

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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"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength." - Isaiah 40:31

Sometimes We Wait on God for 400 Years BUT THIS TIME....

This time, that's not how the story goes.

Sometimes we are asked to wait on God's timing longer than we'd like.

Israel waited on God to rescue them from slavery in Egypt for 400 years.

This time, God did something different.

David and Taru both grew up in orphanages in India. Taru doesn't know why her family left her where she grew up when she was a baby. David's father worked at the orphanage where he was raised, but was so poor that the orphans were better off than his own children, so they were raised with the orphans.

Why David and Taru Risked Everything

David and Taru had been living across the dumping ground from a Muslim slum in Bangalore, India for some time. They'd seen how the women and children were neglected and abused by their money-squandering husbands, yet were forbade to work outside the slum.

Unable to leave the slum to earn income, they were trapped. Some of the men have multiple wives in multiple households and children numbering the double digits. The children of the slum aren't provided schooling, so they're likely to live their whole lives in the slum.

They'd also seen how Christians were fearful and unequipped to share the Gospel with Muslims, and David has a passion to train other Christians to share the Good News with Muslims.

They had been in a employee-like role with another ministry organization for quite a few years. But when the organization wanted to relocate them to Northern India so David could manage something they were doing, David and Taru risked everything and said they couldn't go.

They knew God had called them to demonstrate and declare the Good News in that Bangalore slum.

And that was why God needed to move quickly.

David and Taru had lost their income and needed support immediately.

ITMI Board Members, **Erik Thompson** and **Jon Dekkers**, visited India with ITMI Director, [Steve Evers](#) in 2015. Prior to the pastors' training conferences they taught and visits to Paul and Molly's ministries, Erik stopped to visit a friend in Bangalore. That friend introduced Erik to David and Taru, just about the time they were leaving the safety of their organization to follow God's call.



Erik came home and suggested ITMI help David and Taru. They needed support pretty quickly.

But there was something in the way.

That's not how ITMI works.

We can't take general requests for support. It's not wise.

Instead, we wait for God to reveal potential partners through the ministries of our existing partners.

That gives us a chance to watch them for awhile. To get a feel for their caliber of character. To see that they are already faithfully ministering effectively. We build relationships slowly.

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Before we “go public” with the partnership, we often test the waters by gifting a small amount of money for a specific ministry purpose. This may happen several times before we begin telling supporters about a new project.

Before declaring a partnership, Steve will visit them and their ministry in person, with feet on the ground, at least once. And with Steve’s ever-growing list of places to visit, that can take awhile.

In David and Taru’s case, it took almost a year and a half for Steve to get back to India (it just so happened that this all fell on a year when Paul and Molly, our other partners in India, spent a big chunk of time here dealing with visa and health issues.)

But Erik was touched by David and Taru’s ministry. The Spirit had moved him. He knew David and Taru needed support - now. And he felt God was prompting him to do something about it. So Erik and his family supported David and Taru for that year, giving ITMI time to build the relationship and do our due diligence.

What happened when Steve visited?

Well, needless to say, Steve was impressed. He walked the slum with David - a place where a non-muslim westerner should not have been able to safely go - and was blown away. They so trust and respect David and Taru that they accepted him and even responded to his energetic and outgoing Johan-style demeanor, just because he was with David.

So, what exactly do David and Taru do?

David and Taru have a tiny, two-room, tin-roofed ministry “facility” they use to demonstrate the love of Jesus to the slum.

They use it to teach the women to sew, enabling them to earn income without leaving the slum.

They teach as many slum children as they can how to hold a pencil and recognize letters so they can attend school. They are currently trying to help 12 children who they’ve taught find transportation to a school outside the slum that will accept them.

David also travels to the rural areas to train rural pastors how to share Jesus with Muslims.

David and Taru are uniquely positioned to reach a large group of Muslims in Bangalore, India - that are completely shut off to anyone else - with the love of Jesus.

We’re looking for people who want to [be a part of that](#). Is that you?



From the Director

Dear Team: Facing (What Seems like) Giant Limitations

“Facing the Giants” is a movie about a Christian High School football team on a six-year losing streak that extends to through the first 3 games of the season. Coach Taylor asks team leader, Brock, who believes the team’s season is already lost, to do the “death crawl.” The death crawl is a difficult fitness building exercise, and coach asks Brock to do it with another player on his back. Brock predicts he can go 20 yards. Coach asks for 50 yards, but Brock must wear a blindfold so he doesn’t quit when he reaches *his* preconceived limit.

Brock attempts the challenge, and his coach encourages the entire way. When he can’t give any more, Brock pulls the blindfold off and discovers he has gone a full 100 yards!

We all need each other to push us on to what God wants us to do and not be left to our own - sometimes fatalistic and under-believing limitations - that cause us to “stay in the boat” and miss incredible consequences of what God is able to do.

ITMI’s [Jahim and Gisma Buli](#), in Juba, South Sudan are facing the “giants” in their world. Jahim is being persecuted by other *believers* because he will not let his services be interrupted by emotional outbursts and spiritual experiences for experience’s sake.

He wants his ever-growing congregation to worship and grow in a godly, Biblical way. Pray for this young pastor as he seeks to be strong and faithful in the midst of a way of life that adamantly presses for submission to the majority’s whims and feelings.

Last month, Jahim and Gisma’s son was born dead after being carried for seven months. This is the second son they’ve lost at birth. The doctors said Gisma’s survival was a miracle. Medical help is expensive and not easy to come by in civil-war-torn South Sudan. By God’s grace and provision, Gisma is well. Even though she has questions, she and Jahim are resting in God’s sovereignty and trusting His plan.

Jahim posted a picture of them coming from church with the caption, “The Word of God is a medicine to the heart and gives a smile.” Jahim and Gisma have faced the giants and are resting in God’s capacity to carry them above all their challenges and limitations. Join me in wrapping them in prayer, will you?

Please allow me to encourage you to face the giants that seek to hold you back from all that HE has planned for you and your family. Please continue to trust HIM to be the source of your help and your life. He came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Thank you for helping us help the Charls and the Jahims and Gismas...God is working and slaying the giants, may we be faithful to follow His leading.

It is a joy for me to share a blessing that God provided for the Evers family. Wyatt Andrew Evers was born to Andy, our oldest, and his wife Kat on Father’s day. We already love this little guy a whole bunch. Wyatt, welcome to the Evers clan, we know great things are in store for you!

In His Service,



Newsbites

Poland

ITMI's [Piotr Zaremba](#) was notified that his church, K5N, is losing the place they've been meeting for years. The theater is being sold. Meeting places that would hold the church are rare in Poland, and finding one owned by someone who isn't afraid to work with Evangelicals is even tougher. Pray for God to provide a new meeting place for K5N.

Zambia

ITMI's [Timothy Keller](#) will be in the States with his son this fall. If you're able, plan to have coffee with Tim or invite him to your Sunday School class or small group.

South Africa

ITMI's [Charl van Wyk](#) reports that enough funds have been raised through a matching campaign to construct the Early Childhood Development Center in the unofficial settlement of Stone Hill. God even provided enough to build a small medical clinic, too! However, forest fires are ravaging South Africa right now, so we can pray for protection for our ministry facilities. His co-worker and brother-in-law, Bradley Kuhn, is trusting God to provide for a full-time staff member for the small but oh-so-needed clinic.

Charl is on the East Coast of the US with his son right now, speaking, meeting and encouraging.

India

ITMI's [Paul and Molly](#) report that just over 1,000 children were reached with the glorious message of the Gospel through VBS in over a dozen areas around Paul and Molly's city in India! Additionally, many of their families heard about our great Savior at closing day performances and events. They also ran summer sports camps in 22 locations around their city.

Poland

ITMI's [Daniel and Blueberry Machlowski](#) will be among a team of adults and youth from K5N church on a short-term mission to Bulgaria this month. Poles have favor among Bulgarians, and the team hopes to use this novelty to bolster the local church's engagement with their community through outreach events.

For Praise

United States – Alycia Espindola – Leaving for the mission field with her husband, Anthony, beginning in Ukraine.
South Sudan – [Vicky Waraka](#) – Despite the crisis in South Sudan, “we will live to testify of the goodness of the LORD.”
Romania – [Casa Dorca](#) – Sunny days mean the opportunity to plant a garden and a potato field.
Poland – Leszek Wakula – Many Bibles distributed to a healthy crowd that attended his church's Bible Day outreach.
South Africa - Charl van Wyk - Enough funds raised to build the childcare center in Stone Hill AND a medical clinic!
Zambia – [ECA](#) - Eugene Kalunga – Teaching villagers how to read so they can know the Word of God.
India - Paul and Molly - Many heard the Gospel through VBS and Sports Camp outreaches.

For Prayer

Poland - Piotr Zaremba - Provision of a new meeting place for K5N, and fruitful outreach in Bulgaria.
Poland - [Tomek](#) – Seeds to be planted in kids' hearts during camp at the beginning of July.
India – David & Taru Kumar – Provision for renting extra space at their education center in a Bangalore slum.
India - Paul and Molly - Provision for a solution to the visa requirement that they leave the country every 6 months.
South Africa – [Onseepkans Mission](#) – Provision of rain in Onseepkans, where the people are suffering from drought.



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