

Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

# IN TOUCH MISSION

i n t e r n a t i o n a l

Monthly

1 October 2013

*"And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed." - Acts 3:25b*

## How Anyone

## Can Impact a Village in Zambia

One Year Later: What's happening in Lukulu West, Zambia?

*Where once there were many deaths by crocodile, now there is safety.*

*Where once there was risk of disease from contaminated water, now there is a greater chance of living longer.*

*Where there once was hardship, now there is relief.*

*Where there once was witchcraft and animism, now there is freedom and community.*

*Where there once was darkness, now there is hope.*

### **What happened?**

ITMI partner, **Pastor John Jere's** heart for the poor and suffering happened. ITMI's faithfulness to tell the stories of our partners happened. Your willing response to the Spirit's leading to generosity happened. **The drilling of boreholes providing clean water happened.**

Last year, in response to ITMI partner, John Jere's advocacy for the people living in the abandoned portion of Zambia between Angola and the dangerous-to-cross, prone-to-flooding Zambezi River, our supporters gave the funds to drill five wells.

**Clean water was provided for several villages in this area known as Lukulu West.**

In providing clean water, we provided safety from crocodile attacks and disease caused by drinking contaminated water.

When you provide something this good, people want to hear what you have to say.

**Many received Christ at the dedication of the wells.**

One village in particular was transformed by the good news that was proclaimed as the first raising of the pump handle drew clean water from the earth.

Last month, an ITMI team revisited this village. (Made possible in part by gifts to our General Fund, by the way.)

The team was: ITMI Director, **Steve Evers**, Board Member, **Erik Thompson**, and ITMI partners, **Richard Nungesser** and **Timothy Keller**.

When they arrived, they couldn't believe the changed

**feel of the village. There was life. There was joy.** There was freedom. This was not present the year before.

The dynamic foursome ended up staying in that village a couple days longer than was originally planned.

*(continued on p.2)*



*John dedicates the well*



*Many received Christ at the dedication of the wells*



# How You Can Be **PREPARED** for Christmas this year ...in at least one way!



**Do you get overwhelmed with giving opportunities at Christmas time?**

Want to be charitable at Christmas but overwhelmed by figuring out how to do it?! As if you don't already have enough to do around that time.

We get it. We want to help.

We are presenting [Project Christmas Blessing](#) (PCB) to you ahead of time so you can check it off your holiday to-do list before store Christmas displays crowd the grocery store aisles.

*More importantly, this is also an opportunity that reinvests itself in a vital ministry all year long.*

## **Project Christmas Blessing Demonstrates That Zulu Children Are Loved and Valued**

ITMI partners, [Cherise and Kelly Smith](#) began PCB to bless the kids in local schools of Zulu Natal, South Africa at Christmas time.

Zulu Natal families are plagued by witch-craft, HIV/AIDS and poverty. No one living there is exempt from the pain this brings.

## **Project Christmas Blessing is a celebration before Christmas break including:**

- Gifts for each student
- Games, treats and skits
- A fun and relevant presentation of the gospel by a local (national) pastor

## **How Your Gifts to Project Christmas Blessing Re-Invest All Year**

Project Christmas Blessing distinctly establishes the Smiths in the community as there to serve. Available to help - whatever the need. Whether it's burying a loved one or fighting tribal powers for a family to keep their home, the community knows the Smiths as their advocates. They know the Smiths have the good of the community at heart.

***Because of Project Christmas Blessing, the Smith's influence in their community is greater all year long.***

*-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers.*

## **Quick PCB Stats:**

Total Investment:  
~\$4366/year

Return:  
~250 gifts given.  
+ more hear the Good News.

*(continued from p.1)*

God clearly changed our best-laid plans to provide extra opportunities for discipleship.

### **Two Unplanned-But-God-Ordained Discipleship Opportunities**

#### **1. Delivering Seeds and Gardener Training**

While visiting our partners, **Gerhard and Elmane le Roux** at [Onseepkans](#)

[Mission](#) in South Africa the week before, the team was provided with seeds to start gardens in Lukulu.

The le Rouxs have had to learn to feed their six children from what they can grow on the land. Needless to say, they are getting good at gardening!

They also have a small store as an outreach to their small town, where their community members can avoid

the price gouging at the other trading post.

They provided the seeds and trained Steve with their expertise on living off the land.

**Steve presented the seeds to the village**, as well as representatives from 11 surrounding villages. He trained them according to the le Roux's knowledge of gardening. *(continued on p.4)*



## *From the Director*

**Dear Team,**

***Things just don't always go as planned.***

Especially when we are talking about traveling in Africa.  
***Especially.***

All the details were attended to in preparation for our three week trek to Lukulu West, Zambia by way of Malmesbury and Onseepkans South Africa. Everything was arranged around being in Lukulu West when five boreholes were scheduled to be drilled.

Emails, phone calls and texts zipped back and fourth in a way that could only be described as fast and furious. Fifteen drilling companies researched, fiscally responsible decisions made. Contracts in place. Check. Planes, cars, all-terrain vehicles and canoes readied and coordinated. Check. Food supplies purchased. Check. Village leaders notified, meetings – both business and ministry scheduled. Check. Details confirmed and reconfirmed with the drilling company. Double check.

Great, we're all set to go!

That's when we heard from the driller, just days before our departure. **Our plans were being flipped upside down.** A very important part of the drill rig was in disrepair. A new one was shipping from Thailand. The drilling wouldn't be done while we were there.

*What now?*

**After much prayer, it became apparent that God wanted us to visit two of the villages that we drilled bore holes in last year and disciple them further.**

When we arrived just outside the first of these two villages, they were waiting for us. They came sprinting to our vehicle with ear-to-ear smiles. They clearly remembered us. They were definitely glad to have us back.

What we found in the second village was an amazing surprise. This village was where I was blessed to preach a dedication message for these two villages' water wells last year. Many of the men and women from both villages prayed out loud to accept the God who loved them and graced them with clean water.

**The miracle of transformation I saw when we settled into this second village was truly profound.** There was new life in this village. Many of the sad and downtrodden expressions that greeted us last year had been replaced with joyful smiles. There was a definite difference in the atmosphere, the flavor, the spirit of this village this year, compared to what we found last year. In one year's time, the Living water and liquid water have genuinely changed this village. It once was filled with dead hopelessness. Now its a place of growth - both physically and spiritually.

We plan to share more of what we saw and experienced in our coming newsletters and via our Facebook page.

**Thank you for helping us help John Jere reach lost and hungry people for Christ.** The seeds we have planted will continue to grow and expand until Jesus comes and says, "...well done good and faithful servant."

In His Service,



*We were greeted by ear-to-ear smiles!*



*The Lukulu bow in prayer after listening intently to our teaching.*



(continued from p.2)

**The whole village listened as Steve explained this demonstration of the gospel.** A seed must die to produce life. We, too, must die to ourselves to have new life and freedom in Christ.

**The Lukulu villagers were encouraged to share their bounty and the seeds their plants would produce with other villages.**

The audience of baby and not-yet-believers learned an important lesson about Christian living.

When we are blessed, we are blessed with a purpose. We are given what we have so that we can bless others.

## 2. Fellowship at Sunday Gathering

Because of the change of plans, the team was in that village on a Sunday. They had the opportunity to fellowship with and encourage those at the Sunday meeting of the church.

### **The Original Gifts are Expanding Farther Than we Ever Dreamed**

The original gifts - the five wells - are yielding more influence for Jesus and more blessings for the Lukulu. We shouldn't be surprised. Jesus can take two loaves and five fishes and feed a multitude.

In Lukulu, He is using these discipleship opportunities to build a culture not unlike the early church in Acts. A culture of blessing and caring for the needy, just as they have been cared for.

The village has responded to gifts by giving. They are offering to give John's church 10 acres located on the main thoroughfare. They want him to build a church, school or medical center to benefit the whole area.

This will further entrench John's influence and message among the Lukulu. He has an opportunity to impact this area and solidify their faith before development comes to the area offering worldly temptations.

John's in a perfect position to impact the Lukulu tribe. He is located in Zambia, and he has a heart that's passionate about helping the poor. He's a master discipler and shepherd. He's a visionary people want to follow.

This is why we serve and empower quality nationals. They are positioned well to reach their people with the good news.

## **Anyone Can Make A Big Impact**

The five original wells were just \$4900 each. The blessing of those wells has multiplied in the villages where they were placed.

There are many more villages in Lukulu West that could be changed through their very core by the provision of clean water, as this one was.

If just 50 people gave \$100 to the **Wells for Lukulu Project**, another village could have clean water!

*-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers*



## **For Praise**

1. Zambia - God's provision of a wonderfully successful "Plan B" trip to Lukulu West and many lives committed to living for God.
2. South Africa - Charl van Wyk's family has been blessed with funds coming in for purchasing a crucial family ministry vehicle.
3. South Africa - The le Roux family making such an impact in the Northern Cape that they are experiencing some persecution.
4. USA - Five opportunities for Richard Nungesser to travel and do ministry while his family is in the States this year.
5. USA - Much thanks for God's work in the lives of ITMI partners and their service to their communities and each other.

## **For Prayer**

1. Zambia - Wisdom and direction from God concerning of land offered to us by the village leaders in Lukulu West.
2. Zambia - John Jere coordinating and implementing the drilling of the five additional wells in Lukulu West.
3. South Africa - Kelly and Cherise Smith breaking into Zulu culture with God's love through "Project Christmas Blessing".
4. South Africa - Gerhard and Elmane le Roux and the host of opportunities they have to impact their community.
5. Zambia- God's direction as we seek new and more dependable ways to drill bore holes in Western Zambia.

**itmi In Touch Mission**  
INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 7575 - Tempe, Arizona 85281 - (480) 968-4100

E-Mail: [itmi@intouchmission.org](mailto:itmi@intouchmission.org) - FAX: (480) 968-5462 - Outside Arizona: 888-918-4100

