

# Witchcraft and Corruption: 3 Eye-Opening Stories

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*"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves... against the Lord."*  
Psalm 2:1-2a

## SOUTH AFRICA - ZAMBIA

Our partners in Zambia, Timothy and Ashley Keller told this story,

*As Dora watched the boys yelling and throwing stones, she wondered what kind of snake they were trying to kill. She decided she had better go make sure it wasn't a big one that would end up biting them or a spitting cobra that could injure their eyes. As she approached she heard a pathetic mewling and realized the boys were stoning a tiny kitten!*

*In shock and horror, Dora chased the boys away and scooped up the kitten. It was shivering, covered in fleas, and probably not more than a week old. As she attempted to find its home, she was urged by the boys and other bystanders to allow it to be killed. "It is a witch! You must not allow it to live!"*

*People followed her all the way back to our house, insisting that she couldn't be serious about keeping this "witch" alive.*

*They were serious. They truly believed the kitten was a witch. These beliefs are continuously harming more than innocent kittens.*

The Kellers continue,

*Recently an older woman was dragged to the hospital by her daughter. The woman was very, very sick with a high fever and confusion. After some examination, it was apparent that she*

*had malaria. She also had all kinds of amulets and protective tattoos and smelled of smoke (the questionable kind).*

*This presents a problem.*

*You have a woman who needs life-saving medicines... but they could interact with whatever "muti"*

*concoction that the witch doctor has had her on (could be anything from normal tea to chicken blood to psychotic herbs, etc).*

*So instead of going straight on medication, the woman needed to be flushed with fluids and stabilized first. Malaria acts fast on the elderly. Adding time before*

*treating could cost her life.*

Serving in Zulu Natal, South Africa ITMI's Fifi Smith and Kelly and Cherise Smith also face the effects of witchcraft in her daily life and ministry.

As a fellow Zulu with a true servant's heart, Fifi is welcomed into many homes. The people she interacts with are often open to hearing about Jesus and the Good News when she shares. But they get hung up in the process of truly acknowledging the Lordship and power of the Son of God.

"They are scared of what the ancestors will do to them if they leave Animism behind and follow Jesus," Fifi explains.

The Kellers continue, "Witchcraft and its associated beliefs, fears, and



Timothy and Ashley  
**KELLER**



Cherise, Kelly, Wyatt,  
Zoey and Fifi  
**SMITH**



Charl and Sonja  
**VAN WYK**

# COZMORE AND CHARL TEAM UP TO REACH ZIMBABWE

## SOUTH AFRICA

### He saw something out his window that compelled him to pull over and stop.

Cozmore was driving home from another town to his city, Durbanville. What he saw was actually something you see often in South Africa, but still, Cozmore delayed his return home to alight his vehicle and get closer.

#### What did he see?

It was group of boys playing “football” (soccer). Cozmore loved to play soccer, so he asked the boys if he could play.

It turned out that the boys lived in an informal township which they called “kliphuewel”, meaning [Stone Hill](#). After playing soccer with the boys, Cozmore saw their nearby shanty town. His compassion took over and he began regularly coming to Stone Hill to play sports with the boys.

Others joined. Women started reaching out to the girls offering crafts and activities. Local churches started donating mattresses. And the rest is history. Today

the ministry at Stone Hill has grown to involve many, and has seen the fruit of changed lives.

After the ministry at Stone Hill took off, Cozmore, a Zimbabwean legally was forced to return to his home country.

He and ITMI's **Charl van Wyk** have partnered to reach out to a few remote villages in Zimbabwe. They've offered gospel camps for the young men as well as a gospel camp for their parents, they've helped provide for local pastors and ministries by installing maize mills, they've helped a survivor of a croc attack get his painfully mangled leg amputated.

Recently, they supplied young girls in those villages with feminine hygiene products. Cozmore's wife educated them on how to use the items supplied. This simple outreach will help prevent infection and the spread of disease in this impoverished place.

Charl called Cozmore the “father” of the thriving and fruitful ministry at Stone Hill. Now together with the help of generous supporters, they are seeking to demonstrate and declare the gospel in similar ways to a new group of people.



Cozmore and his family.



Charl at the thriving Stone Hill ministry center.



Gospel and Discipleship camps in remote Zimbabwe.

*(continued from p.1)*

practices undergird every aspect of life here. In counseling many of the issues are rooted in witchcraft. For example, a married couple believed they couldn't stop fighting because someone had hidden a cursed object in their house. It wasn't *their* fault that they didn't get along! While the day to day problems need to be handled (very carefully), the underlying system needs to be addressed and changed.”

Witchcraft isn't the only systemic issue that God's truth revolutionizes.

ITMI's [Charl van Wyk](#) of South Africa and his ministry co-worker in Zimbabwe, Cozmore, were recently blessed by supporters who helped purchase a ministry vehicle that would enhance their outreach to the

marginalized and impoverished in remote villages in Zimbabwe.

The purchase was well-researched and planned by Charl and Cozmore. By God's grace and provision, they overcame several legal obstacles to find and purchase a Toyota Harrier, the exact model that would best suit their mission needs.

Since certain import vehicles aren't allowed to be driven on South African roads, to purchase this Toyota, you need to have it loaded on and taken by carrier truck outside South Africa, where you can pick it up. Purchasing a quality vehicle in Zimbabwe is almost impossible because the Zimbabwean economy is in such shambles.

That's when they faced another hurdle.

There were riots in two cities on the truck's route. Each vehicle buyer with a vehicle on the carrier transporting Cozmore's Toyota had to pony up an extra \$80 for private security to accompany the truck.

“When Cozmore collected our vehicle in Zimbabwe he was charged [by the Zimbabwean government] more than 100 percent import taxes—on the 20-year-old car. Plus, [during transit] all the petrol had been drained from the tank. Oh yes. And the battery was stolen,” Charl reported.

When Cozmore went to register the car at his local state office in Zimbabwe, the officials wanted to tax

*(continued on p.4)*



# From the Director



## Dear Team: The Latest News and Lessons from the Field

It was a text you wouldn't want to receive. The photos that came with it provided visual confirmation of the news.

Paul and Molly, our humble and faithful partners in India, so passionately want to reach the unreached and forgotten of that billion and a half person strong country. As we have shared with you in the past, Paul wants to minister to the people that are, and have been labeled the "Untouchables." The specific village that he has currently adopted is called the "Fox Village" (English translation). These people need everything that you and I could easily take for granted. They didn't even have the ability to shower and go to the bathroom with privacy. (By the way, that's changing soon, thanks to ITMI supporters!)

Paul placed a call and contracted with a drilling company. It was the very same drilling company that was able to find water multiple times on Paul and Molly's girls home property. Finding water on their property was totally an answer to prayer since almost no one in the surrounding community were able to find any semblance of water in their attempts to drill for this precious liquid. Paul was hoping and praying for another display of God's unique provision as he brought the driller to the nearby Untouchable's village in hopes of providing them with clean, safe water. The village people cheered and were most animated in their realization that something was really going to happen, that someone really cared for them and was proving it.

The well driller searched all over the village for a promising spot to drill. There was only one location that had any indication of possibly being successful in tapping underground water. Five hundred feet of drilling later...the powdery, dry dust that was once in the ground, now lay on the surface with zero, none, no water at all. A dry hole! This was not the outcome any of us was hoping for.

Failure is never fun. The world seems to gloat and even smugly praise the failure of others. The enemy must gloat often as he "comes to steal, kill and destroy..." (John 10:10). But our Father has ways we haven't even begun to understand that turn human failures into events that bring glory to Him and His name.

The great thing is, this well - or future well - belongs to our Heavenly Father. His ways are not always our ways. So, we can rest in this human failure and know that He is doing something that we can not yet understand. Paul was momentarily disappointed, but he knows God will provide in His time and in His way. Pray with us that we will be more concerned in following God's plan than in finding water.

We will be sharing with you in the coming months a really great, yet large need in Zambia with the Kellers. Their ministry has grown to a focal point in the Kabwe, Zambia area. They have a steady stream of opportunities to host increasingly larger groups - police, pastors, church leaders, mission teams from all over the world - to do intense and intentional training and discipling.

Many of you know the benefit of having gone to a summer church camp as a young person. If you didn't get to experience this highly effective time of "getting away" from one's normal life, you might miss some of the richness of this generation's old discipling experience. Most Africans have not experienced this beneficial camp-like isolation of "getting away" where God seems to be able to speak through the normal loud "noise" that makes His still, small voice that much more difficult to hear. Tim and Ashley are being called to step out in faith and build a small, and by our standards, simple retreat on their currently bare property that doesn't even yet house their own needed home. They also don't know how God is going to provide for this, but Tim is ready to break ground when God moves the likes of you and I to help them provide that life stopping, life changing, life growing retreat where God many times provides a personal revolution in one's heart, mind and soul.

In His Service,



God continues to grow  
Tim's reach in Kabwe.

(continued from p.2)

him because the vehicle was in pristine condition.

Then, as Cozmore and Charl breathed a sigh of relief, thinking the project was complete, the police showed up at Cozmore's home, "sniffing around to find out how a missionary [in Zimbabwe] could afford a car in such dire economic circumstances."

This short recount of the Charl and Cozmore's experience exposes the everyday consequences regular people face when living under systems that aren't based on God's principles.

Charl noted, "A very BIG thank you to ITMI, every church and friend who played a part in making this purchase a reality. We honestly can't thank you enough!"

Ironically, the riots that created an extra expense for Charl and Cozmore, were in protest of this very problem: South Africans are tired of the corruption and its widespread, devastating results. Sadly, without someone to tell them, many aren't turning to Biblical truth and trust in the Lord.

Recently in South Africa, while protesting raised university tuition, one student said, "There's nothing more violent than poverty and we come from poverty-stricken homes *and that is why we are fighting for free education.*" (emphasis ours).

Another said, "If you want people to have a shot at changing the social-economic reality that they've inherited, then you have to prioritise higher education."

While degrees and education can certainly be a channel the Lord uses to bless and provide, it isn't the answer. Salvation doesn't come from demanding handouts like free education. Salvation and change come from Jesus, and the news of His saving power that is truly, Good News.

It's His change permeating hearts and lives that removes the need to pursue the lining of your own pocket at another's

expense. It's His change that lets people trust Him to provide for them enough to care for the vulnerable and needy in their midst. It's His change that brings peace between warring tribes whose battles have uprooted and impoverished countless masses. It's knowing that He can be good to His people - no matter what - that would allow those who oppress the poor in search of personal power and control to relinquish it.

Yet, as our partners seek to truly help the impoverished in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe by offering them this same truth and Good News that would set them free while meeting physical needs in Jesus name, they are met with constant hassles and obstacles.

The desperate need for Biblical truth around them is why our partners are propelled to reach out, serve, sacrifice and risk their own comfort, safety and health.

In his 20+ years serving in Africa, Timothy has over 18 incidents of malaria, 2 cases of Bilharzia, suffered sunstroke 2 times, had amoebic dysentery countless times, tick bite fever, giardia, arsenic poisoning, lead poisoning, salmonella, thelazia (eye worms!) and blood-borne fungi, to name a few.

Earlier this year, Tim said, "The risks are real, but the reward of serving where we are called is so much greater."

It is our prayer that the glaring chaos of life in a godless society would be a reminder to those of you who have made sacrifices in Jesus' name that your heartfelt prayer, partnership and contributions are important.

Those sacrificial and generous donations that keep our partners in the field mean there are silos of clarity and light in the midst of chaos and darkness.

May we continue to rely on Jesus as the true answer to the issues faced by our societies and countries, and may we all sacrificially offer what we have in His name to make Him known among the nations.

Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

**The risks are  
real, but the  
reward of  
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-Tim Keller

## For Praise

1. Poland - Andrew Gorski - Completion of a new tool equipping pastors and leaders to share the Good News!
2. Uganda - Muhindo Kawede - 76 graduates of the 2nd prison Bible course, many of them who came to faith during the course.
3. Romania - Casa Dorca Orphanage - Young man who lived there since he was 5, received Christ while there, has demonstrated maturity, held a job and officially "left" the home, a healthy believer and citizen.

## For Prayer

1. South Sudan - Lazarus Yezinai - Perceived violations of past agreements between government parties threatens to turn violent.
2. India - David and Taru Kumar - Provision of funds to seize an opportunity to expand their facility by leasing space next door.
3. India - Paul and Molly - Protection and guidance in ministering to a society increasingly hostile to Christians.
4. Zambia - Timothy Keller - Provision of materials for Ruben Mwale's church after locals burned down previous structure.
5. USA - ITMI - Provision for expenses of sending ITMI teams on mission visits to our partners.



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