

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Matthew 6:20

ITMI

Monthly

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Eight Feet of Mud, No Food, No Shelter— But Not Without Christ's Love

Pakistan


In August, Pakistan was struck by some of the most destructive flooding in its recent history. Monsoon rains and rare cloudbursts unleashed torrents of water, rocks, and debris on the mountainous northwest.

According to Reuters, entire villages were wiped away “in seconds.” In Buner, **5.9 inches of rain fell in just one hour**, killing more than 200 people. In Dalori Bala, near Swabi, at least 30 more lives were lost. Since June, nearly **700 lives have been claimed across the nation**.

Nowhere is the devastation more visible than in the Swat Valley. Once known for its rugged beauty, this region is infamous as a former hideout for Osama bin Laden, lying close to the Afghan border. It has long been considered “a very, very hard and closed area for Christians.” But today, its people—Muslim and Christian alike—are united by suffering.

Our four Christian Pakistani partners traveled twelve hours into the Valley to assess the situation. What they witnessed was heartbreaking. Homes that had been filled with **over eight feet of floodwater in literally minutes**, leaving thick, contaminated mud caked

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“When aid is delivered in Jesus’ name, something remarkable happens.”

“It is not only survival—it is testimony.”



First Official Lake Epic Camp



Durbanville Comm. Church discipling South Africans

Poland - Andrew Gorski - Lake EPIC Christian Training Center

Well done, friends! I look at you as a team member and co-laborer for God's Kingdom, so you'll be thrilled to hear that two weeks ago the very first official camp for a hundred people was held at Lake EPIC! Every meeting, every conversation, every renovation, every challenge—all of it came together as participants gathered to enjoy the beautiful location and worship Him together. I wish you could see them in renovated cabins, new conference room, the cafeteria, and on the sports fields. I'm sure it would fill you with joy and gratitude.

Poland - Tomek - In July, we held a Christian sports camp with a group of missionaries from the USA and the UK.

They had the joy of serving in the local church and sharing the Good News during the camp.

For some, it was an unforgettable experience to be in another country and to serve others there. We are thankful for this time of fellowship, sports, and faith.

South Africa - Mark Parris - At Durbanville Community Church, I have been meeting each week with Jonathan, who is our

youth pastor. He is a skilled preacher and so he is sharing some of the preaching with me as we

go through the book of Numbers: "Arrested

Development" because the Israelites should have

been further along in their maturity, but were acting like children.

We have been emphasizing the need to grow up spiritually and explaining that it doesn't

happen without effort. It requires diligence and a clear plan. We started using our Sunday

evenings as an opportunity to train the members of the church. We have called it: "GEAR UP!"



HOW IS ITMI DOING?

IN A WORD, GRATEFUL.

AS OF LAST MONTH, ITMI HAS BEEN SETTLING INTO OUR NEW OFFICE. WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE NOTHUMS WHO HAVE WITH OPEN ARMS TAKEN ITMI INTO THEIR BEAUTIFUL OFFICE. WE SHARE OFFICE SPACE WITH OUR PREVIOUS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY, OPERATED BY COMMITTED CO-LABORERS IN MISSIONS AND LONG TIME SUPPORTERS OF ITMI'S MANY MINISTRIES.

WE ARE ALL MOVED OUT OF CEDAR STREET, BUT SOME OF US, THE DIRECTOR SPECIFICALLY, IS ONLY PARTIALLY MOVED IN. TOO MUCH HAPPENING IN THE MISSION FIELDS THAT WE PARTNER IN THIS PAST MONTH, SO PLEASE DO PRAY FOR A LITTLE TIME TO GET ALL SETTLED IN SUFFICIENTLY.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL WHO ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL PARTNERS WHO FOR SURE HOLD UP OUR ARMS AS WE DO BATTLE AROUND THE WORLD. WE TOO ARE SO VERY HUMBLLED AND GRATEFUL FOR EACH OF YOU AND YOUR HELP AS WE PRESS AHEAD WITH THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES THAT THE LORD BRINGS OUR WAY.

THANK YOU AND BLESSINGS !

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on every wall, floor, and possession. Furniture, clothes, blankets, bedding, food—gone, either covered in mud, or washed away. Motorbikes and refrigerators sat like broken monuments, ruined by mud. Families who once survived on daily wages now have nothing: no work, no income, no money.

These people never had bank accounts. Their savings, kept in makeshift containers, tucked away in their humble homes, were washed away. Entire communities have been stripped of dignity.

Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Dead livestock rot in the open, filling the air with stench. At night, temperatures drop to 10°C (50°F). Without blankets or coats, children huddle under scraps of plastic.

One man was seen wearing women's clothing—the only garments he could find. Winter is coming next month, and soon the snow will cover this already broken valley.

The people are desperate. They are hungry. They are numb. And they are looking for help.

The Solution for These Problems

Earlier this month, in another part of the country, believers in Islamabad faced a similar, though smaller, crisis. Floodwaters swept through poor neighborhoods, destroying homes and leaving Christians hungry and hopeless. ITMI partners, guided with the help of Pastor Rafique Masih, responded swiftly. Families received food packages—flour, rice, lentils, oil, tea, and more. What looked like simple groceries turned kitchens into sanctuaries. One widow, weeping, declared, ***"I had nothing left, but this support gave me hope again."***

This experience became God's training ground for what would soon unfold in Swat Valley. Our Teams learned how to respond quickly and wisely, meeting immediate needs while not forgetting to offer hope and prayers, Scripture, and encouragement. Entire households in Islamabad recommitted their lives to Christ. These visits were more than aid—they were moments of spiritual restoration in a numb and traumatized culture.

Now the same model is being carried into the isolated Swat Valley. Two small congregations are already there, "candles in the darkness." Through them, ITMI and our partners prepared **200 hot meals of biryani**—likely the first hot food many survivors had tasted in days. These meals are being hand-delivered, not only to Christians but also to Muslim neighbors. The message is simple and powerful: the love of Jesus cares for all people.

But hot meals are only the beginning. The greatest needs are for **food staples, warm blankets, clothing, and small stoves for cooking**. Each family needs survival basics before the snow comes. Our plan is clear:

- **\$490 equips one family for one month** with food, clothing, blankets, and a stove.
- **\$25,000 allows us to reach 31 Christian families and at least 20 Muslim families.**
- Any extra will go to additional identified families in desperate need.

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Swat Valley: Floods in Pakistan



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Complete earthly possessions in a bucket.

When aid is delivered in Jesus' name, something remarkable happens. It is not only survival—it is testimony. In Islamabad, families who had drifted from the faith recommitted their lives to Christ. Children smiled again after days of fear and hunger. One widow, abandoned and forgotten, felt seen by God. The same can happen in the Swat Valley, a place long considered unreachable, hard, and closed. What decades of persecution have tried to silence, the compassion of Christ can proclaim. By stepping into this moment of devastation, the church has the chance to rise above generations of oppression and show the watching world that God's people love all men—Christian and Muslim alike.

“Those who have never stepped into a church will taste the goodness of God in a hot meal...”

The benefit is practical: families survive the coming winter, children are fed, widows are sheltered, dignity is restored. But the benefit is also eternal: the gospel is displayed in action and in word.



Those who have never stepped into a church will taste the goodness of God in a hot meal, or desperately needed basic items of living, delivered with kindness. Those who have been told Christians are enemies will see believers risk their safety to serve them. Those who have lost everything can and will discover the One who gives hope that cannot be washed away.

This is not just flood relief. It is a Kingdom opportunity.



Beasts of burden carry away the residual contaminated mud one shovel at a time

A Final Word

The Swat Valley is broken. Families are cold, hungry, and desperate. Winter is coming fast. The problem is real, the solution is within reach, and the benefits are eternal.

Will you please pray and consider helping us carry Christ's hope into this valley? We must act quickly in this mission. For \$490 one family can survive this crisis and see hope of a new start. Together, we can reach at least 51 families—Christians and Muslims alike—with food, warmth, dignity, and the love of Jesus.

The need is urgent. The faces are real. The time is now.

From the Director



DEAR TEAM:

At ITMI, our mission is to shine God's love and truth into every corner of the world—inviting people out of their spiritual shells to grasp the fullness of life He has promised us.

I'm reminded of the humble turtle: a creature that carries its protective home on its back. When danger looms, the turtle retreats inward—not knowing what possible wonders lie just beyond its retreat.

This natural tendency mirrors a spiritual reality many humans are saddled with. Many experience: the *turtle effect*. Whether from trauma, cultural resistance, or simply comfort in familiar limits, we humans often duck back into our shells when asked to see the world as God intended.

A View Beyond the Shell

Scripture speaks powerfully to this spiritual barrier:

- **John 9:25** — “*One thing I do know—that though I was blind, now I see...*” speaks to hearts awakened by Christ's light ([Living a Fruitful Life](#), [Bible Study For You](#)).
- **Ephesians 1:18** — “*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...*” reminds us that true seeing comes through divine illumination ([Bible Study For You](#)).
- **2 Corinthians 3:16** — “*...whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*” speaks to transformation when we choose to turn toward God ([Knowing Jesus](#)).
- **2 Corinthians 4:6** — “*God ... has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*” shows spiritual sight given by God Himself ([Knowing Jesus](#)).

These verses invite both us and others to step beyond protective shells and perceive life through spiritual sight.

At ITMI, we are called to walk alongside individuals and communities—many of whom carry deep hurts or come from cultures that instinctively pull back from what seems unfamiliar or spiritually challenging. Our desire is to gently invite them, and ourselves, out of that space—to lift the veil, open our hearts, and allow God to expand our vision:

“What if these blind spots are stealing from us the abundant life God intended ‘exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think’?”

And yes—this applies to us too. Even as Christians, we may retreat into our own shells of tradition, expectation, or assumption. Yet God often reveals His truth in ways that stretch us—sometimes discomforting us, at other times setting us free from generational chains.

Turtle-like comfort zones may seem safe—but safety can morph into limitation. Through grace, prayer, and God's faithful prompting, we can emerge from our protective shells to embrace His majestic vision for life.

Thank you, dear partners, for walking this journey with us. May we together continue to move forward in faith—slow, steady, but ever open to the light God shines.



Infant



Infant in burial cloths



Peace in the midst of the Storm

FOR PRAISE

1. India - David and Taru Kumar - Successful discipling of second generation with SALT material.
2. South Africa - Charl van Wyk - Soldiers for Christ ministry committed to raise young men to follow Christ.
3. Romania - Casa Dorca - God's protection from a wild grass fire - consumed some firewood, but bypassed the pigs.
4. Poland - Andrew Gorski - First successful camp at Lake EPIC the new Conference and Camping center.
5. ITMI - God's provision allowing us to accomplish more kingdom work in places that are greatly needed.

FOR PRAYER

1. India -David Kumar - Continued protection, provision, wisdom as more SALT trainers are sent to closed areas.
2. South Africa - Pastor Mark Parris - Wisdom as he navigates a So. African lawsuit concerning Church development.
3. Romania - Adi and Ema Ban - Adi complete and swift healing on his knee reconstruction.
4. Pakistan - ITMI - Wisdom and provision for the unprecedented opportunity for ministry through caring.
5. All - wisdom, guidance, integrity and clarity for leaders making weighty decisions around the world.



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

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