



THE POWER OF STORIES



Matze is a missionary in a small rural mountain village among the Lopit people group in South Sudan, where he tells Bible stories, shares his faith by example, and lays the foundations of a church in Lopit. But the other part of his job is to capture and share stories for AIM Stories, the media department of AIM.

WE LOVE STORIES

Stories are essential to our lives. We are obsessed with them. We watch shows on Netflix, read biographies and study the daily news. We watch our friends' lives on Instagram and Snapchat and share our latest stories with each other over a good meal. Have you ever asked yourself why stories are so important to us? I believe it is because our God and Creator is a storyteller. Essentially, the Bible is just one big story – God's story with humanity. So, stories are embedded into our DNA. We love to hear, watch, and tell stories.

THE MISSION OF AIM STORIES

As a collective of different photographers and content creators all around the world, our goal is to show what God is doing on the mission field, so people in our home countries are encouraged, can pray more specifically and might even get called to join the work themselves. For a long time in history, stories were limited to voice and text. Sometimes artists would take the time to paint a picture about a story. But what happened in the last decades has revolutionised the way we share stories. Digital cameras and now even smartphones can capture good quality photos and videos and fill stories with life.



A WINDOW INTO THE MINISTRY

I made a short video about a kids' ministry of one of my colleagues. She sent it home and immediately got lots of support. People started praying for her, donating books and pens for the kids, and she received many encouraging messages.

It's like I'm right there with you on the field.

It's not that she had not communicated before what she was doing, but seeing a video gave her supporters a visualisation of what they have been hearing. They could better feel, grasp, and understand what she was actually doing.



And so, I take photos and videos, share what God is doing in South Sudan, and teach missionaries how to make use of their smartphones and create content for themselves.

After seeing one of my short monthly video updates, one of my supporters told me, "It's like I'm right there with you on the field." The opportunities we have today to give insight into our lives as missionaries and keep our supporters updated are incredible.

Give thanks for Matze's creativity, and the ways God is using him to help draw supporters into the missionary experience. To see more from Matze, visit his blog journeywithmatze.com

