

Gideon Foundation on the Radio, Part II

July 12, 2011 from 8-9 pm, Delta FM

Purpose of 2nd visit:

- speak about what I have learned volunteering at the Gideon Foundation thus far
- find more affected families
- start a dialogue with radio listeners about ritual murders by asking them questions

RADIO TALK SCRIPT:

I. Introductions

- a. Dorothy introduces herself and explains that she will be translating the talk into Ateso.
- b. My name is Jenifer and I am from the United States. I have been living in the Soroti for the past few months. The reason that I have been living in Soroti is that I have been volunteering with an organization that is currently based in Nakatunya called the Gideon Foundation Against Child Sacrifice and my role at the Gideon Foundation has been to bring awareness to their efforts to end child sacrifice and to bring awareness to the act of child sacrifice itself.
- c. [Dorothy] To those who are not familiar with the issue, human sacrifice is the act of killing another human being or taking their body parts in order to please gods or because they think it will bring them riches. Usually in acts the person is beheaded or the body parts, for example the tongue or the genitals, are removed. These acts are usually performed because the person was told by a witchdoctor that it would bring them riches or the person is doing it for money itself and there are people who sell and buy these body parts.
- d. [Dorothy] The Gideon Foundation Against Child Sacrifice was established in 2007 by Santos and Leah Labeja after their son, Gideon, was murdered in an act of child sacrifice when he was 4 years old. Santos and Leah Labeja decided to start an organization that is fully dedicated to putting an end to child sacrifice and that seeks to advise and advocate for affected families.
- e. This is the second time that Dorothy and I have spoken on this radio station about the Gideon Foundation and we are here again because I wanted to share with you what I've learned since I've started volunteering at the Gideon Foundation. The purpose of this is to create a dialogue with you about human sacrifice and I will ask you some questions so please call in.

II. Explain what the Gideon Foundation has done thus far and what has been learned and ask the listeners questions:

- a. Thus far, the Gideon Foundation has conducted interviews with 9 families from the district of Soroti who are either a victim or survivor of human sacrifice. We have also interviewed police officers, district officials and elders as well. I just wanted to share with your radio listeners about some of the things that I found in these interviews:
 - i. In the interviews we've found conducted the culprits were either eventually released or were never caught. In some cases the family knows who killed their son and in fact he still lives in that same community. It really haunts these families. My question to you is that you know that children and adults are being murdered and their body parts taken in order to please gods or because the person thinks it will bring them riches. You know that the culprits are either released or never caught. What do you think about this?
 - ii. These acts are being conducted even though they won't bring you riches or even though there's a risk that you could take the body to the witchdoctor and they could refuse body. Why is it that what witchdoctors say is followed? For example there's a superstition that if you place the head or body of a person in the foundation of a new house, or a new road or a new grinding mill that it will help this construction to last. Why do you think that people believe this?
 - iii. I've also found that there are politicians and other persons of power who practice human sacrifice. They, or they hire someone, to murder or take the body parts of a human being because they think that it will help them to stay in power. Thus we can say that the argument that human sacrifice is caused by poverty is not true because people who are wealthy practice it. Why do you think that there are some among both politicians and rural farmers who believe and practice human sacrifice?
 - iv. I've also found that people who speak out against ritual murders or who expose something that they saw that they aren't supported, that some people look at them as if they are wrong. We've found that ritual murders are not in the history of Teso and in fact cultural leaders condemn the practice. Why do you think those who speak up against ritual murders are basically on their own, that they are usually the only person doing so?
 - v. We've interviewed some persons of power in Soroti and in some of these interviews we've found that some blame the families for these acts, they think these acts occur because of child neglect or that it's because people smoke and drink too much. Is this true, do they acts occur because the parents neglected their child or because people smoke and drink too much?

- vi. Another shocking thing is that people know what happened. People know that these acts occur or hear rumors about them yet the only organization whose mission concerns child sacrifice is the Gideon Foundation. Why do you think this is so? Why isn't more being done to try and stop human sacrifice? Why aren't more people speaking about it?
- vii. What do you think can be done to prevent human sacrifice?

III. Conclusion

- a. The Gideon Foundation Against Child Sacrifice is still interviewing persons who are victims/survivors of human sacrifice. These interviews are being used to help raise awareness about human sacrifice and they're also being used to help the Gideon Foundation to see where it needs to concentrate its efforts. If you are a victim or survivor of human sacrifice please call Santos Labeja at 07-72-45-17-10.
- b. [Dorothy] Gives some tips on how to prevent human sacrifice (for example that is doesn't bring you riches, that if someone sees something to please report it, etc)
- c. The Gideon Foundation and I would like to say thank you to Delta FM for allowing us to speak on their lovely radio station for a second time and we would also like to thank you, the listeners, for your responses and for tuning in.