

Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MISSION

i n t e r n a t i o n a l

Monthly

1 March 2018

"For the revelation awaits an appointed time...though it linger, wait for it..." - from Habakkuk 2:3

Just in Time

"My wife and I don't know how to express our gratitude," writes **Cozmore**. "We are so thankful for your generosity."

Cozmore's wife, Laizah, was due to deliver the couple's first born early in February.

Cozmore ministers faithfully in his home country of Zimbabwe in partnership with ITMI's [Charl van Wyk](#). Together, they have impacted rural villages languishing in this impoverished country. The pair has put on Gospel camps for youth and their parents. They've spearheaded medical mercy projects. They collaborated on local development projects such as establishing a maize mill and seeding micro-businesses.

A few days after ITMI sent Cozmore a gift of \$750, Laizah went into labor.

After three long days of labor, Laizah was experiencing complications and still had not given birth. The doctor ordered a C-section procedure.

"If you don't have money, they usually use student doctors or nurses to do the operation," Cozmore explains, "Fortunately, through your gift we were able to get an experienced doctor to do the whole process."

"We have been saying it's God's timing," Cozmore concluded, as the family rejoices in the safe delivery of their son.

As last month's reports from around the world landed in our office, a theme emerged. It seemed the Lord was showcasing His ability to do things just in time - His perfect time.

Just in Time Provision for ECA

Years ago, ITMI partnered with **Eugene Kalunga** of [Excellence Christian Academy](#) in Kabwe, Zambia to purchase a building and furnish it with desks and supplies. For 20+ years, ECA has devotedly equipped young Zambians with a quality education from a Biblical perspective.

ITMI had some newly freed up funds that remained when another project ended. The resource was ear-marked for reaching out to Zambian children, so after consulting with the donors, it was re-directed to ECA.

Unbeknownst to ITMI, ECA's aging facility in Kabwe was in want of repair. The school could be closed by the government unless they brought the facility up to code.

Last month, we received a thankful word from Eugene. The redirected support reached Zambia just in time for the repairs to be made. Excellence Christian

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Newsbites

South Africa

ITMI's Charl van Wyk and Mark Parris announced the [opening of the Stone Hill Early Childhood Development Center \(ECDC\) last month!](#) The Early Childhood Development Center serves young children whose mothers - mostly single - work long hours. The new facility replaces a dirt-floored shack and make-shift play yard with exposed nails and wires

where these little ones were in danger every day.

This vast improvement over previous environment was made possible through the sacrificial giving of ITMI supporters. Many took advantage of a generous matching offer to maximize their impact.



South Sudan

Last month's edition of ITMI Monthly told [the story of our team's near-arrest](#) at the property of ITMI's Vicky Waraka. It also revealed a dire need for improvements on her property. Vicky needed some help providing for the basic safety of herself and the five orphaned girls who live with her.

We are happy to report that since the last edition landed in your mailboxes, on your kitchen tables and in your hearts, we have received an encouraging response to these needs!

Vicky has gratefully begun to increase the privacy of her bathroom facilities and finish floors and walls on her property!



Romania/Ukraine

ITMI's Adi Ban has just returned from a visit to Ukraine. He and two of his disciples oversaw the installation of a water filter for Poroshkovo, [the rustic settlement Adi and Steve visited in 2016](#). Adi also visited the war-torn region of Donbas, where another

desperately needed water filter was installed. The team touched torn up lives and grieving hearts in this broken region.

We look forward to sharing the encouragement they were able share as our proxies in His name.



Poland

Gospel Joy Choir's newest album, *Fill My Cup*, has been awarded [Album of the Year by the "Christian Music Community of Poland."](#) The victory means more people will be exposed to their Gospel message and possibly be drawn to attend a Gospel Joy Workshop.

Gospel Joy's Bartek and Daria, will be in the States to share more

about this explosive ministry in March and April.

They would love to sit down with you for coffee, encourage your small group or fellowship with your Sunday School class. This would let them say "Thank you" for your partnership.



From the Director

Dear Team: The Significance of Six Thousand, One-Hundred Thousand and 40 Million

Six thousand people gathered in the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids, Michigan in September of 1947.

Those six thousand witnessed the beginning of something huge as the 28-year-old evangelist took the stage. They saw the beginning of Billy Graham's crusade ministry.

It had never been done like he did it. It is estimated that Billy Graham shared the gospel with over 210 million people in his 58 years of crusades. Billy Graham's crusades and organization dreamed and believed big. God wanted people to grasp John 3:16's message. The Lord wants that same message to reach the people of Poland.

Our own [Dr. Piotr Zaremba](#) has been in the U.S. for a good portion of February. I'm truly sorry that many of you don't get to spend the time with him that I do. One of my joys is to hear Piotr share his understanding of God's truth during his speaking engagements. Someone that has devoured scores and scores of the ancient original transcripts reveals fresh perspectives. It is amazing how the richness of some difficult passages shines through when we discover the setting and culture they were originally embedded in. If you haven't heard Piotr share what is happening in Poland and in the world of Bible translation, you're missing a real blessing.

Piotr says that there are 40 million Polish speaking humans in the world. His Bible translation has now been shared with a little over 1 million of them. He quickly adds, "...we only have 39 million to go."

To produce a quality study Bible today is an expensive proposition. If translating were the only challenge, it would be almost a breeze in comparison to all the other disciplines needed to get the final physical Bible ready to be handed to a pastor or a new believer. Over 30 years ago, the Polish Bible League set out to give Poland a quality, modern, understandable translation. They have yet to get close.

Piotr and his team have already translated a literal and literary version from the most up to date ancient manuscripts. He now has an electronic version of a literal study Bible that will be most useful for pastors and Bible teachers. Imagine a quality translation with over 20,000 notes and about 100,000 cross-references. We in America cannot truly understand the marvel, since we have so many resources for scripture study. For Poles, this is a first.

Imagine the daunting task of proofreading a 4,000 page Bible, verifying all the verses, cross-references and notes. While it is being proofread by multiple bi-lingual experts, typesetters will make this wonderful life-giving truth fit inside leather-bound covers. Piotr and his team are praying God will use each of us to provide the \$17,000 remaining to complete this step in the 20-year process.

[Timothy Keller](#) is approaching his 20th anniversary in Africa. Tim is under 40 years old. That means he has now spent more time in Africa than in the States. Those that know Tim can see that he really is more African than American. His 20 years of service reminds us of his commitment to Christ. Tim loves the Africans from South Sudan to South Africa, and he knows that God wants him there for specific reasons. He wants them all to know Jesus and His redeeming gift that releases eternal freedom.

God is at work and fulfilling His promises. We ask that you jump in - maybe as never before - and experience the joys of God blessing and empowering us beyond our capacities. Thank you, blessings to you and...charge!!

In His Service,



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Academy was allowed to re-open for their winter trimester!

Braving the Rains in an Ox-Cart

Last fall, ITMI partners helped ITMI's [Johan Leach](#) dig wells supplying five more villages with fresh water.

Previously, villagers had to walk great distances each day carrying heavy jugs of river water. Or, they could share their muddy hand-dug holes with the animals.

Their isolated geographic location on the Luvale Plains had blocked their access to the life-giving liquid.

In January, [Johan and three other men braved the knee to chest-deep water](#) on the plains during rainy season. The goal of their visit was to encourage, assure and disciple two of their baby church plants.

To traverse the soggy plains, Johan hired an ox-cart. On the 37 mile trek back, Johan and his South Africa team mate were experiencing flu symptoms. They were riding in the cart when one of the wheels blew out.

What's interesting is *where* the blowout occurred.

The cart slogged through 31 miles of swampy terrain before it blew out on *dry land*. Any sooner, and the foursome may not have been physically strong enough to reach home.

These stories are coming on the heels of [last month's incredible story from South Sudan](#). ITMI's **Jahim Buli** was going about his business when he felt the Spirit prompting him, "You need to find Steve, NOW!" Though Steve was in a tough-to-find home deep in an un-marked Juba neighborhood, Jahim miraculously located him.

Jahim arrived just in time to derail the arrest of Steve Evers, **Kent Reisenaur** and our partner **Vicky Waraka**.

We're unbelievably honored to be the link that allows you to be the perfectly-

timed



vehicle of God's work. It's great to be part of something so big together.

-Steve Evers, Summer Kelley

For Praise

1. South Africa - Stone Hill - The Early Childhood Development Center is open, serving children of the settlement.
2. South Sudan - Vicky Waraka - The provision for needed repairs to her property.
3. Zimbabwe - Charl van Wyk/Cozmore - The healthy delivery of Cozmore's first child.
4. Zambia - Johan Leach - Safe return from visit to the Luvale plains and continued spiritual growth of new church plants.
5. Ukraine - Bans - Provision of water wells and filters for Ukrainian villages.
6. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - Our team has prepared over 100 Bible-based programs for children, teens and their parents.
7. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - Genesis through Ruth of the literal Polish Bible Translation are typeset and ready for proofing.

For Prayer

1. Poland - Gospel Joy - Continued exposure for *Fill My Cup* would result in many coming to faith in Jesus.
2. Zambia - Johan Leach - Provision for the motor of their new riverboat, extending the reach and frequency of his ministry.
3. Poland - Daniel Machlowski - Wisdom and protection as he and those he disciples share Jesus with those around them.
4. Poland - Banicki - Eliza is home but still recovering after she developed pneumonia and was hospitalized for 40 days.
5. India - Paul and Molly - Healing for their son, Isaiah, who has on-going respiratory issues and was struggling to breathe.



itmi@intouchmission.org fb.com/intouchmission @intouchmission instagram.com/sre77733
PO Box 7575 - Tempe, AZ 85281 (480)-968-4100 (888)-918-4100 F(480)-968-5462

www.intouchmission.org

