

*"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"*

*Matthew 25:40*

# ITMI

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

## Hope Flows: Empowering Remote Villages through Clean Water and Discipleship

### Zambia

The quiet rural African morning welcomes the early morning sun as it rises over a fully loaded all-terrain field vehicle waiting expectantly to take more than just the willing hearts of its three passengers into the remote village floodplains of rural northwest Zambia.

Their mission *almost-impossible*: to map out the road-less ox cart paths that crisscross the Zambezi plains and to gather specific GPS coordinates for the remote grass-hut villages who after generations and even centuries, will soon receive the gift of all earthly gifts - fresh, clean water, in the form of twenty-three (23) new water borehole installations.

The task borders on the impossible due to the logistics of the remoteness of the villages, the impending rainy season that will shut down the plains, the ruggedness of the journey, and the extreme distance to civilization and spare parts.

The first step today for ITMI's **Johan Leach** is to get the heavily loaded 4x4 Toyota across the

roaring Zambezi River. With no vehicle bridges for crossing the Zambezi River for hundreds of kilometers, an unkept pontoon boat offers the only solution to transport a vehicle to the undeveloped side of the Zambezi.

The pontoon boat shudders as the heavily laden vehicle, its dedicated passengers, and a handful of the local villagers all clammer to board for the slow and steady 200-meter trip across the seasonally turbulent river. As the mighty flowing waters splash against the hollow aluminum vehicle ferry, it's almost easy to get lost in the lapping of water as the ferry trudges westward. This scene is in stark contrast to what lays before Johan and his team in the drought riddled Western Zambezi Plains.

Once across the river there are hours of fighting the steering wheel through 18" deep and rutted river sand as you levitate between the seat bottom and the inner roof of your 4x4. This is followed by sections of dry cracked, silty dust earth that Johan and his team will soon be crossing. They will be relentlessly maneuvering through unmarked oxen trails and pockets of overgrown vegetation, steadily

pushing deeper into uncharted and mostly forgotten territory many Zambian villagers call their home.

Many of the people found scattered along the way have temporarily migrated from their huts and villages to wait out the current 50-year drought, hoping upon hope to find water, food and firewood. Many will eagerly assist the travelers with directions to the nearest village while they then try to source enough liquid and food to live another day. The collection of daily water consumes a large majority of their mental, emotional and physical capacity each and every day. The hope of a water pump near their villages is beyond the hope of these simple people.

Over the last few years, through the pivotal and generous partnership many of you've made it possible for ITMI and Johan to strategically install more than 30 life-giving water boreholes through ITMI's Clean Safe Water Project (<https://intouchmission.org/projects/clean-safe-water-project-zambia/>). This project has enabled Johan and his team to bring much more than just clean water to remote villages;



they have brought *hope* to those who have lost the concept. Johan’s unique discipleship model implemented alongside each of the borehole installations has not only spiritually helped the villages, but it has also generated much interest from local pastors who are in desperate need of this kind of training: equipping Hub Leaders in Biblical Discipleship, with the vision to facilitate healthy church plants.

In part due to the gifts of village boreholes and Johan’s discipleship model, Johan reports that 1419 new churches have been planted, and led by men that now know the true Word of God.

With the low-hanging fruit of the closer villages having already ‘been plucked’, our focus shifts as we push further crossing the border into Angola and south to towards Zimbabwe to the less accessible locations, bringing much-needed earthly and spiritual water relief to the people isolated on the plains.

These remote areas present extreme difficulties for installation contractors with rough terrain and unmarked roads, requiring careful consideration, “counting the cost” (Luke 14:28-30) before implementation. Johan and his team did a stellar job, carefully considering factors such as villages with a Bible-believing church, walking distance to the nearest water source, population size, and accessibility for installation contractors’ trucks and equipment.

One of the benefits of Johan’s hands on style is his immediate hub leaders are being mentored and trained in proper, organized and intentional project development and management. This carries over into the process of planting churches. Something this part of Africa has never seen before. Johan also has introduced and implemented an accountability between the leaders and brothers in Christ as he also submits himself to the local leaders so that “...iron (really) does sharpen iron....”

When you partner with us in our **Clean Safe Water Project**, it provides us all with a significant and much-needed opportunity to do much more than provide clean safe water; you are partnering in making disciples and changing a nation. There are many villages who have not heard the gospel or have a church in their community.

These same villages also don’t have good clean water at their disposal. Will you continue to help us raise the need for more boreholes and the costs for Johan and his team to continue to strategically evangelize and disciple Zambia.

Stay tuned as Johan’s team is now spreading eastward across Zambia as more and more churches and pastors are pleading to be included in this model of development and discipleship. Thank you for all you’ve done to empower the nationals to reach their communities and country for Christ.

-Annemarie de Greeg, Steve Evers



# From the Director



## DEAR TEAM:

What an amazing time of ministry here in the Bangalore, India area. ITMI’s **David and Taru Raj Kumar** are exceptional hosts and co-laborers in Christ’s work. This week in mid-August has been full of extremes.



The grandeur of an Indian wedding, with all the traditional clothes and activities is truly a memorable experience. The humble simplicity of a tiny dark musty 11’x11’ apartment where three generations of a family, live and call home, and yet use this home to have weekly meetings to reach out to the lost and traumatized Indian women, is also a memorable experience. The wedding was the first for the Kumars, their oldest son **Samuel and Rhea** were joyfully married before a small crowd of about 250 people. What a shining light a christian wedding is in the midst of all the dark chaos that engulfs most of India.

The Lord was honored by both families, the bride’s and the groom’s parents planned and determined that with all the non-believer-required-extended family and friends in attendance, that their most important truth in life is to honor Jesus Christ for who He is in their lives and the lives of their children. The celebration of marriage was on full display and continually pointed to the one who created marriage and all other things in life that are good.

David and Taru’s daily mentoring and discipleship of their family and ministry partners is clearly seen when you visit their **Deepam School** which is located in a highly compressed, inner city, Muslim community, some would call a slum. The “ladies” as they are called, the dear precious partners who faithfully help teach and disciple the fifty small preschool children who come from the surrounding tin shacks. These children are from Hindu and Muslim homes from an area of town that even the police dare not venture into.

Yet the Kumars and their helpers are welcomed with open arms because of the many years of caring for these people by caring for and teaching their children the basics of education enabling the children to test into the local schools and hopefully ride an education out of this dark and stress filled encampment that surrounds Deepam school. These children are introduced to Jesus and taught in a fully intentional christian environment – and the parents are fully aware of what is going on – and they fully support this type of education. What growth I’ve witnessed over the years in Taru’s teaching model as well as the development of the teachers and assistants that help in the school.

ITMI’s **Lazarus Yezinai in South Sudan** writes the following, “South Sudan is passing terrible situation of sickness, death and starvation, [the local] people are living in fear because people are dying unexpectedly... just you hear that Mr. or Mrs. so and so fell and died or [some people] have sickness of one or two hours and died, so the situation of people in South Sudan is bad.”

Lazarus continues, “And because of these situation[s] it gave us the opportunity to share the word of God and people are responding to God in good number, there’s no help anywhere unless one come to God because Jesus said in Mathew 11:28 that come to me you who are heavy laden or carrying heavy load and I will give you rest.”

Please continue to pray and support the faithful servants who minister in the places that most just don’t want to go to. Both the Kumars and Lazarus have had many opportunities to leave these deeply troubled and even dangerous area, but they hold tight to the calling that God has given them and they only ask that we who can help, continue to help with prayers, wisdom, encouragement and partnership which will enable them to carry the heavy load of sharing the Gospel in their communities.

*Steve Evers*







## FOR PRAISE

1. India - David and Taru Kumar - Blessed wedding and the clear testimony to all who attended.
2. Zimbabwe - Charl van Wyk - Good start to raising fund for drought impacted community.
3. Romania - Adi and Ema Ban - The lives that are being impacted by their family and couples workshops.
4. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - K5N Church -Successful children and youth Summer camp - Gospel was preached in many ways.
5. ITMI - God's provision allowing us to accomplish more kingdom work as the needs grow day by day.

## FOR PRAYER

1. India - David and Taru - Continued protection, provision and guidance through challenges in difficult ministry locations.
2. Zimbabwe - Charl van Wyk - Provision for a much needed water borehole to enlarge the Kingdom sharing truth in difficult times.
3. South Sudan - Lazarus Yezinai - Provision of health for him and family, wisdom and strength to minister to the deeply troubled area.
4. All - wisdom, guidance, integrity and clarity for our partners making weighty decisions around the world.



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