

*Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.* *Philippians 4:6-7*

**1 AUGUST 2021**

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# RIOTS, LOOTING AND CHAOS

## IN SOUTH AFRICA

*“Currently each family is taking stock of whatever food we have in our cupboards for rationing since grocery store shelves are quickly emptying.”*



In KwaZulu Natal, families live in these clusters of round buildings. Transport to Durban for work is usually more expensive than the possible wages, so many families live in poverty. Above, ITMI's Fifi Smith sits on the ground inside one family's home as she visits an elderly lady raising her young grandchildren alone.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### FREE ZUMA!

*By Kelly Smith*

A BIG thanks to so many of you who have reached out to check on our health and well-being. Here is a quick rundown on the situation which has brought us to this point.

One week ago the former president of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, was arrested on charges of contempt of court. Many Zulu people who are loyal to the former president have vowed to bring the country to a standstill, at any cost, until he is released, "Free Zuma" is their battle cry.

For the past 3 days there have been mass looting, rioting and burning of buildings in the provinces of Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal.

In response, multi-racial communities have banded together to form a type of militia to stop the looting and destruction as well as protect essential water, electrical and fuel sources. The official South African police have accepted and welcomed our assistance along with private security companies.

Currently each family is taking stock of whatever food we have in our cupboards for rationing since grocery store shelves are quickly emptying.

The trend now is for customers to text a purchase order of 3 items only, the store

will then text you several hours later when and if your order is ready for payment and collection.

Trucks for replenishing supplies are not coming soon since they are intercepted, looted and burned. All gas stations are closed unless you are an essential patroller or equivalent; stations that do open to public are inundated within a matter of minutes then all chaos ensues which then causes the station to close again.

There are police, media and private aircraft constantly flying overhead to help keep the peace. Myself and several men from our local church have joined together to protect our residential area and larger community.

*(Continued on p.2)*

(Continued from p.1)

Each household sits huddled around their phone listening to the radio chatter of where the hot spots are so as to know when to be ready to defend their property and lives. The volunteer militia are highly disciplined, well organized and quick to respond when trouble begins.

The main road the church sits on is a major passage way to where many of the rioters live. Last night the four road blockades in front of the church captured 20 loads of stolen goods, illegal fire arms and drugs, also many of the vehicles were stolen with missing license plates.

**My current schedule is to try and sleep as much as possible during the day to arm the blockades at night.**

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We've just been told by our local political officials that we are one of the last areas still standing which has not allowed our commercial areas to be burned to the ground.

We've had requests from our Zulu brothers and sisters in Christ to pray as they are also locked down in their homes frightened and rationing food / supplies.

Our children, Slindile and family are safe and their electricity has been restored after 24 hours being out; Fifi and others are also fine at 7 Rivers Outreach but will need food soon.

There are too many items to list when asking you to pray. Ultimately we want all this to stop and peace to return.

We pray that these events would open the eyes of many to see their need for Christ as Savior and likewise we would be bold in proclaiming the Gospel of peace.

Kelly Smith



## The Smith Family

Kelly, Wyatt

Cherise, Zoe,  
Fifi

## SOUTH AFRICA IS BURNING!

By [Charl van Wyk](#)

South Africa is burning! We are currently enduring riots, arsons, and multiple deaths; also, gunfire and warfare tactics waged from taxi minivans.

Shopping centers, motorcar showrooms, retail stores, and factories are being burnt to the ground. Numerous people are losing their livelihoods because of a group of gangsters perpetrating violence due to their leader being incarcerated.

Others are shooting and killing each other over the fierceness of competition for taxi passengers and lucrative taxi routes.

For communists, social regeneration takes place through violence and anarchy. Close observers of history know this is always shrewdly orchestrated but manipulated to appear spontaneous. The resulting carnage and confusion are blamed on capitalism, the greed of the wealthy, western imperialism, racism, etc.

Moreover, media outlets serve as handmaidens for these merchants of destruction. They dutifully churn out misinformation and disinformation, further frustrating a fearful public and priming them to embrace the "solution," which is always more state control.

While the Christians are building up, the communists are tearing down!

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

## A Wet, Frigid Winter

My western friends readily associate Africa with civil unrest, but rarely do they realize how cold it can get here. Right now, [in addition to rioting, COVID-19, lockdowns and loss] we're contending with a wet, frigid winter.

Olga [Charl's co-worker] explains what winter is like in a shack in an informal settlement:

*"The freezing cold air seeps into the shack homes through many small gaps and holes making sleep exceedingly difficult. Some residents rely on paraffin [space] heaters - which caused me to get seriously ill [from the exhaust]. Family members stretch out their hands over small stoves to get some heat.*

*"I know people who have been in the informal shack houses for longer than 15 years, but still aren't used to the cold. Every winter feels colder than the previous.*

*"On occasion, floods from the rain cause shacks to be soaked from the ground up. Residents have lost blankets, furniture, appliances, and, most importantly, documents such as birth certificates and ID books. After the flood, some of us must put our blankets and mattresses out to dry in the sun. [Difficult when the winter rains dominate the daily weather!]*

*"During rainy season water and mud are everywhere. It gets so cold you can feel it in your bones!"*

**For Communists, social regeneration takes place through violence and anarchy.**

We've already performed ministry outreaches with blankets, sleeping bags, and mattresses in **Stone Hill**. They were gratefully received and extremely beneficial, both to the recipients and our ministry.

Giving a gift blanket in winter establishes rapport with the community, showing them that we really care. (James 1:27)

(Continued on p.6)

## ZAMBIA

*ITMI's Excellence Christian Academy was forced to close again in the middle of June, and as of mid-July, all schools remain closed.*

The students pick up their work and complete it remotely with their parents' help.

The village school that was just opened earlier this year by Eugene Kalunga, **Spring of Love** is also closed. Because of the remote location and the low literacy level of the students' parents, Spring of Love has not been able to continue the students' education remotely.

Eugene asks for prayers for his country as next month, Zambians will vote in a Presidential election.

## SOUTH SUDAN

ITMI's **Vicky Waraka** doesn't have any biological children of her own. But in South Sudan, there are so many children in need of homes, that she has taken in children in need. She shares what little she has with them, providing meals, helping them with education and giving them a Christ-centered home.

Vicky has had 5 girls, now teenagers and young women, whose families couldn't care for them, living with her for several years.

One of the girls, Salma, was awarded a scholarship at Sandip University in Maharashtra, India, which covered tuition and 25% of boarding costs. Salma left on July



Salma before leaving South Sudan.

13 for this new chapter of life, and Vicky and the other girls said goodbye with some words of encouragement and prayer together. After she arrived at the University, Salma sent this message to ITMI's **Kent Reisenauer**, underscoring the fruit of Vicky's ministry in her life:

"Keep remembering me in prayers. It's so hard to live alone with none of my relatives next to me, but I know the Lord is always there to watch over me and I am so glad I can always talk to Jesus whenever I feel I am alone."

## UNITED STATES

On Tuesday, May 25, the doctors of ITMI's **Gary Howell** confirmed that he did indeed have a cancerous tumor. The confirmation came two months after Gary suffered an "attack" that prompted further investigation.

Two days after the confirmation, Gary underwent surgery to have the tumor removed. On, June 1, Gary posted on Facebook for those who were praying for him, "Praise the Lord - today I get discharged from the hospital, minus 30 lbs. and a giant cancerous tumor. The outlook is good and I'm grateful."

After the surgery, Gary still needed to undergo chemotherapy. His first treatment took place mid-July.

Your prayer and support have meant so much to Gary and his family. He writes, "For all of you who have supported me and my family through prayers, food and Go Fund Me, thank you from the bottom of my heart. It's your efforts that keep me inspired to finish this out and beat it!!!!!"

## ROMANIA

Praise the Lord, this month a donor added \$1000USD to the \$5000 USD that we shared had already been given last month!

In April, ITMI's **Casa Dorca Children's Home** in Romania shared with us that they had an immediate and urgent need for \$10,000 worth of firewood. Though it was summertime, the need was immediate because the wood needs to dry over the summer.

As the colder days of autumn creep closer, the less time the wood will have to dry. If they use green, undried wood, it gives less heat and the orphanage will end up needing more wood to keep the children living there warm through the bitter Romanian winter.

The bottom line is that Casa Dorca needs \$4000 for firewood very, very quickly.

We asked the Casa Dorca director, Ionel Lovescu, if they have a backup plan. His response?

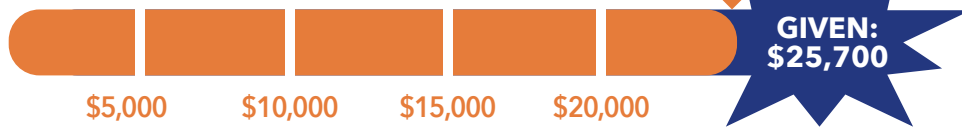
"We don't have any plans... except pray and trust in the Lord. There were a lot of situations like this - not with wood but different - when we didn't have anywhere to go or anyone to ask for help but the Lord and He always provided what we need."

If you'd like to be the Lord's tools to provide for this urgent need, Casa Dorca would welcome the help. Please visit [intouchmission.org/casadorca](http://intouchmission.org/casadorca) or scan here with your smartphone.



# Our Partners Respond to the Crisis in India with Your Support

INDIA RELIEF MATCH OFFERED: \$25,000



David and Taru with supplies for Deepam students' families.



David prays with a widow living in Ambedkar slum.



Modi Road slum families queuing for food parcels.



Taru and her team plan the future distribution.



Shrines to Hindu gods and goddesses inside one of the homes.



A resident of Ambedkar slum who is struggling with health issues.

AS THE LOCKDOWNS IN INDIA lifted slightly over the last two weeks, ITMI partners, **Paul and Molly**, have organized outreaches to declare and demonstrate the Gospel to those lining the roads in despair. Many have gone over a year without a steady income due to the pandemic. They are desperate, homeless and hopeless.

Paul and Molly have also planned two events aimed at reaching frontline COVID-19 workers, like traffic police, doctors, nurses and government cleaning groups in two different locations to take place the first week in August. An outreach for pastors will follow that.

**David and Taru Kumar** are also mobilizing. In June, they were able to provide two-week food parcels for the families of the students who attend their Deepam Primary School. These families live in the Modi Road slum. The Kumars are currently working on another Project Joseph outreach in another slum, Ambedkar.

The Kumars recently visited Ambedkar slum. The 500-700 foot area situated between a set of railway tracks and a busy road in the heart of Bangalore is home to about 300 families, averaging about 6 members each. This population of about 1800 people shares one cylindrical 8,000L capacity water tank (about 4.4L per person) and two toilets, one for men and one for women, separated by just a wall. Imagine sharing your toilet with 900 other people!

Every house is covered with a tarp or asbestos sheets, while a few have mud walls.

“As we walk into the slum through those narrow paths we can see not only poverty, sickness and illiteracy, but spiritual darkness is rampant,” David writes, “... We are sensing the Lord is placing burden in our hearts to visit some of these people regularly (at least once or twice in a week) to share about Jesus and pray for them. Our desire is to see people from this slum come to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

# From the Director



## DEAR TEAM: Something I Can Never Unsee

There are some things that once you see, you can never again...not see. The more dramatic or horrific, the more indelible the impression it makes on you. Last week gave me one of those things that I just can't stop seeing. Seeing that is, in my mind and in my soul. **Abid**, our Pakistani connection, sent me a normally short video that unfortunately seemed to run on forever. It came with this simple title: *School in Pakistan*.

Abid's intention was to follow up on why primary and secondary schools in Pakistan are so horrific to the children. It has been this way for generations upon generations. The video showed a male middle-aged teacher sitting almost at ground level in a small, dirty and dusty room. He had a small, short unfinished wooden table in front of him. The table was just wide enough to allow three small, maybe 5-7 year old boys to sit very close to each other and closely facing the teacher. This video shows the boys' heads, backs and faces being slapped repeatedly with the full-force of a grown man as the teacher's agitation with the boys grows. The fear that the small boys exhibited was real and heart-wrenching. The rest of the class in the back ground cowered in fear, as the cries and whimpers of the three boys rang out. They were slapped and beaten as quickly as the teacher could recoil and inflict his punishment again and again. The video continued for the longest two and a half minutes I'll ever experience. The terrible scene will haunt my soul for a long, long time.

Abid shares that this treatment is normal in schools in Pakistan. It was obvious that the teacher in this video fully knew that he was being recorded. He even looked into the camera and then intensified the abuse, as if to say, "...are you getting this?" Abid is told by the students in the school he teaches in, "...you are a nice teacher, you don't beat us." Godless cultures are broken. Children are considered easy targets and receive large doses of this brokenness.

You may have never heard of the name Iqbal Masih. In the 1980's, at the age of 4 years old, Iqbal was handed over as payment for a R\$600 rupee (\$12.00 USD) loan, to be used for labor in a handmade rug manufacturer's factory in his community outside of Lahore, Pakistan. Fourteen hours a day this 4 year old boy worked, lashed and tied to the carpet looms with other children of like age. This was to pay back a loan that Iqbal's father had taken out to care for his family. Six years later, the \$12.00 debt still not paid off, Iqbal escaped the forced bonded-labor. He was recaptured and beaten multiple times. He escaped again and found his way to a school for child-laborers, and then ultimately led over 3000 other children out of their slave-labor prisons. He was shot and killed at the age of 12 years old because the Rug-mafia was not pleased with his desire to rescue children from the cultural approved, yet illegal abuse.

We don't have space this month to share what happens to young and adolescent girls in this culture. It is as bad or worse as what the young boys endured.

From the stories in this month's newsletter, we are clearly reminded that this world is not our home and it is far more broken than we want to believe. ITMI is committed to helping nationals reach out and help rescue the lost, the needy and the forgotten souls that God so greatly values.

This last month we were able to help Abid get enrolled in Birmingham Theological Seminary's online extended biblical education. He hopes to add this biblical training to his current degree in mathematics, which, if God provides and makes a way, Abid hopes to start a biblically based school that will allow boys and girls to attend, in order to learn about the hope that God provides, and escape the traumas of their godless and abusive society.

One unmentioned earlier blessing from this last month, God provided a way for ITMI to bring **Project Joseph** to far northeast India. Because of its strong Asian and jungle culture, the Indian government treats these people groups as outcasts and substandard. COVID has caused lockdowns that keep families from eating. Starving families have little to no hope. ITMI's contact in this area, **Athan Shongzan**, united his national ministry team and created a three part plan to feed both Christians, the local unsaved, and a group of children that needed school fees in order to get an education that would allow them to help care for their family members.

Athan shares, "We pray that our Father will make a way for us to get funds at His good time." "Praise God!" "And thank you so much. We will materialize the mission as planned...." "Once again, I thank God for ITMI and thank you for your leadership."

Each of you who has prayed with ITMI, partnered with ITMI and encouraged ITMI are all a part of what God is doing in and through ITMI and our partners around the world. Each of us must know that we all are vital to God's plan to rescue and redeem the lost and hopeless. Thank you and may God bless you richly.

In His Service,

P.S. Please pray for my upcoming travels to South Africa for a pastor's conference with Charl and his team.

We'd like to do more and help further afield!

We want to also help those suffering in the "hottest" areas of civil unrest.

Winter can be extremely uncomfortable for those living on the streets or in shacks. It's even more agonizing when the last warmth you felt was the fire from your place of business burning to the ground.

Delivery of blankets will take place in homes, where the Gospel is presented at the delivery. Or if on a large scale, through doing research and finding the neediest in an area and ministering to them at their point of need. Bibles or Gospel tracts will accompany the blankets and specific needs prayed for.

A Bible costs \$13, a blanket \$14.50, and a Space Blanket - a lightweight, compact first aid thermal blanket - \$3.50.

Our Project Joseph is again our point of support for our suffering friends. Please join us in prayer and consider a financial contribution towards Charl's (Missionary in Africa) initiatives.

So far, where we live, besides gunshots ringing out we have experienced none of the present violence; we do however sleep with one eye open and firearms at the ready!

Please keep our country and continent in your prayers. And search out reliable news sources on our story. Sadly, what's happened here for many years is now starting to more noticeably unfold across the West. That is why so many Christian brothers and sisters in South Africa and elsewhere are praying so fervently for America.

*Charl van Wyk*



## Blankets ready to help advance the Gospel in South Africa.

News outlets are already claiming the true cause of the riots is inequality, hunger and joblessness. These are issues our partners have been working tirelessly to address, but *from a Biblical perspective* rather than a political one that seeks to grab power.

We're proud to stand behind our

partners who have been undeterred from answering their Biblical calling to honor Him with generosity to the poor.

*"Whoever oppresses a poor man insults His Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors Him."*

*Proverbs 14:31 ESV*

They've been doing this by responding to the urging of ITMI Director, **Steve Evers**, to storehouse food and basic needs, like Joseph in Egypt, to advance the Gospel and spread peace and hope.

Fellow believers, between the crisis in India and the riots in South Africa, our partners need us to stand with them now more than ever. There's never been a better time for our partners to be on the ground, in the trenches, faithfully declaring the Good News to the hurting and suffering.

Whatever you find yourself blessed with, whatever resources you find yourself equipped with, whatever time you find to pray, it has been given "for such a time as this." *Esther 4:14*

If you'd like to make a financial contribution, visit [intouchmission.org/southafrica](http://intouchmission.org/southafrica) or scan here → with your smartphone.



*Summer Kelley, Steve Evers*

## FOR PRAISE

1. India/US - Full exhaustion of the \$25,000 matching offer means the possibility for the Gospel to go out to many!
2. South Sudan - Vicky Waraka - The provision of higher education for Selma.
3. South Sudan - Lazarus Yezinai - God's work reaching many with hope during recent 4 day conference.
4. US - Gary Howell - Surgery and the removal of a cancerous tumor complete, with a good outlook.

## FOR PRAYER

1. South Africa - Protection and provision for our partners and their families.
2. South Africa - That many eyes would be opened to their need for Jesus through challenges they may be facing.
3. India - That upcoming outreaches organized by our partners would reach many with the Gospel.
4. Zambia - ECA - Lifting of school closures and Zambia's Presidential election next month.
5. US - Gary Howell - Gary's continued chemotherapy treatment.
6. Zambia - Johan Leach - Continued healing from COVID-19 and Tick Bite Fever.
7. US - Wisdom as ITMI navigates the many needs and opportunities around the world.



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