

*“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*

Colossians 3:17

**ITMI**  
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# *The Fruit of Your Giving:*

## Learning to Center our Daily Activities on Christ



Meet the first group of South Sudanese women to receive Biblical financial training in 2021!

## SOUTH SUDAN

Twelve South Sudanese women sat on hard, wooden benches, their shoes on the cement floor of Living Word of God Church in the Buluk section of Juba, South Sudan.

Unlike many of the rough hewn benches found in other meeting places - made by halving a log and adding legs - these benches had the smooth finish of a craftsman's handiwork.

Their sleek finish and stain of reddish hue, the fact that they had backs, and the artful cross design engraved on each end, set them far

above the seating accommodations found in most South Sudanese meeting places.

The women were mostly widowed believers from two churches. They were chosen by ITMI's [Vicky Waraka](#) because they are in need, unable to get jobs yet physically able to do work, and they displayed that something special that Vicky has identified as potentially willing to learn, grow and commit to handling a micro-business that honors the Lord.

After opening prayer, Vicky listened carefully as each woman introduced herself. There was Zainab Ephraim and Roma Sebit, whose colorful dresses were highlighted by splashes

of yellow. There was the tall Mary Deng, who wore a colorful head wrap with a large golden flower and Aware Morrison, who wore a black sarong with yellow highlights. Peninah Bariyona looked younger than the others, with high cheekbones and a tapered jaw. Mama Abuk Ayet wore a busily patterned dress with her hair neatly smoothed back and gathered behind her head. There was Eklas Manas with her clean white collared shirt, Silvia Oliver, in a boldly patterned ankle length purple dress, and Nancy, whose brother owns a large local supermarket and Mama Catherine, the only participant who wore closed-toed shoes.

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The women enjoyed meeting other believers from other churches, even though the required social distancing prevented them from shaking hands.

“We prayed together. We sat as friends and people from one family,” Vicky says.

Then Vicky began teaching. She taught the *Finances* chapter from the Seven Areas of Life Training (SALT) material, which shares the four things the Bible tells us we can do with money: Earn Honestly, Give Generously, Spend Wisely and Invest Carefully.

The SALT material teaches Biblical principles for each of 7 areas of life, using scripture references.

It addresses behavior, but it digs deeper and helps reveal to people the things that are in their heart that prevent them from Biblical behaviors.

Vicky teaches the material, then facilitates a discussion on the topic where the participants can share what God is teaching them and engage past the normal trauma-dulled answers. During the discussion of the *Earn Honestly* chapter, Silvia Oliver confessed that before she was saved, she brewed and sold alcohol illegally in her village.

On the advice of some questionable friends, Silvia had been in the habit of watering it down in order to make more money. Vicky’s group was able to learn from Silvia’s personal story of regret over doing business that way.

When the women proceeded to the *Give Generously* section, Mama Catherine chimed in the discussion, and encouraged the others to give the first fruit of their labors to the Lord.

She talked about how she earns very little, but as she has been faithful in giving her first fruit to the Lord, she has seen the goodness of God in her life. She testified that random blessings come her way and she knows they are from the Lord.

Roma also encouraged the others with her story. She was heading home when she passed an elderly lady. She felt the urge to give the aging woman 1000SSP (~\$7.68 USD, about a third of the average monthly salary in South Sudan) and she did. That evening, she was blessed by a phone call from her brother, who she hadn’t heard from in a long time and was calling to check on her.

After Vicky had taught the *Spend Wisely* section, Eklas gave an example of the opposite of spending

wisely. She referred to the door-to-door Egyptian salespeople that are currently common in the area, selling Egyptian utensils on credit and concluded that it would be wiser to save up and buy utensils from wholesale stores to avoid the burden of debt.

The women all said that before this Biblical training, they’d never had any kind of training or learning about how to operate a business, much less how to manage money or run a business by God’s principles.

Though they were believers, they hadn’t known that the Lord wanted them to put Him at the center of their business, but each woman left determined to do so.

They were greatly encouraged by the teaching, and eager to share what they’d learned with others and invite them to one of Vicky’s future SALT financial seminars.

Vicky reports that after the training, the women were given a small amount of seed money, donated by ITMI supporters through our 2020 Christmas Giving Catalog, so they could purchase supplies to start their individual businesses.

When you put resources into the hands of our godly, national believers like Vicky Waraka, they can see great change through the teaching of God’s Word and the sharing of the Gospel. Together, we are changing lives daily, and that’s something to get very excited about!

Would you consider empowering In Touch Mission International to [help these precious and sincere, yet needy believers with an extra measure of support this month?](#)

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

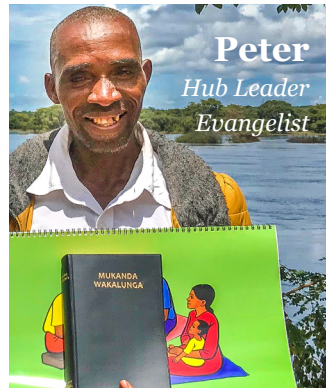
**They hadn’t known  
that the Lord  
wanted them to put  
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**Left: Nancy, one of the women trained and helped with seed money. Right: Vicky Waraka teaches the SALT Financial material.**





# Lost, Detained and Interrogated for the Gospel in Angola



## ZAMBIA - ANGOLA

### *The mission to Mihava, Angola begins*

As a part of his calling to saturate the Luvale Plains with the Gospel, ITMI partner, [Johan Leach](#) has helped equip and send local Zambians to reach the isolated villages that dot the flood plains west of the Zambezi River and across the Angola border. Johan helps train and equip believers to share the Gospel on the plains. He also trains and equips leaders, or shepherds, to take responsibility for shepherding all those that come to faith within a certain area assigned to them. These are called “Hub Leaders.”

One of the Hub leaders, Peter, set out to share the Gospel in a camp called Mihava on the Angola side of the Zambia-Angola border. When Peter arrived at his destination, the Chief in charge was happy to hear of Peter’s intentions to share the Gospel of Jesus in the area. The Chief took Peter to the Angolan Migration post, where Peter again shared his intent to preach about Jesus. He told them he’d brought Bibles, evangelism materials, food and canoes for easy movement along one of the local rivers, the Lunguevungu River.

The following day, Peter was summoned to the camp to meet with a superior officer who had some questions. Peter again shared about his mission to preach the Gospel in the communities there and that perhaps he could help drill boreholes that would provide fresh water for some of the villages.

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Above: Johan Leach trains Hub Leaders for evangelism and discipleship. Below: Views from a remote village on the Luvale plains, similar to the one Peter visited in Angola.



# A Big Opportunity for Impact in Bangladesh

## THE SEVEN AREAS OF LIFE

Training (SALT) material is a set of seven modules designed to help people apply Biblical teachings to the sin and pain buried deep within their hearts that prevents them from living a victorious Christian life. In the hands of our national partners, we've seen this discipleship material cut through unbiblical cultural beliefs and change lives, families and communities. We receive testimony after testimony of how the Lord uses it to transform people's minds.

including Christians. With so few believers, it is so critically important that God's people are firm in their faith, are equipped to handle the persecution they face and built up in Christ to live out their Biblical calling. With such a small segment of the population reached for Christ, there are precious few discipleship resources or growth materials available in their language, Bengali, (also sometimes called Bengla.)

We've formed an unofficial partnership with a Bangladeshi

**Part of Pakistan until 1971 Bangladesh's population is just under 89% Muslim. Only 0.9% are not Muslim or Hindu, including Christians.**

For example, a pastor in India reflected, "Through this lesson I now know that I have been controlling and seeking praise from my church members. I have been [trying to put myself] in the place of God. Now I am asking God to forgive me from all that I have done and let Him lead me and the people He has entrusted to me."

A teacher in Pakistan testified, "I am becoming joyful. Not as much pressure or depression on my mind. After studying this material and having you [Steve E.] teach it to me...it changed my way. I [now know to] ask God for wisdom to make decisions, for everything I need and to give thanks for everything." That same teacher's friend observed, "Before, you were one kind of man and now you are another kind of man."

Part of Pakistan until 1971, Bangladesh's population is just under 89% Muslim. Only 0.9% are not Muslim or Hindu,

pastor, whose name we may never be able to release publicly for his protection. We've done the same with a believer in Pakistan.

These believers have the contacts to get the SALT material translated, but not the financial resources. In Touch Mission International would like to pay fair, local wages to have the SALT material translated into Bengali and Urdu, so that it can be used to build up the body of Christ in Bangladesh and Pakistan. If you'd like to be part of equipping the believers to live according to Biblical teaching, grow in Christ, and reach their Muslim friends and family, this is a **tangible and important opportunity to invest** in the body of Christ!

We need **faithful believers** like you to come alongside the believers in Bangladesh and Pakistan and [provide financial resources to get the SALT material translated to Bengali and Urdu.](#)

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

# INDIA

ITMI's **Paul and Molly**, whose last name we don't release for their protection, shared, "Paul has taught over 650 pastors this year. Blessed by God with a deep love for those who put all on the line for Christ, Paul joyfully pours out his heart, plans with the team, prays for each leader, organizes materials, and exhorts the men from the Word. Paul's face lights up as he implores leaders in the Kingdom call: to walk in the power of God. The love that flows from Paul to the pastors is evident even to those who are not fluent in Tamil.

One pastor shared testimony after his eyes were open to his critical and judgmental style of rebuke on his family and congregation. With conviction and tears, the pastor committed to speaking the truth in love as an open-hearted encourager of others in their challenges.

Paul is receiving countless invitations to teach the Christ-centered approach to leadership in other venues. Although he cannot travel to each location, we pray for the Lord to open up more methods to train the eager leaders. Discipleship trainings for pastors who have limited access to resources from Gujarat, Kashmir, Behar, and beyond continue weekly. Their positive feedback and hunger for more teaching is an encouragement. Many share it's the first time they've been introduced to these topics on stewardship, marriage, family life, personal responsibility, and accountability."



# From the Director



## DEAR TEAM: Let's Make Some Music!

Johann excelled in music from a very young age, and from there, only ascended with his music. Johann loved the scriptures also. Back in his day books were hard to come by and expensive beyond affordability, yet Johann collected 83 volumes that included Luther's writings, works of Luther's followers and the Bible. Johann carefully wrote in the margin of 1 Chronicles 25 "This chapter is the true foundation for all God-pleasing music." His passion was to give his community "well-regulated church music to the glory of God," and he would often scribble "J.J" on his blank future sheets of music: *Jesu Juva* ("Help me, Jesus"). When he would finish a manuscript he would write "S.D.G." – *Soli Deo Gloria* ("To God alone the glory"). Johann received little fame during his lifetime, and died in relative obscurity – with no marker on his grave. Johann Sebastian Bach and his hundreds of compositions were mostly forgotten until Mendelssohn rediscovered Johann's amazing work. Johann once responded to a complement on his musical skills with the comment, "There is nothing very wonderful about it, you have only to hit the right notes at the right moment and the instrument does the rest."

God is raising up new Johanns in the places that He is allowing us to serve and empower together. Now, they may not be musicians as we would know it, but surely their lives and their service to God is sweet music to our Heavenly Father.

In the coming months we will be introducing you to **Donase Banda**, a dear young married mother of four children in the township (place of relative poverty) of Kanyama, Zambia. She tells us that she has a family of six and they live on about \$1 USD per day. She also attended In Touch Mission International's **Lusaka Bible College** and she boldly states that at LBC "...I had the desire to minister the whole counsel of God to my fellow women of Kanyama...to make the main thing the main thing, I love sharing the Gospel of life." She led four ladies to the Lord and now she is mentoring them in Biblical truth and teaching them something else from the curriculum at LBC, the *Art of Entrepreneurship*. Donase hopes that in the "near future" her hard work invested in raising poultry will help feed her family as well as others. Donase is allowing God to "...hit the right notes at the right moment" and real music is being made.



Donase Banda raising poultry to feed her family.

Please pray for me. As travel is limited, I have been teaching in the Hindu and Muslim countries of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. They are literally starving for Biblical teaching. The young man in Pakistan, has adopted me because his father went home to glory a few years ago. Abid said that he has been praying for a mentor for over four years, and the SALT material that we have been working through has affected him so deeply that his wife and close friend have now both asked "...what is going on in your life? You are not the same person." This is why we want to give the SALT material to every godless society on this planet, because Biblical truth, clearly and lovingly communicated changes the soul of a man and not just his "knowledge level." Maybe someone reading this today wants to be able to give back to the Lord and tell us, "[I want to do my part](#) and help you translate all 28 chapters of the Seven Areas of Life Training, from Victorious Christian Living, Inc. into either Urdu (Pakistan - Northern India), Bengali (Bangladesh), or Kannada (Bangalore, India)." When we have SALT translated and available to be used by successive evangelists, pastors, husbands, mothers, and even teens, those communities will be radically changed for the better. The saved and unsaved in these communities will see greater peace, love and Christ-like living. They will know that these Christians have a hope that is unknown by the godless societies around them. Jesus and His redemption will be lifted up and the ripple will continue for eternity. I wish you could see the expressions on their faces when Biblical principles slip past the cultural mind-gates and settle into souls that are starving for truth...it is real heavenly music.

May we recognize that our time is not limitless, it is fleeting. May we follow Donase and "make the main thing the main thing." We have some special opportunities to allow God to hit the right notes at the right moment with full confidence that the "music" that is created will truly honor and glorify our Lord and Savior. We love and pray for each of you to be richly blessed. Thank you for being willing to make music with us and the frontline-battle partners God has and is bringing to us.

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“In no time I was sharing the Gospel with them,” Peter reported. Next, Peter was taken to Makena, “their big camp” and questioned again about his mission. Peter told them the same things he’d been telling the others. He’d come to preach the Gospel. But this time, Peter’s answers didn’t satisfy them. Peter was kept in custody there for two days, then transferred to another camp, Lumbala Ngimbu, where he was further interrogated. It seemed they did not believe what he was telling them. They threatened to cut his hand off or send him to prison if he did not tell the truth.

“The only discussion I had with them was to share the Gospel with them, day and night,” Peter wrote, “On day five, they seemed to acknowledge my message. They started loving me and the Gospel of Jesus.”

Since his arrival, Peter had also been distributing the book of John. “The people are very hungry for the Word and requested more reading material and Bibles in Portuguese,” Peter said.

## **The red tape run-around**

The next day, Peter was released to go back to Mihava. But when he arrived, the officials there refused to allow him access to the canoes he’d brought. They said he had to return to Lumbala Ngimbu for documents to permit him to carry on with his preaching activities. So, Peter and the Chief went back to Lumbala Ngimbu, where the man in charge said he did not have a case against Peter and he had not needed to return after all. On his way back to Mihava, Peter was advised to take a short cut. After walking this “short cut” for 10 hours, Peter realized he was lost in the bush of a foreign country.

## **Lost in the Angolan bush**

Peter wandered in the bush for 12 hours with no water or food before he came to a road he recognized. Exhausted, he lay down to sleep. The next morning, he awoke and returned to Mihava. He told them at Mihava what the senior official said.

This time they believed Peter and agreed to give back his supplies, which they’d confiscated on the first day he arrived.

“These are some of the hardships and challenges I have undergone,” Peter surmises, “Nevertheless, these difficult days have yielded good results. Many people have heard the Gospel, come to God and they have Jesus as their personal Savior.”

Johan’s Hub Leaders are dedicated and faithful. They are equipped to carry the Gospel to the unreached villages in this area in a way no one else can.

Thirty-four new believers were added to the Body of Christ during this trip! This is the fruit of supporters, like you, coming alongside ITMI partners and joining together to see the Good News spread and take root in hearts and minds. For those 34 who were once lost and now know Jesus, your sacrifice has meant *everything*!

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

## **FOR PRAISE**

1. Steve Evers- Bangladesh, Pakistan- Opportunities to equip believers with SALT material.
2. Vicky Waraka - South Sudan - Widows equipped and trained to follow Biblical principles with money.
3. Johan Leach - Angola - Thirty-four new believers in Angola
4. Paul and Molly - India - Open doors to equip pastors and build up the body of Christ.
5. Lazarus Yezinai - South Sudan - New believers reached through Hand Washing Clinics.
6. David Kumar - India - Pastors and leaders putting training from David into practice and sharing Christ.

## **FOR PRAYER**

1. Johan Leach - Zambia - Protection for Hub Leaders braving rough terrain and suspicion to share the Gospel.
2. Gary Howell - US - Possible upcoming surgery to address serious health issues.
3. Le Roux - South Africa - Provision for new project to reach the hurting and needy by baking loaves of bread.
4. All - Continued wisdom in sharing the Good News and adapting to a changing world.
5. US - Steve Evers - Continued help to fund our Project Joseph feeding and evangelism outreaches.



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