



# Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

## IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 May 2004

**A great man of God once said** to me, “Beware the barrenness of a busy life.” I knew in principle what he meant, but I didn’t heed his advice. Result: there was a time when I dried up spiritually and the Lord put me on a shelf for almost a year. Looking back I can see how much the Lord cared for me then; how He wanted me to develop a better balance in my life between dynamic and devotion. **Adoration needs to precede activity.**

## Good News in the Nuba Mountains

### SUDAN

ITMI’s **Tim Keller** has just returned from a 2-month 10,000-mile 7-nation trip across Africa from Cape Town to the Nuba Mountains in South Sudan. His co-worker was Canadian missionary **Lawren Guldmond**. Together they conducted Biblical Worldview Seminars, preached in churches, distributed tracts in markets and chased down thieves that stole Tim’s computer out of the mission vehicle. All routine stuff for a modern missionary retracing the steps of David Livingstone.



Tim teaching in a thatched church

Islam is gaining ground in many parts of central and eastern Africa. A pastor in Malawi told the team that Muslims have infiltrated their former Christian country and now hold strategic positions in every area of society; business, education and government. They are buying real estate, building mosques and establishing schools all with petrol dollars from the Middle East.

In Mundri, Sudan Tim noticed a big increase of goods for sale in the shops since the cease-fire. There is fresh water from a number of new wells in the Nuba Mountains now that the fighting has stopped. In one provincial town a Christian leader was skeptical that the peace would

last. After all they’ve been at war with the Arabs for over 20 years. More than two million Christians have died at the hands of the Islamic forces from North Sudan during that time. Others were more optimistic, building houses and planting crops in the hope that peace will prevail.

We are amazed at

the political astuteness of these people. They are watching the elections in America this year. There is a widespread feeling: “If Bush wins, the cease-fire will hold. If not, its back to fighting Muslims.” The NGOs are taking steps to improve water security for the mountain fortress – just in case. Other NGOs are removing land mines from valley areas so farmers can safely till the soil.

In past trips to the Nuba, Frontline teams entered the area clandestinely and had to continually evade National Islamic Front (NIF) government forces. This time their flight was pre-approved. The team distributed four boxes of Christian literature in Arabic in one market town, but many outstretched hands went away empty.

Trips to the Nuba Mountains are made by chartered aircraft. Each flight is fully loaded. On the trip in the team take as many supplies as possible; this includes medicine, Bibles, bikes, textbooks and evangelism kits. While there they preach, conduct seminars and on this trip distributed 1,428 copies of the Nuba-Moro New Testament plus 5 cartons of textbooks

# An Ecclesiastical Pearl Harbor

**It was unexpected and without warning.** Like Pearl Harbor, it was a sneak attack designed to inflict maximum damage. The Founder and Director of our sister-Mission in South Africa, Dr. Peter Hammond, was the subject of slander by the Pastor and Elders of a small suburban church in the mid-west. Several charges against him were cybercast across the world. ITMI immediately convened a Board of Inquiry (BOI) to examine the charges. ITMI Director Steve Evers went to Africa on a 5-week fact finding mission. For obvious *conflict-of-interests* reasons I was not a member of the BOI, but along with others conducted an independent investigation.

ITMI has finished a five-month in depth examination of all the charges against Peter and “concluded that the charges against Dr. Hammond are not substantiated and are contradicted by a credible body of evidence.” The BOI Final Report is available from our office or website on a need-to-know basis. This category includes any person who has received the accusations against Peter Hammond and is interested in our response.

Our investigation revealed that this tactic is a rapidly growing phenomenon. The list of high-profile targets is very impressive. Christian leaders experiencing ferocious attack include Franklin Graham, Dr. James Dobson, Dr. Jerry Falwell, Dr. D. James Kennedy, David Wilkerson and many others, but these satanic attacks are not confined to celebrity clerics. They are designed to destroy any valid and dynamic ministry.

Dr. Guy Greenfield’s book ***The Wounded***

**“...a growing phenomenon, a threat to ministry.”**

***Minister*** exposes the pathological antagonist – a rapidly growing threat to the ministry. Who are these people? How can we recognize them? How can we help them overcome this sickness? ITMI has a review of this excellent eye-opening book on our website, entitled “Dealing With Pathological Antagonists.” Please read it.

The trend is alarming. Pastors, missionaries and other dedicated servants of Christ are under satanic attack. Some feel isolated, cut off from true friends who understand. Satan tells them they are all alone, their problem is unique – “Just quit, give up, you don’t need this kind of hassle.”

Research shows the problem to be increasing in epidemic proportions. Consider this: if Satan cannot stop a man from trusting Christ as his Savior, he has lost that man as a candidate for hell. If that man hears God’s call to the ministry, then he becomes a liability to Satan. However if the devil can attack that man and discourage him to

the point that he leaves the ministry then he has won a great victory. ITMI wants to conserve the dedication.

Satan is the accuser of the Brethren. His agents are frequently recruited from within the Christian church. If he chose his cadres from without – from among the godless, perverted, hedonistic crowd – they would be easily recognized and more fervently opposed. Christians would circle the wagons and prepare for battle. Resistance to external assault is unified. But when attacked from within there is a natural reluctance to resist (even with facts to refute falsehood) lest it be considered unchristian or to aggressively fight back lest it look like self-justification.

So instead of defending a brother unjustly attacked we abandon him to the antagonist vulture and turn our backs while he is torn to pieces. Such vile sights are not pleasant. It upsets the comfortable cocoon in which we have ensconced ourselves. How tragic that the Devil has convinced many brethren that this is the truly “spiritual” way. No, it is not! Satan is *a liar from the beginning*.

“*We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but...*” that is not to say real flesh and blood people are not involved. Some make themselves available to Satan by giving way to inward sin; jealousy, anger or covetousness. God alone is the final judge. We can examine their fruit: *a man’s foes are those of his own household*. They are Christian double agents, purporting to serve God they are in fact promoting Satan’s agenda to destroy a ministry. There is no other conclusion. Check the fruit.

Unreasonable objection to rebuttal hinders resolution to this kind of internecine conflict. It freezes the victim into inactivity and drives them to despair. Some are convinced, “No one will believe me.” There is a school of thought that teaches, falsely, “You may defend yourself as long as you don’t attack your attacker.” If we’d used that strategy after Pearl Harbor we’d all be speaking Japanese today.

Why should we be surprised when Christians betray one another? Judas did it for 30 pieces of silver. Sadly, there are *friends* who will turn on you for even less today. There will always be a Sanballat and Tobiah present to dishearten and despair. These types are “used” by if not “sent” by Satan.

Jesus Christ said, “*The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.*” The Prophet Joel said, “*Put in the sickle; for the harvest is ripe.*” How tragic when some of the workers put the sickle into other workers, instead of the harvest. God, help us!

Dear Team,

This first week of May is the Ministers Conference in Zurich, Switzerland. The European branch of KwaSizabantu sponsors it. I'm privileged to be one of the speakers. Immediately after the Conference I'm booked to jet back to Cape Town and finish this itinerary with meetings there.

The elections in South Africa last month were relatively peaceful for which we sincerely praise the Lord. Sadly there was some bloodshed in KwaZulu Natal. The communist ANC won 70% of the vote, which is cause for concern. They can now change the Constitution and redistribute land as Zimbabwe has done – causing widespread starvation as previously productive farms go uncultivated.

By contrast, Zambia's government is very open to the Gospel. ITMI's co-worker Bishop Bwanali Phiri provided the President and every Member of Parliament with a copy of Peter Hammond's newest book, ***Biblical Principles for Africa***. Just back from his trip north in February, Tim reported widespread distribution to Zambian leadership

Last month Peter Hammond and I were invited to a private dinner with Mr. Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). The hostess was our longtime friend Mrs. Ingrid Pickard. He's 85 years old now, but still very active in Zimbabwe. He was very interested in the PowerPoint presentation of current mission work in Zimbabwe. ITMI is becoming more involved this year in that needy land.

The ITMI Board of Inquiry's Final Report has finally been completed. Thanks Dr. **Tim Ruchti** for a job well-done. You may remember that last November/December our Director, **Steve Evers**, spent 5-weeks in Africa [see January "In Touch Monthly"] interviewing more than a score of people, many of whom gave written testimony of their personal knowledge to facts refuting the slanderous charges against Dr. Peter Hammond. This thorough investigation concluded that the charges were "not substantiated and are contradicted by a credible body of evidence." A copy of the 34-page, 19,000 word Final Report is available from our office on request and on a need-to-know basis.



**Mr. Smith briefed on Zimbabwe Mission work**

Last month I casually mentioned my review of Dan Brown's **The Da Vinci Code** and said that it was on our ITMI website. Wow! We've had more 'hits' on that site than on any other article I've ever written. If you haven't read it, log on and check it out.



The Tempe office is in a serious countdown to next month's wedding of our Administrator, **Kristi Messick** to her handsome fiancé **David Blanchard**. If you're anywhere near Grace Community Church on June 11, stop by and throw some rice. Harriett and I plan to be there to help them tie the knot. What joy!

Yours in His grip,

Bill Bathman

(Continued from page 1)

for primary schools.

Days later, when the plane returned to take the team back to Kenya, it brought a large shipment of Bibles. As you can imagine, it costs a lot to charter these flights, but expenses are kept to a bare minimum. Some pilots raise their own personal support. The major cost is time and fuel for the plane, and that runs several thousand dollars each trip. But when you divide that by the number of men in the team and consider the huge amount of supplies delivered, it's a very cost-effective method of missionary evangelism.

## ZAMBIA

“...I was in prison, and ye came unto me.” Matthew 25:36

Elias has been in prison for 12 years. He went in as a youth. He has no trade or vocation. But in

prison he found Life everlasting when he trusted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. Pastor Eugene Kalunga, Headmaster of ITMI's Excellence Christian Academy in Kabwe, Zambia shared with me that Elias shows a lot of zeal for the Lord. He desires to be discipled and make a life for himself by becoming employed and keeping a job.

Elias' release from prison is imminent. Would you like to have a part in his rehab? One of our US constituents has been donating funds periodically since the end of 2001 so that Pastor Eugene and his ECA team could minister to him. They have been taking food and personal toiletry items to Elias regularly since the beginning of 2002. ECA will employ him as a carpenter on the school premises and house him. This would allow him to earn a wage and provide training for future employment.

Pastor Eugene verifies that he needs discipleship in order to be able to walk uprightly when he's

released from prison. Arrangements have been made for someone from the local church to disciple him. It will take two years.

We've worked out that it will cost just under \$165 per month for ECA to train, disciple and rehabilitate this man. Please help us restore Elias to a full and productive life. *“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”*

Kristi Messick, Administrator



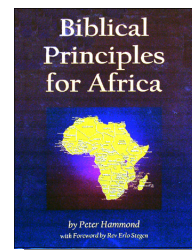
ECA Staff - Pastor Kalunga and Steve Evers (on right)

### **Biblical Principles for Africa** by: Peter Hammond \$7.00 + s&h

“I feel that this small book cannot be only for Africa but the world at large. It will help both the African Christian Leaders as well as world Christian Leaders.” -Rev. Canon Kenneth Baringwa

This compact book is a powerful discipleship tool ...we are hoping to obtain sufficient **sponsorship** to entrust key editors, pastors, teachers, businessmen and government officials throughout South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Southern Sudan, Ghana and Nigeria.

— Consider purchasing one copy for you and 2 or 3 for a needy African national —we will ship it for you—



VISIT Our new and updated web site at [www.intouchmission.org](http://www.intouchmission.org) for the latest news and opportunities.

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

1. God's protection on Tim Keller during his 2-month field trip to Zambia and Sudan.
2. Growing effectiveness of ITMI's website so capably managed by Dr. Tim Ruchti.
3. South African elections on April 14th were relatively peaceful.
4. Good reception by *Zambian President & MPs of Biblical Principles for Africa.*

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

1. Ron & Jane Dissly as they minister in Poland this summer.
2. ITMI's Board as they consider new applicants, US & foreign, for mission work.

Authorized to Accept  



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

