

1 November 2015

“But my eyes are toward you, O God, my Lord; in you I seek refuge” - Psalm 141:8

God's Unique Camouflage

“God continues to confound those that go their own way...”

Zambia

God created camouflage. He gave this marvelous visual-bending gift to many of the animals that He so uniquely created. Zebras use their stripes to confuse the lions. Geckos can look just like the branches they live on. Leaf insects can easily be mistaken for stationary parts of the plant where they roam, and certain fish can look exactly like coral. God uses camouflage in the human world also.

One of the much loved stories of the Old Testament is the recount in II Kings 6, of Elisha's servant, afraid of the massive enemy's army that was encamped all around the Children of Israel's soldiers. Elisha saw and knew what the servant couldn't.



Tim Keller always ready to serve



That is why he answered in a most unexpected way, "... *Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.*" Most of us remember that not until God "opened" the eyes of the servant, was he able to see *"the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."*

God continues to confound those that go their own way, and yet He blesses and give sight to those that "seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness." Last month on our trip to Zambia, God clearly showed He is still providing and caring for His faithful even today, even in Africa, even against all earthly logic.

Tim and Ashley Keller are impacting Zambia one family and one church at a time. Tim has pretty much decided to unofficially adopt a small dirt poor community, 80 kilometers east of the capital of Lusaka. Tim's impact on the community and church in Katakantapa is very evident if you have visited any other African communities. Tim has so connected with the people and church leadership in Katakantapa that when Tim brought our team of three, Jon Dekkers, Steve Lee, and Steve

Evers to come teach SALT discipleship training in late September, there was an instantaneous "family" connection, even though we were of a different race, country and culture. This only happens when there is real deep understanding that we all are really from the same race - the human race, no matter where we were born or what color we happen to be. It is even more important to understand our connection when we are united as adopted children into God's own family.

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South Africa

Last month as we visited with **Charl van Wyk** in the Cape Town area, he took us to visit the Stone Hill squatters camp where Charl and Sonja along with **Mark and Cindy Parris** and their church have adopted this extremely impoverished community of 50,000 squatters. Charl introduced us to his on the ground partner, **Cozmore**, a Zimbabwean national who loves the Lord and has a deep passion to impact the forgotten people of a culture. Cozmore manages and discipless the local young people who have shown interest in getting out of this vicious circle of poverty and oppression. But Cozmore also has part of his heart back home in Zimbabwe where Christians are sorely treated and many times persecuted. Charl shared with ITMI one particular pastor in Zimbabwe that has 8 churches to oversee and yet he only makes, on a good week, about \$5 usd ...total! He has had

to take his children out of school due to lack of

funds, not to mention the challenges he has feeding them. Cozmore wanted to help this pastor take care of his family by teaching him how to raise rabbits for food and for sale. Cozmore was going to try and "borrow" a couple of rabbits and see if he could get this off the ground by raising the offspring. ITMI agreed with Charl that we needed to help jump start this important project. Due to your faithfulness and your gifts to our "Where Most Needed" fund, ITMI was able to partner with Charl and provide Cozmore with the capital to buy the necessary rabbits, feed, material for pens and other items to actually start a real business. Cozmore now shared that his only outstanding concern is that this faithful Zimbabwean pastor might have a heart attack when he hears of God's provision and your generosity. We will keep you informed on how this new Christian enterprise is ...reproducing.

South Sudan

Jahim Buli shares the following with us as he continues to see God's hand of leading and provision as the new church ministers in the stressed and overwhelmed country.

I am doing very well. We just concluded a revival meeting last weekend, many people gave their lives to Christ. There is much growth in the Church - lives are being change[d] and transformed by power of the word of God and deliverance from the power of enemy.

In this area where I planted the church - most of the people believe in the powers



**Reconciliation Ministries International Church, Katakantapa, Zambia.
Warm and gracious welcome to all visitors.**

To come to minister to a group of previous unknown brothers and sisters and to be so immediately connected to them speaks volumes of how the Kellers have depended on God to bridge the seen and unseen chasms that normally separate missionaries and native cultures.

Tim and Ashley love these people. It is demonstrated in many ways, including seeking to help with life and ministry needs. They also help by intentionally bringing mission teams that Tim schedules to visit, serve, train and encourage the believers in Chongwe and Katakantapa.

The Kellers, by faith, continue to pour their lives and resources into the Katakantapa community and church. Even when the Kellers were personally impacted recently by one of their main supporting churches, that had decided to curtail missionary support due to a building program, the Kellers still stepped out in faith to help the believers of Eastern Zambia by financing two water wells. The Kellers are excited to see how God will use these wells for His glory. More on that later.

One of the champions that Tim and Ashley have identified in the Chongwe area and have poured their energies and help into is a tall slender Zambian named Ruben Mwale. Ruben is a very humble man with a deep conviction to serve the Lord at all costs. He is extremely intelligent and could be very successful if he chose to use his talents in the business arena. Ruben wants to "seek first His Kingdom and His



Ladies of the Church prepare mid day dinner for the ITMI team in their humble church kitchen.



Ruben shares his home and

of witch craft. They have never seen the power of God touching lives and delivering people from



darkness. After 5 months of the church plant, I [am getting a] little resistant [resistance] from the community - opposing the work of God in this area.

As we continue with ministry though, [and with] earnest prayers, people's lives are changed and transform and some [have] been sent free from the power of drinking alcoholic.

The lady standing beside me [in the picture] is [a] business woman giving her testimony to the congregation. I share [d] with her



the [SALT] financial area of Life and [she] began to apply what I taught her into practice and the Lord has blessed her more greatly. She now owns [an] evening restaurant in her house and every evening she has customers from every corner of the town - Just to eat dinner.

She came a long way from her church just to testify [what] the Lord has done for her through what I [taught] her. God is amazing. She has bless[ed] the church with 5 bags of Cement. And she promised to do more and be a partner with me in the ministry.

Steve, I have a case of three orphans living with their grandma - nobody is helping them. Two months ago God spoke to me to help these children pay their school fees and He (God) [has] a plan for them and He is raising them in the Ministry and they will help me in the years to come as leaders of the church. I ignored the voice and did not obey God's voice. In our last weekend revival meeting, God rebuke me before the congregation through the servant I brought to minister in the revival meeting. God described the situation these children and their grandma are in. I promise myself to

support these children whatsoever may cost me. I will follow God's voice.

Please, allow me to thank all my partners and supporters and all those [who] contributed for church constructions. Thanks to



ITMI family and you in particular to write stories about me and to make sure that I get funds for the ministry. Thank you, thank you. We have fix the doors and windows and we are almost finishing the whole work the church. But we have stopped because South Sudanese pound has become valueless. Food commodities prices have gone higher. Please pray for God's provision.

Editor's note: The rest of the story is this. Last Sunday morning a dear precious widow lady in my

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righteousness" as he oversees the health and mentoring of 8 very poor rural churches. These churches are attended by mostly rural people who have little extra at the end of the day. They struggle caring for and feeding their families. They cannot help Ruben, a workman worthy of his hire, with funds to care for his family. Ruben has a dear supportive wife and 4 children of their own. Ruben willingly cares for 8 other children that have no one to care for them, all on no salary, but a soul-full of faith in his Heavenly Father.

Ruben has little to no finances, yet God has led the local government to give Ruben some land. This almost never happens in an African country due to land being so coveted by the culture. However, God is bigger than the "Kings" and leaders. Ruben, by faith launched out into raising crops to help feed and finance his ever growing family. Not unusual normally, except Ruben is growing crops that normally would not grow in such a dry and harsh environment, but God is causing his crops to grow, much to the government's surprise. Ruben's land has a very dense clay type soil, bad for growing crops, but good for making bricks, which he is doing so that he can house his family and the orphans he is caring for.

s with Jon his hope to finish d put a roof on before rainy season hits.



Ruben shows how God is growing sugar cane and other crops with little of the normal and necessary water requirements.

Ruben showed us his half built house and was embarrassed that he couldn't afford real cement to mortar the bricks together. He is making mortar from the clay soil on his property.

This is where God has chosen to pull back the camouflage and show that He can provide in miraculous ways. Tim Keller tells the story this way. Ruben needed a water well close to where his house was being built. Ruben couldn't begin to pay for one. Tim, at God's leading, offered to finance a well for Ruben and his family. Ruben was overjoyed. When the well

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Ruben demonstrated how the locals get out of a bore hole they are digging.

driller came to drill the well, the 50 meter (150 foot) well came up ...dry. This is never a good thing, except when God is involved.



When the driller finished removing all the pipe from the dry hole,

he pulled Ruben aside and said, "...I wish I could trade you my land for your land...", which seemed strange under the circumstances. The driller went on to explain that almost all the way down to the depth of 50 meters, the drillers didn't find water, but they did find the raw materials that have unique and future value. [Editor's note: we will share more when we are able.]

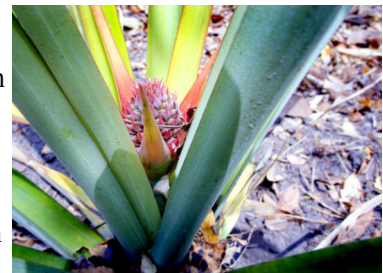
Camouflaged in a barren piece of Zambian land, buried in a dry water well hole is the raw material that could help Ruben care for his family and even further missions in Zambia.

Ruben's amazing story is one that we all cannot lose site of - God is faithful - God is able to do the impossible - God can care for each one of us if we will put Him first and "seek His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you."

Oh, by the way, Tim brought the driller back to Ruben's property, and they hit good clean water at

100 meters which will meet immediate needs for Ruben and his family. Pray for Ruben as

he seeks God's wisdom and direction on what to do with his new found, God provided opportunities. -Steve Evers



Pineapple should not grow, much less come in a whole year early.



God provided good clay soil so Ruben could make his own building bricks.

(Continued from page 3) "Jahim"

church, one who lives on a very small social security income and I know goes without eating more than she will share with me, asked me, "...how is Jahim in South Sudan doing?" I shared with her what you have just read and without a moment's thought, she looked me in the eye and asked, "...how much is it to send those children to school?" In anticipation of someone asking me this question, I had already asked Jahim the same. Imagine for \$278 per each child per year, those children can go to school. That amount is not much to many Americans, but to Jahim it is "mountain sized". Yet, he stepped out in obedience to what God was wanting to use him to do.

This widow again looked me in the eye and said, "how much per month for all three children?" With out hesitation, she told me that she would trust God to help her cover the whole \$69 per month, thus allowing Jahim to help these orphans get an education. What a joy it is to know that God is able to provide for us where He leads us to go. May you be empowered to trust God more as He leads you.

- Steve Evers

For Praise . . .

1. **India - Paul and Molly** - Their church leadership team has been richly blessed by Harvest Chapel training in the States.
3. **Poland - Tomek Jezyk** - Kalisz Baptist Church's remodel is 99% complete...they only need five more windows.
4. **Poland - Leszek Wakula** - Thankful for God's blessings in Ania's ministry to women and for provision for their children's growth.
5. **Zimbabwe - Charl van Wyk** - Provision of funds to help a struggling pastor raise rabbits to feed and school his family.
6. **USA** - Good progress of the Arabic SALT discipleship material that is faithfully being translated.

For Prayer . . .

1. **South Sudan - Jahim Buli** - Wisdom and help as there are more and more orphans and dire poverty as the economy collapses.
2. **India - Paul and Molly** - Wisdom, protection for church leadership as they continue to grow amidst strong persecution.
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** - Safety, health and provision as they travel to South Africa and encourage other ministry leaders.
5. **South Africa - Kelly and Cherise Smith** - Pray - Continued help and direction as they work toward a substantial orphans home.
6. **USA - Needed-** Continued provision and help as we press ahead with the translation and printing of the Arabic SALT project.

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