

Twenty-Six armed guards

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” James 5:16

A missionary on furlough once told this true story while visiting his home church in Michigan:

While serving at a small field hospital in Africa, every two weeks I traveled by bicycle through the jungle to a nearby city for supplies. This was a journey of two days and required camping overnight at the halfway point.

On one of these journeys, I arrived in the city where I had planned to collect money from a bank, purchase medicine and supplies, and then begin my two-day journey back to the field hospital. Upon arrival in the city, I observed two men fighting; one had been seriously injured. I treated him for his injuring and at the same time witnessed to him about the Lord Jesus Christ. I then traveled two days, camping overnight and arrived home without incident.

Two weeks later, I repeated my journey. Upon arriving in the city, I was approached by the young man I had treated. He told me that he had known I carried money and medicines. He said, “Some friends and I followed you into the jungle, knowing you would camp overnight. We planned to kill you and take your money and drugs. But just as we were about to move into your camp, we saw that you were surrounded by 26 armed guards.”

At this I laughed and said that I was certainly alone out at the jungle campsite. The young man pressed the point, however, and said, “No, Sir, I was not the only person to see the guards. My five friends also saw them, and we all counted them. It was because of those guards that we were afraid and left you alone.”

At this point in the message, one of the men in the congregation jumped to his feet and interrupted the missionary, asking the missionary if he could tell him the exact day this happened. The missionary told the congregation the date, and then the man who had interrupted him told this story:

On the night of your incident in Africa, it was morning here and I was preparing to play golf. I was about to putt the ball when I felt the urge to pray for you. In fact, the urging of the Lord was so strong that I left the green and called several men in the church to meet with me here in the sanctuary to pray for you. Would all of those men who met with me on that day stand up?

The men stood up. The missionary wasn't concerned with who they were: he was too busy counting how many men he saw. There were 26.

When we as MKs gather together and pray for each other the wounded can be healed, souls can be saved, lives can be protected, nations can be revived and the world can be changed.