



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 August 2004

Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel, is not a suggestion – it’s a command. But contrary to popular perception it was not our Lord’s last command. His last words to the Church: “**Remember**” and “**Repent**.” Can you remember the fire that burned in your heart when you first trusted Jesus for your salvation? Be honest, has your relationship cooled since then? Accept His offer of restoration and repent. Let Him rekindle the fire.

Touching the Heart of God

SOUTH AFRICA

There was unusual urgency in the way the phone rang. Jene answered. The Police in Simon’s Town, a few miles along the coast from their home, were on the line. “Mrs. Des Fountain, we have a small baby here that’s just been dropped on its head by her drunken mother, whom we have in custody.”

Visions of what the child might look like came immediately to Jene’s mind. She’d seen it all before. Babies, small children, the most vulnerable of society abused and often abandoned. Jene anticipated the officer’s question; “Can you take care of this little girl?” Her reply was instant, “Bring her to us!”

The authorities were relieved to find a home in the middle of the night, an emergency shelter where a tiny, mistreated baby could be safely looked after and loved. Minutes later the patrol car pulled up in front of **Eshcol**. Graham and Jene were startled to see such a tiny, living, human being – one of the youngest they had ever cared for.

She was 7-days old and barely weighed 5 pounds. She had no clothes, not even a diaper. She was wrapped in a filthy blanket,

smearred with feces and reeking with the acrid smell of urine and cheap wine. Her mother had been on a week-long binge and hadn’t bothered to even give the child a name. The officer called her Marianne.



Marianne in good hands

The police had witnessed the baby being dropped and were concerned. Her little eyes were going in different directions. Des Fountains took her to the local hospital, where she was carefully examined. “Look after her tonight,” the doctor said, “and if she starts to convulse or vomit, just bring her in.” Graham and Jene took her home to Eshcol, but didn’t sleep much that night.

That was almost three months ago. Today after a million hugs

and kisses Jene and Graham’s love therapy has Marianne in full blossom. She weighs over 10 pounds now. It wasn’t easy. Subsequent trips to the hospital revealed that she has FAS (fetal alcohol syndrome) and a heart murmur. Des Fountains *called for the elders of their church and let them pray over her.* James 5:14 Your prayers will help too!

Her case is still under investigation by the police. The authorities are seeking a foster home to give more permanent shelter. Graham and Jene know that tiny Marianne did not appear on Eshcol’s doorstep by accident. God has a plan for her healing and spiritual growth. Des Fountains are a vital part of His plan, and so are you.

“It’s so hard to let them go” Jene mused as the time draws near, “and many tears are shed.” The Welfare Officer understood and counseled her, “When you stop crying, you may as well stop doing what you are doing.” Love always costs.

Jene told ITMI, “We must be open and vulnerable when we love. But the price is worth it when we are the ones honored to be receiving love from these little ones.

What's Missing in the War on Terrorism?

“We could ultimately lose this war if for reasons of *political correctness* we fail to recognize it for what it is – a religious conflict.”

President George W. Bush has correctly identified the greatest problem facing his administration and has accordingly declared “War on Terrorism.” We need to pray for our President and for all those in authority.

The current administration has outlined a strategy for this war. “We will fight them on many fronts,” the President declared. The theaters of operations include economic: we will deprive them of funds; diplomatic: we will disown their friends; intelligence: we will deny them facts; and military: we will destroy their forces. Good start. Sounds like war, but what is missing in this picture? Have we failed to correctly identify the problem?

We have been told that this is a new and different kind of war. But relatively few have identified the *unique* characteristic of the struggle. To answer the question in the title of this article, we must acknowledge that **this is a spiritual war**. We *wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*.

Let us never forget that the radical Islamic forces declared *Jihad* (holy war) on us and attacked us first, long before 9/11/01. In the previous 20 years, since 1981, there had been 7,581 Muslim terrorist attacks out of 9,737 terror attacks worldwide. I believe this current war started in 1979 when the Iranians took over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, and held our personnel hostage for 444 days. When the Muslims saw we would not react, they bombed our Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon in 1983 killing 63 and later the same year killed over 240 US Marines in their barracks.

This launched an ‘open season’ on American citizens. Other Muslims piled on. The Libyans bombed a *café* in Berlin where our GI’s hang out and downed a Pan-Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988. The first Islamic attack on New York’s World Trade Center was in 1993. Then in 1996 they bombed the Khobar Towers, a US Military complex in Saudi Arabia, killing 19. Two years later they simultaneously bombed US Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania slaughtering 224 and seriously injuring 4,500. In 2000, while

the USS Cole was refueling in Aden, Yemen an Islamic suicide boat team hit the ship, killing 17 sailors and marines. Then on 9/11 thousands were killed when they downed the World Trade Center twin towers in New York and hit the Pentagon. **That got our attention!**

Muslims are convinced that America is the Great Satan, and they will gain brownie points with Allah if they destroy us – U.S. They believe the time has come to wage an all-out war because their goal is to establish a worldwide Islamic theocracy. We could ultimately lose this war if for reasons of *political correctness* we fail to recognize it for what it is – a religious conflict.

Britain, our closest ally in two World Wars and now in the War on Terrorism, has a big problem. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the UK. That explains why Prime Minister Tony Blair has so much domestic opposition to his partnership with the US. France has a 20% Muslim population, (which outnumber Catholics) and their government was in bed with Saddam and the UN in the Oil for Food Program. Germany has an Islamic problem with its large number of *gast arbeiter*s. Russia now fears an Islamic revolution from its various *stans* more than they worried about US ‘imperialism’ during the Cold War. Even China is sending troops to its Western front to stem an Islamic tide.

America is seen worldwide as apologetically backing away from its Christian roots. We’ve taken the Bible and prayer out of our public schools, the Ten Commandments out of our Courts and our revisionist history books have removed all evidence of Christian heritage and influence by our Founding Fathers. Our lawmakers are even confused over a simple definition of “marriage.” The Islamic conclusion: now is the time to strike.

The world has changed since 9/11. Strategy for this war is planned by the mullahs not the military. Don’t expect a fair shake from any sheik; they believe in separation – separating your head from your body. It’s time for Christians to come out of the closet and let our light shine if we really believe that Jesus Christ is *the Way, the Truth and the Life*. That’s what this war is all about.

Bill Bathman – Tempe, Arizona

Next month: What if the unthinkable happens and we lose this war? Remember, when God’s chosen people, Israel, turned away from Jehovah and served ‘other’ gods, they lost wars and were repeatedly carried off captive by their enemies.

Dear Team,

ITMI's Director, **Steve Evers**, is in Romania. He left the later part of last month. He's in good company now criss-crossing the country with Dr. **Adrian Ban**, visiting various projects with which our mission is involved. This includes Christian Business outreach and the Romanian Poor Fund, **Casa Dorca**, the children's home in Prilipet, and a new ministry to infirm senior citizens in Arad (more details about that next month). In addition to his teaching ministry at Emanuel University, Adi and his wife Ema have a vital work among young married couples at their Church. They are also busy translating my book, *Going Through*, into Romanian.

Please pray earnestly for Steve. His responsibilities are monumental. He joined ITMI full time two years ago this summer. It was a big step of faith to leave the corporate business world and become a fulltime missionary. With a wife and three teenage children he didn't really have sufficient time to raise personal support for himself and family. God called him and he answered, *here am I, send me*. It's much easier for him to raise funds for mission projects than for himself as a missionary. I thought you'd like to know, so you can share this need with your Church and Sunday School class. Tax-deductible gifts can be sent to ITMI designated for missionary "Steve Evers." Whether your gift is large or small it will be gratefully received. Every missionary's life is made up of little things.



Steve and the Pop family in Arad, Romania

From Romania Steve will travel to Poland for ministry with ITMI's **Piotr Zaremba**. He will be involved in everything we are a part of and everyone we're associated with in that vital land – Summer Youth Camps, ESL programs, Bread of Life outreach, national workers – you name it. I can't wait to read his report and see his pictures.

Tucker and **Meredith Boone** are in their final countdown for departure to Poland. They are ITMI's latest career missionaries. Tucker made a quick trip to their target country earlier this summer to make some preliminary preparations. They are scheduled to leave next month and still face a zillion things to do. I know the feeling.

We are in regular receipt of some wonderful stories of how God is changing the lives of some very precious children in South Africa through the kind and loving ministry of **Graham** and **Jene Des Fountain**. **Eshcol**, their concept of cluster homes, is beginning to take shape. Their time-proven ministry is respected and appreciated by local authorities who continually entrust abused or abandoned kids into their care. We'll keep you posted.

My commentary [on p. 2] is the first in a two-part analysis of the growing problem we face today with terrorism. Islam offers a way of life, but not Life. For a follower of Mohammed there is no hope or assurance of eternal life. The only hope a Muslim has of gaining paradise is to die a martyr's death. How convenient. Since dead men tell no tales, no one has ever come back to tell them how false their deadly doctrine really is. ITMI is increasingly involved in telling them about Jesus – the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Yours in His grip,

Bill Bathman

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To have them hug us, hold us and finally trust us! What a privilege to be in His service.”

Your gifts last month to Eshcol through ITMI were generous and very much appreciated. The need is still great and the goal of a larger, more adequate “cluster home” is still several months away. Please, be generous and stay tuned.

In January 04, while **Richard**

POLAND

and **Brooke** Nungesser were in the US raising funds for the **New Life Center**, the Polish government passed a new building law requiring a Master Plan before any changes can be made. How does this affect the NLC? It added unexpected complications to purchasing the property they had been praying about for two years. Their solution: *wait upon the Lord*.

While waiting and praying the Lord sent in additional funds (“*Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.*” Isaiah 65:24) which enabled them to consider a larger property – a former palace, built in the 1930s. This includes an additional 2-story home (for a family), a barn, garage,

vegetable garden, fruit trees, two ponds and a small park on the land.

Nungessers ask for your prayers, that the official government paperwork will soon be forthcoming, and that they will have God’s assurance that this is the right place for the NLC. Richard says, “Discernment and the right decision are better than speed and the wrong [decision].” Pray too for Mateusz, ITMI’s approved national missionary helping in the Bread of Life program. He has been accepted to study at the University of Pozan. (See his newsletter on our web site for further details:

www.intouchmission.org)

Update on Michael Banicki.

Your response to last month’s news about this 10-year old Polish boy suffering from Niemann-Pick disease has been very encouraging. As a result ITMI has been able to send some significant financial help to the family. They are very grateful for your prayers and practical help.

Both the Niemann-Pick Disease Foundation and the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation replied to ITMI’s inquiry concerning Michael, but were unable to offer any financial assistance. Their work in this area is primarily research. The info from NPFD was informative, par-

ticularly re Type C. ITMI is helping the Banicki family in several areas of ongoing need just now.

Summer Teams Youth Camps are some of the most fruitful evangelistic endeavors this time of the year. ITMI’s **Jim LaRose** is working with **Piotr Zaremba** in camps for foster children in Poznan. **Ron & Jane** Dissly are busy serving in a variety of camps teaching English as a second language in Poland. Remember the impact that Camp had on you when you were a kid? **Coralanne** Nungesser is helping her brother **Richard** and his wife **Brooke**, ITMI career missionaries, in their broad spectrum of ministry which includes **Bread of Life**, an outreach to the homeless. **Bob** and **Sue** Taber are enjoying the first summer in their 5-year commitment. **Tucker** Boone has returned from 3-weeks in Poland, just in time to pack up **Meredith** and their two beautiful little Boones and head off to Poznan next month as ITMI’s newest career missionaries. They have over 90% of their ‘start-up’ expenses and 65% of their monthly support.

For Praise . . .

1. Encouraging response to last month’s special prayer requests. The need continues.
2. New release by Dr. Peter Hammond, *Discipleship Handbook*.
3. Unprecedented growth of ITMI in Poland, both in U.S. missionaries and nationals.
4. God’s blessing on the Great Commission Camp in Cape Town, South Africa.

For Prayer . . .

1. ITMI’s Director, **Steve Evers** currently ministering in Romania and Poland.
2. **Graham & Jene** Des Fountain’s **Eshcol**, a Christian home for abused children.
3. **Michael Banicki** (10), suffering from Niemann-Pick Syndrome, and his family.
4. **Summer Teams** from ITMI in Eastern Europe – especially Poland.

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