

IN TOUCH MISSION

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

Monthly

1 September 2017

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” Psalm 23:1

Roaring Lion : Everyone needs to be saved

“I have witnessed lion hunting in the past and this sure looked like something was going down.”

Zambia

It's 1:30am.

Traveling through the **Kafue Game Park** in central Zambia, I become aware of the most beautiful lion I have ever seen, ITMI's **John Leach** stated. Saying that I'm isolated in the middle of the night in the middle of the African bush, is an almost humorous understatement. I'm approaching fast. This beautiful lion is on the outer parameter of my vehicle's headlamps.

Black-maned and still young, this full grown male is unaware or is intentionally ignoring my approach. It is intent on something on the opposite side of the road....

Let me backtrack.

I have completed my shopping in Lusaka, Zambia.

I have frozen meat in the vehicle with no fridge or freezer. The meat is in a big black crate filled with ice. To avoid the heat during the day I decide to push



through the night to be home the next morning around about 0700 [7am].

At the best of times I avoid night driving. The eyes don't take to oncoming lights so well anymore and the challenge is heightened when the approaching vehicle's driver insists on driving with the headlamps shining bright.

To then cap it all the rural folk's cattle and goats tend to converge onto the road in a concerted effort at being run over.

I had entered through the Kafue Game Park's eastern gate en-route home to the dismay of the game warden, who had to open the gate at something around midnight. A friendly greeting and a obligatory coke in the old school glass bottle, seemed to satisfy

him for he let me through without taking any details or asking too many questions.

We Africans understand one another's needs. I needed to get home and he needed to get back to bed.



John smiles as he tries to fix his vehicle once again.

Night time traveling in the park is posted at 50km (31 mph). There's plenty of game,

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Poland

Thank you so much for all your prayers! God has already answered them in an amazing way. Daria managed to pass her final exam with flying colors - and that's not even the best part!

During her exam (which was an oral one, called a "thesis defense" in Poland) Daria had to talk about her thesis, which in large part was about the gospel. She answered many questions about Christianity and even managed to impress the chairperson of the examining committee with her answers!

But the best part of it all was the reaction of Daria's thesis supervisor. Throughout the year he already talked with her a lot about the Bible, faith and the true meaning of the gospel. He's not a believer but he is curious and open! Because of these conversations Daria decided to write a very personal letter to him and give him a new Polish translation of Bible as a gift after the exam was over. The letter was quite bold and in it she urged the professor to search for answers in Jesus and the Bible.

His reaction surprised us - in a very positive way! Here's what he wrote to Daria after reading the letter:

"Thank you for this precious, personal gift. The Bible is mankind's great treasure, regardless of personal beliefs. With joy, while still on campus, I started reading some passages. It really reads great. I would also (or maybe primarily) like to thank you for such a personal letter. I'm moved. I know that you are a person who lives out their faith, and that in itself may be an inspiration to those around you."

Please join us in prayer that this professor would continue to read the Bible and open up his heart to our Lord. We also want to pray for the other 2 people in the examining committee. We hope that their conversations with Daria will be just the beginning in their journey with Christ. - Bartek and Daria

God is using the new Polish Bible translation to share truth in the, many times, very anti-Christian university.



Zimbabwe

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Charl van Wyk writes, Previously I've written about our discipleship camps for young men in Zimbabwe:

"One young man arrived on crutches from an injury he suffered in a crocodile attack.



Thankfully, he wasn't alone during the attack. "In a vicious fight his friends clung to his upper body and arms while the croc clutched his foot before—praise the Lord—the friends finally won out. "Medical staff managed to save his foot and toes."



Mpumelelo (with crutches) and his friends each receive a Bible at our discipleship camp.

Seventeen year old Mpumelelo's ordeal with the crocodile happened three years ago.

After all the local doctors have done to save his leg and foot, we've just received some bad news – Mpumelelo has an internal infection and the leg needs to be amputated below the knee.

This has obviously come as a shock to the family. Mpumelelo's mother is a pre-school teacher, and his father is unemployed – not due to laziness, but to the economic collapse orchestrated by the communist regime of Robert Mugabe.

When people are hungry, it is easy to buy votes with food.

Mpumelelo explained to Cozmore, my co-worker, that he is ready for the procedure when funds are available. He is praying that the Lord will bless him with friends who will prayerfully, and financially, support him through this ordeal.

The estimated cost of the operation is \$700, dependent

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and it's not a pleasant experience to run into elephants crossing the road, or a kudu jumping in after your headlights have passed.

100km an hour. That was the speed I was driving when I had the most incredible encounter I have had in a long time.

1:30am. I become aware of the most beautiful lion I have ever seen. I'm approaching fast. He's on the outer parameter of my vehicle's headlights. Black-maned and still young this full grown male is unaware or is intentionally ignoring my approach.

He is intent on something on the opposite side of the road, even though I have applied brakes and at the same time scrambling for my camera, he remains focused.

I have passed him and come to a standstill. Now I

start reversing and pass him yet again. Not having been able to find my camera, I sit in anticipation.

I have witnessed lion hunting in the past and this sure looked like something was going down.

It was just a few seconds. Then lazily, the lion looked in my direction and without any further ado, stepped through the elephant grass disappearing into the dark.

Thinking that was it, I started off but to my surprise I see this very small fire and a single woman sitting next to it and it dawned on me that the lion was inquisitive as to who would be so foolish to let the fire die down that low.

Lions are not generally man-eaters.

My thinking is they still respect the first order before the fall and thus do not necessarily take ad-

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From the Director

Dear Team,

I want to be one of these boys. I don't know their names, but I know their actions. They are probably like most any boy who lives in Zimbabwe today. Loves to play football (soccer), gets into mischief, wishes for a chance to go to school, and goes to bed hungry way more than they want and way more than we experience here in the States.

I still want to be one of them. These are two of the boys that in a moment of life and death, even at their young age, three years ago held onto their young Zimbabwean friend Mpumelelo (Mmm-Pu-me-lee-lo), as a crocodile had clamped on his left leg and was hoping to drag him back into the river and make a meal of him. These boys probably didn't say these words, "...not on my watch!", but they did make sure, after a long, intense battle of *tug-of-war*, that on their watch, their friend Mpumelelo day was not *this* day. Mpumelelo now uses crutches because the medical system in Zimbabwe is completely unprepared to handle orthopedic injuries of this nature. Most crocodile injuries don't end as well as Mpumelelo's did. Thank you Lord that these boys were there and didn't allow the uncomfortable situation to distract them from what really needed to be done.



William Langford shares with us the following,

"But all the wickedness in the world that man may do or think is no more to the mercy of God than a live coal dropped in the sea." — William Langford

God has done so much for each of us we are compelled to live outside our own wants and desires. ITMI is blessed to be part of the Body of Christ that is used, with your help, to show and give mercy and help to our family of believers and future family in Africa and India and Eastern Europe.

Please pray for me as I partner with Pastor Phil McKeown of North Village Baptist Church (NVBC) in Phoenix in early October as we go to southern India to help ITMI's Paul Yuvaraj teach rural pastors what the Bible says it means to be a pastor. We hope to empower them with insight and truth that many have not heard or understood due to their challenges of Christian education and proper leadership development. We hope to bring to these needy pastors, with the sacrificial help of NVBC's Crossing Missions program, much needed teaching, training, workshops and material they can keep, study and use as they seek to follow God's mission for them and their villages. Pray for Paul as he prayerfully invites and assembles just those pastors and their wives that God is preparing to go to the next level of servant hood.

In HIS Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script.

on theater time. And an artificial leg will cost around \$400.

The family's life savings of \$200 is what they have available at present.

Through our network of missionary friends the Lord prepared the way for us to have some medication sent to Mpumelelo that will help build up his immune system, fight the infection and prepare his body for the shock of the amputation.

Even the delivery of the medication is no easy task and includes borrowing a vehicle, hours of driving on bad roads, expensive petrol and negotiating multiple police road blocks.

Will you please pray for Mpumelelo and his family? And if you feel so led, financially support him?

Financial support can be given through [ITMI](#) – remember to note 'croc attack' under instructions.

Funds received over and above the needs of Mpumelelo will be used to support other Zimbabwean Christian families suffering with major medical challenges.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and support. - Carl van Wyk



ITMI can report that in one day after Charl sent this info to his email list, all the funds needed except for a small amount, came into ITMI. You can't now help with Mpumewlelo's operation, we all can help Charl help the other Christian families who suffer in Zimbabwe, often forgotten and who are most grateful for what we are doing to support their health needs.

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vantage of man's disobedience...yet again if opportunity allows and they are hungry...well easy prey is easy prey.

Now I can greet a person in most languages but how do I tell a woman foolishly sitting next an excuse of a fire that she was just about to be lion food and how do I get her to move? And to where?

My vehicle is packed to the full. Maybe if I can just get her to understand, then she can climb onto my roof rack and I can take her through to the west gate where I would exit the park, another 80km drive.

I am no linguist. I can greet in most languages but how to get her to understand?

So with great urgency in my voice and with broken English, Luvale, Xhosa, Zulu and many more languages I try to warn her of the Simba (most African languages), Dumba (Luvale), Lion (English) Leeu (Afrikaans).

No go.

How do I save her from the inevitable? I mean the lion could be watching this whole episode and biding his time knowing that at some point I will have to leave.

That time arrived when I realized that besides getting out of my vehicle in the middle of the very dark African bush, which I was not really keen to do, and literally forcing her onto the roof rack, she was not going to comply. So with great haste I made off for the west gate.

My reasoning was that IF - and that is a BIG if - I can get a game ranger to come with me we could rescue this woman.

Pushing hard now and passing many buffalo and smaller deer I headed for the gate. Thirty-five minutes later, I arrived at the gate, hooting the horn as I arrive.

After what seemed a life time - maybe 60 seconds - a very irate game ranger approached my vehicle.

His body language told me that he was not pleased with my approach. Complaining and gesturing until, with again, that urgency in my voice I told my story and the need for him to come with me to rescue this woman.

'No Bwana (boss man). That woman is "mad". We know of her and she has been living in the bush all her life. She wonders through the park and the animals do her no harm.'

Not content with this answer as I did not believe him, I convinced him by offering him coffee and sandwiches to get into my vehicle and away we sped, another 35 minutes before arriving at the spot where this woman would be.

I'm thinking; "No way is she still alive." I can see me and the game ranger tracking the lion. Him with his AK47 and me with this high powered torch (flashlight). But there she was, still sitting next to an excuse for a fire.

Speaking the local language he greeted her and then he explained my anxiety at seeing the lion and the danger she was in and a whole lot of other stuff. They spoke quite a while and I did not understand them.

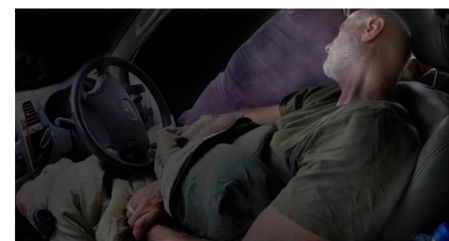
Then, with some laughter and a goodbye wave he told me we could go.

At a much slower speed now we returned to the western gate and a grateful game ranger bid me farewell possibly thinking, "What a crazy mzungu (white man)."

There are many similar encounters I have witnessed, and am still astonished at just how our Heavenly Father's grace, mercy and protection is there even for the mentally disturbed. We serve a Great God never to be underestimated.

Editors note: John Leach loves the people of Africa. He reaches out to the forgotten people of Zambia. He needs our help to enable him to take the gospel to those that die without hearing of Jesus' salvation. If you are able to help John and Lesley, we will make sure that he knows and receives your love and partnership in far western Zambia.

-John Leach, Summer Kelly, Steve Evers



John sleeps in his vehicle on one of his many 20 hr. runs to Lusaka to fetch supplies.

For Praise . . .

1. **Poland - Piotr Zaremba** - God's continued provision as he finalizes the proofing of his latest literal translation of the Polish Bible.
2. **South Sudan - Jahim Buli** - God's protection in an increasingly hostile South Sudan. Praise for renewal for this young Shepherd.
3. **South Africa - Gerhard le Roux** - so grateful for God's provision of a construction crew and materials to enlarge living quarters.
4. **Zambia - John Leach** - John Leach's return from South Africa with new - used Ford pick-up for increasing ministry needs.

For Prayer . . .

1. **USA - God's provision** for ITMI, its Staff and all our partners as need for truth grows each and every day.
2. **India - Paul and Molly** - Challenges with ministering due to increasing persecution from Hindu extremists.
3. **Poland - Piotr Zaremba** - God's guidance and provision as they launch their new Christian primary school.
4. **Zambia - Johan Leach** - Needs ministry supplies for the unreached, audio Bibles, projector, camping equipment for field workers.
5. **Romania - Adi and Ema Ban** - As financial needs increase as EU non-profit Adi worked with has to close down.
6. **USA - Steve and Darlene** - God's provision of strength, wisdom, and continued direction.