



Nuggets 43: Noeli Makes It Home

My missionary son Ian Shelburne told me this story.

Noeli Luchivya and her husband James are Kenyans serving with an Mbale, Uganda, mission team. Noeli is an encourager to women and has an irrepressible spirit. She was returning to Mbale from a visit home to Kenya. Her trials began when the conductor of the *matatu* (public transport pickup or minivan) had an attitude. He demanded her fare even before the vehicle left the roadside, then charged her far too much for the distance to be traveled. Things got worse as the man behind the wheel began driving even more recklessly than is unfortunately typical in such rattletraps.

Noeli, feeling most uncomfortable with all of this, asked the conductor to stop the *matatu* and let her out. He was uncooperative and belligerent--until, unexpectedly, two Kenyan men also riding in the *matatu* took up her cause. They agreed that the conductor had treated her badly and insisted that the *matatu* stop and let Noeli and them also out. The three were able to flag down another *matatu* and continue their journey.

A scant mile or two down the road they came upon the twisted wreckage of the first *matatu*, an accident that killed several of the occupants. Grateful to be alive, Noeli made her way on across the border and back home to Mbale.

You may not have recognized something particularly unusual in this story: It is unheard of for Kenyan men, complete strangers to Noeli, to do for a woman what those two did for her. Their unexpected, inexplicable support probably prevented her death or serious injury in the delinquent *matatu*.

"The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them..."

Psalm 34:7; 91:11,12; 121:1-8; 23:4; Isaiah 43:1,2; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Matthew 28:20b; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Romans 8:31-39

TO SUBSCRIBE free, email subscribe@shbi.org **TO UNSUBSCRIBE** send a blank email to unsubscribe@shbi.org To communicate with us directly, email nuggets@shbi.org
Past issues of Nuggets are archived at www.shbi.org/content/nuggets/nuggets.htm.

Copyright 2006 by G.B. Shelburne, III. May be freely reproduced or forwarded for non-commercial purposes provided content is unchanged and this copyright notice is included. These shepherding messages are sent to members and friends of New Beginnings Church (www.nbchurch.com), to students and alumni of South Houston Bible Institute (www.shbi.org), and to other interested persons.

Any scripture quotes, unless otherwise indicated, are from the HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION © 1978 and 1984 by the New York International Bible Society, used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Tuition-free evening classes: www.shbi.org

Free Distance Learning Bible courses: www.shbi.org/content/distance/distancelearn.htm

To support SHBI's ministry: www.shbi.org/content/finances/finances.htm