

*"I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I
have set my heart on your laws."*

Psalm 119:30

ITMI
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3 Stories that Reveal Much about Our Partners

Piotr's church celebrates changed lives. Lazarus makes a deep sacrifice. And Taru finds ways to make the most of being locked down.

TWO THINGS TO CELEBRATE IN POLAND

Evangelicals make up just a half of 1% of Poland's population.

That means Evangelical churches face constant shortages of manpower, discipleship resources and finances - to name a few.

But despite all of this, the K5N church in Poznan, Poland, though small in number by American standards, has been a powerhouse of sacrifice and faithfulness.

Many of its members are unusually eager to shoulder the cost of outreaches and give their time and energy to see their friends and neighbors learn of the saving work of Jesus Christ.

In short, they are sold-out for Jesus and the life and work of their church as it follows the Great Commission together, led by a man of gentle passion that fuels a remarkable tenacity. That man is ITMI partner, [Piotr Zaremba](#).

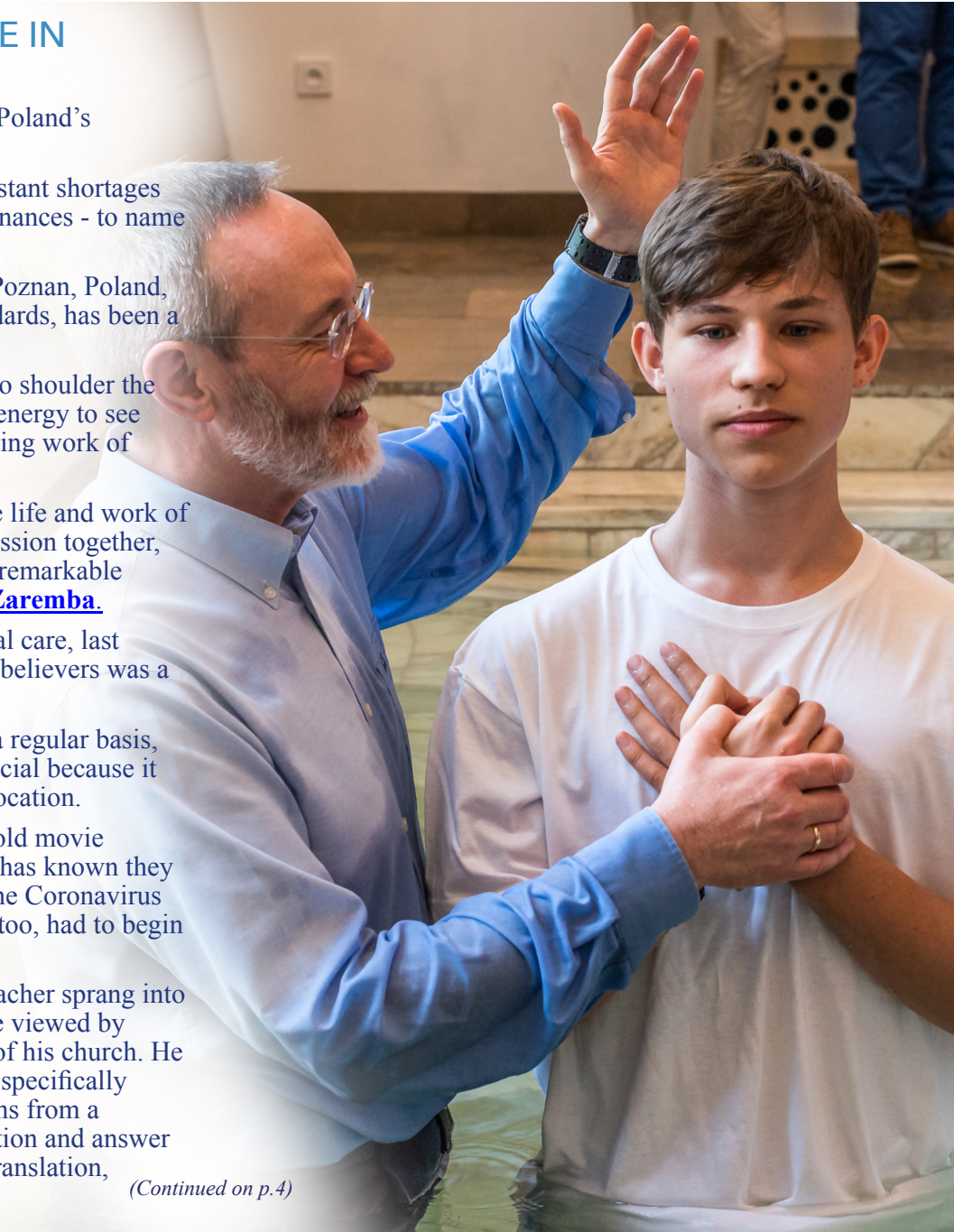
For this body of believers under his pastoral care, last month's celebration of the baptism of new believers was a sweet reward for their relentless service.

Piotr's church does baptismal services on a regular basis, but the one last month was particularly special because it was the first in the church's new meeting location.

For years, the congregation had met in an old movie theater, but for quite some time now, Piotr has known they needed to move in the near future. When the Coronavirus forced everything to close, Piotr's church, too, had to begin conducting services online.

Seeing his people's need, the pastor and teacher sprang into action, producing sermons online that were viewed by many more than just the regular attenders of his church. He also produced 120 daily devotional videos specifically addressing Coronavirus topics and questions from a Biblical perspective, two weekly live question and answer sessions online in addition to moving his translation,

(Continued on p.4)



A FINANCIAL REPORT THAT REVEALED SOMETHING EXCITING

A dull, numb feeling wrapped around Sarah* like a dark cocoon. She was attending a hygiene and virus suppression seminar in her community, put on by ITMI's [Lazarus Yezinai](#) and his team.

Sarah's brain knew that with only 15 hospitals for South Sudan's population of 10,561,244 (2020 estimate) and meager funds, she has no hope of being able to obtain medical treatment if needed. Her family's best hope during the COVID-19 pandemic is to avoid infection.

But they didn't have access to running water in their mud-walled home. Instead, they used a bowl of water that got dirtier with each use. She hadn't even known this would spread germs among her family, but there wasn't anything she could do about it anyway. She knew she should feel something - fear, maybe? But she was just too exhausted and numb.

Her husband had gone to a distant part of the country, saying it was to find work making charcoal. The heartbreaking truth, though, had revealed that he'd abandoned her and their children - the youngest less than a month old - for another woman. It had been the most recent in the long string of trauma, bad news and difficulty she called her life. Sarah had no help, no plan and no money, and she was beyond feeling.

But Sarah heard something else at the seminar. She learned that Jesus loved her enough to send this team to help in this time of trouble, and the numbness began to thaw. When she was presented with a long bar of soap and one of the yellow water jugs fitted with a white, plastic tap so that she and her household could cleanse their hands effectively, she was almost out of her mind for a few moments with relief and gratitude.



Recipient with soap and water jug.

The yellow jugs are called jerry cans and cost less than \$15 USD - depending on the currently highly volatile and

inflated cost of commodities - but to put this gift in context, it would be like a local church showing up at your doorstep with the free gift of a new washing machine and dryer!

They were distributed to 50 households that Lazarus identified as the most vulnerable during an earlier Project Joseph food parcel delivery.

It would have been only 38 families, not 50, if not for Lazarus' determination, compassion and generosity.

Two ITMI donors provided \$500 to purchase 50 jerry cans for South Sudanese families. However, by the time Lazarus had the money in hand, the total cost had risen substantially. After paying the bank fee, Lazarus could only purchase approximately 38.5 of the 50 jerry cans



Lazarus with water jugs

needed. Instead of making excuses - though valid - Lazarus' financial report to us after the distribution quietly reflected something noteworthy.

Lazarus had used his personal income to cover the disparity and still provide 50 families with potentially life-saving running water and a Gospel message from Psalm 103 of how God forgives, heals and redeems. The amount needed to bridge the difference was a little less than a quarter of the monthly expenses for Lazarus' large, 23 member household. We sent Lazarus \$799 of support that month, and he used \$170 of that to make sure he was honoring his donors' intentions and personally participate in the project as a donor himself by adding a bar of soap for each recipient.

We thought you'd want to know that this is the kind of partner Lazarus is. He has demonstrated the highest caliber of character and trustworthiness and generosity, and, like you, is compelled to sacrifice by compassion and a deep desire to see people walk with Jesus.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

FINDING WAYS TO REACH PEOPLE DURING LOCKDOWN

For a go-getter like [Taru Kumar](#), whose feet grass wouldn't dare grow under, being forced to close their ministry center in Modi Road Muslim slum by the government due to concerns of COVID-19 was not ideal. She doesn't like to sit still, particularly when she knows so many people who are suffering and in need. But stay at home she must, so she's made the best of it.

After she and David planned and carried out five food distributions in the slum, Taru is not wasting any time worrying about what she can't do. Instead, she's discovered

she can have quite an impact right from her couch, with the help of her telephone. She spends most of her days reaching out to those she knows in the slums, encouraging them, and sharing Jesus. She conducts regular one-on-one discipleship meetings over the phone. She's leading a Bible study with a group of women she grew up with.

All this is possible because of her previous investment in these relationships. So she's also using this time to sow the seeds of relationships that she can grow into redemptive encounters by teaching a group of women over the internet how to make hand made crafts. So her ministry continues. It doesn't look the same as it used to, but it's still driven by Taru's love for those she ministers to and bursting with her bold and unique faith in Christ.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

*name changed for privacy

From the Director



DEAR TEAM: REMEMBER YOUR ADOPTION

*“There is no peace like the peace of those...
whose minds are possessed with full assurance
that they have known God,
and God has known them,
and that this relationship guarantees God’s favor to them
in life, through death and on forever.”*

James Innell Packer

James Innell Packer was the son of a railway clerk in Gloucester, England who was later named one of the 25 Most Influential Evangelicals by Time Magazine in 2005 and was the author of one of the best-selling Christian books of all time, *Knowing God*. You might better recognize him by J.I. Packer.

J. I. left this world last month after 93 years. Even in his infrequent times of positional controversy, he was always a kind and gracious gentleman to those that were on the other side of his position. Dr. Packer was firmly grounded in his understanding and knowledge of his place in God’s family and eternity.

Much unlike the kindness and graciousness of J.I., most of us who have watched the television in the last couple of months, have witnessed just the opposite. Anger, bitterness, no room for anyone else’s thoughts or position, anarchy, and chaotic destruction have been displayed over and over in bold and, many times, one-sided presentations.

Our own western world is now experiencing socially much of what the rest of the world has experienced for many generations. We have been protected by these forms of outrage and destruction for the most part by our “Christian nation” umbrella of protection. Regardless of the reasons and the level of outrage, we may have all forgotten, on some level about...adoption. Our great adoption!

*“Adoption is the highest privilege of the gospel.
The traitor is forgiven, brought in for supper,
and given the family name.
To be right with God the Judge is a great thing,
but to be loved and cared for by
God the Father is greater.”*

- J.I. Packer

Please pray for ITMI’s [Timothy Keller](#) and ITMI’s [Nobuhle “Fifi” Smith](#) to be protected and healed from their exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Tim was hospitalized and is now home recovering from the ongoing respiratory and stamina issues. Fifi is now quarantined in South Africa because of direct exposure to a confirmed case of the virus during a ministry visit.

Finally, Dr. Packer wrote, “The Scriptures are the lifeline God throws us in order to ensure He and we stay connected while the rescue is in process.” During this “rescue process” God is giving ITMI and each of you a voice and a presence in sharing the truth of our “adoption”, our “peace”, our “full assurance” to the blind and hopeless, to the lost and dying.

Thank you for being faithful to the lost of this world even now, during these times of tumult here in our own backyards. Together, we can make a difference.

In His Service,

(Continued from p.1)

pastoral and seminary teaching duties online.

His church covered the cost of production and equipment needed, while stretching to also provide assistance for at least a few of the members who found themselves in need due to the pandemic.

Even with all he was doing to bring God's Word to his people, Piotr was able to find his church a new meeting place. What Piotr would really like us to pray with him about is that the Lord will provide a meeting place of their own. Perhaps the Lord will provide the opportunity to build one, or better yet, purchase something already built.

But for the moment, Piotr is excited about this one because it will allow them to grow past what they could have in the movie theater. The rent is quite a bit higher for the new location, but it was the best deal among the few rooms of that size available in Poznan. As they grow, this may be less of a challenge, but at the moment, resources are stretched, and this church could use some help from it's brothers and sisters.

As the smiles graced the faces of the new believers waiting for immersion, there were two things to celebrate: His divine provision of a meeting place and the spreading gift of Salvation.

-Summer Kelley,
Steve Evers



Piotr Zaremba's gentle passion fuels the tenacity that has allowed him to work tirelessly for 30+ years to bring the Gospel to Poland.

Ready to declare to the world their intent to follow Jesus alongside the believers of K5N.



What it means to be an ITMI partner.

These men and women of the **highest quality** of character and leadership aren't doing it for virtue's sake. They are doing it **because they are passionate**. Passionate about Jesus, passionate about his mission, and **deeply dedicated** to seeing people in their spheres **come to know Jesus** as their Savior and Lord.

FOR PRAISE

1. Nungessers - Poland - Bread of Life has distributed ~85,000lbs of food in Jesus' name since mid-March.
2. Charl van Wyk - Over 8000 struggling people helped with food at ministry points in S. Africa and Zimbabwe.
3. Tomek Jezyk - Poland - Renovations of the basement of his church are complete and ready to house outreaches.
4. Project Joseph - The growing opportunity to share Jesus through the provision of physical needs.

FOR PRAYER

1. Fifi Smith - S. Africa - Asking for a negetive test after a ministry visit with someone infected with COVID-19.
2. Vicky Waraka - S. Sudan - Provision for bed materials for orphan girls who currently share a twin-sized bed.
3. Eugene Kalunga - Zambia - Provision for financial shortages at ECA due to reduced income during pandemic.
4. Paul and Molly - India - Guidance for the continued challenges of shepherding their church during lockdown.
5. Casa Dorca - Romania - Financial provision to help cover the decline in orphan sponsorship during the pandemic.



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A higher purpose.

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