

“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.”

- Psalm 27:10, KJV

ITMI

Monthly

1 NOVEMBER 2026

intouchmission.org



Taru sharing her testimony with women who are hurting



Little Naziya at Deepam School



Taru teaching Muslim ladies at Deepam

God Does Not *Waste* a Wound

The girl once left behind is now helping children, mothers and believers across India discover that their past does not have to control their future.

IN THIS ISSUE

01 God Does Not Waste a Wound

 INDIA · PAGE 1

02 Seven Landmines, Countless Mercies

 ANGOLA & ZAMBIA · PAGE 4

03 The Extraordinary Gift of an Ordinary Childhood

 ROMANIA · PAGE 5

04 Faithful in the Ordinary, Fruitful in God's Hands

 SOUTH AFRICA · PAGE 6

05 Praise & Prayer

PAGE 6

Part 2: Last month, I left you with the painful story of little Naziya.

For months, Taru Raj Kumar and the ladies at Deepam School had watched this medically fragile little girl begin to blossom. With good food, vitamins, medical attention and patient love, Naziya began speaking a few words. She even danced at a celebration while her delighted grandmother asked Taru to make a video for the parents in Mumbai who had left her behind.

Then Naziya disappeared. Weeks later, Taru learned that she had died.

The questions surrounding Naziya's final days have never been satisfactorily answered. Taru and the other Deepam ladies still grieve that one small, vulnerable child somehow slipped

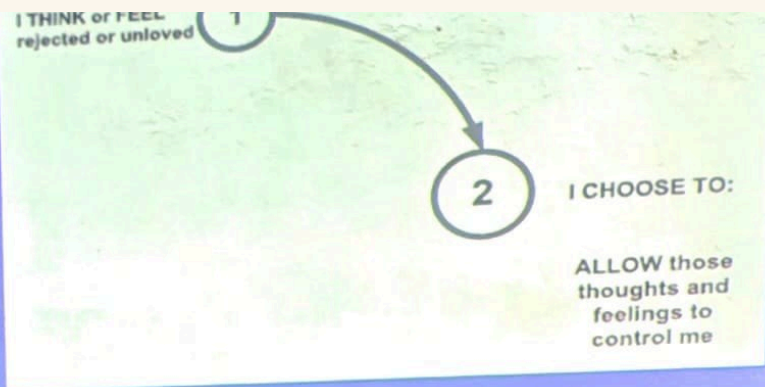
beyond their reach. What hurts Taru most is knowing that if someone had simply called, she would have come. She might not have been able to solve every problem, but she would have tried.

Yet grief has not caused Taru to withdraw. In some ways, it has helped her see more clearly what God has been doing in her life for decades.

God has taken the pain of a girl who once felt unwanted and turned it into compassion for people who are hurting.

★ **“This Is a Safe Place. Freely We Can Talk.”**

This last month, Taru was traveling again with David Raj Kumar and their ministry partner, Rev. Abhiram Singh, taking SALT—Seven Areas of Life



David teaching SALT: the Rejection Cycle

"THIS IS A SAFE PLACE, FREELY WE CAN TALK."

Training—to pastors, wives and believers in northern India.

These were not easy ministry days. There were long train rides and overnight travel with little sleep, stomach problems and unfamiliar food. David reported one journey that began at 2:00 in the morning and did not end at their hotel until 11:00 that night. On the way to join them, Abhiram's flight was struck by lightning. David reported that the aircraft was damaged and experienced a frightening loss of altitude before landing safely.

David's immediate response to those of us praying for them was telling: "Can you see how helpful and necessary your prayers are for us?"



Women at SALT training praising and worshipping

There were other concerns as well. In some areas, the team was advised not to move around publicly as one visible group. They traveled quietly, often two by two, careful not to attract unnecessary attention that might create trouble not only for

them but for the pastors and churches who would remain after they left.

Then Taru sent me a short late night text message: "This is a safe place, freely we can talk."

Those few words carried more meaning than they might first appear to.

They had finally reached a place where around thirty pastors and believers could gather for SALT training without the same concern over who might be watching or listening. Elsewhere, David told us that Christians were worshiping behind closed doors and asked us specifically to pray for the pastors and churches living with fear.

Yet woven through the hardship were beautiful little expressions of Christian fellowship. Local believers opened their hearts and fed them generously. The food could be another challenge—especially the heavily spiced biryani! David simply cannot handle that much red chili, so one thoughtful pastor began preparing food without chilies and spices for his guests.

I love that picture of the Body of Christ: one person teaching, another learning, another praying, and someone else simply making sure his brother has something he can eat.



Rural pastors and wives at SALT training with David, Taru and Abhiram

Tears Over Forgiveness

Then came a moment that, to me, captures why Taru was there.

After a SALT lesson on forgiveness, a woman approached Taru with tears running down her cheeks.

For years she had carried bitterness, hatred and deep resentment toward her husband and his family because of the painful treatment she had experienced as a woman and a wife. She told Taru she had never heard forgiveness explained this way before.

Through God's Word, she began to understand that forgiveness did not mean pretending the hurt was acceptable or denying what had happened. It meant releasing the bitterness into God's hands, trusting that He remained in control, and allowing Him rather than her wounds to determine how she would live.

She told Taru that she had experienced freedom.



Praise and worship from believers who live with persecution and oppression

I wish I could have been standing nearby when that conversation happened, because look at the woman God had placed in front of her. Taru knows something about bitterness.

She knows rejection.

She knows what it feels like to wonder why the people who should have loved you did not.

As a little girl, Taru was left at Mukti Mission because her family did not want her. She became angry, rebellious and difficult. Then God placed Margaret Williams in her life—a gracious Australian missionary who loved Taru even when Taru herself admits she was “naughty” and hard to love. Margaret became the mother figure Taru desperately needed.

Even more importantly, Jesus met Taru in her woundedness. He did not change her past. He redeemed it.

“The girl who needed Margaret to stay became the woman who stays.”

Taru can look backward now without allowing yesterday to own

today. She speaks of God giving her another family, and that family includes David and their sons, but also Steve and the larger ITMI family God has gathered around them.

Her past was painful. Her present has purpose. And her future belongs to Christ.

✳ The Same Taru, Wherever God Sends Her

That is the woman who sits in Deepam with Muslim and Hindu mothers and listens to their family struggles. She is the woman who takes a frightened preschooler into her lap until the crying stops. She is the woman former Deepam children return to when they need tutoring because their parents work impossibly long hours, cannot help with schoolwork, or home simply is not a safe place to study.

And she is the same woman who boards another train with David and Abhiram and travels into difficult parts of India to sit with pastors’ wives and women carrying wounds of their own.

The location changes. The calling really does not.

Taru keeps moving toward hurting people with the love and truth of Jesus.



An Indian sister studying God’s truth

Paul describes God as: *“The Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble...”*—2 Corinthians 1:3–4

I can hardly think of a more fitting description of what God has done in Taru Raj Kumar’s life.

The little girl who desperately needed someone to love her became the woman who loves the child others overlook.

The girl who needed Margaret to stay became the woman who stays.

And the woman who learned that her painful past did not have to control her future now sits across from another hurting woman and helps her discover the same freedom in Christ.

God does not waste a surrendered wound.

Please pray for Taru, David and Abhiram as they continue going where God opens doors. Pray for health, protection, wisdom and stamina, and pray for the pastors and families they are strengthening—some serving Christ in very difficult places.

Faithful obedience will not always take us somewhere comfortable. Sometimes it will ask much more of us than we expected.

But David and Taru’s lives continue to remind me of something worth remembering:

When God leads, He is faithful.

— David and Taru Raj Kumar,
Steve Evers

Happy Thanksgiving

As you gather around your table this month, we give thanks to God for you, our ITMI family, whose prayers and gifts carry His love to people in hard places.

Seven Landmines, Countless Mercies



God's protection and provision are opening doors to serve forgotten communities in Zambia and Angola.

7 landmines found beside his road **3 ft** from where his vehicle passed **10+** years traveling that road

Seven landmines! That was the sobering discovery awaiting ITMI's Johan Leach along a remote road in eastern Angola—a road he had traveled for more than ten years. Some of the deadly explosives were found barely three feet from where his vehicle regularly passed!

For years, Johan had occasionally pulled off that same road to allow approaching vehicles through, unaware of the danger beneath the surrounding ground. The discovery left him deeply grateful for God's protection.



In Angola, land mines lie within feet of widely traveled dirt roads

Yet these dangerous roads lead to communities where the needs are enormous, and the opportunities to demonstrate Christ's love are equally great.

In Angola's remote Moxico region, Johan and visiting South African ministry partners inspected freshwater borehole installations provided by a partnership between ITMI and the South Africans, which promise something many families have never known: reliable access to safe drinking water.



Water boreholes earn opportunities to preach the Word

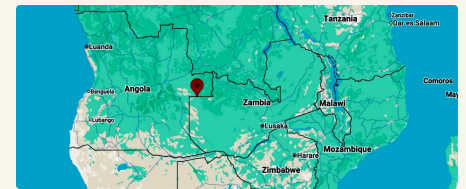
At Chilombo's rural medical clinic, dedicated indigenous Christian workers continue caring for expectant mothers and treating malaria, especially among vulnerable children. With medical resources scarce, their faithful service is invaluable. A newly constructed chicken house offers another encouraging possibility—producing nutritious food and eventually generating income to help sustain the clinic.



Chilombo Clinic, Angola, serves the most needy with health and Jesus Christ

Meanwhile, across the border in Chavuma, Zambia, a new recording studio is being constructed at Johan's Waymakers Mission base, in partnership with The HOPE Movie Ministries. Its purpose is to produce biblical teaching and evangelistic

resources in indigenous languages, helping people hear God's Word in the language of their hearts.



Chavuma, Zambia

"Some of the deadly explosives were found barely three feet from where his vehicle regularly passed!"

The visiting partners also encouraged local churches through preaching, fellowship, and personal ministry.

Through dangerous journeys, clean-water projects, medical care, and biblical teaching, God is opening doors to reach underserved communities.

Johan's experience brings fresh meaning to Psalm 121:8: *"The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in..."*

Thank you, ITMI partners, for helping faithful servants carry Christ's love to people too easily forgotten.

— Johan Leach, Steve Evers

Celebrating 100 years  ROMANIA · CASA DORCA

The Extraordinary Gift of an Ordinary Childhood

At Casa Dorca, God's love is changing lives through the extraordinary gift of an ordinary childhood.



100 years since Casa Dorca began

1996 the year it reopened

30 years of renewed ministry

Some childhood wounds are so deep that few can imagine them, and even fewer talk about them. In rural Romania, poverty, abandonment, neglect, and family brokenness leave children carrying burdens they were never meant to bear.

For 100 years, Casa Dorca has stood as a testimony to God's faithfulness and compassion for these vulnerable and many times misused children.

Founded in 1926 by Romanian Baptist churches, Casa Dorca provided a loving Christian home until 1950, when Communist authorities confiscated the orphanage and expelled approximately 40 children. As they were marched single file down the rural Romanian roadway, away from their home, the children sang about having a Father in heaven who would not forget them.

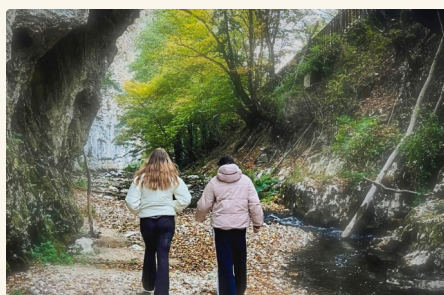
Decades later, ITMI founders Bill and Harriett Bathman, ITMI supporters working alongside Dr. Nic Gheorghita, Ema Ban's father, along with faithful Romanian believers, helped restore the neglected orphanage. In 1996, Casa Dorca reopened its doors.



Bill Bathman hugging the previous director, with Dr. Nic on the right

Today, as Casa Dorca celebrates its centennial and 30 years of renewed ministry, its October report offers a beautiful reminder: sometimes God's love is most powerfully demonstrated through ordinary moments.

This fall, the children enjoyed a weekend retreat near the Danube River, building friendships with other children in care. Elizabeth, one of the leaders, also took the girls for a refreshing autumn walk near Bigăr Waterfall, in rural Romania.



An autumn walk in the woods near the falls

But between these memorable outings are the many daily and quieter blessings: homework, shared meals,

household chores, dependable routines, and caring adults who faithfully demonstrate Christ's love.



Residents learning simple cleaning skills

For children whose earliest experiences may have lacked stability and security, these seemingly ordinary things are profoundly important.

"For a child who has never known stability, an ordinary childhood can be an extraordinary gift."

Yet providing this loving home requires ongoing financial support. Casa Dorca reports that regular contributions are currently insufficient to cover monthly operating expenses.

After a century of God's faithfulness, the mission remains unchanged: to give vulnerable children a loving home where they can experience the hope, dignity, and transforming love of Jesus Christ.

— Ionel Lovescu, Steve Evers

A CENTURY AT CASA DORCA

1926

Founded by Romanian Baptist churches

1950

Confiscated by Communist authorities; about 40 children expelled

1996

Reopened with ITMI founders and Romanian believers

2026

Centennial and 30 years of renewed ministry

Faithful in the Ordinary, Fruitful in God's Hands

ITMI's Mark Parris isn't a man who seeks attention. Yet behind his quiet, unassuming manner is a heart deeply committed to serving Jesus Christ and the people God has placed in his care.

The son of missionaries, Mark studied at Dallas Theological Seminary before returning to South Africa to serve the Lord. Today, he and his wife, Cyndi, faithfully minister through Durbanville Community Church, outside Cape Town.

What does a month in the life of this faithful pastor look like?

In September, it included encouraging a young engineer named Marko, who decided that spending time with the Lord each morning was worth getting up earlier and facing heavier traffic. It meant visiting hospital patients, celebrating the birth of a church family's baby, and encouraging believers to share their faith through simple "What Would Jesus Do?" wristbands.



Mark baptizing in South Africa

It also meant repairing a broken water pump so children could enjoy the church grounds, celebrating a preschool concert in an impoverished community, and exploring how pickleball and running might open doors for relationships and Gospel conversations.

But Mark's heart reaches well beyond his congregation.

Alongside ITMI's Charl van Wyk and Dr. Bradley Kuhn, Mark helps lead ministry in Stone Hill, also called Klipheuwel, an impoverished settlement where hardship, broken families, and limited opportunities are everyday realities. Through discipleship, education, medical assistance, and practical compassion, believers are

demonstrating Christ's love to people often overlooked by society.



Mark preaching at the Stone Hill settlement camp

As Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, Mark's September report reminds us that God's faithfulness is often revealed through ordinary acts of obedience.

We thank God for Mark and Cyndi, their congregation, and the faithful partners who make this ministry possible.

Please pray for wisdom, strength, and discernment as they navigate the many needs around them—and for lasting spiritual fruit as God continues building His church in South Africa.

— Mark Parris, Steve Evers

✦ For Praise

- 1 **POLAND** *Piotr Zaremba*
Continued mentoring and discipling of the next generation of youth leaders.
- 2 **SOUTH SUDAN** *Lazarus*
Completed a SALT PTSD presentation for South Sudanese caught in the grips of trauma.
- 3 **ANGOLA** *Johan and Lesley Leach*
God's continued favor for borehole drillers and safe travels into and out of Angola.
- 4 **POLAND** *Piotr Zaremba · K5N Church*
Lost and searching people finding Christ and following Him and being baptized.
- 5 **PAKISTAN** *Abid Anjum Masih*
Launching a SALT Training program for training pastors to be trainers.

✦ For Prayer

- 1 **SOUTH AFRICA** *Mark Parris*
Prayer and intercession for Mark as he leads many internal and external ministries to the most needy.
- 2 **POLAND**
Pray the Lord will bring healing and forgiveness to hurt believers. Details not disclosed at this time.
- 3 **SOUTH SUDAN** *Lazarus*
Provision and protection as he leads SALT training to Sudanese refugees in Uganda.
- 4 **POLAND** *Piotr Zaremba*
Resources to empower more, deeper outreach ministry to the many lost and broken souls.
- 5 **UKRAINE** *Adi and Ema Ban*
Pray for safety and great wisdom as they take their healing teaching to hurting Pastors and wives.
- 6 **ALL ITMI**
Wisdom, guidance, integrity and clarity for our partners serving faithfully and obediently to God's leading.

