

1 October 2010

*“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, ‘Abba, Father.’ Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” - Galatians 4:4-7*

## All in the Family

*He never forgot how Pastor D treated everyone - even strangers - like family because he himself had been adopted into God’s family.*

### Zambia

*He finally resigned himself to the constant gnawing pain.*

For days now hunger pangs had ripped into his insides like a famished lioness. He reminded himself over and over that his suffering would end when Jesus returned.

Twenty-something **John Jere** stood in front of his meager home and looked around. The hopelessness he fought from within himself was expressed in everything around him. The bleak and empty farmer’s market down the dirt road, the dilapidation of the homes near his and the despondency that had overtaken the eyes of his neighbors were all witnesses to the hopelessness brought to Zambia by Communism. Some oddly hopeful movement down the road caught his attention. An older man with kind eyes and a quick, life-giving smile was bringing some life-giving maize meal.

John hovered nearby. The man introduced himself as “**Pastor D.**” As the two talked, the pastor reminded

John that his mission was to demonstrate and declare the good news about Jesus’ kingdom, and in Jesus’ kingdom, everyone there is welcomed in as family because of what Jesus did on the cross.

“So,” Pastor D summarized with a smile, “I try to treat everyone as if they were family.” John never forgot how Pastor D treated *everyone - even strangers* - like family because he himself had been adopted into God’s family.

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The concept of God’s family is now a driving force for John’s life, as he seeks to demonstrate the gospel by welcoming everyone into his own family.

It started when he and his wife, **Joyce**, were unable to have children. Meanwhile, they saw a staggering number of children on the streets that desperately needed a family. They began taking these children into their home and loving them as their own.

With ITMI’s help, they built a larger house and took in more and more children. They were also able to add another home on his property where widows could care for babies that had been abandoned. The



**Rev. John Jere**

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## Poland

### From the Translator...

Beloved,

I love bringing you the good news!  
This one is about our Polish Bible Translation Project.  
There is a Christian motorbike club called *Boanerges* in Poland.

They do like our translation of the New Testament.  
For a couple of years now they have been publishing the Gospels for their summer evangelistic events. They started with the Gospel of Mark (1000 copies), then came Luke (1500 copies), John (2000 copies) and I just got the news about Matthew (3000 copies) just published for this year.

One of the *Boanerges* representatives shared this information with me: "I overheard two non-Christian

bikers chatting with each other: 'Hey, man, I never thought the Bible is that clear. I guess I understand it for the first time in my life.' "

Who would think: A plain old translator like me + hundreds of jewels like you = the Good News of Christ touching the hearts right through.

*And what shall I say? Thank you.* It's a joy to bring glory to Him in the crowd of the saints.

Yours, as ever

Piotr



**Polish Gospel of Matthew Translation**



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**Children from the Jere's family**

number had reached 95 children under their care when a UNICEF policy change required all the children to be returned to the homes of distant biological relatives, most of whom could not (or would not) feed and care for them, which is why the Jeres had taken them in. Now John and Joyce still provide for the children, but it is much more difficult since they no longer live under their roof.

John's family continued to grow as John came across widows whose families were unable, unwilling or unavailable to care for them. On a mission trip to Lukulu West, John came across a 78-year-old homeless widow squatting behind a semi-circle of grass sheaves for protection from the elements. She was huddling over her possessions which were gathered to her chest to protect them from the rain. John treated her as part of his own family. He presented this need to ITMI, and thanks to your

demonstration of God's kindness, he was able to procure some land and build a small shelter for the widow to live in as well as to be used as a future church building and mission outpost.

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Everything John saw traveling through Robert Mugabe's Communist Zimbabwe reminded him of his own hungry days living under a Communist government. Careful to avoid ever-watching eyes, he went to visit Pastor D's family. He wasn't sure what he would find. On his last visit, he had found Pastor D and his family in bad condition.

Pastor D had suffered a stroke that left him so paralyzed that he could only communicate with his eyes or by making a bubbling sound with his lips. Since he could not properly move his mouth, he was only able to eat very watered down porridge. Without proper nutrition and medicine, Pastor D's days would have been limited, and lived out separated from the world around him. His family had pretty much lost hope and resigned themselves to that reality. But John became Pastor D's advocate and presented his needs to ITMI. The family of God responded and provided John with some much needed food and medicine for Pastor D.

Pastor D's family was overjoyed to see John. The women whisked him into their dwelling and hugged him tightly. They sat him down, and over a cup of weak tea, they gushed their exuberant thanks to John for treating them like family and caring for their father. Eyes dancing, they explained that their father is now capable of limited speaking. He can communicate with his wife as well as offer encouragement, direction and wisdom for those who are picking up his ministry where he

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## From the Director

### Greetings Team,

To some, a three and a half week trip to Africa could be considered a nice vacation. But others, and I am one of those, see it as a much needed time to encourage our partners and to train beside them and the many needy disciples and disciples-to-be.

This last trip to Africa seems to have been one of the more challenging on the health front. I came back with some kind of "virus" that we are treating which seems to somehow drain a good bit of my strength and energy. That just intensifies the "three and a half weeks" worth of work that I found on my return. Your prayers for strength and health would be most appreciated.

Just as we go to press I received communication from both **John Jere** and **Muhindo Kawede** on their respective ministry challenges.

Kawede's challenge has him rejoicing. He states, "I have been busy registering and teaching new students who joined the International School of Missions after your graduation speech." Kawede had to find room for the 19 additional students to be trained, so he bought a ...tent. He's elated!

But it still is not enough room (see the photos). He also shares, "I would like to thank you for the good work you did while in Kampala. Our memories are still vivid. The SALT conference helped my family in the area of psychological understanding of your partner."



Kawede teaching in a tent



Not enough room for all the students

John Jere's email was a bit more somber. His heart hurts for his mother. On August 31st, Florence (his mother) called and shared she was sick from malaria, flu and cough. The blood test said that the parasites were well on thier way to becoming cerebral malaria. She is still receiving injections to try and fight this off.

John described that the tents were just not working for his mama and the orphans. "When one is fast asleep, then wind with dust get[s] into their mouths and nose. All my nephews and nieces are all suffering from the cold and coughs."

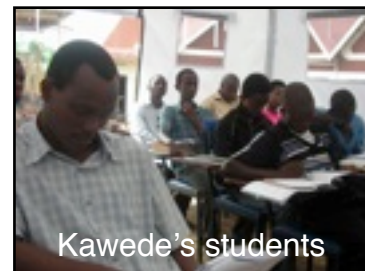
John closes by remembering who His helper is, "I look to God in prayer and please, will you join me in prayer. God is able to meet this need."

The work of the "Harvest" is never finished. We are blessed by God with many wonderful opportunities to "invest" in His work with His dear servants. I am impressed upon by the truth that He chooses me and you to be His ambassadors while we are still here. Each one of us has something to offer to the King, be it our time, our talents, or our small sacrifices of "oil and flour" as the widow of Zarephath in the story with Elijah.

Thank you for your many examples of faithfulness to your calling. May we continue to be sensitive to all that HE gives us to do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Evers'.

Steve Evers



Kawede's students

*"This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD. - Jeremiah 9:23*

### Me, Not You.

Seems so cut and dried, doesn't it? Jeremiah tells us what to do: don't be proud or secure in your own wisdom, strength and riches. Instead, if you boast, boast that you understand and really *know* the Lord and not just *about* Him.

I confess, when life is stressful, jobs are on the line and family members are ill or hurting - it's never been enough just to be told that I *should* find value in knowing God because the Bible says to.

Thankfully, the Bible was never about me and what *I* should do. It is first and foremost a story about *God* and *what He has already done*.

The story told by the Bible shows us a God who created us. A God who in response to our rebellion, kindly promised

to redeem and restore all of creation. It tells us of a God who has been in charge of history, influencing it with His goodness. In His justice and grace, a God who became one of us and made the ultimate sacrifice to not only wipe out our guilt, but also become righteousness for us, so He could welcome us into His family.

After that story, it would be craziness to find more value in our own wisdom, strength and riches than in knowing and understanding this amazing Hero of all history.

When we admit the Bible is not primarily about us and what we should do, but primarily a story about God, with Him centered firmly as the hero, we become empowered to live out what it says.



**Pastor D**

left off.

John rejoiced. Because of God's goodness in welcoming sinners into His own royal family, that global family has taken care of the ones who cannot care for themselves.

Not long after, John received word of another widow and the four orphans she was caring for who were turned away by her in-laws and left to fend for themselves. Only this time it was his own mother.

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*"You and your children get your things and leave this property."*

Florence dropped the stone in the grinder where she was grinding maize meal for the day's bread. "We've already sent my father away," he finished. She stared back at her step-son, Solomon, in horror and disbelief. He turned on his heel and walked away, his back and neck rigid.

"Soloman, please, we have nowhere to go!" she cried after him, but he ignored her. Weeks prior, Florence's husband of 22 years, Lackson Zulu, had fallen ill and become incapacitated.

John's mother and the children gathered their things, her mind racing ahead, trying to make some sort of a

plan. She looked at Solomon. His back was still to her, refusing any further interaction. She'd already lost two adult sons, and now she'd lost her step-son, too, although this was a different kind of loss.

As she opened the gate to leave the Zulu property for the last time, Florence remembered the day she arrived here. It was 22 years ago. The mother of three small boys and three small girls, she had recently become a young widow. She had managed to secure a home for her and her children by marrying Lackson Zulu.

When she arrived at his home that day, she was hopeful they would be cared for, although realistically, she knew she and her children would never be treated like true family by the rest of the Zulus. She let the memories of her life there wash over her like waves. She had raised all the children, including Solomon, as her own, and they had been happy and cared for there.

Florence tearfully closed the gate behind her, refusing to lose hope. She reminded herself God was good and in control and He still cared about her and her orphaned grandchildren.

She went to her family of believers for help, who helped her get a message to John. Someone from the rural church offered them to camp on their property in a few small tents that John obtained.

John is now presenting his mother's need to the bigger family of believers through ITMI. He knows the tents won't suffice for shelter

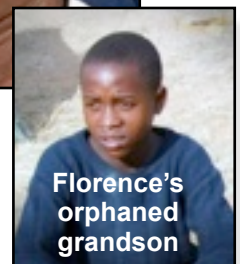
through the rainy season, which is approaching quickly. Culturally, as the eldest living son, John is expected to provide for his mother. But biologically related or not, John's calling to care for the orphans and widows around him implicates him to provide for her and the many who depend on her. He would like to purchase a small piece of property and build a shelter that will survive the rainy season, where his mother and the children can live.

It was the Spirit that taught him to demonstrate Jesus' Kingdom by treating everyone like family. John is confident that the Spirit has moved this way in others around the world and He will provide for Florence, too. The prayer of John's heart is for wisdom and help in meeting the needs of widows and orphans, including his own mother.

*-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers*



**Florence Jere Zulu**



**Florence's orphaned grandson**

### **For Praise...**

1. **International School of Missions** in Uganda has 19 new students after last month's graduation.
2. ITMI's ability to help the **Moreson Farm's** leadership take the gospel to Northern Cape tribes.
3. God's faithfulness in providing for ITMI and our national partners and their ministries.

### **For Prayer...**

1. **Paul and Molly** as they prepare to return to ministry in India on Sept. 26.
2. **Tim and Ashley Keller** and family's mission trip to the States in October-December 2010.
3. **Florence Jere Zulu** and her need for healing, help and shelter for her and orphans.
4. **Steve Evers'** possible trip to India for a big ministry event in October.



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