

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
for His steadfast love endures forever!*

1 Chronicles 16:34

ITMI
Monthly

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7 REASONS ITMI PARTNERS ARE

GIVING THANKS

#1: The Stone Hill Early Childhood Development Center demonstrating the Gospel to the poor and protecting precious lives.

Research shows that during the first 1000 days of life, nutrition is the fuel that drives early brain growth, providing

initiative to spread the Gospel, alongside Charl's brother-in-law, [Dr. Bradley Kuhn](#). Dr. Kuhn runs a thriving medical practice in nearby Durbanville, but spends much of his time ministering in Stone Hill.

As a professional, Dr. Kuhn understands how crucial the first 1000

toddlers unsupervised in their shacks while they work. Why don't they take their children to the Early Childhood Development Center where they would be supervised, loved, educated and given proper nutrition all day long?

The center has to charge for its services to cover the expenses of the food and

Stone Hill

South Africa



the building blocks for a child's cognitive abilities, motor skills and socio-economic development for the rest of their life. According to UNICEF, approximately one third of children around the globe are developmentally stunted as a result of chronic malnutrition.

Some of these children are living in the informal settlement of [Stone Hill](#), South Africa, where ITMI's [Charl van Wyk](#) and [Mark Parris](#) have led an

days of life are for life-long health. Getting an [Early Childhood Development Center](#) operating in Stone Hill was an important first step that ITMI supporters helped Bradley and Charl with several years ago, and they are so thankful that the Gospel is being demonstrated to the needy in Stone Hill in this way.

With the capacity and available staff in the Early Childhood Development Center, it is difficult for Dr. Kuhn to watch Stone Hill families leave their

staff. Even though the fee is minimal, many families can't afford to provide that benefit for their children.

When ITMI Director, [Steve Evers](#) visited Stone Hill, Dr. Kuhn expressed his desire to create a scholarship fund to help Stone Hill families who were prevented from the benefit by their impoverished condition.

The toddlers are taught Bible lessons at the center, but there is an even bigger kingdom benefit. (continued on p.2)



Left: Dr. Kuhn in front of the Stone Hill Early Childhood Development Center. Right: Inside the Development Center.



Left: A Stone Hill mother walks among the shacks of Stone Hill with her child. Right: Martie le Roux (right) with a visiting friend. Below: Onseepkans girls that Martie teaches regularly, being presented with a Bible at Onseepkans Mission.



(continued from p.1)

By caring for and valuing these small, vulnerable children from impoverished families, a new kingdom is being proclaimed. This is a kingdom where the weak are protected, the overlooked are valued and those who are usually pushed to the margins of society are treated like the bearers of God's Image that they are. As American believers, you will of course recognize this kingdom as the one Jesus demonstrated and preached.

But Stone Hill residents are familiar with this kingdom only inasmuch as it is demonstrated to them by followers of Jesus as their counter-cultural actions reveal what Jesus' kingdom is truly like.

This kingdom can be demonstrated to a Stone Hill family for \$336 USD per child per year.

#2: Martie le Roux's opportunity to help young women in Onseepkans and build relationships with them.

Our partners at [Onseepkans Mission](#) are situated in a rural town in the Northern Cape area of South Africa, within sight of the Namibian border.

The township of Onseepkans is a rural farming community, with little infrastructure or educational opportunities. Many locals live on social grants and are indebted to the local trading post. There isn't much of a future for youth growing up in this town. Though they may earn some sort of diploma or certificate from finishing school, it is barely worth the paper it's printed on because the low quality of Onseepkans' education is well-known. To get educated, some have tried going to Pofodder, a distant rural town with a slightly better opportunity. Young girls who do that must sleep in dorms where many have been taken advantage of during the night.

Martie le Roux, the eldest daughter of ITMI's **Gerhard and Elmane le Roux**, has found a way to mentor and build relationships with some of the young girls in Onseepkans.

Martie is pursuing her own diploma - the South African equivalent of a

GED. This is a well-recognized certification.

Martie regularly gathers the interested young women in her living room and is teaching them the information they'll need in order to get their own certification. But the living room at Onseepkans Mission is a difficult place to hold class. There are constant interruptions. Men from town meet with Gerhard, and the constant clamor from the mission kitchen, where the large le Roux family and others are fed from scratch daily and where the [Daily Bread Bakery](#) operates, feeding the needy in town and garnering Gerhard the opportunity to visit with people daily and share the Lord.

Martie's deep desire is to convert a small structure on their property to a little classroom where the girls could study uninterrupted.

The le Rouxs need \$1458 USD to turn one of the storage sheds on their property into a place where Martie can better reach these girls with the Gospel and equip them to make their contribution to the world.

Note: In last month's issue, Martie's sister, [Naomi le Roux](#), was errantly called Olivia in a photo caption.

#3: Your investment at Mahina Forward Base has already led to the Gospel being shared!

"The challenge we face on the [Zambezi or Luvale flood] plains is obviously the distance. We've got thousands of square kilometers, and we've got few [workers]." ITMI's [Johan Leach](#) says. Transportation and supplies are challenges that must be overcome to take the Gospel deep into the Luvale floodplains. The evangelists can only go so far before they would have to return to Chavuma for water and supplies.

So in order to carry the Gospel further from Chavuma, Johan's plan is to set up "forward bases" where evangelists can refill their water containers with clean, safe water pumped up from the river, filtered for safety and stored in an elevated water tank by a water pump and filtration system. They can also restock their food supplies with vegetables from



An aerial view of the village of Mahina, situated near the Zambezi River, about 18 miles downriver from the Leach's base in Chavuma.



Left: While the team works on the tower, student missionary, Zea shares the Gospel with the village children. **Right:** Johan and his team at the Mahina Forward Base constructing the tower that will hold the base's new water tank. **Below:** Steve Evers teaching SALT to Hub leaders and overseers while visiting Chavuma.





Left: Lazarus prays for a young man, a “drunkard” who Lazarus led to Christ at a crusade. Lazarus preached Mark 11:12-15 and 20-23. **Right:** The foundation of Lazarus’ family’s new home has been poured.

the gardens that will flourish because of this watering system.

During his recent visit with Johan and his wife, **Lesley** in the very remote Chavuma, Zambia, Steve visited the Forward Base in Mahina. Mahina is a village located about 18 miles downriver from Chavuma that can be reached by boat during the rainy season and by vehicle during the dry season.

Johan’s team shared, “Steve presented the Seven Areas of Life training (SALT) to our Hub Leaders and Overseers. Those that attended this training were immensely impacted. Steve was a great encouragement to the family and we are very grateful for the relationship with ITMI and supporters. We thank Steve and ITMI for supplying the complete solar pump and bulk water storage tank that resides at Mahina Forward Base.”

Johan recently took a team to Mahina to install the water pumps and tank at the Forward Base. While the team worked, one of the team members, a student missionary named Zea, shared the Gospel with those living in the remote village as another team member, Joseph, interpreted. Zea also gained the attention of some of the village children through games and shared the Gospel with them as well.

The Leaches and their co-workers - particularly the faithful evangelists who

are eager and ready to carry the Gospel to Luvala villages deep in the bush - are deeply grateful for the investment made by ITMI supporters to provide the water system for this forward base. Those whose lives are about to be changed as the Gospel reaches their village don’t know it yet, but they will add their deep gratitude eventually.

#4: Your help improving the home of Lazarus’ family.

Lazarus Yezinai, an ITMI partner serving in South Sudan, is deeply grateful for the help ITMI supporters provided.

His household of 17 was in great need of additional space in the three-bedroom structure they lived in. As they watched their mud walls slide away in the rainy season, they had to send some of the children who were in their care to sleep at neighbors’ homes until they could afford to improve the situation. In the over-inflation and instability of South Sudan’s economy, without the Lord’s intervention there wasn’t much hope they would ever have the funds to do it. In response to this need which we shared with you in [September](#), collectively, ITMI supporters provided more than enough to meet the Yezinai family’s needs!

The foundation for the new structure has been poured and the walls are projected to be up within a couple weeks.

Lazarus writes, “Please, my thanks to God in the first place and thanks also to ITMI administration for what you are doing and thanks to the supporters who are supporting my projects, I don’t have anything to give them but my prayer to God for them is constant.”

#5: Adi and Ema Ban’s opportunity to visit and minister in the States this month.

ITMI’s **Adi and Ema Ban** of Romania are thankful for the opportunity to visit the States this month, and are looking for places they can bless and encourage God’s people. The Bans are internationally recognized as marriage, family and relationship teachers and counselors. Arriving in Chicago on November 3, they will spend time at parents’ weekend at Wheaton College with their two youngest sons, Eduard and Thomas, before ministering at a Family Conference in Ohio. They’ll also be visiting churches in Florida and Texas.

“If you think there is a place for us to go and minister, let us know!” Adi says. The Bans still have some openings and would love to be a blessing to God’s people.

If you know of a way people could be helped or reached through the Ban’s expertise on living a Christ-centered family life that draws others in to Jesus’ Kingdom, [contact our office](#).

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From the Director



DEAR TEAM: A Young Lady I Wish You Could Meet

Zig Ziglar once said, “People were designed for accomplishment, engineered for success, and endowed with the seeds of greatness.” Those that know of Zig Ziglar know that he was the epitome of being uplifting. He encouraged himself and others to, as some would say, “reach for the sky.” Some say that he influenced an estimated quarter of a billion individuals through his 33 books, including the bestseller *See You at the Top*, which has sold almost two million copies. *See you at the Top* was his first book. It was rejected 39 times before it was published. Zig was born the 10th of 12 children in Coffee County, Alabama, and lost his father to a stroke at age 6. Zig knew that God had “designed”, “engineered” and “endowed” all of us for “...abundantly above than we could ask or think.”



After traveling to Africa for almost two decades, and to India and other Asian countries, I have seen and witnessed the damage that has been passed down into the psyche, lives and relationships, year after year and generation after generation. My last trip to Zambia and South Africa allowed me to observe in a whole new way the difference between those humans that understand how and why we were designed, engineered, and endowed and those humans that have been broken and trashed enough times that they have lost the hope for anything better. This trip provided me with haunting memories of faces, in all walks of life, locations and economic conditions, that were so empty and void of expression that one might think they were just programed, inanimate, lifeless robots. Weeks and weeks later, I still visualize the emptiness they projected from dark, hollow eyes, and from faces that seem to be incapable of expression. This was seen in children as well as adults.

ITMI and our precious team of projects, staff and leadership has always been about helping those that are lost and hopeless come to know that they were “...fearfully and wonderfully made...”, and that our Lord has made a way to exit the destruction and devastation that has been sold to the unregenerate man.

In the feature story this month you’ll read about the Early Childhood Development Center in Stone Hill where Charl, Mark and Bradley have worked so very hard to share God’s love and truth. Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to communicate in print what you would see and experience if you walked the garbage-strewn pathways of Stone Hill.

Olga used to live and minister in Stone Hill. She wants to still live in Stone Hill, but after seeing a man beat to death because the locals accused him of being a thief, she could not sleep at night due to the visual pictures that haunted her when she closed her eyes. Olga needed some space to deal with the intensity of suffering and pain that resides in Stone Hill. She hasn’t stopped coming to Stone Hill with Charl, Mark and Bradley, because she deeply cares for the women and children that are subjected to this visual, physical and emotional trauma almost daily.

Olga’s pay is meager by our standards. Yet Olga is deeply grateful for the ministry position that Charl is able to offer her with the help some of you have provided. What you might not know about Olga is that on her limited budget, she *personally* pays for eleven children each month to attend their Stone Hill early development center. In a country where a few dollars is a lot of money, Olga sacrifices and commits, as the Lord provides, to cover \$3700 USD per year, so that children are safe, fed and encouraged on a daily basis. Olga and her team believe that there are at least 150+ pre-school age children in Stone Hill whose lives could be greatly impacted if they had some help. Maybe we could help her, Charl, Mark and Bradley, and the children of Stone Hill by providing \$28.00 per month per child for a month of care. Some could maybe help a child have a whole year of loving, nutritious, godly care for \$336. Olga, *thank you* for all you do to serve the Lord in difficult environments. Charl, Mark and Bradley, *thank you* for all you do the make God’s name, His love and His plan known to the forgotten of Stone Hill. We have so much to be thankful for. We also have precious opportunities to help others see that they are divinely designed, engineered and endowed with the image of God. He is waiting for them to respond to His calling to fully experience all He has in store for them. We get to be the stepping stones that lead the lost to Him. Blessings and *thank you* for all you do to help us.

In His Service,

(continued from p.4)

#6: The Pop's ministry continues as Bethesda Home becomes Bethesda Care for the Elderly

ITMI's **Bethesda Home**, a ministry operated by ITMI's **Vio and Daria Pop** in Romania, was a home where elderly, disabled widows were provided with round-the-clock care. Many of the widows that were cared for didn't have family who could help them and couldn't afford the care they needed. The widows who stayed there were like family to Vio and Daria.

As funding dwindled in recent years, they were not able to take on any new residents as beds opened up. The last living widow was eventually moved to another care facility. But Vio and Daria aren't done caring for the elderly and disabled. Many of these elderly Romanians cannot afford the food, utilities or medicine that they need.

The Pops, who also have intense physical disabilities visit these needy families, building relationships and bringing care packages that include food, medicine, and money for utilities.

In September, the Pops helped 9 widows, 2 elderly couples and 2 elderly ladies with cancer. One family they visited with a care package was an elderly couple who are raising their 3 grandchildren with disabilities. Another was a single mom caring for her 38-year-old son who is paralyzed. They also provided help for two elderly mothers who are caring for their adult children with disabilities.

These are families that face enormous challenges. The Pops have the opportunity to come alongside them, offering companionship and assistance. In doing so, they provide a demonstration of what the Lord Jesus does for His people as He comes alongside us, providing companionship and help as we face the disabling challenge of sin that we could not overcome on our own.

#7: Three believers baptized into Andrew's church in Poland

ITMI's **Andrew Gorski** is thankful for three people declaring their intent to follow Jesus alongside the other believers of Amazing Grace Church in August through baptism!

One of them joined a Bible study group and invited a friend who also invited a friend. God had already been working in their lives, and it was the consistent study of His Word and the live testimony of the Bible study leader, Krystian, that really made them, "follow Jesus with decision, obedience and their entire lives." Krystian, the Bible study leader, is a full-time missionary serving alongside Andrew with **Amazing Grace Church and Evangelical Poland**.



We have so many more things to be thankful for! ITMI supporter, we are thankful for you, too. It is your willingness to sacrifice and your commitment to missions that the Lord has used to accomplish these and many more wonderful things!

They call it love and encouragement.

We call it the General Fund.

Your year-end contribution to the ITMI General Fund enables our staff to provide the support our partners in the field rely on.

FOR PRAISE

1. Poland - Gorski - Three new believers baptized!
2. Romania - Pops - Opportunities to demonstrate Christ's love to the disabled and elderly.
3. South Sudan - Lazarus - Foundation for new home ready for walls.
4. Zambia - Leach - Water tower and construction progress at Mahina Forward Base for the advancement of the Gospel.

FOR PRAYER

1. US/India - Paul and Molly - Paul in great pain in a hospital in Arizona.
2. Romania - Bans - Opportunities to minister and bless many during time in the US.
3. Poland - Nungessers - Fruitful time of ministry for Brooke and her mother in Poland.
4. South Africa - Onseepkans Mission - A place for Martie and the girls she teaches to study with minimal distraction.



*"Their visit was a great encouragement."
David Kumar, India*



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