



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 October 2009

“...unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and teacher of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.” - Matthew 5:20 “From the very beginning, Christianity was designed to *begin* inside out. Once the heart is softened to God, then the *acts* will follow. But having the acts without the *heart* is like wearing a wedding ring only when it fits *your* purposes. The Pharisees...misunderstood the devotion to the God who gave them those rules.” - E. Caner

A Container to reach the Children

“If the children can be reached for God, then the country can be reached,”
- Tim Keller

Zambia

The last we heard the container was in Singapore... heading west to Zambia.

Each time news comes in on the overseas progress of ITMI’s **Tim and Ashley Keller’s** educational cargo container, we have to stop and marvel at God for His miraculous hand. As you read this, there is a 40’ cargo container, filled with precious cargo steaming toward Tim and Ashley’s new home in Kabwe, Zambia.

Maybe we should start back at the beginning to help bring you up to speed on how God intervened in this most unlikely adventure.

Two years ago Tim started earnestly praying for a way to get a small token of the vast wealth of



Tim Keller

supplies many Americans just throw away to the needy in his heartland of Zambia. Ministry in Africa presents a wide variety of challenges and obstacles, not the least of which is the need for Bibles, supplies, and educational books. Tim has long dreamed of meeting these needs and spreading the gospel by giving the Zambian educators of children the tools that could push them light years ahead in effective teaching and training.

After some time on his knees and with wisdom and direction from the Lord, Tim landed on the impossible and even unbelievable idea of filling a large 2300 cubic foot cargo container with school books, Bibles and whatever else he could get his hands on that would enable him to build relationships with the Zambia educational system and provide resources for the local churches.

The cost for Tim to purchase enough books, Bibles, and teaching

material to fill this container would have defeated just about anyone, but not Tim. ITMI and Tim put the word out to our many faithful partners over the last year that we needed vast amounts of all the books, Bibles and youth educational material that you could provide. We’ll share more in next month’s part two of this story how our partnership and God’s provision accomplished a modern day “fish and loaves story.”

Tim’s passion for his future in Zambia is developing a complete Biblically based educational curriculum he has called, “C23” (Colossians 2:3). Tim



Tony Evangelisti, Tim and loading crew

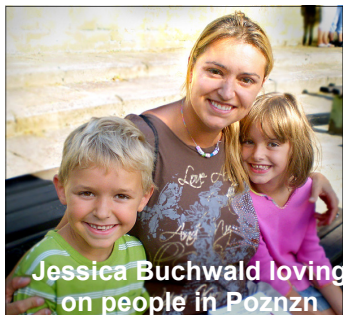


Ashley Keller

Update from the field...*Bread of Life Homeless - Poznan, Poland*

I changed someone's life. However, the biggest change has been the one in my life.

Until June of this year, I lived a pretty self-centered life in the suburbs of Ohio. New car at age sixteen, designer clothes, Starbuck's coffees, Coach purses were a normal thing. I



moved to Poland with my husband and instead of shopping or sight seeing, I began the life-changing experience of volunteering for ITMI's **Bread of Life** homeless ministry.

My first day at the Bread of Life center started rather mildly. It was a Friday, and I wasn't sure what my role was going to be or how God could use me at the center. I was

introduced to the staff and volunteers and was put to work passing out highly valued warm tea.

I was so impressed with the warmth of the homeless people who were accepting this small liquid gift of tea with smiles and nods. The Bread of Life staff had prepared a short film presentation on this day; to watch while they ate their meal, that was very moving and encouraging for these people at this stage in their life.

As the film ended and the people began to slowly shuffle out of the barrack, I noticed a man who looked to be in excruciating pain. He could hardly walk and needed the assistance of others just to make it down the hall. One of the Bread of Life volunteers interested in helping, spoke to the man and was informed that the hobbled man had been injured and needed to rest because he couldn't walk any further.

Bread of Life director, **Kris Sielicki**, called an ambulance for the man but when it arrived the drivers noticed the injured homeless man's ragged clothes and dirty hands and refused to take him to the hospital.

I was shocked. I couldn't believe they refused to load him into the ambulance because he was homeless. I saw the despair in his eyes and wondered to myself how the ambulance drivers expected him to live. Did they think he would just crawl down the road dragging his lame leg behind him? Did they care if he sat there until he slowly starved to death? I was moved deeply by his stoic silence and obvious suffering, but I didn't know what I could offer him. My apparent helplessness was overwhelming. I thought to myself, "I have no medical training, I can't offer him a place to live, I can't even speak his language, God, what can I do for him?"

Then I realized that although I couldn't make his entire life better at least maybe I could make *this* day better.

I gave him a shower. I know, it sounds strange, so insig-

nificant, but it was all I could do. Kris and I decided to take him to my house and gave him a razor, a cane, an ace bandage, some pain reliever, new clothes and an hour in the privacy of my sunken bathtub. He came out looking like a totally different person-clean, shaved and refreshed.

In that moment I felt as if I had changed as well. For without the opportunities that Bread of Life provides for someone like me to get involved, I would have never experienced this transformation and realized this change in me.

I love to help these needy, lost and hopeless people. Volunteering my time in helping less fortunate people in the name of God has been one of the most deeply emotional and enriching things I have ever done.

Bread of Life's **New Life Center**, established in 2006 as a recovery home for indigent individuals wanting to change their lives, is another example where your gracious gifts have made a great impact.

This beautiful oasis situated in the rolling countryside outside of Poznan is a place for men to come when they have reached the lowest levels of despair. Whether from jail or rehab or living on the streets these men come to the New Life Center for hope. They are taught valuable working skills and an introduction back into productive society, but not before they also learn about God's love through personal instruction and through example of the God honoring staff.

Today, while I was at Bread of Life's barrack building a new used clothing closet to serve the homeless, one of the men from the New Life Center arrived with the director, **Janusz**. They had just come from the doctor. The NLC participant, **Mariusz**, has received a brand new right arm. He proudly showed us his prosthetic hand and exclaimed, "I have been waiting 13 years for this!"

I know that most of you reading this article are not able to come to Poland, but through your current and past donations and with future partnership; **YOU** are changing someone's life on a daily basis. You help provide them with a life that they have been waiting for, and all of it is happening right in front of my eyes. As Bread of Life co-founder, **Brooke Nungesser** told me when I first got involved, "...these people are someone's son, brother, uncle, father, mother, aunt or childthat have lost their way."

You and me, the volunteers, Brooke, Richard, Kris and all the other team members are being used by God to keep Bread of Life alive through their sweat and strength and through your prayers and pocketbooks. You are daily making a difference "for that one".

- Jessica Buchwald, Bread of Life Volunteer



Dear Team,

Greetings to our wonderful and faithful ITMI partners. As the time of harvest and fall is upon us, can we take this month of October to be a time of reflection of what God has done for you, for the "produce" that His provision has accomplished in your lives and in your families.

The word "Blessed" is repeated nine times in the Matthew 5 account of Jesus' **Sermon on the Mount**. Blessed here means, Happy. Blessed. Content. Fulfilled. That can't be correct? How can I be blessed, happy, content, and fulfilled when I have to experience all those other heart wrenching challenges mentioned in Matthew's Sermon on the Mount description? The secret is, no matter what our challenge here on earth, "because great is your reward in heaven..."

Kawede sent me desperate a text message last month in the middle of one afternoon, asking for prayer, that shared how there in **Kampala, Uganda** the **International School of Missions (ISM)** and the capitol of Uganda were all but shut down and people were hiding in their homes due the riot against the Central Government forces who had shot 10 people dead that were protesting a conflict between the civil government and the **Royal Family of Buganda**. Teaching pastors in Africa through ISM is tough enough, please pray for Kawede and his family's safety.

The beginning of September, I had the special opportunity to be in Virginia meeting with old college friends who are serving the Lord all around the world. **Gordon Luff, Founder of Youth Aflame**, brought us together as we shared stories of how wonderful God is and what He is doing in the lives and ministries of His faithful servants. Now more than ever, no one can doubt that God is alive and intimately involved in all that we do. He is coming again and time as we know it is winding down. As the great multitude in Revelations 19 shouted with a loud voice..."Hallelujah!" May each one of us be faithful in being His willing and obedient tools each and every day.

In His Service,



Steve Evers



Honeybees

My favorite time of year here in the Phoenix valley is anytime my roses are blooming. My back yard is awash in red, orange, white, lavender, pink, yellow, coral, and peach. The hummingbirds swoop in to check them out before moving to the front yard where they prefer the trumpet shaped blooms of the Cape Honeysuckle. The honeybees, however, love my roses.

Individually, a honeybee is fascinating to observe. But the results of their corporate effort are astounding.

The average American consumes 1.3 pounds of honey per year. If we round it down to an even pound, what must honeybees do to produce one pound of honey?

According to the Texas A&M Department of Entomology, an average hive contains up to 50,000 bees. On a warm to hot day, half the worker bees go out to gather pollen and nectar. The other half of the bees stay inside the hive and have the job of providing the air conditioning. A honeybee's wings move at approximately 11,400 strokes per minute, hence the "buzz" you hear. Thousands of bees moving their wings at such speed actually causes the temperature inside the hive to be about 10 degrees cooler than it is outside.

The bees rotate duties. Bees that cool the hive one day are gatherers the next. To make one pound of honey, worker bees must collect nectar from 2 million flowers. 2 million flowers! And in collecting the nectar for that one pound of honey, they fly a combined 55,000 miles. That's one and a half times around the world. All to make just one pound of honey.



Since the average worker bee makes about 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime, it's pretty clear that honeybees are better together than they are alone. Alone they can't produce enough honey to flavor a cup of tea. Together, they take care of themselves and in the process produce enough honey for everyone in the country to have a jar in the pantry.

A healthy beehive is full of bees, honey, honeycomb and activity. What you won't find in a bee hive is ego. Be they queen bee, drones or workers, all the insects do their job. The honey they produce is a team effort.

As humans, we tend to think of our accomplishments as individual in nature. Yet be assured, wherever you are today and whatever position you've attained, you didn't get there on your own. There are no self-made men. No self-made women.

Above all, you and I owe everything to a gracious God whose faithfulness is great and whose mercies are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:21-23)

Together we accomplish great things.

We are better together.

This month take time to reflect on the people who have contributed significantly to your life. Then write a note of thanks to them or give them a call and tell them specifically what they did for you and what you learned from them. In doing so you'll encourage them beyond measure.

Because no one ever forgets hearing these sweet words:
"You made a difference in my life."

- Todd Thompson

(Continued from page 1)

can envision Zambia having C23 curriculum taught in primary and secondary schools throughout the country, giving God's laws and truth to young moldable minds. "If the children can be reached for God, then the country can be reached," said Tim.

What most people don't realize about many of the schoolrooms in Africa is that these dirt floor and sometimes unpainted concrete rooms are almost completely void of school books. The students don't have school books and the teachers don't have books to teach from. Teachers are expected to "remember" their lessons from when they attended school, and then teach without any text books all the many facts and details that they are required to present to the students.

Imagine the joy in a teacher's eyes and the appreciation in their heart, when Tim approaches them and asks if they could use a math, a science or a history text book that is age related to their students. Tim wants to take the books from the container and distribute freely

as many of these discarded curriculum as he possibly can. When he completes the C23 curriculum, he hopes to be received favorably, even with open arms, by the many teachers and schools he previously supplied.

Your help with collecting and filling the 35,000 lb. container with priceless commodities called books, has increased Tim and Ashley's influence and ability to share

the Gospel many, many fold.

Next month we'll share together how the incredible process of gathering, storing, staging, loading, shipping and financing *the project* demonstrated God's hand-holding of Tim and Ashley's dream.

Please pray with us as the container progresses through the many ports of call on its long trip to Central Africa. Pray that the contents will be safe from all that could "steal or destroy" these paper jewels.

As Tim left the U.S. shores he shared the following insight into a missionary's life. "*[In Africa] one of the challenges of missionary work is that you are almost always the spiritual leader in your community. It is easy to get lost serving the "demands of the immediate" which are generally ever-present and over abundant....*"

"Being the person and family that is the focus of a needy community's emotional and spiritual nourishment, can be stifling at times." Tim continues, "It has been refreshing and nourishing to be disciplined and built up by our Brothers and Sisters [here in the States] we sincerely thank you for the part you played by committing us to God in prayer and helping us with our physical needs."

What a bold reminder that we really can make a difference as we serve the body of Christ, using the blessings God has blessed us with to build up and nourish the missionaries when they are in the States. ITMI has long sought to partner with you by scheduling meetings in your churches and homes as an outlet for our missionaries and our nationals, so that both you and they can be

united and blessed in what God is doing outside our borders. Please pray for us at ITMI and consider allowing us to fellowship with you in your community. Stay tuned for more of how God is using all of us for His Glory.

- Ashley Keller and Steve Evers

Zambia



Last month, our newsletter had a plea from **John Jere** on behalf of a dear grandma in Zambia living in a straw sided

hut with no roof. This story truly touched you, our support partners. An update...

- Generous donors immediately gave money for the grandma's house - John will be able to build more huts for more grandmas.
- Funds for the church land came in, plus additional donations to jump start the building fund.
- Your faithfulness overwhelmed John and Joyce and it shows God's vision is bigger than ours.
- \$187 was sent in to allow John to purchase a whole bale of used clothing for his next visit to **Lukulu East**.

What a blessing to watch God work through His people. John Jere has purchased the land for the church and is now heading to Lukulu East to build the first hut for the grandma before the rains come.

-Teri Smith

For Praise . . .

1. Donations received and Polish government grants committed for maintaining NLC for coming year.
2. Tim and Ashley's cargo container making it as far as Singapore .
3. Contributions for building supplies, clothes and church land for Zambia's Lukulu East grandmas and church body.
4. Connecting with U.S. churches that are willing to allow our nationals to come visit and see effective ministries.

For Prayer . . .

1. Kawede and ISM - they need wisdom and protection as they deal with the killings and community unrest.
2. Tim and Ashley - need to find a good vehicle - leaving South Africa and are driving a borrowed vehicle to Zambia.
3. Bread of Life - grant funding from Polish government to materialize enabling them to minister to homeless in Poland.
4. Vicky Waraka in Sudan grieving over death of family members - food shortages due to lack of rain.



P.O. Box 7575 • Tempe, Arizona 85281 • (480) 968-4100 • E-Mail: itmi@intouchmission.org
FAX: (480) 968-5462 • www.intouchmission.org • Outside Arizona: 1-888-918-4100

