

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 2019

"As the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10-11

The Remarkable Feats of God's Word

*When they returned the
third year, our team was
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discovered!*

ZAMBIA, 2012

THE VILLAGERS DASHED MADLY for their huts.

They had caught one glimpse of the initial brownish-grey clean-out water spilling from the head of the newly drilled well. Moments later, they returned with the various makeshift containers, ready to collect the contaminated water. They were overjoyed to have this brownish-grey life-supporting fluid flowing from the strange contraption so close to their huts.

The drilling crew was still finishing the job. They were using the gas-powered pump to purge the pipes of the sandy, clay-filled dirt left in the system from the installation. It wouldn't be long before clean, sweet water - clear in color - would be drawn up from the depths of the earth and into their vessels.

Out in the vacuum of knowledge and growth that surrounds and isolates

these simple villagers, water is water. They didn't know the difference between brown, polluted water and clean water.

Similarly, inhabitants of remote villages often struggle to separate truth from deception, con-artists from shepherds and the Creator from their deceased ancestors.

After the pipes were cleared and the clean water flowed from the new borehole, ITMI's [Steve Evers](#) told them about the living water that the Lord wants to offer them. Many responded with tears and declarations of their intent to follow Jesus.

The following year, **Steve** and an ITMI team returned to the same village to teach, encourage and disciple. This time, the team brought a large, solar-powered Proclaimer from **Faith Comes by Hearing**, loaded with a recording of the New



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Testament in their own language, able to be amplified for a large group to hear God's Word.

When they returned the third year, our team was elated by what they discovered!

There was a palpable difference in the atmosphere. Steve describes it as a noticeable lack of tension. Peace. The kind made possible by God's Spirit.

Even the primitive straw and mud structures had been noticeably improved upon. It seemed that as the Spirit gained influence in their lives, the chaos and destruction of Animism was losing ground to the intentionality and order God created humans to conduct our lives with.

The ITMI team learned that three to four nights a week, most of the small, remote village gathered to listen to the New Testament read aloud from this strange "black speaking box" in a language they could understand!

The Father, in His sovereign goodness was preparing the village for what was about to happen.

A delegate from another denomination was sent to plant a church in this village. The "pastor" came with all the elements needed to win the reverence of most African villagers; funds to construct a structure, a title, and a group of people who sent him.

But what he taught was contrary to what they'd heard directly from God's Word. The villagers told him so, and most declined to attend.

It's fairly well-known that it is easy to con rural dwellers. They have little knowledge and no literature with which to prove you wrong.

In the same year, an entrepreneur from Nigeria set up shop in this village. Among other things, his trading post sold home made alcohol, in hopes of creating a loyal (addicted) client base.

He was surprised to discover that these villagers could not be coaxed and manipulated into building his fortune. These villagers knew God's Word and avoided falling prey to the trappings of the drink.

SOUTH SUDAN, 2018

IT WASN'T WHAT YOU'D EXPECT PENNILESS refugees returning home to ask for.

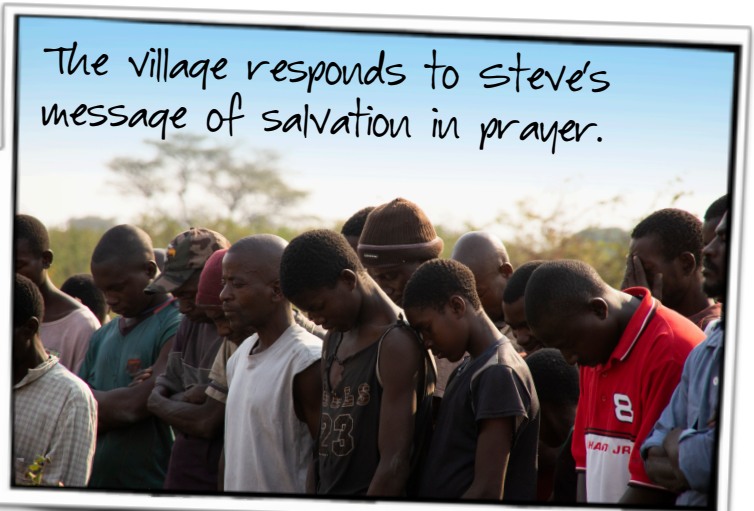
When our South Sudanese partner, [Lazarus Yezinai](#), passed it along, we weren't sure we'd read it properly.

What you'd expect them to say was, "Feed us?! Provide for our children?!"

After all, the situation they returned to was bleak. The job market was non-existent. Fields of crops had been ravaged. Roads were muddy, flooded and impassible, preventing outside aid from reaching them.

With little to eat and no available jobs, their request wasn't for food or money.

It was for access to God's Word, and the opportunity to learn from it on a regular basis.



God's Word gave them hope. It crystallized a clear path through the fog of pain, past trauma, and uncertainty. They recognized those lasting gifts were better than a meal that lasts only a few hours.

UGANDA, 2018

THE BRIGHT AUTUMN SUN HIGHLIGHTED THE sea of golden jumpers and gowns in the Kauga Prison courtyard.

The crowd of prisoners listened intently as ITMI's [Muhindo Kawede](#) brilliantly helped his incarcerated audience connect with a famous prisoner, a murderer widely recognized for the Spirit's use of him to spread the Good News to the ends of the ancient known world. An

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From the Director



Dear Team:

Beneath the Runaround, God is in Control

The call took almost an hour. Fifty-six minutes to be exact. It was not a call of desperation, but a request for help. [David and Taru](#), our partners in Bangalore, India have experienced, once again, the uncaring over reaction of a government system that is both against terrorism...and anything that is not Hindu.

Taru headed to the bank for the fairly normal task of withdrawing the funds graciously given to help them live and minister as they educate and care for children and women of the local Muslim slum.

But Taru was met with something unexpected at the bank.

She was pummeled with questions about where the money was from and why people would be sending her funds. After the difficult conversation, the over-zealous bank manager instructed Taru to "reject" the funds because the bank was not going to release them.

This is a game Zambian banks have been playing for years. They use the wired funds, then claim that the funds "haven't been received yet." Years ago, after a 6 week financial merry-go-round with a Zambian bank regarding the funds urgently needed for a final payment on the newly acquired school building for ITMI's [Excellence Christian Academy](#), ITMI's founder, **Bill Bathman**, called the bank manager directly (which was not an easy task in those days).

Bill graciously, but forcefully informed the stonewaller that if Eugene Kalunga, who was standing outside the bank doors, didn't leave the bank with all the funds that ITMI had wired, the next call would be to all of the media outlets in Zambia and inform them that this bank and this manager was not to be trusted with their money. After some blustering on the other end of the line, Eugene left the bank with every Kwacha (Zambian currency) that was due him. Hidden beneath this financial quagmire, God was at work. He was revealing to all that He is able to calm the storms when we think it's impossible.

Some of the long-time ITMI partners may remember this story of helping Eugene get a real school building for his fledgling Christian elementary school. If you haven't heard the story or don't remember all the details, allow me to give "the rest of the story."

The brief version is that Bill had worked very hard to share Eugene's need for a proper school building there in Zambia. ITMI's supporters like you, gave over \$14,700 of the needed \$20,000+. Then, the donations mysteriously stopped coming in. This amount was exceptional and deeply appreciated, but it was not enough to complete the transaction that stood before Eugene. Some people might be led to ask God, "You have brought us this far, why have you just stopped providing....?" Not Bill and Eugene. They knew God could provide, and that He would in His time and in His way.

Then, the story gets really sweet. Eugene had, at Bill's faith-driven instruction, bid the equivalent of \$20,000 in Kwacha for an old railroad office complex that was worth about a third more than Eugene's almost impossible bid. Eugene won, due to some other bidders' under-the-table dealings. He needed to produce the Kwacha equivalent to \$20,000 USD. What we all didn't know was that while the bank stalled for six weeks, God was going to cause the U.S. dollar to gain in strength while the Zambian Kwacha lost strength. When the bank released the funds, \$14,700 USD was exactly the amount of Kwachas needed to complete the purchase. God had it in His control all the time.

Our partners live these challenges almost every day. Pray with us for wisdom, encouragement, and Spirit-prompted solutions to the policies, procedures and people that the enemy tries to use to stop God's people from being obedient in taking HIS truth to the nations.

In His Service,



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author whose work still shapes our modern society.

This historic author's message contained exceptionally Good News for this demographic in particular. Their pasts - however dark - won't stop the Almighty from erasing their sin, forgiving them, adopting them and using them mightily for His Kingdom. If He can do that with the Apostle Paul, He is more than able to do it for them.

If there were ever a place that needed followers of Jesus to live as citizens of His coming Kingdom, it's African prisons. Necessities aren't provided for detainees, creating a scarcity-driven ecosystem where it must seem like only the strongest and most feared survive.

Muhindo Kawede was delivering this message of hope at a graduation ceremony for 63 of the prisoners who attended the [International School of Missions' Portable Bible School](#), a basic but comprehensive theology course, delivered right inside the lock-up walls.

Learning solid Biblical doctrine illuminated by experienced and well-studied teachers [was life-changing for the convicts who attended](#).

One prisoner said, "It's through this Portable Bible School I felt loved and valued...this Bible school has given me a reason to live again instead of suicidal thoughts that kept ringing into my head."

Another commented that the course, "helped me understand the love of God for men."

Following the course, the International School of Missions was asked by officials to plant a Sunday gathering - a worship



service - inside Kauga prison. The first meeting took place in January.

As the Holy Spirit pushes this outreach into Almighty-sized accomplishments, Kawede has an urgent request.

The graduates need Bibles. They are excited to discover more from God's Word after getting a taste of its goodness. They are eager to study, but most don't have a copy of the Lord's revelation of Himself to mankind.

Kawede can put as many as we can fund in the hands of inmates. We can purchase a printed copy of the Bible in Uganda for \$25.00 USD. Last month, another round of the Portable Bible School began in Kauga. There is also talk of offering this highly effective Bible course in a maximum security prison with a population of 10,000 later this year.

Our conclusion? Well, it's something Isaiah recorded long ago. Like the rain and snow does not return to the heavens without making the earth bud and flourish, when God's Word goes out, it will not fail to accomplish God's purposes. (Isaiah 55:10)

Banking on this promise, we would like to keep putting printed and audio Bibles in the hands of those who seek to know the King of Kings more deeply. If you agree, you can help our partners [place a Bible in the hands of someone who needs one with a gift of \\$25](#) for a printed Bible and [\\$55 USD for an audio Bible](#).

Getting God's Word into the right hands is a guaranteed investment. He promises it will not return empty.

Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

For Praise

1. South Sudan - Lazarus Yezinai - The opportunity to return to Bor last month to encourage the hurting with God's Word.
2. Romania - Bans - The opportunities for the Ukrainian church to demonstrate and declare the Good News in war-zones.
3. South Sudan - Jahim Buli - 32 baptized in the Nile River, which led to Jahim preaching the Good News for bystanders.
4. Zambia - Eugene Kalunga - ECA has been reaching and providing Christian education for at-risk youth for 22 years!

For Prayer

1. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - Guidance and endurance as Piotr and his team near the completion of the literal Bible translation.
2. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - Recovery of wife, Krystyna, after slipping on ice and shattering her elbow.
3. India - Paul and Molly - Protection for their family as they reach out to the village of people considered "untouchable."
4. Uganda - Muhindo Kawede - Provision for the discipling of the many reached through the prison Bible course.
5. Zambia - Johan Leach - Lesley's ongoing recovery from surgery earlier this year.



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