

# IN TOUCH MISSION

international

Monthly

1 September 2015

*"Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Matt 7:7*



Gerhard le Roux surveyed the down cast eyes of the trespassers and the police who had been called to the situation.

He realized the hopelessness of the situation. It was a snapshot of a much bigger hopelessness that the whole community is drowning in.

With little development or industry in the area, jobs, work and improving the quality of life isn't really part of their world. Far too many incomes are government assistance checks. Local religion and government policies allow moral behavior that the Bible would call destructive. Alcoholism and sexual promiscuity are normal practices.

The outlook of many in this area of the world is pretty bleak. Their level of hopelessness is hard to understand, much less describe.

Gerhard recounts, "I realized it is a hopeless situation. Neither the farmer, nor the parents or the police had any answer what to do."

He desperately wanted them to know the hope that he was clinging to for such a situation as this - and for his family's whole lives.

So he proposed the vandals' be sentenced to coming back the following week.

In 2012, God sent ITMI partners, Gerhard and Elmane le Roux and their 8 children as ambassadors of hope to Onseepkans, South Africa.

They firmly believe God wants to offer the people here - their neighbors - hope that the government, religion and lifestyle have all failed to provide.

The le Rouxs have been knocking on doors, begging God to open them. They opened a small grocery store, in hopes that their fair prices and cash-not-financing policies would offer some financial freedom for the community. But not many were interested in a store that doesn't sell alcohol.

They've helped local farmers through serving on committees and getting a long-overgrown canal cleared and working

What happened when an ITMI partner invited

## Trespassing Vandals

to come back next week



The le Roux Family



Martie le Roux with Kids club

again. They've invested in expensive bottles of goat medicines and vaccinations, allowing local goat-

(continued on p.4)



# That'll be one BIBLE VERSE, please

ITMI's [Timothy Keller](#), veteran in ministry all over Africa, aptly pointed out,

*"How do you help those with the greatest need in a community where everyone has little to nothing? Helping the poor in the third world has to be done very carefully. More often than not I see well-intentioned people (including myself at times) give to a community but create a social disaster in the process. Where there is stuff, greed and jealousy are not absent. If you give to one person, then everyone else wants something too. In a small village, it is easy for bitterness and resentfulness to take root and the person who received the gift actually gets harmed or treated badly by the rest of the community. It can get really ugly sometimes, and the people with deep, serious needs can end up being either neglected or abused. There are, fortunately, a variety of ways to get around this."*

ITMI partners serving in Zulu Natal, South Africa, [Kelly and Cherise Smith](#), are intentionally and effectively helping through a special program.

They created and have grown The Bible Verse Shop, which is held every Thursday. The program is unique and quite beneficial. People in the community can earn the right to leave the shop with supplies and things they need. Their payment is reciting a Bible verse from memory.

There are now long lines of adults - not just kids - waiting to recite their Scripture and receive needed provisions.

These are people whose culture feeds them all kinds of destructive untruths about the world and how it works and where the power lies.

Ancestor worship and witchcraft are great enemies to public health, and they demand the bondage of many in this area.

Hopefully, planting the seeds of scripture in these minds will start a domino effect, releasing them from lies and turning them toward truth.

The Smiths have found a way to bless people by meeting their needs, and avoided many of the negative effects of "hand-outs" that Timothy describes.

This is just one aspect of the Smith's ministry.

In addition to being involved in their community through home health visits, relationships with foster care workers, and other community services, the Smiths were instrumental in planting a church that is now pastored by a local Zulu.

Each year, the Smiths reach out to the local schools through [Project Christmas Blessing](#), where many hear about Jesus' birth and are blessed with a small demonstration of love.

A big project like Project Christmas Blessing starts long before Christmas time. The Smiths will soon begin collecting funds and purchasing the items needed.

The Smiths have a lot on their plate this year. New teammates and new projects to line up. (More on that soon!) Their ministry could definitely benefit from prayers and some [funding directed toward Project Christmas Blessing](#) before the season is upon us.





## From the Director

### Dear Team,

Life marches on. We are all swept away by this journey that God has purposed for us. New things begin and old things fade away.

We recently saw a couple precious new additions to the ITMI family. **Timothy and Ashley Keller** welcomed [little Ian](#) into their family. **Sarah and Ben Graham**, mine and Darlene's daughter and son-in-law, added little Lily Alexandra Graham to our family. It is great to be grandparents!

[Jahim Buli](#) in South Sudan, who is trying to birth a new Bible-based church in Juba, shared that peace talks between the South Sudanese President and the current rebel leader have dissolved. The threat of another tribe-against-tribe violent outbreak is so thick that you can feel it in the air. He asks for our prayers and continued support as he remains in the Lion's den because that is what a good and faithful shepherd does.

Speaking of the lion's den, [Paul and Molly](#) are also staring down the sharp teeth of those who would tear them apart. Their local Hindu neighbors have rallied a mob of angry, aggressive antagonizers against the opening of **Harvest Bible Chapel Chennai's** (HBCC) new, larger building. One of the rumors being spread through the surrounding community is that "...the Christians will come and take your wives...", in other words, "...they will come and brain wash your wives and take them away from you."

As we go to press, Paul and Molly share, *"Today's opposition rally from the community to close down the work of the Gospel was full of new threats against our church and family. Police officials and two members of the Indian FBI were present. The local opposition leaders are motivated by greed and filled with hate as they continue with their scare tactics, but we are compelled by a love far surpassing the darkness of the god of this world who's blinded them. Praying for the light of His Word to be shed abroad in the hearts of those who need it most."*

This month at ITMI we experience the inevitable reality that sometimes people transition into new seasons of life. We have been honored and graced to have **Debbie Henry** with us for over the last 12 years. If you have interacted with the ITMI office in that time, you have probably chatted with this faithful servant of God's work. We could tell many stories of how Debbie has obediently served God in varying ministries over her almost 30 years of service. We will miss her greatly.

**Danielle Cholly** is a seminary student seeking her master's degree in Leadership development at Phoenix Seminary. She hopes to end up as a missionary in Peru. Danielle is really grateful to be working and learning in a mission organization like ITMI. We are excited to see how God is going to use Danielle now and in the future.

Please, if you want to send a note to Debbie, use her ITMI email address [debbie.henry@intouchmission.org](mailto:debbie.henry@intouchmission.org) and we will get the message to her. Also, give the office a call and introduce yourself to Danielle.

Lord willing, I will take a team to South Africa and Zambia at the end of next month. We will visit and report first-hand on the good work of our partners there, including [the new borehole \(well drilling\) program in far Western Zambia](#). Please do pray for our travels and our visits, that we would be sensitive to what God leads us to accomplish there.

In His Service,

*P.S. Our "In Memory of Dr. Nick Foundation," created to remember his impact on our world by funding the next generation of Dr. Nicks in Romania is up and running! (You can find out more on our website.)*



Lily Alexandra  
Graham



HBCC's new  
location



Danielle Cholly and Debbie Henry



(continued from p.1)

herders, who can't afford to buy a whole bottle to buy just the doses they need.

Gerhard shepherds a local church, but not many are interested in "religion" - they've already heard it all due to the area's Catholic influence and, for the most part, haven't found it worthwhile.

Then out of nowhere, an opportunity knocked on their door. A group of children trespassed and maliciously damage a tractor that was being stored for a local farmer.

Thinking quickly, Gerhard suggested that the children come twice a week to Onseepkans Mission. There the punishment would be applied in the form of the whole le Roux family working with them to teach them Christian principles.

The le Rouxs teach the kids Bible lessons, pottery and needle work/knitting classes, tutoring in schoolwork, and reading lessons (many are illiterate) as the backdrop.

Before the first session was over, the children were begging not to leave! Now they voluntarily come every week. Their thirst



for attention from an older le Roux child or Elmane le Roux is unquenchable.

It's a new experience for them to have someone sit with them, talk with them and value them. Someone who doesn't push them, belittle them, or attack them. God is giving them hope, one week at a time, one interaction at a time. And they are eager for it.

Where once they had little to be passionate about, now they have meaningful work for their hands to do.

Where once they were entertained by destroying, now they are enthralled with creating.

Where once hope was foreign, now they know someone who has and lives out hope.

The le Roux family needs our help. They are currently without hot water and running toilets for the winter due to an imploded septic tank that affected both. Gas shortages in South Africa have forced them to cook meals in the the outdoor air on an ancient and dilapidated wood stove.

Let's share the load they are carrying in order to partner with them in their life-giving and changing work.

*Summer Kelley, Steve Evers*

There are still 5 books of the Arabic translation of the SALT material left to sponsor!

Each page can be translated for \$13/page.

## MAKE YOUR IMPACT

*on the Arabic speaking world today!*

### For Praise

1. India - Paul and Molly - God has not allowed the large Hindu population to shut down the Church.
2. USA - Danielle Cholly - Gratitude for the addition of Danielle to our ITMI team.
3. Zambia - Eugene Kalunga - 12 ECA students saw 12 adults and more children give their lives to Christ after a rural outreach.
4. India - Paul and Molly - Continued new visitors coming to HBCC in spite of the aggressive intent to crush the church.
5. USA - SALT Discipleship material - We have 2 of the 7 books' translation costs already covered!

### For Prayer

1. South Sudan - Jahim Buli - Wisdom and godly insight as he shepherds his growing church in the midst of war and conflict.
2. India - Paul and Molly - Wisdom and protection as their opposition seek to destroy the church and its leaders.
3. Zambia - John Jere - Pray for John as he works through many tough issues at this season of his life and ministry.
4. Romania - Adi/Ema Ban - Pray for their preparations to lead a large family conference in Oradea.
5. South Africa - Gerhard/Elmane le Roux - provision for costly upkeep of their old and in-constant-need-of-repair mission base.
6. USA - Needed- Special Arabic speaking believer who will partner to take SALT material's life changing truth to their world.

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