



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church **IN TOUCH MONTHLY**

1 January 2004

This is the beginning of a New Year. Life is filled with beginnings and endings. There is a beginning and an ending of everything – except God. Our job is to proclaim Him to all nations and the salvation He alone provides to each generation. *“And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”* Matthew 24:14 May Jesus Christ find us faithful when He comes and say, “Well done.”

Director’s First Visit to Africa

SOUTH AFRICA

It had to happen sooner or later. ITMI’s Director, **Steve Evers**, needed to visit the Dark Continent and learn firsthand about the work of our mission there. He was originally scheduled to make the trip in March last year, but the Lord had other plans. This trip could only be described as “God’s perfect timing.”

Steve jetted into Cape Town mid-November to begin a 5-week mission trip that would take him through three countries. The first three weeks were spent in Cape Town, where he quickly adjusted



Moments after arriving in Africa for the first time

to the 9-hour jet lag. It took him a little longer learning to drive on the left and getting oriented to a new culture.

Some of the things that seemed strange to him at first were all the parking lot attendants guiding the shoppers to a convenient spot, and the full service filling stations where they wash your windshield plus check your oil, water and tire pressure. If you can remember that in America you’re getting on in years!

He started right away to visit new friends and set up some potential new projects for consideration by ITMI. Among them Graham and Jene Des Fountain who have opened their home in Fish Hoek, on the east side of the Cape peninsula, to abused children. The ministry known as Eshcol. Their success rate in rehabilitating these little ones through positive love in a Christian environment is very impressive.

Steve soon noticed the contrasts of Cape Town. The grandeur of this beautiful city in its Garden of Eden setting must be viewed in the context of violence and crime. Car-jacking is so com-



Steve and Eshcol children

monplace that few drivers actually stop at stop signs. Murder is a daily occurrence. There have been many terrorist bombings. Some statistics show that South Africa is nine times more violent than Russia and Russia is twice as violent as America. We are busy sharing Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Two weeks after Steve arrived we celebrated Thanksgiving in the traditional American way and on the same day as in the USA. Lenora and Peter Hammond introduced this wonderful custom to Cape Town shortly after they were married 14 years ago. It has really caught on. We had over 50 people

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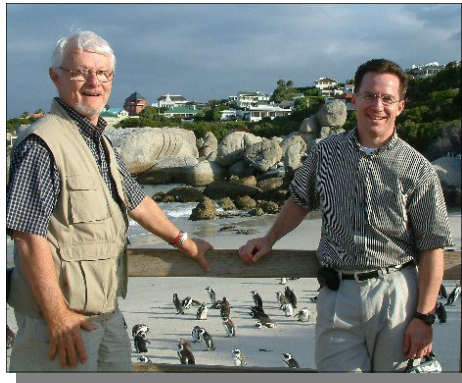
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for Thanksgiving dinner at the Frontline Fellowship mission house. The wives on staff made their special dishes and we invited key friends from Khayelitsha, the black township nearby.

In addition to the ministry already planned for Steve on this trip, he was given the task of looking into some charges made in late October by a suburban church in the mid-West attacking the Founder and Director of our sister mission in Africa. Although there was nothing significantly new in the accusations, ITMI formed a Board of Inquiry and commissioned Steve to thoroughly investigate. After three weeks in Cape Town, during which time he interviewed a score of people (both friend and foe) and took written depositions he commented, "I couldn't have asked the Lord for a better or more in depth way to get to know our sister mission's staff."

From Cape Town, Steve and Bill Bathman went to KwaSizabantu for the annual summer Youth Conference in early December. "Uncle Bill" was one of the guest speakers at this popular gathering of some 5,000 Zulu young people. Steve's photo ability was a real asset and he used his camera to great advantage.

"I couldn't really picture it before coming here," Steve noted, then laughed as he realized the double meaning of his remark. KwaSizabantu is the epic-center for a revival among the Zulus that has been going on for over 30 years. There is no charge for the young



Bill and Steve at Bolder Bay

people to attend and there are no offerings taken. KwaSizabantu provides food and hospitality as well as transportation for most all the delegates, some of whom come from up to 200 miles around. Truly, God was among the Zulus as they discovered new life in Christ through the preaching of His Word.

After KwaSizabantu Steve and Bill spent a night at Jivannadi Mission, near Durban, and Bill preached the evening service there. The next morning they flew to Johannesburg and then on to Zambia for ministry at the Excellence Christian Academy in Kabwe. We'll save that story for next month.

POLAND

Congratulations are in order for the Reverend **Piotr Zaremba** who has achieved his goal to complete the translation of the New Testament from Greek into Polish by the end of 2003. Well done Piotr! Now,

thousands of Poles will be able to read the scriptures in their own language for the first time in a really first class translation.

ITMI's **Richard and Brooke Nungesser** continue to inspire us with the multitude of ways they are finding to win souls to Christ in central Poland. The Lord has provided them with a car so they can haul all the supplies for their Bread of Life ministry, now operating in two cities, with a third in view.

They are requesting prayer and financial support for **Mateusz**, a Polish national now working with them. Mateusz's testimony is a very dramatic one and we hope to share it with you next month.

My Mother always told me that

From the Director...

first impressions are the most lasting. Her statement has proven true in my lifetime. When it comes to Africa however, the law of first impressions falls apart completely. My personal experience of Africa, it's people, it's culture, and our dear African Christian brothers and sisters, cannot begin to be contained by a mere first impression.

Most everyone knows that Africa is a place of extreme contrasts, but until you have been exposed to it by a seasoned African traveler and a frontline ministry, can you begin to grasp the depth and breath of those contrasts.

The visual beauty and diversity of southern Africa must be experienced to be truly appreciated. In the States we have similar beauty in our vast country. To the unmotivated eye, African beauty can look quite the same. However, I was encouraged to look past the visual, cultural and spiritual information

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January 2004

Dear Team,

The last two months have been a blur. Steve Evers' visit to South Africa has been so full of rich, new experiences that I haven't had time to check my e-mail on a daily basis. The Lord has opened so many doors for us that it's hard to know where to begin, much less what to include or exclude.

Steve's trip was planned almost a year ago and eagerly awaited. It is vitally important for the Director of a mission to be fully acquainted with all the fields in which we serve. Now he has a good grasp of what ITMI is doing in Africa. Why don't you invite him to your church or Mission Conference or home fellowship to share his experiences and show a dynamic PowerPoint presentation? It will be the nearest thing to your own personal visit to Africa. Phone Kristi at (480) 968-4100 for more information.

While we were at the Summer Youth Conference last month, Kjell Olsen mentioned that they needed some aerial photos of the KwaSizabantu Mission. A friend of theirs had a little Piper Pacer and agreed to take us up for an hour or so. On Monday morning the weather was clear and beautiful. The landing strip is 3,200 feet above the Indian Ocean. There was a pretty stiff crosswind, but Jacque landed without incident.

They took off the left rear passenger door for better visibility. We all strapped in and taxied out for take off. Once we were airborne I began to worry about Steve. There he was, hanging out of the plane with his camera in the slipstream, snapping away and drinking propwash instead of his usual morning bush tea.

The cross wind picked up while we were aloft so to land we diverted to Krans Kop, a little mountain-top field about 12 miles away. Coligny, Jacques friend, fetched us in his car. The pictures came out beautifully. I was relieved that it wasn't Steve that came out.

On a more serious note, our long time friends Johan and Walda, a vital part of the Frontline Fellowship admin team have a precious little 6-month old daughter, Kina. This darling child has severe respiratory problems. Her mom and dad would appreciate your prayers for her – and so would we.

Frontline Fellowship is having their annual Summit Conference from the 9th-16th this month at the Rocklands Conference Center near Simon's Town, on the Cape peninsula. There will be young people from all over South Africa and several other countries attending. This is a time of intensive training for key leadership.

Harriett joins me in wishing you God's richest blessing and – Happy New Year.
Yours in His grip,



Bill Bathman



**Steve Evers' aerial photography helps
KSB future planning**

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that Africa offers the average tourists. And O, that was good advice!

My heart was deeply touched by a very tender, respectful 18-year old boy named Christopher, whom I met in a Wednesday afternoon Bible study. It takes him 45 minutes to walk to church, so he really wanted to be there. At the end of the study, Christopher asked three or four very deep theological ques-

tions. Frankly, I thought he might be trying to impress the American visitor with the depth of his questions. However, as we drove him home, I asked where his theological questions came from, and why would he ask such difficult question in a youth Bible Study. In a quiet respectful voice he explained that he needed to have the answers to these questions because when he preached to his people, they would

ask him these questions and he did not have any answers to give them.

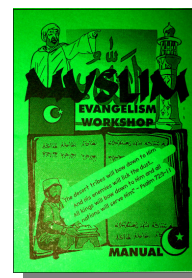
Christopher's home was a one room 20x20 foot shack. He and his mother are the only Christians in the family, but he has hope that the man his mother is married to will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Your prayers will help to make that a reality.

-Steve

Muslim Evangelism Workshop

\$5.00

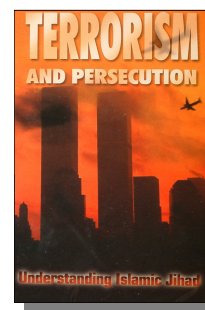
This manual presents a most concise explanation of Islam, where it agrees with the Bible, where it contradicts the Bible, what it teaches, what the roots of Islam are; the role of Jihad in Islam and how we can share the Gospel with our Muslim neighbors.



Terrorism & Persecution: Understanding Islamic Jihad—video

\$20.00

Jihad - starting with the shocking and most incredible footage on the September 11th terrorist attacks - It also takes you to the colossal conflict in Southern Sudan and the Nuba Mountains showing how Christians there have resiliently been resisting Islamic Jihad for decades.



Authorized to Accept  

For Praise . . .

1. God's provision for Steve Evers' trip to Africa during November & December
2. Encouragement for Excellence Christian Academy in Zambia as Bill & Steve ministered there.
3. Blessings on the Frontline team December trip to South Sudan, and for a new office Administrator in Cape Town.

For Prayer . . .

1. Summit Conference in Cape Town, January 9-16, led by Frontline Fellowship.
2. Need for committed volunteers in ITMI office to work with our Administrator Kristi Messick.
3. Kina, 6-month old daughter of Frontline's Johan and Walda, with respiratory problems.



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