



The partitions and professional installation will cost \$3,150. Metal shelving for the library, furniture and office equipment would be extra; Daniel estimates an additional \$4,100 if he could buy everything at one time. Daniel says when the time comes to move, they will take the partitions with them.

The temptation for the ITEM board is to make this investment in All Nations College. Creating more classrooms and a library is educational, right? But the key words in our mission statement, “to provide Biblically based Reformed teaching and training” give us pause.

Many organizations drift from their original mission by taking on peripheral projects related to the main thing they do. ITEM does not unilaterally oppose investments in “bricks and mortar.” But physical infrastructure projects are not the same as sending instructors and modules to “teach and train.”

Instead of making the investment ourselves, we are letting our readers, donors and friends know about the need in Thika. Those interested in helping Daniel get partitions to make more classrooms can designate that on their gift and ITEM will forward the funds on to All Nations College.

Teaching and Preaching and Bricks and Mortar

By Tom Smith, ITEM Executive Director

Imagine your church has one large room with only the four exterior walls. Deacons count the offering in one corner, infants cry in the nursery in another corner, and toddlers laugh and play in another. No walls, just wide-open space.

This is the situation Daniel Muindi and the students at All Nations College face every time they meet for class. They meet in one large room. A year ago, Daniel signed a 15-year lease on the fifth floor in a building in downtown Thika. The landlord has given Daniel permission to remodel the space as he sees fit.

Wanting to be a wise steward, Daniel has a plan to get partitions installed to divide the space into three classrooms (including one dedicated for Zoom), a library, office space, and a small kitchen where students can fix a cup of tea or a snack. The partitions will not only cordon off learning space; they also will project a more professional image and aid in recruiting more students to the college. Local churches have already contributed lumber and some furniture.

How to Contribute

In the U.S. send contributions to
ITEM, PO Box 31456,
St Louis, MO 63131 or
at www.ITEM.org through PayPal.
Email Executive Director Tom Smith at
tomsmith@item.org
or call 717.640.6268

Contributions to ITEM in Canada may be sent to:

Action International Ministries
3015A 21st NE
Calgary AB T2E 7T1

Check us out on Social Media

Staying informed on what ITEM is doing around the world has never been more important. We encourage you to follow us. ITEM is on **Instagram**: @itemmission, **YouTube** (<https://youtu.be/Mc24JfvgOoA>), Channel: ITEM-Videos, **Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalTheologicalEducationMinistries/>



From Wisconsin to Bolivia through the Grace of God

By Tom Smith, ITEM Executive Director

A year ago, Pastor Mark Jenkins wrapped up Christmas and New Year celebrations, said goodbye to his wife and daughters in Madison, Wisc. and flew south to Bolivia. He went to teach a class on hermeneutics as well as to speak at a conference on the book of Revelation. Just as in a previous ITEM trip to Bolivia, he found the students enthusiastic to learn anything he could teach them.

Mark experienced their generous hospitality and saw firsthand their genuine love for one another. They love to be together as a community of believers and are always eager to open the Bible and do a study. Before one conference is done, they are thinking about the next. The Bolivian students asked Mark to consider moving to Cochabamba when he retires a few decades from now.

Upon his return to Wisconsin, Mark gave a full report to his church (Providence OPC) about his teaching and experiences in Cochabamba.

Later, as the COVID19 pandemic swept the world, Bolivia was not spared. The church in Cochabamba lost a ruling elder and a pioneer pastor (Gregorio) who had helped plant the evangelical church in the city.

Mark's congregation became aware of the economic hardships and medical crises facing their brothers and sisters in Christ in Bolivia. In November

2020, they took up an offering for the church in Cochabamba. They raised over \$9,300, which they sent to ITEM. ITEM wired the money to Gerson Cruz, director of the Seminario Reformado Latinoamericano who is also pastor of Iglesia Biblica Monte de Sionin (Mt. Zion Bible Church) in Cochabamba.

The money from Providence OPC in Madison will help families in Cochabamba in immediate need as well as those who have lost their jobs due to the economic shutdown due to the pandemic.

While Providence OPC is not a poor/struggling church, it's not a large church either. The words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 8 seem appropriate, "We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part."

Prayer Requests

1. Jobbe Lammers, wife of ITEM board member, Rev. Dr. Warren Lammers is battling pancreatic cancer and undergoing chemotherapy. Pray for her treatments to succeed, for her to be healed.
2. Debbie Richards, wife of ITEM board member Rev. Dr. Jeff Richards has severe health problems. Pray for her healing and well being.
3. ITEM field director Rev. Jonson D. is teaching the book of Revelation online. There are 1,200 registered subscribers on more than 10 islands. Pray for protection from Muslim attacks. He has already had two cyber attacks. And there is always the threat of physical attack.
4. Pray for the sites in Bangalore, Andhra Pradesh, and Manipur, where pastors are gathering online to study living in grace, discipleship, biblical hermeneutics and evangelism with Will Hesterberg.
5. Fritz Harms is teaching Reformation Church History on January 28th at BRTS (Riga, Latvia) online.