

1 November 2017

“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,’ they answered.” -Mt. 14:17

A Small Church Reaches Far

India

It was the morning 100 Indian pastors and their wives had looked forward to with anticipation for a long time. But things weren't going as planned.

They were gathered in a city in southern India for 3 days of encouragement, time in God's Word, input from other godly men, passionate teachers from the US and time to enjoy and be uplifted just by being together.

They were given this opportunity by a small, inner-city church in Phoenix, Arizona called **North Village Baptist Church**, who partnered with ITMI to help our partner in India, [Paul](#), impact these 100 villages in India and expand his influence.

North Village Baptist Church is a small but mighty church, led by Pastor **Phil McKeown**. They raised the funds for the 3 day conference, and for the carefully selected team that included Pastor Phil and ITMI's [Steve Evers](#), to travel to India to provide it. The church organized a golf tournament to fund most of the conference.

Any rural indian pastorate couple would look forward to such a treat.

But these servants shepherd in rural villages and communities, where they can't easily reach out for support and encouragement. They are extra isolated from others, but also from books,



Rural Indian pastors and their wives enjoy the 3 day conference!

articles and other encouragement of that form.

They face the persecution and the constant rejection, demeaning and discouragement that comes from the surrounding Hindu community's estrangement and disdain.

The first evening, things were not looking good.

Both pastor Phil and Steve had been in their rooms with a knock-down drag-out case of the Indian flu. Neither had eaten or left their beds for 2 days. Even Paul wasn't feeling very well. Steve is no stranger to pushing through not feeling well when he travels, but Paul wasn't sure either would be able to teach their sessions that evening.

Pastor Phil was able to pull himself together to give his opening sessions. The pastors were touched and blessed that he would still show up and teach while so ill.

Steve somehow got himself to his afternoon session.

You won't believe what happened next!

“As soon as I got up to teach, I felt totally normal and empowered!” Steve said. Paul said he couldn't tell *at all* that Steve had been unable to get out of bed just hours before!

The lesson Steve taught from the SALT material was on rejection, which was especially relevant for the context this crowd faces.

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There's No Easy Way to Say This

Friends, there's no easy way to share this. But we feel like you need to know.

Our partners at [Onseepkans Mission](#) in South Africa are under attack.

The le Rouxs followed God's call to leave their home and flourishing ministry outside Cape Town and move to the forsaken Northern Cape, where they established Onseepkans Mission.

The Mission's purpose is to declare and demonstrate the Good News in the remote town that in some ways seems forgotten by the rest of the world.

To bless the town, they have made important contributions in the farming industry, blessed local goat-herders, helped feed the hungry, visited the elderly and sick, planted a tiny church.

Unheard of in this area, once a week, a group of kids gathers at the mission for "Kids' Club" where they get to color with actual crayons, sing songs, and soak up individualized attention from caring adults.

The family has been so effective at displaying hospitality and blessing those around them that they are often joined for meals by townspeople.

In recent months, the le Roux family of 10 welcomed two local orphans into their family - in the middle of facing compounding medical needs and expenses beyond their means.

Their daughter, Loretta, recently needed eye surgery and their son still needs medical attention for a smashed finger. Both injuries were sustained as part of their joyful and willing contribution to their family's mission: helping around the farm. Elmane, too, has some health needs that remain unaddressed.

Medical bills really add up in a family that large, especially when the nearest doctor is a fuel-draining 2 hour drive away.

"I hate to mention this," ITMI's Gerhard le Roux shared, "But my wife has 2 wearable blouses and one skirt left." She and the children lack other basic necessities like shoes and socks.

Onseepkans is remote. So remote that the only grocers in town are one-room trading posts. Fuel is expensive, rationing the trek to shop in the nearest city to once per month.

The bottom line is that these faithful servants have some legitimate needs, needs that we can come together to meet.

God provides for His servants. We are resting in that. But He allows us the privilege of being alongside Him in His work.



Needs We Can Help With

Current Needs

Item	Cost (USD)	Need
Material (1 skirt)	\$7.71	18
Package of Socks	\$10.16	12
Women/Girls Work Shirt	\$23.57	18
Men/Boys Work Shirt	\$27.50	12
Men/Boys Work Pants	\$15.70	12
Mosquito Nets	\$10.16	12

On-Going Monthly Needs

Item	Cost	Need
Monthly Support	\$50	21
School Fees	\$233	1/month
Garden Supplies	15.28	1/month

From the Director

Dear Team: When We Embarked on this Trip, We Didn't Expect This

"I have two different infections. One is pseudomonas and the other is MSSA", Phil texted me after we returned from our India trip. MSSA is a pretty nasty "staph", we would know it best as a staph infection that is really close to MRSA (pronounced "mersa") and is highly resistant to antibiotic treatment and many times kills or severely maims the patient. Pastor **Phil McKeown** went to battle the spiritual blindness in India and Nepal and yet on a physical level, he realistically could have fought his last fight.

This trip to India was truly unique in my 15 year history of trips. Both Phil and I got a really good case of the Indian flu and it drastically changed our intended plan. Phil pretty much didn't eat anything for about 6-7 days, I ate a bit more, but then, I really enjoy Indian food.



The flu we caught would have been more than enough to derail many a mission trip. But when Phil, in his weakened state, slipped on the slick bathroom tile and concrete floor in his Indian-style bathroom, hit the back of his head after dropping his full 6'4" frame to the floor and split his right elbow open about 5 inches, as he preceded to pass out, we had a real battle finishing what we had started.

ITMI partner, **Paul** [we don't disclose his last name for security] found us a 5-star hospital and we took Phil to get his arm stitched and his head checked out. We thought that was all we would have to do. The young Indian doctor was very nice and caring, but she didn't sufficiently clean out his wound and by the time we arrived back in the States, Phil had an arm and maybe a body that was pretty infected. Just this evening I received a text from a friend of ours that is also Phil's long time doctor and he said, "Steve, thank you so much to taking such great care of our friend Phil. Not sure that he would have made it without your help!" Dr. Ken is not one to exaggerate! We are grateful that Phil did make it home and that he only has a few more days of his intravenous antibiotic until they remove the surgically inserted pic line that dumps the medicine directly into his blood stream. God clearly empowered both Phil and I when it was our time to teach, it really was amazing to watch and be a part of it. Thank you, Lord, for your mercy and grace!

Gerhard and Elmane le Roux are dear, gentle, giving people. They really continually focus on eternal opportunities in their severely blinded community instead of their own immediate and daily needs. Their ministry is focused on using the gift of hospitality to try and break down the intensely thick, yet invisible, personal and community barrier walls that keep their community of Onseepkans blinded and bound to the life destroying habits and practices that have destroyed the fabric of this community. Yet the enemy still finds ways to try and destroy what God is doing. Gerhard writes me,

"Hallo Steve...Thought you would like to know. My ex-worker in whom I invested a lot of time and money and who was finally lured away with promises of alcohol, now started spreading stories [of how] terrible he was treated while working for us. Having to work himself half to death and assaulted and kicked with heavy boots! Some people in the community who we won through being friendly are now terrified to come near to us. We continue to keep our eyes on the Lord and trust Him for a spiritual breakthrough in Onseepkans."

We share these challenges with you to remind you that the enemy is very much trying to break God's people who want very much to share God's love and truth in ways that will actually help change their lives. Because of this, we really need your commitment to pray and pray fervently for strength, and power to go to battle with the enemy who is at the door. We also need, if God so leads, to help those that don't have the many things that we have, to at least hear the Word and be clothed and fed while doing it. Will you pray about letting God use you to be a conduit of HIS resources to the Gerhard and Elmanes, the Indian partners and all of our valuable partners around the world. Thank you!

In His Service,



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Steve taught that though our flinch is to reject back, as believers, we can continue loving those who reject us by recognizing who we are in Christ. We have a *good* Father who has adopted us and calls us His own.

Paul felt that this lesson truly went to the core and tenderized the hearts of those listening.

ITMI's [David and Taru Kumar](#), who minister in Bangalore, India, traveled to Paul and Molly's city for the conference. They were impressed by the effectiveness of the SALT material.

David would like to get it translated into Kerala, the language of the rural pastors he disciples, so he can share it with them. He believes it will truly revolutionize their churches and ministries.

"How many people speak Kerala?" Steve asked.

"70 million," was David's staggering reply.

None of this would have happened without the advocacy and passion from the faithful of North Village Baptist Church and from you.

It was with your prayers that the Spirit empowered our team to overcome obstacles and do what they came to do. We cannot emphasize enough how grateful we are for your prayer, advocacy and support!

How can you partner with us?

1. **Prayer** - The prayer support we receive isn't secondary to any other need. It's crucial. Our partners face third-world dangers such as dangerously unregulated traffic, rampant crime and violence, social and political persecution, sickness. The prayers of God's people are vital in their survival!
2. **Be a Cheerleader** - We believe everyone knows someone who knows someone who is looking for ways to be involved with God's work. Would you keep your ears open and share our partners' stories?
3. **Partner Financially** - If God lays it on your heart, help the Paul and Mollys, the David and Tarus, or the many other national partners we serve who are working faithfully where God has called them with financial support.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers



For Praise

1. Jim La Rose - Poland - A polish judge's surprising agreement for a 12-year-old in care of the state to visit Jim.
2. Richard Nungesser - Moldova - The opportunity to provide over 300 prescription glasses to those in need last month.
3. Adi and Ema Ban - Romania - Their recent conference on parenting was attended by over 150 parents and teachers.
4. Tim and Ashley Keller - Zambia - Our container of Bibles arrived and we are eager to distribute them!
5. Muhindo Kawede - Uganda - Successful pastors conference at ISM, including 130 pastors.
6. Johan Leach - Zambia - It seems God is opening up Angola for the Gospel to be shared.
7. Lazarus Yesinai - Successful SALT training in Juba.

For Prayer

1. Johan Leach - Zambia - Pray God's truth will forever change lives after drilling water wells.
2. Timothy Keller - Zambia - Opportunities to encourage and be encouraged during stateside visit this month and next.
3. Jahim Buli - South Sudan - Preparations for SALT trainings in December and paths cleared for pastors to attend.
4. Jim La Rose - Poland - The kids he ministered to and built relationships with at a camp this summer.
5. Muhindo Kawede - Uganda - "Please pray for my wife's health which is deteriorating."
6. Richard Nungesser - Poland - A storm recently caused \$2000 worth of damage to their home and property.
7. Daniel Machlowski - Poland - Pray that Agnes will take the next steps of giving her life fully to the Lord.



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