

Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MISSION

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

Monthly

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"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

Haunted

After Captivity: A Real Story of Honest Struggle

Wouldn't it be nice if becoming saved meant we no longer struggled with sin in our lives and in the world? Wouldn't it be nice if we could instantly forgive all that had wronged us? Wouldn't it be if we could leave past baggage in Jesus' hands once and for all?

It would.

But instead, because He knows best, God uses a process to sanctify us. A process that lasts our entire lives and is only complete when He returns.

We are all "in process." We are in the process of becoming more like Him.

In February 2015, ITMI's [Jahim Buli](#) was [reunited with his mother after 20 years of separation](#). Mother and son were separated when Jahim was 11 after a tribal conflict decimated his village and set off a chain of events that would change the family's life forever.

Jahim's mother, Rebecca, was taken captive. She endured years of slavery and abuse before being reunited with her family in [an incredible turn of events](#).

It would be tempting to put a neat bow on this story and say they lived happily ever after as a big happy family. To tell you that in response to this miracle, his

mother has been happily living with Jahim, serving in his church and has been an active agent for God's Kingdom in South Sudan.

But that wouldn't be quite accurate. Not yet anyway.

Rebecca is haunted by years of terrifying and horrific memories. Of living in close quarters with evil year-

in and year-out. Although undiagnosed, what she suffers is probably akin to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. What she lived with makes stressful look like a beach vacation. It

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stretches traumatic to the farthest extent of its definition.

And she still resides in a war-torn, lawless country where injustice happens in plain sight on the streets and law-enforcement is scant.

When she moved in, her presence in Jahim's home immediately turned his family life to chaos.

Through Jahim's Gospel-centered counsel, she did give her life to Jesus in a moment of sobriety.

But the past still haunts her. God's enemy still hides the destruction of bitterness in an enticing mirage and offers it to her daily. She blamed her brother-in-law, Jahim's uncle, for all she suffered. She couldn't forgive him.

And it drove her to drink.

Jahim knew she would often sneak to a neighbor's house to drink. She would come home belligerent and angry, unleashing a verbal stream of the foulness in her heart in front of and at her family, including their children. However, if Jahim was home, she would keep it quiet and fall asleep.



Jahim says, "I have never stopped praying for her salvation and deliverance from the drink. I didn't stop telling her about the kingdom of God, hell and Jesus."

Jahim counseled her to forgive her brother-in-law, using the gospel-based SALT material he teaches all over South Sudan.

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Newsbites

Zambia

ITMI's [Excellence Christian Academy](#), led by our partner, Eugene Kalunga, celebrated 20 years of ministry. For 20 years, ECA has offered a quality, Biblical education to under-privileged and at-risk children who would otherwise not get to go to school. Many of them are the children of underpaid pastors who could otherwise not afford quality Christian education. Graduates of ECA will be community leaders because of their education, and they will lead from a Biblical perspective. *Thank you, Eugene, for sacrificing for the greater good for many years!*

South Sudan

Lazarus is a South Sudanese believer and friend of ITMI. ITMI has been helping Lazarus with \$100/month to provide for his household of 14. They were previously surviving on half that. Lazarus is thankful, but he is most excited about the \$20 that ITMI has given him the past few months to help out widows and orphans in need. He reports it is an exciting ministry to ask God, "Who do you want to bless this time?" and wait to see how He works. Because of the success of this arrangement, we're raising that amount to \$70 per month. He is giving away almost as much as he receives, and he is more grateful for the money he can give away!

Poland

Piotr Zaremba and his translation team are working on a new version of his Bible translation that reaches out to Bikers. Piotr says, "If we succeed, 50,000 new men, women and teenagers will be invited to meet our Lord by the end of August 2017!"

South Africa

ITMI's **Gerhard and Elmane le Roux** are pursuing foster care of an orphaned young boy who has been left alone to care for himself. Pray the unengaged relatives will allow him to be further integrated into the le Roux family.

From the Director

Dear Team: The Real Deal

Our hosts couldn't believe it. Their mouths hung wide open in astonishment.

In all their time living near Amish country they'd never seen someone of that persuasion engage in conversation with an outsider.

But the old Amish cobbler couldn't even wait for ITMI's [Johan Leach](#) and me to stop talking - of what the villagers in Zambia do for water, how they crawl into holes in search of it, fighting crocodiles, and digging water wells in remote villages - so he could ask another question.

I was a little surprised when I hopped out of the vehicle and directed a cheerful, "Hello!" his way, he hadn't even responded. He answered our shoe-related questions only, turning the utterance of the already short word, "No," into a science of brevity.

And that's just what I love about Johan. He's not playing missionary. *He's the real deal.*

Whether in a remote village in the forsaken Luvale Plains of Zambia, on a pit stop in a New Jersey restaurant or connecting with the Pennsylvania Amish, Johan's mission is the same.

He engages with whatever bearer of God's Image crosses his path with all the warmth and respect due such an esteemed role. He pursues even those who withdraw at first. He shares God's Word and freedom at every opportunity.

Johan and I were zig-zagging across the East Coast in a 26-foot truck filled with antiquated earthy possessions my uncle couldn't take with him to glory. By the time you're reading this, we'll be in the mid-west, trekking back toward Arizona.

We're meeting with and engaging with whoever God puts in our path wherever we stop. If you're between the East Coast and Arizona, we'd love to have a meal with you! We also need churches to worship with on Sundays, so contact our office if you can help.

ITMI's [Paul](#) returned to India not long ago to secure housing before his wife, **Molly**, and four children return to India. Housing laws can be very discriminatory in India, and because of Paul's faith, caste level (a result of his faith) and American wife, he was striking out and will end up paying more than double what a non-Christian family would pay. To make it even tougher, most rentals come with Hindu idols already in place, and taking them down could cause eviction by the landlord. In a huge city of 12 million, he literally only had a couple options left.

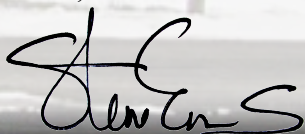
One evening he was honest with God, "Lord, I'm tired of this process. I don't want to hide my faith."

The next day, he was discussing a possibility with the landlord, and he said, "Sir, we're a family that love all people. We care about all people. We want peace with all people. But our religion says, 'no idols.' Could we remove the idols?"

The landlord laughed. But then he said, "Yes, I'll take them away."

We're so thankful that our partners are the real deal, because there are so many around them who desperately need to see real people living out the real truth of the Bible. It's exciting to see them being the real deal, and sharing the real freedom Jesus offers. If you want to help them show those around them the "real deal," we thank you for your help and generous sacrifice.

In His Service,



Authentic



Johan and his American transportation.



The effervescent Johan connects with a New Jersey waiter.

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Finally, Rebecca forgave her brother-in-law and asked Jahim to take her to his village so she could reconcile with her in-law's house.

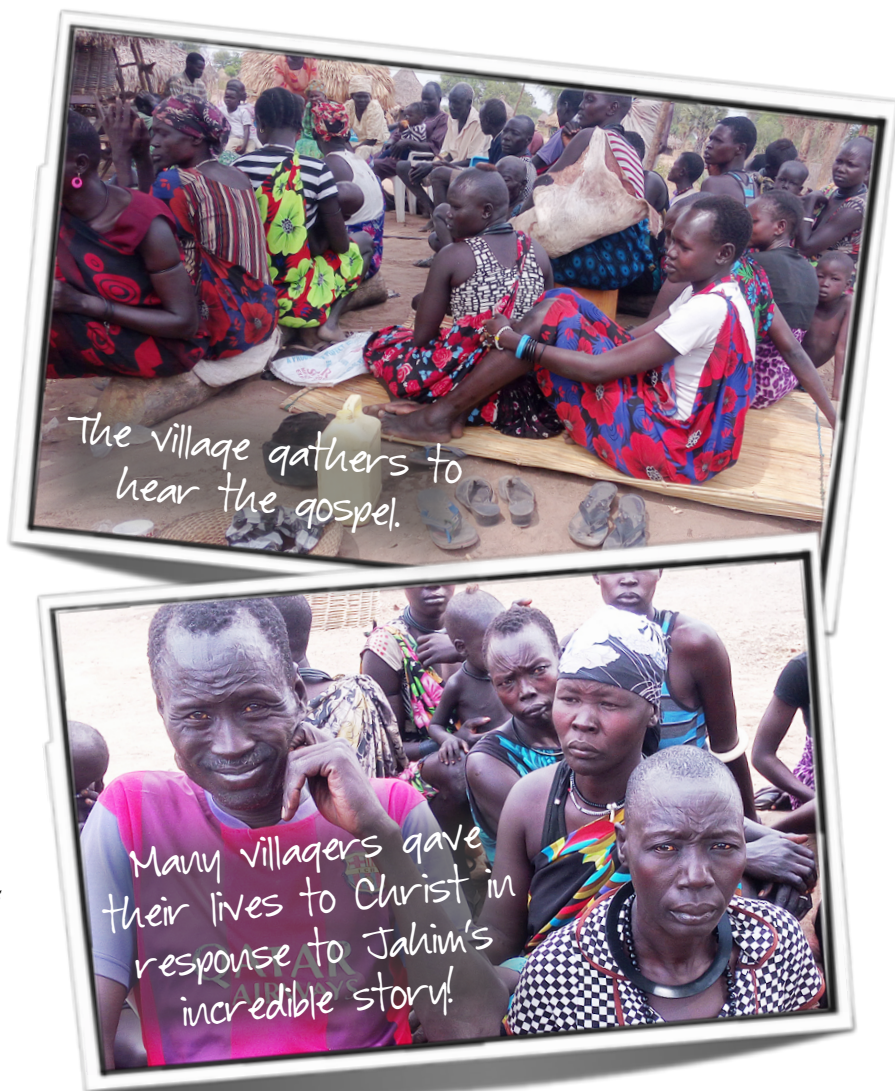
When they arrived at the village, they were received by Jahim's uncle and aunt. The village gathered around them to celebrate Rebecca's return after 22 years.

At first, they believed Jahim was the hero that had brought her back.

Jahim recounts, "It gave me the opportunity to share the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ who made me who I am today and how He used an officer who was once my enemy but became my best friend to discover my mother while he was on assignment in the land of her captives."

Many villagers gave their lives to Christ in response to this testimony, and most requested help finding this God who hears His children when we call.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers



For Praise

1. South Sudan - Jahim Buli - an entire village witnessed reconciliation and heard the gospel when a former captive forgave.
2. South Africa - Onseepkans Mission - that Wayne be allowed to join the le Roux family as a foster son.
3. Zambia - ECA, Eugene Kalunga - 20 years of providing Christian Education for poor and forgotten children.
4. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - God's blessings as he and his team launch into giving Christian education to Poland's children.
5. India - Paul and Molly - God's provision for a place their family can live and minister.

For Prayer

1. Poland - Daniel Machlowski - courage for youth from K5N facing social marginalization for being obviously different.
2. Poland - Andrew Gorski - Provision of a nanny who could potentially live in their house and help with their 3 kids.
3. South Africa - Mark Parris - Provision of funds for a family mission trip to Onseepkans to support the le Roux family.
4. South Sudan - Jahim Buli - Hunger is widespread and suffering is great due to civil war in the young country.
5. All ITMI - pray for God's protection and divine wisdom as the enemy is seeking who he can distract, discourage, or destroy.



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