

*Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*  
Isaiah 43: 19

**ITMI**  
*Monthly*

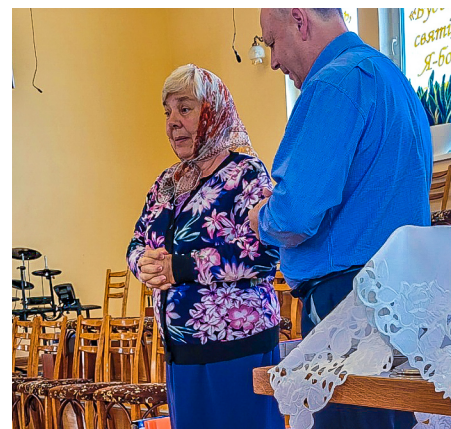
**1 JANUARY 2023**

[intouchmission.org](http://intouchmission.org)

## How God is Using Your Sacrifices in Ukraine and Around the World



Ukrainian refugees meet to study the Bible after receiving help at the Christian help center.



A woman repents after a service at the help center.

### UKRAINE

*"At a time when destruction is pervasive all around, the Lord has planted and is growing something new."*

When the Russians invaded his region, Oleg\* fled. To fill the deep and painful void that was left when he lost everything, Oleg turned to alcohol to numb his deep despair.

A friend invited him to come receive humanitarian aid at one of the Christian help centers set up by the group of believers that ITMI's Adi and Ema Ban are partnering with to be Jesus' hands,

feet, and heart to the hurting and needy in Ukraine.

Adi has dedicated a high volume of time and energy to building these relationships and setting up supply chains to transport massive quantities of needed goods into Ukraine from Romania. The supplies are stored in warehouses in Romania and transported to Ukraine, where they get distributed among the help centers for refugees. At the Christian help center Oleg was invited to, the refugees participate in meetings that include encouragement from God's Word, musical worship and the invitation to repent and follow Jesus.

"He [Oleg] was constantly in a state of intoxication when we first saw him," wrote the young Ukrainian pastor Adi is working with. The worship and testimonies Oleg witnessed affected Oleg, and he approached Adi's young pastor contact\* after the service, who prayed with him and led him through a prayer of repentance. Everyone thought he was intoxicated and not really able to sincerely repent, but after awhile, Oleg began to attend meetings at the help center regularly. He stopped drinking and constantly asks spiritual questions. He seems to be responding to Jesus' pursuit of a relationship with him!

*\*name changed or withheld for protection*

*(continued on p.2)*





A woman who received help at the center.



Refugees attend a service at the help center.



Youth and children at camp encouraged in and reached for Christ, despite martial law, fear and sirens.



Tiny modular homes built for Ukrainians in Kyiv region whose village was destroyed by a Russian bomb.

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## But that's not all!

Twelve people who came through the center now meet to study the Bible together. Five attend the services regularly and three have repented through the ministry of this help center made possible through the work of Adi, Ema and the believers in Ukraine they partner with and your support of their efforts.

In the last 6 months, the young pastor Adi works with - himself and his family refugees in a new city after having fled east Ukraine early in the war - had the opportunity to conduct a Christian camp for children and youth.

“Despite martial law, fear, and sirens, we managed to gather more than 60 guys who were mostly immigrants who had fled the war,” he writes. A group of teenagers decided to follow Christ during camp. The local church is discipling them, and they’ve attended regularly for 4 months.

The supplies and support ITMI supporters helped Adi collect and transport have helped this group of believers build tiny modular homes for a villagers in the Kyiv region whose settlement was hit by a Russian bomb.

Tearfully, these villagers who had survived the terrible realities of war expressed deep gratitude and disbelief that someone would do this for them for free.

“We told them about the love of Christ and invited them to a Bible study group,” writes Adi’s contact, “Soon there will be a new church in this village because, through this project, a group of 15 people was formed to study the Word of God.”

“We are fully in this work,” writes this young pastor, father, and husband, “There is an opportunity to leave, but no desire.” Instead, this young family is helping plant a church in Ternopil, now serving as the temporary home to more than

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Orphans reached with food, the Gospel and discipleship opportunities through ITMI's Project Joseph in South Sudan.



Orphans and street children reached by Lazarus' team, now bringing their families to learn about Jesus.



Lazarus and his team reach children living on the street in South Sudan.



A resident of the informal settlement of Stone Hill, South Africa learning to sew using machines provided by ITMI supporters.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### Project Joseph: A Great Opportunity to Make Disciples

During the fall of 2022, our partner in South Sudan, **Lazarus Yezinai**, reported,

Through ITMI's support, we mobilized and reached out to 60 orphans, street children, and other vulnerable children in Juba. We were able to establish a community center for learning and life skills training, known as Juba Child Protection Centre, in order to disciple the children for Christ. As God brought us to such vulnerable children who are really starving, so, in Jesus' name, we have shared God's provision and love for such a forgotten group of people.

Many people turned up in great numbers to listen to God's Word during our community Bible engagement session and distribution of food. Indeed, through this program of ITMI, we have seen people's lives being transformed and souls being won for Christ. This Project Joseph food distribution has given us a great opportunity to make disciples.

These outreaches include teaching God's Word, praying with people, and Gospel counseling, but they also provide the gateway for discipleship opportunities.

Lazarus and his team have established discipleship groups that study the Bible together in the communities where they have done Project Joseph outreaches.

Lazarus continues,

The single mothers and widows are now actively taking part in Bible studies and forming smaller groups of fellowships through this



Project Joseph food distribution. At the end of 2022, Lazarus was stricken by malaria and typhoid, followed by a severe ulcer. At the time of publication, he reported improved physical health, though not complete recovery. Please join us in asking the Lord for his continued protection for Lazarus and his family. Living and ministering in the conditions of South Sudan, they are often subject to health challenges that interrupt the important kingdom work Lazarus and his supporters partner together to accomplish.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Sewing and Sowing Seeds: Job Skills Training for 18 Unemployed Stone Hill Residents

*by Charl van Wyk*

The seeds you've planted have, by God's grace, experienced explosive growth!

A year ago, we asked you, our ministry partners, to invest in the lives of unemployed women by supporting the purchasing of sewing machines and overlockers.

To do this we required what is commonly known as 'ministry seed funding.'

In the world of business, this often refers to a 'securities offering' in which an investor invests capital in a start-up company in exchange for an equity stake.

In missions, we offer much more than just shares in a company because the "yield" is based on God's economy: "...give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

Your prayers and financial support are changing the lives of many women and their families. The sewing project was started together with an amazing woman called Marjorie who lives in the Stone Hill informal settlement.

Marjorie joined hands with us by equipping unemployed women in the community with the skills that she gained from several years of working in a fashion clothing factory; they include clothing design, pattern making and sewing.

Marjorie has intensively trained 18 previously unemployed women. The students have been taught pattern making, the proper use of the sewing machines and overlockers, and the construction of garments.

We celebrated your investment by the graduates presenting their creations at our 'Spring 2023 Ready – to – Wear Stone Hill Fashion Extravaganza'.

Our astute business coaches, who are developing the business acumen of our sewing ladies, helped secure orders of over 200 Christmas bags [at the end of 2022] – Praise the Lord!

We cannot thank you enough for your kind investment and partnership. God's Word being shared by His people is having an everlasting impact in the lives of many. The outworking of a living faith changes the students, their families, their churches, and the community.

## ZAMBIA

### Graduations!

ITMI's **Eugene Kalunga**, the founder and principal of **Excellence Christian Academy (ECA)** in Kabwe, Zambia writes,

In the month of October [2022],

Excellence Christian Academy said goodbye to long-time students, many of whom began with us from when they were in baby class. Watching them thrive as young adults makes me proud as a [spiritual] father, gospel preacher, and teacher.

I am pleased that we are sending children who have a foundation in the teaching of Jesus and who are ready to meet the world. I am filled with many emotions, the biggest of which is gratitude. I feel blessed with these students because they are part of my being a teacher of Jesus' gospel and an academician. Our 2022 Grade 7 students took their exams this past October, and as we bid them farewell, we pray for the spirit of excellence in them to continue through high school and that God will live in their hearts always.

In Zambia, the Grade 7 exam is mandatory and covers 8 subjects. Students must pass these exams to move on to lower secondary education.

About 90 miles south of Kabwe, in Zambia's capital city, Lusaka, **Benson Banda** of ITMI's **Lusaka Bible College** reports that during the fall of 2022, he had the privilege of visiting some of the pastors who have completed the LBC training program. ITMI congratulates Pastors **Kibala, Mubvumbo, Kangabala, and Chota**. We are pleased to hear Benson's report that they are now serving the Lord as pastors in various provinces of Lusaka.

It is a notable victory for the body of Christ that God's people in these provinces have leaders who have been trained to lead and preach Biblically!

*-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers*



# From the Director



## DEAR TEAM: How the Greek word and Biblical model of “parakletos” influences our ministry.

There are no pets at the Evers’ house these days. We’ve had our dogs, cats, gerbils, and snakes in the past when our three children were young. They were exceptional advocates and sales people when discussing the endless needs for pets. Sarah was much better at this than the boys. She had this undeniable persuasive skill when it came to her dad.

YouTube, the online video streaming service, has scores of videos of all kinds and interests. One particularly heartwarming genre of videos and stories is the ones that show humans, at their own risk and peril, reaching down to help a desperate and many times wild animal in their great emergency. Some of these heartwarming rescue stories demonstrate to a great extent the creativity, the financial and commitment of time these humans will go to help, to assist, and to benefit the lowly and needy animal, so that the animal can have a future and return to what God created that animal to experience.

The Bible clearly displays this exact kind of service and the ancient Greeks even have a name for it...*parakletos*. The English use of the word is “paraclete.” Jesus tells us in John 14 that “...I will ask the Father and He will give you another ‘Helper’ ” or Paraclete. In Greek culture, this Paraclete was like an attorney – someone who came alongside and protected or defended a needy person and became a willing advocate.

When **Bill and Harriett Bathman** founded In Touch Mission International (ITMI) they too adopted this example that Jesus and the Holy Spirit set forth in the words paraclete, helper, or advocate. For over 40 years ITMI has served as a paraclete for many, many believers around the world who were trusting in God’s provision but didn’t have the organization, experience, or connections to support the God-given ministry dreams and leadings of their Lord. We are grateful that ITMI has been able to serve the many projects that God allowed us to identify, vet, educate, resource, and grow in accountability. Accountability is so important to ITMI that when Bill and Harriett started, they submitted to the **Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability**. ITMI continues to submit to the ECFA, at great cost, so that we too model our commitment to accountability.

Those many partners or projects that ITMI has gladly over the years been a paraclete for don’t always remain within the ITMI family. There are many reasons and motivations for believers to choose to separate and go in a new direction. In II Timothy 4, Paul is asking Timothy to go bring Mark because others have left and gone to other places for various reasons. ITMI rejoices when partners or projects grow and mature to the place they can go and expand what God has called all of us to do. ITMI has never been about trying to become as large an organization as possible just for the sake of being large. God has called us to be a paraclete for those that are, many times, the least of the least. We also commit to God, our partners, and to you, our donors, that we will always seek to obey God’s leading in all we do. You and I can always check that commitment by how closely we parallel Jesus’ commands, “Go and make disciples...” (Matt. 28:19), “Love the Lord your God with all your heart” and “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:36-39).

God has placed within my soul that ITMI and each of our partners commit not just to humanitarian care or building ministry infrastructure, but to always be working, with the Holy Spirit’s help, toward true Biblical evangelism and discipleship - which we believe includes helping people learn to follow Jesus in His care for the marginalized and vulnerable, but is also much more than that.

If you ever have any questions with regard to ITMI or our projects, please feel free to reach out, and I’ll do my best to contact you.

As this new year starts, the ITMI board, staff, and partners commit that we will continue to obey God’s directive of building disciples wherever in the world He leads us. We will also seek to model the spirit of gratefulness and seek to care for others as we have been cared for. If you have a heart for helping the small and many times forgotten servants of God, we gladly accept your partnership in this 40+ year journey of making a God-centered, lasting impact on the world we’ve been placed in.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your trust and sacrificial gifts and partnership for these four decades. May God continue to use us as we work hand in hand in HIS service.

Blessings to you all! A most wonderful 2023 to you!

In His Service, 



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60,000 refugees from the east part of Ukraine. At a time when destruction is pervasive all around, the Lord has planted and is growing something new.

“With military shelling and constant military bad news, it's mentally hard to be calm. I am writing this document in complete darkness. For three days now, there has been practically no electricity due to Russian shelling of our power plants. We need God's protection and your prayer for Ukraine. ...We are aware

that now, in this difficult wartime for Ukraine, it is especially vital to work with people, as they are anxious and seek the Lord.”

Please continue supporting our partners' work among those suffering and in need as a result of the war in Ukraine.

Your support does make an impact and the Lord is using it to do something new in Ukraine!

The needs are as diverse and varied as the individuals our partners seek

to reach. Our partners have their feet on the ground and are in the trenches with first-hand information about what the greatest needs are. They have the knowledge and the networks in place to know how to best use the resources you put in their hands to reach people with the Gospel, plant churches and equip believers who were planted in Eastern Europe for such a time as this. Your support helps them respond quickly as the Lord provides opportunities.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

# Thank you!

## For your year end gifts and support of our Christmas Giving Catalog!

If you were unable to participate in the Christmas Giving Catalog during the holiday season, but would still like to make an impact with a catalog item, the option is available year-round and we pass those gifts on to our partners for use in the field frequently throughout the year.

### FOR PRAISE

1. Romania/Ukraine - Bans - God at work through the war in Ukraine
2. South Africa - van Wyk, Stone Hill - Continued advancement of the Gospel in Stone Hill through your gifts.
3. South Sudan - Lazarus - Many reached and disciplined through Project Joseph!
4. Zambia - Lusaka Bible College - Pastors equipped and serving the body of Christ.
5. Zambia - ECA - Continued impact through Christian education evidenced with recent Grade 7 graduates.
6. Poland - Gospel Joy - 25 years of reaching people for Christ through Gospel Music.
7. Zambia - Leach - Johan and Lesley celebrated 25 years of ministry this year.

### FOR PRAYER

1. Ukraine - Continued advancement of God's Word through the many outreaches of our partners and His guidance and protection for those living and ministering amid sirens and military shelling.
2. Ukraine - Ban - Great need for small electric generators to fight the dark and cold winter.
3. South Sudan - Lazarus - Continued healing, protection and health for Lazarus and his family as they share Jesus faithfully.
4. Romania - Casa Dorca Children's Home - Two new teenage girls brought to the home.
5. India - Kumar - Protection and health during monthly trips to rural villages providing evangelism training.



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