

1 August 2017

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6*

## Last February, Piotr Shocked Us

...then God led him to do the impossible.

It was shocking.

When ITMI's [Piotr Zaremba](#) was in the US last February (2017), [he was telling people he was "greedy."](#)

But Piotr is greedy for the only thing it's ok to be greedy for: more people to hear the Good News.

Most of Piotr's beloved country-men are stuck. They know that they are sinners, but they don't know God offers forgiveness and a relationship with Him through His Son.

Though they are dedicated to the State Church, they believe lay-people aren't able to talk to God or read the Bible for themselves. By the time they are adults, they are suspicious of anyone who isn't part of the State Church, so they often are too sequestered to hear about The Solution to their hearts' questions.

So Piotr hatched a God-sized dream. A way to reach around their defensive walls with the Good News they long for.

He wants to do it before they pick up on the culture's suspicion of evangelicals and stop listening to those who would share with them that they can have their own relationship with Jesus and read the Bible themselves.

Piotr wanted to start a Christian school.

We were excited to announce that a donor was willing to match any donations toward the school that Piotr wanted to start just 7 months later.

You read that right - he wants to open the school *this* September.

To do that, Piotr had to have all the paperwork and licenses in place before March ended. He didn't even leave the US until early March!

It was completely impossible, but Piotr kept feeling like God was telling him, "September 2017."

**Now we know why God fast-tracked Piotr's dream.**

There was a small religious school in Poznan, Piotr's city. This school is really that, religious, as opposed to Bible-based. Its 130 students haven't been taught Biblical truths.

The school lost its administrator and needed an organization to legally encompass them, or take responsibility for them. They also needed an administrator with the proper certifications, or their doors would close. They came to Piotr, humbly asking for help and his guidance on how to do things.



It turns out, the 10-year-old school needs the two things Piotr already has lined up!

ITMI's [Darek Banicki](#) is a highly qualified administrator with all the proper licensing who was recently ousted from his position for not being a member of the State Church.

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# Coupling an Uncommon Pair

## to Reach Further in Romania

*“Honestly, though, I did not expect to hear Mrs. Lili's words when she looked me in the eye and said...”*

ITMI's Ema Ban was chatting with some Little House of Treasures Preschool mothers when the story unfolded.

But first, a little about our partners, **Adi and Ema Ban.**

Adi and Ema live in Oradea, Romania, where they have been faithfully loving, serving and discipling young married couples for years. They meet with a group of them regularly, as well as give conferences and seminars on growing healthy families.

**But that's not all.**

At the end of 2015, several young couples so desired to be part of the Ban's Young Couples Fellowship, that they ended up launching a second group in 2016.

The Bans led groups to love and serve some very vulnerable people nearby, a group of ethnic Romanians isolated on the wrong side of the border of adjacent Ukraine. Now, several visits later, the group is taking risks to serve and love in some tough places.

To reach deeper into their community, they operate Little House of Treasures Preschool and Community Center. This gave them ways they could plant Gospel seeds and be part of the lives of more families who need encouragement and the Good News.

The Bans have also collaborated on two books on family and marriage, the most recent in September 2016.

Ema shares this story of how God merged the fruits of the Bans' years faithful service to reach deeper into new places in their city.



### **Ema writes:**

*On June 20th, our "Little House of Treasures" Pre-school had a Family Day to celebrate the end of the year.*

*It was a precious time of fun-filled activities - family games, cooking, listening to the children perform several songs.*

*Adi had a short message for the parents, encouraging them to "keep building character" in their kids, and enjoy this stage in life when children are inquisitive, creative, talkative, and playful.*

*The Lord gifted me with a special "surprise" as I was spending some time inside, chatting with several mothers.*

*This Christmas, we gave a copy of "Apologetics Around the Table" to all the parents who bring their kids to the "Little House of Treasures" Pre-school.*

*The book came out in September 2016, and it's a collection of topics for families to discuss. Adi and I wrote the chapter on God's Grace, entitled "What is grace, and how should I understand it?"*

*We introduced the parents to it and shared that it is a book they will enjoy reading and having in the house.*

*Honestly, though, I did not expect to hear Mrs. Lili's words when she looked me in the eye and said, "I enjoyed the book VERY much. I read it cover to cover, and lent it to four or five family friends to read it themselves."*

*WOW! Not only did she read it and enjoyed it, but she also strongly recommended it to friends! Thank you, Lord, for using us to reach homes of people who do not know you as their personal Savior!*

-Ema Ban



## *From the Director*

### Dear Team: Dream Big, Ask Boldly

This might be a small thing, but it tickled me.

I should have known better when ITMI's [Charl van Wyk](#) asked me how many thumb drives we had. Charl doesn't look at things like most people. He sees a need and no matter how big or small it is, when God leads him to get involved, he ignores the size of the challenge and just knows it is going to somehow work out.

There is a small, unincorporated and previously destitute community outside Durbanville, South Africa, that has been revolutionized by Charl, ITMI's [Mark Parris](#) and their team of loving servants. [Stone Hill](#) is not much more than a muddy mess of 50+ thousand people jockeying for a few feet to erect a make-shift shelter made of whatever they can find or even steal.



Raised in highly dysfunctional families with little supervision or parental guidance, few communal virtues or common wisdom circulating, those growing up in Stone Hill are left on their own to figure out life. Without experiencing this start in life, it is almost impossible for those of us who have been so blessed with so much more, to even begin to comprehend the emptiness, hopelessness and fear they suffer. Yet, Charl and his team of understanding and compassionate believers have put in the hours and the quality time to break through many of the rock hard self-generated walls that African kids have learned to erect.

ITMI Board Member, **Jon Dekkers**, had graciously given me a small box of thumb drives that he would normally sell in his local grocery store, to be used for our partners in the mission field. We normally give the thumb drives away as a gesture of thanks for one of our partners or for someone that has helped us along the way. But Charl had a completely different reason for wanting the drives.

Most of the youth in Stone Hill face too many challenges to their survival to complete school. The challenge of school without proper equipment and materials is too great. Most end up giving up. So, when Charl asked me how many thumb drives we had and if he could have "some" to help the at-risk youth of Stone Hill with their schooling, we counted them up and reported back. There were 31.

"Can I have all 31?" he enthusiastically responded. Charl is anything but bashful. We know each other well enough that we can put aside formalities and speak from the heart. Still, it tickles me that Charl wanted to take all the thumb drives. That he dreams big and asks boldly.

The kids use these drives to save their assignments and take them to someone with a printer so they can turn in the homework. Most couldn't begin to imagine how they would purchase a thumb drive. Jon probably didn't think much about their value, as we Americans can buy them easily whenever we wish. But God used a little thing in our minds to do a great thing in Stone Hill.

If we seek to be obedient to God's leading, willing to do the small as well as the large things, we may have the pleasure of being part of modern day "fish and loaves" stories!

ITMI has a seemingly small but impactful need that maybe you can help with. With the growing needs and numbers of our partners, we need to add a staff member. We really don't have the budget for the type of employee we need, though. If you would like to help us help our partners, we know right where it could be used for the most good. Please do commit to pray with us that God will bring us the right person at the right time. Thank you for helping us with the large things...and with the small things.

In His Service,



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Piotr's church can provide the legal umbrella needed.

The school has the one thing that would have slowed Piotr down: a facility.

There is also a staff and a student body in place. K5N can provide solid Bible teachers to turn this school into a Bible-rich educational experience that teaches students how to read and study the Bible!

This Bible-rich education will be available to an estimated 100 families living in rural Poland through an extension program that lets parents guide their kids through a remote version of the curriculum.

So God - who gave Piotr the vision of a school where students could be reached with the Good News before they are leery of it - moved in a big way to turn the vision into reality in just a short period of time.

That kind of God - who is on a mission to bless people and bring them to Himself and powerful enough to carry that



out - is something to get excited about. Wouldn't you agree?

So, next month, Piotr, Darek and their team will begin reaching the 130 students and their families with truth from God's Word!

There are still opportunities to help with the project's remaining financial needs while doubling your impact because of the matching gift.

Will you join us in praying for this new adventure and responsibility God has set before Piotr and his team? Pray He would "set their feet in a spacious place" and keep them from any "traps that are

set." (Ps. 31:4,8)

We are looking for people who would commit to stopping to pray for this new project sometime each Wednesday. If that's you, we'd love for you to [let our office know](#) so we can let Piotr know he has a team of prayer warriors behind him!

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

## For Praise

Poland - Piotr Zaremba - God's provision for reaching Poland with the Good News through Christian Education.  
Romania - Adi and Ema Ban - Expansion of impact opportunities through various ministry fronts.  
Zambia - Johan Leach - Revival and renewal for 12 couples who attended their marriage seminar in Chavuma, Zambia.  
Romania - Bethesda Home - Provision for a new resident, Mariana, to join the group of residents receiving quality care.  
South Africa - Onseepkans - Nets mean the garden is yielding produce to share with hungry children of the community.  
Zambia - Kellers - God continues to use Timothy as He works in the hearts of the police force in Kabwe.  
Romania - Bethesda Home - The installation of electrical components almost complete in the new building.  
Poland - All - 23 baptized in Poznan last month, including Daniel Machlowski's mother!

## For Prayer

India - David and Taru - Provision for added expenses as their primary school expands from 20 to 30 students.  
Poland - Piotr Zaremba - Guidance and provision for the new Christian school responsibility and ministry.  
Zambia - Eugene Kalunga - 13 accepted Christ at the village church!  
Poland - Poznan International Church - Provision of dedicated people to serve the church vocationally.  
Romania - Bans - New funding for Adi and Ema's family due to EU stagnation on a previous project.



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