

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Acts 20:35

ITMI
Monthly

1 JULY 2021

intouchmission.org

CRISIS In India: YOUR RESPONSE

INDIA IS STILL IN CRISIS.
But thanks to ITMI supporters' response, the Gospel has been preached and disaster has been averted for some.

The shepherding and discipleship that your monthly support has allowed our Indian partner, Paul, to be involved in has yielded a group of believers and leaders who are prepared for this moment of need.

In the Holy Spirit's capable hands, Paul's discipleship and leadership has helped these believers grow into believers who are equipped to reach and serve for Christ. These are low-caste men with impoverished families who consistently tell Paul, "Give us a hazmat suit, brother, we want to go into the streets."

The streets are lined with squatters who have lost their homes and have nowhere to go. They just lay in the road, their faces heavy with hopelessness and desperation. "They're going on year two of no income," Molly explains.

The believers delivering the food were so excited to help others they



Above: People in India, desperate for the help you provided.
Below: Paul encourages the delivery team before they go out.



(continued on p. 2)

(continued from p.1)

were crying. In an environment where even the young and healthy have succumbed to COVID-19, these believers that Paul has discipled were eager to risk their health and their lives to share Jesus with the hurting. “Let us go to the streets!” they beg. Paul and Molly caution them to count the cost. If they get the virus, they may not be able to get into a hospital.

But these church leaders who have been discipled by Paul have discovered a time-proven secret. It’s an ancient secret we find in the book of Acts, “It is more blessed to give than receive.”

These men are facing difficult times themselves. They’ve lost loved ones, friends and jobs themselves. They tell Paul and Molly, “Although it’s been hard, we just put on our hazmat suit and started giving again and that brought us so much joy.”

These faithful believers are laying down their lives to take your gifts and the Gospel to the hurting. And they’re eager to do it!

These faithful Christian leaders held Project Joseph outreaches, bringing food and water to people on the streets, people sleeping at the Hindu temple, a leper colony and the Untouchables’ village.



One of Paul’s leaders shares food and the Gospel with a woman in need.



One of Paul’s leaders shares food and Jesus with a man in need.

Paul’s Pastor’s Group

Paul has a group of pastors that he regularly mentors via the internet to equip them for ministry. He asked Molly to share with them about enjoying Christ during the lockdown. Some of them were calling in to the meeting from hospital beds, hooked up to IVs. One shared that it is the prayer and encouragement from Paul and the other pastors in the group that is holding them together in the “fish pit”, a term they’ve given the hospital because of its filth.

“You feel like weeping,” Molly said, “its disgusting. It’s not a place for humans. It looks like a triage place for animals.”

Paul and Molly observe pastors suffering more than any other group they’re aware of. This is because they are the ones going out to help others.

Paul Takes a Risk to Feed His Family

In late May, the government wasn’t allowing grocery stores to open.

“I’ll call this lockdown a house arrest,” Molly said, “If you leave your home, the government will confiscate your bike or car.”

Paul’s family needed food, so he took a risk. He used backroads to make his way to the village grocer. The grocer knows Paul well. (After all, Paul shops for 23

BANGLADESH

ITMI Director, Steve Evers, continues to disciple believers around the world via Zoom. He is currently working with leaders in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Zambia. After one of the sessions, the leader in Bangladesh told Steve, "Every word is valuable."

Translation of the SALT material into Bengali has begun.

The process is like this. The first lesson is translated. Then an independent translator translates it back into English. Victorious Christian Living (VCLi), the organization that owns the [SALT material](#), reviews the English translation. If they determine that the translation is true to the original, the translator is approved and can continue translating.

Right now, we are in the middle of this process.

ROMANIA

[In our May issue](#), we shared that our [Casa Dorca](#) children have an urgent need. The local business man who has previously supplied the children's home with about \$10,000 worth of firewood each year saw a drastic reduction in business during the pandemic and was unable to make the usual donation this year.

It is important that Casa Dorca have the wood by summertime so that it has time to dry out. This ensures the boiler system will not be damaged.

Supporters have given about 80 cubic meters of the 200 cubic meters needed.

"It is important that we receive or purchase the remaining 120 cubic meters soon so that it can dry out through the summer," the home's Director, Ionel Lovescu writes.

The amount needed to purchase the remaining 120 cubic meters is around \$6,000USD. This need is both urgent and dire.

POLAND

BY ITMI PARTNER, [ANDREW GORSKI](#)

Dear in Christ,

Greetings from warm and sunny Poland!

If we, Polish believers, dream of seeing growth of Polish biblical church by 500% by 2050, there's a need for revival. Both scripture and church history give testimony to this truth - *prayer always precedes revival*.

I have a dream that 365 churches would take one day per year to pray for spiritual awakening in Poland. There are roughly 700 evangelical churches total in this country of 38 million people, so it would take 50% of all believers to pray for God to bring unity, growth, love, faith and revival in this country. Is it possible we'd stand in such unity? I don't know. Would we want to try? Sure. We'll go for it either in 2022 or 2023.

If you'd want to join this prayer for Poland with your local church (just for one day), let me know. I'll get back to you when the time comes.

Thank you for being there for God's people!

Editor's note: You can let Andrew know you'd like to participate by emailing the ITMI office at intouchmission@intouchmission.org.

SOUTH AFRICA

BY ITMI PARTNER, [MARK PARRIS](#)

One of our little distractions at home has been our leaking shower – It leaked through the ceiling into the room downstairs and after several

attempts to negotiate with the insurance company, we have finally been able to get the approval to do the repairs.

This is how we feel about ministry. We look forward to seeing what God is going to do in the lives of some, but it's still in process. For example, our high school ministry has been limping along for a while. Being a smaller church, we only have a handful of teens to start with, and then whenever we plan a meeting, we are competing with other social events and sporting commitments.

We decided to be very deliberate about youth discipleship. We've reminded parents that it is their job to be the spiritual leaders in the lives of their children; we are merely here to support. My oldest son, Austin, is helping me with leading the youth. He is studying to be a high school teacher, so he is naturally interested in the teens.

Last month we took the high schoolers out to play putt-putt. When we were almost there, it started raining! Everyone was disappointed, but when we drove around the block, the rain paused and we were able to have the place all to ourselves. It was a fun evening and over greasy burgers and fries, we were able to chat about our desire to see them walking closely with the Lord.

Since then, we have met with those teens who are sincere about their desire to follow Christ. We have been encouraged to see their growing understanding and willingness to participate in discussion. We've emphasized practical Christian living by teaching them how to think differently and how to read the Bible so that they can be shaped by its truth.

SOUTH AFRICA

ITMI's [Charl van Wyk](#) is organizing a pastor's conference for 70 pastors in South Africa.

The Lord has led ITMI supporters to cover a little more than half the cost of the event for South Africa pastors who have endured job losses and loss of income, government interference with their feeding of the hungry, led countless funerals to minister to the hurting, been arrested for not having "permits" and accusations from authorities that their churches are "super spreaders" of the virus. Charl observes that pastors are in need of rest, love, encouragement and support.

Charl writes, "Throughout this event, we aim to inspire, strengthen leadership skills, establish fresh Biblical perspectives for ministry, equip attendees with new tools and skills, pray for renewed passion and excitement, establish unity in the Body, spend time in prayer for our nation, provide encouragement and support, secure a sense of hope, and help with their overwhelming ministry needs!"

This event will take place in August, and will, God willing, feature ITMI's **Steve Evers** as a speaker sharing the Seven Areas of Life Training (SALT) Material.

Charl is praying for a total of \$5055 USD to fund this event.

POLAND

On June 21, ITMI's [Piotr Zaremba](#) wrote, "Yesterday we had a spiritual feast! The baptismal service of thirteen women and men. The Gospel is still powerful. And the Spirit is still at work. I also rejoice because we are a church, which plants churches. In the recent period, we saw three churches moving out from K5N and becoming independent. It leaves us a bit weakened. Yet over this last period, with Covid in the background, with involvement in numerous schools, with new publications being prepared, we enter our summertime with such a team of newly baptized! So, in

addition to thirteen miracles, there is one more, very personal: God is still using me. And I am happy."

Praise God for and pray for Łukasz, Alicja, Karol, Mikołaj, Marcin, Adam, Artur, Mariusz, Ania, Olga, Sara, Ania and Margo."



ITMI's Piotr Zaremba (far right) baptizes 13 in Poland!

ROMANIA

ITMI's [Ema Ban](#) had the opportunity to encourage evangelical women all over Romania as they live out their Christian calling. Ema was interviewed for a show that aired on CredoTV, a Romanian national Christian TV station. The interview was on "Women in Ministry" and "Women Back to School, Studying Theology" (Ema has been pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry degree.) The host of the TV show invited and interviewed Ema and two other ladies from Ema's doctorate program.



Ema and the other panelists at the interview.

"The main audience is evangelical women, but the desire is to also use it as an outreach tool. Part of our conversation focused on the calling from the Lord we've all received, but also on handling our families and homes, our ministries and now our doctoral studies," Ema describes.

Ema and the other ladies were invited back for a follow up interview. The episodes haven't aired yet, but we will keep you updated. Adi and Ema will also post the interviews on their Facebook page, found at facebook.com/adiema.ban, when it airs.

SOUTH SUDAN

In mid-June, ITMI's [Lazarus Yezinai](#) asked us to pray for his wife who had been in bed for 5 days with malaria, typhoid and ulcers. Several of Lazarus' other family members also faced fairly major health challenges, including his wife's grandmother, Lazarus' brother and his mother. "But in all this, God is still in control and He is good to us," he writes.

On June 11, Lazarus was able to hold a COVID-19 awareness outreach event for several gang members who are married with children. These households received Hand Washing Kits funded by ITMI supporters. (Pictured below) Many others stopped to listen to God's Word, too!

Lazarus also served as a mediator for a peace discussion between two feuding gangs. His Bible-soaked speech seems to have been the beginning of reconciliation, and Lazarus will be helping with further peace talks between the two gangs.



From the Director



DEAR TEAM: No One Is Invisible to Our God

It has been very hot in Arizona the last couple of weeks. How does 118 degrees sound to you? If you are having a challenge really understanding what 118 degrees is like, we have a solution for you. In the event that you want to share in our current environmental oven, turn your oven on, let it warm up and then open the door and put your face as close as you dare to the escaping heat. My vehicle's outside temperature gauge displayed 133 degrees after being parked in the sun for a couple of hours.

Just this morning as I exited the freeway that leads to our ITMI office, there stood at the intersection a disheveled man that probably was not as old as the years he carried on his body and face, holding a cardboard sign that simply stated, "Ever feel invisible?" These three simple words, "Ever feel invisible?" together shout far more than they could ever communicate separately. Maybe the desolation of the heat, the political debauchery, hunger, hopelessness, or just confusion with life, leads one to feel invisible and uncared for.

ITMI's [Project Joseph](#) has been a great vehicle to shine a light on those that are in need of the basic necessity of food. Not only physical, but emotional food that allows one to then serve a good portion of spiritual food. People who might never hear about the hope-inducing person of Jesus, are now connecting physical care with Jesus' desire to provide spiritual care. Please continue to pray for each of our projects that are actively involved in Project Joseph. We ask that God would lead them to just the very people that HE wants His love and truth to be given to.

Charl van Wyk in South Africa is such a visionary. He strives to follow all the opportunities presented to him and his team. South Africa is being locked down again and even being isolated and ostracized by airlines and other countries due to South Africa's inability to control the current virus issues. Charl and his team continue to minister through these roadblocks and meet the needs of those who are looking...to not be invisible. Charl is trying to use any and every opportunity to show the lost that they don't have to be, because to our God, no one is invisible.

Charl needs our prayers as South Africa's health, politics and culture continue to decline. Charl tells us that his financial bookkeeper prodded him to be careful leaving any funds in his bank account as there is a real concern that the government could come in and confiscate any financial reserves. This level of interference is not unheard of. These real possibilities make life more complicated for our South African partners. They are committed to using donated funds just as intended by the donor, yet, in Africa, sometimes the wheels of progress move very slowly requiring wisdom and willingness to intentionally delay a project until it is ready to be completed. Pray for us as we seek to help Charl with these specific and unique challenges.

In closing, we hope you know that your help and sacrifice for ITMI and our many faithful partners has done more to reverse the plight of invisible-ness than we could ever fully communicate. People are seeing that God sees them and that they are not invisible. Together, we are the conduit, the hands and feet of God's wonderful and always sufficient comfort and care. Blessings and much love from faraway places.

In His Service,



Charl's project leader, Cozmore, during a Project Joseph outreach in Zimbabwe.

P.S. Our \$25,000 matching offer for India Relief and Evangelism still needs \$9140 to max out the matching. If you are so led, this offers a special and unique opportunity to [increase our much needed impact in India](#). - Thank you

(continued from p.2)

growing children.) “It’s me, Paul,” he said, tapping cautiously on the back door. He was overjoyed when the door opened!

By God’s grace, Paul was able to secure two carloads of food for his family and managed to get it all home without trouble.

David and Taru Feed Slum Families

In another city in India, ITMI partners, **David and Taru Kumar** are also surrounded by suffering. They were able to feed five families whose children attend their preschool when it is open.

Ayisha’s family was one of them. Ayisha was one of the women who attended the weekly prayer meetings that Taru has been leading during the pandemic. These prayer meetings were joined by several women of other faiths from the slum where the Kumars minister. Ayisha was pregnant and not too far from her due date when she tested positive for COVID-19. When her husband found out about her case of COVID-19, he put her and her

three-year-old out of his house and divorced her.

David says, “God sent a young man who accepted Ayisha and her two children, but he too is a poor man and struggling to provide for them.”

With your help, Ayisha’s family was loved and provided for.



Team ITMI’s Impact

Last month, we announced that an ITMI donor has offered to [match all donations for India Relief and](#)

[Evangelism](#) up to \$25,000.

Praise the Lord! ITMI supporters have given \$15,860 USD (at the time of publication) to help our partners reach the hurting with the Good News and a gift of basic needs!

Please pray with us that our partners are given favor with bank managers and officials so that these funds arrive in their destination as quickly as possible.

Not long ago, Paul had to plead with a bank manager to allow one of our wires to get to him!

Thank you for your prayers and gifts to help the faithful believers in India reach the hurting and help suffering pastors!



FOR PRAISE

1. India - Opportunities for our partners to share Christ and meet the needs of the suffering.
2. Adi and Ema Ban - Romania - The opportunity for Ema to encourage women in the Lord on national TV.
3. Charl van Wyk - S. Africa - Upcoming Pastor’s Conference partially funded to equip and encourage pastors.
4. Steve Evers - US - Growth in Christ for leaders around the world through the SALT material.
5. Piotr Zaremba - Poland - Thirteen baptized in June!

FOR PRAYER

1. Casa Dorca - Romania - The provision of 120 cubic meters of firewood while there is still time for it to dry.
2. Paul and Molly - India - God’s comfort for the many experiencing loss and physical and emotional suffering.
3. Andrew Gorski - Poland - Revival and church growth in Poland for God’s glory and in His time.
4. Lazarus Yezinai - South Sudan - Protection and wisdom navigating discussions between feuding gangs, reconciliation that glorifies the Lord and ends destructive cycles of sin and pain.



PO Box 7575, Tempe, AZ 85281 (480) 968-4100 (888) 918-4100
intouchmission@intouchmission.org | fb.com/intouchmission
@intouchmission | instagram.com/intouchmissioninternational



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.



Scan to Donate