

*For you equipped me with strength for the battle;
you made those who rise against me sink under
me.*

Psalm 18: 39

ITMI
Monthly

1 FEBRUARY 2022

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Reaching 50 Kids from Unbelieving Families Near Ukrainian Front Lines!

UKRAINE

Pastor Ilya shepherds a church just a few miles from the battle front in eastern Ukraine.

Ilya's father, Peter, faithfully pastored this church for years. When he passed away from a stroke in 2020, Ilya accepted the responsibility.

The church was once just 12 people, but since the attacks from Russia began, more and more people have responded to the church's faithful witness and their numbers have grown under the fire of persecution.

Ilya's church can't pay him for his service to them, so he supports his wife and two young children by working construction 2 days a week. He can't afford to live in the town where the church is located, so he commutes to minister as the pastor 4 days a week.

ITMI partners, [Adi and Ema Ban](#) have disciplesd families in Romania for years. Now one of the fruits of their labor is this group of Romanian families coming together to help their Christian brothers in Ukraine,

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Campers listening to camp teaching in eastern Ukraine.



Campers proudly display crafts



Pastor Ilya shares with campers.



Campers and leaders gather for a group photo.



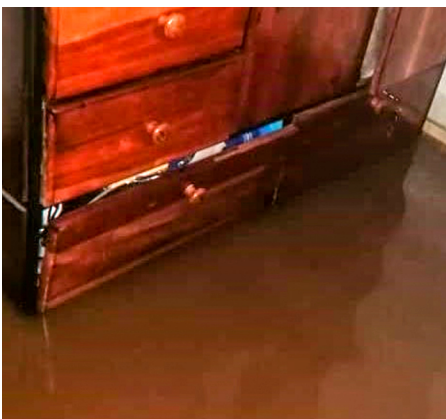
Above: Abid asks, "Do you know Jesus?" while presenting widows with bags of food.



One elderly man stated, "We have not seen such care from anyone else."



Hurting and forgotten widows and their families blessed by ITMI supporters and Abid.



Flooding in Cozmore's home.



Cozmore and Alick in Zimbabwe.

PAKISTAN

Do you know Jesus?

Abid, an out-of-work Pakistani math teacher and faithful believer in Jesus, asked this question.

He stood in a drab courtyard with high walls made of dirt-colored brick. The tops of the high walls were draped with clothing, drying in the Pakistani sun.

Three widows perched on a backless woven bench-type structure that sagged a little under their weight.

The widows had been asked by Abid to come to the courtyard that day so he and his team of believers could bless them in Jesus' name. Each would receive a cream-colored tote bag with food supplies as a gift, funded by ITMI supporters through ITMI's [Project Joseph](#).

They had not seen such care from anyone, so they were touched by the gift. Seeing how they were affected by the gift, Abid had asked them if they knew Jesus.

Two of them turned covered heads toward Abid. They'd lived their entire lives in a country that is over 90% Muslim. They did not know Jesus, they told him.

"If you would allow me, I want to share one story with you," Abid ventured, with that bold humility that Jesus gives His followers. The widows agreed.

Abid told them all about Jesus' birth, why we need Jesus and how our sins can be forgiven. He asked them to believe in Jesus, to make Him Lord of their lives and be saved.

The widows were thankful to hear this story of Jesus.

It's exciting to think about how the Lord might grow these seeds that are being planted through your Project Joseph gifts!

ZIMBABWE

Why did Dad leave us?

by *Charl van Wyk*

When Alick's dad walked out on the family, it pretty much meant no future for Alick, his young sister or mother.

Thankfully, God had other plans ...

Alick may not remember the precise date of his father abandoning his family, but the moment of anguish, uncertainty and anger is forever seared into the memory of those left behind.

Alick came to faith in Jesus Christ through the ministry of Pastor Ali. Alick loved his pastor dearly and cherished his spiritual guidance right up to the day the pastor was called Home—smack in the middle of doing what the Lord called him to do.

“Pastor Ali died in the pulpit, while preaching on a Sunday,” Alick shares of the amazing moment. “That morning, I went to church. I sat in my usual front row seat—eager to hear from God's Word.”

Alick was devastated. “I couldn't believe it! Pastor Ali was like a father to me. I watched as his body was removed from the pulpit and church,” he recalls. “It was after this that I began to struggle in my faith.”

The Lord led **Cozmore** into Alick's life. Cozmore first provided Alick an opportunity to make a living, contracting him to photograph ministry projects. The young man had saved up to buy a camera and learned how to use it quite capably. He never finished his final year of school. Nevertheless, this craft proved his only means available to support his sister and mother.

I've had the privilege of enjoying fellowship with Alick. He now follows Cozmore, who's currently discipling him, only putting his camera aside to help with the hard labor of building chicken coops at our ministry base. He also doesn't leave when finished with his photography;

he sleeps in an old run-down house and arrives on site, to help even more, the following morning.

Communist interference in the Zimbabwean economy has left many destitute, and countless widows and their children in deep economic struggle. Widows and single mothers are exploited by their in-laws, left to fend for themselves with hardly enough to keep their children under a roof, fed and in school.

Cozmore, alongside our ministry, supports those suffering. And without any request from us, the widows are cleaning our ministry land and maintaining the flower beds.

But, right now, Cozmore has more to contend with—namely the aftermath of heavy summer rains!

“Our home was flooded; our furniture is wet and is stinking; we can't dry anything!” Cozmore explains in his expressive manner.

The flood waters destroyed 325kgs (716 lbs) of soya mince and 100kgs (220 lbs) of flour, in our ministry storeroom. Female hygiene products were also lost. Cozmore and neighbors did recover some sugar, cooking oil and soap bars. Please pray for Cozmore and his family!

It is easy [in Africa] to imagine Alick as another boy without his dad, growing up desperately poor and completely alone. But God never left Alick's family and Satan's plan failed. “I decided to hold onto Jesus Christ,” Alick says.

If you'd like to [help Christians—like Cozmore, Alick and our community widows—in Zimbabwe](#), gifts of all amounts are impactful and appreciated.

SOUTH AFRICA

What does “do not hold back” from Isaiah 58 mean?

The question was directed at **Martie le Roux** by a young girl she was helping with her studies.

The girl looked up from her schoolwork, her rich, dark eyes making contact with Martie le Roux's bright brown ones.

The girls live in Onseepkans, a small farming settlement in the marginalized Northern Cape area of South Africa, just south of the Namibia border.

There is very little opportunity in the settlement. There aren't really any jobs to speak of; the settlement doesn't even have a grocery store, just a few tiny trading posts.

Without an education, a young woman from this area's future tends to hold little except pressure from her family to get pregnant, which increases the amount of welfare a family receives and also demonstrates fertility.

But the options for continuing education are scarce. After completing the highest level available in Onseepkans, they must relocate to another small town to continue their education.

Several of the young women from Onseepkans who attempted this option returned home, unable to sleep at night for fear of boys from the adjoining dormitory sneaking over and taking advantage of the fact that there is very little supervision or protection.

Martie le Roux is the eldest daughter of our partners, **Gerhard and Elmane le Roux**. She has grown up committed to her parents' calling to share Jesus with anyone who will hear of Him and working hard at **Onseepkans Mission**.

Eager to deepen relationships with the young women and share Jesus with them, Martie began tutoring those who were interested so they could eventually pass the national exams and graduate.

It was during one of these tutoring sessions that the question was posed to Martie. The young woman had attended a funeral that week where Gerhard le Roux had spoken. He

How the Lord uses your gifts around the world!

shared from Isaiah 58:1, “Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression...” The phrase “do not hold back” had gripped the young lady. She’d gone home and re-read it in the Bible she’d been given by the le Rouxs.

Because of the relationship she’d built with the young woman, Martie had the opportunity to explain that the Lord does not want us to keep quiet about our sin, but wants us to confess it so that we can receive mercy.

With the help ITMI supporters provided, the le Roux family, in the desire for more ministry opportunities, is enclosing another one of the porches of their home so that Martie can use the space to tutor the girls. The le Rouxs still need to finish some of the work, like adding a sliding door, a ceiling, floor and paint.

“It is a privilege for me to assist these girls. It fills my heart with gratitude when I see how the Lord works in their lives,” writes Martie, who recently passed her own exam (South African equivalent of GED) with good marks.

All of the girls Martie helped had failed math in the first quarter of 2021, but recently passed their grade 9 exams!

It is also encouraging that through Martie’s sessions with them, they are beginning to take responsibility for their studies, a principle that is uncommon in this culture.

When you really think about it, learning this personal responsibility is a pre-requisite for understanding one’s culpability for his or her sin and grasping one’s own need for Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Thanks to your involvement in the le Roux’s ministry, the path to an understanding of the Gospel is being laid out before these young women from this mostly forgotten community.

What has been given for the Stone Hill creche?

In the last few months, ITMI supporters have given \$5,264 USD to provide scholarships for families living in **Stone Hill** to send their young children to the **Early Childhood Development Center!**

Also called the *creche*, the center affords a safe place for small children while their parents are at work and demonstrates to these impoverished, struggling families that they and their children are cared for and valued by the Lord and His people.

Because of these gifts, 15 children’s lives will begin with proper nutrition, giving them a chance at normal development they might not otherwise have.

They’ll be immersed in an environment filled with Bible stories, and principles taught by fellow Stone Hill residents who love and follow Jesus.

SOUTH SUDAN

Saved during SALT teaching

During the fall of 2021, ITMI’s **Lazarus Yezinai** was invited to the remote community of Wau, South Sudan to encourage 46 pastors with Biblical training. Lazarus taught Chapter 1 from the **Seven Areas of Life Training (SALT)** material.

The chapter, entitled, *I Am Not God*, has been revolutionary in the lives of many. The teaching leads people to understand the human sinful tendency to replace God with ourselves in our everyday thoughts and actions, even as we profess to believe in Him.

Lazarus has impacted thousands through teaching the Biblical principles in the SALT material. He was originally provided these resources and equipped to teach this material by ITMI’s **Steve Evers** and your support of our **General Fund** which makes Steve’s almost yearly visits to South Sudan possible.



Lazarus teaches SALT in Wau, South Sudan



After Lazarus taught, many stepped forward to give their lives to Jesus!

After Lazarus taught, many stepped forward to give their lives to Him!

This is a common report after receiving the Biblical discipleship contained in the SALT material.

Our partners are continually asked to teach and equip others with the SALT material. The material is most effective when the participants can leave with a printed copy of the workbook, which often they use to pass on the teaching to others, but printing costs in economically depressed Africa are prohibitive.

Anyone who is passionate about changing lives through the teaching of truth can help our partners deliver this life-changing Biblical material with gifts that [help cover the cost of printing the SALT workbooks or translating the SALT material!](#)

From the Director



DEAR TEAM: Our God is a Global God

“Why have you forgotten us?” These are piercing words that came from the believers in the Democratic Republic of Congo to the missionary community. The believers of the DRC know the answer, but they still long in their hearts to have this fact erased from their reality.

The DRC has been forgotten, at least in comparison to the other English speaking countries of Africa. What the forgotten believers are really trying to communicate is “Just because we speak French as a national language, we have not experienced the number of missionaries, nor the number of translated Christian training material as has our English speaking brothers and sisters.” ITMI's **Charl van Wyk** has made a point of going to and ministering to the church in the DRC. He has loved them well.

This same linguistic challenge exists in the other non-dominate language countries, such as Angola and Mozambique. These countries were a long time ago dominated by the Portuguese and this language is just another barrier to getting the Gospel to these dark and needy places.

Tim Keller mentored and introduced me and ITMI to a rural Zambian pastor and evangelist with a huge heart for the lost not only in his rural Zambia, but also in the neighboring country of Mozambique. You see, **Pastor Ruben Mwale** (pronounced Mmmm-wall-E) is a man of many languages, one of which is Portuguese. Over the last couple of years, ITMI helped Pastor Ruben build his rural Zambian church about one hour east of the capital of Lusaka.

We have also helped him take the gospel to Mozambique, which is comparatively forgotten by the West and its outreaches. Ruben loves to catch an old rickety African over-the-road bus from his home in Chongwe, Zambia to take the Gospel to the remote and rural, straw and mud hut villages that are scattered across the Portuguese speaking country side of this underdeveloped country.

In the far northwest part of Zambia, many miles and hours from Pastor Ruben, ITMI's **Johan Leach** has developed an intensive leadership training program that he is using to develop pastors and leaders to reach the forgotten villages of the Zambezi plains, which happen to run all the way to and into Angola to the west. Johan and his team don't speak Portuguese which is the national language of Angola and were needing someone to assist them with this small communication challenge. Pastor Ruben wants to connect with like-minded believers who can continue to build and develop him to raise up even more rural leaders, pastors and church plants.

“We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.” - John R. W. Stott

This last week Johan has spent time in Ruben's home, village and church discussing what they can do together to reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ, both in their individual parts of Zambia, but also in the neighboring Portuguese speaking countries.

Johan is excited about spreading his influence and training program eastward and Ruben is excited to connect with like-minded leadership that can help in continued Christian leadership and theological training. Stay tuned in the coming months to be further introduced to Ruben and his family and ministry. Please pray for wisdom, understanding, and heartfelt connection as Johan and Ruben seek to unite in order to be even more effective than they could working alone. I'm excited to help Pastor Ruben take more and more mission trips to Mozambique and see what God has in store for him in Angola.

“I used to ask God to help me...Then I asked if I might help Him...I ended up by asking Him...to do His work through me.” - J. Hudson Taylor

May 2022 see that we all unite in a special way to “...have HIM do His work through [us].”

In His Service,



Ruben Mwale (left) ministers to an elderly man.



(continued from p.1)

including Ilya and his church, under Adi and Ema's leadership.

Last month, we shared with you that as the military situation in eastern Ukraine intensifies, Ilya was praying to be able to hold a children's camp during the Christmas season that would give his church an opportunity to share Jesus with those who don't yet know Him.

The Lord moved in many of your hearts, prompting you to give, and many of you were faithful to obey and follow His leading. We were able to bless Adi and Ema with \$700 USD for Ilya's Christmas outreach.

Ilya writes, "Thanks to your donation, we were able to hold a Christmas camp for children."

More than 50 children from unbelieving families heard about the birth of Christ!

The camp also served as a discipleship opportunity for a group of teenagers in the church, who grew in their relationship with the Lord by serving at the camp and ministering to the children.

Five children and several teenagers

repented before Jesus and submitted to His Lordship in their lives!

The children who participated in the camp were well-fed and received a gift. They also participated in the church's Christmas night service, and every child who came was accompanied by their parents.

"We hope that parents will continue to attend church with their children and get to know Christ better," Ilya writes prayerfully.

Before the service, four groups from the church and the camp went out to tell the people of nearby settlements the good news about the birth of Christ, as well as give Christmas calendars and invite them to worship. Several new adults did accept the invitation and came to worship with Ilya's church

ITMI's Adi and Ema Ban serve in Romania ministering to families who have joined them in reaching out in Ukraine.

that evening!

"Thanks to the Lord and to you, dear friends, for showing mercy and participating in this project. We were very happy to serve with you. May the Lord bless you abundantly and meet your needs," Ilya says.

All of our partners and staff echo this sentiment for your involvement in sending out the Gospel to the suffering and needy around the world. Thank you for your faithfulness!

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers



FOR PRAISE

1. Romania/Ukraine - Bans, Pastor Ilya - Salvations and growth from recent camp outreach to kids in Ukraine.
2. South Africa - le Roux - Continued opportunities to share truth with their community.
3. South Africa - van Wyk, Stone Hill - Children enabled to attend the creche!
4. Pakistan - Project Joseph - Muslims reached with God's Word through outreach.
5. South Africa - Smiths - Provision of new (to them) ministry vehicle!

FOR PRAYER

1. Zimbabwe - van Wyk - Ministry partner Cozmore's losses during flood.
2. Ukraine - Protection and wisdom for believers in eastern Ukraine amid rising political and military tension.
3. India - Paul and Molly - Wisdom as they prepare for upcoming pastors conference and an encouraging time of equipping for those who attend.



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