

1 July 2015

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...to the Lord.” . Colossians 3:16

5 Unexpected Things Happened Under a Blue Tarp

“...being known as a pastor is a desirable thing. Many pastors have power with no accountability...”

Uganda

“Salvation comes primarily through works, not by grace through faith.”

“God requires animal sacrifices to atone for sin.”

“The God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament are two different Gods.”

“God’s main mission is for His people to prosper, and you can purchase this benefit through financial contributions to organizations bearing “Christian” in the name, particularly mine.”

These are the heresies that African pastors claiming to represent Jesus

often proclaim.

To make things worse, often these confused, but sincere, immature believers have no idea that following Jesus means they can abandon the self-promoting, dog-eat-dog, status-grabbing, social-ladder

-climbing influences of their culture.

In a culture where jobs and education aren’t readily available, the vast majority live as impoverished “nobodies.”

As a result, being known as a pastor is a desirable thing. Many pastors have power with no accountability; people believe and do what they say as if it was straight from God.

A pastor has a title; he’s somebody and he has a whole church of people who follow him - and pay him regularly - to prove it. He has a white collar career. He is credited with having a skill set that did not require the hurdles, of the cost and availability, of a formal education.

Tragically, many use their titles to garner power, manipulate and get wealthy. An African pastor feels pressure to maintain his power, his title, his mystique, and often uses prosperity preaching to do so.

Without Biblical guidance - or sometimes, without even a Bible of their own - there’s no reason to doubt the beliefs you’ve held all your life and the behaviors of those around you.



ITMI partner Muhindo Kawede teaches truth out in the Uganda bush through the International School of Missions’ Portable Bible School.

So cultural beliefs go unchallenged, and lives are unchanged. Jesus comes alongside “the ancestors” as a viable source of power, but practices *stay the same*. When kids get sick, parents still turn to witch doctors. When asking Jesus doesn’t result in met needs and desires, many will ask

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Kawede awards ex-al-Qaeda Muslim with ISM Portable Bible School Diploma.



Kawede’s home for the month of training in the Ugandan bush.

Romania

Remembering Dr. Nicolae Gheorghita



Two old friends, Dr. Nick and Bill Bathman, taking to a Romanian pulpit, sharing God's Word in a special partnership.

It was in the mid-1960s when, after climbing the 56 steps to his tiny apartment in Deva,

Romania, I first met Dr. Nick. My earliest memories of him were two-fold: respect for his zeal and passion for witnessing and winning souls to Jesus Christ, and awe that he was Romania's premier endocrinologist.

Dr. Nick will always be remembered for his courage in standing firm against the communist authorities when they came to his office at the hospital in Deva and issued the intimidating ultimatum: "We give you 30 days. You must choose between your Christ and your career." His response: "I don't need 30 days, or 30 hours or 30 seconds. If I must choose between my career and my Savior, I choose Jesus Christ."

We remember when the Lord called him to pastor **Second Baptist Church** in Oradea. He traveled from Deva each weekend, without official approval, with only a small green suitcase mostly filled with books. Once we found him at the *Manse*, in the dark to avoid discovery, burning corncobs in the stove to generate heat without producing any telltale smoke. Finally the au-

thorities gave him permission to move.

Our daughter **Lenora Hammond** was baptized in Second Baptist Church. Over the years we were privileged to participate in some of the projects Dr. Nick initiated – namely the **Bethesda Medical Clinic** in Oradea and **Casa Dorca**, the Baptist orphanage in **Prilipet**. Without his vision and initiative these ministries and many others would not exist.

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay on for a while and leave footprints on our heart. What an honor for Harriett ("Tanta Billa") and me (*Fratele* Bill) to be 'a friend of Dr. Nick' – one we will never forget and whose friendship we will treasure for the rest of our lives. Hardly a day passes when either Tanta Billa or I will say, using Dr. Nick's accent, "Be careful!" He always stressed the 'b' as in 'be-e-e.' Never have verb and adjective been so meaningfully combined or repeated so often.

How wonderful that these tears are only

the ancestors, too.

We see similar situations throughout churches all over Africa. This heretical teaching, leading to unchanged lives, is the



Kawede fields questions and guides needy and uneducated pastors and church leaders into God's eternal truth.

reason that countries like Uganda - where 80% of the population believes they are "Christian"- continue to be overrun by the sad social issues that are the consequences of godless living.

ITMI's **Muhindo Kawede**, who often goes by just "Kawede", is passionate about helping African pastors by providing them with Biblical leadership training.

He founded the **International School of Missions (ISM)** in outside Uganda's capital, Kampala, to meet this great need.

The challenge he constantly runs into, though, is that 99.9% of African church leaders and pastors can't afford to pay tuition for any type of training. So given the choice to deny them the training or provide it in any way possible, Kawede chooses to provide it in any way possible.

That often means the school can't afford to pay him, and certainly not what he could be bringing home. And he has five children to support.

When students come to the **International School of Missions**, they often do so hand-to-mouth, not sure how they'll cover living expenses. Many don't have a place to stay or surety that they will have the next meal. Sometimes, they sleep in the ISM classrooms.



Kawede's meager stove while in the bush teaching pastors.

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temporary, because “we sorrow not as others who have no hope.”

Dr. Nick has encountered the “last enemy” – death. But he did not have to face him alone. Our great Victor, the Lord Jesus Christ has taken the *sting* from this relentless foe. Dr. Nick has gone *through the Valley of the Shadow* and emerged victorious on the other side. We shall all follow shortly. It’s imperative to be ready for that Divine appointment: “...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” Hebrews 9:27

Our hearts are grateful for every footprint our precious brother, Dr. Nicolae Gheorghita, has left behind.

In respectful memory: **Bill and Harriett Bathman,**
Mesa, Arizona – USA

Editor - Dr. Nick was always passionate about helping those in need. He was especially interested in helping deserving students get a Christian education. Next month we will suggest a way that we all can continue Dr. Nick’s legacy by partnering with his children and the newly created foundation for helping worthy but needy Romanian students.

Poland



Leszek and Ania Wakula are not names many of you in our ITMI family, will recognize. They have been quietly serving the Lord in Poland for almost 30 years and Leszek is a pastor to one of the oldest and most influential Baptist churches in the city of Lodz, Poland.

Lodz (pronounced “Wooo-sha”) is a city of about 700,000 people. Per Leszek, there are only about 7-8 small churches with a community of only about 400-500 believers. His church is considered quite large at about 150 members. This Baptist church has a long history of being faithful during the communist years, even when the communist came and confiscated their whole multi-story church buildings without any compensation.

Leszek’s wife Ania is very much involved in discipling the women God brings across their path. Luke, one of Leszek and Ania’s adult boys, also has a ministry called **Fifth Gospel Movement**, an outreach to the many young people in Lodz that very much need Christ. Please pray and partner with Leszek.

USA

There are many, many stories that come into ITMI each month that we never get a chance to tell you due to limited space in our **In Touch Monthly** newsletter. We have made definite steps to change that.

Amongst all the other mission duties, ITMI has for quite a few months now, worked diligently to create a much more informative website with more pictures and up to date information about who we are, who we work with, where we work and how God is blessing His servants.

If you haven’t visited our website in a while, you are in for a visual and informative surprise. We would love you to take a look and see the site, tell us what you think, and let us know if we have forgotten any important facts, figures, stories or pictures that would help you better understand what God is doing in Africa, India, Eastern Europe and here in the USA.

Keep coming back to our website as we try to include some short videos from your favorite missionary and their ministry.

We are excited to hear from you!



Church Leaders are shown practical ways to reach out and share the Gospel in their community by going “door to door.”

don’t graduate, what they learn during their time at ISM is enough to radically impact the way they understand the Bible.

For example, ITMI partner, **Jahim Buli**, who God is currently using to accomplish great things in South Sudan, was a student at ISM for a year.



While a student at ISM, he lived in a storeroom. After about a year, Jahim was unable to continue school, but took what he’d learned back to South Sudan, where he is

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Because the conditions are tough, so is graduating.

But even when they

leading like a servant and training other pastors using the well-proven S.A.L.T. material.

Taking it to the Bush

More recently though, when ISM had a break between semesters, Kawede demonstrated his passion for equipping pastors Biblically. He could have used the month off to work a side job. He could have spent time with his family. He could have rested like he should.

Instead, Kawede set up a “Portable Bible School” in a remote area of Mbarara, around 200 miles south-



Kawede teaches the Word of God at the graduation ceremony and souls are saved.

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west of Kampala. He raised the money to fund the travel himself.

No nearby hotels. No electricity. Toilets that were, well, challenging. This 30 day-project was wrought with roadblocks that would have turned back anyone other than those compelled by a calling from on high.

At the start, the pastors in the area seemed more intent on boosting their own value through social climbing and boasting the completion of any kind of training than knowing the Bible.

They started by bickering over whose land the school should be held on, each hoping to be considered more important than the others.

But after a month of patient and repetitious teaching from Kawede defining, re-defining, explaining, contextualizing and re-explaining real salvation, his forbearing labor of love bore real fruit.

5 Unexpected Results

1. As they realized their identity in Christ

had already been secured, they no longer needed to boost their own status.

2. Many repented of believing in their works to earn and maintain God's favor.

3. Some of the pastors made a decision to attend ISM.

4. *Seventeen* of the pastors were saved, and 2 additional people received Christ at the graduation ceremony.

5. The people of Mbarara were touched by the fact that Kawede and ISM cared enough about their knowledge of Christ to bring it to them.

They expressed their gratitude through gifts. Chickens, millet and rice might not seem like much to some, but to these subsistence village dwellers, it may have been their next meal. Kawede even left with \$9 toward ISM's building fund.

ISM would greatly benefit if even just 10 of us would help sponsor one pastor for the fall 2015 semester. Anyone interested can change a church and the people in Uganda for just \$226 per term (3 terms/yr).

Want to be an agent of change in Uganda? Want to partner with Kawede and ISM to end heretical preaching and practices in Ugandan and African churches, one by one? Want to help African pastors preach *good news* instead of oppressive cultural practices and heresy?

Kawede and ISM are being faithful with what little they have. Let's help them multiply the good work they are doing by helping some pastors receive the equipping they need.

- Summer Kelley, Muhindo Kawede, Steve Evers



Graduating to some is nothing more than a dream, until Kawede and the ISM PBS comes and helps make it a reality.

For Praise . . .

1. **USA** - So thankful to **Peter Ruchti**, the **AdeptPlus Media** team and **Summer Kelley** for their part in the new ITMI website.
2. **Poland** - **Andrew/Anna Gorski** - Praising God as 60 new souls gave their life to Christ at the Tuchola Gospel Joy Workshop.
3. **Uganda** - **Kawede** - Thankful for all the salvations during the ISM Portable Bible School, amid less than perfect conditions.
4. **India** - **Paul and Molly** - Harvest Church Chennai's new building renovation progress allowed them to meet in the new location.
5. **Poland** - **Leszek and Ania Wakula** - They send their deep appreciation for joy that comes from the support and prayers of many.

For Prayer . . .

1. **South Sudan** - **Jahim Buli** - Wisdom as he remains during economic collapse in South Sudan to shepherd the new believers.
2. **India** - **Paul and Molly** - Wisdom and insight as they move ahead in setting up a grocery business for the widow women.
3. **Zambia** - **John Jere** - Pray for John as he works through many tough issues at this season of his life and ministry.
4. **Zambia** - **Tim/Ashley Keller** - As their family travels to South Africa for the birth of their new baby.
5. **Poland** - **Leszek and Ania Wakula** - Important Polish youth camp July 18-26, empowering young people to be faithful disciples.
6. **USA** - Prayer for wisdom and direction for all areas and all people that are connected and partnering with ITMI.

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