

# IN TOUCH MISSION

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

Monthly

1 June 2014

*Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Acts 3: 6-7*

## 3 Ways Bread of Life Ivory Coast is Doing a Lot *With What Little They Have*

*"If you want her, you can have her," said the girl's grandmother.*

She darted toward the path of an oncoming vehicle. Acting quickly, **Bread of Life's Benoit Ouatara** picked her up, preventing the deadly accident.

"You can have her." He looked around. An older woman, who appeared to be the girl's grandmother was watching the whole scene from nearby.

"If you want her you can have her," she said again. He stared at her, then gently put the child down.

"What's your name?" he asked her, stooping to look straight into her eyes. His eyes teared up when she answered, "Sarah." His own daughter's name was Sarah, and she was about the same age. Although Sarah had no idea, he knew that there were other men about, walking the streets just as he had been, who would have taken her grandmother up on the offer. Who would have taken Sarah with them. Taken her to a life of slavery and abuse.

Sarah's parents had died as a result of the off-and-on political war and unrest that has killed thousands of Cote d'Ivorians and sent many scrambling to refugee camps.

BOL Ivory Coast's founder, **Charles Dibie**, says the biggest cause of all this in his beloved home country is a lack of Biblical worldview, knowing God

and knowing creation. Without these building blocks as a part of a culture, life isn't valued. This "poverty of education" is widespread, and it's leading to atrocities.

### What Can Anyone Do?

Bread of Life isn't a money-laden NGO looking to fix everyone's problems with lots of money. Sure, they need funds to meet physical needs. But their purpose? To equip nationals to help each other.

Bread of Life started with three cups of tea, lovingly given to homeless men in a Polish train station. Because that's what Bread of Life Founder, **Richard Nungesser**, had to give.

Richard could have bemoaned his lack of funds. After all, he was a young newlywed on a missionary income in a foreign country. Instead, like Peter, he offered what he had because it was much better than money. The material gift was small, but the gift itself was incredibly meaningful.

He offered them Jesus...and a cup of tea.

Now, Bread of Life is an international organization, offering Poles, Moldavians and Cote d'Ivorians the



Richard Nungesser(L) and Charles Dibie(R) with BOL Ivory Coast Director, Daniel.

opportunity to use whatever they have to serve the poorest of the poor in their midst. Whether it is a cup of tea or a thousand dollars, it's given in Jesus' name, with His love and concern, and it's making a big impact.

## 3 Ways BOL Works:

### 1- Giving what they have.

If they don't have funds, many have a skill or a passion they can use to benefit others. From linguistics to sports, professionals are offering their skills to teach children. Businessmen are making micro loans to help others get on their feet. As for Benoit Ouatara and his wife, well, they raised enough money to register Sarah for school.

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# Newsbites

## Zambia

[John Jere](#) recently travelled to Nigeria in response to terrorist attacks, where he and his team fed and encouraged local persecuted believers. John is now working to line up details for his upcoming trek to Lukulu in late August. Between the remote location and the normal challenges of doing business in Africa, this is a formidable task that needs divine intervention!

## South Africa

[Charl van Wyk](#) and his church in Durbenville, pastored by ITMI partner [Mark Parris](#), have an on-going ministry in a nearby, impoverished township where the people face more than their share of challenges. Doors are continuing to open for wider and deeper impact in Kliphuwel.

## Zambia

[Tim Keller](#) was recently diagnosed with Giardia by an African-disease specialist in Nairobi. This strain of Giardia hides itself in the wall of the intestine, making it undetectable by normal tests. This explains the recent drop in his stamina.

## South Africa

[Kelly and Cherise Smith](#) recently raised funds to provide a wheelchair for [Andile](#). Andile is a boy who was born with Spina Bifida who the Smiths fostered for awhile and continue to advocate for.

## Empowering Nationals

*to do a lot with a little*

He was begging by the gate called Beautiful. He asked Peter and John for “alms.” In a moment of spirit-led wisdom, Peter says,

*“Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” Acts 3:6*

ITMI’s [Richard Nungesser](#) met with the Bread of Life Ivory Coast Board members, he could see they were discouraged by their lack of fiscal resources.

Richard’s over ten years of experience, building a [multi-national, multi-continent organization](#) that serves the poorest of the poor around the world from a cup of tea and some bread had taught him: we may not have a lot of money, but we have something much, much better to offer those in need.

So he reminded with Acts 3: money doesn’t fix people’s problems. But because of what Jesus did on the cross, people can rise up and walk. They can follow Him. They can serve. They can make a difference. That’s exactly what the

sincere and willing nationals at Bread of Life Ivory Coast are now fired up to do.

“We need to work harder and build a solid foundation so we can expand and help people in neighboring countries, too,” they responded.

***“We may not have a lot of money, but we have something much, much better to offer those in need.”***

***- Richard Nungesser -***

The guidance and wisdom Richard brought to the table is one thing that separates Bread of Life from other organizations. It’s one reason ITMI is so passionate about our projects.

Ours are partners and projects that are carefully chosen for their faithfulness with whatever resources they had. They are equipped and disciplined by experienced practitioners like Richard Nungesser. All receive on-the-ground, hands-on



discipleship and accountability from the ITMI Board and Director, [Steve Evers](#).

As this story illustrates, the seasoned guidance Richard is providing to nationals all over the world is incredibly valuable.

But he and his family need to get back to Poland!

They’ve been stateside on a sabbatical that was extended for [medical reasons](#). Now they are staring down the barrel of about \$5000 to get them and their three children back to their ministry base in Poland. The Nungessers are joyfully sacrificing comfort and safety for their children by responding in obedience to God’s call. We’d love to see His people rise up and share the burden of the travel expenses.

*-Summer Kelley*



## From the Director

### Dear Team,

I don't ever remember seeing a young picture of Corrie ten Boon. It was always an image of a quaint little grandmother with age etched into her gentle face, and her longer white hair pulled back into some kind of European-looking bun. What I also remember is her uncanny ability to see from God's perspective. She didn't allow herself to second guess God. She didn't blame anyone else for things that didn't go her way. As we all know, some things very much didn't go her way.

Since December 2013 the intense conflict and personal persecution could have caused one of our South Sudan partners to second guess God and His way of doing things, but it didn't. **Jahim** just wants to reach South Sudan for Christ. He will do whatever God leads him to do, regardless of the personal cost or sacrifice.

Imagine getting number-blocked phone calls in the middle of the night threatening your life. Imagine being accused of aiding and abetting the enemy when all you actually did was take food - spiritual and physical - to weak and starving orphans and widows, regardless of which "tribe" they are from. Imagine being asked menacingly, "...why are you giving the Gospel to [the other] tribe? Don't give them anything!" Imagine hearing from this unnamed, sinister voice on the other end of the phone, "...we know where you live. We know you have a wife and a daughter. We know that you have a cousin and another baby..." [living with you]. Imagine having to stay in your home because you fear being seen in public.

Jahim experienced all these and more since the start of the intense tribal conflict in South Sudan last December (2013). But Jahim would not leave South Sudan. He said he felt God had not "released me yet." And for good reason.

Last month, Jahim told me his request for a face-to-face meeting with the government officials who threatened him had finally been granted. He wanted to face his accusers and share God's plan for the people of South Sudan. Within this meeting, where Jahim has his electronics confiscated for further investigation, Jahim clearly exhibited God's courage and God's grace. By the time the meeting was over, still without his electronics, the Spirit had opened the eyes of the officials. They were commending him for feeding and caring for the needs of the refugees, something that they admitted the South Sudan government is unable to do.

Sunday morning after his big meeting with the officials, he was totally surprised to see "a few of them" walk into Jahim's church service, wanting to hear more of what Jahim had shared with them.

Jahim now calls them "friends." When I asked why call them friends, Jahim confidently shared, "...we are told in God's word, to love our enemies." They were once enemies, but not any longer. Now they are Jahim's friends.

From now to the end of the year, it looks to be a very busy schedule traveling abroad for me. I'm looking forward to a plethora of ministry opportunities in India, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Please continue to support us in prayer as we seek to help those on the frontline who carry heavy load(s). Thank you for your supremely valuable partnership as we each do what He has called us to do.

*"The spiritual life is a stern choice. It is not a consoling retreat from the difficulties of existence, but an invitation to enter fully into that difficult existence, and there apply the Charity of God, and bear the cost."*

— Evelyn Underhill

In His Service,



Corrie  
ten  
Boon

Corrie's embroidery illustrates  
God's sovereign plan. The  
underside pattern is  
unrecognizable....



...but the other side, the side  
that God sees is beautiful  
and valuable. (Corrie ten Boon  
Museum)



Refugee ladies  
clap thankfully  
for food.



Richard with Kindergarteners



Grand-Lahou Kindergarten



Richard encourages refugees after delivering food

They took her family some food. They are working on adopting her.

## 2 - Kindergarten for Cocoa Plantation Workers' Kids

The workers on local cocoa plantations work long hours. While they work, their children are left to the streets. Some locals started a kindergarten for the smaller children. They meet in a ramada, without chairs or desks. But at least they are off the streets. Bread of Life recently helped repair the existing swing set frame the school had. Now it has a swing.

Bread of Life has made a big impact in this town by doing what they could for this school.

The Director of the school told Richard, "I'm overwhelmed by the compassion of your team. We want to give you the

school and rename it Bread of Life." Clearly, BOL has made an impact in this community. It's also an exciting prospect because Bread of Life could keep their current kids and add a higher grade each year, changing the town and its worldview from the ground up. This would really help them address the problem of education poverty in a small but impactful way. And it's doable.

## 3 - Feeding the Hungry

There are about 250 refugee children living outside the capital city on some land. But they didn't have any food.

Richard delivered 150 lbs. of rice and 3 gallons of cooking oil. The impact was immeasurable. There were tears of thankfulness.

BOL Ivory Coast is offering whatever they have in Jesus' name to meet needs

and bless the hurting, forgotten and oppressed. They are being faithful. Their ministry could really benefit from some monthly supporters. Right now, Charles Didie's income is the source of most of their funds. And he gives 30% of his income.

Monthly supporters to share the ministry would bring some stability. It would allow them to make plans, feed refugees on a monthly basis and give them a buffer to work with. You know, have some eggs in other baskets, so-to-speak.

National workers can stretch donations so far you may be able to hear the dollars scream. And that's a much better sound than the screams of hungry children.

*-Summer Kelley, Richard Nungesser*

## For Praise

1. Jahim - South Sudan - relationships built with Sudanese government officials liberating him to minister in refugee camps.
2. Smith Family - South Africa - the Entabeni Baptist Church youth's hard work of building their youth room using mud.
3. Translation Project - Poland - provisions received for printing of Piotr's evangelistic translation of the Bible.
4. Kawede - Uganda - International School of Missions students share stories of how their training is transforming lives.
5. Paul and Molly - India - Summer school break allowing increased and intentional time with their Ashraya Daughters.

## For Prayer

1. Jim LaRose and family as they grieve the loss of Jim's father.
2. Eleanor McAllister adjusting to life without Jerry, one of ITMI's faithful volunteers.
3. Nungessers as they return to Poland and family re-adjusts to life and ministry in Poland.
4. Charl van Wyk's Stone Hill building project for ministry outreaches to Cape Town township kids.
5. Provisions for Christian Schooling for Paul & Molly's girls and Molly's on going health challenges with her back.
6. Smiths - South Africa - better living situations for sick & abandoned children impacted because of increase in HIV/AIDS.

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