



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

1 April 2004

“Why this waste?” asked those who expressed an artificial concern for the poor.* I wonder if the question was remembered a few hours later as they watched Him hanging on the cross. The odor of a sweet smell was still about Him in the midst of His suffering because an anonymous woman made an extravagant sacrifice. Let us demonstrate devotion, both in life and at death, whether at a funeral or a feast. Be an encourager.

Don't wait till someone dies to send roses. * Matthew 26:6-13

Action in Africa and Progress in Poland

AFRICA

Sandstorms in southern **Sudan** delayed the delivery of needed supplies for several days last month. Work ground to a gritty halt as all mission flights were suspended from neighboring countries. Eventually, ITMI's **Tim Keller** and team managed to charter a DC-3 "Dakota" and airlift nearly 4-tons of Bibles (mostly in the Dinka language) plus enough materials to furnish 20 schools with Christian textbooks. He equipped several evangelists with the new Bible Media backpacks. These are prototype, rainproof audio-visual kits, com-



4 tons of Bibles - much needed in Sudan

plete with colorful flipcharts and 9-hours of Bible teaching tapes, from Genesis to the book of Acts, in various languages. The kit includes the Gospel Recordings Messenger, a rugged tape recorder that can operate on solar power or is hand cranked, thus eliminating the need for batteries (and there is no electricity!).



Tim Keller and newly equipped evangelists

Tim endured another bout of malaria, but recovered in time to make a second trip to the mountains before returning to base.

KwaSizabantu (KSB) is located among the Zulu nation of Natal, South Africa. The mission has its own airstrip (equipped for night landings), an auditorium seating 10,000 people, a hospital, high



KwaSizabantu from the air

school and college and a 24-hour radio station. But KSB is more than the facilities. They grow all their own food, produce their own meat, poultry, milk and dairy products, plus bottling natural spring water for nationwide distribution, but KSB is more than the amenities. KSB is the epicenter of an ongoing revival amid the Zulu nation.

Now, KSB has branches in Europe. Next month they sponsor a Ministers Conference in Switzerland. ITMI's **Piotr Zaremba** and **Bill Bathman** are two of the speakers.

Rev. **Piotr Zaremba** presses on with the Polish Bible Translation Pro-

Thoughts on Islam

“Muslims are peace loving people just like us.”

“It’s only a small, radical element that are terrorists.”

“We all pray to the same god.” “We must be tolerant.”



How many times have you heard

some political or religious leader confidently assert such nonsense? Why do we assign to Muslims motives that do not exist and virtues they do not possess? Many Christians – out of ignorance of the basic tenets of Islam – insist that they are peace loving people who pray to the same deity we do. Please get it straight: Allah is not Jehovah. It is blasphemy to say we pray to the same god.

If that were true, then why during the first Gulf War did the Saudi government forbid President George H.W. Bush to say “grace” over a Thanksgiving meal he was having with his troops who, by the way, were defending the Saudis against the aggressive ambitions of Saddam Hussein? Unable to pray without offending his Muslim hosts and thank Jehovah God for the food

“Please get it straight:
Allah is not
Jehovah.”

about to be eaten, President Bush flew out to the USS Saratoga and had supper with the sailors.

Jihad is a basic tenet of Islam. Mohammed, their prophet, declared, “We will spread Islam by the sword.” As a result, during the first 200 years marauding Islamic hoards surged across North Africa, around the Mediterranean basin and into Spain, slaughtering 50% of all the Christians in the world. This aggression ignited the Crusades as the murdering masses spread north into France and northwest from Turkey through the Balkans. Europe was seriously threatened and the Crusades were in reaction to this threat. A long and very brutal series of wars and Crusades followed, lasting several hundred years. By the time militant Islam was brought under control the utter devastation brought on the Dark Ages in Europe.

Over the last 100 years Christians have failed to evangelize the Muslims. Now they are rising up again to kill and destroy. Perhaps we are reaping what we have sown. We have tolerated evil in our midst. We know that murder, adultery, and rape are sin, but we watch it on TV as part of our “entertainment.” Hollywood has exported this moral garbage around the world. Small wonder then that our Islamic critics refer to us – US as the “Great Satan.”

Now we are at war. It is W.W. III. It is unlike any war we have fought before. To win, we must fight as we did in WWII, on two fronts. In the Second World War

America fought in Europe and in the South Pacific. The country was united and mobilized after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. But remember more Americans died in the murderous and cowardly attacks on 9/11 than at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

For survival sake we must fight again on the physical side. We must root out and destroy every terrorist cell. But we will not win the war on that front alone. There is an even greater foe on the spiritual side. In this battle *we wrestle not against flesh and blood*, or against cowardly cold-blooded terrorists, but *against principalities and powers* of darkness long unchallenged by seeker-friendly churches unwilling to face the evil forces in our midst lest we cause some discomfort to our contented congregations. God, help us!

If the Islamic religion were peaceful, as some pathetic apologists would have us believe, then why aren’t the Imams (their preachers) crying out against the wanton slaughter? Have you ever heard any of their voices condemning terrorism? No, because *Jihad* is their version of Evangelism Explosion.

It’s time for someone to speak up and point out that these Islamic religious leaders are total hypocrites. Instead of preaching peace they urge and inspire teenagers to strap on bombs and mingle with the multitude to kill as many as possible when they commit suicide. Why don’t the Imams lead by example?

Bill Bathman – Cape Town, South Africa

Dear Team,

The sheer wonder of *life* and the grace of God never cease to amaze me. The Lord has blessed us with extended years of health and strength to continue preaching the Word to all who will listen – and the number is growing. Last month provided opportunities to preach in Hermanus and Durbanville. This month I'm preaching in Cape Town, before leaving after Easter for Eastern Europe.

Recently, Harriett was asked by several women in our Church to lead them in forming a prayer team. They meet at *Pennireef* on Friday mornings. The impact of their intercession is making a decided difference here in Cape Town. Prayer changes people and people change things.

Last week, after I preached the morning service at D'Urbanvale Community Church, we took the long way home. It was a scenic route through Hottentot country toward the inland mountains. We stopped for lunch in Franschhoek, a picturesque old town settled by the Huguenots, French Protestant followers of John Calvin, who were severely persecuted and forced into exile in the 17th century. Many came to South Africa with their culture and cuisine. We dined, under a mahogany tree in the garden of an old farm house built in 1860, on fresh *Smoorsnoek* (a local line fish), sweet potatoes and rice.

Charl van Wyk will be in America April 24-May 3. He was at Church on that Sunday evening in 1993, when terrorist burst in and shot up the congregation. Letlapa Mphahlele, the commander of the terrorist group that attacked his church is now helping Frontline Fellowship distribute Christian books to libraries in Black Townships around South Africa. You must hear his story! I hope you can meet him somewhere on his itinerary. Kristi or Debbie at the ITMI office can give you details. His book, *Shooting Back* is a great read.



Several churches have booked meetings for my **summer 2004** US itinerary. God has called me to *do the work of an evangelist*. (2 Timothy 4:5) If I may be of service to you in this way please contact Kristi at ITMI. *One sows another reaps*; let's win souls for Jesus!

Learning to effectively intercede

This month we welcome **Nadine Peterson** to our administrative staff. She joins Kristi and Debbie and will replace Ron this summer while he serves in Poland.

Visiting ITMI's **website www.intouchmission.org** is a great way to keep in touch! Thanks to ITMI's Chairman, Dr. **Tim Ruchti**, I can regularly updates this page with news from overseas, plus editorials and devotionals. This month I've reviewed Dan Brown's controversial book **The Da Vinci Code**. Log on for a visit.

Yours in His grip,

Bill Bathman

P.S. Please pray for non-violent elections here in South Africa on April 14.

(Continued from page 1)

POLAND

ject. Having completed the New Testament at the end of last year, the team is working hard on the Old Testament. Already they have finished Genesis through I Samuel. Psalms and the Minor Prophets are next. The Church continues to grow. Two weeks ago they baptized seven people.

Coming to Poland soon...

The New Life Center! Richard and Brooke Nungesser have been blessed by blessing others, especially the homeless. Their Bread of Life ministry has been a life saving work among this forgotten and neglected people group. They have seen lives transformed by the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Many have been saved and followed the Lord in baptism. Some have dedicated their lives to God in full time service.

Nungessers were greatly encouraged last month by a generous gift of \$80,000 toward the purchase of property on the edge of Poznan – Poland’s second largest city. With the possession of the property also comes the

responsibility of clean up and renovations. Lots of willing hands are needed to help in this aspect of the project. What about your hands? You could spend a significant summer in Poland and make a dramatic difference. Contact Kristi at ITMI if you are able to go. The **NLC** is scheduled to open in early October 2004.

Already the BoL ministry has impacted surrounding communities. Part of the NLC vision is to purchase a tractor (what about you, John dear?) and be able to reach out to its farming neighbors, helping them to cultivate and harvest their own land at affordable costs. Please consider giving to God through the fruits of potato farming. *Polish* fries – now that has a patriotic ring!

After 26 years as an accountant with Texaco **Ron Dissly** took early retirement and with his wife **Jane**, a registered nurse, took off for Poland in 1996 to work with Rev. Piotr Zaremba. They moved from *success* in the corporate and medical world to *significance* in the overall plan of Jesus Christ to build His Church. Their ministry: teaching English as a second language in the Kompas program. Through this

they were able to witness for the Lord and win precious souls to Christ.

In 2001, after 5 years on the field, the Disslys returned to Arizona, where Ron works now as Financial Officer for ITMI. They will return to Poland this summer (June-September 2004) and participate in three language camps under Kompas and several Church camps directed by Polish Baptists churches.

Ron estimates that they still need \$2,300 to cover their expenses. If you are unable to go to Poland this summer maybe you’d like to help send Ron and Jane. Please post your tax-deductible gift to ITMI designated “Dissly.”



Kristi Messick and Ron at ITMI

Shooting Back - The Right and Duty of Self-Defense

by Charl van Wyk

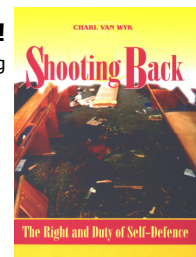
ORDER NOW!!!

\$10.00+ shipping

“Grenades were exploding in flashes of light. Pews shattered under the blasts...We were being attacked!”

“Instinctively, I knelt down behind the bench in front of me and pulled out my .38 Special snub-nosed revolver ...”

Charl van Wyk was an ordinary Christian man until the day he was called upon to be extraordinary. The date was 25 July 1993 and the event was what was to become known as the St James Massacre.



VISIT

Our new and updated web site at www.intouchmission.org for the latest news and opportunities.

For Praise . . .

1. Sandstorm stopped so the mission plane could deliver supplies to Sudan.
2. Very generous gift to purchase property in Poland for Bread of Life ministry.
3. Increased opportunities in Africa for Bathmans to preach, teach and mentor.

For Prayer . . .

1. Peaceful elections in South African on April 14.
2. Charl van Wyk’s US itinerary April 24-May 3.
3. Bill’s trip to Poland later this month & May Ministers conference in Switzerland.

Authorized to Accept



2115 E. Cedar Street, Suite 1 • Tempe, Arizona 85281 • (480) 968-4100
E-Mail: itmi@intouchmission.org • FAX: (480) 968-5462 • Outside Arizona: 1-888-918-4100

