

5 YEARS LATER: THE DIFFERENCE DISCIPLESHIP MAKES

ITMI
Monthly

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intouchmission.org

“My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.” - James 2:1

SOUTH AFRICA

Adanna* stared at her four-year-old grandson. His eyes were turned up at her earnestly.

He had just uttered the words that would mark a critical turning point in her life.

What Adanna’s small grandson had said was, “Grandmother, you must not drink. It is not right

Adanna lives in a small community of migrant farmers in the Northern Cape area of South Africa called Onseepkans, near the Namibia border.

Overlooked, undervalued, and impoverished, many in the town struggle with depression and alcohol, as Adanna had for the majority of her life.

She’d even contemplated suicide.

Adanna inside for a neighborly chat.

Adanna would interact with the le Roux family’s many times over the course of the following years.

As they faithfully demonstrated and declared the Gospel through their interactions with her, the le Roux’s hearts broke.

It seemed she was imprisoned by life’s baggage that was keeping



ITMI’s **Elmane le Roux** did something shockingly counter-cultural. She invited Adanna inside for a neighborly chat.

and I do not like it if you are drunk.”

He’d actually said it many times. But this time, inexplicably from a human perspective, it sank in.

In 2015, her path crossed with Jesus for the first time when she walked past Onseepkans Mission while ITMI partner, Elmane le Roux was sitting on the porch.

Elmane did something shockingly counter-cultural and invited

her separated from the Lord, trapped by alcohol and unable to see the hope they were trying to share with her.

*name changed for privacy

POLAND

In January's newsletter, we shared a story about our partner Jim La Rose and the Lord's intervention that enabled him to continue ministering in Poland. While that article was being printed, we got word that Jim had been rushed to the hospital with debilitating pain that turned out to be an aneurysm in his brain.

The situation was serious. He was immediately prepped for surgery.

The medical team discovered only a small aneurysm that could not have been responsible for the large amount of blood they had found in his spinal cord or the intensity of the pain he'd experienced.

Jim shares, "Although it is admittedly speculation, if we start with the fact that the blood in the spinal fluid had to have come from a major hemorrhaging event in my brain, but no such source was ever found, as a Christian who believes in divine miracles, the evidence suggests that there was, indeed, a "potentially fatal event" that occurred in my brain on December 22. This accounted for the blood in my spinal fluid, but the Lord divinely healed and sealed this hemorrhage before I got to the hospital, leaving the blood in the spinal fluid as the only evidence that this had happened."

Jim spent 15 days in the hospital. He continues to recover at home.

POLAND

AFTER **BREAD OF LIFE'S** busy Christmas season that included two large-scale events where the Gospel was publicly declared in city centers and demonstrated through the

provision of resources for families with sick children, ITMI's **Brooke Nungesser** headed to Thailand last month.

Brooke was invited to give a series of talks at a retreat for Azmera, a worldwide women's conference. Brooke says, "I pray that as I share about our lives, Max, and Bread of Life, these women will be renewed, inspired, and encouraged by God to go forth in their service to Him."

POLAND

ITMI PARTNER, **LESZEK Wakula** is the pastor of the only Baptist church in Lodz, Poland, a city with a population of 730,000. Leszek's church has been able to partner with the local Catholic parish to offer a once a month seminary for laypeople who would like to understand the Bible better. This seminary is hosting an event on an early weekend in March which ITMI's Piotr Zaremba has been invited to give a series of lectures on the canonization of the Bible. Piotr will help those in attendance understand where the Bible comes from and encourage those listening to focus not on individual books of the Bible, but on the main character. He will encourage them to open their lives to the Lord who is present here and now. An estimated 200+ will be in attendance!

ZAMBIA

ITMI'S **JOHAN AND LESLEY Leach** continue to praise the Lord for the outpouring of support, love and care they received from the community of believers, enabling them to rebuild their home after it was destroyed by fire. As of late February, they had a foundation, walls, windows, a roof and a floor on the majority of the home. Meanwhile, discipleship and evangelism on the plains continue. Evangelists are making regular visits to villages, building spiritual understanding on the free gift of clean, safe water provided by ITMI supporters. Johan will be visiting the States next month. He's praying for divinely appointed opportunities to encourage the American church and bringing "lots of stories to share." He'd be so encouraged and uplifted to get to share them with those who are interested! Contact our office if your small group, Sunday school class or even church would like to be among those encouraged and blessed.



Taj

Taj is 29 years old. She has 5 children. She lives in a one room shack just like the family pictured here, and the many other Muslim families squatting in Modi Road slum in Bangalore, India.

Since she was 12, Taj has been married to a man who is now too sick to work. He abuses her almost daily.

For the past 3 months, her teeth have been turning black. She can't open her mouth. She can't eat. She is getting sicker by the day.

But her husband still expects her to take care of him, her kids and earn an income without leaving the slum.

Short-sighted in his emotionally stunted state, Taj's husband didn't want her to leave the slum with Taru to go to the hospital.

Taru was able to get her life-saving help, which was also an opportunity to tell her about Jesus, and disciple her to understand His love and care for her.

Ayan

We told you Ayan's story in 2018. He'd been chained inside his shack because his mother didn't know how to handle his increasingly violent behavior. But the Kumars allowed him to attend Deepam school and he began to thrive.

Last week he fell down some stairs and badly severed almost 80% of his tongue. He was given one stitch. He couldn't sleep from the pain.

ITMI helped David and Taru save this young boy's future ability to speak. They took him to the local Baptist hospital and additional stitches were given.

Ayan's family is experiencing the goodness of the Lord because of your partnership that allows David and Taru to minister in this place full of heartache and deep need for Jesus.



If you are interested in helping David and Taru share the love and care of Jesus for the lost families in Modi Road through medical mercy, we are praying about opening up a new fund for this purpose. You can let us know your interest by earmarking donations for India Relief and Evangelism.



Onseepkans, South Africa is a remote and overlooked farming community with slim job opportunities and many families living on welfare support.

There was little visible response to the Good News until 2019, when the encouragement from her grandson finally landed on a pliable heart.

Adanna stopped drinking. Through the course of the year, she faithfully brought her grandchildren to the le Roux's simple Sunday gathering and listened attentively.

The le Roux family walked by her side, helping her deal with a medical issue she faced and discipling her in Biblical financial principles and showing her the grace of Jesus.

Like many others in the settlement, she was enslaved by isolation, poverty and debt to the small local outpost. The store owner had control of her entire income in exchange for a few

necessary goods.

The le Rouxs helped her settle her account at the outpost. Then they took her and a few other elderly ladies with them on their monthly 160 mile trip to the nearest decent grocery store.

Paying for transport to the store would have cost each of them a prohibitive percentage of their income, so shopping at a grocery store that offers a variety of products and doesn't feel the need to extract absorbent prices was previously inconceivable.

Shopping at an actual grocery store was a completely new experience. Adanna was overwhelmed as she walked the aisles, and only picked out a few things.

The le Rouxs encouraged her to get enough of what she'd need to last for awhile, knowing the prices were much more reasonable in this larger store.

Not having much experience with math, Adanna stood in the checkout line, afraid that the balance would be more than she had. Joy and relief flooded her face when she realized the bill was half what she expected it to be!

The le Roux family continues to walk alongside Adanna and her family, gently guiding them to Jesus.

Their presence in Onseepkans is a great source of hope for many, thanks to the regular support they receive from their ITMI supporters across the ocean!

Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

FOR PRAISE

1. Poland - Zaremba, Wakula - Opportunity to reach many with encouragement from God's Word and build relationships.
2. Zambia - Eugene Kalunga - Windows and doors for new village school donated through Christmas catalog are complete!
3. Uganda- Waraka, Yezinai - Many moved to tears by Good News shared during 3 day workshop in refugee camp.
4. S. Africa - Onseepkans Mission - After years of Gerhard's patient and difficult work a new water system is available to local farmers and will enhance the outreach of Onseepkans Mission.

FOR PRAYER

1. India - Kumar - Healing and understanding of the Lord for Ayan and Taj.
2. Zambia - Leach - The quick arrest and due process of local criminals who have committed a string of murders.
3. Poland - Jim la Rose - Jim's continued recovery after an aneurysm and related operation.
4. Poland - Bread of Life - Provision of the remaining funds (just under \$1K) to purchase a van to enhance outreach.
5. India - Continued protection of our partners amid continued security threats.



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A higher purpose.

itm In Touch Mission
INTERNATIONAL

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