

1 October 2017

"But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish." Psalm 9:18

A Simple and Cost-effective Solution to a Complex Problem

South Africa

Yonela pressed her fingertips into the corners of her eyes. She ran them across her dark eyebrows and shook her head in fatigue and frustration.

From the front of the South African high school classroom, her algebra teacher was explaining a complicated concept in Afrikaans, Yonela's third language. At home, Yonela speaks Xhosa and English.

Yonela was desperately trying to keep up and understand the complicated concepts.

Truly internalizing the concepts taught in her third language at the same pace as other students learning in their first language had been tough her entire school career.

Yonela has seen first hand the importance of passing her classes. Like so many others in Stone Hill, her two older sisters had both been unable to pass their grade level exams. They ended up dropping out of school.

Now they are both single moms, living with their own mother who worked long hours at a factory. The entire family survives on that one income.

One of Yonela's sisters has been looking for work for awhile. Lacking basic skills, she is more or less unemployable and the prospects of work seem grim.

In the hopelessness and survival-mode of the impoverished informal settlement of [Stone Hill, South Africa](#), it's rare to find youth who are conscious about their future.

Yonela loves children and dreams of being a social worker. She'll have to go to University to do so, and she can't do that unless she graduates from high school.

The school bell rang, indicating Yonela's algebra class was over. She sighed. She knew she didn't understand enough to complete her homework that evening. She knew it would be a long, tiring night.

Later that evening, Yonela sat cross-legged, cushioned from the mud floor of the tin shack she shares with her mother, four siblings, and a couple of

her nieces and nephews by a mattress.

Just recently, her city provided electricity for the informal settlement where her family's shack squatted, so she could at least see the algebra problems she was attempting to do in her lap after nightfall.

Her homework paper was thinned in several areas from erasing repeatedly, but she sighed and erased again. She'd been stuck on that problem for close to an hour.

Every Saturday morning for the past 2 months, Yonela meets "Mama Cindi" at the Stone Hill Community Center ITMI helped [Charl van Wyk](#) and team build, for tutoring. The center is three large shipping containers placed in a U-shape with a covered courtyard,



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built through the efforts of a group of believers who contribute, to the increased flourishing of Stone Hill, on a regular basis in various ways and in partnership with ITMI.

Her marks in math showed minor improvement since receiving the help. But, realistically, these students need help every day.

ITMI's **Mark and Cindi Parris** have launched an initiative to help break the cycle of generational poverty for youth like Yonela by:

- offering tutoring in English every day after school and Saturday morning
- offering tutoring to 100 to 150 learners each week
- offering tutoring to students from both Stone Hill and Morning Star, a similar community nearby
- offering quality grade 1-12 lessons in Math, Science, Business and English
- offering lessons in an individualized sequential order

To accomplish all this, Mark and Cindi would like to purchase something called "school-in-a-box." School-in-a-Box includes a full curriculum for grades 1-12, 25 modern electronic tablets and all the accessories to make it work.

In other communities where this simple solution is being used, the students' grades have improved dramatically,



allowing them to pass their respective grades.

The recently funded Early Childhood Development Center in Stone Hill will provide the perfect facility for the tutoring center when its construction is complete later this year.

The one-time cost for school-in-a-box is \$6,702.37. There will also be an ongoing monthly cost of \$311.50 for technical support and curriculum licensing.

We are prayerfully looking for 25 people to give a one-time gift of \$269 - the cost of one tablet and software. Your gift of \$269 could change the future and break the cycle of generational poverty for countless learners!

This changes the path of countless young lives - permanently. It is a tangible way to offer hope, to demonstrate the value their Father and Creator puts on each of these young lives.

Yonela's future is still a question mark. Will she pass high school and serve children in her community or will she follow in her sisters' footsteps?

Will you pray with us for Yonela and the youth of Stone Hill and Morning Star in South Africa?

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

Peeling Garlic for Sixty-Two Cents a Day

India

ITMI's **David and Taru** minister in a Muslim slum in Bangalore, India. Their years of service in this area have given them unique favor and access to this somewhat closed-off people group.

One of the biggest challenges the families of this slum face is that the women are prohibited from working outside the slum by their husbands, who often gamble or drink away their own meager earnings.

Meanwhile, the household's women and children - often numbering the double digits - are left with little to survive.

One aspect of David and Taru's ministry is teaching women from the slum to sew. This gives them the ability to earn money without leaving the slum.

While ITMI's Steve Evers was there, he noticed a macrame bag, and commissioned the women to make a batch of them.

Taru taught and hired a group of women to make the bags. The women can make 150 rupees a day for making the bags.

This is a vast improvement. One of the women was earning 40 rupees a day peeling garlic.

Sixty-four rupees is one dollar.

The women are more than elated. They are making many times more income and learning a skill they can continue using!

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

From the Director

Dear Team: Don't Fall for a Bluff

During WW2 Singapore City was about to face a siege by the Japanese. General Yamamoto delivered a note saying, "In the interests of chivalry we invite you to surrender." Lance Percival fell for it and surrendered despite outnumbering the Japanese 4 to 1. Yamamoto said afterwards his attack on Singapore was a bluff and knew if it came down to street fighting he would be defeated which was why the surrender had to be immediate. He bowed formally when Percival came out to surrender and breathed a huge sigh of relief.

General Yamamoto pulled a big and risky bluff. When we today stop and properly consider where we are in life, we have to come to grips that the enemy, the one that "...comes to steal, kill and destroy..." John 10:10, really is nothing more than the greatest bluffer of all time. He has been defeated and he knows it. He is hoping that we will listen to his lies and believe his bluff.



Piotr Zaremba didn't give into the enemy's bluff when he was told that "...you'll never get the Bible translated into Polish - there are over a million various copies of this new translation distributed as you read this. Piotr also didn't believe the normal human logic that, "...no way could you get a new school up and running before September's (2017) start of classes," when he heard this in March and April of this year; the school is running and Piotr and his team have many happy parents because their children are getting a true Biblical education.

David and Taru Raj Kumar in Bangalore, India didn't believe the enemy's bluff when they were told that Christians just can't work in a Muslim slum area. Today they are, for the most part, deeply valued by the Muslims that are being touched by God's love and grace as it is showered on them by David and Taru. Imagine a being a mother, making less than \$.70 a day and needing to feed yourself and your children. Imagine if some smiling, gregarious Indian angel asks you if you want to learn a skill, and that skill will pay you about \$1.50 per day! I'm glad that David and Taru didn't believe the bluff.

Lazarus Yesini, our newest partner in South Sudan, isn't believing the bluff. He called me to see if I would approve him helping two hungry and starving widows with a gift of \$50 apiece. He also wanted to help two young boys, one of which has been expelled from school because his parents have not been able to pay his school fees for many months, the other was going to be expelled for the same reason. I asked, "...how much will it take to help these boys?" "...One boy needs SSP \$5000 and the other needs SSP \$4000..." That is about \$35.62 and \$28.36. Then Lazarus asked me, as if he was almost afraid to, "...our pastor has to be bi-occupational, he works for the government, they have not paid him in five almost six months and he is being kicked out of his house," (believe me, there just are not any jobs in this corrupt and devastated country.) Even though Lazarus was only asking for about \$50 for this good man to pay part of two months' rent, we felt led to help him with \$150 so that he could get ahead in his rent and even be able to pay back those that he has had to impose upon to just live the last five months.

I'm really glad that Lazarus and the others live by the truth that God is able to meet needs and that sometimes He allows you and me to be a part of what He is doing. If you want to be part of what He is doing even more, we will carefully and faithfully find those that God is wanting to help, and we will, with your partnership, see to meeting the current needs that allow God's glory to be seen in the most forsaken parts. Thank you for helping us help those that are on the ground in these needy areas. Blessings.

In His Service,

News***bites***

Zimbabwe

ITMI's Charl van Wyk and his co-worker, Cozmore are planning a Gospel camp for the parents of the youth who have participated in their ministry in Zimbabwe. The camp is scheduled for November. If you'd like to sponsor a parent to attend the camp, you can change the course of a family's life with a gift of \$70 USD!

Uganda

ITMI's International School of Missions shared that one of its graduates is using his education to minister to soldiers in the Republic of Burundi. Burundi has endured a 12 year ethnic-based civil war, and these soldiers are surely in need of hope!

South Sudan

At the end of September, ITMI's Jahim Buli provided a training on the finances part of the SALT material that has been having major impact with many of our projects for about 70 people from multiple churches.

Romania

ITMI's Adi and Ema Ban are still in need of monthly supporters to partner with their ministry in Romania to young couples, families and needy families in Ukraine.

Zambia

ITMI's Johan and Lesley Leach have recently begun an 8 week project for the translating of the Bible and converting it to audio. Many of those they minister to in the villages across the Zambezi River are unable to read. This is an involved project requiring outside expertise. Johan and Leslie are still in need of help funding the compensation for those Luvale-speaking people helping them.

Zambia

ITMI's Excellence Christian Academy celebrates the addition of a library to their resources available for providing a quality education from a Christian worldview for children from needy families.

For Praise

1. Gerhard le Roux - South Africa - Praise for God providing for Loretta's second eye operation.
2. Andrew Gorski - Poland - Poland's Evangelical denominations discussing coordinating ministry outreach and discipleship plans in a November 4th meeting in Warsaw that Andrew will chair as moderator.
3. Zimbabwe - Charl - Mpumelelo's amputation lasted 4 hours, so very grateful for everyone that made it possible. Working on prosthetic now.
4. USA - ITMI is getting a new addition to our office staff that will really help us serve even better. Details to come!

For Prayer

1. Raj Kumar - India- Safe travel to Chennai for the Pastor's conference with Paul and Molly's rural pastors.
2. Charl - Zimbabwe - Upcoming family camp to train leaders and parents in Biblical truths.
3. Jahim - The children in refugee camps forced to recite Islamic prayers before they get their meager portions of food.
4. Gerhard le Roux - Healing for Loretta's eye and for the family as they seek to reach the lost of their broken culture.
5. USA - Steve and Pastor Phil McKeown as they travel to India for pastors' Biblical training conference.
6. South Sudan - Jahim and Lazarus as they seek to shepherd the many needy and lost sheep in their devastated country.
7. ECA - Zambia - Eugene's health, as he faces a possible heart problem.



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