

IN TOUCH MISSION

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

Monthly

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"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." -Matthew 6:31-33

Three Unexpected Things God Used to Provide

Have you ever been down to your last dollar? Ever wondered how you were going to pay your bills or buy food to eat or gasoline so you could get to work? Millions of people the world over know this feeling.

Yet millions more have seen God's provision for these same needs and have learned to be content whatever their state.

"... For I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." Phil. 4:11

The point is we can trust God to faithfully provide what we need, whether we live in the U.S., Africa, India or Poland; whether we are rich or poor; employed or unemployed; suffering or abounding.

In Touch Mission International works with people who have almost nothing, yet they prosper in the ways that matter. They smile in suffering. They cheerfully obey God in fearful circumstances. They serve others while enduring hardship. They give to others when they have little for their own families.

God Used a Man's Heart

Consider, for example, the situation of **Muhindo Kawede** of Kampala, Uganda. When it was mentioned that he should someday build a small house on the new International School of Missions (ISM) college property, because of a problematic and unrighteous landlord, he and his wife took what little savings they had and started the project. In the middle of construction he contacted ITMI Director, **Steve Evers**, and shared his

need for \$2,500 to finish the house – and he had to have it in a week's time.

Providentially, Steve mentioned the need to an ITMI supporter, and the immediate response was, "I can do that." He cheerfully wrote out a check to meet this need. *God provided for Kawede.*

God Used Two Flashlights

Another time, Steve and ITMI partner, **Timothy Keller**, were on an overland mission from South Africa to Sudan. They stopped near Victoria Falls, Zambia, at a roadside stand to purchase some carved wooden figurines for ITMI volunteers. Part of the purchase included Steve throwing in two small LED flashlights he had in his pocket. Amid the business of haggling, the daylight was waning. They still had to cross the border into communist Zimbabwe. Tim said, "Let's go!" Steve left mid-deal. It disappointed him, but God had something else in mind for those two flashlights.

When the two men arrived at a missionary compound in Lusaka, Zambia, they hurriedly unloaded everything from the truck, then reloaded the contraband bulk food for hungry Christian workers in Zimbabwe in the bottom of the truck bed. Carrying more than a certain amount of food over the border into Zimbabwe was illegal. Steve and Tim covered the smuggler's cargo with camping gear and prayed the border guards would not see, then got back into the truck and headed off for "Zim."



Steve and Tim arrived at the Zimbabwean side of the border a few minutes before the crossing closed for the day. The border station couldn't operate at night because there were no lights for the officials to see as they did their vehicle inspections. All of that usually took more than two hours. But with that closing, Steve and Tim would have had to sleep in the vehicle and stay at the checkpoint until sunrise. The guards would likely discover their hidden cargo in the daylight.

When the guard in the building said he didn't want to do the vehicle check because it was getting dark, Steve knew he had to watch what he said. A wrong word could have gotten the two men held for questioning, or worse. They remembered Matthew's instruction to be, "wise as serpents and harmless as doves." Just then Steve also remembered the tiny micro flashlights in his pocket. God began to give him the words to say. The guards were so enthralled with the "torches" that they started stamping papers and passports without ever going outside to check the truck. In about 15 minutes, Steve and Tim were on their way and

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What is so special about Libeko?

ITMI partners, Timothy Keller and Gerhard le Roux, traveled with Director, Steve Evers, and John Jere to remote Lukulu, Zambia earlier this fall. These are their reflections:



Gerhard's reflection:

We were supposed to meet up with the drilling company in Zambezi and from there cross the river to the remote area of Kakulunda. Then we received the bad news that the drilling company had mechanical issues and couldn't meet their commitments. After much discussion and seeking God's will, we decided to change our plans and go to the village **Libeko** in Lukulu West. ITMI visited this village twice in the past two years. The first year they drilled water wells and the second they handed out vegetable seeds to the community. The people were overjoyed to receive us.

The next morning, I went with some of the people to look at their garden initiatives to get a better idea of what they needed. When I visited the one church elder's garden, to my surprise I saw beetroot in the ground that looked very old. He explained that he does not know what to do with it or how to cook it. He was not sure whether it was poisonous or not! He then said that he decided to leave it in the ground until some day that the ITMI team will visit the village again and explain to him what to do with it.

I asked him to bring the beetroot to our camp that afternoon. When he came, I showed him how to cook it. Everyone watched with anticipation on their faces for the outcome of his tasting. His face lit up as he tasted the sweet beetroot and soon he was cutting slices for everyone to taste. The reactions of the people were amazing. The little children were pushing, shoving and stretching out their hands to also get their share, as if it were chocolates that were dished out.

I spent most of the next day teaching the people about good gardening methods. When I asked if we could break for lunch, the people refused and replied that some of them came from far away to attend and could not go back to their village and come again the afternoon. The people wanted me to finish and listened attentively to the end. That afternoon ITMI handed out some pillow case dresses and soap for the girls, and wooden toys and soap for the boys. Reflecting back, my heart goes out to them. Matthew 9:36 comes to mind: *"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."*

These reports originally appeared in these partners' respective newsletters, and have been edited for this publication.



Timothy's reflection:

This year, we really weren't planning on returning to Libeko (we did an outreach there last year). We planned to dig wells for other villages in the area. However, God in His peculiar, yet beautiful providence, brought us back. As we found ourselves again in Libeko, I pondered why God would keep bringing us back to this one place. What is it about Libeko that God sees as being so special?



Village life in such a remote area is very simple. People live to survive, and their level of survival is not what most of us would call "living." During the rainy season the water levels turn the villages into islands. People plant where they can in the high ground, but the soil is sandy and yields very little for all the effort. The flood waters force the large rat, snake, and insect populations into their homes and fields. The water creates pathways for crocodiles to move in closer. For years, when the people of Libeko fetched water for drinking, cooking, or bathing, they did so at great risk. The crocodiles are notorious in this area for taking both life and limb of the villagers and their children.

Our time in Libeko was blessed. With the new assortment of heirloom seeds and training, the people in the area can now eat healthier than they ever

have before. This will mean stronger bodies and fewer diseases.

Since the physical body is attached to the soul, we ensured that all of this was done in conjunction with the preaching of the Word. I began to realize, when we leave, the seeds will carry on feeding the people's bodies, but how will their souls continue to be fed once we're gone? We gave them some Proclaimer audio Bible kits, which certainly helps, but they still don't have anyone to regularly teach them.

As I looked at the people with their beautiful smiles and their hungering interest in the things of God, I was deeply saddened. I remembered the words from Matthew 9, when Jesus "saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.'" Perhaps the reason why God keeps bringing us back here is because He is moved with compassion for them and wants them to be shepherded. Though our time with them has been rather limited, I know that I will never stop praying for them, asking that God will raise up laborers for His harvest there. Please pray with me for these desperate and wonderful people.

Christmas Outreaches

by ITMI Partners



Polish Bible Translation, Poland



**15,000
PEOPLE.
GOD'S
WORD.**

The Best Christmas Gift Ever project aims to make 15,000 CDs with a dramatic reading of Piotr Zaremba's Polish Translation available at a time of the year when people are most likely to welcome it!

Of course the main benefit is that 15,000 copies of God's Word will have the chance to be heard. Other benefits include demonstrating the gospel by giving a free gift, inspiring recipients to give in turn and gaining exposure for ITMI's network of Poland ministries.

Investment Details: \$.22/copy

Bread of Life Kalisz, Poland



Christmas at the Square in Kalisz, Poland is an annual community event drawing the community in to experience Bread of Life's many ministries while enabling people to support families with critically ill children, all in the spirit of true Christmas giving!

Held in the historic Kalisz square, the event generates interest, good-will and proceeds by selling donated food and wares, to passers-by and attendees. Last year, over 2,500 participated, benefiting five critically ill children. This year's goal is to include over 5,000.

Investment Details: Cost of the event = \$1660

International School of Missions (ISM), Uganda



Global Kidz Adventure is an outreach event providing 100 children from slums near ISM the opportunity to hear the Christmas story, enjoy coloring and dramatic play, watch the Jesus movie, receive a gift and receive a treat.

- Impoverished children who are culturally treated as "last" will feel valued.
- 100 children will hear God's Word and see it demonstrated.
- ISM is active in the area and can continue relationships built.

Investment Details: \$9/child

The Smith Family, South Africa



Project Christmas Blessing (PCB) is a project designed to bless school children in Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa in Jesus' name. For some, it might be the only Christmas gift they'll ever get. It also might be the only way they'll hear gospel truth.

Because of Project Christmas Blessing, ~200 school kids will:

- Hear an engaging, kid appropriate presentation of the gospel from a Zulu pastor.
- Be led in worship by a live praise and worship team.
- Receive a gift and a book explaining the gospel in Zulu.

Investment Details: \$20/child

Jahim Buli, South Sudan



Deeper Growth Christian Ministries Christmas Outreach to Refugees will provide a Christmas celebration for ~300 traumatized children who have been displaced from their homes by political unrest and are now struggling to provide for themselves in unhygienic and squalor refugee camps near Juba, South Sudan.

While for these children, a meal will mean the world, they will also receive a gift for Christmas!

Investment Details: \$7.77/child



Honoring the Memory of Glenn Koppang

Friend of ITMI, lover of Africa, eager encourager and gifted Biblical counselor, Glenn's humility, grace and gentleness will be missed on both sides of the ocean. Glenn made his life about being God's tool to touch the hearts and lives of hungry and broken people. While we celebrate his well-lived life, we will miss his inspirational service and friendship at home and abroad. Please join us in lifting up his wife, Debby, during this difficult time.

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able to deliver food to missionaries who desperately needed it.

God provided for Tim and Steve.

"For it will be given to you in that hour what you shall speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

Matthew 10:19b-20

God Used a Sermon

ITMI partner, **Jahim Buli**, uses his motorcycle for transport and carrying ministry materials as he pastors among refugees in South Sudan. He also uses his motorcycle as a taxi, providing a small income to support his family. Recently it was stolen from outside an internet cafe.

The thieves stole more than Jahim's vehicle. They also stole his business income. Steve relayed the need to people on a stateside trip. One particular man said he had been listening to Chuck Swindoll speak and was convicted about being mindful of the Spirit's prompting to minister to others and he wanted to give. When the check arrived, it covered the entire cost of a new motorcycle ... and Jahim's lost wages so he could take care of his family.

God provided for Jahim.

All of these faithful servants of God remembered Jesus' words:

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33



God Uses You.

Trust God to provide for the needs in your own life.

Trust God to provide in your giving.

Pray for ITMI national workers to continue trusting God in all they do.

- Steve Lee

For Praise

1. Poland - Inspiring growth in the Gorskis as they faithfully serve the Lord in multiple new "Word Zones" discipleship groups.
2. Poland - USA - God's help and strength for Steve's two extended trips to Zambia, South Africa and Europe.
3. Uganda - Protection of Lydia, Muhindo Kawede's daughter, who was involved in a bus accident where 40 were killed.
4. Poland - 13 people gave their lives to Christ at a Gospel Joy Workshop in Kozięglowy, Poland in October.
5. Poland - Tomek's church in Kalisz has heat and running water for the winter months ahead.
6. Poland - Piotr Zaremba as he continues to seek God's leading in the ever expanding development of revival in Poland.

For Prayer

1. South Sudan - Jahim's landlord wants to kick his family out of their home so he can get a longer term pre-payment renter.
2. India - God's healing and successful treatment of Molly's intense back and neck pain.
3. South Africa - The le Roux's immediate need to get off the electrical grid and convert their ministry compound to solar power.
4. Ivory Coast - Protection for Bread of Life Ivory Coast workers located near the Ebola breakout.
5. Poland - South Africa - Uganda - South Sudan - That many would be blessed by the Christmas outreaches.
6. Romania - Provision for Casa Dorca Orphanage, facing end-of-year financial challenges.
7. Poland - Unexpected financial challenges for Bread of Life's New Life Center, where lives are being drastically changed.
8. USA - That many would be blessed by the Kellers' ministry trip to the States in November and December.



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