

1 November 2013

*"For the Lord has driven out before you great and strong nations;
but as for you, no one has been able to stand against you to this day." —Joshua 23:9*

Slaying the Monsters

"...challenges take on the proportions... of the monsters as depicted in the mythical Greek literature..."

South Africa



Spring had finally arrived to the southern hemisphere and more specifically to the Northern Cape of South Africa. There were signs of growth and new life everywhere. God's yearly quilt of unlimited color blankets the otherwise barren sheep-land which borders the 185+ kilometer dirt road "shortcut" that leads to the Orange River and the outpost called, **Onseepkans, South Africa**. This is where ITMI's **Gerhard and Elmane le Roux** and family are fighting the monsters that come from an almost

forgotten and godless society.

ITMI's **Steve Evers** and **Richard Nungesser**, in late August, along with three of ITMI's friends from the **Moreson Mission in Malmesbury, South Africa**, set out from the Southern Cape with a bakkie (small pickup) loaned to them by a local farmer, loaded with luggage and supplies that can't be acquired in this far remote location of Onseepkans. They were the *reinforcements* in this constant war that the le Rouxs wage against the monster(s) that grip the Northern Cape.

Everyone experiences challenges in their daily lives and ministries. Some larger than others. Some smaller. Then there are those that, for whatever reason, are put into really difficult situations of humanly overcoming proportions. These challenges take on the proportions and intensity of the monsters as depicted in the mythical Greek literature and many of the children's stories that have been read over and over. These monsters are always present, always weighing heavily on all daily decisions and are most times just too consuming for the normal person to conquer.

Even though Onseepkans has many monsters that hold this region in its grip, there is a very *normal* and unassuming family that is gradually winning the war against these monsters.

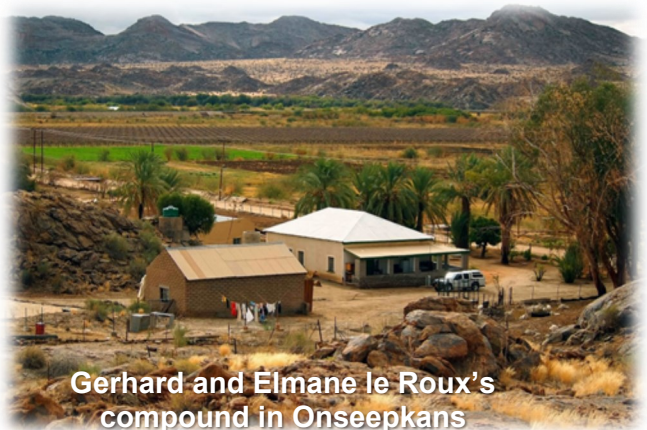
The monsters or maybe challenges of Onseepkans don't stop at looking like those portrayed in literature, these are real and alive and affect all who live and seek to eke out an existence or minister in this area.



Gerhard le Roux
sharing truth.

Monsters of Onseepkans

One of these monsters pops its head up and looks a lot like persecution and opposition from local political party leaders who seem to be fearful of Gerhard and Elmane's desire to put God's fingerprints on



Gerhard and Elmane le Roux's
compound in Onseepkans

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Poland

Piotr Zaremba has now completed over 1000 days of continuously translating at least one chapter a day, from the ancient Old Testament manuscripts into modern day Polish. He continues to grow the largest evangelical church in Poznan and western Poland. K5N church is the model that five other Polish churches have now committed to follow in partnership. Pray for continued strength to finish translating by December 31.



Romania

Adi and Ema Ban have launched out into some pretty deep water with the creation of a new Pre-School facility there in Oradea, that is geared to reach the un-churched. The Ban's step of faith in the founding this much needed outreach ministry is really causing them to be fully dependent on God's provision for location approval and funding. They already have a great team of teachers and leaders who are well respected among families with small children.



Zambia

John Jere is currently in far western Zambia with a team focused on evangelism, discipleship and well drilling. We're told that the missing part has arrived and been installed on the drill rig. John is very excited about this area of Lukulu West, where we are drilling these five new wells. He tells us that the area is very populated and desperately needs both the Living Water and this fresh water.

Joyce Jere and Sarah Phiri are still in Memphis, TN going through a battery of tissue sample tests to try and determine exactly how to treat Sarah's swollen eye.



Searching for Hope

know Gerhard know that's his heart's desire, but some of those in power seem to feel that possibly their self-motivated political kingdoms could be affected by this outsider, and they are pushing back in public ways, hoping to undermine the le Rouxs effectiveness.

Another monster is the monster of long standing racial tension that seeks to divide and separate the three main people groups in South Africa. This deep mistrust for anyone that is not your "color" is continually perpetuated by those that seek to destabilize and divide these people. Mistrust among these people groups is a garment that is many times unknowingly put on each morning and not removed even in the evenings. Earning the right to share God's truth and love is a constant requirement for anyone that seeks to minister effectively when racial tension is hanging around.

On Saturdays the main dirt road that happens to be just in front of Gerhard's compound is full of noise, from the chattering



Happy in Gerhard's Home

of locals to the clanging of glass bottles. This quantity of activity is geared around one goal in mind – the weekly trip down the road to the small vender who sells the liquid spirits – alcohol. On a usually quiet road during the week, the number of hopeless bodies that trudge down this road on Saturdays is astounding. Many of the participants have already begun their addicted ritual of consuming alcohol to blur the lines and pains of life, before they even get to the proprietor who profits off of their suffering and hopelessness. Gerhard knows that this monster of addiction has gripped far too many of the Onseepkans families and homes.

The greatest monster in the Northern Cape is the monster of inoculation. You will remember last year that Steve and ITMI's Mark Burritt helped Gerhard inoculate two bushman's herd of goats. That kind of inoculation is good. The inoculation that leaves an eternal and horrific impact on these people is that from a religious denomination that has for years and years



Loretta le Roux the family goat herder



From the Director

Dear Team,

After six of the last eight plus weeks being either in southern Africa or in Eastern Europe, my body's internal clock has pretty much gone haywire. For the whole week that I have been home my body has insisted on transitioning from deep sleep to wide awake at anywhere from 2:15am to 3:35am. Driving to the ITMI office at our normal starting time mentally feels like I'm arriving in the mid-afternoon, due to my work day starting 5-6 hours before.

Heading overseas to visit and connect with each of our national partners has always been more than enough *fuel* to carry me through whatever unfolds in each of their unique and challenging locations and ministries. God has seen to that. We together attack the distinctive cultures and complexities, side by side with each of our ITMI nationals and partners, seeking to "...serve and empower godly nationals" as they eternally impact the individual lives of their communities. It's the coming back home with the need to process and condense all that was seen/learned/experienced, combined with weeks of the other homebound duties that can overload a person's mind and body. This reality is not exclusive to me alone. It is experienced by each of the many missionaries and nationals that try to balance the demands of ministry, logistics, family, church and calling on multiple continents. This is a great reminder to us to continually hold God's frontline servants up in prayer.

While in **Arad, Romania** last month, I got a chance to visit and catch up with our dear partners **Vio and Daria Pop**, who themselves are significantly, physically disabled, but who have a precious ministry to the forgotten elderly widows in their Romanian community. To be an elderly widow in Romania many times means hunger, freezing conditions, intense loneliness and suppressing isolation. This is not the case with those that have a place in **ITMI's Bethesda Foundation**. If you have ever been in most homes for elderly, you know that rarely will you experience a spirit of hope, gratitude and love. Yet these traits were clearly exchanged and realized between the widows and the Pops.

I wish you could have been in the **Kalisz Baptist Church** with **ITMI's Mark Burritt** and me last month. It was a cold and drizzly Sunday morning on the outside, but on the inside it was warm and full of all-walks-of-life people seeking to worship God and show appreciation for what HE has done in this once forgotten church. **ITMI's Tomek Jezyk**, the current shepherd of this abandoned flock, kept saying over and over in his broken English, "...it is hot, it is HOT", meaning "...isn't it nice and warm in here?" Those of you who helped Kalisz Baptist Church and Tomek have provided a special infusion of hope and awe at how real and capable our God's provision is. There is a new sense of hope and wonder, a sense of "what is God going to do next" to help them continue the journey of rebuilding this old church, this old church building and the only life changing presence in all of Kalisz.

In the midst of **Piotr Zaremba's** continuous 17-18 hour days of translating and ministry, he still carves out time to mentor and develop the next generation of church leadership in Poland. Piotr, his team, and all our ITMI partners in Poland are committed to changing Poland's current blindness to Christ's true nature, opening their eyes and revolutionizing lives and families. In months to come we will share how Piotr's newly translated New Testament is now being converted back into an audio version so all the seeking Poles can download from the internet and hear the Good News in their own mother tongue.

May we all seek to have our internal clocks and compasses fixed completely and in tune with all that our great Shepherd and Savior has planned prepared for us.

In HIS Service,



Daria shares love to a widow



Kalisz Baptist Church



Piotr builds the Leadership Team

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inoculated with its religious, legalistic rules combined with spiritual blindness. When this inoculation has been administered, it leaves whole groups of people, whole communities inoculated to any vocabulary that sounds religious. Without the ability to use commonly used words that tell of God's truth, His love, His grace and His much needed mercy, Gerhard and Elmane are left to living out these truths on a very public and never-ending stage.

Thankfully Gerhard and Elmane and all eight of their children have brought these monsters of Onseepkans before the One that has already defeated all evil and ungodliness. Gerhard uses every opportunity to model God's truth and God's laws before, not only those in Onseepkans, but now his light is being carried to three other surrounding communities by word of mouth.

Gerhard's commitment to using the normal things in life to model God's orderliness is a modern day movie for a community starved for hope.

Hope in Onseepkans looks like a healthy and well taken care of goat herd. Hope also looks like a giant, well laid out and flourishing garden that communicates work ethic and reward of life giving food to those who will work.

Hope is communicated when Gerhard builds and refurbishes his home, his sheds, his goat pens and a small minority church building which displays to the community a contrast from the many run down and looted buildings that were once lived in during better times.

Hope also looks like Gerhard's family of ten

who have many times been on the verge of not having enough resources to care for themselves, but who make their home and front parlor the gathering place of a community that craves connection and affirmation. Gerhard shared with Steve, "...we have many guests, but we no friends." In the midst of not having any like-minded believers, Gerhard and Elmane lavish hospitality on all who enter their property. There is always a cup of hot tea and some bread with butter or sweets for anyone that comes their way. On Wednesday nights Gerhard has a small home Bible study group, made up in part of elderly ladies that once were only allowed inside by previous owners to clean

and sweep, but now they are welcomed in and served as equals, fresh home-made goodies that communicate value, love and respect.

Gerhard and Elmane

attack the monsters of Onseepkans by seeing everyone not as just persons, but as individuals, eternal souls that need freedom from the bondage of sin and its consequences. Even though Gerhard is unable to provide a long list of ministry statistics that some people think show effectiveness, he is deeply impacting an inoculated society full of previously blind and hopeless people.

Onseepkans can now witness what a true family, full of love, joy and peace truly looks like. They can now observe God's character being worked out on a daily basis.

They now have a church to attend that will tell them God's truth and plan of redemption. They now have someone who cares enough about their condition

and who wants them to experience the real God to the fullest. Gerhard and Elmane and family are modern day examples of the Thessalonian Christians who Paul commends for their "...work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope..." ITMI is grateful that we can partner with them in their passion and calling to give real hope to the many individuals who live in Onseepkans.

- Steve Evers



For Praise . . .

1. India - **Paul and Molly** well attended launching - new church plant with the help and encouragement of Harvest Bible Fellowship.
2. Romania - **Casa Dorca Children's Home** - Continues to nurture and care for, with God's love, the forgotten children of Romania.
3. South Africa - **Charl van Wyk's** recent mission trip to Wimba, Zambia and DRC Congo was blessed with many commitments to Christ.
4. Poland - **Kalisz Baptist Church** was almost full of worshipers and comfortably warm after the installation of a new heating system.
5. Romania - **Adi and Ema Ban** - new ministry to the un-churched of Oradea through the children in their new preschool.
6. Poland - **Piotr Zaramba's** continued strength and steadfastness as he translates to a December 31 completion of the Old Testament.

For Prayer . . .

1. USA - **God's provision** for ITMI, its Staff and all our partners as 2013 comes to an end.
2. USA - **Sarah Phiri and Joyce Jere's** - continue to pray for proper diagnosis and treatment of Sarah's eye condition.
3. Zambia - **John Jere** as he pushes up the **Zambezi River** to evangelize, disciple the lost and to drill more, much needed water wells.
4. Poland - **Kalisz Baptist Church** and Tomek as they seek to reach, disciple and transform the needy of Kalisz.
5. USA - Debbie Henry's family as they process and deal with the loss of Debbie's mother.

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