

I Survived Ebola



Johnny Norwood and I were walking back to the guest house down a dark street in Accra, Ghana. We heard a tall African's footsteps behind

us and coming closer as we walked. Johnny said we should walk faster and not look back. We quickened our pace but the man behind us was gaining on us. "Hey!" the African yelled, "It's the Story Man." It was James Sloan, one of our students! After training in Accra, he set out across Ghana and then Liberia winning people to Christ through the simple method of telling Bible stories.

I reunited with James after six years and he told me about the people he led to Christ and the churches he planted. He had spiritually matured since I last saw him, quoting much Scripture as we shared. He said, "**I am an Ebola survivor!**" I couldn't believe it. To contract Ebola was to receive "the kiss of death."

He told me how his fever shot up and his head ached, typical malaria symptoms. But it wasn't but a couple days later when his eyes

*What about his wife, Georgia, and
three children? How would they make it?
What about the "lambs" in his new church he
planted? They needed him!*

were painfully swollen and bleeding, also, blood coming out of his ears and every muscle and joint in his body unbearably painful for days. He knew he was going to die.

What about his wife, Georgia, and three children? How would they make it? What about the "lambs" in his new church he planted? They needed him! He said the Lord told him to fast which he did for three days. In the back of a little dark church of a pastor friend, he suffered day after day. Food and water were brought to him but no one could actually help him. If they touched him, they could die.

In the depths of his despair, God began to speak to him Words of comfort and encouragement through the vast amounts of Scripture he

Ralph Speas
September 1, 2016

committed to memory. After twenty-one lonely days, he began to have hope he would survive and in his words, "by God's grace" he is alive today.

James continues to tell God's stories to the most remote areas of Liberia, places of great spiritual darkness and planting lighthouses.