

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings...; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;"

Isaiah 61:1

ITMI

Monthly

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A Church for War-Wounded Hearts of Ukraine

Ukraine

In the war-weary city of Ternopil, Ukraine, God is building His Church one damaged heart at a time.

In a place filled with orthodox religion, but where many still do not know Jesus personally, a young pastor and ministry team are reaching students, young adults, displaced families, orphaned children, and people carrying the deep scars of war. ITMI's **Adi Ban** connected us with a second-generation pastor, **Ilya Natalchenko** (pictured below), who is passionate about shepherding needy and broken Ukrainians. Through English clubs, Bible studies, practical aid, children's ministry, and one-on-one discipleship, lives are being touched by the Gospel.

Oleh, a 22-year-old working in a medical center, first seemed only professionally interested in building a relationship with a Christian pastor. But after one meeting, his heart opened and the Holy Spirit exposed Oleh's need for a Savior. Today, he is reading the Bible, praying, and walking through discipleship.

Maria and Ira, both connected to the medical field, came with past church wounds and a



history of spiritual decline. Through patient friendship, prayer, and God's Word, they are returning to the Lord, asking serious questions, desiring baptism, and now serving others.

Every week Ilya's team ministers to about 30 internally displaced people (many pictured above). Each month, they help more than 100 families with food, fellowship, and spiritual care. They are also reaching children who live daily with the pain of war, and more than 50 orphaned children in local shelters have received gifts, supplies, attention, and love.

But the ministry faces a serious need: they do not yet have a permanent church facility. To we Americans who have had homes for decades, if not longer, many Ukrainians have no place to call home. Their desire for a place, a building, a facility to call their home church, is important on a level that many in the Western world can't comprehend. As God continues bringing new people, they are praying for a building, a home, where

worship, discipleship, evangelism, and care for the hurting can heal, be nurtured, and ultimately grow past the mind and soul-numbing effects of war.

In Ukraine's suffering, the Gospel is not silent. It is moving through faithful servants, open doors, and hearts desperate for hope and healing.

- Ilya Natalchenko, Steve Evers



South Africa

Simiso's story is one of quiet faithfulness, long-term investment, and the unmistakable grace of God.

From a very young age, this Zulu young



man was deeply influenced by **Kelly and Cherise Smith** of **7-Rivers Farm** in South Africa, who poured enormous time, love, and mentoring into his life. His mother worked alongside Cherise in the Smith home and through the South African Zulu jewelry ministry, which Cherise used to evangelize and help Zulu women earn income and dignity through meaningful work.

Years ago, ITMI helped Simiso's older sister, **Nokubonga**, attend **KwaSizabantu School (KSB)** and receive a Christian education. That example opened a door of hope for Simiso as well. The Smiths made sure that Simiso would also complete his undergraduate studies at KwaSizabantu, and today he is working on a postgraduate Bible degree and serving with the Word of Life ministry in the Johannesburg area.

In his recent newsletter, Simiso writes with humility and conviction about God's call on his life. He is engaged in discipling young men, helping launch a young adults ministry in the Zandspruit area of South Africa, serving children and teens weekly, assisting with evangelism training, and preparing for winter camp ministry. His words reveal a young man who has endured trials yet continues to stand firm on the Word of God.

ITMI is excited about the ministry possibilities God has placed before Simiso. We believe his life represents the fruit of years of prayer, mentoring, education, and gospel investment.

Would you prayerfully consider praying for and, if so led, helping Simiso with school and outreach ministry related fees - as he continues to prepare and serve? More information will be coming soon.

- Simiso Kwela, Steve Evers

Pakistan

In **Pakistan**, faith is not a slogan. It is not a church sign, a political preference, or a comfortable Sunday habit. For many believers, following Jesus means carrying the weight of poverty, rejection, long workdays, and the quiet humiliation of being treated as less because they belong to Christ.

Last month, an ITMI ministry partner in Punjab—whose name is withheld for safety reasons—spent his days reaching out to



young people, un-disciplined Christians, and families who have drifted far from church life. Through Bible studies, church services, patient conversations, and prayer, eight people accepted Jesus Christ as Savior—most of them young people.

But one visit especially reveals the deeper burden.

A 58-year-old Christian man, whose name has been changed to “Yousaf” for security, has worked for decades on Muslim-owned farms. He spoke of long hours, unfair treatment, spiritual weariness, and the loneliness of trying to survive as a Christian minority. With tears in his eyes, he asked, “How can I find freedom and hope?”

The answer was not politics. It was not pity. It was Jesus.

They prayed together. Yousaf confessed that he had drifted from the Lord. He renewed his desire to walk with Christ and committed to return to church fellowship.

And now, ITMI is prayerfully working with our Pakistan partner and other donors to solidify a plan that allows us to be part of something even broader: holistic, whole-family redemption from the long-standing indentured slave life that has trapped many Pakistani Christian families for generations.

Stand by for details and opportunities to be part of both the physical and spiritual care the Lord promises as we seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness.

This is the quiet, courageous work ITMI is helping strengthen in Pakistan: one conversation, one family, one weary believer, one young soul at a time.

- Steve Evers



Zambia



In places most Americans will never see, faith is not theoretical. It is tested in dust, distance, thirst, and fire.

In northwestern Zambia and across the border in Moxico, Angola, families have lived for generations without the simple mercy of clean water. Children drink what can make them sick. Mothers walk to unsafe rivers. Some villages are so remote and forgotten that even reaching them with help has seemed almost impossible.

But God is opening a remarkable door in Angola, a nation still shaped by decades of Marxist and communist rule. The local government leaders who attended the graduation of rural pastors who completed the **Leach/Harvesters** three-year Bible training, under Johan's organized church-leadership program, they were deeply impressed. These rural pastors and leaders were not the normally valued, polished city leaders.



They were simple, faithful leaders from forgotten villages being trained with order, biblical truth, and eternal purpose.

What happened next is extraordinary. Angolan officials, after seeing the quality of the leadership training, and hearing about the **ITMI/Leach** work done through freshwater boreholes in western **Zambia**, asked Johan to please consider helping to bring boreholes to eastern Angola as well. They are so serious that they have offered to repair roads that are nearly nonexistent, roads currently too broken for a drill rig to pass.

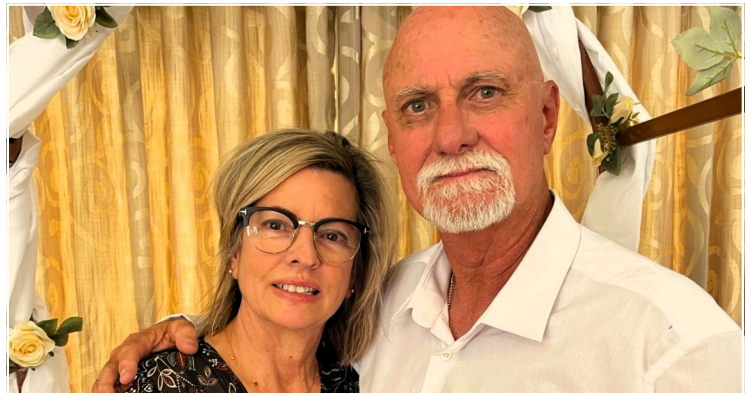
By God's grace, Johan and Lesley Leach are seeking to drill five freshwater boreholes in these communities. Each borehole costs about \$7,500 due to the extreme remoteness, distance from supply centers, and the cost of transporting the drill rig, team, fuel, piping, pumps, and equipment to the

area. Johan has locally raised funds for three of these boreholes; ITMI is sending funds for the remaining two. We ask you to consider helping us replenish our borehole account so that we can be ready to spread the gospel through fresh water when God places the upcoming need before us.

This is more than humanitarian aid. A borehole becomes a doorway. Trust is built (on multiple levels in this mostly closed country). Hearts open (we've seen and experienced this). The love of Christ is seen before it is spoken. Water for the body prepares the way for the Living Water of the Gospel.

Thankfully, it is a rare opportunity in a spiritually difficult place. We can pray. We can give. We can help the Gospel move farther.

Editor's Note: Please include Johan and Lesley in your prayers. Johan was hospitalized from the end of May until June 11 with a serious malaria-related illness and complications that required multiple tests, treatment, and careful monitoring. We thank the Lord that he was discharged and is improving, but full recovery will take time. Ministry in remote Africa carries a physical cost that most of us never see—long distances, difficult travel, limited rest, and constant exposure to harsh conditions. Johan is not stepping away from the work, but he will need wisdom to balance continued ministry with the healing his body still requires. Please pray for renewed strength, full recovery, protection over his health, and encouragement for both Johan and Lesley as they continue serving the Lord in Zambia and Angola.



Depiction of Pastor Kamboyi's compound from Johan

CRITICAL - Breaking News

On **June 6**, in the early morning darkness, armed criminals attacked **Pastor Kamboyi's** homestead-compound in

Lukulu, Zambia. Five buildings were burned. Seven people were killed, including a precious baby. Others were left injured, traumatized, and suddenly without the basic means to live.

Johan Leach is personally asking friends and partners to stand with this brother now. We do not yet know the full cost of picking up the pieces. That will become clear in time. But today the need is immediate: food, clothing, shelter, care, and survival.

This is one of those sacred moments when the Body of Christ can make the invisible visible—that God sees, God knows, and God can move hearts from across the ocean to meet a family in their suffering.

If you are led to give, we will use it to help Pastor Kamboyi. Any excess will be held to help other pastors and families facing urgent needs.

- Johan Leach, Steve Evers

India

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14

In Bangalore, India, David and Taru Raj Kumar are seeing the gospel move through the ordinary places where lives are quietly shaped: a child’s classroom, a pastor’s training session, a slum family’s home, and a Vacation Bible School where a fatherless girl heard that God is Father.

Over the past three months, the Deepam Education Centre completed another season with 17 children whose lives have been marked by patient love, discipline, prayer, Bible stories, and daily care. Children who once cried through their first days away from home are now leaving Deepam with seeds of truth planted deeply in their hearts—seeds that, by God’s grace, will follow them for life, grow within their own families, and touch many other families as they continue their education and move into the years beyond Deepam.

David and Taru also helped lead a five-day SALT training in Odisha, equipping 15 pastor couples in seven essential areas of life: spiritual, psychological, social, physical, financial, marital, and parental. As David (top right) reported, “Most of the leaders who attended were from other faith backgrounds, and except for a few, none had attended



Bible college.” Yet these men and women came hungry to learn, eager to be strengthened, and ready to carry biblical truth back to their churches and communities.

At summer camp, 70 children heard God’s Word. One girl, Afra, still grieving the death of her father, wept as she heard of the Good Shepherd and later said, “Though I have no earthly father, now I know God is my Father.”

This is not headline Christianity. It is seed-planting Christianity. Quiet. Costly. Faithful. And by God’s grace, eternal.

- David Raj Kumar, Steve Evers

FOR PRAISE

1. India - David/Taru Kumar - God’s provision/presence in the training in Hangal, India. Many Muslim women seeking Taru’s teaching.
2. South Sudan - Lazarus Yezinai - Faithful serving the lost and forgotten in the midst of overwhelming trial and challenges.
3. Angola - Johan Leach - Faithful completion of the 3-years pastor training and the opening of doors for more evangelism.
4. Ukraine - Adi and Ema Ban - Continued evangelism and discipling refugees and internally displaced people (IDP) through Pastor Ilya.
5. Zambia - God graciously guided the large medical team to help Johan Leach get back on his feet and in the field.
6. Romania - Casa Dorca Children’s Home - August ‘26 - Gratitude - 30 years since Bill Bathman helped reclaim from Communist control.

FOR PRAYER

1. South Sudan -Lazarus - Provision for food for starving single mothers, widows, and orphans. Wisdom on how to assist these most needy.
2. India - David Raj Kumar - Provision and much needed strength as he travels to Odisha and difficult communities to disciple pastors.
3. Zambia - Excellence Christian Academy- Provision of construction costs for much needed additional space for the needy children.
4. Romania - Casa Dorca - Need to replace their wood boiler before it gets cold. Cost to replace is \$7000 USD.
5. All ITMI - wisdom, guidance, integrity, strength, and clarity for our partners making weighty decisions around the world.
6. ITMI USA - Support help for ITMI during these tough financial times in the USA.



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