

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

*1 Cor. 15:58*

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

## What Two Hundred Dollars Can Accomplish



ITMI supporters, via Steve Evers and Abid, provided life-saving medicine for this 16-year-old girl from a Christian family in Pakistan.

### PAKISTAN

The 16-year-old sat motionless, wrapped in a shawl. She barely moved a muscle the entire visit.

When ITMI's [Steve Evers](#) and [Abid](#), the believer he was visiting in Pakistan, arrived at the brick-making site, he heard a call ring out. The children who were in the mud field, obviously laboring to make bricks, quickly dropped what they were doing and ran off in response to what seemed to be a

pre-arranged signal intended to hide child-labor practices when the visitors arrived.

Steve and Abid made their way to the nearby compound where the workers' families live. Abid led them to a specific family's space.

Two young women were inside the brick walls of the compound. The younger one, the 16-year-old, sat motionless on the low woven cot, commonly used as furniture in this part of the world. She was wrapped in a shawl and barely moved a muscle.

Her liver was struggling as a complication of some illness she'd had - her family thought yellow fever or typhoid. The crucial organ was losing its battle to remove bilirubins from her blood and had fallen behind. It was later discovered that her bilirubin count was eight times higher than it should have been. She hadn't been able to eat solid food, probably for months.

Her older sister was doing her best to relieve her discomfort, but she had suffered the loss of her sight

*(continued on p.2)*



The father, a widower and follower of Jesus, works long days forming bricks in the mud field.



Children at the brick-making field offer their beautiful smiles despite challenging circumstances.



Steve and the oldest daughter of the family he and Abid visited, who lost her sight in childhood.



Steve and the father of the girl he was able to provide medicine for.

*(continued from p.1)*

years ago as a child and was limited in her ability to do so.

Their father, who had lost his wife to illness, works long days squatting with his hands in the mud to churn out bricks for meager wages. He has no choice but to keep doing this. He is indebted to the man he works for, who was all too happy to lend him money, probably for some emergency in the past, and probably at an exorbitant interest rate.

These modern-day “slaves” tell a story from another brick-making compound, somewhere north of where Steve and Abid visited. The owner was angered by the non-payment of debt from one of his workers, so he had them thrown into an active kiln. There were no repercussions for the master’s actions, and this story is always simmering in the background of the workers’ minds.

When Abid approached, her father didn’t move or look up from where he squatted. He deftly filled the mold with mud, swiped across the top with his hand to flatten it, then flipped the mold over and removed it from the newly-made pre-fired brick. Each brick took 8-10 seconds to emerge from the mold, ready to be dried in the sun and then cooked in a kiln.

Without looking up, he gave his resigned, emotionally-shut-down answer to Abid’s question about his daughter’s health. He admitted that he had to choose between the rest of the family eating or buying the life-saving medicine she needed.

So, each day, her health became a little worse, and this Christian family was watching her slip away. This had been going on for about four months.

When Steve learned the testing and medicine that would save this girl’s life could be obtained for

*(continued on p.6)*



A woman earning income in Pakistan by making patties from cow manure.

## PAKISTAN

**She spends her days kneading manure.**

While in Pakistan last month, Steve encountered something Abid called “Pakistani tile” with a bit of humor.

The tiles are made by kneading cow manure with grass or hay. They are formed into patties, dried and sold as fuel for fires to cook.

It’s difficult enough to imagine burning this fuel in your home in order to prepare a meal, but it is another to realize this woman spends her entire day kneading cow manure.

“This struck me,” Steve commented, “We have so much to be thankful for.”

He continued to share his hope that our work in Pakistan might lead to the implementation of Biblical principles in people’s lives that would erode the corruption that leads to this level of poverty.

## INDIA

**Tearful fellowship with the Deepam Primary School staff.**

After his time in Pakistan, Steve trekked to Bangalore, India to visit our partners, **David and Taru Kumar** and their ministry for women and children in Modi Road slum at Deepam Center.

Modi Road is known for its dense Muslim population. The women and children living there endure harsh, difficult conditions, and staggering poverty. Many live in shacks or lean-tos.

One mother mentioned in Steve’s hearing how grateful she is that Deepam provides breakfast and lunch because her children don’t eat at home. This may be a financial issue in some cases, but David and



Steve shares the story of Daniel and the Lion’s Den with the Deepam students.



Deepam students mimic Daniel’s faithfulness to prayer as they learn his story.



Steve “toasts” with the students at Deepam before they enjoy their breakfast nutrition drink.

"Our staff was in tears as he was sharing from the Word of God."

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Taru say this is because the fathers typically require the food to be so spicy that children avoid eating it.

While visiting, Steve sat down with the preschool-aged students at Deepam Center and shared the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den. They got to gather around and roar like lions as they learned from Daniel's story to stand up for what is right, trust God more than fear man, and rest in God's provision and protection.

David reports, "We are very happy to have Steve with us. ...He enjoyed his time with the children at Deepam Center. He was welcomed with placing of a shawl on his shoulders and a flower garland around his neck. This morning we had time of devotion with our staff at our home. Steve brought Word of God, 'God's strength can be trusted.' Our staff was in tears as he was sharing from the Word of God. It has been a great time of fellowship."

Please understand, as David does, that Steve is a representative of all ITMI supporters. The shawl of honor, he accepts it on your behalf. The garland of flowers are symbolically around Steve's neck, embodying the thankfulness everyone at Deepam has for your partnership with them in sharing

Jesus in Bangalore.

## ROMANIA

### Firewood dwindles mid-winter.

"I think we have enough firewood for two weeks," read the text from Ionel Lovescu, the Director of ITMI's [Casa Dorca Children's Home](#) in rural Romania.

Knowing that Casa Dorca operates a heating system that requires wood to burn to keep the home warm during the winter, our office had reached out to check on the status of their firewood in early February.

The wood burning system requires about \$15,000 USD to purchase the needed wood to get through the year, with most of that used during the winter. The wood is typically purchased or donated the summer before so that it can dry out. If burned while still green, before "drying out" more wood is required for the same heat output. It is much more cost-effective to purchase the wood during the summer and allow it to dry out before it is needed in the wintertime. In this region, a wood-burning system is decidedly more cost-effective than coal or electric. Ionel would like to convert to solar, but the initial cost is prohibitive.

For years, a Christian local firewood supplier donated all the cubic feet of wood Casa Dorca needed to keep the orphans who live there warm and healthy. But beginning with the year of the Covid pandemic, his business began to struggle. In turn, his ability to provide firewood for Casa Dorca has also been a struggle.

In the summer of 2021, ITMI

supporters stepped in and [provided a large portion of the cost of the firewood](#). Their involvement was vital. The following winter brought record-breaking snowfalls, but the orphaned children had heat in their home!

The Spirit must have been prompting that query in early February this year. As it turned out, the Romanian donor was unable to provide. Thankfully, your ongoing support of ITMI's ministries allowed us to wire them \$2000 USD immediately, allowing Ionel to purchase firewood right away.

It would be a much more cost-effective use of resources if Casa Dorca can raise the \$15,000 needed to purchase enough firewood for the winter of 2023-2024 by this summer. This will mean they won't have to burn as much wood next winter as they would if they have to burn wood that hasn't had time to dry out.

## UKRAINE

### The deep personal sacrifice of remaining to minister in Ukraine.

As you read this, we will have just passed the one-year mark since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Immediately, Eastern Europe was turned upside down as refugees poured through Poland, Romania, Moldova, and other neighboring countries.

Believers everywhere recognized the opportunity to share the Good News. They sprang into action, whether it was preparing places for people to stay, collecting basic necessities, or sending donations to support the cause.

Believers inside Ukraine

organized a network of support for refugees displaced from attacked cities and those leaving the country.

Pastors and leaders have been toiling tirelessly for a year now. On the physical front, there are large shipments of supplies to be organized, tracked, and distributed, meals to be prepared and served, safe transport to be arranged, and many other tasks. On the spiritual side, there are hurting, traumatized people pouring through the front doors of churches in need of the Good News, comfort, counsel, and care.

In December 2022, with the average daily high temperature of 31 degrees Fahrenheit in his city, one pastor wrote, “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 the Russian shelling of our power plants.”

Imagine the toll living this way would take after a year! Pile on to that the emotional exhaustion of engaging with, encouraging, and ministering to suffering Ukrainians who have lost everything.

Yet, just a few sentences later, that same pastor wrote, “We are fully in this work and do not want to leave it. There is an opportunity to leave, but there is no desire.”

ITMI believes the role these pastors and leaders are playing in their country during one of its darkest moments in history is a crucial role for the Kingdom of God. As the church of Jesus Christ stands firm and tall in unimaginable circumstances, the name of Jesus is being glorified

and turned to.

These leaders have an incredible opportunity to shine the light of Jesus into the lives of many if they can stay the course and remain healthy - both physically and spiritually.

We believe their pivotal ministry at such a time in history can be enhanced and prolonged with some restoration and reprieve.

Our partners, [Adi and Ema Ban](#) of Romania have been working with this network of Ukrainian pastors and leaders since before the invasion. Now, they've asked us to help them provide several days of rest and rejuvenation in Romania for 10 pastors and their wives who have served tirelessly under fire and remain committed to serving the Lord in Ukraine.

Adi has been able to keep the expenses of this extremely reasonable. We hope to help Adi raise \$1,100 USD per couple for this purpose.

## TURKEY

[The opportunity to empower a local church to serve amid disaster.](#)

ITMI's Adi Ban has also brought us the opportunity to help a church in Turkey extend Jesus' love and care among earthquake victims.

Adi's source, who he has known for some time, says the situation on the ground is horrifying. Thousands are dead, and no one is there to offer aid or even clean up the bodies, so rats have moved in.

Adi says our Turkish brothers in Christ need a van to transport supplies. Adi is working with his contact on the most cost-effective way to make this happen.



[Casa Dorca Children's Home in rural Romania.](#)



[A Ukrainian pastor prays for refugees.](#)



[A Ukrainian pastor leads a service ministering to refugees in Ternopil, Ukraine.](#)

If you are interested in getting involved, we'll make sure Adi receives your gift to pass along to his trusted contact to empower the local body of Christ as they show Jesus' love and care by being salt and light at the right time, in the right place.

*-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers*

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\$200 USD, he and Abid made sure she got the treatment. They also provided some liquified nutrition that her failing body could appropriately process.

When they returned a few days later, the difference in her health was remarkable, maybe even miraculous. She was moving around and speaking!

Steve also left this family with audio Bibles for each of them, funded by ITMI supporters' gifts through our 2022 Christmas Giving Catalog. The family members are illiterate, but they can fill the long hours of labor by listening to God's Word in Urdu!

Steve found that there are so many believers in Pakistan who could not attend school because of their poverty. Illiterate, their Biblical knowledge is limited to what they hear at church. Abid is excited to see what will happen when these hungry



Inside the Christian family's home near the mud field.

believers can listen to God's Word every day. If their expressed joy and smiles are any indication of what is

to come, then we'll all get to watch the Word of God grow and strengthen these grateful believers.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

## FOR PRAISE

1. India - Kumar - Twelve pastors and leaders in a rural area completed David's 6 month training and are now equipped to share Jesus with Muslims.
2. Asia - Steve Evers - Many opportunities to point people to Jesus in Asia and encourage believers during February mission visits.

## FOR PRAYER

1. Zambia - Leach - Healing for Florence, the wife of a local pastor and co-minister, who suffered a stroke.
2. South Africa - le Roux - Local pastors would be moved to attend a ministers' conference at Kwazisabantu Mission in March and the cost of getting there would be provided.
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 - Casa Dorca - Provision of firewood to keep the home warm for the orphaned children living there.
6. Poland - Gorski - The Lord would use a Church Planting Summit organized by Andrew and his team at the end of March to catalyze the planting of more churches to spread the Good News.
7. South Sudan - Lazarus - Continued healing for Lazarus and his wife after another round of sickness.



PO Box 7575, Tempe, AZ 85281 (480) 968-4100 (888) 918-4100  
intouchmission@intouchmission.org | fb.com/intouchmission  
@intouchmission | instagram.com/intouchmissioninternational



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