

"But you were a chosen generation... who once were not a people... but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy... but now have obtained mercy." I Peter 2:9-10



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## A Tale of Special Roses in Onseepkans



Gerhard goes out of his way to greet and encourage one of the old Nama women as children gather to observe.

### **South Africa**

"We realize that the roses could be yet another way of reaching the hearts of the people..."

Roses have long been associated with Valentine's Day (and Mother's Day too). Most floral shops and grocery stores have specials, making it more affordable to give them as gifts. Roses give off a pleasant scent, are colorful, help people who give convey heartfelt wishes (especially of love), and

can bring a sense of comfort. It is special to receive roses, not only in America but especially in other countries too

Gerhard and Elmane LeRoux have found this to be true in the Onseepkans area of South Africa. They initially planted some rose bushes as an edge to their front lawn.

Their hope was to bring a taste of beauty into this barren, endof-the-road community hoping to make the area a pleasing



Nama widows are grateful for the gifts of food and spiritual truth from Gerhard and Elmane.

experience for visitors since the LeRouxs live and minister at the end of a barren, dustcovered road.

The roses have grown well and provide much color. The community has noticed the roses and have been provided with the flowers, dried petals, and cuttings on different occasions.

One such occasion recently was to an elderly lady whose husband had passed away. She remarked to Elmane how



Tin homes with rusty holes and gaps decorate many homes.



Generations grow up with little to look forward to. The Gospel is the only answer.



Hope left these communities of Nama people a long time ago. Gerhard is bringing hope and truth back little by little.



Gerhard has developed a core of Nama widows who want to know more about Jesus and how to live life in today's times.

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much she loves roses, and how she was still caring for a cutting from a rose bush given to her years before. After being shown the current rose garden, Elmane gave the lady a red rose.

Through the ITMI Christmas catalog, donors have helped provide months of bread for poverty-level community members through the ministry bakery run by the LeRoux family. The family also provides additional baked goods like cakes and cookies for various events—funerals, stone laying (often done as a formal event at a later time after the funeral), 21st birthdays, baptisms, and Mother's Day, for example.

Gerhard believes they could combine flowers as a possible extension of their projects, especially combining the bakery and roses together for the different events. He recently told about a big cookie order the bakery had received for a stone laying ceremony. He reported:

"On completing the order, the mother asked,' if [it would be] possible if we could not cut a few white roses for [their] ceremony'. Together with the cookie order, we could bless them with a bunch of white roses and a bag of dried rose petals. They were [thrilled] and sincerely thanked us."

"We realize that the roses could be yet another way of reaching the hearts of the people, and it also opens a work opportunity, and in such a way, we can also reach more with the Gospel. This new opportunity is the direct result of us being able to buy roses with some of the funds that we receive from ITMI and, in this way, bring joy to the hearts of the people we minister to."

Who knew that God can draw people to Himself through a simple rose? The Gerhards are also looking towards having the roses be a means of job creation for the community and build into the

# **NEWS**bites

#### **SOUTH AFRICA**

Sowing Seeds: Seeking to minister to life needs and eternal needs

It's exciting to see Charl van Wyk be caught off guard, since this doesn't happen too often.

Charl is a special misisonary for a number of reasons, not least of which is his continual display of faith to believe God is able to do "...abundantly above" what we can normally see.

As with all who live by faith, God asks us to trust Him and His plan ...and to step out as if our life depended on HIM.

Charl has been working with Cozmore Fungulani in Zimbabwe for a number of years and the two have caused each other to be stretched in their belief and reality in God's ability and desire to reach the nations, even if it is a corrupt and forsaken African country like Zimbabwe.

The poverty and daily hunger is forever present where ever you turn in this part of the world.

Hungry stomachs find it hard to make the mind and ear hear anything, even if it is the best news of Jesus Christ.

Charl and Cozmore know that with such poverty and little to no government services, they must step out and step up to allow God to show He is able to provide for the lost and starving.

What started as just a small "tractor project" to enable vastly more cultivativation and the growing of healthy crops with the intent to feed and reach many more people, has now turned into something much larger - a "Farming project."

This larger vision of what God is leading them to do in the Gwayi River area will help transform an area and a people for Christ.

We could use some help in getting an appropriate sized tractor with good dependable quality. We also need to add a water system including a tank mounted on a stand with drip irrigation pipes and nozzles.



 Actual tractor make and model will be selected when sufficient funds received.

We have raised some funds to help the pastors be able to minister and also care for their families. These pastors need to be free to concentrate on meeting the many acute needs of those that have experienced the ravages of war. We have raised half a year's financial support for (7) selected pastors. If you are led to help and empower these faithful men and their wives who are in the daily trenches, we would like to raise an additional \$330 USD per month for each of the (7) pastors for a six month period.

For \$1980 you could adopt a pastor and his family for the six month period, enabling them to focus on the broken hearts and lives. Any amount would be greatly appreciated.

#### **UKRAINE**

God is at work!

The actual numbers are almost impossible to validate. Some have just reported that the Russian have lost over 700,000 and Ukraine over 400,000 dead and wounded since the conflict began.

The devastation to men, women, families, communities is immesurable. The need for God's truth and life in the midst of all the lies and death is also immesurable.

If we all could speak Ukranian or Russian, it would still not be enough people to help care for and counsel the multitudes of hurting and traumatized. ITMI and ITMI's Adi Ban have been quietly working behind the scenes to strengthen and empower godly Ukranian pastors who are serving near the front lines of the conflict.

#### Piotr Zaremba:

### is coming to America!

He's in the Nashville area sharing what God is doing in Poland from January 31st - February 2nd. Then on to the Phoenix area from February 3rd - February 19th.

Piotr would love to meet with you, your home group or Bible Study group and share about Poland and about the many insightful nuggets of truth he has experienced as he translated from the original Bible languages.

Ask him any bible question and he will have some precious insights that will warm your heart and cause you to consider what you have not considered before. (continued from p.2)



Nama widows visit Wesleyan missionary Edward Cook's memorial, who gave his life to take the Gospel to the Nama. Died at 36 years of age. workers spiritually by having daily devotions with them. Right now we have the opportunity to assist the LeRoux family in their rose farming, and to a much greater degree, to enlarge their impact and ministry in the unique ways that God has given them. As we come alongside and empower them with prayer

covering and resources, they are free to implement more of the special opportunities God has intrusted them with. Let's help Gerhard and Elmane plant more roses, more date trees, hire more out of work and out of hope Nama people with the goal of touching the lives, sharing Jesus on a daily basis and nurturing hearts one by one to a relationship with Jesus. Is the Lord leading you to minister in Onseepkans, South Africa - Gerhard and Elmane le Roux are ready for you and your help.

- Gerhard le Roux, Julie Hines, Steve Evers

# Thank you!

### For your year end gifts and support of our Christmas Giving Catalog!

If you were unable to participate in the Christmas Giving Catalog during the holiday season, but would still like to make an impact with a catalog item, the option is available year-round and we pass those gifts on to our partners for use in the field frequently throughout the year.

#### **FOR PRAISE**

- 1. Romania/Ukraine Bans God at work through the faithful pastors during the war in Ukraine.
- 2. South Africa van Wyk, Stone Hill Continued advancement of the Gospel in Stone Hill through your gifts.
- 3. South Sudan Lazarus Many reached and discipled through Project Joseph and Gang Sports ministry.
- 4. Zambia Lusaka Bible College Pastors equipped and serving the body of Christ with new biblical training.
- 5. Zambia ECA Continued impact in developing the next generation through Christian education.
- 6. Poland Piotr Zaremba Impacting Poland with rich biblical truth from God's word.
- 7. Zambia Leach Johan and Lesley discipling and training the next church leaders in Zambia.

#### **FOR PRAYER**

- 1. Poland Piotr Zaremba Much success and traveling mercies on his trip to the USA.
- 2. Zimbabwe Charl van Wyk Wisdom and strength to carry through with this expanded Farm-ministry project.
- 3. Ukraine Adi Ban Wisdom, strength and insight in how to support the pastors who are caring for the broken.
- 4. USA ITMI We need a media person to help with creative writing, website, and social media ministry.
- 5. USA ITMI Wisdom and strength as we seek to be faithful stewards with all our national partners.



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