

*"The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water,
but a man of understanding will draw it out."*

Proverbs 20:5

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SAVING FRANK:

How the Lord Chased Down a New Family Member

ZAMBIA

It was 12:30pm on Saturday, September 11 in Zambia's capital city, Lusaka.

ITMI's [Steve Evers](#) should have been about to board the third and last flight in the journey home after spending a month visiting and ministering with ITMI partners in South Africa and Zambia.

Instead, Steve was eating his noon meal at Nando's, a prolific restaurant chain that thrives on just about every other street corner in the cities of southern Africa.

The month-long trip had been fraught with logistical entanglements related to COVID-19 and the testing requirements for travel. Travel in Africa is always chaotic, but the COVID testing requirements added insult to injury.

In order to be allowed to board his flight from Lusaka to Ethiopia, Steve was required to present a negative COVID test from within the past 72 hours. When that test came back positive, he had conceded that he was not going home and would miss his flight on Saturday.

Steve didn't know it then, but the Lord had an appointment for him in Lusaka the next day.

Near the table where Steve sat to eat, a dutiful employee was vigorously

flinging a large mop around the floor by the restaurant's entrance.

Steve's stomach turned as he felt a bit of the mop liquid land on his hand... which was resting next to his food.

So caught up in checking the box and completing the task, the Nando's employee didn't realize she was defeating the purpose of mopping by flinging the germs into the food of Nando's patrons.

Steve had observed this type of unclear thinking over and over his whole trip. It is a true mental and emotional pandemic that plagues many of the cultures in Africa. So many of the people he came in contact with were so traumatized, that it seemed to fog up their reasoning and cloud their brains. Their ability to "see" life is murky, reasoning as if in a perpetual life-long cloud. It had been rewarding to see people embrace the Lord and His truth after teaching discipleship material, including the [Seven Areas of Life Training \(SALT\)](#), several times. Their eyes, both mental and spiritual, are opened as if hearing the truth for the first time. Their thinking immediately became clearer as they embraced the Lord in obedience.

One of the reasons for this particular trip was to teach SALT lessons at a pastor's conference organized by



New believer, Frank Musonda (left) and his wife, Charity (right) of Lusaka.

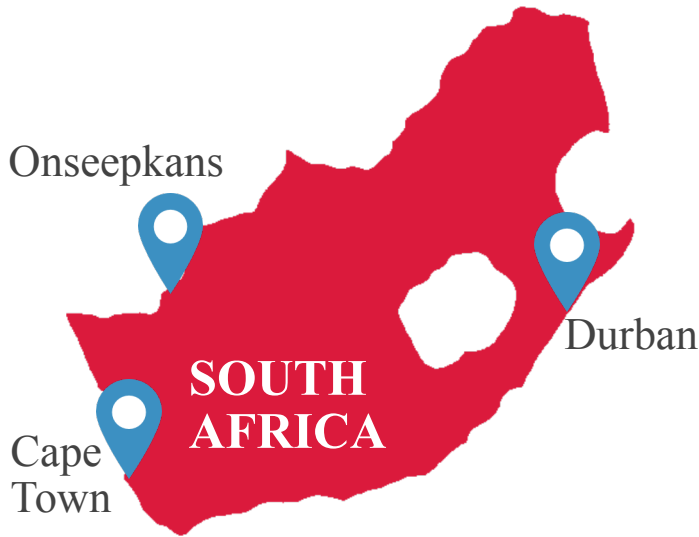
ITMI's [Charl van Wyk](#) in South Africa.

Another attendee of the conference in particular was a leader in the church. She and her daughter had been taken in by their pastor's family when they escaped a domestic violence situation.

Years later, she and her daughter still need to live with the pastor's family. The pastor's son had impregnated her minor daughter and they were both unsure how to handle the pain they'd suffered.

As she sat under the Biblical teaching, she understood for the first time that she needed to forgive. She also understood that she needed to manage her finances in a Christ-honoring way by providing for her own family through hard work. This would keep her family from being at the mercy of others, who may or may not demonstrate godly lifestyles. Understanding these (continued on p.6)

More Highlights from Steve's Trip!



SOUTH AFRICA

📍 Cape Town: A Meaningful Visit

"That meant so much to them," Charl said as he and Steve got in Charl's vehicle.

It was midmorning on a Sunday, following the second preaching opportunity for Steve. Steve and **Charl van Wyk** had just visited a church located in an informal township. The township was well-known to many as a place you wouldn't want to go. Those who don't live there tend to avoid it.

But the fact that Steve and Charl went to the township to fellowship with the believers there meant the world.

The pastor was pleased as could be. "This visit did more for him than we can understand," Charl commented, referencing the pastor of the church. The visit did something simple but important. It showed this pastor and his congregation that they are important. Valued. And as a marginalized, shoved aside group, they needed a reminder of this truth.

Charl's conference for church pastors and leaders began the following afternoon. The teaching on forgiveness had been powerful. One pastor shared that his congregation was going to think they were hearing from a new pastor starting that Sunday. He had also phoned his wife, telling her he was

going straight from the conference to make things right with his uncle and sisters.

📍 Onseepkans: "Our Greatest Ministry Yet."

"This is our greatest ministry yet," Gerhard commented to Steve.

ITMI's [Gerhard le Roux](#) was referring to the newest outreach he and his family were involved with.

At the time Steve visited Onseepkans, two other missionary families were visiting from outside the Cape Town area, where Gerhard and Elmane le Roux lived and ministered before moving to Onseepkans. One was transporting a special motorbike for the le Rouxs newest and most effective ministry yet, the [Daily Bread Bakery](#).

The old and used motorbike had been customized with a box that could hold the fresh-baked loaves of bread made in the le Roux's semi-commercial kitchen, which they deliver to families in the area every day.

By the time the deliveries are made, the Daily Bread Bakery doesn't make a profit. The custom motorbike will help cut the delivery costs, but it won't make the bakery profitable - at least not from a business perspective.

The Daily Bread Bakery serves two very important functions - and neither of them is profit.

Function #1: Ministry

Daily deliveries mean



Left: New delivery motorbike for the Daily Bread Bakery. Right: Steve fellowships with the township believers in their makeshift church structure after preaching.



Steve and Charl encourage, honor and fellowship with township church pastors.

frequent contact. Frequent contact with the le Roux family means frequent contact with Jesus living inside them. Gerhard prays with many of the recipients as he delivers the bread.

Function #2: Freedom

For those living in Onseepkans, the nearest real grocery store is 80 miles away over mostly washboard dirt roads. Most can't afford transportation to get there, which leaves them only one option. And the owners of the local shop know it.

Buying food at the tiny trading post in Onseepkans would be like buying every grocery item you need at theme park prices. Most of the people of Onseepkans do that on tiny government pensions of around \$135 a month. The majority are deeply in debt to the local shop.

The le Rouxs have helped a few members of their congregation get out from under the oppression by buying groceries in bulk from the grocery store in Kakamas and allowing others to buy the groceries from the le Rouxs almost at cost. The bread deliveries help, too.

They'd like to help a few more people by offering a few more items at decent prices, but that requires capital to pre-purchase the basic staples of the townships' diet. We can help Gerhard and his family have many more spiritual interactions with the normally closed-off people in the community, by helping them stock a small

grocery store that will always give far more bread of life than physical food.

📍 Durban: Kelly's New Ministry

"For the last decade and a half, we've almost been doing it backwards," Kelly told Steve.

In Durban, Steve visited with ITMI's [Kelly and Cherise Smith](#), who recently moved to Durban from 7 Rivers Farm where they spent the last 15 years ministering. He also got to tour NextGen Seminary, a new project Kelly is involved with, equipping Zulu men to reach other Zulu men.

The Zulu culture is patriarchal. The elder man in the family must give his permission for the women and children to participate in any ministry events and outreaches.

Kelly and Cherise have also learned that though they've been faithful to declare the Good News, the Zulu need to hear it from other Zulu who have put their faith in Jesus. Otherwise, they tend to hear the Good News, but accept it only as information about another people group's religion, never considering that a Zulu could also follow Jesus instead of the traditional Animism beliefs that are part of Zulu life.

"For the last decade and a half we've almost been doing it backwards," Kelly explains, "We've been in the rural area with the grandmothers, aunts and children."



Left: Naomi le Roux and one of the congregants the le Roux family has helped, loved and disciplined. Right: ITMI's Kelly Smith ready to teach in a NextGen Seminary classroom.

"This [the seminary] excites me," Kelly continued, "because we're able to reach the hearts of men. If we can equip a Zulu man for ministry, God can, through him, reach his own nation [and family]."

ZAMBIA

📍 Chavuma: Expanding into Angola

"Ten year old girls become mothers in these villages," Johan hit Steve with the stark reality.

The capital of Communist Angola, Luanda, is just about as far west as it could be and still be in the country. But Angola's

eastern border is not far from Chavuma, the ministry base of ITMI's [Johan Leach](#) in Zambia. It's from this base that Johan is discipling 5 hand-picked leaders, who now disciple several leaders themselves, all training believers to evangelize and disciple others. As Johan's evangelists push out into the isolated Luvale flood plains west of the Zambezi River to reach the many villages there with the Gospel, the difficult reality about young girls is what they are finding. It gets worse the further west you go, especially in the villages across the Angola border. They are also finding that mothers are





Steve Evers and Johan Leach with local pastors who are discipling and training evangelists and pastors that spread the Gospel to the Luvale on the flood plain.



Left: Steve fellowships with locals who value the school. Right: One Spring of Love teacher shares the challenges of teaching in the village.



"I am filled with joy to see my children...pray in a way they did not pray before I met them."



dying needlessly from birthing complications that could be mitigated with professional help and equipment.

The wife of one of the pastors called to the Luvale people in Angola and eight other believing women have already become formally trained midwives. But in order for them to be as effective as they can be, they need equipment for their clinic. Right now, the midwives don't even have gloves to protect them from HIV/AIDS and other diseases during birthing.

Because of your gifts, ITMI was able to enhance Johan's ministry and the spread of the Gospel across the Luvale nation by providing a water well for the clinic and attached church in Angola. Your support also provided a water well, tank and pump system in another strategic location that will allow evangelists to travel further into the unreached bush to share the Gospel, disciple the people and also provide a landing spot for a mobile medical team to come and regularly meet the medical needs of those that can't get to Chavuma to deal with their health issues.

📍 Kabwe: ECA and Spring of Love

"It has been a sacrifice changing locations," the instructor told Steve.

Shortly after Zambian schools reopened following COVID related closures, Steve arrived in Kabwe, Zambia. He visited [ECA](#), then headed out to visit [Spring of Love](#), the newly

opened village school about an hour and a half drive from Kabwe. The administrator of the school, who is also a teacher, told Steve about how he had given up the comforts and conveniences of life in Kabwe to move to this remote village. There were no available huts in the village, so he and the other teacher must cycle over 5 miles each way, no matter the weather, to get to the school.

"It has been a sacrifice changing locations," he admitted, but quickly added, "I am filled with joy to see my children write things they couldn't write and pray in a way they did not pray before I met them. The sacrifice is worth achieving what you want to in the end, and that is to make sure children receive a good education and the Gospel of the Lord. We are not just teaching them 1+1. We are also equipping these children with faith in Jesus."

Right now, ECA and Spring of Love are working to build onsite housing for teachers. The foundation has been laid, and most of the bricks made onsite, but the process needs jump-starting. Not only so the teachers can live onsite, but also so they can reallocate the bicycle time to ministry time at the school with adult literacy, sports for all children of the area and the growing of food that will be used to feed the students that don't come to school due to their family's inability to supply a simple lunch for the mid-day meal.

From the Director



DEAR TEAM: Thoughts from My Trip to Africa

Seven, yes seven, COVID tests were needed for this just completed trip to South Africa and Zambia to minister to and with our ITMI partners. Five of those tests came back negative. Two came back...positive.

I won't tell you that reading "positive" in bold, black and white on a COVID report while you are an ocean and a hemisphere away from home is not disconcerting. The enemy takes full advantage of reminding you of all the pain and heartache, the isolation and sometimes worse treatment, that has been associated with testing positive for this virus. A sense of anxiety slowly infiltrates your psyche, even though you "know" that your Father is in complete control and He always has a better plan than you do. I guess this exercise in trusting His provision and protection exposes that we too, like Frank and his co-worker at Nando's, think we know our hearts and motives but we continually need the Spirit of God to clearly show us what is really in our hearts. In staff devotions just this week we read Proverbs 20:5, *"The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out."*



Thoughts from A Trip to Africa

- ▶ **WHAT GOD CALLS US TO DO, HE PROVIDES A WAY FOR IT TO BE DONE** - The first two South African partners I visited, I hugged, rode in a closed up vehicle with, ate next to and breathed the same air were either confirmed with COVID or had multiple symptoms, and yet God chose to keep me healthy and free from health distractions and interruptions of what His plan was for my mission trip.
- ▶ **TRUST IN GOD AND TRUE HOSPITALITY ARE NOT ALWAYS HUMANLY CONVENIENT** - When **Gerhard le Roux, Kelly and Cherise Smith**, and Hannes and Christel van Jaarsveldt found out that I tested positive or that I might be a health challenge to them or their families, they willfully, intentionally started making plans on how to take care of me for the anticipated extended recovery. Gerhard and Hannes even went as far as saying that they wanted me at their homes so that they could take care of me - clear displays of trust in God's protection, provision and a wonderful display of the gift of true hospitality!
- ▶ **GOD REALLY DOES LOVE AND DRAW ALL MEN UNTO HIM** - Only if you had been with me in Zambia - at the end of my month long trip to two places that the U.S. CDC, the travel agent, and a many others pleaded with fear-laced vocabulary and emotion almost begging me not to go to - could you see all the small direction-correcting nudges that God used to make sure that one, insignificant seeming Zambian manager of Nando's Chicken in Lusaka named Frank, would have a clear opportunity to choose Jesus' redemptive plan for his life. I love how God isn't worried about how much the false positive messed with me on so many levels and cost ITMI a fair amount in extra charges for missed air flights, extended guest house days and other extras. His plan is most important.

A few days after I returned home, Wayne Smith Jr. reminded us when he shared this great reminder on Facebook,

"'From the place of His dwelling He looks upon ALL the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts INDIVIDUALLY; He considers all their works.' Psalms 33:14-15." Wayne continued, "...this verse makes me think of how God takes such care in shaping and fashioning each and every one of us. The baby in a mother's womb is being knit together, and their heart more than anything is made unique to them...more importantly it reminds me that each individual on this earth has value placed upon them by their Creator. So whatever our different viewpoints are let's not forget God's view point, and that is that you ARE 'fearfully and wonderfully made!' Psalms 139:14."

May we all be willing to be detained, redirected, held up, inconvenienced and even financially impacted, when God is doing what only He can do in our lives and the lives of others for His purposes. *What is He asking from you today?*

In His Service,

GARY'S GOOD NEWS

"I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THIS IS AMAZING!"

Gary's doctor kept repeating. "I do," Gary acknowledged, thinking of all the people who have been praying for him. His doctor was trying to make sense of Gary's latest cancer marker numbers: **4.1 down from 18.6**. Gary's liver enzymes are also 100% normal! With those encouraging numbers, chemotherapy

will continue, but at a reduced level until a scan is done in December. Meanwhile, the Lord continues to use Gary in the new places cancer has taken him. During one two hour chemotherapy session, Gary's nurse sat next to him for an hour while he listened and used his gift of counseling to point her to Jesus.

(continued from p.1) truths brought unprecedented clarity and peace to her mind and soul.

This story of trauma and abuse is just a tiny representation of what lies just below the surface of untold millions of African lives.

Never one to miss a teaching moment, Steve asked the young Nando's worker to stop mopping and explained that she was flinging floor dust and particles into his food.

Steve was detained in Zambia by the positive COVID test, so he had time to share an observation with Nando's leadership. He asked another employee if he could speak to the restaurant manager.

With much fear and dread in the employee's eyes, she went to find the

person in charge. Frank came to Steve's table with slumped shoulders, and a down-trodden countenance.

Steve asked Frank to please sit down, which is quite irregular in Africa culture. Again, Steve seemed internally compelled to help this manager see beyond the normally beneficial activity of mopping to something larger.

As Steve explained, Frank acknowledged that the way she was mopping was counterproductive to the purpose of creating a clean environment. This gave Steve the opportunity to help Frank see that even the things we think are good things to do, might not be what God says are actually good in His Word. Frank thought he would be saved because he'd "done some good things" but Steve was able to help Frank see

that as he was wrong about the mopping, he might also be wrong about how to find salvation. Steve led Frank to see that salvation doesn't come through doing good things, but, as God's Word says, through faith alone in Jesus.

Frank gave His life to Jesus right there in the Lusaka fast food dining room. After exchanging contact information with Steve, Frank walked away with tears in his eyes and a new man!

This, of course, was why Steve needed to remain in Lusaka for a couple extra days and why his COVID test came back positive before his originally scheduled departure. What had seemed like total chaos - missed flights and all their complications - was actually divinely orchestrated purpose.

FOR PRAISE

1. US - Gary Howell - Dropping cancer marker numbers and new opportunities to share Jesus!
2. Zambia - Steve Evers - Frank's new faith in Jesus Christ!
3. South Africa - Steve Evers, Charl van Wyk - Changed lives of the pastors who attended the conference.
4. Zambia - Johan Leach - The two new water systems move the Gospel's reach further into the Luwale plain.
5. South Sudan - Lazarus Yezinai - Changed lives after a recent one-day conference in rural Wau.
6. South Africa - Onseepkans - Daily delivery ministry allowing redemptive relationships to flourish.

FOR PRAYER

1. South Sudan - Vicky Waraka - A neighbor gained access to her property and stole some items of value.
2. South Africa - Kelly and Cherise Smith - Recovery from COVID-19 and new seminary ministry.
3. South Africa - Onseepkans Mission - Continued provision and reach for new bakery and delivery ministry.
4. Zambia - ECA - Provision of funds to build teacher accommodations on the school property.
5. Zambia - Johan Leach - Provision of equipment for the Maternity Clinic in Angola.



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