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Refused to Pay Bribe-Next Stop Prison!

International Christian Ministries (ICM), Tanzania –May 2007 Patience Mitimangi refused to pay a bribe and landed in prison. A common occurrence in Africa is political leaders and police often expect "special" treatment in the form of bribes. It may cost you your life, your health, or in this case, your integrity.

Peter Mitimangi, Patience's husband, explains in his own word:

Every time we do the ministry, we feel the presence of God. This reminds us that we are not alone.

My wife Patience and I were traveling to teach church leaders in Mwanza, Tanzania, about 29 hours by bus from where we live. About 22 hours into the bus ride we were stopped by the police. My wife did not have her seat belt on because the button of her belt was not working. The police commanded her plus some other passengers, who did not have their seat belt on, to get off the bus. While outside they were commanded to give a bribe to the police so they could be released. Others gave, but Patience said loudly "I am saved I can not give bribe because it is sin and it is not pleasing God." When the police heard that, they became very angry. They took the eight passengers plus her to the police station. I had to get out and walk to follow where the police station. The bus left with our luggage that much later we were able to get back.

At the police station the amount of bribe needed to be paid increased. All the others paid the bribe and they were released. But my wife refused to pay the bribe so she remained alone in prison with criminals.

The prisons in Africa are not a place you want to be. They were told to remove the shoes and the place was very dirty. There was one plastic bag which was used as a toilet for all criminals. It remains in use until it is full then they take it out, empty it, and return it.

My wife was in prison for 29 hours and during that time she did not eat nor drink any thing. I was outside of the prison praying for God to intervene. Then after 29 hours she was released without paying the bribe and she left a great testimony. We continued with our journey and completed the training.

We know Satan is not happy with us because of the ministries God is doing through ICM in Africa, but that will not stop us. The ministry will continue as if we will die 5 minutes to come.

Over 24,000 people a day are being added to the church in Africa, which means roughly 400 new churches a day need 400 shepherds to train and equip these new believers. ICM is strategically placed, with a large network across Africa of training centers, teachers, and material to equip pastors and church leaders. The leaders can learn on the job while they are shepherding the church. ICM is working in over 30 countries in Africa, training over 25,000 leaders who directly impact over 1,500,000 others.

ICM partners with other organizations to bring the best leadership material to Africa. A short list includes; A Purpose Driven Life, John Maxwell's Equip International, Walk Thru the Bible, and others.

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