

Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

# IN TOUCH MISSION

international

Monthly

1 April 2012

*"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ" Rom. 8:16-17*

## SIYA'S STORY

*"Then glaring at her 10-year-old son, she threatened, 'Don't come back here!' then turned on her heel and left."*

### South Africa

"Someone contacted me about a neglected and abused boy this week. She said it was urgent," Lendiwe began as she walked up and stood next to ITMI's [Kelly Smith](#). They were at a Project Blessing Christmas Party - an opportunity for the Smiths to bless South African school children whose needs are often overlooked in their families' struggles to survive. It's also an opportunity to share the story of Jesus' birth. Kelly and his wife, **Cherise**, raise funds and provide these parties annually through the local schools.

Kelly looked over at Lendiwe, the health worker he and Cherise employ to help them minister to the

most desperate and forgotten Zulus. She continued, "But its outside our area, so I think I'll let someone else worry about it."

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has ravished the Zulu in Zululand, South Africa, ripping families to shreds and destroying lives in its path. There is no one it hasn't touched, and the children suffer the most. This is one of the needs that moved Kelly and Cherise relocated their family half way across the world to 7 Rivers Farm in Zululand. Knowing that as much as they'd like to, neither he or Lendiwe could ever save every one of the vast multitude of children in need even in their own area, Kelly nodded with a regretful look on his face.



The Project Blessing Christmas party continued, and the children who participated received blessing after blessing, thanks to the generosity of the Smith's supporters through ITMI. The children left happy and he and Cherise left tired but fulfilled.

The next day, Kelly received a call from Lendiwe. "I couldn't sleep at all last night," she said, "All I could think about was that poor neglected boy." She asked Kelly to accompany her on a house call to the boy's home, as he'd done several times before. Kelly agreed. (cont. on page 4)

## Poland



ITMI project [Gospel Joy Workshops and Evangelism](#) recently celebrated yet another spiritual birth of a new sister into the family of God! **Ania Urbanska** has been with

Gospel Joy for 7 years. When she joined Gospel Joy she lived a worldly life, evidence by “cursing like a sailor.” Unbeknownst to her, the Spirit was at work in her from the beginning. She says that for the first three years she didn’t see or feel anything and wanted to leave the group few times but never did so.

Although the typical Pole may acknowledge belief in the existence of Jesus, they tend to be unaware that He offers freedom, joy and Sonship. Gospel Joy is an organization that uses the popularity of Black Gospel Music in Poland to offers Gospel Music Workshops, which provide a natural bridge to discuss the joy a relationship with Christ offers through the words of the exuberant songs. Participants are offered access to Bible groups, where those who are interested in salvation can be discipled.

Last year, Ania started coming to the Bible group. As she learned from God’s Word, her heart turned toward Jesus. Recently, she shared her faith for the first time at a Gospel Joy concert. She told the audience that she was “scared to death,” but made the step of faith.

“Ania’s enthusiasm and gratefulness is a great joy,” says [Andrew Gorski](#), Gospel Joy Director. She is telling all her friends about the new joy and freedom she’s found in Christ. Last month, she brought two of her friends to the Gospel Joy Bible Group that had helped her own eyes to open.

Andrew says, “Thank you for praying! Thank you for partnering! We’ll all be in heaven together, singing praises to our Father for eternity!”

Gospel Joy is an incredibly effective way to bring the truth to the Polish people. If you are interested in hearing more about this dynamic ministry from a humble and enthusiastic couple, Andrew Gorski and his wife **Anna** will be in the US this month and next. They would love to encourage your church, small group or Sunday school class with their amazing stories of God’s work in Poland.

-Summer Kelley



### Your prayers at work!

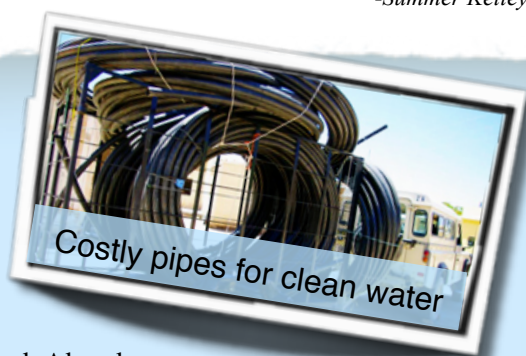
We know many of you prayed for the **le Roux family** and the challenges of setting up [Onseepkans Mission](#) that we described in last month’s issue. Thanks to your prayers, God has given Gerhard, an outsider, favor and he is rapidly becoming a trusted and influential member of the community.

Clean water is an issue in the community of Onseepkans, and recently the canal ran dry, leaving Onseepkans Mission without fresh water to drink, among a plethora of other challenges. Their only solution was to pump water directly from the Orange River, which is also the source of the canal. However, this was an expensive option, and a challenge on their meager missionary income.

Meanwhile, the government has agreed to fix the 14 km canal. Already the chair of the local Farmer’s Association, Gerhard was voted head of the commission to manage the canal project. He plans to implement the mandate to hire locals, which will help the community as well as greatly build Gerhard’s credibility and influence in the community.

In less than six months, the dynamic Le Roux family has established Onseepkans Mission as a haven of hope in a barren land. If anybody is moved to help cover the pipe, food, or water expenses, it will be a gift that multiplies and reaches a community in great need.

-Summer Kelley



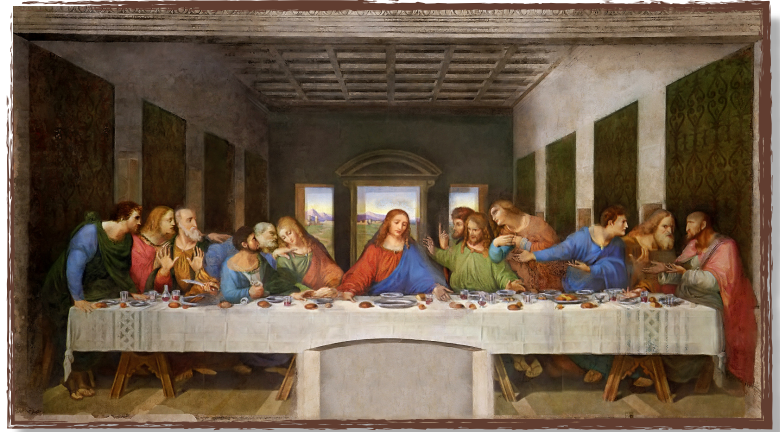
Costly pipes for clean water



## From the Director

### Dear Team,

As one of the countless legends that have sprung up about Da Vinci's Last Supper painting goes, Da Vinci used a very handsome young man as his model for Jesus' beloved disciple, John. Years later, still looking for a man evil-looking enough to be his model for Judas, the artist came upon the most disheveled, even grotesque-looking man he had ever seen. Legend has it that as he modeled, the man suddenly cried out in shame, "Years ago, I was the model for John!"



I'm so glad that the Easter story of what God did through Christ is not a ...legend. There is nothing more true and alive than the experience of the Spirit within us. There are many in this world who started out being the model for

"John", and who have turned out being the model for "Judas." With God's help and your partnership we are blessed to see God's hand in making Easter and the Resurrection a real part of the lives of many that the world would label the "...most disheveled, and even grotesque-looking" men and women in Africa, India and Eastern Europe.

Easter is about new life and new beginnings and the Evers' family is experiencing new life and a new addition to our family! On January 9th, my daughter Sarah and her husband of four months, Ben, came to our small family dinner celebrating my 56th birthday. As newlyweds they have limited funds for extras and gifts, but they knocked the ball out of the park this year. My birthday card read something like this, "...we didn't know what to get you...we didn't have a lot of money...but in 9 months your birthday present will be here...." After everyone at the table caught their breath, we joyously celebrated that finally I get to be a ...grandfather! Yes, for those of you who know Darlene, she is beside herself.

As you read this, ITMI's [Tim Keller](#) and I will be in [Southern Sudan](#) ministering on the former Sudan People's Liberation Army's (SPLA) military compound. As the SPLA transforms into the new national military force, there are great needs for evangelism, discipleship and leadership training. Tim and I will be discipling 40+ chaplains who will take God's truth and principals for living back to the troops. We will stay on the military compound and speak to the troop at morning revelry. Many of these men's lives have been destroyed, inside and out by the ravages of the decades of civil war and atrocities of the Islamic troops of Northern Sudan. Pray and stand with us as we seek to give them God's answers for their deepest and even unspeakable questions of life.

After last month's story on Gerhard le Roux and his family's challenges and passion ministering in Onseepkans, a dear reader and friend of ITMI listened to the Holy Spirit's prompting and sent a special - very special - gift for the le Rouxs. Allow me to share Gerhard's comments after hearing the news of this precious and timely gift. *"Hallo Steve, thank you for your email. You will not believe how much this meant to us. We are literally on our limits with all our accounts.... We received a big donation of secondhand clothes that we sell to the people of Onseepkans at a minimal amount of R5 or R10 a piece. The little bit of income from the clothes kept us going with food on the table. We can only thank God for His faithfulness. Even our cellphone accounts, although a small amount, were blocked because we could not pay it. Please share with our dear sister in what a big way she helped us. Truly our Fathers words in Matt 6 rings true "Do not worry what you will eat or what you will wear ..." God's richest blessings to you and ITMI."*

May your Easter be filled with all the goodness that God has intended for you, and may your heart be overfilled with the realization that the God of the universe has not only taken you from your "Judas" state, but He is making you to look like His dear Son. Thank you for helping us and helping all of the ITMI team tell this story.

In His Service,

**SPLA SOLDIER**



Siya's Old Home



Siya's New Home



(continued from page 1)

After some intense 4-Wheel drive travel over steep muddy roads, they hiked a single track muddy path to reach the abandoned-looking, run down mud structure. There were entire walls missing. The floor was wet and muddy. Inside, there was a 10-year-old boy and a few blankets that served as his "bed."

Siya was listlessly laying on the blankets. He had existed by begging food from the neighbors, one of whom had been the one who notified Lendiwe of the situation. He couldn't remember his last meal.

Lendiwe walked next door. She returned with Siya's mother. Lendiwe asked her why she did not care for the boy. She made some unconvincing excuses about being unable, but it was clear that she just had no interest in him. When Kelly offered to find him a place where he could be cared for, his mother flatly

said, "That's fine." Then glaring at her 10-year-old son, she threatened, "Don't come back here!" then turned on her heel and left.

Siya came home with Kelly, where he was taught to eat with a fork and spoon, use a toilet, wear shoes and participate in normal human interaction.

"Siya has always been thought of as mentally handicapped, but that no longer seems to be the case since coming to our home. Its amazing what food and water will do for a boy - oh, and a bath, medicine, much love and prayer," Kelly says.

At first, Siya swallowed chicken bones and carried everything they gave him - shoes, toys, etc - around with him in fear that it would be stolen. But as he adjusts to a normal home, he is learning english phrases. "Thank you," is one of his favorites.

Please remember Siya and the Smith family in prayer as Siya transitions into life at a children's home that the Smiths have developed a relationship with.

The gospel tells us that we are filthy sinners, wallowing in spiritual mud, unable to clean or help ourselves - or even take care of our own basic needs. Siya's story reminds us what we'd be without Jesus; we were outcast children, with nothing to offer. The Smith's actions demonstrate that in Christ, we become adopted children of the Father, and royal heirs.

Kelly and Cherise have so many opportunities to declare and demonstrate the gospel to a people languishing in poverty, disease and hopelessness. They are limited only by their resources. Please prayerfully consider adding to their resources, that more may see and know Jesus Christ.

-Summer Kelley

### For Praise...

South Africa - Praise and gratitude for generous and ever-so-needed gifts to Gerhard and Elmane le Roux.

Uganda - the [International School of Mission](#)'s new classroom's foundation is laid and now ready for the walls.

India - [Paul and Molly](#) were able to rescue and accept a 4-month-old baby girl as their own.

Sudan - our exciting opportunity to disciple military chaplains who will disciple many soldiers.

USA/Poland - New addition to the ITMI family, partner **Daniel Machlowski**, seeking to be a "Timothy" to [Piotr Zaremba](#).

### For Prayer...

South Africa - Strength and wisdom for **Kelly and Cherise Smith** as they reach out to the Zulus.

Poland - Safe travel and a meaningful itinerary for **Andrew and Anna Gorski** while in the U.S. this month.

Sudan - Safe travel and wisdom for [Steve Evers](#) and Timothy Keller as they minister in Southern Sudan.

USA - Wisdom and guidance for ITMI as we seek to be God's hands, feet and mouth piece for our dear nationals.

**itmi** **In Touch Mission**  
INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 7575 - Tempe, Arizona 85281 - (480) 968-4100

E-Mail: [itmi@intouchmission.org](mailto:itmi@intouchmission.org) - FAX: (480) 968-5462 - Outside Arizona: 888-918-4100

