

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord..." Luke 2:11

ITMI
Monthly

1 DECEMBER 2024

intouchmission.org

Merry Christmas

FROM YOUR ITMI PARTNERS

*We asked our partners to share with you some of the ways Jesus' kingdom was advanced this year. **We hope you are encouraged by their answers and the special messages they have for you!***



Adi and Ema Ban

Romania, Ukraine

"Your personalized greetings and Thank you's to all the ITMI partners here in the USA."

"Crăciun binecuvântat" is one of the ways Christians greet each other during Christmas in Romania. It is a time of joyous celebration for

Christ's birth both in the home and in the church, and it is a time to be grateful.

Thank you so much, ITMI Family and faithful donors who continue to make an impact in the lives of so many: couples and families in Romania, and families and churches in W. Ukraine. Your contribution to God's kingdom is such a blessing to us personally, and the ministry the Lord has entrusted us with.

We pray the Lord will bless you and surround you with His hope, joy and peace as you celebrate His birth, and may He guide your steps in the New Year!

Another "God story" happened last month, during a weekend long retreat with the couples of Bethany Baptist Church of Timisoara. It was the second time they invited us to be with them, and they had a larger group in attendance.

Friday evening, we had a Review

Session and reminded them of several important aspects of cultivating a healthy marriage we had shared with them the year before. "Pull out the weeds and plant good seeds" in marriage is something we focus on, and they remembered what we said.

Adi ended the evening inviting them to pray as a couple, and said that whoever wanted to pray out loud after, to feel free and do it.

The last people to pray, sincerely asked the Lord for forgiveness and he said "Lord, I know what I need to do: through your power, remove the weeds. You spoke so clearly to me about this, Lord. Thank you!"

When the session was over, the two pastors of the church – Vali and Gabi, came to us and they were very surprised by the prayer and the sincerity of the words. They also said this couple had not been

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(Adi and Ema Ban continued)

attending church in a very long time and things were not going well in their marriage. Good friends invited them to the Marriage Retreat, and even though they said they could not attend, they called the day before and said they would come.

The next day Adi and I talked with the husband and wife between sessions, and we were so grateful to see the Lord work in their lives and their willingness to go home and put into practice what they had learned during the weekend.

What an amazing privilege to be co-workers with God and see the beauty of a renewed marriage!

Merry Christmas,

Adi and Ema



Kelly and Cherise Smith

*Pastor, Church Planter
South Africa*

To all our faithful and generous supporters, we wish you a blessed Christmas as we remember our Savior's generous gift to us. "Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men." Phil 2:5b-7

Thank you all very much for enabling us

to continue in ministry this year; we have really been very blessed. In all the joys and struggles of being intertwined in the lives of believers and those in desperate need of Christ, God has given us some very encouraging moments. There are many times in discipleship that people listen and nod, but there is little change in their hearts and lives after hearing the truth of God's word spoken into their current life struggle.

This year, it seems, God blessed us, and the counselees, with an amazing response to God's word being spoken into their situations. It's almost like they just needed to hear God's word spoken aloud to them and they responded positively and moved swiftly to make the necessary changes to avoid the sin that they were falling into.

These times of counseling have been made possible by your investment into the work that God has for us here.

Much Love, Kelly and Cherise



Gerhard and Elmane le Roux

*Onseepkans Mission,
South Africa*

Dear ITMI family,

2024 had been an extremely challenging year for us, with many new opportunities and developments, and together with that new financial obligations. This year I was amazed at the support we received from ITMI and how that helped us keep going, amidst all the challenges we were facing. We could only praise God for your dedication towards His Kingdom and staying

focused and committed throughout these difficult challenges.

We especially want to thank all the donors who so faithfully supported us throughout the year. Without your dedication, our mission would really have struggled to survive. It must have been only through the guidance of the Holy Spirit that you could commit to giving towards a mission without even fully knowing their needs and challenges. This truly humbles us. May God bless you this Christmas for all that you do for Him and His Kingdom. We can only say "THANK YOU!!!"

Through your help this year we were able to grow to such an extent where we now have two full time workers working for our mission. These two workers are not only workers, but souls that God entrusted to us to disciple into becoming brothers in Christ. The one man, Rodney, and his precious family comprising of his wife and three children, are especially dear to us. As a family they visit us twice a week in the evenings for Bible devotions. My

wife also started to give the little children extra school classes. The eldest boy, Zane, is now excelling in school and other children jealously comments on his progress. Through the help of ITMI we were able to send our eldest daughter Martie to an international academy for her degree in education. She sees herself as a missionary teacher who wants to help children academically and to help them meet up with the Lord Jesus Christ. Her missionary future is the direct result of your trust and belief in our mission and the help that we received from you.

It is our sincere prayer that God will continue to use ITMI in an even greater ways, not just in our mission, but all over the world to forward His Kingdom.

To the IMTI family we want to say "a blessed Christ-centred Christmas to you all!"

Gerhard, Elmane and children at Onseepkans



Piotr and Krystyna Zaremba

*K5N Church, Bible Translator,
Poland*

One of the great things about Christmas is

that it offers us time to take a breath, think, love, and say thank you to God and friends. Thank you, God, for giving us your Son. Thank you, Jesus, for coming to be our eldest brother. Thank you for a new family. Worldwide family. Thank you for friends. Thank you for ITMI. Thank you that we can

support each other, bear one another's burdens, and progress in reaching the utmost parts of the world.

As we draw to the end of the year and think of our achievements and seek to answer our "God story" request, we think of the Bibles and books we published, about people we touched, one particular person comes to mind.

His name is Yari.

I met him first in the university environment as his teacher of Hebrew literature. He came to study Hebrew, searching for life in the hidden meaning of the Hebrew Bible text. I started to help him find the sources he was looking for, and he started sharing his experience and life with me.

And then, I don't even know how it happened, he became more and more interested in that Person called Jesus.

Aside from reading the Hebrew Bible, he also read the Gospel of Matthew. And Jesus of history opened him for a touch by Jesus present in his room. There and then.

That touch turned the light on in his inner life. He saw and believed like Peter in the tomb. It happened about last June. Yari got out of our university environment. I saw him in our church.

To make a long story short, on September 8th, he was baptized. Quite a story, I think – and I say thanks. From seeker to son. From student to friend, and brother, and coworker.

Yours, as ever

Piotr

Editor's note: Please go to intouchmission.org/translator to send Piotr your difficult Bible questions.



Johan and Lesley Leach

Zambia, Angola

Greetings and salutation to all our brothers and sisters who are ITMI supporters.

Your love for our Lord Jesus Christ, shown through your faithful prayers, encouragement and financial support have shaken the very foundations of darkness.

Together, through your faithfulness and our obedience of 'Going,' in

sharing the Gospel, has resulted in many souls being saved as our Lord by His Spirit brings in the harvest. Discipleship, disciple making and numerous New Church planting has taken place.

On the practical side (Matthew 25:31-46), many freshwater water wells have been dug, alleviating the hardship of those in drought-stricken areas. Food and clothing, for the poor, orphans and widows have been distributed. From Lesley, my fellow national missionaries and me, a HUGE thank you.

'Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above, with Wisdom, Power and Love, our God is an awesome God!'

These words, from a popular chorus, underscores what He is doing by His Word and Spirit in our part of the vineyard. The Missionaries first call is obeying that Great Commission of, "GO," given in Matthew 28:18-20. In obeying the call, Our Lord has promised to be with us in this, to the very end of the age. This has resulted

in the indigenous church in the provinces of Northwest, West and Southern Zambia, being strengthened through discipleship, disciple making, evangelism, and many new churches having been planted.

The numbers are staggering as we see the multiplication of souls coming into the Kingdom. Lesley my wife, Pastors Davy, Teddy, Kennedy, brother Joseph, Masaha, and I stand in awe at the miracle of seeing so many souls saved through simple obedience.

To God be the Glory, great things he hath done. In closing, may this time of celebrating our Lord's birth be one filled with gratitude and love, as you spend time with loved ones.

Be of great courage. Stay strong and keep marching.

Always in His grip,
Johan (John) and Lesley



Andrew and Anna Gorski

Poland

Dear Friends and Co-Laborers in the Kingdom,

Anna and I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your faithful prayers, support, and encouragement throughout 2024.

This year has been an extraordinary year for us. By God's grace, we welcomed Meggie, a 14-year-old girl, into our family as a foster child, making us a family of six. This was an unexpected path, one filled with ups and downs, but we believe that every effort, tear, and challenge is worth it to make a difference in someone's life.

We now have a court order granting us custody of Meggie, likely for life.

This has been a tremendous adjustment for our entire family. Anna now homeschools all four children and carries the daily responsibility of working through Meggie's trauma. We believe God wants to use the stability of our home, and the strength of our marriage, to help Meggie heal and ultimately find her way to Him.

Please pray with us for Meggie and our family as we walk this path together. We are so grateful for your prayers and support.

God has also opened the door for our ministry to acquire a beautiful property nestled in the woods, overlooking a stunning lake, as the site for the first Christian Training Center in Northwest Poland, serving a region of 10 million people. With faith, we envision hundreds, we hope thousands who will come to know Christ through summer camps, events, and conferences held here in the years to come.

With gratitude and anticipation,
Andrew and Anna Gorski



Steve and Darlene Evers

United States

A warm Christmas greeting to you and a hope of an even more blessed New Year.

ITMI has experienced a year full of unique opportunities to trust and rest in the Lord's provision in Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and here in the States. Each opportunity is different in scope and breadth, yet each clearly requiring a fully committed trust in the Lord of all humanity.

The varying degrees of

brokenness in our world is only surpassed by the number of facets on all the diamonds that have ever been found. Only an all-knowing God can uniquely meet each one of our needs in ways that keep within His previously stated promise to "... work [all things] together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romana 8:28

Each time we see the many God stories in the lives and communities of each of our national partners, we are humbled and even awe struck much like the shepherds were on that first Christmas morning.

With a short staff for a portion of this year, and the health issues that most all experience as humanity ages, combined with the current world challenges, my "God story" is His miraculous provision in all disciplines and in all areas that

affect each of us, and most surely affect each of you. I have seen the faithfulness of God in more ways, in more situations, and in more locations, than we have space and ink to share.

Someone once said, "Go where God is working, and get involved there." ITMI and our leaders have diligently sought to do just that. We move in and out of the lives and projects around the world as the Lord leads us. We seek to share with you much-prayed-over opportunities to get involved in HIS Kingdom work and in so doing, stretch you into a deeper faith position with our Lord.

As 2024 comes to an end, would you consider asking the Lord this question, "How do you want to use me as 2024 comes to an end, to further your Kingdom work through ITMI and the many projects they have around the world?"



Audio Bibles for those who can not read!



Audio Bibles change the lives of those who now hear God's word.



Orphaned 16 year old brickmaker with his Audio Bibles

If there is a possibility that you could help us with an extra faith-building amount to close out 2024, it will release ITMI and our partners to continue in the daily, intense battle against what the enemy is doing as his time is draining through the hour-glass of his appointed time.

May your 2025 be filled with hope and the regular occurrence of God moments. Those moments where you experience an overwhelming understanding that He loves you, your family and all the souls that are on this planet. May we together be faithful in sharing the Gospel and making Disciples until He comes.



CHRISTMAS GIVING

CATALOG

2024

GIVE A UNIQUE GIFT

from our Christmas Giving Catalog!

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- ✓ Helps the needy
- ✓ Builds a relationship between the lost and needy and an ITMI partner

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Vicky Waraka
South Sudan

Greetings in the name of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST.

I and my family would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all the partners, staff and members of the ITMI team for the unwavering support, encouragement and dedication that you have shown us. Your support has been an instrumental help enabling us to reach goals we could not have achieved on our own. May GOD richly bless you.

I have seen the hand of the LORD at work through the goodness of the LORD in my family, my

neighborhood, the church and the various communities we have ministered. Romans 8:28 came alive this season in the life of a struggling young mother of 2, Regina Graciano, 26 years old. She heard of the ministry through her neighbors and when she bore her baby, she called me to dedicate her child to GOD.

As I shared the word with her Regina shared that her husband had abandoned her while she was 2 months pregnant leaving her to fend for their first child and herself. She struggled a lot being pregnant. Regina was chased from the room they rented for not paying the rent

and so she squatted with a neighbor who felt sorry, and there she delivered her child.

During this tough time Regina then decided to go back to her faith and embrace Christianity which has been her only source of hope. I prayed with Regina and encouraged her to never give up on her faith. She realized that she had trusted her husband and had abandoned her faith to follow him, but this husband disappointed her and vanished into thin air.

We thank GOD that even when things were looking bad for Regina, she sought GOD as her source of hope. Indeed our LORD never fails.



Deborah, Litingwa, Sana, Salma, Vicky, Hadiya and James are wishing the family of ITMI a Merry Christmas and a happy prosperous New Year.

They call it love and encouragement.

We call it the General Fund.

Your year-end contribution to the ITMI General Fund enables our staff to provide the support our partners in the field rely on.



"Their visit was a great encouragement..."

- David Kumar, India



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