

Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

# IN TOUCH MISSION

international

Monthly

1 December 2018

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given." Isaiah 9:6*

## Eleven Partners Share Their Hearts

*During this season of giving, we asked ITMI partners to share their heartfelt answers to several questions. May their answers bless and encourage you!*



### Paul and Molly

*Southern India*

#### ***What are you thankful for this year?***

It is a miracle in India that our family is still together, together and thriving. We cannot

list all of the ways our safety has been threatened-- to remove our girls from us, to remove us from India, to be imprisoned for our work for the Gospel. We can not legally have this many children in India, yet against all odds, as we have trusted God, taking Him at His own Word, following with all our hearts in the shadows, not relenting but teaching His Word, discipling in our lack, in our exhaustion - His resurrection power has upheld us beyond our human abilities. We have enjoyed this marriage union of service for just a decade and our gracious Father has clothed, fed, protected and cared for us. All glory and honor be to His Name for coming through on our behalf in so many trials. He continues to be our shield and our song and multiply the fruit of our labor. We bow low before Him and find our rest, we find our home, our haven, our Mercy Who is Jesus.

#### ***What message do you have for those who supported you and your ministry this year?***

It is a very humbling thing for us to realize those whose precious eyes are reading this now, stand with us here, arm

in arm in the field, filling up in our weaknesses. One thing we are sure of - that we will see the goodness of the Lord - along with you in the land of the living. In that great day surrounding the throne of the Lamb as we cry holy, holy, holy. Oh the joy we will know as His good gifts, the souls of those who've entered for all of eternity because of obedience. Oh friends, this short life that we have lived, together the body - that is You and me. Thank you, thank you for your love. Thank you for believing. What joy awaits at eternity's gates! Thank you, beloved for walking through arm in arm with us!

#### ***What will you and your family be doing for Christmas this year?***

Our church people love to stay and worship all night in church, we will cook butter chicken masala and some sweets in the pots the size of a sectional couch outside. Our family will bring toys and birthday cakes for Jesus into the slums and children's hospital. Our believers will also go out in groups caroling through the night all week long sharing the Gospel with communities. For our family time, we will put a tent outside and have a little campfire for our 23 littles [children] and Paul's family will join us for lots of games, story telling and little handmade gifts in our family exchange. It's exhausting and beautiful, our children are so happy all month long. We also have a few birthdays Christmas week. :) Pray for our endurance and health of our family to serve in this season!



## Gerhard and Elmane le Roux

*Onseepkans, South Africa*

### ***What are you thankful for this year?***

Our mission is situated on the banks of the Orange River, the biggest river in South Africa. For many years

we sought the Lord's leading to use our land to best help the community around us. This year we were approached by a vegetable seed production company, who were looking for suppliers in the Onseepkans region. We thank God that we can work closely with ladies in the communities to whom we can provide jobs raising seeds. For them it is a blessing to receive their full pay at the end of each day and they can buy food for their children. We give all the glory to our Lord Jesus for what we could accomplish this year.

### ***What message do you have for those who supported you and your ministry this year?***

We firstly want to honor God for all that He did for us this year, also through His

faithful servants who helped us to keep going. We sincerely want to thank everyone who contributed towards our mission this year, both in prayer and support. Your support made this year possible for us. For us it is a great honour to know that there are brothers and sisters around the world who pray for us and support us. Thank you very much!

### ***What is one way your ITMI supporters directly made an impact for God's Kingdom this year?***

This year we had several opportunities to be involved in ministering to those who lost a loved one. We could support the grieving families with vegetables from our garden and meat from our mission. At one such funeral we had the opportunity to partake in the evening services the week before the actual funeral. I could share to church leaders from different denominations that we need to put church differences aside and take hands to forward God's Kingdom in the darkness around us. We were deeply touched by the positive response from the church leaders in the community afterwards. Please pray for us, that in a region deeply segregated by racial divisions, we will continue to build bridges of God's love.



## Piotr and Krystyna Zaremba

*Poznan, Poland*

### ***What was the most significant moment of 2018?***

One of the most significant moments is still to come and

maybe it won't be even reached at the time you will have to publish our newsletter. It concerns Polish Bible Translation Project. Our team is still in the process of transferring the MS Word format of the files to the InDesign format of the files. It includes both graphic design and the next proof-reading necessary after having the files reformatted. At this stage the books of the Bible reformatted are those from Genesis to Book of Hebrews in the New Testament, and the proofreading includes the books from Genesis to Isaiah 51. Situation changes every day as we work long hours trying to cover 10 chapters a day. The years of the hard work resulted in us being able to arrive at the first ever Polish study Bible with at least 20 thousand study notes and literally thousands of the cross references.

We plan to send this first ever Polish ESV-type study Bible to the printers in January 2019. You asked about the most significant moment, but let me mention another one. In

October 2018 together with my wife Krystyna we were able to have our holidays as a couple. It happened after 35 years of our marriage. Before we had also great time going with kids, as they were growing, or with our church family, where both of us, me and my wife, were doing some ministry. But this time just both of us had time for each other. And it was great!

### ***What message do you have for those who supported you and your ministry this year?***

I am amazed at how much we were able to achieve together. Thank you. I feel so privileged to be with a part of the team. Isaiah 40:28-31.

### ***What is one unique way the believers in your area of the world celebrate the birth of Jesus?***

I cannot remember being in another country during a Christmas time, so I do not know, how much Poland is unique. However, this is what I like about Christmas in Poland: At the Christmas Eve dinner there always has to be one chair empty for the stranger. In our case this chair is usually taken by a needy or lonely person. And it makes me happy.



## Jahim and Gisma Buli

*Juba, South Sudan*

### ***What is one thing you learned this year?***

The greatest lesson I learned brought permanent change in

my pastoral ministry. I came to understand that visiting people in their homes brings growth in the church and many to salvation. Many people have responded to this love. I have led people to Christ during my visits. I have seen some of these people permanently established in Christ. I have seen people weep as they gave their lives to Christ in their sitting rooms. As I visit them I make sure I minister to everyone who is not saved in the household.

### ***Where do you feel the Lord leading you this coming year?***

I feel God is leading me to start a Nursery and Primary school. For the last two years God has put a burden in my heart to help those children who were affected because of war (they have lost their parents). So far the church has sponsored five orphans in different schools. An elder in the church donated land of 40 meters. The land title has been transferred to the church. We are raising funds to start with two classes at first. We have already some church members who have volunteer to be teachers to teach these children. Secondly, God lead me to resume preaching and teaching

through live radio broadcast on Favor FM, a Christians radio station. They have given me one and half hour free air time. I preach and teach the SALT material. These live broadcasts have a great impact, transforming people's lives. I receive many calls from the public, appreciative of hearing Biblical solutions for their lives.

### ***What message do you have for those who supported you and your ministry this year?***

A very big, big, big, thank you. I can't thank you enough for all the things you have done, both big and small. I wish I can hug you and thank you. Remember, all that you have done you are investing for eternity. The souls who were saved, it is you who win them to Christ. I am just your hands, reaching where you can't reach and your mouth speaking when you don't know the language. Thank you once again.

### ***What will you and your family be doing for Christmas this year?***

In this coming Christmas I and my family will be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ with orphans sharing and showing the love of Christ with them. Usually Christmas in South Sudan is giving gifts to children. We will be giving small gifts to these orphans what God will give us. We want to make these orphans loved.



## Muhindo and Lillian Kawede

*Kampala, Uganda*

### ***What are you thankful for this year?***

I am thankful to God by using the General Commissioner of Prisons of Uganda to

accept and allow the International School of Missions to carry out the Portable Bible School to equip and train prisoners all over Uganda. Furthermore, I am thankful to lead Muslims and pagans to repent and accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. It has been a revival outbreak to enable prisoners throughout the country to be equipped in Bible. An opportunity not easy to be given in Uganda prisons.

### ***Where do you feel the Lord leading you this coming year?***

God is giving me a great opportunity to meet prominent government leaders (parliament and commissioners of Government) which will allow me to increase the opportunity to train more prisoners. I want to train 200 prisoners in three Portable Bible School in Prisons and possible open churches in prisons.

### ***What message do you have for those who supported you and your ministry this year?***

I have the vision of equipping and training Christ like leaders, but I could not do it without the prayers and financial support of friends. I am thankful to all my supporters who have donated to enable me to equip and train prisoners and pastors at International School of Missions.





## Kelly and Cherise Smith

*KwaZulu Natal, South Africa*

### ***What are you thankful for this year?***

**Entabeni Church** is a church plant in a rural village in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. The

church reaches out to community members in Olwasini and Okhalweni. It has been going for 8 years now, and like the tides of the ocean, people come and go. Church can be seen as an exciting activity in a small place where not much happens. The Zulu people love to gather together and they love to sing. They will tolerate [coming to church and] listening to various teachings from the Bible that they don't necessarily agree with, to still be a part of the gathering. They don't even mind when the white missionary pastor teaches against worshipping the ancestors. But when God blessed us with a

Zulu pastor, and he also taught against the deep-seated belief of ancestral worship, the crowds fled. After the dust settled, there remained a small handful of faithful people with a commitment to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As we look back on this year, we are so thankful to the Lord for these wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ, who through daily persecution and the uncomfortable journey of giving up the only way they know to live life, they push forward to grow in their faith.

### ***What message do you have for those who supported you and your ministry this year?***

We are so grateful to God for His constant provision for us as a family, and all the ministry projects that He leads us into. As the body of Christ, we are all connected in ministry whether we are on the ground in a foreign land, supporting in prayer, finances or visitation as well as keeping up the office at ITMI. We are so grateful to how God uses us all, together, to accomplish His purposes.



## David and Taru Kumar

*Bangalore, India*

### ***What are you thankful for this year?***

There is so much to be thankful for from this year 2018.

Thank God for

prayer warriors and supporters supporting us, as a result many lives are touched and blessed by the love of God. Thankful to the Lord that we were able to see 28 children admitted to English medium schools. Many poor men and women and children received medical help through our medical services. Forty-five women received 6 months tailoring training and today most of them are able to provide support to their families financially. Six students went through our six months basic computer training which helped them in their further education. We are thankful for God's protection through our long journeys to remote, rural towns and villages to train rural pastors, and for good health. Thankful that nearly 600 rural pastors were trained and started witnessing to Muslims in their areas. Thankful for all who are praying for and supporting this ministry.

### ***What message do you have for those who supported you and your ministry this year?***

We always believed that God is a faithful and promise-keeping God. When we resigned from Operation

Mobilization to pursue the vision God gave us to take the love of God to one of the most neglected communities of the world, God spoke to us through His promising word in Ps 32: 8. And this is our testimony that God is faithful and without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). We always believe all who are praying and supporting us and the ministry are God's obedient and faithful agents filled with Christ's love and compassion to serve the needy and poor and serve the servants of God. We give 100% credit to those supporting us for all that is happening here. You are an integral part of the ministry that is happening here. Though you live on other side of the world, without your obedience to the Lord, we would not do what we do. Therefore we boast in the Lord and in those who are so faithfully supporting and praying for us. We thank God for ITMI for putting such great faith in us and helping us to do what the Lord has called us to do without feeling financial burdens.

### ***What will you and your family be doing for Christmas this year?***

Usually we celebrate Christmas with slum families a few days before Christmas. We bring all of them out of the slum, children will perform some Christmas skit, dance or singing and reciting memory verses, one from the guests will share Christmas story to the group, and then we distribute gifts to all children. Then have nice lunch and sweets and greet each other before concluding.



## Lazarus Yezinai

Juba, South Sudan

### ***What are you thankful for this year?***

Am thankful for two things. First I am thankful to God for keeping me alive for

the whole year. As you may know people are dying every day in South Sudan by sickness, hunger and guns but the hand of God is upon me. Secondly for His grace that He gave me the ability of serving Him, through God's grace many people got saved, delivered from the spirit of darkness and many got healed and blessed with different kind of blessings. I am thankful to God for giving me brothers and sisters around the world who think and pray

for me and my family, and through their prayers am seeing the hand of God doing wonders in my ministry.

### ***Where do you feel the Lord leading you this coming year?***

Various churches from five different states in my country asked me to come teach their members about church leadership, discipleship and Biblically based trauma healing. Because of war many leaders are traumatized and some don't know what to do. I need your prayers! Pray for me to be faithful in responding to the call that God has given me, to serve His will, be committed to God's work and not concentrate on the challenges I am facing. I am working on a plan for meeting these needs in the coming year.



## Leszek and Ania Wakula

Lodz, Poland

### ***What was the most significant moment of 2018?***

The most significant moment as so far, was our Church 150th Anniversary

of its presence in Lodz. It was a long period of preparation and then finalized by several important events, where we as a community of believers in Lodz were able to thank God for His work and faithfulness throughout those many year. It was also opportunity to share our faith and belonging to God toward many people we were able to invite.

### ***What is one unique way the believers in your area of the world celebrate the birth of Jesus?***

The Birth of Jesus in Poland is a family-focused event. Unfortunately, it is often more about family than Jesus. A

sad sight of Christmas is those who don't have families and are alone during the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

That's why we organize the Free Chair Project to bring at Christmas Eve those, who have not families and are alone.

### ***What will your family be doing to celebrate or remember the birth of Jesus?***

We will serve the poor and abandoned, alone people in our city. Later the same day - hopefully we will gather also as family and in Thanksgiving celebrate Christ's birth.

### ***What message do you have for those who supported you and your ministry this year?***

Without our prayers partners and supporters, we wouldn't be able to run the race well. We give deep praise to God for placing such loving, carrying and generous ministry partners and life supporters. We give Him thanks, that we don't have to "travel" alone - He sends great people on our way!!!

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## Adi and Ema Ban

Oradea, Romania

### ***What was the most significant moment in 2018?***

At the end of February I got to travel to Ukraine.

This was the second time I visited the churches and our brothers and sisters who live near the war zone. Two men from our Couples Group, Beni and Dumitru, traveled with me to Harkov. A group of four pastors and laymen who live in South Ukraine, traveled with us to translate and share the Good News alongside us. We also took with us a water filtration system which had been purchased through the generosity of ITMI partners and fellow believers in Romania. What followed was a week-long tedious travel through unsafe territory, in bitter Russian steppe cold. One day we wore several layers of clothing and were still not warm. But the warmth was given by fellowshiping with the body of Christ, witnessing their faith in the Lord and

willingness to be salt and light in their poor communities. One day we were in church, and the service ended around noon. After the church service we handed out some food packages and then drove to another city. By God's mercy and in His provision, we left that town just hours prior to it being severely bombed again. The main electricity generator was busted, and several buildings were damaged. We felt His guidance and protection, and are so grateful for many prayers who were lifted on our behalf! Please keep our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in your prayers.

### ***What are you thankful for this year?***

Last May we were in the US for our oldest son's, Andy, College Graduation. The Lord answered our prayers and opened the door for our family to be present on this very special occasion, and see Andy walk and be honored for his college work, and also travel to visit family, friends and longtime ministry partners, including our ITMI family. It was an amazing time of fellowship, and we felt the Lord blessed us in many ways, and we felt loved, encouraged and prayed for.



## Steve and Darlene Evers

Tempe, Arizona

### ***What was the most significant moment in 2018?***

First, we want to thank each of you for your continued partnership as we

seek to share God's love and truth and impact the lives and cultures of the most needy around the world. It truly takes a partnership to impact those in the darkest places of this globe. It really takes an effort of large proportions to do this on three separate continents, four if you count the opportunities we get here in the USA.

We as partners have much to be grateful for this last year. Our ITMI office staff has to be some of the most dedicated and committed partners around. With my (Steve's) schedule and travel, it takes a committed and capable team

to do the hard work of running the organization in a God-honoring way. This year the Lord allowed us to add two special and needed local team members that have and will help ITMI to be even better at caring for our partners.

We also have many new projects and ways to serve. In Uganda, **Muhindo Kawede** is forging into the prison system with his remarkably effective Portable Bible School. I love hearing of salvations of inmates of different religious beliefs, and hear the stories of their passion to grow and be disciplined. We've added precious partners like **Fifi Smith** in Zulu Natal, South Africa and **Mwanaume Francis** as a children's ministry worker in a Uganda slum. Both are young and excited about how God has blessed them and empowered them to serve in unique and faithful ways with and through each of us who are connected with ITMI.

*Thank you from all of us at ITMI!*



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