

Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

Proverbs 8:10-11

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THE LIFE OF A MISSIONARY TEACHER IN A RURAL VILLAGE IN ZAMBIA

ZAMBIA

Conrad Lucheta closed his Bible and rose from the metal chair where he'd been preparing for the morning devotion he'd be leading for his students.

Pushing the chair underneath the table, the young man moved quickly about the small, sparse room where he was a boarder, doing odd, last-minute tasks in preparation to leave.

Tucking his Bible and the other books and papers he'd need for the day into a satchel, Conrad mounted his old, beat-up bicycle to begin the 5-mile ride to work.

Even in the Southern hemisphere winter months, he would break a sweat in the Zambian humidity as he labored on the pedals - if he wasn't drenched by frequent rain that falls in the area.

About 45 minutes after leaving Kapiri Mposhi, the rural town where he boarded, Conrad pedaled down the dirt road that led from the highway into a cluster of villages.

"Mr. Lucheta!" one of his students called. She was smiling and waving at him. Like most families in these rural villages, she lived in a small



ITMI's Steve Evers with Spring of Love teachers Kizito Chishimba and Conrad Lucheta.



Fixing the brick-making machine.



Career Day at Spring of Love Academy!



The on-site teacher housing building with walls and a roof!

cement structure with her family.

Conrad lifted one hand from the handlebars of his bicycle in a friendly wave. Arriving at **Spring of Love Christian School**, he leaned his bike against the greenish-grey wall outside his classroom.

Entering the classroom, he set his satchel on his desk and surveyed the rows of desks where the students would sit.

Most of his students had never been to school before they crossed his classroom threshold for the first time. Initially, Conrad had had the task of teaching them to hold a crayon or pencil to write with, but now, many of the students' skills were progressing nicely.

For many, they'd had to practice every day, including Saturday and Sunday, but now, most could write

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Cozmore and Laizah Fungulani and their two children, Zimbabwe.



L to R: Missionary intern, Zea, Lesley Leach, Johan Leach and Joseph, a local pastor and leader, pray after loading up the Land Cruiser and leaving Chavuma to preach the Gospel and disciple in a remote village.



Zea, Johan and Joseph having arrived in the village and parked the Land Cruiser (top left corner), now teaching, discipling and worshipping with villagers.

ZIMBABWE

Gwayi River Mission Update

After last month's article, there is a growing interest among ITMI supporters in the ministry our partner **Charl van Wyk's** project leader, **Cozmore Fungulani**, is doing in Gwayi River Zimbabwe, though he faces persecution and steep economic challenges.

Charl, who is planning a visit to Gwayi River later this month, writes,

The Gospel has a strong presence in Gwayi River, where we've ministered by running camps for youth and married couples. One lady, after an encouraging Bible teaching on marriage at our camp, said that she and her husband felt like they were on honeymoon again.

Our ministry has played a significant role in the society and by God's grace we've witnessed a boldness among our brothers and sisters to stand against evil.

Our vegetable production and chicken farming projects are used to teach people to produce their own food. Despite many years of oppression and economic hardships, Cozmore, his family, and team have remained strong, supportive, and faithful.

Please give generously today. Together, we can tell Cozmore and his family, and our sisters and brothers, that they are not alone. Jesus Christ never leaves them. And neither will His Church.

ZAMBIA

Equipping evangelists to spread God's Word

ITMI's **Johan and Lesley Leach** have been called to bring the Gospel to people living on the Luvale plains in Zambia. The plains are cut off from the rest of Zambia by the

Zambezi River to the east and the Angola border to the west. Johan and Lesley started their outreaches to the least-reached people in these isolated villages from their ministry base in the remote Chavuma, Zambia and have been expanding outward to impact more and more remote villages with the Gospel as the Lord provides and allows.

One of the facets of their ministry is to visit indigenous churches on the plains and provide training in discipleship and church planting. There are over 95 churches that have been planted through Johan's ministry throughout an area that is geographically thousands of square kilometers. To train and disciple these churches, Johan relies heavily on his mission vehicle to carry him over the miles to make the important discipleship visits to these isolated believers.

Recently, the 1997 Land Cruiser that has been indispensable in transporting Johan and his teams and supplies to these ministry sites blew a head gasket, resulting in a cracked head and other collateral damage. The whole engine needs to be overhauled. Because of Johan's remote location, the vehicle also needed to be transported about 450 miles to the nearest qualified repair shop.

To get back to visiting villages, Johan is praying the Lord will provide \$5100 USD for the repairs and transport to and from Kitwe. Getting the vehicle up and running will also allow Johan to take an additional ministry opportunity.

Johan has the opportunity to make a ministry trip to the Lusaka area, and a small village outside Lusaka called Chongwe. The journey is about 500 miles and, depending on road conditions, an investment of 12 hours.

Johan's purpose for this trip is two-

fold. He plans to equip a Kitwe-based evangelist who wants to share God's Word but lacks the resources to do it. To aid this evangelist, Johan needs to transport a batch of Bibles to the Kitwe area.

The second purpose of this trip is to further the development of another evangelist and pastor in Johan's tried and tested training and equipping program for evangelists, pastors, and leaders. **Ruben Mwale** lives and ministers in the small village of Chongwe, about 25 miles outside of Lusaka.

Over the years, we've seen Ruben's dedication and faithfulness to serve Jesus and share Him in the impoverished village of Chongwe, and on mission trips to reach Portuguese-speaking people groups in Malawi and Mozambique.

Recently, Ruben shared with **Steve Evers** how the Lord worked in his church in Chongwe. Because of our long-standing relationship with Ruben, ITMI helped Ruben with some funds so his church could build a structure where they meet each Sunday. With the funds, the church needed to make bricks for walls, lay them, and put a roof on the structure. Due to inflation and instability, there were still bricks to be laid when the funding was gone. The church leadership, including Ruben, volunteered to help lay bricks.

To understand the gravity of this statement, you need to know that it is rare and counter-cultural for an African pastor to understand the Biblical principle of servant leadership. It's not uncommon for even sincere pastors to expect others to serve *them* because of their position.

After the bricks were laid, it was time to weld the steel roof panels to the supporting beams. A church member who is also a welder

volunteered, at great sacrifice, to serve the rest of the church by performing the welding. He specifically told Ruben he did it because of the leadership's example of humbling themselves to lay bricks.

This is the kind of leader Ruben is and how his faithfulness to Biblical living influences this village church.

However, being from a remote village, Ruben only attended a few primary grades of school, and his ministry will benefit from the Harvesters training, which Johan has been using for quite some time to train leaders.

With all the gasoline inflation plaguing the world right now, this impactful trip is looking like it will cost about \$500 USD for Johan in Zambia.

If the Lord lays it on your heart to help Johan fund the transportation to Lusaka and Chongwe, the impact will be significant.

INDIA

"It's saving my marriage and my relationship with my kids."

ITMI's **Paul and Molly** have been organizing and holding a series of training conferences for pastors.

The need for this is both deep and wide. Few pastors and leaders have any Biblical training to deal with the unspeakably difficult role of shepherding believers who are dealing with poverty, the permeation of Hindu cultural norms in society, persecution, Covid-19 lockdowns and interruption of income, past trauma and minimal Biblical background or knowledge.

These pastors are sincere and want to serve the Lord and follow Him. They do so at great cost and

How the Lord uses your gifts around the world!

personal sacrifice. The abuses they share that they've suffered and the lack of Biblical influence on common beliefs about marriage and family relationships leads to relationship wounds and breakdowns in many cases, for both pastors and their families as well as congregants.

Often, pastors are looked at by congregants as a savior and receive worship that should go to Christ. If this is just accepted, it turns toxic for these pastors, as none of them are equipped to save anyone or be the savior - only Jesus can do that.

Paul and Molly's conference digs into these issues and pulls Biblical principles directly down into daily situations. Some of the topics include, Biblical priorities, how to point people to Jesus instead of themselves as a leader, Biblical guidance for discussing a disagreement with your spouse, how to shepherd your children's hearts and lead them to Christ, how to identify emotions (something that is culturally very challenging) and process them Biblically, and how it's sinful to give in to the cultural temptation to let their schedule and priorities be driven by a sense of self-importance or a savior complex.

Paul and Molly walk through situations step by step, such as discipling your children and handling a disagreement with a spouse. They talk about not prioritizing the public functions that make them feel important but prioritizing time for listening to the Lord. Without this, Paul and Molly shared, we make decisions that Christ has nothing to do with and we aren't led by the Spirit. We're blind to our own rudeness, we're unkind, and we lose the ability to abide in Christ. The pastors were taught instead to prioritize marginal time in prayer and the Word that

allows them to listen to the Spirit and respond.

Their conference is beyond profound for many who attend. Leaders come up afterward and text for weeks with comments like,

"I realized my assistant removes my sandals when I arrive and puts them on when I leave and God's showing me that's not right."

"The exchanges with your family [Paul, Molly and their children who helped with the conference] were a highlight for us because you won't see families serving together often."

"We never hear teaching like this anywhere else."

"It's saving my marriage and my relationship with my kids."

Please keep Paul and Molly and the many pastors who attended their recent conferences in your prayers as they serve Jesus in India.

ROMANIA

This summer, several of the children in the care of ITMI's **Casa Dorca Children's Home** will have the opportunity to attend Christian summer camps! Attending summer camp isn't an opportunity many children staying at a rural children's home in Romania would experience.

For a while now, the government has been sending some children and young people to Casa Dorca that are on their "last chance" because of their rebellious behavior - the court offered them the choice between penal containment and Casa Dorca. Casa Dorca has proven to be a place that really



Paul teaches a room full of pastors and their wives.



A group of boys from Casa Dorca enjoy a wilderness camping trip this summer.

helps transform the lives of hurting and broken young people.

Think of what going to summer camp might mean to these kids who may never have been blessed with such an opportunity!

This is one of the many reasons Casa Dorca is so special. Children are treated like members of a family and given as many "normal" life experiences as possible. Your support helps accomplish this, and it's yielding fruit.

At the end of July, our partners at **Casa Dorca Children's Home** in Romania celebrated the baptism of two teenagers in their care! Casa Dorca Director, **Ionel Lovescu**, asks, "Pray that God would continue to work in their lives and mold them into who He wants them to be. Pray also that they would be a positive influence on the other kids at Casa Dorca and in the community and that they would see the love of God in them."

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

From the Director



DEAR TEAM: A Wednesday Morning Call that Changed our Plans

It was a Wednesday morning when I got one of those calls you never want to get.

We try to operate ITMI as lean as we can in order to keep overhead from gobbling up funds that could go to those in need in the many places we serve. We work to keep a small staff who willingly wear multiple hats in order to address and deal with the many needs and challenges coming from many projects on four continents where the Lord has us currently serving.

On the morning of July 6th, **Julie Hines**, our Administration Assistant, received a call from Ashley, the daughter of our Financial Officer, **Mark Burritt**. Mark has faithfully served ITMI, making sure we keep our finances properly reconciled and in accordance with acceptable accounting standards. Ashley broke the news that Mark had been struck by a car while on his early morning bicycle ride. Mark was thrown up onto the hood and windshield of the car, and his bike was crumpled up and dragged across the 4-way residential intersection. Mark suffered a broken right foot, ankle, hip, ribs, and shoulder and was suffering a concussion and brain bleed. Mark's injuries were severe enough that he was placed in the ICU.

Mark shared with me the afternoon of the accident that he believed he "...would miss a few days of work, [but would be back in soon]." Mark's desire to be faithful to his ministry at ITMI, was evident even while not completely cognizant, due to the concussion and pain medications he was on. Mark underwent surgery to repair his foot and ankle, and as of now, the doctors are allowing his other injuries to heal without invasive intervention.

Julie, Summer, and I have divided up the critical activities that Mark normally does, and we have committed to making sure that ITMI can still "...serve and empower godly nationals..." where God has led us to minister. Please pray that Mark heals fully and completely. Pray that we can find him some bookkeeping help until he is able to return.

Johan Leach called me a few weeks ago and humbly asked if we would pray with him and for his 1997 Toyota Land Cruiser's engine. It had failed and needed to be towed 11 hours to the nearest qualified repair facility. Just the tow of the vehicle was a whopping \$875 USD. Johan needs this old yet valuable vehicle to do the many mission outreaches to the road-less and desolate Luvala floodplains of the Zambezi River, where we drill boreholes, develop Christian leadership, and plant churches. Johan shared with me that this vehicle "...was of paramount importance as their ministry area covered 1000's of square kilometers..." and most of it is on sand, dirt, mud, or water-logged roads. The mechanic's prognosis is the old diesel engine is a good strong engine, but it is tired and broken and needs to be rebuilt. The expected cost is \$4600 USD. I say that if we could help Johan with \$5100, he could get that vehicle back on the [dirt] road and also have enough to pay for the approximately \$8.00/gallon fuel cost to get it back to his mission base in Chavuma.

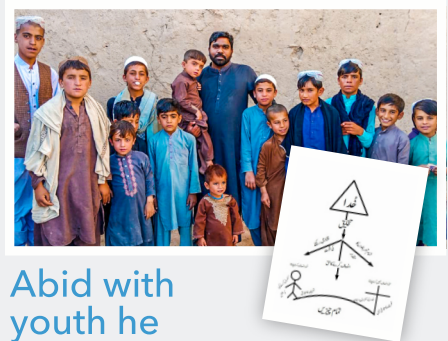
Abid, our contact in Pakistan, has been quietly serving the Christian "slaves" in his surrounding communities. To this ministry, he has added traveling to the Afghanistan/Pakistan border to share the life-giving truth of Jesus to Afghani refugees that have fled their hostile and broken country. He has completed translating and laying out the first two of seven books of the **Seven Areas of Life Training** material (SALT) from English to Urdu, the main language in Pakistan. He says the Biblical principles taught in the SALT material are revolutionizing the lives of young people and adults in their discipleship-starved country. If you feel led to help Abid and his wife and young son, I know he would be eternally grateful and would use the funds to minister to even more lost and broken people.

Thank you for all you do to help us share God's truth and love with the lost around the world.

In His Service,



Mark and I in his hospital room, a week or so after the accident.



Abid with youth he ministers to in Pakistan.

Illustration from SALT translated to Urdu.

(continued from p.1)

their names and even some of their parents' names!

Conrad himself had learned a handful of new Gospel-centered songs that made up part of each day's curriculum and found them to be encouraging for his own faith.

Turning from the desks, Conrad gazed through the bars of the classroom window at the completed exterior of the first on-site teacher housing building, grateful that the work had started again after being stalled.

Early in the year, work on the project had been delayed by material and worker shortages, but during the spring months, Conrad had watched the layers of bricks that would eventually form the walls rise slightly each day.

Then, construction hit a snag again when the machine used to make the blocks for the walls broke down. Repairing it would be a significant, unexpected expense in the project's tight budget.

Then, something remarkable happened!

Spring of Love is the second school under the leadership of ITMI's **Eugene Kalunga**. The first school Eugene started, ITMI's **Excellence Christian Academy (ECA)** in the city of Kabwe, Zambia has been reaching students and their families with the Good News through education since 1997.

The Lord led a parent of a student from ECA to volunteer to perform the welding that would repair the machine for free. Another parent provided the electrical generator for free also! With the machine fixed, the work resumed.

Conrad silently thanked the Lord that the project was moving forward. It would mean so much to him and the other teachers to be able to live on-site, right there in the rural village with their students' families!

Like Conrad, the other two teachers had accepted their posts teaching in the small rural school not for the money but because they felt the Lord had called them to bring the Gospel to the people living in this cluster of villages.

They've left homes, friends, and extended family in the city to accept

the teaching positions, and now they long to extend their ministry by being more present in the village after school hours.

The Spring of Love teachers are eager to respond to the needs of their students more fully with after-school programs and the additional opportunities such programs would offer to teach and reinforce the Gospel they seek to impart to the children of these rural villages.

ITMI donors have made the continued progression of this project possible. Through your sacrifices, the on-site teacher's dormitory has walls, a roof, and a floor.

The project is ready for the next phase: plumbing for the bathrooms and kitchens in the small apartments. We do not yet have the \$1574 USD needed for this phase, so if you are feeling led to jump in and join those who have already sacrificed to see this project move toward completion and expand the ministry of Conrad and his co-workers, you'll be in the company of those who are making a noticeable impact in a rural village in Zambia.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

FOR PRAISE

1. Poland - Jim LaRose - Opportunity to serve Jesus and kids at summer camp, including Ukrainian refugees.
2. Romania - Casa Dorca - Two teenagers baptized last month!
3. South Africa - van Wyk, Zimbabwe - The Gospel's impact in Gwayi River, Zimbabwe!
4. Zambia - Spring of Love - Construction progressing, getting closer to yielding additional ministry opportunities for Spring of Love teachers!
5. India - Paul and Molly - Growth and fruit yielded at pastors' training conferences.

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. Zambia - Leach - Provision of funds for vehicle repairs and ministry trip to Lusaka and Chongwe.
4. South Sudan - Lazarus - Healing for Lazarus and two family members fighting Malaria.
5. USA - Mark Burritt - Quick and complete healing after being hit by a vehicle while riding his bicycle.



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