



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 September 2004

God is in the restoration business. David's heart was heavy because of his secret sin. One day, when he could stand it no longer, the palace servants heard his mournful cry, "*Have mercy on me, O God! Wash me... cleanse me from my sin.*" Psalm 51 The LORD heard and created a pure heart and a steadfast spirit in His servant. Are there ashes on the altar of your heart today; cold remains of a fire that once burned hot for God? Let Him reignite your soul. He can give you *beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and a garment of praise for the spirit of despair.* He is always the great I AM.

ITMI's Director Just Back From Europe

As I was leaving Poland on the last day of a 25 day Eastern European ministry trip through 6 countries, a dear Polish brother shared with me something he had read from John Piper on missions. He started by saying, "There are 3 types of people when it comes to missions: those that go, those that send and those that disobey."

Well, our Father has allowed me to go, and those of you who pray and support our own brothers and sisters in Romania and Poland are the senders. We can only pray for those that choose to disobey. Space and time permit me to share only a few of the many opportunities for ministry "we" were involved in while in Poland and Romania

ROMANIA

Having rarely visited places that one could consider *holy ground*, it was a new experience for me, especially when you consider that most *holy ground* is not found up in the back woods of a remote Romanian countryside. This special place that God has so often visited is know as Camp Plopu. It is a place with 21 years of verifiable, godly interven-



Camp Plopu

tion in the lives of young people that needed a real and genuine visit from God. The Lord has so blessed his activities at this acre and a half field of grass, tucked up in a remote valley between two mountain ridges, and a 6 kilometer walk from the nearest train station, that Christian leaders around Romania and as far away as Australia and the U.S., claim that their lives were irreversibly focused on God's plan during their visits here.

Camp Plopu has only one very small, sagging, mud brick building that cannot be used now for safety reasons. The lack of facilities has not kept this place from being used to dramatically change lives of many thousands of young people over the last 21 years. Please pray for Mitrut and Alina Stiopu as they allow God to use them to grow the next leaders in Romania.

Five hours north of Camp Plopu, is Oradea, the home of Dr. Adrian and Ema Ban. Visualize with me someone that has been so blessed by God as to have ac-

complished a U.S. earned Masters and Doctorate degree and had offers to serve in multiple U.S. ministries. However, the burning desire to make a difference in his home country among his own people, compels him to accept a \$150 per month position at the local Baptist University in Oradea, in order to carry out his true desire and ministry.

By teaching Biblical studies in the university, Dr. Adrian Ban has the opportunity to shape and mold the next generation of Romanian Christian leadership, but that alone



Edward, Ema, Adrian, Andy, Thomas Ban

Consider the Unthinkable: “What if We Lose This War?”

The passengers going through security at Logan and JFK on the morning of 9/11/01 had no idea they were boarding weapons of mass destruction.

We are at war. That is a fact. It started 25 years ago with the Iranians taking US Embassy personnel hostage for 444 days. Islamic terrorists have been attacking Americans ever since, at the time and place of their choosing. This could go on another 25 years, or longer. It needs to stop, now – and we can do it, with God’s help.

To realistically consider the consequences of losing, we must understand that the determined goal of Islamic terrorists is world domination with the establishment of a Muslim theocracy and the imposition of Sharia law on the victims. In their view this is a religious war. We are the Great Satan.

They are counting on wearing us down. If we tire of or retire from this war, we lose. If we quit in Iraq and Afghanistan the attacks on America will not subside. They will increase. The Islamic terrorists want us dead, not just quiet.

Now that the war has begun in earnest, Muslims are bent on conquering the West and annihilating its culture. Politically correct Europeans, long out of touch with their Christian roots, are blind to the mortal threat presented by Islamic expansionism. They have vilified their own culture and many have embraced anti-Americanism in pandering to every request from increasingly powerful Muslim communities.

Last month terrorists targeted several Christian Churches in Iraq, each strategically timed to coincide with worship services and therefore inflict maximum damage. Twelve were killed and over 60 wounded. There are approximately 750,000 Christians in Iraq, down from over a million before the first Gulf War, but growing now since the recent liberation.

If America quits now it will send a signal to every peace-loving nation on earth that the US is no longer the premier bastion of freedom in the world. No other nation would coalesce with us in the struggle for fear of terrorist reprisal. They would see us as impotent. If the United States can’t stop the Islamic terrorists, who can – or will?

Lesser nations will not be safe if America fails. Today, *the train in Spain stays mainly* in Madrid. They quit. If we quit, the Islamic terrorists will pick off other non-Muslim nations one by one with increasing ease. France, with a history of caving in at the first suggestion of trouble will be the next large nation to fall, probably within two years.

If we lose this war, either by default or fatigue, the effect

will be universal. It will affect every area of our life from education, to industrial production, from financial institutions to freedom of worship – everything. What nation would trade or have any dealings with us when confronted with Islamic disapproval. There is no area of life that will remain untouched or unchanged if we lose.

Islam in Arabic means submission, surrender or subjugation. Muslims see themselves as a “peace making force” using the tools of argument, intrigue, commerce, threat, terrorism, warfare and every other means possible to secure Islam as the only religion worldwide.

By the seventh century A.D., Christianity had spread all across North Africa, around the Mediterranean basin, throughout the Balkans and into Europe. The Prophet Mohammed told his followers to spread the faith by the sword. Within 200 years, they had slaughtered 50% of all Christians on earth. This led to the Crusades – a reaction to Islamic terror. Muslims consider *Jihad* as the sixth pillar of Islam.

After the defeat of Muslim forces by the Meccans at the battle of Uhud in A.D. 625 so many men were killed that Mohammed permitted his men to take up to four wives (Surah 4:3,4) and to have concubines. Thus, through multiplication they changed the demographics of any host country.

During the time of the British Raj in India, Islam’s fraternal embrace drew millions of converts to the mosques of mogul rulers. A vast majority of India’s population was Hindu Harijan; *untouchables*. They found an acceptance in Islam that their own faith denied them until some distant reincarnation. This “acceptance” was the appeal of Islam.

In all the wars America has ever fought, we’ve never faced a foe so prone to suicide, so willing and eager to die. It is a sobering thought to discover that there are people in our midst, willing to die for their faith and happy only if they can kill as many of us as possible in the process. How humiliating it should be for Christians, that Muslims are what they are, because we have failed to do what our Lord Jesus told us to do, “*Go ye therefore,*” and to be what He told us to be, “*...my witnesses.*”

It’s time we learn to obey. Our very **life** depends on it.

Bill Bathman – Tempe, Arizona

Next month: **This war is winnable – here’s how.**

Dear Team,

Last month we took 10 days of vacation and drove up to Colorado to spend a week with our middle daughter Linda Joy and our grandsons. Harriett had fun taking them shopping for “back to school” and I played chess and golf with them. They beat me at both! There’s a great sense of satisfaction when your grandchildren can beat you at a game you taught them to play. It’s really a win-win situation.



Bill & Harriett with Major & Mrs. Thomas

While in Colorado we had Sunday Tea with Major Ian Thomas and his wife Joan at Ravencrest, the Torchbearer *chalet* in Estes Park. We’ve known the Major for half a century. The Lord used him as a major influence in my life in the mid-1950s when we first lived in England. He introduced me to the concept that Jesus Christ wants to live His resurrected life *through us* – “*Christ, Who is our life,*” and “*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*” Some years ago our youngest daughter Lenora attended Capernwray Bible

School, the Torchbearer headquarters in England, and then went on to serve at their mission center in Austria for a year. Major Thomas celebrates his 90th birthday on the 13th of this month. We say, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to a great soldier for Christ!

Deborah, our oldest daughter – a professor at the University of Salzburg – celebrated the wedding of our grandson, Thomas Pelzmann, earlier this summer in Austria. It was a sparkling alpine day. We wish we could have been there to share the joy with the young groom and Sandra his bride, but this picture tells the story.

This month we have meetings in Georgia and the Carolinas. It seems ages since we’ve returned to our original roots. We’re looking forward to seeing you *all!*

Of all the books I’ve read by Dr. Peter Hammond, **Discipleship Handbook** is my favorite. Peter is serious about our Lord’s command to “...*go and make disciples, teaching them to obey.*” In a day when many Christians have lost the shock of sin, and the Church seems to have abandoned the awe of God’s holiness, this new book will rekindle the smoldering fires of devotion that have burned low for too long.

Next month we return to Cape Town to continue our ministry in Africa. Thank you for standing with us in our quest to win precious souls for Christ around the world across the years. Never underestimate your vital role as a valued member of our mission Team.

Yours in His grip,

Bill Bathman



Linda Joy, Daniel (12) & Jesaja (10)



Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Pelzmann

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will not be enough to change his country. Adrian and his wife Ema have committed to an additional ministry of shaping young families for Christ. Together they have a counseling ministry to pre-marital couples. This is unique in a society that hasn't seen the need to address family or couple issues.

Adrian and Ema have seen this process effectively enlighten some couples to become successful family Biblical examples of marriage and to show others who decide and share later, that they should not be getting married. Add to this ministry a small mentor group ministry of young married that are so grateful for the truth that Adrian and Ema share, they have pleaded for an extension of the previously agreed upon number of sessions.

Not to be satisfied with just ministering to young leaders and young married couples, Adrian and Ema have willingly accepted the call to be directors for the some 700 children that come to their church each week.

The Ban's heart desire is to build a program to reach and make an impact on each young teachable child and each of the related families. Please pray for Adrian and Ema and consider helping them make a real difference in the lives of many Romanian families.

Graham and Jene Des Fountain

SOUTH AFRICA

have nearly completed the "winter term" (seasons are reversed in the Southern Hemisphere) of parenting abused and abandoned children at **Eshcol**. When Johnike and Shawn arrived at Eshcol, along with their little sister, they were terrified of adults. They were sullen and withdrawn. Now, after a few months, they sing and laugh and thoroughly enjoy socializing in a wholesome family life.

They are ready and have been accepted by a local Christian preschool to attend each day from 8 a.m. until noon. Every parent can identify with the routine of getting

them ready and out the door on time for the school bus. Sandwiches must be made and a cool drink prepared. They will need spare clothes and a hat, "...and don't forget the sunblock!" Graham says, "The joy and anticipation on their faces is a sight to behold."

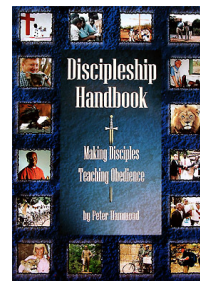
Some of the little tykes are being prepared for more permanent adoption. Parting with children you've rescued, rehabilitated and restored – having loved them every moment for months – is never easy. Tears flow and hearts are wrenched. Please pray for Graham and Jene as they continue to believe God for the miracle of more adequate facilities to complete their vision for a cluster of homes for South Africa's abused and abandoned children. **Eshcol** is an ITMI approved project. Gifts for this ministry are tax-deductible.

Discipleship Handbook – Making Disciples – Teaching Obedience

by: Peter Hammond \$10.00 + s&h

This is a book you will highly esteem if you love the Word of God. You won't be able to refute the logic of its premise unless you want to argue with Scripture. The *Discipleship Handbook* establishes a Biblical standard to which we can all aspire. It is highly practical, very positive, loaded with appropriate quotations from the Bible and answers concisely in twelve specific categories the question, "What is a Christian?"

Bill Bathman – President of ITMI



Authorized to Accept



For Praise . . .

1. Safe return of Steve Evers from Romania and Poland. Brilliant success of his ministry there.
2. Growing number of qualified and accountable nationals with ITMI in Eastern Europe.
3. *Discipleship Handbook*, latest study tool from the pen of Dr. Peter Hammond.

For Prayer . . .

1. Protection for ITMI's Charl van Wyk taking strong ministry stands in Africa.
2. Kristi Blanchard, ITMI's Administrator, unwell for several weeks with unidentified virus.
3. Funds still needed to purchase property in South Africa for Eshcol children's ministry.



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