

In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears.

2 Samuel 22:7

ITMI
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Authorities Say We May Have One Hour to Evacuate, but I Can't Afford a Full Tank of Gas

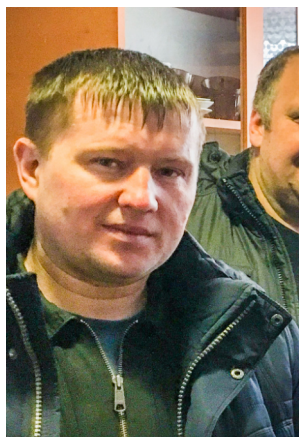
UKRAINE

Pastor Maxim and his wife, Elena, have three school aged children. They live and minister one kilometer from Ukraine's border with Russia.

Many have left the war-torn area since Russian bombs began disrupting everyday life, but not Maxim and his family. They stayed in the area, unwilling to abandon those from his church who were still there.

Businesses closed and there isn't much work to be found in the city. Pastor Maxim supports his family with a small business duplicating keys, but there hasn't been much work because of the military situation.

In 2018, ITMI helped our partners, **Adi and Ema Ban** in neighboring Romania provide an industrial-sized water filtration system for Pastor Maxim's church because the water in the area was off the scale in toxicity. Maxim's church has been able to use this gift to bless their community in Jesus' name and have been faithful to



Pastor Maxim of Ukraine



Elena, Maxim's wife and 2 of their children



Pastor Maxim's daughter

declare the Good News among those in need.

The authorities in the city have said that in the case of a Russian invasion, citizens may have just one hour to leave. Maxim recently reached out to Adi with a bit of desperation, "At the moment, I can't fill a car full of gas to leave in case of [the] need. I work every day, but I can't raise enough money to put something aside for an emergency. Keep praying for us as we need your prayers."

The bottom line is that Pastor Maxim and his family are in this situation because they stayed to faithfully do what they felt the Lord was calling them to do, even when they knew it made their

income and safety unstable.

Now they need our help.

ITMI was founded as a way for believers in America to help their brothers and sisters in Christ caught behind the Iron Curtain and persecuted under Russian Communism. Often the help from the West aided the spread of the Gospel through the provision of Bibles, bicycles or cars that enabled pastors to shepherd a wider area or evangelize further afield.

But just as often, the aid was given simply as a show of support, telling the believers that though they were isolated from the rest of the world, they weren't alone.

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Above: Casa Dorca girls thrive during Romanian winter because their home is warm and safe.



Casa Dorca Children's Home in Rural Romania.



Scan here to meet Casa Dorca alumni and hear their stories on video!



ITMI's Steve Evers with Chishimba and Lucheta, Spring of Love missionary teachers.



Spring of Love teachers ride dilapidated bicycles ~5 miles each way every day to get to school.

ROMANIA

Nicu came to ITMI's [Casa Dorca Children's Home](#) in rural Romania many years ago.

Now 18 years old, Nicu plans to - and is welcome to - remain at Casa Dorca for the time being.

Nicu recently announced to the church where all the Casa Dorca children attend each Sunday that he wanted to be baptized!

Nicu told the church that God used his placement at Casa Dorca to show and teach him that God loves him and wants a relationship with him. He talked about how he saw his need for a Savior and how he repented and decided to follow the Lord!

"Please pray for Nicu as he continues to grow in the Lord," writes Ionel Lovescu, Casa Dorca's Director.

This is the kind of fruit that your ongoing investment in the operation of Casa Dorca Children's Home yields!

Last summer, supporters helped Casa Dorca avoid a crisis by providing the funds so they could purchase firewood when the local donor who has provided for years was hit hard by the pandemic and could not provide the whole amount. The firewood was for this winter, which has already had more significant snowfalls than last year's winter months. But thanks to the generosity of ITMI supporters, the children of Casa Dorca Children's Home are warm and thriving this winter!

This year, Casa Dorca's facility will need to pass a series of inspections in order to renew their license and continue operations.

In preparation, all ten rooms are in need of new paint, flooring and light fixtures. They also need to have the building's roof rafters treated to be compliant with fire codes, costing \$5200 USD. These necessary renovations are being done by the staff as they are able, because the funding for extra projects like this will put a strain on Casa Dorca's general budget.

ZAMBIA

Teachers commute 5 miles each way on bikes

Spring of Love Christian School isn't your ordinary school. The village it is located in is so remote, there wasn't running water before the school was constructed.

The families of this area live in huts, and there are no other services to speak of. Before Spring of Love school opened, children who were old enough would walk miles to attend school. It was too far and too dangerous for children younger than that to get there.

But what concerned ITMI's Eugene Kalunga the most about the needs in this group of villages was that the children weren't being raised with any Biblical input.

Eugene and his team began by planting a church, but they wanted to extend the influence of God's Word through a Christian school.

No one in the village was qualified to teach, so when the school opened, they had to find teachers willing to move to this remote place from Kabwe.

The Lord did provide for this unique need. Kizito Chishimba, Conrad Lucheta and Bornface Lumbwe have truly caught the vision of this school and have moved to the village as missionary teachers. But the only suitable housing for them is located five miles away. Vehicle ownership is unreachable, so these dedicated missionary teachers must ride their bicycles 5 miles each way to work, rain or shine until the school can get housing built for them onsite.

Once they can move into onsite housing, the teachers are eager to become even more involved with the lives of the villagers. They have plans for after school outreaches and programs that will improve the lives of the people in the village as well as reinforcing the Biblical principles that are being taught during the regular



Above: Spring of Love Christian School is a remote village school in Zambia.



Spring of Love students pray before leaving for the day.



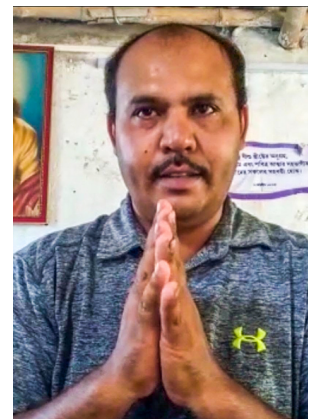
The foundation for the onsite teacher housing building has been laid.



Paul leads the pastors' fellowship on zoom.



Paul leads the local pastors' fellowship in person.



Pastor from northern India attending the fellowship on zoom.

How the Lord uses your gifts around the world!

school day. They will be able to develop better relationships with the families of the village, extending even greater opportunities to plant the Gospel in this village.

Two Arizona churches have already made significant contributions to this project. A **big** thanks to Community of Faith at Glencroft, who adopted this as a special project and its mostly retired members sacrificially raised enough to cover the windows and doors for the onsite teacher's housing!

North Village Baptist Church of Phoenix holds an annual golf tournament to raise funds for missions. The proceeds of the tournament will go toward the cost of the onsite teacher's housing building roof.

There's still room to [join these two churches in bringing the Gospel to the remote areas of Zambia](#). The next big step is building the walls. For this, Spring of Love needs \$4400 USD for the materials and labor related to the blocks that will form the walls.



Scan here to watch videos from Spring of Love!

INDIA

It's a difficult time to be a pastor in India

Being a Christian in India was already a difficult road to walk as many would like to see everything but their own religion ousted from the country altogether. Persecution of Christians has been on the rise for quite a few years. India is still in the top ten countries where it is most difficult to be a Christian, according to the world watch list put out by OpenDoors.

In August, an angry mob gathered outside the village home of ITMI's

[Paul and Molly](#), yelling demands and threats just after Paul and Molly had left to get supplies from town. Their 23 children were at the property with Paul's Aunt and Uncle. No one was hurt, but it was a traumatic event for the children.

In September, ITMI partner, [David Kumar](#) wrote "There has been an increase in systematic attacks on churches and pastors in recent past." He had to cancel two training events that were scheduled in rural villages to teach believers how to talk about Jesus to their friends of other faiths because, "those churches were under the watch of the evil people who would have created problems for us had we gone to conduct trainings."

The pandemic has only added to the burden carried by pastors in India. Their congregants are traumatized by loss, suffering and injustice. Often they are without income during lockdowns which are unpredictable. Last June, Paul and Molly found that one in four of their own congregants were homeless for lack of rent money. (Paul's team has been able to help many with gifts of food through your support.) Hungry and feeling forgotten and alone, it's easy for them to become discouraged.

Paul and Molly have started several pastors' fellowships to equip pastors from all over India and remind them of Gospel truths that can carry them through their difficulties. How highly the 200 pastors who are part of this ministry value the fellowship meetings is demonstrated by the fact that they will call in from hospital beds and spend their meager personal resources to come when the gatherings can be held in person. In September, a few men tearfully testified that the training is helping them grow alongside other believers in the face of great loss and suffering. The men shared about their new outlooks on the importance of emotionally caring for

their spouses and families in advance of ministry pursuits.

The calls and conferences are held regularly - about once a month as possible.

Meet two of the pastors of Paul's Pastor Fellowship.

Pastor Raja shares how he has been blessed by growing in knowledge of the Bible through Paul's fellowship.



Molly writes, "Pastor Raja has trained with Paul for six years after having given up his business to shepherd people. He became destitute and suffered division in his home until Paul helped him to see the benefits of "tent-making" (holding a job while pastoring a church body). Raja has experienced God's blessing of a profitable coconut farm and the planting of a second church. In addition, Raja leads a ministry to children via tuition assistance. They are ready to plant another church - to God be the glory!"



Pastor John shares how Paul's pastors' fellowship has helped him revive his marriage.

Molly shares, "Pastor John faces daily opposition to the Gospel inside and outside his home. The pastors' fellowship has taught him to serve

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From the Director



DEAR TEAM: Feeling Weary? You're not alone.

There are some visitors that I love when they come to visit. There are others that, at face value, are not so welcome when they drop in unexpectedly. One of the not-so-welcome visitors is this expressionless, somewhat dark character called...weariness. I don't have time, and I'm sure that you don't have time for this guy to show up on your doorstep and unload all his weighty baggage, which is almost never offloaded into the margins of your life, but typically lands squarely in the middle of it, affecting every part.

This visitor usually is accompanied and empowered by Mr. Health Issues, or Mrs. Financial Issues, or Mr. Relational Issues, or lately, Mr. and Mrs. World/Country/Virus/Politics issues. They visit often when we least expect or want them. They are never accompanied by the wonderful guests named Joy and Peace. No doubt, there are many legitimate needs in each of our lives, our families, our country and our ministries, that just need our attention, yet we all have experienced the weariness of the continual onslaught of responsibilities.

John 4:6 reads "...Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour."

Yet we also read in Isaiah 40:28 "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding." This seeming contradiction in Jesus being weary in John 4 and "the everlasting God neither is weary" has some light shed on it by Thomas Nelson when he shared, "In fact in Hebrews 4:15, it says this: 'We have a high priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses.'" It's a really cool thought to think that even in being tired, Jesus can sympathize with us. Because while Jesus was all God, He was certainly still all man.

I am humbled and brought back to reality when we read stories of the challenges our brothers and sisters experience as told this month in our ITMI newsletter. I also received this email from ITMI's **Lazarus Yezinai** in South Sudan, a place that is always hit harder by conflict, famine and desolation than almost any place we minister. Lazarus shared:

Dear Sir,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, how are you doing? ...I hope you are doing well by the grace of God. ... I pray that the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ protects all of you in ITMI and your families in Jesus name.

The beginning of this year was not so good to me because I lost two cousin brothers (= cousins who are close like a brother) of mine who are so close to me, one died on 11 January...[from cancer], on 6 February 2022 the follower of that brother was killed in the countryside, both of them left their children very young.

I [have been] seriously sick for 9 days in bed, I was affected with blood infection, complications in my intestine and malaria, I have taken the treatment but am still not feeling well in my intestine.

My younger boy Joshua and his friend, the child of our neighbor, got in an accident on 12 February 2022, but thank God my son is safe only his friend's leg got broken and is now in treatment. This year is not fair [good] to me but I thank God in all these I am strong in faith and God is helping and comforting me every day.

So I need your prayers please, let me be strong and faithful to my God in any situation. Thank you and be blessed in Jesus name.

Please allow me to thank each of you for helping us help those in this world that have far less than we do, and who experience challenges of life that open the door for a visit from ...weariness. If you care to see *10 Ways to Overcome Spiritual Weariness* by Pastor Mark Altrogge, please scan the code in the bottom right corner.

Blessings and much peace and joy as you rest and reflect on all that our God is and what He has in store for us.

In His Service,

Scan here to visit *10 Ways to Overcome Spiritual Weariness* at
churchleaders.com



Lazarus and his family (all who live with him.)

(continued from p.1)

Their Christian brothers and sisters across the ocean were standing with them physically and in prayer, and this provided the strength and encouragement to stand faithfully under the fire of persecution.

This month, it looks like things might be coming full circle as this generation of faithful pastors comes under even more fire in Ukraine. Because of the faithfulness of ITMI's Adi and Ema Ban and their ministry in Romania, we are once again in a position to be used by the Lord to provide. Adi and Ema have developed relationships with four pastors in Ukraine who have stayed even though their area has been under attack: **Pastor Maxim, Pastor Anatoly, Pastor Vladimir and Pastor Ilya**, who we helped with a Christmas break outreach camp in January. These pastors minister to people who have even greater spiritual and physical needs than they do.

At press time, there was some indication Russia might be de-escalating and not planning a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. But this area of Ukraine has been enduring attacks for more than 8 years.

Attacking this area gives Russia something it wants; it prevents Ukraine from joining NATO, so the attacks are unlikely to relent even if an invasion is avoided for now.

The emotional and physical toll of living in this situation for years is not going away, even if the recent build up of troops de-escalates entirely. The economic depression and difficulty of earning income is also not something that can change quickly, so these pastors need our help and support for the foreseeable future.

Will you [stand with our Christian brothers](#) as they endeavor to remain faithful in this difficult situation?

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers



ITMI's Adi Ban preaches in Pastor Maxim's church (2018)

TANZANIA!

Adi and Ema have been invited to share their expertise on Biblical family life with several sets of "parents" who run children's homes in Tanzania. They'll be there April 6-14, and they could use some additional support to [cover some of the trip expenses](#).

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his wife and family first, and his revived marriage serves as an example to other husbands and fathers as the congregation grows. He praised the Lord in tears sharing without this training, his marriage wouldn't have survived the pressures of the pandemic."

By contrast, last July Paul and Molly shared, "An alarming number of couples [from their congregation] are asking for our help to divorce, as the pandemic forced many families to separate to find work."

A special conference is planned for the last week of February (the conference hadn't yet occurred at press time). Paul planned to travel to meet with some of the pastors in one geographical area in person. He's enlisted ITMI's [Steve Evers](#) to share with the pastors via the internet from Ephesians 6:10-13, encouraging them to "stand firm". Paul will travel to another area next month for the same type of event.

Pray for these pastors and their churches. Ask the Lord to bring them deep, sustaining encouragement that is only found in Him.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

FOR PRAISE

1. Romania/Ukraine - Bans, Pastor Ilya - Salvations and growth from recent camp outreach to kids in Ukraine.
2. India - Paul and Molly - Continued opportunities to share truth with their community.
3. Romania - Casa Dorca - The children had a warm safe place this winter!
4. Pakistan - Steve Evers - Abid planning a discipleship conference to teach others what Steve has taught him.

FOR PRAYER

1. India - Paul and Molly, Steve Evers - Encouragement and growth for pastors attending the conference.
2. Ukraine - Protection and wisdom for believers in eastern Ukraine amid rising political and military tension.
3. Zambia - Spring of Love/ECA - Provision for onsite teacher's housing.
4. Romania - Casa Dorca Children's Home - Provision for remodeling needs before upcoming inspections.
5. USA - Wisdom and provision as ITMI seeks to be faithful and sensitive during these difficult times.



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