

*Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will
find it after many days.*

Ecclesiastes 11:1-3

ITMI
Monthly

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Hungry for More Than Food



Children from the impoverished township of Stone Hill enjoy a meal provided by Charl's ministry.

SOUTH AFRICA

Mary* has never met her father, and her mother is incarcerated for dealing drugs.

The twelve-year-old is small in stature, indicating the possibility of malnutrition early in life. She lives in a squatters' shanty-town outside Durbanville, South Africa called Stone Hill.

She and her siblings move from

shack to shack, depending on which family in the community will accommodate them, but it's never permanent.

One of the only things she might be able to count on is that she can at least get one meal a day, thanks to God's people extending His love and His story in Stone Hill through the gift of meals everyday.

But even with these provisions, Mary still has her questions. "I don't believe God exists!" she announced to one of those godly national workers who serve Him in

Stone Hill.

Thankfully, there *are* godly people in her settlement who are able to listen to her heart's concerns and answer the questions it is asking - the questions to which the answer is Jesus.

There are godly people serving in Stone Hill daily because you have supported the work of ITMI's **Charl van Wyk** in the impoverished settlement. Kids like Mary interact with them daily because of your support of Charl's outreaches, including the daily

**name changed or withheld for protection*

(continued on p.2)



Thuto, a Stone Hill youth baptized by Charl and Dr. Bradley in January 2022, teaches Stone Hill children that Jesus loves them.



Youth and children in Stone Hill wait to receive food through the daily food outreach.



Feeding all those children is a lot of work and requires a big pot!



Dr. Bradley presents the Gospel during children's church time in Stone Hill.

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Project Joseph meal outreach that occurs in Stone Hill.

Since its inception in 2020 as a response to the ministry opportunities presented by the pandemic, we've seen Project Joseph create countless opportunities for our partners to share Jesus and build redemptive relationships with people they might not otherwise have even crossed paths with.

It's not just Project Joseph that has created these opportunities, but all of the instances where our partners reach out with a demonstration of the Gospel. As the unearned gifts mirror the undeserved gift of salvation, many find their hearts responding to the Lord through the preaching of the Gospel alongside such gifts. It really should come as no surprise that this "works" as a ministry model. It's modeled after Jesus' own plan to reach stubborn-hearted, sinful humans who were dead in their trespasses and sins and transform them into unswervingly devoted and faithful followers, even willing to go to their deaths on His behalf.

Throughout history, God's people have been implementing this method of carrying out their Great Commission as they sought to extend Jesus' love and grace to those who had not found it yet.

When ITMI considers a partner we generally look for those who are *already* ministering faithfully and effectively, and then seek to enhance the Gospel's reach through their ministry by providing resources they couldn't access on their own.

Since our birth in the 1980s, ITMI has offered our supporters the opportunity to come alongside our partners and provide resources that enhance the Gospel's reach. This has often included extending

(continued on p.6)



A family receiving the blessing of a delivery of bread from the le Roux's bakery.



Onseepkans Mission is a remote property near a remote farming settlement in the Northern Cape area.



Gerhard le Roux with loaves of bread in the box ready to make deliveries.



Two of the le Roux's daughters prepare loaves of bread.

SOUTH AFRICA

Energy Crisis

South African have endured power cuts for years, but 2022 was the worst year on record with 205 days of rolling blackouts.

Late in January, Eskom, the government organization that manages power, said it would implement more cuts because of equipment breakdowns.

“Loadshedding” is when the demand for electricity nears available supply levels and the delivery of electricity is temporarily interrupted to maintain the integrity of the grid and prevent catastrophic failures.

Loadshedding is now at level 6, which, for families and businesses trying to operate, means they can face electric outages for 4 to 4.5 hours at a time, and totaling 10-12 hours a day.

The outages debilitate small businesses and effect economic growth. In fact, the South African bank, Nedbank, estimates that GDP could be 2 percentage points higher without these outages.

From Onseepkans, South Africa, ITMI partner **Gerhard le Roux** writes, “This has a devastating effect on our country’s economy and food security.”

Onseepkans is a remote farming community, so Gerhard is a firsthand witness of this. He writes,

“Here in Northern Cape, we are experiencing a heat wave of 40-50 degrees Celsius (104 -122 degrees Fahrenheit). The export grape and raisin farmers of the Orange River district are struggling to properly irrigate their crops since their pumps cannot run during load shedding. This dramatically affects their harvests.”

The AgriSA see the current situation as a national disaster. There is really no short term solution, either.

“Years of mismanagement and systemic corruption are believed to be a key reason why the state utility has been unable to keep the lights on.” (CNN) Theft and non-payment contribute to the problem as well. In short, godless behavior on all levels prevents people from thriving.

The newest outreach opportunity, Daily Bread Bakery, being diligently worked on by the le Roux family at Onseepkans Mission, is now looking so timely with all the food insecurity that it would seem to be the Lord’s divine provision. The fact that the bakery ovens demand very little electricity because they run on gas is further evidence of His providence.

The le Roux’s Daily Bread Bakery is now relied upon by nearly 100% of the local shops for their daily supply of bread. The bakery makes bread affordable in the community, where it was not affordable before.

The bread deliveries to homes and stores have yielded multiple redemptive interactions and relationships. Deliveries have yielded members of the le Roux family opportunities to share Jesus, comfort from His Word or a time of prayer with people they otherwise might not have the opportunity to interact with.

Thanks to the generosity of ITMI supporters who gave toward our Christmas Giving Catalog item ***One Month of Bread for a Needy Family***, fourteen families identified as the most needy in the community received a daily delivery of bread from one of the members of the le Roux family last month!

The Daily Bread Bakery does

require electricity, though, for other appliances. Our partners in Onseepkans are working on a long-term solution that enables them to be free from reliance on electricity managed by a corrupt government. We’ll let you know of the opportunity to help the le Roux when details are available.

CNN. South Africa’s Energy Crisis Deepens as Blackouts Hit 12 Hours a Day. 18 Jan 2023. <https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/18/energy/ramaphosa-davos-south-africa-blackouts/index.html>

Entergy. Understanding Load Shed. <https://www.entergynewsroom.com/storm-center/restoration/loadshed/#:~:text=When%20the%20demand%20for%20electricity,is%20called%20%E2%80%9Cshedding%20load.%E2%80%9D>

POLAND

How the Gospel was preached through caring for others

Last month, the church that ITMI’s **Andrew and Anna Gorski** help plant in Poznan had a big opportunity to share the Gospel on local television!

With Andrew’s help and experience, Amazing Grace Church put on a fundraiser concert to raise funds for two churches in Ukraine who wanted to open up their own buildings for refugees to stay in.

The two Ukrainian churches’ buildings are needed to host refugees, but sadly, in freezing temperatures, the four hours per day of electricity they were getting wasn’t enough. Andrew’s church found out about their need for a generator and heating system, and decided to hold a charity concert.

This was a big event with auctions and a market faire, so lots of sweat equity was invested by Andrew’s church on behalf of their brothers and sisters and those in need.

The concert was a success in more ways than one!

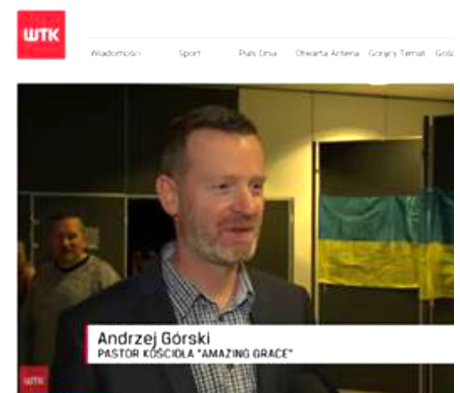
Andrew shares that the entire amount was raised, enabling Ukrainian believers to welcome in and care for the needy and demonstrating to those outside God’s family how His people stand together in unity, working toward the common goal of fulfilling the Great Commission Jesus gave us.

The second way was more unexpected. Andrew writes, “With an event like this, God always shows up in different, unexpected ways - this time local TV interviewed us just before the concert and I was able to witness publicly about God and our reasons for helping others in need and obviously the Gospel was preached!”

The third way may have been the most powerful, though.

People in Poland may have attended the concert because they want to be part of helping Ukraine and doing good things. But while they were there, they heard something Andrew and his church intentionally embedded into the event. They heard, maybe for the first time in their lives, the Good News that salvation comes to us by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers



ITMI’s Andrew Gorski preaches the Gospel during a local television interview.

From the Director



DEAR TEAM: Abundant Life

This last month in the world of football, the fanbase has been vaulted into a form of emotional euphoria as they watched exceptional athletes compete and win on the pitch or field, as we Americans would say. This was true in both American Football and International Football (known as Soccer to the Yanks). The heroics caused great jubilation in some, while it caused stunned, silent disbelief in others.

I might also describe the stunned, silent disbelief as blank, motionless, expressionless, numb, stolid, or empty. These words also describe a term we know as catatonic. Informally, the word “catatonic” can be used to describe someone who is just “not there” mentally or emotionally, often in response to great fright or trauma.

In Matthew 28, we encounter Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary who went to the tomb where Jesus’s body had been laid. They experienced a “powerful earthquake” and a heavenly visit of the “angel of the Lord,” whose countenance was like lightning. Most translations describe what happened next to the others present; the keepers or guards who “became as dead men.” The International Standard Version actually uses the word catatonic, as in “the guards themselves became catatonic.”

A person in a catatonic state at its extreme is fairly easy to identify. Yes, that person is technically alive. They have a pulse, breathe in and out, and can even move about. But most would agree, they are not really *living*, nor are they experiencing the abundance of life in Christ.

Why the discussion on catatonic states of being?

Life in Christ brings a sense of, well, life - abundantly. God’s will for it is that it would expand and grow into “...abundantly above all that we could ask or think...” And yet the enemy always takes mankind towards “blank, numb, stunned, silent disbelief” levels of existing, towards the catatonic end of the living spectrum.

We see numbness painted on the faces of angry, bitter young people. It is evident on the faces of those strangled by addictions to substances. It claws at the faces of those in the media and political system as they feed us a daily drudgery of brokenness. We observe this numbness rise up the social ladder from the most broken of society into the elite realm of those called “successful” yet, even there, they experience a darkness that comes from not knowing God.

Our partner, **Vicky Waraka**, is a dear, single, almost elderly saint living in the battle-torn country of South Sudan. For years, Vicky has gleefully agreed to the long-term responsibility of raising children whose poverty-stricken, traumatized parents can’t even take care of themselves. Vicky accepts this, along with all the other duties that her ministry requires daily to provide counseling and spiritual help full-time in a broken and devastated country. Vicky sees catatonic faces daily as she seeks to minister to the brokenness that has triggered this “numb” state of living. As I travel the world, I, too, see this catatonic inability to connect or even live past just breathing and shuffling about.

As you read this, I will, Lord willing, be in a limited-access country in Asia with a long history of persecuting anyone that doesn’t believe in the state religion. I am asking you to please pray with me as we seek to partner with and empower godly nationals who will seek to bring God’s definition of life to the many who now live without hope.

Vicky’s home was broken into and ransacked while Vicky and her orphan children were at church a few Sundays ago. Vicky returned to her modest mud house to find it raided and looted. Her few valuables had been found and taken. They stole her laptop and the orphaned children’s school fees. Would you consider helping Vicky? Vicky is one who cares deeply about people and she seeks to share God’s hope and truth so the broken and numb can know real life in Christ. Vicky was deeply saddened by the robbery, but she chose to focus on what God has done for her and her orphans and to rest in the blessings that God has and will provide.

In His Service,

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undeserved physical gifts to people who are in need.

ITMI's **Charl van Wyk** and his team provide meals for 150 children in Stone Hill every day.

These daily meals help prevent learning problems later in life. Charl writes, "Many children that suffer with learning problems later in life, have been found to have experienced deficiencies and challenges that are traced back to their early time of development."

Dr. Bradley, Charl's co-worker and brother-in-law, adds, "Studies show that children who are not nourished, complete approximately 4 grades of schooling less than other well-nourished children. Subsequently, this causes them to earn less later in life, they are less likely to have

healthy families and are 10 times more likely to succumb to childhood illnesses."

Charl's prayer, and that of his team, is that the children of Stone Hill would be healthy, able to read and understand God's Word. That they would be the next generation of those who obey our Lord's command, to "disciple the nations."

As Mary's tough statements demonstrate, they are hungry for more than food.

The daily interaction with Charl's team is of incredible value for children in Stone Hill like Mary, who need to experience the Lord before they can accept Him as their Lord and Savior. A great way for them to experience Him is by interacting with His people as they live faithfully following Him. What better way to interact with children

like Mary every day than to provide meals - something that every person regardless of age or economic bracket - actively seek every single day.

Charl needs our help.

At the beginning of the year, Charl's ministry received a generous donation that will fund the daily meal outreach in Stone Hill for the next few months.

To provide food for children in Stone Hill, Charl is asking the Lord to provide \$700 each month for the last 7 months of the year, or \$4900, to ensure the children of Stone Hill receive daily interaction with Charl's team and proper nourishment through the end of 2023.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

FOR PRAISE

1. Pakistan - Steve Evers/Abid - Opportunities to share God's Word through teaching SALT discipleship material.
2. Poland - Gorski - The opportunities God's people are getting to share Jesus and show His love to those in need.
3. South Africa - le Roux - ITMI supporters' generosity allowing them to provide 14 needy families with loaves of bread and build redemptive relationships.
4. Bangladesh - Steve Evers - A national believer and contact of Steve's pleading to be taught the SALT material for his benefit and others'.

FOR PRAYER

1. South Sudan - Vicky Waraka - The Lord's provision after a home invasion where a laptop and money intended for food, school fees and transportation were taken.
2. South Africa - Solutions allowing our partners to continue ministering effectively amid electric outage challenges.
3. South Africa - Provision for the Stone Hill daily meals outreach.
4. Romania/Ukraine - Bans - Continued provision for refugees and opportunities to share His love.
5. Romania - Vio and Daria Pop - Healing for Vio from a spinal surgery in December.



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