

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."

Psalm 107:8-9

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How the Fleeting Has Led to Lasting Impact

"Though temporary and fleeting food was a crucial part of Project Joseph, the project was, from its beginning, about lasting impact."

WHEN WORD OF PANDEMIC-related lockdowns first reached us, it seemed for a moment that many of our partners' ministries would grind to a halt. Schools that were the main point of contact with needy families would be closed. Churches wouldn't be able to gather. Home visits were prohibited. While we in the States quickly pivoted to move our work, churches, home groups and schools online, that wasn't an option for many around the world.

But as we look back at what has happened since this time last year, there can be no doubt that our partners were busier than ever with unexpected opportunities to share the Good News with new groups of people during the pandemic!

Quickly, the situation became dire for those making just enough each day to buy food for dinner that night. People needed food and they needed hope - both of which were in extremely short supply. Governments wouldn't allow churches to meet, but they would allow people to hold things like hand-washing clinics, and a Gospel message could be included.

ITMI's role became clear: help our partners make the most of these God-orchestrated opportunities. **Project Joseph** was born.

Since the inception of Project Joseph, we've distributed over \$150,000USD

that was specifically earmarked for sharing the Gospel through food distribution outreaches.

Impoverished or hurting families in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Sudan, India, Pakistan, Poland, Romania and Moldova have been exposed to the Gospel and reached with the provision of food.

Our partners involved the local church or other local para-church groups in these outreaches, ensuring that God's people were on-hand to offer themselves for redemptive and discipleship relationships.

Though temporary and fleeting food was a crucial part of Project Joseph, the project was, **from its beginning, about lasting impact.**

Lasting Impact: New Believers

For those who accepted the Lord while attending one of [Lazarus Yezinai's hand washing clinics in Juba, South Sudan](#) through these outreaches, the eternal impact cannot be understated.

For the impoverished families in South Africa who came to faith through Project Joseph outreaches organized by [Charl van Wyk](#) and his project leader, **Pastor Vuyo**, their lives will never be the same.

The same can be said for families in India who received food packages



Pastor Jayaraj prays with Project Joseph recipient to receive Christ!



A young mother (left) and Mary John, (right) both displaced from their homes in S. Sudan gave their lives to Christ at Lazarus' hand washing clinic.

through Project Joseph outreaches done by [David and Taru Kumar](#) in conjunction with the local church.

B. Jayaraj is a 72-year-old pastor from Guntakal in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Jayaraj was once a gambler and a drunkard. While laying on a sickbed in 1984, he gave his heart and life to Jesus. He

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Siwaphiwe, 18, (middle right) and his fellow Soldiers for Christ, growing in Christ through helping with Project Joseph.



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repented and asked Jesus to forgive his sins and for grace to be His witness. Since then, Pastor Jayaraj has shared his testimony to every one wherever he had an opportunity, and in recent years has been preaching the Gospel and discipling the church in two small villages.

During a Project Joseph outreach with the Kumars, the door was open for this local pastor to share the Gospel and lead multiple families to the saving knowledge of Christ. Today they are members of a local church nearby.

“This is just one of few cases,” David said, and rejoices, “This brings glory to the name of the Lord!”

Lasting Impact: Seeds Planted

One of the first Project Joseph distributions was done by Charl van Wyk and his project leader, Pastor Vuyo. Vuyo is an ex-gangster who planted a church in a tough and impoverished neighborhood.

As he and his church made Project Joseph visits to deliver food, they found that many of those who didn’t make salvation decisions right away responded eagerly to the food parcel, the visit from the believers and their Gospel message. Many expressed interest in a relationship with Vuyo’s church.

ITMI’s Lazarus Yezinai, in South Sudan, reported that a group of three ladies who were taking care of 6 children who were orphaned during the war of 2016 were convinced by the love in action and the message of the Gospel they experienced through Project Joseph to bring their children to church so that they could grow in Christ.

In the impoverished settlement of Stone Hill, South Africa, Charl’s project leader, Olga Tshikovhi, observed an exciting seed planted.

“One lady who isn’t a Christian at all,” Olga writes, “volunteered to help our ministry in Stone Hill last year during the COVID-19 pandemic and she is still helping today. We reached out to her and we are slowly seeing

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Pastor Jayaraj with new believers, now members of their local church.



Children from Lazarus’ church learn to serve as they help with a hand washing clinic outreach.



Impoverished conditions of Casa Dorca’s Project Joseph recipients. (Romania)



Casa Dorca children help deliver food provisions to the poor in their community.



A family in Prilipet, Romania welcomes a Project Joseph delivery from Casa Dorca children and staff.

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the progress, she even joined our evening church service.”

Lasting Impact: Redemptive Relationships Lead to Obedience

Sometimes the Project Joseph outreaches have led to redemptive relationships that develop between our partners or the local church and people whose path they might not have crossed without the Project Joseph outreach.

Leah, another local missionary Charl worked with on Project Joseph, shared this testimony, “Through Project Joseph, we brought hope to a single mother of two who was hopeless. She didn't know what to do. She had no money for rent but we reached to her with the message of hope, pointing her to the Lord Jesus and encouraged her to continue trusting God no matter what she is going through, God is faithful and present and He will help. Through meeting with her and talking to her she has grown in her faith, trusting God. Now she spends time in prayer and she knows that nothing is impossible with God and that no matter what, Jesus does listen to her cries and He will never leave her. She had separated from her husband 5 years ago. This year, in March she called and asked him to forgive her because now she has surrendered her life to Jesus. We praise the Lord for [what He has done through] Project Joseph.”

Leah is supported by our partner **Mark Parris**’ Church, Durbanville Community Church in South Africa and works with **Hope Under the Bridge**, a ministry to people who live in shacks and cardboard homes – literally – under a bridge, near Cape Town.

Through Project Joseph, Olga was also given opportunities to develop redemptive relationships with people in Stone Hill, where she

lives and ministers.

“Through Project Joseph I have reached out to a couple of children in my community and have managed to build new relationships with a few; the project blessed me with more brothers and sisters in Christ,” she says.

In our context and culture, people care about whether you are trustworthy or not....and Project Joseph made it possible to build relationships with those we might never have otherwise met - the servanthood of those ministering through this project spoke volumes in terms of “trust”!

-Olga Tshikovhi, Stone Hill

Lasting Impact: Body of Christ Demonstrating the Gospel

Another way Project Joseph has been instrumental in lasting impact has been aiding the local Body of Christ in demonstrating the Gospel they are declaring.

Stepping out in faith and risking their own well-being to demonstrate the love of Christ to their neighbors became a stepping stone on the journey to Christ-likeness for many.

In Stone Hill, the Project Joseph outreaches provided growth opportunities for young men from the Soldiers for Christ. Olga wrote, “When our Project Joseph vegetable garden started to supply our soup

kitchen with fresh, ‘homegrown’ vegetables, we decided to bring some young men from Stone Hill to come and learn, help, and earn. **Siwaphiwe** (18-year-old Soldier for Christ) immediately volunteered to help. Our young men have been volunteering a couple of days a month. We advised them to use their hard-earned stipends wisely, to tithe, and to also save.”

Siwaphiwe learned well. From his meager, hard earned funds, he gave to the Lord’s work, saved his money and made a few responsible purchases, such as a school uniform.

Olga explains, “In our context and culture nobody cares if your product, service or story is great; people care about whether you are trustworthy or not....and Project Joseph made it possible to build relationships with those we might never have otherwise met – the servanthood of those ministering through this project spoke volumes in terms of “trust”!

The children of ITMI’s **Casa Dorca Children’s Home** in the remote village of Prilipet, Romania were involved in the purchasing, preparing and delivering of food parcels to

impoverished families in their rural area. Some of them even offered to contribute to the cause from their meager allowances.

Casa Dorca Director, **Ionel Lovescu**, wrote, “I saw tears in our kids’ eyes when they saw the poor conditions all around that the families had [in the needy Romanian village]. Some of our children reached out and recognized how blessed they are to be part of the ministry that is Casa Dorca.”

Ionel also observed that many of the Casa Dorca children were shocked by the extremely poor conditions that all of the families lived in. He says, “Some of them told me that they remembered and even knew what it was like because they had

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Our Casa Dorca Children Have an Urgent Need

Except for those who live in large cities, wood is the most common way to heat buildings in Romania. Central heating is available in many cities, but in the rural areas like the town of Prilipet, central heat isn't available. Electric and gas are prohibitively expensive heating methods.

So, like most of the people living in this area, ITMI's Casa Dorca Children's Home relies on a boiler system that runs on wood to heat their approximately 2000 square meter building. It's a sustainable and affordable method used by many in this area.

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Each summer, the wood is gathered and stored in a large covered area to allow the sap to dry for several months. This prevents damage to the boiler. "Throughout the spring, summer, and fall we work very hard cutting up these huge logs into pieces that will fit into the boiler. Then they are hauled from that large pile to our courtyard at the facility and stacked neatly under a covered area of the courtyard where they remain dry," explains Casa Dorca Director, Ionel Lovescu.



To get through one year, Casa Dorca's wood storage area needs to be filled with wood.

In 2018, Casa Dorca was able to upgrade from a 135 kw boiler to a 250 kw boiler. In past years, Casa Dorca's boiler has been kept running by the generosity of a local brother who is a wood cutter. He provided the 200 cubic meters of wood required each year by Casa Dorca. At a cost of no less than \$50USD per meter, his contribution was worth about \$10,000 a year!

This local businessman, who owns one of the smallest wood cutting operations servicing the area, experienced a drop in business of late, likely due to the pandemic. With a heavy heart, he

had to inform Casa Dorca that he wouldn't be able to provide the wood to keep the orphans warm through the upcoming winter season.

Since summer is just a month or so away, Casa Dorca has a pressing need for \$11,200USD to keep the vulnerable children in their care warm and healthy during the freezing temperatures of the winter months of 2021-2022.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers



Casa Dorca's boiler system, upgraded in 2018, runs on wood.

SALT TRANSLATION *Update*

Last month, we shared about an immediate opportunity to make an impact in the least-reached countries of Pakistan and Bangladesh.

We're pleased to report that we now have 50% funding for the Urdu translation and a commitment for 100% of the funding for the Bengali translation has been pledged! This means this discipleship tool will begin impacting these countries soon!

In most places where this material is so impactful and needed, the training is greatly enhanced by each participant receiving their own printed copy of the notes. Many treasure the resource and review it over and over again long after the training is over.

This printing need creates an on-going cost for our partners who work tirelessly to meet the need for Biblical teaching in their country, doing multiple workshops a month when possible. Some, particularly in Bangladesh and Pakistan, are raising their families for under \$200/ month. While translation is a one-time expense, the cost to print these life-changing, highly sought after and valued books is ongoing.

If the Lord blesses us with funds above the cost of the two translations, we will direct that toward the cost of printing SALT workbooks. **Please consider whether you might be instrumental in providing a set of SALT workbooks for one of our partners!**

From the Director



DEAR TEAM: The Loss of a Faithful Brother

We see riots in the streets. We experience injustice and anti-Biblical rhetoric not monthly, but even hourly. We see people being shot and killed. We see what society looks like when God gives man what they seemingly most want...a God-less society. (Romans 1:18-24)

Yet we know that there is no such thing as a God-less society. Man will always elevate something that they can chase and worship. This is not new. It has been with us since Adam and Eve believed the serpent when he said, "you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen 3: 5)

Pastor Robert J. Morgan, in his book, *On This Day in Christian History*, shares this:

"Paul rightly warned of those who only pretend to be apostles of Christ. Some of them, wrapped in religious robes, have been diabolical beyond belief. Take the Inquisitors, for example...[who were] authorized by the medieval church to uproot heresy. In 1252, Pope Innocent IV allowed the use of torture, and the Inquisition soon became the most 'terrible engine of oppression that the mind of man or devil ever conceived.'"

Those with "eyes to see and ears to hear" can grasp the wave that is now overtaking our own United States. We have pushed God out of our schools, our politics and unfortunately, many of our churches. We are seeing displays of ungodliness and mental, emotional and spiritual blindness that is beyond profound into the realm of shocking.

Again, unfortunately, these debase and godless people and their evil actions have been lived and experienced for generations if not centuries in the places that ITMI has been called to work. There is no "fairness", no "mercy", no grace and love in many of the daily lives lived out each and every day by the precious faces you see each month in our *In Touch Mission International Monthly* newsletter. We choose not to show you all the faces and situations that ITMI and our partners see and experience far too frequently.

We can and will continue to share with you that we have, by God's provision and grace, been brought into the lives of faraway national Christian brothers and sisters who love the Lord and who faithfully serve Him by reaching out to and meeting the needs of the hurting and most needy in their times of pain and want.

Last month we lost one of these precious servants: **Pastor Samusole Kayombo Collins**. He was known by most as Pastor Colin. Pastor Colin was a faithful partner of [Johan Leach](#) out on the plains near the Zambezi river, ministering to the broken and isolated mud hut villages inhabited by the Luvale people. Pastor Colin has dealt with and ministered in the midst of great poverty, great evil spiritism, great fear and even greater hopelessness. He did it all with a calmness and faithfulness that belied the challenges that he had, even in his own life and family.

Pastor Colin knew his Savior and he knew that God was the only way to peace and freedom and he desperately wanted his people to know his God.

Pastor Colin was working with the team that Johan Leach put together to translate the SALT material into Luvale one morning last month. Later that day they found Pastor Colin laying on the floor of his home mostly unresponsive and he stepped into Glory before they could get him to the local missionary hospital. Colin leaves behind his dear wife Matilda, three children and one grandchild, as well as the much-loved church he pastored.

Pray for Pastor Colin's family as they have lost the bread-winner of the family, for his church as they now need to find someone to step into this very large set of ministry shoes, and for Johan Leach as he has lost a very dear brother and much-poured-into partner in ministry. We at ITMI would also ask that you stand with us in prayer, seeking God's wisdom and guidance in all that we do, and if you are so led, partner with us in helping our nationals stand up against the godlessness that plagues their homelands as well as ours. Thank you and blessings...

In His Service,



Pastor Colin with his wife, Matilda.

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the same conditions at their homes,” before coming to Casa Dorca.

Ionel encouraged them to share what they know about Jesus. Though many were timid to do so, this first experience in sharing the Gospel with impoverished families they don't yet know, may be the first of many, serving as a learning experience that can be built upon when future opportunities arise.

Lazarus, too, involved children from his church in the preparations for his hand-washing clinics, giving them the opportunity to participate in the sharing of the Gospel and serving of others at a young and formative age.

Project Joseph has also helped our partners and the local believers demonstrate how the body of Christ cares for one another by making sure that pastors were not forgotten.

Project Joseph has helped many of the Lord's servants and shepherds, who faced dire situations during the pandemic. This was a necessary demonstration of how the body of Christ cares for one another and that the Lord honors His servants who are faithful. It also helped ensure these shepherds could continue encouraging

and leading their flocks for the advancement of the Kingdom.

David Kumar writes that the pastors helped said, “Our churches are small and the believers are poor, the collection of the offerings are few hundred rupees (100 rupees = \$1.34 USD), now due to lockdown we are unable to pay our house rents, electricity bills and unable to buy medicine even. The donation you have blessed us with will help us to pay house rent or pay electricity bill or buy medicine.”

He also told us of Grace and Gloria, two grown daughters of a faithful Indian pastor, Nathaniel, who died when the girls were young. A few years ago, Grace was widowed and became a single mother when her husband was killed in a train accident. Gloria is also single, but these two Christian women have been faithful to serve the Lord even during difficult circumstances. The Project Joseph provision that they were given was much cause for rejoicing and honoring the Lord. It helped them carry on their father's ministry.

ITMI's **Paul and Molly**, too, made sure needy pastors in India were cared for through Project Joseph food



One of 200 destitute but faithful pastors in India blessed by Project Joseph!

parcels. These pastors feel overlooked and forgotten, but the food parcels go a long way to communicate God's care for them, strengthen their marriages and keep them serving their marginalized and persecuted flocks.

ITMI would like to keep providing our partners with funds to continue doing Project Joseph outreaches. Our partners are risking exposure and working tirelessly to reach the hurting with the Gospel. But in order to keep funding these outreaches, we need faithful partners who are willing to step forward in faith and stand beside our partners in equal sacrifice. The impact is immeasurable and the rewards are great.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

FOR PRAISE

1. David and Taru Kumar - India - Now more than ever, the provision of many openings to pray with Muslims and share the Gospel.
2. US - continued giving toward Christmas Catalog items, even into spring, making an impact around the world!
3. ECA - Zambia - Random inspection from officers of ministry of education showed that ECA is one of the best at meeting the health guidelines.
4. All - New believers, seeds planted, redemptive relationships built and opportunities for growth yielded by Project Joseph outreaches.

FOR PRAYER

1. Johan Leach - Zambia - Fellow faithful brother and co-worker, Pastor Colin, passed away suddenly leaving a family and a congregation grieving their leader.
2. David and Taru Kumar - India - Sons Samuel and Simeon tested positive for COVID-19.
3. Paul and Molly - India - Comfort for the families of 3 people they know who passed away from COVID-19 last week. Health and protection for them and their family.
4. Steve Evers - Bangladesh, Pakistan - Provision of funding to translate and print SALT materials and build up the church in these Muslim countries for her calling.



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