

1 June 2010

When we read Jesus' last words recorded in Matthew, we clearly see what is important to Him..."go...and make disciples of all nations." In Acts we are given a bit more instruction on how and where we are to do this disciple making...even "to the end of the earth." Apostle Paul's passion was yet more crystallized as he shares in Romans 15:20-21, "...my ambition to preach the gospel not where Christ has already been named..." ITMI works with you to reach and disciple lost people wherever God leads.

Salvation in the South Pacific

"...the open ocean storm got worse...the situation for Kasper was getting all the more desperate"

Micronesia

The waves were darker and blacker than night. But that wasn't the biggest problem that Micronesian Islander **Kasper Danny** was facing. His mind was darting back and forth from the sensory overload of being lost at sea and remembering the warm sand and safety he called home back on his island of **Ulul**.



Kasper Danny deeply focused on S.A.L.T. training

Ulul, a small island of four miles long and about a half a mile wide, is one of the many hundreds of islands that make up the **Caroline**

Islands in the south Pacific. Ulul is isolated and doesn't have much to offer its five hundred inhabitants, who are the brown-skinned, dark-haired descendants of South Pacific island warriors. No electricity. No roads. One motorized vehicle. The supply ship only comes by once a month.

Deep down Kasper knew he was truly going to need to pull from all his ancestral nautical and survival skills if he was ever going to get out of this ocean storm with his life. His little 2-stroke 40hp Yamaha outboard motor was dead. Kasper's big problem was keeping his small, stranded and already half-swamped 23' open bow boat from filling up with the next wave that was about to come crashing down on him and his lost-at-sea partner. Kasper was already sitting in waist-deep, cold ocean water as he and his companion feverishly tried to bail ahead of the next angry ocean wave.

As the open ocean storm got worse and the waves got higher and more menacing, the situation for Kasper was get-



A broken down boat in the calm black water before the storm

ting all the more desperate. These little boats were never meant to do battle with waves so high you had to look up to see the tops of them.

He and his boat-mate were both in a weakened state from being now lost at sea for many weeks. Land had not been seen for an equal amount of time. They were eating only what raw fish they could capture by chopping into the water with a machete like tool, when the small fish swam too close to the edge of his battered and disabled boat. Their water containers were long ago empty. In a strange way, the cold and drenching rain was a welcomed companion. They were their only opportunity to capture drinkable water in the plastic sheets they had laid on the floor of their current floating living quarters.

The cold rain being somewhat welcomed, unlike the battering waves that lifted and then dropped, lifted and dropped this tiny cork of a boat that were the uninvited and unwelcome intruders.

Even though there was another human in the boat with him, Kasper was so alone

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Notice anything different about our newsletter? Hope you noticed and like our new and redesigned page one banner. The new banner better describes who we really are. We are about...Missions. We are called to *serve and empower nationals* who are outside our borders.

You always feel better when you "freshen up" and become a bit more current. Our previous newsletter title, *In Touch Monthly* has been around for a lot of years. Combine that with the potential problems of confusion between two vibrant and thriving ministries with similar names, and it was time to clearly state in our monthly newsletter title who we are.

Our thanks goes out to **Charles Stanley's InTouch Ministries (ITM)** based in **Atlanta, Georgia** and their help and encouragement to freshen up our newsletter. After discussions over the last several months, ITM and **ITMI** agreed that confusion would not benefit what God has ordained for our ministries to be focused on. We are grateful for how God has blessed Charles Stanley and ITM over the years as they have faithfully served the Body of Christ. ITMI is once again honored to have worked with like-minded brothers to find a beneficial solution allowing both organizations to focus on the work to which God has called us.

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out in this vast isolated and endless stretch of water. Coming from his remote island, Kasper had never heard and understood that Jesus loved him and wanted to reconcile him back into God's family. Kasper could only wonder why he was now so alone. *Would this be the way he left this world? Would he ever be able to see his family again? What comes next?*

God's sovereignty is something that is so far beyond our comprehension, that when we see His all capable fingerprints on an impossible situation, we are left dumbstruck.

As we step away from Kasper in his current battle with an angry and powerful ocean, we go back in time twenty-plus years to a young Ulul island girl who somehow finds herself at Michigan State University. While there, someone takes a chance and shares the story of Jesus' payment for one lost and overwhelmed island girl. The truth of Jesus' sacrifice for a need that could not be met by the island's spiritual traditions, pierced so deeply that she would take and accept this truth by faith and start her journey with the one true God.

On her return to the island of Ulul she would be expected to *compress* herself back into the island culture. She married this man named Kasper Danny who was not a believer and who didn't want anything to do with her new found spiritual walk.

In fact, she was to be the only believer on her whole island

ITMI's Charl van Wyk tells of his team's recent ministry trip to Zambia and how they were used to influence the Zambian political process. Charl shares, *"Leaders of the political party 'Zambians for Empowerment and Development' including their president, Dr Fredrick Mutesa, met with our team and spent time discussing the ideas of Biblical principles being applied in government. [ITMI's] Bishop John [Jere] had blessed them with books from our Christian Action Network – they were very excited about what they had learned through studying these materials."*

John Jere meanwhile communicated to us that he received sobering news from his partners in **Zimbabwe**. Long time pastor and friend, **Pastor Dennis Chuma** has again suffered a debilitating stroke and is now unable to communicate verbally. This touches John deeply, not only because of his extensive ministry history with Pastor Chuma, but also because of the many orphans that came to the Chuma family who are now at great risk.

ITMI shared this pressing need with you, our support team, and immediately someone stepped up and made it possible for John to take his team, with bags of food and needed medicine, to Pastor Chuma, his family and some of the Zimbabwean orphans. There will be more needs to address when John reports back and shares details on the current conditions.

for over twenty years. On her island of no electricity, no vehicles, grass huts and limited clothing, she had nothing but her Bible and a culture that dictated she not cause waves.

Women in her culture were very limited in their ability to share this new found truth or for that matter, any words of wisdom. Women were to be seen and not heard. Women were to serve the men of the island and not interfere with things of importance. But that didn't and couldn't stop her from praying for her island and her husband to come to the saving knowledge of her Lord.

For twenty plus years she has prayed for her husband Kasper and their children.

The children follow their father's lead, and so there was little she could do to influence their spiritual growth, but pray.

This is where you and **In Touch Mission International (ITMI)** come in. Little did we know that we would be used by God to bring an answer to those continuous twenty year old prayers of an island wife and mother.

In March 2009, **Jim Baugh** of **Global Training Network**, asked ITMI's Steve Evers to go to the **Chuuk Islands** in **Micronesia** to teach discipleship and leadership training with him. After prayer and a few God ordained events, Steve knew he was supposed to go. The trip to this location was not considered by some to be what ITMI "is all about." But since ITMI is about following the Great Commission,

being His witnesses, going to the "end of the earth," and being sensitive to His leading, this was exactly what ITMI was commanded to

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Gary Howell and Pastor Bruce teaching



Contemplating God's truth

Greetings Team,

I'm writing you from the lush, green hills of southwest Virginia. We have had a great time of fellowship with family and other believers here in this historic part of Virginia. Brown beans, "greens" and corn bread have truly been the sustenance of kings on our visit here. Even more satisfying is to be a part of a great little country church here in **Elliston, VA**, led by Pastor **John Collins**, a fired-up pastor, who shares regularly how God is bringing the local young and old to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Take a couple of minutes and go to our website and see ITMI's Indian couple, **Paul and Molly Yuvaraj's** new ministry video put together by our long time friend and supporter Britt Jones. Paul and Molly's humble spirit, complete dependence on God and sold out commitment to reaching the billion-plus lost souls of India, would be a blessing to any home group, Sunday School or church anywhere in this country of ours. Consider inviting them while they are still in the States to come and encourage your group with their special and heart warming testimony of God's mighty provision.



Our own **International School of Missions (ISM) in Kampala, Uganda** is looking at some pretty exciting news in the next couple of months. ITMI's Muhindo Kawede, the schools founder and director asked me to come and speak to their first graduating class of pastors in August. We are putting together a team to go teach and support the work they have training church leaders. Next month, we will share how God has provided funds for ISM to finally purchase land for the school on which to grow and expand. We are so grateful.

If you have a great church and Sunday School class, please consider blessing us by inviting us over to share, teach or just fellowship with good people like you. We can't say it enough...you are the best supporting team members in the whole world. Thank you so much.

Steve Evers

Extending Grace

"Tom, this is Todd calling. Hey, did you fax me anything yesterday?"

Yesterday Tom said he was faxing facts and figures. By noon. It's 10:35 AM a day later, and no fax.

"No, Todd, I didn't." Honest response. Straight answer. Surprising. Not that Tom isn't honest.

"I was just checking... been having trouble with our fax machine the last couple days." The fax machine has been a problem. But mostly I was trying to give him an out.

"The truth is", short pause. When I pause like this I'm thinking of an excuse. I wondered what Tom's excuse would be?

"The truth is I've been busier than a one-armed paper hanger trying to put all this together. I just didn't get it finished yesterday. And today I can't use my computer. Our server went down."

The inconvenience of technology. I need that fax. My boss will be asking for it. Tom's server crash is not my problem.

"Tom, if you get to heaven and you see a computer be very afraid. Because you're not where you think you are."

Laughter. Relief. Grace extended. My fax will arrive. Sometime. Until then, the planet continues to spin.

I wish extending grace was second nature to me.

I wish I could say I routinely lighten the load of those I meet. But I don't. Extending grace doesn't come naturally to me. This day it took 30 hours without sleep and being up all night with a sick baby to effectively fatigue me into remembering that I am a person in need of grace. Lots of grace.

Tomorrow is another day. I'll get just enough sleep to pull me back to my old self again. My same old stubborn, self-reliant self. God says He knows better. He says He knows my frame. That I'm just made of so much dust. But because I'm His dust He has compassion on me as a father has compassion on his children. He doesn't give me the paybacks I deserve.

Sick babies. No sleep. Server crashes. We all have our stuff. Which is to say we all need grace.

Next time you talk to "Tom" on the phone, extend grace. It won't make your fax arrive any sooner and it sure won't fix a messed up computer. But a little laughter and some relief can't help but make someone's day, if not better, at least not so bad.

Some days, *not so bad* is pretty ok.

"As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust." – Psalm 103:13-14

-Todd Thompson



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do.

Travel from the States to Micronesia is daunting. Heading west for a twelve hour island-hopping flight from Honolulu, you finally reach the island of Weno, a small island that can be completely walked around in about 9 hours. Logan Memorial Church is located on the southwest side of the island, the very same place that a missionary named Logan braved unfriendly island warriors and touched shore over 125 years ago.



Peaceful island cove

Last year, pastors from this island's small churches came to be trained and discipled. One pastor, Bruce Danis, who was raised on the island, listened intently and processed deeply the truths of the S.A.L.T. (Seven Areas of Life Training) material as Jim and Steve presented it. Pastor Bruce then listened to his missionary's heart being nudged by a call from God, who has caring and sovereign love for all the people that live on the hundreds of small isolated Micronesian islands. Pastor Bruce knew he needed to take the projector and the sound equipment that had been given to him by ITMI, and the S.A.L.T. truth that had been given to him by God, to the small and previously un-evangelized island of Ulul that is a 185 miles of open ocean and many decades apart.



Chuuk Island boys

When Pastor Bruce reached the island of Ulul, Kasper Danny had no idea what was about to happen to him and his oldest son, Sheldon. After hearing the

gospel of Jesus Christ presented in a clear and truthful way, Kasper and Sheldon knew their need for Jesus and His salvation. Finally, after the twenty years worth of prayers of a lone island woman believer, God sent Pastor Bruce to come and share real life-giving truth. Finally, there would be someone who could, in time, be used to evangelize this remote island and its 500 inhabitants, and who could fellowship with and disciple this dear Christian woman.

This April Jim Baugh, **Dakota Smith, ITMI's Gary Howell** and Steve ventured back to the island of **Weno** to continue the much requested S.A.L.T. discipleship training. The size of the attendees was over twice as large as last year.

Two of the most interested and engaged attendees this year were not from Weno, but from Ulul. Yes, Kasper and Sheldon made the long ocean trek to Weno just so they could be further discipled. Every believer reading this account should be allowed to see the fruit of such hungry and motivated babies in Christ as these two dear Micronesian brothers.

If one could see the deep longing and intense interest they had in capturing each

and every word of teaching, it would motivate us all to sacrifice selflessly to reach those who were born in the uttermost parts of the world.

Kasper was physically saved that day while all alone in that massive and dark churning ocean storm. And because of your help and support of ITMI, Kasper's small island of Ulul could some day have a Bible-believing church with a heart and passion to reach out to their *Jerusalem* (500 inhabitants), their *Judea and Samaria* (4 unreached islands 45 miles away) and maybe even the *end of the earth* (the hundreds of other islands filled with those that live and die without ever

having heard the saving news of Jesus' redemption plan).

Pastor Bruce and Kasper have many needs as they seek to make disciples in their islands. They

have asked for help in procuring the necessary equipment and supplies that would allow them to launch another open bow boat journey into deep ocean waters so that islanders on *Mokur Island, Onou Island, Onari Island, and Piherarh Island* could hear the life-giving story of Jesus. Help us continue to help those who live at the...*end of the earth* hear and know God's truth and His saving grace.

"We who are strong have an obligation to bear the failings of the weak...Let each of us please his neighbor...to build him up. For Christ did not please himself..."

Romans 15:1-2

-Editor



Kasper Danny's island home

For Praise . . .

1. **Charl van Wyk:** Praise that he and his whole family will be with us in the States for an extended ministry trip.
2. **John Jere:** Praise that he continues to travel into dictator ravished Zimbabwe to minister to the needy.
3. **Micronesia:** Praise that God touched hearts and lives were eternally impacted by the teaching of His truth.
4. Praise and blessings for all the faithful team members that help us empower and support the nationals.

For Prayer . . .

1. **Gerhard le Roux**—Moreson Farm co-laborers as they obediently seek God's help in South Africa's human trafficking.
2. **Richard and Brooke Nungesser** as they come to the States for speaking engagements this July and August.
3. Help and direction as we seek to support nationals who take the gospel to their people on unreached Pacific islands.