

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

- Matthew 25:40

ITMI

Monthly

1 MAY 2025

intouchmission.org

"SERVING THE LEAST OF THESE"

SOUTH SUDAN

In the heart of East Africa, South Sudan stands as a nation engulfed in turmoil. Since its independence in 2011, the country has been plagued by political instability, economic collapse, and health crisis. The fragile peace agreement of 2018, intended to quell civil unrest between President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar, is unraveling. Recent events, including Machar's house arrest and the resurgence of the White Army militia, have reignited fears of a return to full-scale civil war.

The ongoing conflict has decimated South Sudan's economy. Inflation has soared, with the annual rate reaching an alarming 112% in October 2024. Basic commodities have become unaffordable; a kilogram of meat now costs approximately \$8 USD, a price out of reach for

How God Is Using Lazarus and ITMI to Bring Hope, Help, and the Gospel to South Sudan's Most Vulnerable



most citizens.

Compounding the nation's woes is a severe cholera outbreak, the worst in two decades. As of March 2025, over 26,800 cases have been reported, with nearly 700 deaths.* The healthcare system is ill-equipped to handle the crisis; many facilities lack basic supplies, and some have been forced to close due to armed looting.

*ReliefWeb,msf.org.au

Amidst this turmoil, individuals like Lazarus, a dedicated partner of In Touch Mission International (ITMI), are making a tangible difference. Through ITMI's Project Joseph, Lazarus and his team are providing essential aid to

the most vulnerable populations, including widows, orphans, and the elderly.

Lazarus shares, "Life has become very miserable." Despite the overwhelming challenges, he remains steadfast in his mission, stating, "I am nothing, I can do nothing... I am seeking the grace of God... if not for God I would not be alive today."

One poignant example of their work involves a 107-year-old grandmother and her orphan children, who were all with fever and had not eaten for two days. Lazarus and his team saw the need and immediately went and provided maize and beets,





"This grandmother is 107 years old, Rev Lazarus and volunteers visited her, her daughter said she is not eating in good quantity, only she drinking milk mostly and porridge, her memory is still strong, she told the story [of] her young age and how she became born-again. She is really a blessing to her children and grandchildren, she has seen the forth [generation] grandchild."

enabling the family to prepare a porridge that fed the sick children. Such acts of kindness not only address immediate physical needs but also offer spiritual solace.

"The little thing we are giving, food, oil, sugar, beets, etc., we are seeing tears... some people are really impacted... they are driven to pray," Lazarus recounts. "Many are believers who had almost given up hope."

In a culture where familial obligations often dictate resource distribution, Lazarus faces criticism for prioritizing aid based on need rather than kinship. He explains, "I could serve my uncles, my aunts, my family, but I pray, 'God do not allow me to be drawn away to culture and not give to the people that you lead me to'."

Despite accusations of selfishness, Lazarus remains committed to his calling. He emphasizes the importance of discernment, stating, "We do not just give food to anyone that is asking... Even the Bible tells us to use wisdom in who we serve."

Beyond immediate relief efforts, Lazarus is investing in the future by supporting education. He currently assists 13 students with school fees, ranging from \$35 to \$55 per term. These students are also encouraged to participate in weekly Bible studies, fostering both academic and spiritual growth.

"We commit their parents to do Bible study every day," Lazarus notes. "Discipline... the whole family is motivated to seek the Lord in their homes."

The situation in South Sudan is dire, but through the unwavering efforts of individuals like Lazarus and organizations like ITMI, there is a glimmer of hope. Their work exemplifies the biblical principle found in Matthew 25:40: *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

Our support can make a profound difference. Consider partnering with ITMI to provide much-needed Project Joseph aid, student school fees, and spiritual encouragement to the people of South Sudan. Together, we can be instruments of God's love and mercy in a land yearning for hope.

SOUTH AFRICA

Carrying the Torch of Revival: Reflections from Gerhard at Kwasizabantu

While attending the Easter Conference at **Kwasizabantu Mission** in Natal, ITMI's **Gerhard Le Roux** found time to revisit the sermons of the late **Rev. Erlo Stegen**, the beloved founder and long-time leader of the mission. Over the years, Gerhard has been deeply impacted by Rev. Erlo's life, preaching, and his unwavering walk with the Lord. Rev. Erlo's one consuming desire—that *nothing* should stand between him and Christ—became not only the testimony of his life, but the foundation of a ministry that touched thousands.

As Gerhard listened afresh to Rev. Erlo's messages, he was struck again by a simple but sobering truth: **sin is the only thing that separates us from God**. In today's Christian landscape, modern movements often seem to minimize or sidestep the severity of sin. But Rev. Erlo never wavered—he pointed relentlessly to the cross and the need for a clean heart before God.

One passage that weighed heavily on Gerhard's heart was **Isaiah 58:2–3**, which says:

"The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."

Gerhard shared that while we often acknowledge our sins in passing, we rarely grasp the deep spiritual divide they cause. We brush over envy, anger, gossip, and unforgiveness—all the while wondering why we don't experience the fullness of God's power. But if we, as God's people, would humble ourselves, cry out to Him, and repent of our evil ways, **revival would not just be a hope—it would be our reality**.

Gerhard's time at Kwasizabantu was more than a spiritual recharge; it was a reaffirmation of the call he feels so deeply—to **carry this legacy of repentance, purity, and revival** into the spiritually dark region of **Onseepkans, South Africa**. His heart burns to see God move there, just as He moved through Erlo Stegen's ministry. And he's committed to being a vessel through which God can do that—by keeping nothing between himself and Christ.

From Despair to Hope: God's Light in Rural South Africa

In the remote corners of North West South Africa, children grow up in communities marked by poverty, isolation, and

From the Director



DEAR TEAM:

A Candle in the River

In 1555, two English reformers, Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, stood boldly against the darkness of their time. As the flames of punishment for their faithfulness to God engulfed them in Oxford, Latimer cried out with unshakable faith, *"We shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace in England, as I trust shall never be put out."* Their martyrdom ignited a legacy of courageous faith—faith that refuses to flinch in the face of fire.

That same spirit lives on today in our partners around the world—none more vividly than **Johan Leach**, deep in the remote northwestern reaches of Zambia. Johan ministers along the mighty **Zambezi River**, a majestic yet treacherous force of nature. In the dry season, it's calm and picturesque. But beneath its beauty lurks danger—crocodiles wait silently, and in the wet season, the river swells tenfold, transforming into a furious, untamable torrent.

This is Johan's mission field. This is where he shines his candle.

Recently, Johan and one of his faithful Zambian co-laborers set out to reach a remote community across the Angolan border. Their goal was clear: bring the hope of Christ to people crying out for connection, discipleship, and care. But getting there required navigating a perilous stretch of river that is normally impassable, blocked by massive boulders the size of houses. During the rainy season, however, the floodwaters sometimes rise high enough to submerge the rocks, allowing passage—if only just high enough.

As Johan and his partner pressed forward, the water churned violently. Whirlpools and undertows danced across the surface, warning of hidden dangers below. Still, they pushed on—compelled not by recklessness, but by love. The Angolans were waiting.

Then it happened. The concealed rocks struck with brutal force, tearing through the outboard motor. In an instant, the vessel was dead in the water—adrift in a hostile current with no propulsion, no oars, and nowhere to turn. Capsizing meant catastrophe: hungry predators, strong currents, and the loss of the only boat of its kind for hundreds of miles.

By God's grace, Johan spotted a passing canoe—a humble craft paddled by locals. In a dramatic scene of desperation and determination, the canoe hauled Johan's disabled boat to shore.

But the damage was done.

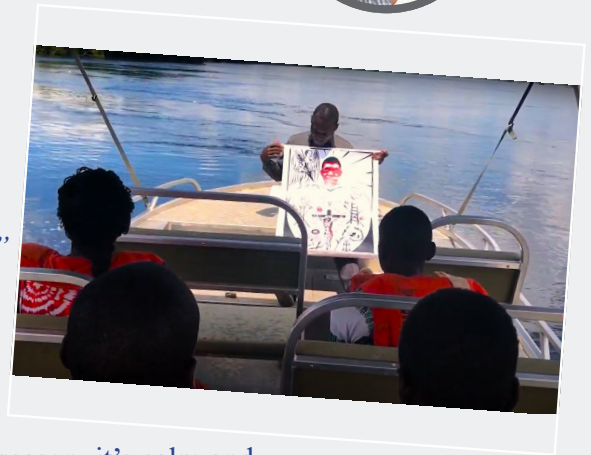
This boat, specially outfitted for ministry and emergencies, is a lifeline in an unforgiving region. It's used for everything from evangelistic outreach to medical transport. Without it, communities go unreached, and urgent needs go unmet. The engine is beyond repair. It must be replaced.

Johan is not one to ask for help lightly. He is resourceful, rugged, and deeply committed. But this time, he cannot do it alone. The cost to replace the outboard motor and ship it to Zambia is \$10,000. Every day this vessel sits idle, opportunities for Gospel impact are lost.

We humbly ask you to consider—prayerfully and sacrificially—how you might help restore this vital tool to service. The river may rage, but with your help, the candle will not be extinguished.

Thank you for standing with us.

Blessings,



despair. Government schools in these areas struggle to attract and retain quality teachers, and most students fall far below national academic standards. The system leaves children without the tools—or the hope—for a better future.

Generations are caught in a cycle of joblessness and broken dreams. But God is stirring something new.

Gerhard, **Elmané**, and the Le Roux family have stepped into this reality with compassion and purpose. Through tutoring and mentoring, they're reaching students who are willing to learn and believe again. While the goal begins with academic support, the deeper mission is eternal: showing Christ's love and planting seeds of hope.

A Life Transformed

One boy Elmané tutors recently received his school report: nearly all A's and a 90% in Math. Just a short time ago, he lived in an area plagued by drugs. Now, he lives with his mother in a safer place, and his life has taken a dramatic turn.

"We thank the Lord for the fruit of these extra lessons," Elmané shares. "It's clear they are making a lasting

difference. We pray they will bear eternal fruit."

Love in Action

This is more than tutoring—it's the gospel lived out. Through faithful presence and genuine care, this ministry is revealing the heart of Jesus to children who may never have known His love otherwise. They are learning not just how to succeed in school—but that they are deeply loved, seen, and valued by God.

Please continue to pray for this work. One student at a time, hope is being restored. And through it all, Christ is being glorified. We could surely encourage the Le Rouxs by helping them with some more monthly support. They are faithful and resourceful in all that they do, many times going without so others can be blessed with food, supplies, travel expenses, transport services and many more acts of showing God's love.

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— *Matthew 25:40*

- Steve Evers



A recent group of Nama believers from Warmbad, Namibia who were passing through the remote Onseepkans. Of course the Le Rouxs rolled out the red carpet and fed one and all. It was a blessed time of sharing and talking about the Lord and His work. God brought these Nama people to Gerhard to remind him that God is able to reach the hearts of the mostly broken Nama people that Gerhard ministers to.

FOR PRAISE

1. India - David and Taru Kumar - David and Taru as they graduate another class of slum children enabling further growth and education.
2. South Sudan - Lazarus as he continues to remain faithfully following the Lord's leading in a very difficult ministry.
3. South Africa - Charl van Wyk - Ongoing discipleship and training of the youth in the Stone Hill settlement.
4. Poland - Anna Wakula - Another very successful Pastor's Wives conference meeting needs of pastor's wives in Poland.
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. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - Continued provision and wisdom through challenges of ministry in the country of Poland.
2. Zimbabwe - Charl van Wyk - Provision for a much needed water borehole to enlarge the Kingdom sharing truth in difficult times.
3. DRC - Charl van Wyk - Provision of prayer/financial support as they seek to meet real physical and spiritual needs of DRC refugees.
4. All ITMI - wisdom, guidance, integrity and clarity for our partners making weighty decisions around the world.
5. ITMI USA - Staff health and staff help. As God grows ITMI we need additional co-laborers in His Kingdom work.

