

1 August 2014

"...Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you," Matthew 5:43-48

How Enemies Became Friends (through death-threats!)

Jahim said, "If God wants me to leave the world this way, who am I to fight that?"

You pull into work on Monday. You do a double-take. Shaking your head and rubbing your eyes, you stare. Am I going crazy? Is this a dream? Your place of work is gone. Panicked, you log in to your bank's website to check your financial situation. How long can my family stay afloat? Instead of your bank's site, you see "HTTP Error 404. The requested resource is not found." You hop in your car and drive to the nearest branch. Your pulse-rate soars when you find that it, too, is gone. Gone as if it were never there. Gone while the world turns around you as if all is normal. Gone with no hope of finding something else. Just gone. Others come and go to their places of work. Weather and traffic are the only thing reported by the news outlets. Everyone else's world is normal, except yours.

This is a taste of the way ITMI's **Jahim Buli** must have felt last month when he left an internet cafe in South Sudan to find the place where he'd parked his mode of transportation empty. To circumvent a faulty internet connection, Jahim had gone to an internet cafe to send out an incredible story. He was reporting that God is changing

his country from the top down, thanks to Jahim's bold and selfless commitment to his ministry and his people along with the support of ITMI.

The stolen motorbike was more than Jahim's transportation and ministry extension tool. It was his livelihood. To provide for his family, Jahim used his motorbike as a taxi each day until the family's needs are met, then spends the rest of the day on ministry.

Leading up to this incident, Jahim's country, South Sudan, has been experiencing turmoil as two opposing tribes grapple for control of the government. War-like conditions in the capital city, Juba, led to the creation of crowded refugee camps.

Jahim, who was trained by ITMI's **Steve Evers** and **Tim Keller** to offer trainings all over the country for local pastors, was making great head-way with the trainings and receiving powerful testimonies of changed pastors' lives.



When the initial violence broke out, Jahim and his family left South Sudan. But Jahim felt called to minister to the many suffering refugees in his country.

After Jahim delivered food to one of the refugee camps, the political leaders from the other tribe were convinced he was against them. Jahim was being watched and threatened with harm to his family. They read his email. They tracked his activities. But Jahim refused to stop doing what God called him to do. Jahim

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Refugee Camp

City ON AN EMPTY Hill



Molly with a few of her Ashraya Daughters.

Frequent kidnappings. Drugs freely available to all. Sub-par academics. Untruths taught about the world. These are the educational guarantees of the Indian government schools in the part of India where ITMI partners, **Paul and Molly** live and minister.

The private Hindu school is God's provision for their 19 rescued and loved Ashraya Daughters, and Paul and Molly are incredibly thankful to be able to send their girls to a nearby school. In contrast with government schools, it's the best thing available.

But it doesn't fit well with Paul and Molly's vision for their girls. It, too, is academically sub-par and immerses them in an opposing world-view.

There are no desks. The students sit on the dirty floor and write on clipboards. Paul and Molly saved and sacrificed to buy each girl a backpack and snack box. But at school, they are strewn on the floor and trampled because there are no hooks or cubbies for them. As a result, each weekend, the girls' staff spends a couple hours washing and patching the girls' backpacks with duct tape. The restrooms are holes in the ground. Toilet paper is not necessarily provided. There is no hand soap. "It's a scary place," Molly said.

The class sizes are large, never allowing for one-on-one instruction. Teachers don't stop to ensure that students are tracking with them. The girls just flip pages to keep up, not internalizing or retaining any information. They aren't forced to sound out words. Even though the girls are bright, some of the 10-year-olds don't even read at a Kindergarten level.

Affirmation is never used to encourage, inspire or motivate. Teachers may discipline by shouting or flicking students' cheeks with a metal ruler. One of Paul and Molly's older girls is taunted and mocked by her Science teacher publicly. He behaves inappropriately, pulling her ponytail in front of the class. Molly can't meet with the teacher because the teachers' and principle's minimal availability for parents is booked up months in advance and a foreigner at school causes the girls more grief.

The girls' uniform includes a belt buckle with the image of a Hindu god, who is also on their school books. The idolatry necessarily seeps into their home life, too, since the buckles and books come home with the girls. Part of their education includes reciting prayers to Hindu gods. The girls tell Molly they pray to Jesus during that time, but their young minds are impressionable and their view of themselves and God is being shaped by the

prayers they hear each day even if they aren't actively participating.

The huge chunk of the girls' time spent in school is cajoling them in a polar opposite direction from the path Paul and Molly are sacrificing deeply to coax and disciple the girls to follow.

Paul and Molly work tirelessly to illuminate the girls' way to Jesus. That they would know the truth about who they are and where they came from. That the girls would live out an identity forged from who God is and what He does. That 19 well-educated women would be leaders in their community, shaping it from a Biblical perspective. That they would be prepared by learning each subject from a Biblical perspective to "understand their times" (1 Chron. 12:32) and live faithfully in a culture loud with idolatry.

To realize this inspiring yet daunting goal, Paul and Molly envision a Christian school

where clean facilities communicate respect for God's creation and our role in caring for it. Where the character of God is seen clearly through the behavior of teachers and leaders. Where academics are a vehicle for learning about God and His world, so they are pursued with excellence that glorifies Him. Where a beautiful library, playground and offices lure families that are community influencers to send their children -the future influencers - to hear truth declared and demonstrated.

There is nothing even remotely similar anywhere near Paul and Molly's village, so a school of this caliber would truly be a "city on a hill," shining brightly, illuminating truth for all to see.

The hill is empty. The vision is cast. The benefits are great. The project is no less than God-sized.

Right now, Paul and Molly have the opportunity to purchase 10-acres of land, not far from the girls' home, where this "light on the hill" can be constructed. Will you pray with them that finances and legal obstacles will fall into place in time for this dream to become a reality? Will you pray God would "hold" this land for the school, if it is His intended location?

-Summer Kelley

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From the Director

Dear Team,

Piotr Zaremba proclaimed, “...*the sky is not made with concrete...*” reminding us that God is able to do so much more than we could ever imagine if we learn to trust and follow Him. This is a great reminder and something that all of us need to internalize on a daily basis.

Piotr needs to remember that though the sky is not made of concrete, *some walls are*.

Ok, I'll explain.

Last night after dinner Piotr called me from Poland with great news of what is happening in his beloved home country. The seeds of ministry that all of us have planted, watered and nurtured for years now since Piotr started church planting and Bible translating for revival, are starting to explode in a great way. More on that in next month's edition of ITMI Monthly.

Now, back to the concrete wall.

Piotr's home, as most Polish homes, is made of brick and mortar... concrete. Piotr explained that he recently was home alone and he was finished up with ministry work late one night. He decided to “trust” his manly instinct. You know, that one that leads us men to prove to ourselves -whether anyone is watching or not - that we could be closet Supermen if needed. This night, Piotr's manly instinct convinced him to turn off all the lights in the house. He was confident he could navigate this often traveled path to the steps and upstairs without any need of the lights that mere mortals need.

At this point in our phone conversation, Piotr was chuckling so hard he could barely speak. As the story continues, as Piotr was walking confidently in the pitch dark, there was massive jolt to his nose. He bounced backwards in the dark. He remembers being dazed and even a tad confused for a few moments. When he recovered a bit, he used both hands, to feel his way to the closest bathroom. The bathroom lights revealed the nose of “Superman” was quite banged up and his face gashed and covered with blood.

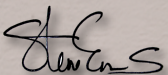
At this point in Piotr's story, we were both laughing long distance pretty hard as I visualized this whole process and knowing how very proper and controlled Piotr normally is. Piotr's use of descriptive and humorous English vocabulary was hilarious. We laughed harder when he told me that the next time they videoed one of his sermons for international distribution, he had to be videoed from the...side, so as not to scare the viewer with his banged up nose.

After the laughter died down a bit, I thought, “Isn't Piotr's experience just like all of ours?” We think we can get along in life without the Light. “I've got this,” we think, “I've been around a long time, and I don't need any help.” Our confidence in ourselves is laughable. Yet, the Light of the World is waiting to illuminate truth for us. To illuminate the illusions we've clung to with a death grip for years. To shine brightly on the parts of our lives about which we've decided, “I know what I'm doing.”

May God enlighten us that we might see clearly from His illuminated perspective.

Your help and your commitment to partner with our brothers and sister in India, Africa and Eastern Europe is definitely giving light to darkened souls and hearts. Let us recommit ourselves to seeing from God's perspective so that we can see His mighty hand work in the hearts of man.

Blessings...



P.S. Please pray for us as we travel to Zambia this month to drill 5 more water wells in the far western area called Lukulu West.

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said, "If God wants me to leave the world this way, who am I to fight that?"

In response, ITMI began telling Jahim's story and raising funds to provide a feeding to a refugee camp of the other tribe. This would show Jahim's allegiance wasn't to one tribe or the other, but to Jesus, who cares about suffering. Meanwhile, Jahim requested a hearing with those targeting him. He wanted them to hear his side.

When Jahim was finally granted the meeting, he spoke truth boldly and graciously. He was given impossible favor, clearly from the Holy Spirit. He made Jahim's enemies into his friends. The officials even showed up at Jahim's church and heard him preach!

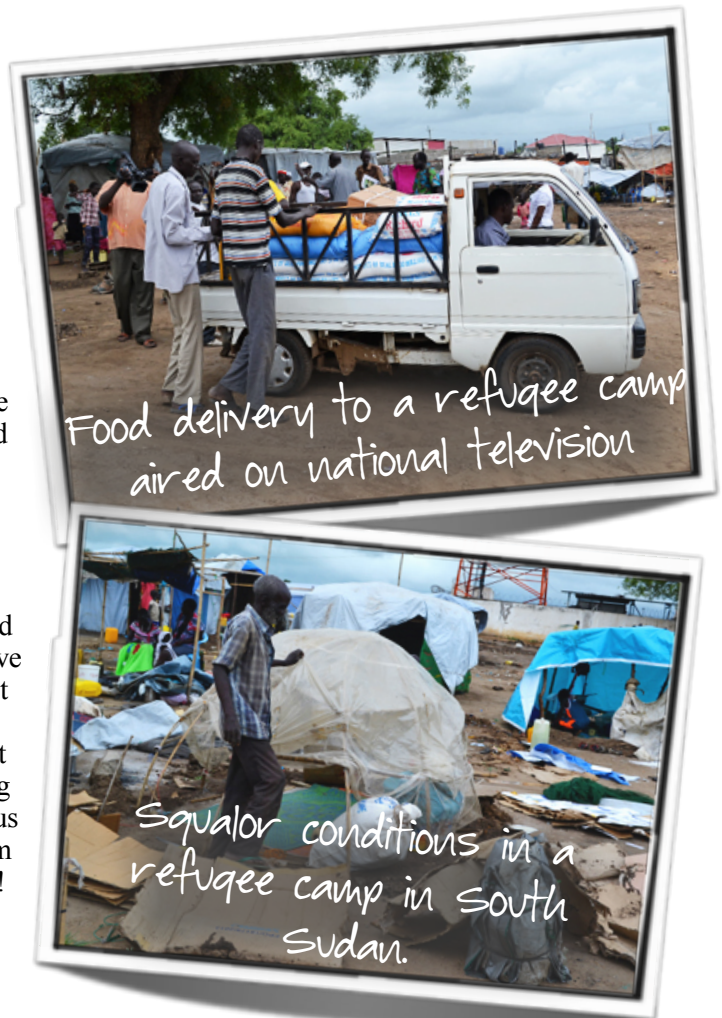
Meanwhile, an ITMI supporter provided \$2,000 for food for refugees - mostly widows and orphans - of the other tribe. Jahim invited his new government friends to be a part of the delivery. It was aired on South Sudanese national television, and streamed to South Sudanese communities around the world. Jahim preached, urging listeners to use their positions as leaders to bring peace to South Sudan and leave selfish pursuits behind. He received calls expressing gratitude from South Sudanese communities in Egypt, Sudan, Australia and the US!

Later, the leaders who had once threatened him, asked Jahim to join them for lunch. "Will Jesus forgive my sins?" they

wanted to know. "I have killed many. I hear the cries of the many I've tortured." Jahim told them the story of Paul, who once killed and tortured Christians but was used to save many.

Because of Jahim's boldness and tenacity, the Spirit gave him favor and the ear of those who can bring peace to South Sudan. He wouldn't be there if he'd put his own safety first. He wouldn't have had their ears if he'd refused to respect and love his enemies. He wouldn't have broadcasted truth around the world without ITMI supporters enabling him. God took our various offerings and turned them into international impact!

Thanks to ITMI's faithfulness in telling the stories of quality nationals and to a generous supporter, we've received funds to equip Jahim with another motorbike! Thanks to supporters who have demonstrated God's heart for South Sudan, Jahim's ministry will be solidified and his reach extended.



Thanks for being a part of our network of generous supporters!

We couldn't do this without you!

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

For Praise

1. Poland - The Nungessers are safely back in Poland and hit the ground running hosting ministry teams from the U.S.
2. Romania - Adi and Ema Ban's oldest son, Andy, received stellar grades on final exams and graduated from secondary school.
3. Uganda - The completion of the construction on the first mission house for the International School of Missions.
4. Poland - Three churches planted in Poland since 2013 from the Gospel Joy Workshops.
5. USA - ITMI's network of generous, faithful supporters!

For Prayer

1. Zimbabwe - An outreach team of South Africans heading to Zimbabwe lead by Charl van Wyk.
2. USA - The health of Mark Burritt's wife, Vanessa, as she begins chemotherapy.
3. India - Molly, mother of three small boys and 19 school-aged girls, continues to experience debilitating back pain.
4. Poland - Continued health and expansion of the new church plants in Poland from Gospel Joy Workshops.
5. Zambia - Steve Evers' upcoming trip to South Africa and Zambia, including travel to Lukulu, Zambia for well-drilling.
6. Zambia - God's oversight in working out the logistics of drilling clean water wells in Lukulu, Zambia.

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