

Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MISSION

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

Monthly

1 July 2018

"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you;" Zephaniah. 3:17



Remembering Dasha

A Backyard Bomb Ends a Young Girl's Life

Ukraine

Fifteen-year-old Dasha Kazimirova of Toretsk, Ukraine, was like any other teenager in the world in some respects. Her life lay before her full of promise and potential.

But in other ways, she wasn't at all like your average youth. Dasha lives in a war-zone. Her mother's struggles with alcohol added turbulence to her already tumultuous situation.

We don't know all of the driving forces behind these struggles, but the economic impact of political jockeying by neighboring Russia on the lives of everyday Ukrainians was likely at play.

The lives of Toretsk's citizens have been wracked with Russian attacks and bombs for the last two years.

Economic hardship, the psychological upheaval of constant fear, crumbling structures, exposure to elements and toxic drinking water polluted by chemical waste are all things normal families in the Donbas region face everyday.

Last year, Dasha had the opportunity to participate in a youth camp offered by a church in Toretsk. It is believed that during the camp, Dasha decided to follow Jesus.

Dasha fellowshiped with the church for several months after attending the camp. More recently, she stayed with her grandmother frequently, and wasn't able to attend worship as often.

While at her grandmother's home, she was in the backyard to use the latrine when a Russian bomb landed 3 meters from her.

With heavy hearts, we mourn the loss of this life. At the same time we are awash with gratitude that she had the opportunity to hear and respond to the Good News before it was too late.

The church that the Lord used to reach this young lady with His love and delight in her was the same church ITMI's [Adi Ban](#) was able to bless with [a water filtration system in February](#).

The provision came not a moment too soon.

A dam in a local chemical plant was damaged by the fighting. Chemical seepage transformed the already toxic



water into a poisonous concoction only useful to a murderer.

Thanks to the filtration system, the church is set up to reach many who undoubtedly are in need of clean, safe water.

Pastor Maxim, who shepherds this small but mighty assembly of God's people in Toretsk, joyfully says, "God keeps us! The Lord cares for us here in the war. ... We have pure water, and we are grateful to God and to you."

The Lord's sovereignty remains amid the turbulence of living in a war zone.

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Doing what Few Would do in Search of Hope

When ITMI's [Lazarus Yezinai](#) saw a half-naked 13-year-old boy wearing *only a shirt*, he didn't think twice.

He quickly gave the boy SP \$2000 (~USD\$10.38) of the SP \$2500 South Sudanese Pounds he had for food and transport for the week to buy some used pants.

The fact that the sight of this boy wasn't a social spectacle or moment of shock and awe illustrates the extreme poverty and oppression the people of South Sudan are facing.

One organization recently found:

- Thousands upon thousands of women, men and children have been subjected to heinous sexual crimes.
- Children have been forced to watch their mothers and other family members terrorized.
- This trauma is creating a mental health crisis. UNICEF estimates 900,000 children are in need of psychological rehabilitation.

A 2015 survey found that 72% of women living in four civilian camps in Juba have reported being raped since the conflict broke out.

Imagine the humiliation the young man must have experienced, not to mention the exposure. Not many would leave home without pants.

Desperation drove him to seek hope. So, despite the exposure, he arrived at the conference in Bor where ITMI's Lazarus and [Vicky Waraka](#) and their co-worker, **Esther**, were teaching.

Men rarely attend conferences, so it was originally offered as a women's conference.

But the hopeless circumstances they faced after returning to their home in Bor, South Sudan drove local men to cast aside cultural norms and come anyway.



A room full of returning refugees hungry for hope at a recent conference.

Lazarus prays for a man from the conference.

Many South Sudanese are returning to Bor after a mass exodus to Khartoum when tribal warfare broke out. They are returning to a hopeless mess, an inflated market, nothing to eat, no jobs and precious few places to turn for help. Yet they long for their home, some normalcy and a taste of personal freedom.

Two hundred men and women sought the help our partners offered through their teaching. Five hundred children, ages 5-12 found their way in, too.

The two-day conference presented two hundred adults and five hundred children with something very different from the man-invented formulas for health and wealth that are currently running unchecked in South Sudan.

Instead, our partners delivered hope and healing in understanding who the Bible says they are in Christ.

The trio from Juba used the SALT material to share from God's Word about sin, forgiveness and following Jesus with clarity.

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SOUTH SUDAN

72%



Women in 4 civilian camps report being raped, mostly by police and soldiers.

2M



People Displaced from homes in South Sudan

900K



Estimated children in need of psychological support.

CHILDREN



Forced to watch family members raped and killed.

1

audio player

Bible + SALT

\$46.67

Goal: 100

From the Director

Dear Team: Reflecting the Father as Fathers.

Author Rob Slane wrote, "Through his words, character, and behavior, each and every father is constantly speaking to his children about the Father. And he will either be speaking the truth or telling a lie to his children about the Father." *Samaritan Ministries, February 2016*

I'm excited to share that in the coming months, we will highlight how the influence of the "fathers" of ITMI, while serving faithfully in their mission fields, is being shown by the next generation of ministry family...their kids! We will share how the kids we've all watched grow up, are launching off in ministries themselves.

Our [Piotr Zaremba](#) has again proven how much he is committed to caring for fathers and families. K5N Church had its annual Family Camp and the teachers came all the way from Tempe, Arizona to teach on *Communication and Conflict Resolution*. **Phil and Sue Thurston** are lay family counselors who have waded into the middle of the lives and challenges of young marrieds, old marrieds and families for over 20 years. Both Phil and Sue are some of the most gracious and kind people you ever would want to sit with. Sue reminds you of that aunt that is the sweetest person you know. Phil's quiet, gracious and analytical ways belay the fact that he was a lead negotiator for 30+ years in a power company's union staffed team.

Phil and Sue were so warmly received that their scheduled 1.5 hour conference sessions on family issues, were extended by impromptu requests for help with specific family consultations. Pray for Piotr, his church leaders and the Thurstons as they minister to families with emotional, psychological and spiritual issues.

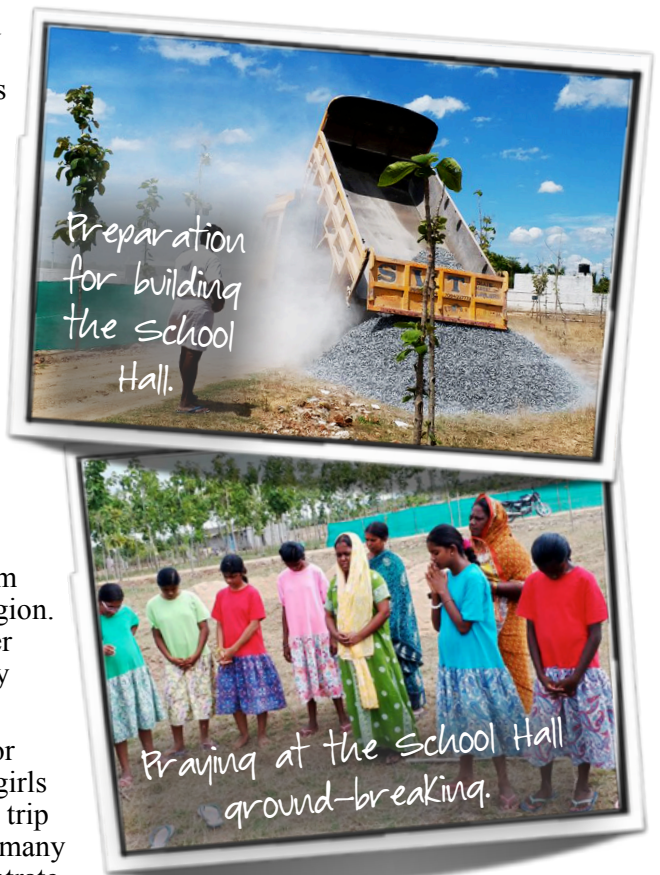
[Paul](#), our partner in India, is seeking to be a faithful father in the growth and development of the lives of his ...23 children. Nineteen of those children are [girls that were loved and rescued from homes that were unable to care for them at birth](#). Paul and **Molly** have just rescued these girls again.

The state-religion-drenched schools system is a system built on a foundation of intense, militant proselytizing. The state school system wants to brain wash each student to mindlessly follow the state religion. The girls' school just went to 7 days a week, including hours of after school homework. Paul and Molly have [prayed for years](#) for a godly solution to this unwanted indoctrination.

God has provided. This last month, Paul and Molly broke ground for what they are calling a School Hall right on the girls property. The girls walk to school will be less than 2 minutes, instead of an hour round trip previously. They will be taught by overjoyed, trained teachers who many are children of evangelical pastors. The girls will be freed to concentrate on the truths of God's Word and not on how they are going to survive another day without being bullied and persecuted by both students, teachers and staff alike. Pray for Paul and Molly as they build this education system to grow these precious girls into the champions that will definitely impact southern India for Christ.

As Rob Slane said, "Through his words, character, and behavior, each and every father is constantly speaking to his children about the Father - which version are we communicating, truth or lies? May God find us all faithful as in our own families, and may we be mindful of the needs of the fathers that minister to their cultures. They still need us to pray for and support them as they seek to show the Father's love and truth to all they touch.

In His Service,



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Many gave their lives to Christ, and 3 shared they felt called to ministry.

Although the people of Bor face great physical needs, their main request was for the trio to return and give them more teaching from God's Word.

Lazarus, Vicky and Esther are ready to return to Bor as soon as the funds become available.

We'd like to send them back with 100 audio Bibles in Arabic and Dinka, with space to record additional SALT material teachings in their language. We can purchase one for \$46.67. Our hope and prayer is that together, we can provide 100 audio Bibles for this stricken community.

Imagine you couldn't read. At all. No Bible study, no daily hope from God's promises, no favorite verses and no understanding of God's love for you, period. You wouldn't be able to agree with truth being preached or reject information when truth was being compromised.

Visualize the radiating impact this audio Bible could have on this stricken community that desperately needs to put an end to these perpetuating cycles of violence.

Reviewing the audio Bibles and SALT material over time would deepen their understanding and prevent the hope they gained from being lost over time as hardships increase and cultural influences push for faith in animistic witchcraft.

It also allows the material to be shared over and over again, spreading hope in the One who laid down His life to give it.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

Luedke, Alicia. It's time to end impunity for conflict related sexual violence in South Sudan. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2018/06/it-is-time-to-end-impunity-for-conflict-related-sexual-violence-in-south-sudan/>

Amnesty International. Survivors of Sexual Violence call for Justice and Reparations. <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/sexual-violence-south-sudan>

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Under His care, provision and leadership, great opportunity lays before this church to reach their bleeding city.

A city full of people who don't yet follow Jesus that could get caught in the crosshairs of Russia's attacks at any moment.

There are many willing believers in this region. Adi is willing to deliver whatever hope, encouragement and help we can empower them with. Would you consider helping our brothers and sisters in Christ in Ukraine?

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers



For Praise

1. Paul and Molly - India - VBS reaching 1000 children in 7 locations!
2. Vicky Waraka - South Sudan - Testimonies from traumatized women helped by Vicky's gospel counseling ministry.
3. Cindy Parris - South Africa - Tutoring center opening up opportunities for sharing Christ and providing counseling.
4. Nungessers - Poland - Women lifted up and encouraged through Brooke's Ladies' Fest Conference.
5. Johan Leach - Zambia - Two new salvations from the remote bush village of Kanjachi.

For Prayer

1. Paul and Molly - India - Working to open a school for their girls.
2. Adi and Ema Ban - Ukraine/Romania - For the saints in the Donbas region of Ukraine as they reach out to their city.
3. South Sudan - An end to the violence and hate that is destroying lives, and the local church to point people to true hope.
4. David and Taru - India - Help with schooling of a new disabled student from "Little Pakistan" slum.
5. Steve and Kent - upcoming travel to South Africa and Zambia.

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