

"I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High."

Psalm 7:17

ITMI

Monthly

1 NOVEMBER 2024

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When Thanksgiving comes:

How HIS children in difficult times continue to look up with gratitude

South Sudan

Thanksgiving is truly one of the best times of the year. The whole intent of Thanksgiving is to pause and allow ourselves to put the challenges of this world on the back burner and focus on the blessings received from the author of all blessings.

For some this is easier than it is for others.

Some have cultivated the biblical mandate to: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"

1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Others are still learning to be intentional in this opportunity to recognize the many ways God has done great things in and around us this past year.

It is our desire to offer you a few opportunities to ease into the wonderful month of Thanksgiving for God's goodness, grace, provision and protection.

South Sudan is one of the newest countries on the planet. Created in 2011, it carries into its new existence many wounds and scars of generations of unrest, conflict and trauma. The scars are seen in the everyday life of those who were born and live within its borders.

ITMI's Lazarus Yezinai Dinyi has shared with ITMI's Director, Steve Evers, harrowing real-life stories that Lazarus himself has experienced as a boy when running from the bombs that rained down on his village.

Yet today Lazarus is passionate to share the goodness of God's truth with the terribly broken South Sudanese society.

During Covid 19 the Lord led ITMI to start **Project Joseph** with our

partners, providing a means to "store-up" food and necessities that would be used to help the needy see that God had not forgotten them and that He deeply cares for them and their needs.

South Sudan has been deeply impacted by God-less world events for decades, and the last four to five years have been especially trying to the majority of below poverty level citizens. Lazarus shares how God is using all of our partnerships to meet both physical and spiritual needs.

Lazarus writes,

PROJECT JOSEPH FOOD DISTRIBUTION Conducted by *Save the Lost and Help the Needy (SLAHN)* (Lazarus' own initiative) in



Mrs. Hellen Pulaw is a single mother with 5 children and now she has an everlasting hope of who is able and willing to care for her.

partnership with In Touch Mission International (ITMI) in Juba, South Sudan. We targeted single mothers, elderly people and widows. The report covers the activities such as visiting homes, sharing of God's word and distribution of food to the most vulnerable families who are fellowshiping in [our church] and other families. The people warmly welcomed us and appreciated this visitation and initiative ITMI is doing by serving and reaching out to the vulnerable people at the grass root levels, with the word of God and the food support....

This program of ITMI touches peoples' lives and transform[s] people's mentality about Christ. Our team of volunteers in Juba voluntarily do support and help in

reaching and serving the vulnerable people in need in the communities. Through this Project Joseph Food Distribution it has given us a great opportunity to make disciple[s] ... we [also] aim to reach other affected parts of South Sudan like Jonglei State and Bentiu Unity State which is currently affected with floods and people are suffering and starving both for food and word of God (Mathew 28:19).

Lazarus shares in his South Sudanese way, a personal story of Thanksgiving and a grateful heart:

Mrs. Hellen Pulaw is a single mother with 5 children, one night the [her] husband came [home] drunk and planned to kill her. That night she was sleeping on mat [on the floor] with her last born, the husband took the sword [sword or maybe a machete] and [pitch] it on the mat where she was sleeping with her child. She realized what he was doing, she pulled the child and entered under the bed and the sword [sword] hit the mat, she cried loudly and people [probably those in the compound] ran and rescued Hellen and the children. In the early morning the man ran to village up to now he didn't come [back] for 3 years now.

Imagine 5 children and now for three years she has had to try and provide for her family without any help from a missing husband.

Rev Lazarus shared with [her] the word of God and she gave her live [life] to Jesus and now she is a member of local Church in the area of Kuggi community. She thank[s] ITMI with all heart for the rations she got [from Project Joseph} to support her children.

[Hellen] used to crack stone [a manual means of chipping watermelon sized rocks into small chips used in mixing concrete] and sold it for survival, but almost 3 weeks [now] her stone was not taken [purchased] and she said it [has been] 4 days now no food in the house. Her two young[est] children [have been] help[ed] [with food] by [a] neighbor, but [Hellen] and the other 3 children are just staying [in the home] with out anything [food]. But God heard her prayers and today her children are going to eat. Thanks to God and to ITMI who [created] the [Project Joseph] program.

Lazarus when on to share about Mrs. Margret Basha a widow [who had] two children, son and a daughter; the son was a captain in SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] and he died in 2021. Margret is staying now with her daughter [and] two grandchildren.

[The daughter] is a single mother and is [a] drunkard. She is drinking alcohol too much and is not taking care of her mother and the children. Her first born [grandson] joined [a] gang group and his right arm is cut off, he is [now] one handed.

Margret is a member in our church [we attempt at] taking care of her. She is thanking [Lazarus'] initiative [for] supporting the needy [like her who is] without any child [next generation] to [care for] her. She is so grateful for the food given to her, saying, "God [has seen] sees the heart and the need. She was [had been] thinking, "...who can come and help her; because her food is finished [all gone], and [now] really God [has] answered her prayers and today food is here, thanks to God."

Miss. Sunday, she is a widow with 6 children, the husband died and she is the one taking care of her children. All 6 children - no one [is] in the school this year because of [lack of required] school fees.

Lazarus shared with her the word of God and the following day he brought food for her; tears started coming out from her eyes when [she] saw maize [corn] flour and beans, she said she is surviving by



Mrs. Margret Basha lives in a culture that depends on the younger generation to care for the elderly, when that doesn't happen there is nowhere to turn when hungry, except to the Lord. Lazarus encourages this dear widow and provides hope.

the grace of God, she thanks to God for remembering her [and] her children by providing for them food. Thanks to ITMI and their supporters for taking care of widows and orphans.

We have so much to be thankful for today and everyday. These widows and orphans in South Sudan are also deeply thankful that you were God's hands and feet, sharing the very basic necessities for life here and empowering humble servants like Lazarus and his team to share the very simple message of Jesus loves you, He died and rose again for you, and He is preparing a place for you where there will be no more hunger and no more dying.

Lazarus final words to us are: The Project Joseph is really doing great, we are praying to God to provide more for the building of God's kingdom, it is the strongest tool to penetrate into [our] community to preach the kingdom of God. ITMI staff may God bless you and open eyes the great thing He is doing through you in this world and thanks.

ITMI is here to seek God's face and His will for each of the many forgotten people worldwide. We would be unable to do what we do without partners who see the eternal glory that simple acts of sharing the Gospel and serving those in need can provide. We together are being obedient to the great calling to "...go and make disciples."

Thank you to each of you who have partnered with our Project Joseph project.



NewsBytes - Zambia

DEAR Team:

Bringing Clean Water and Living Hope: The Journey of Johan and Lesley in Zambia



In a remote corner in the North-West Province of Zambia, Johan Leach is all too familiar with the Luvale words ‘chindende-chindende’ meaning ‘slowly-slowly’. Maneuvering his way to the least reached people by car or motorbike, through thick sand or dry and arid terrain, but always moving forward. He believes that ‘slow but steady wins the race’ and stands securely as a servant of the King, knowing that faith without works is dead (James 2:26).

Your generous support and steadfast prayers have enabled Johan and Lesley to love sacrificially and serve joyfully, despite knowing that the physical and spiritual impact will go unnoticed by the world at large. Their only concern is the audience of One.

Johan was recently approached by an affluent, neatly presented man at a local gas station, who turned out to be the Director of the Health Department. Addressing Johan by his local nickname, the man said: “Sharp-sharp, I want to thank you for all you are doing for the people. I know you are a missionary.” Astounded, Johan realized that the ripples of God's love circled wider still, reaching even government health officials.

Months of planning and groundwork precede the joyful moment of commissioning a borehole into use. The villagers gather expectantly, soon to celebrate how God saw their need for safe and clean water and provided it. But even more importantly, that God saw their need for a Savior and sent His Son, so that they may have eternal life.

These villagers have been curious onlookers in the process of negotiations with their village chief, the drilling for water, installation of the pump, and drain pipes, patiently waiting for the last 10 days for the concrete to dry properly. Finally, the time comes to pump water themselves and celebrate not only the clean water gushing forth, but the Living Water that they can drink so that they will never thirst again. Indeed a time for great rejoicing!

In our last newsletter, we asked if you would prayerfully consider helping us install a borehole at Johan and Lesley's home. The deterioration in their digestive health is thought to be partly due to using filtered water from the Zambezi River as their main water supply. In only one month, we are astounded that you have risen to the challenge and that just over half the cost (USD 6,000) is still needed to make this vital contribution to improve their health and trust the Lord to renew the energy they have poured out so selflessly. Please continue to pray and contribute as the Lord leads you, for this precious couple.



- Annemarie de Greef, Steve Evers

P.S. Please consider how you can help the Leach's continue to impact Zambia by training and discipling the rural pastors and leaders. \$100 or a \$1000 would go a long way to putting in a clean water system for Johan.

Zimbabwe



Charl van Wyk exuberantly shares this wonderful news. *Praise the Lord! Our borehole drilling team, led by Cozmore, struck water at 80 meters!*

The source is yielding around 20,000 liters per day – a tremendous blessing for the drought-stricken community of Gwayi River, Zimbabwe.

A huge thank you to all our ministry partners who prayed for and financially supported this project!

“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3



Zambia

Eugene Kalunga, the founder and director of Excellence Christian Academy in Kabwe, Zambia has faithfully served for 25+ years, training teachers and children in solid biblical K-12 education. Eugene was diagnosed with Parkinson's a few years back, but he has not let it stop him from his calling. Eugene updates us:

On our side, the ministry is doing well and the children are being solidified in the Lord, on a personal level the month of September has been a month of me deepening my faith and waiting on the Lord for my health restoration.

The tremor and shaking in my hands seems to have increased slightly more than usual and has led to increased pain in my muscles, but in all this nothing shall separate me from the love of God, and I continue to stand on His Word because it never returns to Him void without accomplishing what He sent it to do.

The classroom block works at Spring of Love school has reached an advanced stage; the roofing has been done, concrete works, window frames and door frames have been installed. We are now planning for the installation of windows (glass), doors, painting works and other minor works.



FOR PRAISE

1. Pakistan - Abid - Lives being changed through sound biblical teaching at the small rural church he was asked to lead as their pastor.
2. Zimbabwe - Charl van Wyk - Borehole in drought area only needed drilled to 80 meters and produces 20,000 liters (5283 gal.) per mth.
3. Zambia - Johan and Lesley Leach - Twenty of the twenty-three boreholes now drilled, commissioned and handed over to villagers.
4. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - K5N Church -Successful relocation of K5N church into a new location.
5. ITMI - God's continued blessings and 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. Poland - Andrew and Anna - Help for Meggie, a deeply needy teen the Gorski's are fostering in their home.
3. South Sudan - Lazarus Yezinai - Provision of Project Joseph funds to enable him to minister to many more widows and orphans.
4. Romania - Adi and Ema Ban - wisdom, guidance, and clarity as they continually are making weighty ministry decisions.
5. ITMI USA - We need help with desk top publishing, content media, story telling, and website management.



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



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