

One Year Later, What Difference Does Clean Water and the Gospel Make?

ITMI

Monthly

1 NOVEMBER 2019

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"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

- Psalm 118:8

ZAMBIA

ITMI's [Kent Reisenauer](#) arrived at the Lusaka airport, weary after over 24 hours of travel.

With some trepidation, he began to search the baggage claim area for the black, plastic tubs that bore cargo important to the ministries of several ITMI partners as well as his own personal baggage.

With relief, he located the two black tubs. But his clothing and personal items were nowhere to be found.

Kent realized he had a choice to make.

Would he be confident in his own ability to cope with the demands of travel without his personal necessities? Or would he put his confidence in the Lord's provision?

As he made the choice to be confident in the Lord's ability to meet his needs, he found it easier to bear the fruit of patience. Lasting patience grows out of trust in the Lord.

Kent and ITMI partner in Zambia, [Timothy Keller](#), arrived at [Johan and Lesley Leach](#)'s home and ministry base outside the small trading post settlement of Chavuma, Zambia. Kent's personal baggage was among the cargo bouncing in the back of the 4x4 bakkie.

Just east of the wide Zambezi River, Chavuma is the site of one of the few places along the Zambezi where you can load your vehicle on a barge and cross the river with it.

West of the wide and meandering home to crocs and hippos, the flood plains are home to the Luvale tribe, whose small villages dot the plains.

Further west lies the border of Communist Angola, and beyond that, more Luvale villages.

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The ministry base was buzzing as the rebuilding of Johan and Lesley's home was in full swing.

Just two months before Kent and Tim's arrival, the Leaches had watched their newly built home go up in flames along with all their personal items.

Over the last two months, ITMI supporters responded with a generous outpouring of their own resources to help the Leaches rebuild. During his visit to Chavuma, Kent observed the Leaches confidence in the Lord's provision, and noticed that it was yielding peace and patience with the exhausting process.

Out on the plains, in villages that received the gift of clean, safe water last year, Kent saw first hand the impact we've made by providing clean, safe water nearby.

No longer did the villagers open themselves up to disease by drinking water from hand-dug, holes in the ground contaminated by animals and insects.

The villagers have reclaimed hours once spent hauling water for other endeavors such as gardening. Kent's group even loaded a large bag of ground cassava flour into their vehicle to take back to Chavuma for sale - something that hasn't been possible before!

Just outside the village, bright green young plants burst from the earth in rows.

Where once the villagers ate almost exclusively empty carbs to feel full, tomatoes, onions, cabbage, and lettuce have transformed meals into better-rounded, more nutritious and tastier fare.

But that's not even the best part!

Following this huge demonstration of a free gift - something virtually unheard of in Animistic cultures like that of the Luvala tribe - local evangelists and pastors have been visiting the villages monthly.

In each visit, they're revealing more of the Biblical love story of a



With clean water nearby, growing vegetables is an option and improves nutrition!



Now villagers have time to grind surplus Cassava flour to sell in Chavuma.



The drillers arrive in a village near the Angola border!



Kent gives village children a taste of the Lord's love and care for them.



At long last, the fence begins to go up at 7 Rivers!

Creator who lost his people when they rebelled and sharing the Good News that the Lord's grand plan to redeem and restore His creation to Himself has already been carried out and made available to them by Jesus Christ in these villages.

This year, our supporters rallied together and sacrificially funded the drilling of five more boreholes to bring all these blessings to the villages of Mangowa, Kateka, Kakanga, Mutamba and Kaulangoji.

The villages strategically chosen to be the recipients were located near the Angola border.

These wells will also serve as a way-point for the evangelists trained through Johan's ministry traveling across the flood plains on foot, allowing them to push further west into Angola with the Good News.

As the drillers punched through the layers of dirt with their towering equipment, the village rejoiced.

It had been about a year since Johan visited the villages to discuss the borehole with the chiefs and survey the area for a good location. The villagers had waited patiently.

Perhaps they were leery of yet another promise like the many before that had not been kept. But their utter lack of resources and abilities to have a borehole drilled in their village meant they had to wait patiently to see if Johan's team would keep their word.

Now the evangelists can show them where they can place their trust and never be let down - a Father that loves them and is drawing them to Him.

Throughout the rest of the trip, Kent would see our partners demonstrating that patience that stems from confidence in the Lord's provision.

He noted our partner **Eugene Kalunga** and the Administration at **Excellence Christian Academy** patiently waiting for the Lord to provide for their needs, from the completion of the new village school Eugene is building, to the daily provision needed for operations, like

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From the Director



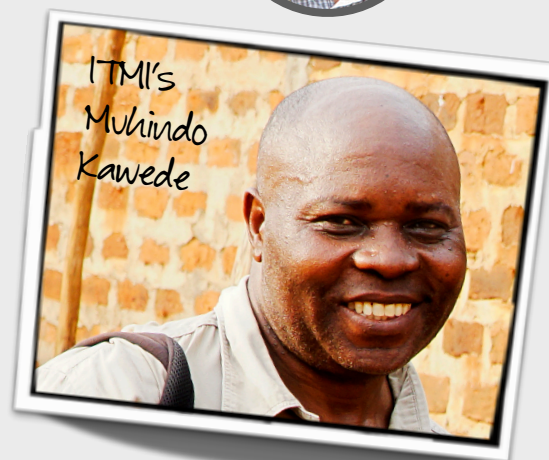
Dear Team: A gift that means much, much more than the dollar amount given.

Every time we tell our story (our testimony) we give honor and glory to God, and He is pleased with that.

Your story - my story - regardless of how “spectacular” or “ordinary” we think it is - is a story about God’s character. It is our eyewitness account of how God rescued us from sin and death through Christ, and changed our life as a result.

When we share our story with others we help them get to know what God is like and what He can do.

Allow me to share with you a testimony from [Muhindo Kawede](#), our partner in Uganda. I hope you can read between the lines and experience some of the challenges he had and the unfairness directed at him by church leaders in the Congo when he “spoke the truth in love” to them.



I gave my life to Jesus in 1977 in Democratic Republic of Congo. The Lord led me to start preaching on the streets, market places, and to my family. In 1979, my local Baptist Church hired me as a youth without money and transportation. I had to struggle to look for a bicycle to supervise village Baptist churches on my own cost. I accomplished that mission because of love and zeal to fulfill God’s great commission. Neither salary nor transport [did] I received from my local Baptist church.

I was elected as a youth pastor, evangelist and a board member in partnership of German partner with our [Congo] Baptist churches. Money sent for ministry and development was put into [local Congolese] leaders pockets. Then I raised an alarm as a board member between Sarbrücken Germany and Baptist churches. As a consequences, all my ministry rights of vehicle, scholarship for Bible schooling was stopped. I remember, the youth of Germany invited me to represent the Baptist church, but the top Reverend Pastor denied me the Germany church visa and air ticket and the pastor son was chosen on my behalf to travel to Germany [for] a full month.

My Baptist church denied scholarship to me and transportation when I was in Kenya for [education for] 10 years. I looked after my family and school fees by working on campus 70 hours per week. The same at Master[s] level.

My adventure into missionary journey has not been easy from Congo to Uganda from 2000 up to now. Lack of transportation made me failed to preach and equip leaders in various parts of Uganda. I failed to visit Alumni of ISM because of lack of transport. Lack of transport has separated me from the people who need my help, counseling and preaching and the Portable Bible school.

I, therefore write to Charlotte and Mike to thank them from the bottom of my heart that this vehicle will enable me to take the love and compassion of Jesus Christ to prison[s], to the poor, the rich in Parliament. The car will facilitate [me] to preach [in] both ISM church and prison.

This car will increase 10 times what I failed to accomplish in ministry [for] 42 years ago. Mike and Charlotte, you have empowered me in the mission field. I have a debt to God and to you to see Africa transformed with the love of Jesus. May God bless the work of your hands all over the world. Amen. -Kawede

Can you feel the gratitude in his words? Can you visualize what this gift has done for his heart and belief in God’s provision?

If you would like to help us get Kawede this vehicle, there is still \$5000 needed to get a good used vehicle that can stand up to the many unpaved village and bush roads. I also feel led to help him with some funds to deal with the reoccurring maintenance issues of driving a vehicle to reach places that desperately need Jesus. Kawede thanks you in advance for your prayers for strength to carry on faithfully and for your help in empowering him to do more ministry.

Blessings,

P.S. Your gifts mean the world to our partners. They provide so much more than the means to accomplish Kingdom work.

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new tables for the students.

He witnessed the fruit of ITMI's **Kelly and Cherise Smith's** patience. They patiently waited for years and trusted him through setbacks and thefts before they could begin planting crops on their rural property in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

While Kent was visiting, at long last, they began erecting a simple but effective fence around their property. The fence was something they needed to do because of intense thievery, but at the same time, were reluctant to do.

They want a warm and welcoming presence in the community, but now that their hospitality has been established with years of building relationships, the fence can be erected to protect crops from theft and animals and soon they can begin growing produce to benefit their ministry among the Zulu tribe in South Africa. (Much more about the Smith's impact in South Africa can be found on our website, including a recent interview with Kelly and Cherise!)

As Americans saturated in an individualistic, self-reliant society valuing responsibility and hard work, it's easy to rely on ourselves. After all, in many senses, we are



THEY CALL IT
LOVE AND
ENCOURAGEMENT.
WE CALL IT THE GENERAL FUND.

Your year-end contribution to the ITMI General Fund enables our staff to provide the support our partners in the field rely on.



"We are encouraged and feel we are loved..."

-Johan Leach, ITMI partner, Zambia

"God uses the ITMI team to extend God's grace and provision across the ocean...ITMI makes what we do possible."

-Ashley Keller, ITMI partner, Zambia

CLICK TO GIVE NOW

empowered and capable. We have many resources at our fingertips.

But when we are stripped of those powers by circumstance, travel or disaster - or even by intentionally giving sacrificially - we truly learn to put our confidence in the beyond capable hands

of the sovereign Lord who loves us and eagerly lavishes us with good provision.

This is - we believe - one of the reasons He asks us to give. Because He wants us to know the joy of true dependence on Him.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

For Praise

1. Romania - Adi and Ema Ban - The provision of a place for their ministry meetings through a local grant from their city.
2. Zambia - Johan Leach - Two groups of Zambian pastors and evangelists equipped to share Jesus across the river last month!
3. South Sudan - Lazarus Yezinai - Opportunities for his entire family to lead their neighbors in worship each evening!
4. USA - Upcoming opportunities to support two partners in aiding those in need of income through the sale of hand-made crafts.
5. Poland - Jim La Rose - The Lord's provision and confirmation of his ministry to marginalized families in Poland by providing a place for Jim to live in ways only He could.

For Prayer

1. India - Paul and Molly - Comfort as they and their 19 girls yearn to be back in their village home, all together again. Some of the girls suffered anxiety, sleeping and stomach issues after the traumatic move.
2. Zimbabwe - Charl van Wyk - Communist government's release of property given to Cozmore's ministry after more than a year of red tape barring progress.
3. USA - Continued support and provision for ITMI and our partners.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

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