

Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

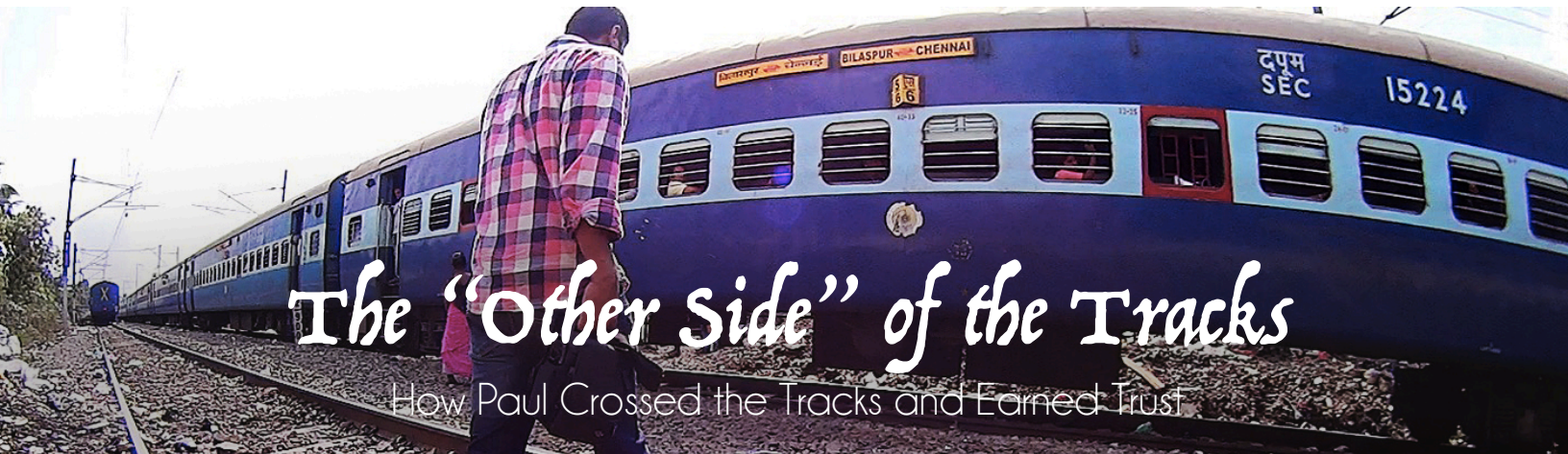
IN TOUCH MISSION

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

Monthly

1 June 2017

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done. -Proverbs 19:17



The "Other Side" of the Tracks

How Paul Crossed the Tracks and Earned Trust

He clapped his hands vigorously. His mouth was slightly open in a permanent, enthusiastic smile. It was devastatingly hot under the large plastic sheets that were once advertisement banners, now strung between two slum structures for shade, but you wouldn't know it by looking at him.

The small Hindu boy's entire body bounced up and down with enjoyment as he repeated the Bible verses and songs being chanted in the local language, Tamil.

His enjoyment of the organized fun of a summertime VBS was striking.

The children's appearance reflected the Hindu influence in their homes. Many of the men in this particular slum are heavily engaged in gambling. At school, learning is more militant and harsh than engaging and interesting.

Beads of sweat gathered on the balding head of Henry, the middle-aged leader from Paul's church, as he bounced and chanted scriptures and songs. His love for Jesus and the children who sat on mats in the dirt in front of him was evident. His arms waved and his whole



body worked to engage the cast-off children in front of him.

The large slum in **Paul and Molly's** city in India is a monument to a "throw-away" mentality toward life. To leave the slum, residents must cross a double set of train tracks on a busy main line. Many have died just attempting to return home from getting

water, but no safety precautions - not even a simple caution sign - have been enacted. Because those lives "don't matter." Slum residents literally live among the trash, as if they've accepted that it is what they are. They were completely forgotten and devalued. Trash.

Until...

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ITMI's Paul, whose last name we don't disclose publicly for his protection, refused to sit by and accept his country's evaluation of people as worthless.

It isn't like Paul isn't already doing so much to bring hope and Good News to his people. Paul is the pastor of a 5 year-old church plant full of ex-Hindus and Hindus in search of truth, who look to him for constant encouragement and prayer. Many face social and physical persecution for their faith. If that weren't demanding enough, Paul and his wife, Molly are raising [23 children](#).

But in the midst of the demands of life and ministry, Paul quietly raised funds to dig 7 boreholes throughout the slum, giving the slum residents access to water *without* crossing the tracks. This earned his church enough trust with the people of this Hindu slum that they were allowed to set up a tutoring center in a shack at the end of countless narrow passages, twists and turns through the slum. Kids can come after school for help with homework, prayer and counsel. Because they can, their future will be a little brighter.

"They can have their own relationship with Christ, here," Paul says with a smile.

But That's Not All

The next step was the Vacation Bible School, which the slum kids just ate up. They loved it.

"I was struck by how much they enjoyed VBS," [Steve Evers](#), ITMI Director reflected, "I think organized fun is really rare for them, and they acted like it was a real treat."

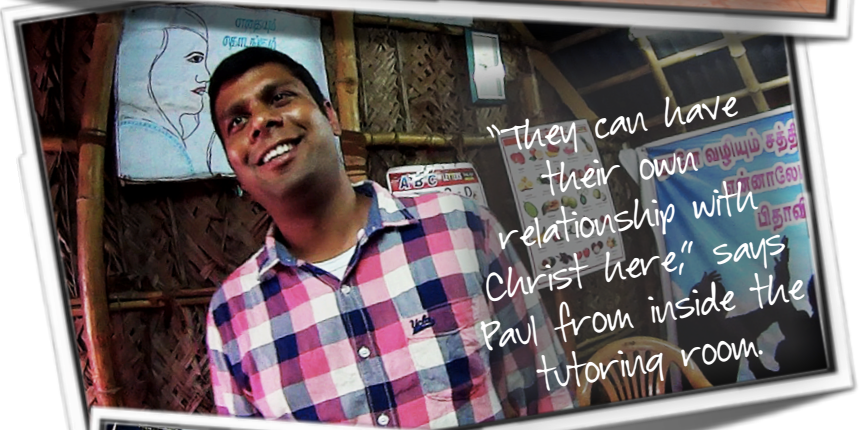
Slowly and quietly, Paul and his church are earning the trust of this marginalized group of people. Steadily and surely, they are reaching out to the lowest of the low with the Good News that Jesus' Kingdom has broken into the sin, death and darkness of this world and it doesn't bow to the caste system.

The seven boreholes weren't quite enough to meet the needs of the entire slum. Paul says 10 more would really help improve the water situation.

Drilling each well was just \$778. Would you like to [partner with us in providing water to some of the most marginalized and forgotten people on earth?](#)

Thanks for helping us help Paul focus on reaching the people of India.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers



From the Director

Dear Team: We Really Shouldn't Be So Surprised...

Spiritual Attacks Levelled at Key Leaders

In our circles, we don't really experience the intense continuous spiritual warfare that is staged daily in many parts of the world.

For reasons that even I don't completely understand, the Muslim slum in Juba, South Sudan, seems to have an unusually large number of people that are clearly affected by intense spiritual warfare, both externally with health issues and internally with emotional, mental and spiritual issues.

We really shouldn't be so surprised by the encompassing devastation of spiritual warfare if we just read the New Testament and process what Jesus and the disciples had to deal with in the small Judean country.

ITMI's [Lazarus Yezinai](#) tells us of a woman named Miss Anita who came to the church that ITMI helped start from the teachings of VCLi's S.A.L.T. Discipleship training. The church is located on the front lines of battle, inside this Muslim slum.

Miss Anita was not at church to worship, but specifically to cause the pastor to fall into sexual sin.

During the praise and worship portion of the Sunday morning service, Miss Anita was struck to the ground. She was removed to the counseling room for prayer. Lazarus tells us that Miss Anita said, "...she was knocked down by the Angel of God..."

Miss Anita revealed to Lazarus and the counselors that, "Within Juba she had [already] caused 5 pastors to fall into sin with her within the last (3) months." She also said that in all the attacks she's mounted in churches across the Africa, this was the first time that she has been unable to carry out her mission.

Speaking of attacks in Juba, ITMI's [Jahim Buli](#) reported that the main tribe in South Sudan, the Dinka, attacked and ransacked a village where [Jahim's mother](#) was living with some of her other family. His mother and family escaped with only their lives.

ITMI is committed to helping Jahim and Lazarus attack the enemy's strongholds in the country of South Sudan.

There is definitely a continual war that is being fought each and every day there in South Sudan, and we are the support team to help them stay in the fight. May God bless Lazarus and Jahim and meet all their needs so that they can stand strong and be used mightily in the fight for the souls of men, women and children of South Sudan.

If you are able to help us help [Lazarus](#) and [Jahim](#), I know that they would be more able to focus on the fight that is in front of them. Prayer is most valuable, and if God so leads you to equip them by assisting with their many financial needs, ITMI will make sure that the funds get directly to these fine men of God.

In His Service,



Johan-Style Outreach in India

ITMI's [Steve Evers](#) has always been effervescent and outgoing. As many of you have experienced, he connects easily with people and has a way of making them feel valuable.

When ITMI's [Johan Leach](#) visited the US in April, he and Steve travelled from the East Coast to Arizona.

Steve says, "Johan makes me look like a shy introvert!" Johan demonstrated a remarkable ability to engage with people. He wouldn't be put off by the barriers most humans erect to protect themselves. Like Christ, he pursued respectfully. He engaged, he valued and they responded.

After spending several weeks with Johan, Steve felt he'd learned a lot about engaging with people.

On his recent trip to India, he got to put what he learned from Johan into action. He took engagement and outreach to the next level.

Steve was smiling, greeting, fist bumping and hand shaking with anyone he saw.

That might not seem like a big deal, but imagine you have lived in a slum your whole life.

Even those around you don't pay much attention to you or see the unique ways you are valuable. Then a visitor reaches out with a smile, because he believes you are valuable to the God he serves.



He calls you "sir" because he respects you.

That would make a big impression!

Thanks, Johan, for loving people, for seeing all people as highly valued image bearers of the Creator of the Universe and impacting two continents with His love.

Are there any barriers you could push through to pursue someone the way Christ pursued you, reaching them with His love?

-Summer Kelley

For Praise

1. Poland – [Daniel and Blueberry Machlowski](#) celebrated their one year wedding anniversary.
2. South Africa - [Mark Parris](#) and a team from his church blessed Onseepkans Mission with fellowship, garden development and door-to-door outreach on a recent mission trip.
3. Romania – [Bans](#) – a successful Marriage Preparation Seminar completed.
4. Uganda – [International School of Missions](#) – New water pump installed providing running water on campus.
5. India - [Paul and Molly](#) - Seven boreholes providing access to clean, safe water for slum residents and paving the way for additional outreach.

For Prayer

1. Ivory Coast - [Bread of Life](#) - Continued provision for food assistance to Ivorian families in need.
2. Zambia - [Excellence Christian Academy](#) - Number of students has gone down by 67 children due to transportation issues.
3. Poland - [Gospel Joy](#) - The training of local leaders and organizing of fall workshops in the cities of Walcz and Chodiez.
4. South Africa - [Charl Van Wyk](#) - Charl and his son Jason will be visiting the East Coast of the U.S. at the end of June.
5. India - Paul and Molly - continued fruitful outreach in the large slum in their city.



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