

A Shaliach Story

Emily Dwyer—a Living Example of Discipleship in Messiah in East Africa

By Eric Bjoraker



these children to be disciples of the Master by learning about the Good News of Messiah and the joy of a Torah life.

In addition to caring for their shelter, food and health, she

Heeding the call of her Master Yeshua to be a *shaliach*, Jewish believer Emily Dwyer is laboring to bring the Gospel of Messiah and the standards of the Torah to many in East Africa. Through her non-profit organization, ACTS for Messiah, Emily reaches the orphans, widows, poor, needy and spiritually hungry in Uganda. Her life is a living example of discipleship to Messiah. She feeds the hungry and thirsty, clothes the naked, administers healthcare to the sick and ministers to the spiritually imprisoned.

At the age of ten, Emily encountered Messiah through the testimony of a missionary at a church camp. She committed her life to Yeshua, and the encounter sparked a desire within her to bring the Gospel to Africa. Her dream was delayed by the normal course of life; but six years ago, Emily's dream to go to Africa rekindled and details fell into place to make her dream a reality. She sold her house to finance a move to Uganda.

Shortly before making her intercontinental move, Emily was invited by friends to attend a *Shavout* (Pentecost) celebration in Saint Paul, Minnesota. It was a life-changing event for her. While there, she purchased a book about the biblical festivals and some First Fruits of Zion materials, which she took with her to Uganda. Each time she came back to the States for a furlough, she collected more materials and a supply of *messiah magazines* to bring back, to study from and to pass along. Through these studies in Africa, Emily embraced a Torah-obedient lifestyle.

During one of her visits back to Minnesota, Emily was given a copy of the *HaYe-*

sod teaching program. She took the course back to Uganda with her and has used it as the foundation for presenting the Gospel in Africa ever since. Emily teaches in the villages and at churches, sometimes spending fourteen weeks in a single village. The people of Uganda are hungry for the truth and thirsty for salvation. Pastors throughout the region have begged her to start Bible studies at their congregations.

Once during a pastoral conference, Emily met a pastor who had been studying a small pamphlet about the Torah and the Sabbath for years. For twelve years he had been praying that God would send him a Jew to teach and lead them in the Scriptures. God doubly blessed him, not only with a Jewish person, but with a believer in Messiah. Emily was the answer to his years of persistent prayer and the pastor told her, "My church is your church. We will do whatever you teach us."


In addition to teaching discipleship classes, ACTS for Messiah introduces many who have no previous knowledge at all to the Gospel of the Messiah. Emily travels deep into the remote regions of Uganda armed with a projector and a film screen. People from the surrounding regions walk miles to see *The Jesus Film*, which gives Emily the opportunity to introduce the Messiah to large audiences of eager viewers, often numbering in the hundreds.

Uganda, like much of Africa, has been ravaged by AIDS, which has left many widows and orphans in its wake. The orphans are consigned to wander the streets and often become street children who survive by crime and begging.

Emily has fifteen of these orphans living in her small home with her now. She is raising

also finances these children's educations. There are no public schools in Uganda and education is expensive. The private schools that are available are usually inadequate and provide a challenging environment in which to learn. The class sizes are extremely large and there are no schoolbooks. It is not unusual for teachers to not show up for a class, and the teachers are frequently abusive and harsh with the students.

Emily hopes to build a school based on Torah standards that will serve her local community and be a beacon of light in a dark place. She has already laid the cement foundation for the building, and she hopes to begin construction of the first floor, God willing, as soon as sufficient funds are raised. In addition to regular academics, Emily's school will be an institute of Torah learning. Emily hopes to employ highly qualified teachers to teach the government-mandated curriculum during the week and to host Shabbat services, Bible studies and seminars on the weekend.

The people of Uganda need both the Gospel and God's Torah standard for living. AIDS, poverty, war, strife and lawlessness have ravaged Africa and resulted in an amoral society without a concept of wrong and right. Emily's message of salvation through faith in Yeshua and obedience to the commandments of the Torah is desperately needed. 

ACTS for Messiah is dependent upon the prayers and support of like-minded individuals. More information about this ministry is available online at www.actsformessiah.org. Your gratefully appreciated tax-deductible contributions may be sent to ACTS for Messiah, PO Box 131581, Roseville, MN 55113, USA.