the Lord’s Kingdom by proclaiming the Authority Jesus gives us”

—Hunter

“Thank you for allowing God to fully teach through you guys of his power and authority to do His

works here on this earth. You’ve taught me so much and it will have a huge impact on my upcoming outreach.”

—Matt

“Thank you so much! I had never experienced this kind of prayer and it has changed my life and how I pray. I am so amazed at the power God gives us and the freedom it brings.”

—Kealani

“Thank you for your God-given teaching and your obedience to it. It is life-changing!”

—Joe

“Thanks a ton for following God’s call to teach this. You have definitely made a difference this week!”

—Spencer

“Thanks for sharing your testimonies and teaching to use

God’s power! It is very encouraging and exciting to see God’s power being used daily!”

—Shawna

“You have changed the way I pray and understand the authority and power I have through Christ. Thank you so much!”

—Kelsey

