

*“Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” James 4:8*

**ITMI**  
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# MEET PROJECT JOSEPH'S NEW BELIEVERS!

## SOUTH SUDAN

Kuluda Aziza stared at her palms as they rested in her lap. The complex white and cornflower blue pattern of her dress behind her hands went blurry, reminding her to blink.

What she'd just heard struck her in a way nothing had before.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God,” the Reverend had said.

Reverend Gismala Beneth was a thin, energetic man overflowing with joy in Christ. He had a broad, flat nose, wide-set eyes and a contagious smile.

Reverend Beneth works closely with ITMI partner, [Lazarus Yezinai](#), and had volunteered to help teach God's Word in Lemon Gaba at a time when venturing out of one's home was feared by many. Beneth was involved with [Lazarus' outreach to gang members](#), too.

Now, the words of the smiling preacher wearing a navy blue hooded sweatshirt pierced the tough shell around Kuluda's chaotic, wounded and traumatized heart.

She realized, “I am missing the peace of Christ in my life and my family.”

Kuluda's family had been one of one hundred households identified as most needy and selected by the evangelist,

Lazarus Yezinai, to receive a jerry can hand washing kit and an elongated stick of soap provided by compassionate believers in the United States.

Excited to acquire such a coveted, necessary and difficult to obtain item, Kuluda had left her home in Lemon Gaba and walked until she arrived at Seek and Save Community Church.

The church met under a patchwork canopy of canvas pieces and corrugated tin sheets held up by tree trunk poles. Kuluda had joined others from the community as they sat on the rough wooden benches or bright turquoise colored plastic chairs under the canopy.

Before Reverend Beneth shared from Matthew 5, she and the others had been taught the World Health Organization's procedures for effectively washing hands.

During the time for prayer with the event team, Kuluda told one of the volunteers that she wanted to be saved. “Jesus has the only answer and hope,” she confessed.

Kuluda hadn't expected to return to her shanty home with something that would be even more important to her when she left that day. She knew she was leaving with the peace of God guarding her heart and mind.

*(continued on p.2)*



**Kuluda Aziza**

Hand washing clinic participant and new believer



A believer from Lazarus' team shares Jesus with South Sudanese families in need of running water to wash their hands during COVID-19 pandemic.



ITMI's Lazarus Yezinai is intent on sharing Jesus - even during lockdown.

**"I've been far from God."**



"I've been far from God," shared a tall, strong young lady wearing a navy blue dress with two bold, colorful sections, one over her torso and another across her knees.

"Life hasn't been easy," she said, referring to the locked down conditions of fear and hunger many South Sudanese families have faced.

It was James 4:8 that the Spirit used to call her to the Lord, she later told one of the team members.

"Come near to God and he

will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts..."

It had been a fitting message for an event where those who came were provided a stick of soap and a bright yellow jerry can with a white spigot at the bottom which would give them access to cleaner running water to wash germs away.

The hand-washing demonstration supplied the perfect illustration of our spiritual need for a cleansing we cannot provide for ourselves, just as these families were unable to produce a way to properly sanitize their hands.

As her navy, formless dress brushed her ankles, she knew the bitter struggle to survive had caused her to turn away from God. But in response to the ministry of Lazarus and his team, she received Jesus as her Lord and Savior.

The young woman left with a smile and the assurance that the God referenced in James would draw near to her.

**Exuberant New Believer**

Resting on her mother's hip, the baby's eyes were glued to the young woman's arm raised high against the blue sky in vigorous passion.

The child wore a pink sleeveless shirt that was slightly too large, causing one ruffled sleeve to slide down her rounded shoulder. The baby's bare feet hung down next to her mother's legs, but her big toe was flexed in the intensity of the moment.

The young mother's other arm wrapped behind the baby, holding her in place, while at the same time, her fingertips bent around the handle of her new yellow jerry can. The pair almost bounced with excitement.

Not only had this young mother been the recipient of a jerry can hand washing kit and a long stick of soap, she'd also been the recipient of a new life in Christ that day!



**"I wasn't a believer."**

"I wasn't a believer, but I was touched by the power of God today."

The speaker, one of the hygiene training participants, had a wide, rounded face and a wide smile.

She had the smallish ears that many South Sudanese share, but the most unique feature was



# From the Director



## DEAR TEAM: Four Things to be Thankful For

Most of the trees have shed their colorful leaves. Many are anticipating a truly thankful Thanksgiving. 2020 is closing in on hopefully a calmer 2021. We have much to be thankful for.

Our partners in India, [Paul and Molly](#) are truly thankful. Just a week ago Paul was diagnosed with COVID-19. This diagnosis in India sends electric-like impulses out through many of the aggressive and intense government agencies that are forcefully trying to keep the almost billion and a half Indian people isolated from a virus that could easily overwhelm such a densely populated county. Paul has had to clandestinely get tested through a friend of a friend, with the pleading instructions to not report this test to any of the official channels. Paul's plea was overwhelmed by the hidden bureaucracy that somehow sees all and knows all and tracked his virus testing.



Paul had to lock himself alone in their home in the city, while Molly and the kids remained their rural village home. With gates padlocked, he turned out the lights so none of the bureaucrats could find him, and then hope that he remained strong enough to care and feed himself while he recovered alone. Many of Paul and Molly's 23 children were very fearful that their "Daddy" was not going to be OK. When I spoke to Paul last, he was not at all enjoying his "quiet time" quarantined, but was rejoicing that God had spared him the severe symptoms of this ubiquitous virus. Paul has lost multiple extended family members to the virus, he is very thankful that his exposure to the sickness has only cost him an isolated week of his time, some stealthy maneuvering through the aggressive government virus testing system and a few days of doing ministry via phone from his sick bed. Paul agrees: God is so good.

[David and Taru Kumar](#), also in India, are very excited and seeking God's direction on expanding their slum ministry in Bangalore. Countless times they have passed this small slum of about 450 families jammed into a very small throwaway piece of land as they traversed their city. It is situated between two heavily-traveled railroad tracks and a main thoroughfare for buses, trucks and cars in this city of 12.5 million people. David described one home he visited there. About 5 feet by 8 feet total, it was more shack than home. The 5 by 8 living space served as the kitchen, dining room, bedroom and living room for six people who call this shed home. In this very poor and forgotten community, there were just 2 men's outhouses and 2 women's outhouses for the 450 families that live there. But their biggest need is to know about a Savior who will redeem them and take them to live in the glory of His presence for all eternity. David and Taru are so very thankful that God may be opening the door and empowering them to pour God's love and hope in another mass of poverty-stricken and spiritually needy people.

[Casa Dorca](#), our children's home in southern rural Romania, is overjoyed as we move into November. They were close to being depleted of the only funds that would provide for the abandoned children entrusted to them. The European Union does little except to put unreasonable demands and expectations on Christian-run children's homes that are almost impossible to satisfy. But God provided just in time as I shared last month. This month the thing that brings the most joy to the leadership and children at Casa Dorca is they get to mobilize a [Project Joseph](#) feeding and outreach program in the rural Romanian countryside that touches those that have life challenges even worse than these orphans of Casa Dorca. The fact that many of you helped us fund this outreach program is a blessing that is cause for celebration to the orphans who are very excited to go serve and feed others who have less than they do. If you want to help us continue this new outreach ministry, manned by the orphans themselves, we will gladly help Casa Dorca continue to expand their ministry outreach.

Please also pray with me as I have been presented with an open door to train pastors in a fiercely Muslim country located in Asia. Until travel opens up and in hopeful anticipation of getting the go ahead from God, I hope to be training our currently in-country contact via Zoom online using the [SALT material](#). If the Lord wills and provides, ITMI may be headed back into a highly persecuted country to train and develop Godly leaders!

In His Service,

her forehead. Partially covered by a cream-colored head wrap, her forehead bore three nesting v-shaped lines that dipped down between her eyebrows, a traditional facial scarification of the Mundari tribe. After receiving the gift of salvation, she is now marked by something else - the blood of Jesus, pardoning her past and freeing her future.

“I will take God’s message to my

family,” she told Lazarus’ team, “so they can join me in Christ.”

### Making Disciples

This outreach isn’t stopping with just reaching people and sharing Jesus. It’s aim is to make disciples.

After working together for the hand washing clinic and outreach, Lazarus is teaming up with Seek and Save Community Church to organize a

discipleship program for the vulnerable women and widows of Lemon Gaba.

To engage people in the area with God’s Word, they also started a Community Bible Study!

*Summer Kelley, Steve Evers*

# NEWSbites

How the Lord uses your gifts around the world!

## POLAND

“I LEARNED BASICALLY WHAT should be the nature of every Christian,” said one student of the Billy Graham Institute for Evangelism and Discipleship in Lodz, Poland, where ITMI’s [Leszek Wakula](#) serves as the co-director in addition to his role as the pastor of the only Baptist church in Poland’s second-largest city of 650,000. “Classes open us to the use of natural situations to talk about the Gospel,” continues the student. “We have gained knowledge and learn methods that are useful in making disciples, being with them during their growth, all based on the pattern that

the Lord Jesus left us. I am more courageous and motivated to lead student groups in the congregation. Words from Matthew 28:19-20 have taken on a different meaning when I begin to introduce them into my life when discipleship and natural evangelism begin to be a lifestyle, not an element of Christianity.” Last month, Leszek’s wife, **Anna**, was elected Vice President of the Polish National Women’s Ministry, where she serves to help encourage other women in Poland to become disciple-makers.

## INDIA

REPORTS FROM THE second round of [Project Joseph](#) outreaches are

coming back from the field! Jahirabi, an 80-year-old disabled widow; Rajanna, a 65-year-old widow with two members of her household seriously ill; Shekhar, a 68-year-old disabled woman; and Gracy, the widowed daughter of a pastor were just a few of the many who are overwhelmingly grateful to have something to eat. “Because of the coronavirus lockdown I lost my job,” said Rajanna, “...we spent days without food.” Through the faithful work of [David and Taru Kumar](#) and the sacrifice of ITMI supporters, they have heard the Gospel!

## FOR PRAISE

1. Gerhard le Roux - S. Africa - 9 years since the family answered God’s call to uproot and minister in Onseepkans.
2. Leszek Wakula - Poland - New and continued opportunities to make disciples in Lodz, Poland.
3. Lazarus Yezinai - South Sudan - New believers joining God’s family through hand washing outreaches!
4. Vicky Waraka - South Sudan - Ex-soldier saved after coming to church and praying with Vicky!
5. Tomek Jezyk - Poland - New believer baptized into Tomek’s church, which is now growing under his leadership and has a place to meet that is not crumbling thanks to ITMI supporters.

## FOR PRAYER

1. Paul and Molly - India - Paul tested positive for COVID-19 after exhibiting symptoms, Molly not feeling well either.
2. Gary Howell - US - Gary’s soon-to-be-released book to reach many with Gospel-centered healing.
3. Bethesda Home - Romania - Provision for the needs of Bethesda Home and the widows cared for there.
4. Project Joseph - Continued effective evangelism for ITMI partners through gifts of food and supplies.
5. Piotr Zaremba - Poland - Wisdom and resources to seize the many opportunities to share Jesus that Piotr has right now!
6. ITMI - His glory displayed in our year-end commitments, outreaches and giving.



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