

Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MISSION

international

Monthly

1 February 2019

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity." Ps. 133:1

WHY

WE'RE

BETTER

TOGETHER

"We are truly better together."

-Brooke Nungesser

DEAR READER,

When believers connect, it makes a difference. When we look back over 2018, we're jazzed at what the Lord did through the connection between you and our partners. That last part is important. What the LORD did. It's His mission, but graciously, He lets us be part of it. This month, we're hoping you'll be encouraged by some of the highlights from 2018 that He let us collectively be part of.

WE STARTED 2018 OFF WITH [Steve Evers](#) and [Kent Reisenauer](#) visiting Uganda and South Sudan. [One-hundred and twenty-five women in South Sudan were blown away](#) by the revolutionary-to-them Biblical ideas presented by ITMI's [Vicky Waraka](#) and Steve about godly finances. By God's grace, the guys [narrowly escaped being arrested](#) for recording video at Vicky's house. By spring, ITMI supporters [had helped Vicky build a bathroom and finish the home she shares with 5 orphaned girls.](#)

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Highlights from **2018**



**125
TRAINED**

in Biblical principles for \$

(continued from p.1)

In 2018, we began another new focus of getting [audio Bibles](#) to those that cannot see or read. This year, ITMI supporters sponsored 47 audio Bibles: 5 in Arabic, 3 in Bemba, 3 in English, 3 Afrikaans, 3 Zulu, 10 Burmese, 10 Kannada, 10 Tamil. These Bibles were distributed by our partners and are always a [huge blessing](#) to those around the world who don't currently have access to God's Word. For example, in one remote village where Steve left an audio Bible with the *induna* (chief), he returned a year later to learn that the entire village gathers two or three times a week to listen! This is a beginning, we hope that with the Lord's help and your partnership, many more will be distributed.

In February, our Romanian partner, [Adi Ban and a team traveled to the war-torn Donbas region of Ukraine](#). They encouraged the struggling and suffering throughout the region, demonstrated the love of God to 170 families with two-week care packages, installed a highly effective outreach tool for a persecuted church - [a commercial water-filter - for a local church in a community plagued by contaminated water](#) and rejoiced that 6 new believers came to faith!

Creative Ways Our Partners Offer Hope With Education

Education has long been a tool for breaking the cycle of poverty and injustice, and our partners continue to see the fruits of educational outreaches, both as a way to mold future leaders and their parents with Biblical knowledge, wisdom and worldview, but also as a way to build relationships and gain the trust of traumatized youth.

In Bangalore, India, ITMI's **David and Taru Kumar** were reaching Muslim and Hindu families living in Modi Road slum through Deepam Education and Women's Center. Twenty-five women graduated from a 6 month tailoring training. They were also taught they can [know](#) if they are saved, an assurance not offered by the Muslim faith. Thirty-six children, mostly aged 3-5 were part of the [Deepam preschool](#), where they learn about Jesus and are prepared for elementary school. Twelve were admitted and thriving in elementary schools. Two-hundred children from the slum were part of summer programs and camps where they learned about the Lord through Bible stories, fun crafts and illustrations. About 1000 pastors and believers in rural villages were trained by David to share Jesus and dialog effectively with Muslims.

"In school they used to beat me, but I am happy here because you love me so much." -Ayan, 9, Deepam Student

ITMI's [Paul, Molly](#) and their co-laborers in India cared for and shared Jesus weekly with around 725 children through educational programs. Their sports ministry continues to thrive, and Paul and Molly responded to a new call to reach a [village of people labeled "untouchable."](#) Paul equipped about 500 Indian pastors who may or may not have ever received support or training as they face persecution in rural places of this Hindu country. Their 19 girls continue to thrive and remain in their care against all odds.

The [International School of Missions](#) in Uganda was invited to offer their Portable Bible School course to inmates in Kauga Prison. Sixty-three inmates completed the program, internalizing life-changing Biblical truths and many more heard the Good News at their graduation ceremony!

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47
SOLAR
AUDIO
BIBLES
sponsored and distributed



170
Care Packages



1K
trained to share the
GOSPEL



725 children
reached



WEEKLY

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With the help of supporters, ITMI's [Cindi Parris](#) was able to purchase an electronic [technology-based school-in-a-box](#) kit and launch a tutoring center in **Stone Hill**, South Africa - an informal settlement with a staggering drop-out rate, making K-12 curriculum available to 52 learners in their original languages and drastically improving their odds for graduating. While [52 are registered](#), about 15 show up consistently. One 11th grader's work improved so drastically that [his teacher actually accused him of cheating](#)!

 **52**
disadvantaged
CHILDREN

"The students are starting to trust me and I am able to share Christ with them, giving them the reason why I serve their community." -Cindi Parris

How Stone Hill Investments Continue to Grow

Speaking of [Stone Hill](#), with a [medical clinic](#) seeing 16-35 patients a day, an Early Childhood Development Center employing 5 women from the community, multiple weekly outreaches at the community center, sports outreaches for youth, three weekly Bible studies, Sunday services attended by 60-80 youth and a soup kitchen that runs 3 times a week feeding about 100 each time, the investments supporters made in past years continued to accrue dividends in 2018. New believers came to Christ, pledged their allegiance to His Lordship and continued to grow in dedication to Him.

While ITMI's [Charl van Wyk](#) continues to minister in Stone Hill, he and **Cozmore**, the passionate, godly Zimbabwean, continued finding ways to push into the lives of villagers in Cozmore's country, offering the Good News, discipleship and establishing projects that bolster local churches in ministries.






3 

Weekly Bible Studies

16 Years of Labor Brings an Unparalleled Result

Meanwhile in Poland, ITMI's [Dr. Piotr Zaremba](#) and his team of translators had been pushing hard through 2017, and were excited to realize the publication of two digital editions of the literal translation of the Bible from its original languages into Polish before the first half of the year was gone! Piotr's team completed the massive job of laying out this par excellence Study Bible, unparalleled by anything Poland has ever seen, for print in 2018. This year - 2019 - should see the printing of this revival tool and the publication of a third digital edition. In 2018, Piotr noted 30 years of actively pastoring and opened his arms to many more!

 **+1**
MILLION
COPIES 


"It was like discovering the Word of God completely anew, with fresh eyes. Once I started reading, I literally couldn't put it down." - Polish Translation Reader

As Piotr's Bible made its way into the hands of Polish communities all over the world, [Bread of Life](#) continued their mission of enabling Poles to put into action what their countrymen could now read. Seven thousand Polish families or individuals participated in caring for the suffering. The foundation expanded to an additional city, Radom, Poland. With a 20% unemployment rate - the highest in all of the EU - Radom offers lots of opportunity to, as co-founder Brooke Nungesser put it, "share the Gospel both in word and in action."

 **NEW**
CITY

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Six hundred miles southeast, ITMI's Adi and Ema Ban's discipleship ministry to 21 young families continued to yield fruit as those families establish their roots and begin participating in demonstrating the Good News to those suffering in nearby Ukraine. This year Adi and Ema's reach extended to five conferences with a total of about 405 participants in Romania, Poland and [Spain](#).

An Exciting Fall

As 2018 wound toward changing leaves and colder temperatures, in Zambia, we celebrated the digging of 6 new wells, giving about 400+ people access to clean, safe water in tandem with [Johan Leach](#)'s trained Zambian evangelists explaining that the Lord has a free gift for them.

Also in Zambia, [Timothy Keller](#) made his annual evangelism and discipleship visits to around 20 remote villages in Eastern Province, made multiple trips to the village of Chongwe, while also teaching his Biblical Worldview Training course in four new police precincts in 2018.

405 

ENCOURAGED

in Biblical family principles

6 New Wells



400 villagers impacted

A few of the gifts ITMI supporters collectively gave through our

CHRISTMAS CATALOG

MEDICINE

for
38

patients who can't afford it.

5 children from Modi Road slum

will get to attend Deepam school



FOR A YEAR

2 
VILLAGES

will get access to clean, safe water and hear the gospel

 **16**

AUDIO BIBLES

for our partners to distribute

For Praise

1. India - Paul and Molly - A third church service being added to reach more with the Word and 150 pastors equipped in Jan.
2. India - Paul and Molly - "In great joy and confidence in Christ, our 12 oldest daughters were baptized!"
3. South Africa - Smiths - Project Christmas Blessing events at two schools yield opportunities to share Jesus with children.

For Prayer

1. Zimbabwe - Charl van Wyk - Political unrest causing transportation, stores and hospitals to shut down
2. Zambia - Johan and Lesley Leach - Lesley's continued recovery from surgery.
3. South Sudan - Vicky, Lazarus - Provision for replacement of items lost when ministry co-worker Musa was robbed.
4. Poland - Piotr and Krystyna Zaremba - Healing for Krystyna after she slipped on ice, injuring her elbow and requiring surgery.
5. Romania - Adi and Ema Ban - Provision for their preschool, which allows them to reach unsaved families in Oradea.
6. India - Paul and Molly - Continued protection for their 19 rescued daughters.

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