

Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MISSION

international

Monthly

1 December 2019

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

Merry Christmas from Your Partners

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



Muhindo and Lillian Kawede

Uganda

What was the most significant moment of 2019?

The most significant moment was to be able to equip 235 prisoners through the Portable Bible School and

Sunday services in Kauga prison. We witnessed more than 200 inmates repenting of their sin and accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior. These saved prisoners included Muslims, Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventists, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and other African traditional religious denominations.

What did your supporters enable you and your ministry to accomplish for His Kingdom this year?

As we confess in Africa "I am because we are." I am so grateful that my supporters sacrificed their last dollar to provide funds to reach out to prisoners, students and my family. Neither ISM students nor prisoners could have been equipped without the supporters' *agape* donation to ISM. In Kiswahili we say "*Asante sana, Mungu awabariki*" (Thank you so, so much and may God bless you).

What do you want your supporters to know?

My great joy is that we have a bigger faith family that enabled ITMI /ISM to equip and empower Christ-like Africans making them agents of transformation in their respective communities and churches. Our donors' support has enabled us to defend/contend the true Gospel against [prosperity gospel teachers who are exploiting poor Ugandans](#) to expect Christmas food without working. I pray that God will reward our donors beyond measure who have enabled ISM/ITMI to witness hundred of saved souls in prison and ISM communities.

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Gerhard and Elmane le Roux

South Africa

What was the most significant moment of 2019?

A few months ago, one of the elderly ladies [from our community] was very sick. She struggled to breathe and

we hurried to get her to the clinic to receive oxygen. She ended up in the hospital. When she was discharged, she came to stay with us. It was a privilege to serve her. God used her illness to bring us closer to her whole family. While she was with us, many of her friends and family came to visit her. We took turns reading to her from the Bible and praying with her. We marked special verses in her Bible and she also colored pictures with scripture verses, which now are decorations on her wall. In the Lord's time and in His ways He will open doors. To God all the glory.

What did your supporters enable you and your ministry to accomplish for His kingdom this year?

We are thankful to our supporters who made it possible for us to purchase items that is a great asset to our mission. We could buy chairs and foldable tables that we can move to different places and use for the chess club and other outreaches. We were also able to buy small milking goat rams that will help to improve our goat herd. (The milking goats are an important part of our mission since they supply milk for the kitchen.) Thank you for all the donations that made it possible for us to continue with the Lord's work here in Onseepkans.

What do you want your supporters to know?

Dear friends, thank you for your support and prayers! We would not be able to do what we do if it was not for you and the Lord's grace! We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and New Year. 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

Poland

What was the most significant moment of 2019?

The publishing of the literal translation of the Bible (an ESV

type) from Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek to Polish with 20,000 footnotes, so this is the first Polish Evangelical Study Bible. It occurred in July 2019.

What are you thankful for from 2019?

First, for the publishing mentioned above. Second, this year marks the 42nd year in my ministry in general and 30 years in pastorate. Third, this coming December we complete our next 3-year developmental period in K5N. Fourth, this year we celebrate the planting of the 10th church in the city of Poznań and 3 outside of them. Fifth, to understand me better, my wife completes her psychiatry specialty. Sixth, I had a wonderful year of creativity.

Describe a time this year when you needed encouragement. How did God provide?

Wow! In April 2019, I was in the need of being invited again to teach in the [local Polish] university. For reasons too complex to describe in one sentence only a miracle could get me back. Well. That miracle occurred the next day. My old university coworker came to the church on Sunday to bring me an invitation to the university.

What did your supporters enable you and your ministry to accomplish for His kingdom this year?

1. Publish the translation of the Bible.
2. Proclaim the Gospel and teach the Bible in some auditoriums well-suited for this purpose.
3. Build the Bible Translator Library.
4. Translate the Septuagint.
5. Prepare internet [Bible] courses.
6. Upgrade our equipment.

What do you want your supporters to know?

Dear supporters, please, accept our thank you in an awareness that God will repay you even more: Mark 9:41.



Paul and Molly

India

Describe a time this year when you needed encouragement. How did God provide?

This year we had to take drastic measures and hide and separate our girls in pairs in the city - everything about this decision has been hard, as we have built a beautiful life on our farm these past years. But we believe God was leading us to take this step for their safety. We did not realize the tremendous discouragement and attack of uncertainty and even doubt we would fall under after taking this huge step. We were tested in sleepless nights and anxiety as our girls faced their own fears apart from us, rebellion to this direction and even sicknesses, including typhoid. In God's provision and kindness, He sent friends to visit us in India about a month into this big move for our girls. It was a huge provision of the Lord as we were able to fellowship and be refreshed in their godliness, they ministered to each of our children in games, helping with homework and coming alongside us to serve the body and our people. They even took Paul and me on a little holiday to enjoy the nature of India - in a time we wouldn't have given ourselves permission to leave at all! God was so kind as to refresh us on every level, to meet us in our need. We thank many other precious ones who have traveled out here even when it wasn't convenient or even safe, to teach and give of themselves standing alongside us.

What did your supporters enable you and your ministry to accomplish for His kingdom this year?

We are giving thanks with all our hearts for the miracle of our much prayed-for [future] school and first purchase of land for it. We have cried out to the Lord for years now and with your help and by God's grace, we will begin building the first phase this year and now this land will show the glory of God and not only serve to hide and protect our girls keeping them together again, but serve as a conduit for many unreached to receive the Gospel!

By God's grace with your help we are in the final stages of building the restrooms for the Fox people some call "untouchable" - a rough, indigenous unreached hunter group we want to bring the Gospel to. There was an uprising in the neighboring village to stop our efforts in fear that we would bring the Gospel - even chasing away the bulldozers. But by the grace of God, local leaders and officials have stood with us as witnesses that we are helping better their way of life and supporting our work to build the bathrooms. The people are eager for the restrooms as they have been without dignity these years making holes in the ground to relieve themselves, in the midst of people watching.

We have been able to organize and promote over ten pastor fellowship conferences complete with games, meals, time of refreshment together and shared materials. Our church gives a monthly stipend to about 50 widows we are blessed to care for and love. There is not enough room on this letter to fit all the ministry that is going on here through our family and church body with your help and loving commitment! We are running Sunday schools in 15 locations around the city reaching out to nearly 600 children weekly, daily our volunteers teach in our 8 tutor centers - weekly helping about 270 children who are neglected in their studies in much need of love. Our weekly women's group has 30 coming as God also raises up new leaders to share His Word and lead in prayer and intercession, nearly 300 attend our weekly small groups. So far 26 got baptized from January to October. Though we have lost many believers this year who wanted to go back to the prosperity teaching and that has been painful, God is stirring up hearts for discipleship as HE builds His church! Families stay after church for lunch and small groups, hungry for growth and thankful for fellowship, new worshipers are stepping forward to lead with their talents and we can see God at work as He purifies us and sends for His Word! He is great and greatly to be praised and we send our gratefulness and love to you and your family.

What do you want your supporters to know?

Now as we are parents of 20 beautiful daughters - we know the constant pressure just to keep them safe, I can not imagine my daughter telling me she's ready to leave the country and go on her own and serve the Lord in a foreign place without a team or knowing the language. I [Molly] can see the folly in all of it now and the incredible, sovereign kind hand of the Lord as He clearly called me [many years ago]. We praise God for every loving friend who's come alongside us and poured into us as we have sought after Him in the dark and followed him along these trying valleys. For each who have upheld us in prayer and given sacrificially, the mercy and love of our Abba Father is always on time, always in abundance. Instead of a decade filled with great suffering and hardship, sacrifice and going without, these years have been marked by the graciousness of our God as we worship and follow after Him in incredible provision. As we faithfully proclaim His Word, He clothes us with the riches of heaven, extending the very goodness of God through you. We know your reward will be great in heaven and the joy that will fill your hearts as your eternal fruit is revealed by His hand, as you are a part of all that's going on here for the furtherance of the Gospel. We are waiting for that great day!



Timothy and Ashley Keller

Zambia

What have you learned this year?

When you ask God for patience, be careful. He WILL give it to you. I found myself earlier this year asking God for patience. I knew

that this was going to be a painful process, but WOW. It's very easy to think of patience as a lack of passion, but it's not. Apathy is a lack of passion. Patience is the ability to hold one's self in a restful demeanor when your world is collapsing. Patience means casting your burdens onto Jesus (Psalm 55:22, 1Peter 5:7).

I've been learning patience through a host of circumstances this last year. Sometimes those circumstances seem inconsequential. Like when I'm waiting in line or for traffic to get out of my way when I'm late for an appointment. Other times have had a more significant impact. Like spending 4 and a half hours in dental chair while I listen to my dentist cut into my jaw. Or spending the next 2 weeks after the surgery eating nothing but liquids. Then there are other times, like when I spent over a month of back and forth repairs and configurations to set up a new water system on our farm. All of this requires the exercise of patience. It seems that the means to get patience is to be in circumstances where patience is required. All of this is worthwhile though because we become more complete, lacking nothing (James 1:2-4). Only then do we become more capable of reflecting the glorious nature of Christ.

The second lesson is trust. If a job needs to be done, I usually do it myself. This is the independent American mindset I was raised with. This can work for small projects, but it doesn't take long before things spiral out of control and become

extremely overwhelming. The problem I was confronted with was the issue of trust. I couldn't trust others to help. I couldn't trust God to be in control. Whenever this happens exhaustion, stress, and extreme frustration become the norm. God has been showing me more and more this year, that if I trust Him, things tend to work out just fine. The most amazing part of this is that I don't get bent out of shape. God doesn't call us to get bent out of shape. He calls on us to trust Him with everything. Even the small details. He loves us, and He is in absolute control.

What did your supporters enable you and your ministry to accomplish for His kingdom this year?

I am amazed to see how God has used our supporters to develop the school in the Lubemba village, near Kapiri Mposhi that will be modeled after ITMI's Excellence Christian Academy. With their help, we were able to install a complete water system and borehole (well), a steel water tower, 5000L (1300 gal) tank, and a solar pump to continually supply them with clean, fresh water. We were also able to construct a complete septic system and make significant strides to completing an ablution block. With all of these things in place, the kids in this village will have access to a godly education without the risk of poor sanitation. We are excited to see the generational impact that our supporters have made possible.

What do you want your supporters to know?

I can't even count the number of times this year, when we found ourselves in tremendous need. Whether this has been with the development of our projects or medical needs with our family, our supporters have come through both prayerfully and financially. God has used you to make 2019 an incredible year for His Kingdom, and we are incredibly grateful.



Steve and Darlene Evers

United States

We rejoice with you this Christmas season. God gave us the greatest gift ever given - His Son - and all that comes with Jesus' redemptive work on the cross.

We also rejoice that He has blessed us with gifts, talents, and resources that afford us the opportunities to give back to Him in many, many ways, as He has given to us.

We rest assured that many of you have already considered, prayed and decided how you are going to give in this current season, for that we are truly grateful.

If you have not yet completed your Christmas and year-end giving, would you consider becoming our partner as we, by faith, seek to obediently resource and empower the faithful national servants that God has given to us to show His love and provision?

We thank you for considering how God might lead you to be His hands and feet to the needy, the tired and the lost.

Blessings on you and your family this Christmas season.



Vicky Waraka

South Sudan

What are you thankful for?

I am so thankful for a successful operation on both my eyes, now I am strong and healthy. I am thankful God gave me

ability to share His words with many people and many received Christ as their personal Savior. He opened for me ways of traveling to Nairobi and many more states in South Sudan to share God's Word. Above all, I am so thankful because of the life God gave me and my family. I really want to thank the administration of ITMI and everyone involved there. Really, you have done a great work in my life, family and ministry.

Words cannot be enough to express my gratitude but I am praying that may God give you good health and strength to do His work throughout the entire world and keep you and your families from and attack of the enemy, protect you and keep you alive in Jesus.

What did your supporters enable you and your ministry to accomplish for His kingdom this year?

ITMI and my supporters enabled me to support many widows who struggled to provide for their families. Now they are doing business for themselves and supporting their own families. Through ITMI, I was able to support orphans who weren't able to go back to school, but now they are schooling and performing well in their studies. Those orphans now have a great future and hope for tomorrow. Because of the support I receive through ITMI, I was able to teach the Gospel to those who did not know Jesus.



David and Taru Kumar

India

What are you thankful for this year?

There are so many things we are thankful for: the ministry in the slum, training rural pastors, pastors

yielding fruit as the result of training, God's extensive protecting hands on our travels, good health, unquenching desire to serve the Master, His grace, mercy and faithfulness..we could go on. But if I have to highlight one, that is His **FAITHFULNESS**. This year began with a challenge to receive support funds due to our local bank's interpretation of law. As days and months rolled by, we were surviving on past savings but soon it began to melt away as we had big expenses such as college admission and fees for our son, Simeon. We began to be in need. Brother Steve and the ITMI family understood the urgency of the situation. This is the time, we as family as usual looked to the Lord to do something for us. There were many chances for us to be discouraged but our dear brother, Steve Evers, constantly remained in touch with us, encouraging us with words and prayer, that we should not lose our hope in what the Lord can do. Meanwhile, nothing was working. When things seemed to be getting harder, we found God working for us through a friend who advised us. When we followed his advice, the problem was solved. The Lord once again exhibited His **faithfulness** when things seemed difficult. I know one thing for sure, this was purely an answer to the prayers of our ITMI family and dear friends. A big big **THANK YOU** to all who prayed for us.

What did your supporters enable you and your ministry to accomplish for His kingdom this year?

If I have to answer this question in one sentence is this "they enabled us not to worry but fully focus on building the Kingdom of God." They enabled us to buy food, clothes, pay our medical bills, meet needs in the ministry etc. Because of our supporters' stand with us we are able to do life transforming work of the Lord. Many children who attend our education center in the slum got admission in [government] schools because of our quality teaching and are doing extremely well. Many rural pastors changed their attitude towards Muslims, from being negative to positive and from believing they are unreachable to believing they are reachable. Without the support and prayers of our supporters we would not be able to do what we are able to do now. Thank God for each of them.

What do you want your supporters to know?

It is very difficult to express our gratitude to our supporters just in words, but I would like to express our gratitude through these following words. "Wars are not won just by kings or by captains or soldiers by themselves, but by all of them, the credit must equally go to all of them." In the same way the building of Kingdom of God is not done just by the workers on the field alone, the financial supporters, prayer supporters, who encourage us through emails or call us. Without our supporters we cannot do what we are doing therefore they too are equally part and parcel of every thing that is happening here. We wish some of you (whoever can) visit us and see what the Lord is doing in and through us.



Adi and Ema Ban

Romania

What are you thankful for this year?

In early spring we received a visit from three pastors from East Ukraine,

serving in the region torn by war. I got to listen to Anatoli and Ilya sharing how the Lord continues to “write His story” amid pain and destruction. Both pastors returned home with donations to care for their families and their churches. In June, accompanied by two brothers in Christ from Oradea, I (Adi) [traveled to Ukraine](#). I was both thankful and blessed to find the water filtration system that we had taken over in February 2018 working well on the premises of the church in Toretsk. Pastor Maxim shared what a great impact they continue to have on their community through something so simple, yet vital: [pure, clean water](#). Thank you again, ITMI, for partnering with us in making a difference in this community! What a blessing to us personally and to His church in Toretsk that you,

ITMI, have embraced the vision to support nationals, and continue to do so!

What did your supporters enable you and your ministry to accomplish for His kingdom this year?

In addition to supporting Ukrainian pastors, children and youth in war-torn areas of Ukraine were able to attend VBS and summer camps through the generosity of donors. Gifts we brought over were instrumental to the pastors we are connected with and enabled them to lead these camps and share the Gospel with the children and young people.

What do you want your supporters to know?

We have been so blessed this year again by the ministry of prayer and financial contributions from ITMI supporters. The Lord is blessing and encouraging His church in Ukraine through your generosity, as well as the couples who we are discipling in Oradea, and in churches around Romania. May the Lord bless you as you open your hearts to the plight of the church in the Donbas area of Ukraine!



Lazarus Yezinai

South Sudan

What are you thankful for this year?

I am thankful to God for keeping me and my family alive, through the challenges of

sickness, death, responsibilities and many others but His grace is sufficient for me and my family. I am thankful to God for helping me to do the ministry He called me for, God gave me enough grace to move around to some states of South Sudan teaching the Word of God. This year one of the orphans whom I brought up finished her studies in medicine in Ethiopia. Without ITMI support I would not have been able to support her to finish.

What did your supporters enable you and your ministry to accomplish for His kingdom this year?

My supporters have enabled me to provide the basic needs of my family, helped me pay for solar - now my family has

light in the house and my children can study at night, facilitated my ability to travel and minister with a motorcycle, provided regular income with funds to start a farm for pigeons, paid for orphans to go to school and bought supplies, blessed the elderly and widows with food, medication and house repair, and sent me to other states to teach the SALT discipleship material, peace building and trauma healing from a Biblical perspective. During [these trainings](#) people gave their lives to Jesus Christ!

What do you want your supporters to know?

In the first place I give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who created us in His own image and gave us life through His son Jesus Christ. Secondly, my thanks to ITMI staff and specifically Steve Evers, whom God connected me with in a way that no one can understand - it was God's plan to do that, thanks to Him. Third, my gratitude goes to all my supporters for what they are doing for me and my ministry, may the Lord reward them for what they have done, may they have a full reward from the Lord God to whom they serve. I am praying for them, may God give them wisdom and understanding to know Him more. *Ephesians 1:15-17, Acts 20:35*



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INTERNATIONAL

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