

“If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.” -Isaiah 58:10

ITMI
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The *Borehole*...That Preaches

PAKISTAN

What Happens When the *Church* Becomes a *Spring* for the Entire Community

In the rural village of **Ahdiyan** the simple act of collecting water was once a dangerous burden. For years, the residents—especially the women and children—walked nearly two kilometers each day under the scorching sun, just to gather water. Often, that water wasn’t clean. It was murky, drawn from unsafe sources. But it was all they had.

The risks were real. During one of these daily treks, a young boy was tragically attacked by a stray dog and lost his life. The grief that swept through the community was crushing. The villagers mourned not only the boy, but the reality that something as basic as water had become a threat to their children’s lives.



This was the desperate need that reached ITMI. And God moved.

Thanks to the generosity of believers like you, and the faithful partnership of the local church, ITMI stepped in. A plan was formed: drill a deep borehole and install a hand pump right in the heart of the village—directly in front of the local church. This would ensure access for everyone in the village, regardless of religion or background.

When our ITMI partner and **Pastor Shahzad** visited the community, they were met with both urgency and hope. The villagers were ready to help. Smiles, tears, and prayers followed. Pastor led a heartfelt

Thirsty, hopeful, faith-stretched, forgotten believers gather for prospect of clean water.



“...whoever drinks the water I give...will never thirst again.” “...the water I give them will become...water welling up to eternal life” -John 4:14



Joy and gratitude overflowing for clean, cool, safe water

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prayer, thanking God for His provision and for those who gave to make this possible.

The construction process wasn't easy. Heavy rainfall slowed the digging. Emotions ran high when a young Muslim boy—related to the borehole worker—died suddenly at home from an electric shock. Work paused as the community came together to mourn. Yet even in grief, the mission pressed forward.

The borehole was drilled 400 feet deep—ensuring a reliable, clean water source. The team didn't let nightfall stop them from their commitment to complete it. And then, water flowed.

Sweet. Clear. Drinkable.

Children gathered daily, excited and wide-eyed. They had never seen anything like this. Their laughter as they bathed under the cool spray brought joy to the entire village. Clean water was no longer a dream. It was a daily, tangible reality.

Even the animals—previously left to drink from stagnant puddles—now have safe water. This has improved the health of the livestock, which many families depend on for survival.

The community decided to paint the area around the pump bright blue—honoring ITMI's contribution and a testimony to God's provision. Nearby, they painted a verse from Scripture: "But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14). Below it, the words: "Gift from God."

And that's exactly what it is.

This water pump is more than a well. It's a declaration. It's a testimony. It says, "God sees you. He hears your prayers. And He provides."

Mr. Liqat Masih, a 55-year-old believer, sat quietly for much of the construction process. His face was peaceful, his heart full. He shared: "My whole life has been full of challenges, but now I feel that God has heard our prayers. For many years, we asked HIM to provide clean water. This has strengthened our



Celebrations and radiant joy in the faces of the often forgotten.



Boreholes give hope and health, safety and security, and a realization that God cares for the least of these.



"Thank you to all who have helped us and showed us God's love."



Christian boreholes mean clear, clean water that meet internal and external needs. Washing and hygiene now produce deep thankfulness.

faith—that God listens and can do anything in His perfect time.”

He remembered days when there was no one to help him. He would drink dirty water, because there was no other choice. “But now,” he said, “God has brought clean water to our doorstep. I am thankful to the Lord and to His people who helped us.”

Today, villagers come to the pump at all hours—day or night. There’s no fear of being turned away. No restrictions. No divisions. Just water. Freely given.

This access has freed up hours each day for families who no longer need to walk miles or boil unsafe water. It has given them time—time to spend with their families, to rest, to worship, and to grow.

The borehole gives water. But it also gives *time*. It gives *hope*. It gives a *testimony*.

This is especially meaningful in a culture where Christians are often marginalized—denied access to basic services, treated as lesser citizens, and persecuted for their faith. And yet here they stand, offering water to all. Welcoming everyone. Living out the words of Jesus: “Love your enemies” (Matthew 5:44).

This is Christian love in action. And it’s a powerful witness.

Through this simple but life-changing project, the church in Ahdiyan has been given a tool for ministry. They’ve been given a platform to point to the God who provides. They’re not yet thriving—but this is a beginning. A first step toward flourishing in a place where just surviving is often a victory.

To all who gave, who prayed, who sacrificed—thank you. You didn’t just install a water pump. You helped proclaim the goodness of God to a village that needed to see Him at work.

May the Lord bless you for your love and generosity.

- Steve Evers

The Long Game in Zulu Land: Hard Soil, Eternal Seeds

Last month, we shared you about the long line of hopeful faces forming at 4:00 AM in rural South Africa—waiting not just for clothes, but for dignity and the Good News. That outreach, led by **Kelly and Cherise Smith**, was more than just a day of giving. It was part of a long, slow, faithful investment into some of the hardest soil on earth—the spiritual battlefield of Zulu land.

This month, we want to draw you deeper. Beneath the surface of gospel presentations and outreach events lies a gritty, sacrificial, and deeply personal calling.

In the words of Kelly Smith himself, here’s what has fueled their perseverance, what encourages their hearts, and what burdens they still carry. A few personal answers give us a raw glimpse into the struggle and the blessings of **frontline Gospel work** in South Africa.

Q: What makes reaching the Zulu people so challenging?

“They’re proud, historically fierce warriors. They value honor and revenge, even across generations. There’s also a dark side to the cultural concept of *Ubuntu*—where people secretly tear others down out of jealousy. That includes Christians. New believers often find themselves sabotaged by their own family or neighbors when they try to live differently.”

Q: What are the men in your discipleship groups saying about your time together?

“I meet with groups of men twice a week for Bible study, discipleship, and elder training. These sessions have become sacred. The guys now call it

our ‘*iron sharpening iron*’ time. They’ve told me it strengthens them and gives them courage to live out their faith. It’s real spiritual encouragement in a hostile world.”

Q: What encourages you most about the work God is doing?

“In the rural villages, ancestral worship and spiritual bondage are still strong. People often come to church only to receive food or handouts. But in the **towns**, among Zulu who’ve gained education and some distance from tradition, we see real spiritual hunger. These are the ones who worship with us, grow in Christ, and go back to their families to share the Truth. That gives me hope.”

Q: What Bible verse has God made more real to you lately?

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God... For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
— Ephesians 2:8–10

“This passage has become a great comfort to me. It reminds me that our sovereign God is not improvising—He’s already prepared each good work we’re to walk in. That’s amazing.” – Kelly



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Q: What are some current needs we can pray for or help with?

- Tire replacement for their ministry vehicle
- Biblical counseling books (an ongoing cost)
- Construction of a secure **7 Rivers warehouse** to protect vital equipment
- Financial support help for **Xolo & Bongeka**, faithful workers at the Thola Centre
- Tuition assistance - **Simiso & Nokubonga** (see last month's newsletter) as they pursue biblical education

Q: What would you say to donors if you had five minutes face-to-face?

"Ministry to the Zulu people takes patience. Decades of entrenched beliefs don't change overnight. Seeds we planted 20 years ago are just now showing fruit. If I could speak directly to you, I'd say thank you—for praying, for giving, for waiting. You're part of the long game. And your faithfulness is making a difference."

From a \$1.75 bag of clothes to multi-generational gospel discipleship, the story of the Smiths in South Africa is one of quiet endurance, deep faith, and eternal fruit.

Kelly and Cherise have modeled over multiple decades, a willingness to do whatever and go wherever the Lord leads them. They have persevered through death threats, poisonous snakes, washed out roads and floods to having to start the discipleship process all over again due to the generational brokenness and intense cultural oppression bound up in past Zulu partners. Yet they continue to remain steadfast in their own commitment to grow and progress as children and servants of their Lord and Savior.

Let's keep praying.
Let's keep sowing.
Let's keep standing with them so that they can continue to expand what God is calling them into for their lives and His Kingdom.

- Steve Evers



Thola Centre used as a community center in rural Zulu land, and a launching point for engaging Christ-centered ministry.



FOR PRAISE

1. India - David and Taru Raj Kumar - New villages opening up for David's pastoral and Muslim outreach training.
2. South Sudan - Lazarus - Juba gang members lives and eternity impacted by sports/soccer programs.
3. Poland - Gorski - Renovation progress being made at the new Lake EPIC Conference and Retreat Center.
4. India - Raj Kumar - Continued and expanding SALT Discipleship training in rural and poverty areas.

FOR PRAYER

1. South Sudan - Lazarus - Severe storms ripped off roof of church, flooded building - needs help with re-roofing.
2. Romania - Ban - Ema's dear, faithful mother passed into Glory. Family needs our prayers.
3. Zambia - Leach - Faithful, Biblically based leadership and church planting by the many new trained pastors.
4. Romania - Casa Dorca - Possible government grant that would support changing heating system to solar.



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