

IN TOUCH MISSION

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

Monthly

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"During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." - Acts 16:8-10

A Last-Minute Change of Plans

by Adrian Ban

Ukraine

We received the message days prior to our departure for Ukraine. It was a plea for help. The request was accompanied by images of rubble and destruction. They'd heard we were planning to visit another nearby town.

It came from a small church of 20 members in Novolugansk. Novolugansk is right on the fighting line between Ukraine and the Russian separatists' region of Lugansk.

The city was bombed on the 18th of January. Eight or more houses were hit. One preschool building was hit. Little help came from the government. Therefore, families had to reach out with the little they had to repair their houses in order to keep the snow and bitter Ukrainian cold away.

Our planning was already done, our routes and places to visit were already scheduled, yet our hearts could not refuse the call to come and help.

We decided to include a morning visit to the believers in Novolugansk. It meant changing the itinerary, sleeping in the homes of local people, and not be able to leave the area during the night. Most of the bombing and fighting happens during the night!



Our team consisted three men from Oradea, Romania, plus the four Ukrainian brothers who were not only our translators and drivers, but also pastors in their local churches and our main connection with the area. We boarded a tired and rusted 1998 VW Transporter van and traveled through the unimaginably damaged roads of East Ukraine to reach our destination.

As a main strategy, and exactly the way I have watched [Steve Evers](#) and ITMI operate these many years, I always try to work with and enhance the testimony of the local body of Christ. With the help of the local church, we had prepared 120 family-size food packages that could feed a hungry family of 3-4 people up to 1-2 weeks. After being stopped and questioned intensely three to five times a day at multiple military checkpoints, we arrived in Novolugansk.

Driving through the town, on our way to the church, we noticed groups of people slowly walking in the same direction.

One of the Ukrainian brothers in the car said, "These people are coming to the church service." Once we got to the small church, we found a room already packed with people. There were at least 100 people from the town. Non-believers, whose lives are being rocked by the continual bombing in their area, responded to the invitation made by the local church members for a special church service.

(continued on p.4)

52 Brightened Futures

Beating the odds, defying poverty and reversing injustice!

South Africa

Chantal Romashoe moved to [Stone Hill](#) in January. As an 11th grader, starting in the middle of the year, her obstacles to graduation were formidable.

School is already a challenge for most in the informal settlement outside Cape Town, South Africa. It's the lack of little things that pile up and create a barrier to graduation that becomes insurmountable to all but a precious few. A staggering 60% of students who start 1st grade don't finish school in South Africa. Without education, the poverty cycle is passed from one generation to the next with compounding interest.

Students' parents work long hours, so many are expected to watch younger siblings. Families live in one room shacks that don't lend themselves to productive studying. Few have tables or chairs. Paper, calculators and uniforms are hard to come by. In the urgency of surviving the school day, finding food and washing their clothes, school gets buried.

Chantal knew she was in over her head when she was exposed to economics and accounting concepts for the first time in her life. It wasn't even being taught in her own language. "Who will help me with this math?" she wondered. As a mid-year transfer to an under-resourced, over-burdened school, Chantal wasn't even given text books.

That's when someone told her ITMI's [Cindy Parris](#) had arranged tutoring sessions at the ministry facility ITMI helped our partners construct in Stone Hill. Cindy saw how poverty was being perpetuated as student after student

dropped out of school. She added tutoring to the many ways our partners in South Africa are reaching Stone Hill with the Good News of Jesus Christ, but the need was greater than she could provide.

[With ITMI's help, Cindy raised funds](#) to purchase an innovative set of electronic tablets complete with accessories and curriculum. There are 52 learners in grades 8-12, including Chantal, who use the tablets. They come for 2 hour sessions after school and on Saturday mornings.

At first, Chantal was overwhelmed. But when she returned to school the next day, she found she understood her lessons!

Chantal even began to enjoy the content. Now, her goal is to become an accountant. She'll have to study hard and pursue that dream with tenacity, as the odds are not on her side. But if she does, she'll be in a position

to provide for her family and be generous to others.

[ITMI supporters, your contributions to this elegant solution to an enormous systemic problem has reversed injustice, provided hope and changed the course of 52 families' lives!](#)

There are still a few opportunities for those who haven't yet gotten involved to [make a big difference](#).

Three times a week, Cindy hauls 30 chairs from their church in Durbanville to the tutoring site in Stone Hill. It would really help if the tutoring center had its own chairs. They can get them for \$8.18/chair. The tutoring center also needs \$400/month for curriculum licensing and internet data.

Thanks for partnering with us to fight poverty and injustice in Stone Hill!

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers



From the Director

Dear Team: Windshield Time with Piotr

"In God you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that — and, therefore, know yourself as nothing in comparison — you do not know God at all."

-C.S. Lewis

"Are you sure...can it happen?" I had just asked [Piotr Zaremba](#) to go for a ride with me...a very long ride. Andy and Kat, my son and daughter-in-law, just moved to Ohio from the wonderful-weathered Arizona. They needed Kat's car delivered to their new home.

Piotr previously shared with me a sense of longing, last year when [I shared about the trip I took](#) with ITMI's Zambian partner, [Johan Leach](#) visiting and meeting many of our loyal friends and supporters. "...I wanted to be able to do that," Piotr shared.

After checking with the airline, Krystyna (Piotr's wife) and his leadership team in Poland, it could indeed happen. We were anticipating spending the night with **Bill and Delia Haak** in rural northwest Arkansas. We were hoping to swing by the Answers in Genesis Ark Encounter - the life sized replica of what some believe Noah's ark was like. But neither of us anticipated what being in a vehicle for hours on end would do for our relationship and our future ministry outlook and goals.

What I hadn't planned for was a special time of no-phone, no-internet, no-administration, nothing but just sharing heart to heart as the miles slid by. Some years ago, Piotr introduced to me a way to take advantage of the "windshield time" when we drive together. We read out loud a good soul-affecting book, then periodically we stop reading and discuss the merits and positions of the author and how it fits to what we know to be God's truth. It helps that Piotr has spent the last, almost-twenty years living daily in the languages and cultures of the original Biblical writings. I can't tell you how rich and deep and wide these discussions have been. We didn't neglect the scriptures as Piotr read or sometimes quoted and I steered the car ever eastward. The time of hearing Piotr's insight and understanding of God's Word and that richness that comes from "living" in that culture for as long as he has, is so incredible that I find it hard to communicate. I can only say, those of you who have taken advantage of Piotr's offer to visit you, your church, your home group or even just you and your family, fully know what it means to fellowship with our Polish brother.

I am working on Piotr to somehow free up some of his time so that he can either write or record some of these wonderful insights so more of you can experience a new level of richness from God's word. Until that happens, do consider inviting Piotr to your home or church for a blessing you will treasure.

While driving, Piotr shared with me that a Polish Catholic lady who would never step foot in Piotr's church, emailed him to share that she and a whole group of Catholics have been almost clandestinely watching and listening to Piotr's sermons on YouTube. She said it is deeply impacting this group and how they are seeing God as never before.

Piotr believes that all the help and sacrifice that all of us have showered on him for the last almost 20 years as he translated "the Bible for Revival" may well be coming to fruition. The work is not over. Only .01% in all of the Polish country of 40 million believe in salvation by grace through faith. They need Piotr to be able to complete the [literal translation of the Bible project](#) by printing it. Then pastors and leaders will have a modern and extremely well done reference Bible that will greatly enlarge their understanding of how God's Word connects the New Testament to the Old Testament and then to daily living. I have known and worked with Piotr for over 18 years, and I believe we need to help the Polish people get more of what God has given Piotr to share with us all. We are committed to doing that as long as we have all of you to help us on this journey. Souls in Poland are waiting for the "hope that is in us." Thank you for all you have done and will do to help Piotr do the heavy lifting there in Poland.

In His Service,



(continued from p.1)

The echoing explosions normally would have kept many in their homes. But their need for hope drove them to brave the open road to get to the church. The noise of the bombings went on for the entire service. And yet, the words of Jesus from Matthew 4:12-17 were read and explained in their presence.

After I preached the Gospel and prayed for them, I asked my translator, Pastor Vasily, to make the invitation for anyone who wants to receive Jesus in their heart. Six of them did! The heavens were rejoicing (Luke 15:10) as we were too!

After the church service, we went to see one of the houses which had been hit by a bomb a few weeks ago. That was the home of a family of 5. The mother of 3 explained to us that she was very happy that the children were inside with their father and not outside when the bomb hit the corner of their house and destroyed their car. The next bomb went straight into a nearby building, destroying walls and roofing.

We left the town around 1 PM! We needed to be in Bakhmut by 4 PM, where another meeting had been scheduled. We skipped lunch and drove subdued to the next meeting.

As we traveled away from the city, little did we know Novolugansk was being bombed again. This time the



bombs took out the town's electricity and three more houses were hit and severely damaged.

It is hard to wrap our heads around the hardships these communities and believers are enduring and the great needs they are facing. God's answer for their pain is Himself and His people. This is why the church is called to extend love and mercy to those in need, while the Gospel is also being preached.

Would you be willing to partner with ITMI and us in this great opportunity to provide necessities and be light and salt in the midst of darkness and poverty?

-Adrian Ban, Summer Kelley

For Praise

1. Piotr Zaremba - Poland - Literal translation of the Bible available for download and sent to typesetter.
2. Cindy Parris - South Africa - Changed futures through mentoring and tutoring in the poorest of communities.
3. Lazarus Yezinai - South Sudan - 65 marginalized people were discipled at SALT trainings Lazarus gave last month.
4. Daniel Machlowski - Poland - New spheres of influence in which to share the Good News opening up.
5. The Bans - Ukraine - New water filter installed for a church in Toretsk, Ukraine and related outreaches made possible.
6. Vicky Waraka - South Sudan - Construction on her home is in progress thanks to ITMI supporters generous response!

For Prayer

1. The Bans - Ukraine - Comfort and aid for those living in the path of political conflict in the Donbas region.
2. Paul and Molly - India - Continued protection and safety against the many that oppose their presence and ministry.
3. Taru Kumar - India - Healing for a troubled child who joined their school in the Muslim slum where they minister.
4. The Kellers - Zambia - Many suffering from an outbreak of Cholera in their city.
5. Staff - USA - Provision of an additional administrative staff member.



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