

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10: 24-25

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How You're Helping Ukrainian Pastors

...and Churches in Poland, Evangelists in Zambia and Teens in South Africa

UKRAINE- ROMANIA

Your prayers were undoubtedly felt by ITMI's [Adi and Ema Ban](#) and ITMI Director, [Steve Evers](#), as they led a retreat for seven pastors and their wives, six from Ukraine and one from Russia.

"It went very smoothly," Ema said, "We could certainly feel that many people were praying for us."

Some couples in attendance hadn't left Ukraine since the war began early in 2022. They've endured months of pressure - serving refugees, transporting and organizing supplies, serving meals, and being spiritual and emotional leaning posts for the hurting.

One pastor and his wife shared a story with Ema. Early in the invasion, a call came in from a war-torn area. The callers were out of food and desperate. Two pastors decided to answer the call by transporting food and supplies to them. They would make a 5-6 hour drive into an area occupied by Russian troops.

"I cried my eyes out when I heard that's where he was going," his



Ukrainian pastors with Adi and Ema's Young Couples' Fellowship Group.



Adi encouraging pastors from Ukraine and their wives.

wife shared, pulling back the curtain to reveal just one of the many ways these brothers and sisters have lived under pressure for over a year. These pressures



Steve shares from the SALT material.

come at them from all directions. But they've chosen to stay and demonstrate God's love and care for the hurting in their war-torn country.

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“You could tell there was a lot of pressure on them day in and day out,” Ema observed.

Despite recent health challenges leading up to the retreat, Adi and Ema had thoughtfully planned the retreat. They invited others in Oradea to participate in various sessions to encourage the Ukrainians. The second night, several local pastors came to participate in the session as an encouragement to the Ukrainians. The third night, the couples Adi and Ema disciple through their Young Couples’ Fellowship Groups joined the session. Steve said, “The benefit of having these different groups join on different evenings was that Adi was able to go around the room and have each share and encourage the others. I believe the Ukrainians highly valued it.”

“We feel like you are showering us with blessings and love,” one told Ema. Another sent a note to Adi the following week that read, “Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the most pleasant and blessed retreat we’ve ever had. May God bless you and provide for you as only He knows how.”

Another shared that the week had been an incredible week and that it had meant so much to be allowed to receive encouragement and rest.

Throughout the retreat, Steve taught SALT lessons (*I am not God, I am in Christ, Rejection, and Money*) and Adi and Ema did sessions on Biblical family and marriage (Family and Social Media and Communication Styles).

The couples in attendance responded well and seemed inspired to infuse their ministry in Ukraine with what they’d learned.

They asked Steve to take them through the rest of the SALT material and Adi and Ema to share

their wisdom on Biblical family life with the communities and people they serve in Ukraine sometime in the near future, hopefully the end of this year.

Thank you for your support, allowing us to help Adi and Ema with the funds to honor and serve our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in this way.



Thank you for your support!

POLAND

“This changes everything in our context.”

To understand those words, written by ITMI’s [Andrew Gorski](#), you need to understand the battle our partners in Poland have fought to earn the right to share the Good News.

For years, if one or two people showed up for an outreach done by an evangelical church in Poland, this would be a big deal. That’s why it was so exciting that the Lord opened the doors for the sharing of the Gospel with thousands through the gospel music workshops and concerts put on by Andrew Gorski and our partners at [Gospel Joy Workshops and Evangelism](#).

Evangelicals are an extreme minority and are viewed with fear by many in Poland. They are also among the sliver of the population that believes in salvation by faith alone, so they have an important

message to share - that salvation comes not through things you do but by faith alone and that faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior provides a way to deal with the problem of sin.

But to share that message, they needed - still need - to gain enough trust to speak and interact.

As a group, our supporters have helped make big inroads in changing this stigma through their partnership with our godly nationals in Poland. [Piotr Zaremba](#)’s translation of the Bible from its original languages into Polish was eagerly accepted by many as it illuminated the Gospel in never-before-understood ways. It continues to circulate widely. In 2022 alone, 58.9 million chapters of Piotr’s translation were opened via the YouVersion Bible application.

[Bread of Life](#), founded by ITMI’s [Richard and Brooke Nungesser](#), has served the marginalized and needy in Jesus’ name alongside municipalities, helping erode old misconceptions about evangelicals.

Andrew explains, “Because of our history - German oppression, Russian oppression - our nation never developed a concept of teamwork and helping each other.”

In addition to the outreaches of Gospel Joy, Andrew and Anna Gorski have worked toward eroding fear left over from German and Russian occupation by establishing [Evangelical Poland](#). Evangelical Poland unifies God’s people from evangelical denominations in Poland by providing the means and network for them to share resources and encourage one another.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, almost 10 million people passed through Poland. Many stayed and began new lives.

“This is a huge mission field for us as churches,” Andrew writes, “This is an opportunity for us as Christians to have a huge impact on others with the Gospel.”

The border city of Przemysl had so many refugees cross the border every day that there was no place to accommodate them, and a humanitarian crisis burgeoned. One pastor worked with the city’s mayor to turn a shopping mall into a hostel for the refugees. However, the renovations quickly drained the city’s money.

The networking groundwork laid by Evangelical Poland for just this purpose - to help the church quickly respond to opportunities to share the Gospel - was activated. Andrew helped connect this pastor with believers who could help.

Two Christian organizations came to their aid, providing truckloads of fold-out beds, blankets, bedding, and towels. Their involvement helped demonstrate the Gospel as thousands of vulnerable people were able to spend a few days in safety on their way to other destinations.

But that’s not even the best part!

The church is now well-known in the city as a group of people to whom others can turn to for help and find it. What’s more, the city recognizes the evangelical church as part of the community, inviting the pastors to various events. This opens the door not just for these pastors to share the Good News through relationships and interactions at these events, but for people, in general, to realize they don’t need to fear someone simply because they are an evangelical Christian. It opens a door for the Gospel to be shared.

Andrew’s words attempt to describe how meaningful it is for evangelicals to finally be given a seat at the table. He writes, “This

changes everything in our context.”

ZAMBIA

Evangelists and leaders report exciting news from remote Zambian villages

John Fwelu is one of the Luvale evangelists ITMI’s [Johan Leach](#) helps equip and works alongside to share the Gospel on the Luvale floodplain in the northwest corner of Zambia and into Angola. John reports:

Traveling to the most remote areas with the mission of preaching the Word of God to thirsty souls is always a joy and something to look forward to. I went for the Gospel outreach to a remote village on the west bank [of the Zambezi River] called Chambi. Here, a small group of eager women and men were already gathered and ready to listen to the Word of God. I preached the Gospel using the Heart of Man Chart. This was something that really helped them understand sin and salvation better. Two people, a male and a female, came to accept the Lord as their personal Lord and Savior that day.

One part of Johan’s ministry is to oversee the training of local leaders he calls “Hub Leaders” who take shepherding responsibility for the churches within a day’s walk of their residence. Hub Leaders identify disciples within the churches planted in their area who will in turn lead and plant another 3 churches within a day’s walk. The training these leaders receive is extensive. Hub Leaders come to Chavuma, Zambia, the location of Johan’s ministry base, for training every 6 months. After training, they return to the field to implement what they’ve learned

and teach someone else. This process goes on for about three and a half years, and results in a certificate from Harvest Bible School.

One Hub Leader, Yona Chilila, baptized 17 from the village of Lingundu. In his report about his time in the village, he wrote,

We thank God for bringing souls to Himself. We are encouraged to see that the believers have the interest of reading and sharing God’s Word. To God be the glory.

Johan shared that in the last two years, the Hub Leader training has yielded 109 church plants on the plains.

Johan has fielded many requests from pastors and leaders across Zambia who want to be part of what God is doing through Johan’s equipping ministry in the northwest corner of Zambia. He is preparing for a discipleship and church planting training event in July which will “kickoff” three and a half years of seminary studies and practical training for those who participate. The most recent count for leaders who plan to participate is 351. Praise the Lord for this fruit of His work through you as supporters and Johan and his team as laborers in the field.

The area of Zambia where Johan ministers is very remote, so travel logistics are a big part of anything the Leachs do. Having a vehicle that can handle the extremely rough terrain is essential, and ministry is limited when that vehicle isn’t operational. Right now, Johan’s vehicle is in “limp mode” and in urgent need of about \$2730 for repair and transport to a city with a repair shop. This is the cost of ministering to these hard-to-reach people in such a remote and rugged area.



Johan equipping leaders in Chongwe, Zambia with discipleship and church planting training in preparation for the July start of a 3.5 year training program.



John Fwelu sharing the Gospel in the village of Chambi.



A villager, once known for drinking and fornicating gives his life to Jesus.

SOUTH AFRICA

"Discipling teenage boys is a challenging but rewarding experience."

A heart-warming smile played at his lips for a moment before his wide-set eyes dropped, focusing on the black and white checked tablecloth on the table in front of him. The smile stayed in place as he said, "The reason why I like to come here is because I learn more about the Word of God."

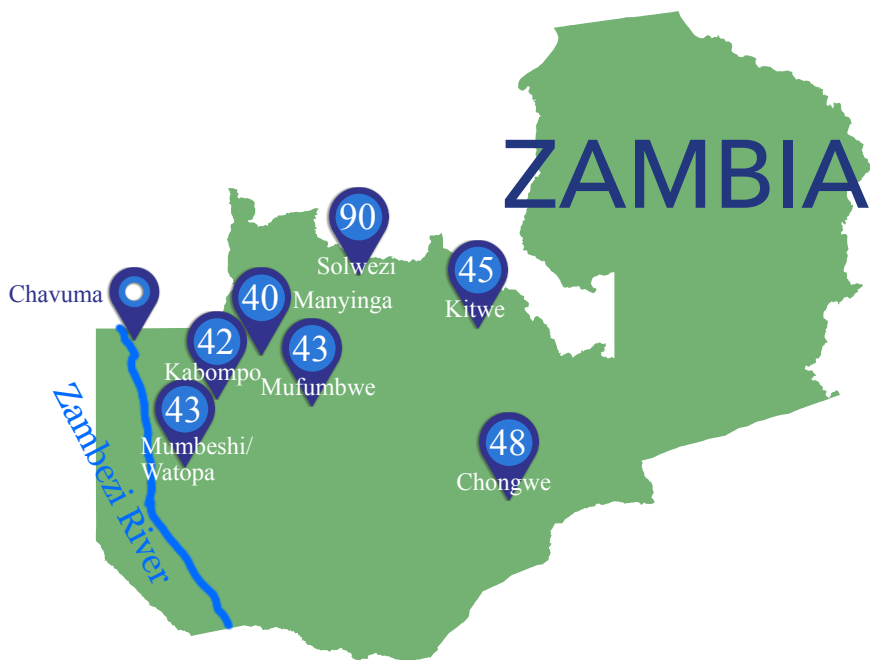
The young man from an informal settlement outside of Durbanville, South Africa called Stone Hill was referring to the regular meetings of The Soldiers for Christ. The Soldiers for Christ is a group of young men who meet to study the Bible with various older Christian men, including ITMI's [Charl van Wyk](#). The Soldiers for Christ meet regularly at the Community Center in [Stone Hill](#), that ITMI supporters helped fund several years ago.

In an inspiring email to his supporters about the discipleship of young men, Charl writes,

"Discipling Christian teenage boys is a challenging but rewarding experience. It requires patience, dedication, and a willingness to invest time and energy in building relationships, teaching spiritual and practical skills, imparting values, and addressing specific challenges. However, the rewards are significant."

Over a decade ago, such a group didn't exist. The youth in the settlement had little hope, and they lived like it: aimless miscontents making trouble. But the Lord's intervention, through His people, both from nearby Durbanville and supporters overseas, has changed that for these young men.

If we visualize the discipleship process in Stone Hill like a funnel, the Soldiers for Christ would be



(continued from p.4)

toward the bottom. The Soldiers for Christ are approaching the desired outcome at the bottom of the funnel: lives dedicated to Jesus and the making of disciples.

Outreaches like the recently held Gospel Club for kids, the daily meals provided for children in the settlement, and the Early Childhood Development Center would be at the top of the funnel. These draw people in and present the opportunity for something more. As in any funnel, the bottom is fed by the top. This highlights the importance of the outreaches in the top - like the daily meal outreach. The daily meals not only draw people in as a stepping stone to more involvement with God's people, they demonstrate the Lord's care for every aspect of the lives of those who bear His image. They go a long way to help these children have the mental capacity, later on, to read and understand God's Word, be a witness to what He's done, and provide for and raise their families in a Biblical manner.

Charl and his team still need funding that would enable them to continue offering meals to impoverished children in Stone Hill through the end of 2023. Since February, when we first shared the need for \$4900 to keep this outreach going through the end of 2023, seven ITMI supporters have stepped forward to say, "I can help feed hungry kids in Stone Hill!" Together they've given a total of \$1638. That means we are prayerfully asking the Lord to provide \$3262.

Witnessing this fruit - youth from an impoverished settlement turning to the Lord and overcoming the formidable obstacles of marginalization and poverty through faith and obedience - is thrilling and delightful. There is still much more to do in Stone Hill. There's room for many more to join this support team and broaden the impact God's Word is making in Stone Hill.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

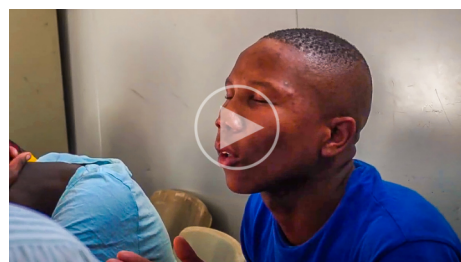


Family homes in Stone Hill made of corrugated metal and other scrap materials.



Stone Hill children enjoy a nutritious meal at the community center.

Videos from Stone Hill!
Watch at intouchmission.org/stonehill



Witness the fruit in this two-minute peak inside a Soldiers for Christ meeting in Stone Hill.



See the ministry your support helps make possible in these clips from recent outreaches!

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FOR PRAISE

1. Europe - Evers - Many provisions, protections and opportunities provided while ministering in Europe.
2. Poland - Gorski - Doors open for Christians through networking and readiness to serve and meet needs.
3. Zambia - Leach - Villagers coming to faith and getting baptized by Evangelists and Hub Leaders.
4. South Africa - van Wyk - Soldiers for Christ desire to grow in the Lord together and follow Him.
5. South Sudan - Lazarus - A healed foot allowed him to travel to encourage and teach from God's Word on Easter.

FOR PRAYER

1. South Africa - van Wyk - Funding to keep providing daily meals in Stone Hill.
2. Poland - Fredyk, Zaremba - Good health and recovery from surgery for Ivona Fredyk and Karolina Zaremba.
3. Romania - Casa Dorca - Provision of funds to purchase wood in the next couple months, in time to dry out before next winter.
4. Romania - Ban - Healing from infection after recent jawbone graft surgery for Adi, wisdom for handling upcoming speaking engagements in Vienna and the United States.



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