



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 October 2004

Vocabulary changes over the years. Meaningful and beautiful words lose their original meaning – *gay* for example. Recently the *in* word in Christian circles is “commitment.” That’s a fine word. *We are committed to Christ*. It involves a pledge or promise and acknowledges an obligation. But there is an implied time limit. It can be short term.

Whenever a new word comes into vogue we should ask, “What ‘word’ does this replace?” The idea of *commitment* has replaced *surrender*. Are we surrendered to Christ or merely committed to Him? The variation between these two words could mean the difference between victory and defeat in this current spiritual war on terrorism.

Summer Victories in Europe & Venture in Africa

POLAND

In July we alerted you to the urgent case of Michael, 10-year old son of Darek and Daria Banicki, suffering from Niemann-Pick Syndrome, Type C. Rev. **Piotr Zarembo** writes: “Just at the time Mike started to lose his breathing some of you [ITMI friends and supporters] hurried to assist monetarily. We were able to buy some physiotherapy sessions for Mike – and it worked! Mike is no longer losing his breathing! Very special thanks for your prayers and for being so mercifully practical.”

Michael is still unable to walk, talk, eat or drink. As yet there is no known cure for this debilitating disease. Pastor Zarembo urges us to continue praying for a miracle healing.

ITMI’s **Ron and Jane Dissly** are safely back in the US from three months of summer ministry. They concentrated on youth camps in the Tetry Mountains in the south, coping with rain, congested roads and curmudgeonly kids. Concerted prayer by the combined staff corrected the latter problem concisely. Jane shares, “By the end of camp we were like a

little family.” Four kids received Christ as their Savior!



Pastor Fredyk, Michael and Steve

ITMI’s **Jim LaRose** was also involved in English language / evangelism camp ministry this past summer. He writes, “An estimated 20-25 young people prayed a first time salvation prayer, and some indicated a desire to deepen their existing relationship with the Lord. This represents at least half of the campers who claim they had never done this before.”



Jim building relationships with the boys

Jim reports, “We have received a number of post-camp phone calls noting ‘the difference’ between our camp and other kids camps in Poland. The warm atmosphere, caring staff, interesting lessons and wholesome activities have all been commented on by campers, parents and the employees at the school where the camp was held.” Jesus is the difference.

ITMI’s newest career missionaries, **Tucker and Meredith Boone** and their precious children left their home in Phoenix last month to join Richard and Brooke Nungesser in Poznan. They are getting settled in this month and preparing for their first Polish winter. Please keep this dear family in your prayers.

AFRICA

ITMI Director **Steve Evers** had barely recovered from jetlag on his 25-day trip through Eastern Europe when a Macedonian call came from Frontline Fellowship, our sister mission in Cape Town, to help in the next ministry and supply trip to bases across the Dark Continent. His Isaiah-type response, “Here am I. Send me!” was both reasonable and rapid.

This war is winnable – here’s how

Caution: This article is not for the faint-hearted or for those who have difficulty facing reality. Serious side effects may include hand wringing, head-in-sand posture and *angst*.

America is at war, a war we did not start, but one that we must finish decisively and victoriously. This is not the time for half measures. We have been attacked. We cannot delegate our security to some foreign agency or international bureaucracy. Nor can we simply be nice to our avowed enemies in the vain hope that they will eventually go away.

We must win. Failure is not an option. How can we win?

First of all we must **stop living in denial**. “They don’t really mean all these mean things.” “Islam is peaceful.” “We all pray to the same god.” These are deadly deceptions. We must tell it like it is, even if that message is unpopular.

Secondly, we must **stop being naïve**. This is not the time to be *politically correct*. That is a formula for disaster. Militant Islam is evil. It must be labeled so. It is a religion of hate and death based upon a lie. [By contrast, Christianity is a religion of love and life based upon the Truth.] We must not shrink from drawing the comparison between good and evil. Tell it like it is – your life depends on it.

Thirdly, we must **expand our outreach evangelism to the Islamic world**. Begin with some countries in Africa and Europe where there are growing Islamic populations, but where there is still freedom of speech and assembly. Then, move into or send into totalitarian Islamic lands.

This will be a long war, but it can be shortened significantly if we employ the all-out determination to win that motivated us in World War II.

America won the Cold War because President Reagan understood that we could out-spend the Soviets. Our economy was stronger so we could build a more powerful military force and provide smart weapons that would intercept their ICBMs, thus neutralizing their numerical advantage.

Today, the same logic that guided Reagan to victory might lead to our downfall because to support our security (at the level of intensity needed) over a prolonged period could bankrupt our economy. Osama Bin Laden knows that economic freedom is power. That is why he sought to destroy our economic foundations by attacking the WTC in New York on 9/11/01.

Supporting our security is one thing. Confronting our enemy is another. The terrorists can pick and choose the time and place of their attack. Understanda-

bly we want to be safe everywhere all the time. That’s expensive. It doesn’t cost the terrorist anything to threaten, but costs us billions to put security in place and maintain it in order to face those threats. This could lead to economic collapse.

It is easier to destroy than to create and build. This is a day when unknown men can strike unexpectedly from the shadows and demolish, in one-hour, architectural landmarks that took ten years to plan and construct and in the process kill over 3,000 innocent civilians. They have the advantage of surprise.

This is a different kind of war. Terrorists choose the time and place for their next outrage. They do not wear identifiable uniforms. They seldom confront our military directly, but prefer civilian soft targets. Thus they have disqualified themselves from being covered by the regulations of the Geneva Convention.

The Articles of War (laws and legal procedures of the U.S. Army and Air Force) was replaced in 1951 by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Perhaps the UCMJ needs some fine-tuning now in light of new realities in the war on terrorism.

Generally speaking the media overreacted to the hazing in Abu Ghraib. Our soldiers had seen abundant evidence of inhuman Islamic disrespect for human life, including beheading, amputations and mutilations. They had seen their colleagues bullet-ridden bodies, burned and hanging from a Baghdad bridge while jeering mobs danced in approval. Of course we must establish a higher standard and set a better example, but to equate humiliating detainees with decapitation of hostages is both unrealistic and ludicrous.

During an interfaith meeting in Turkey recently, a respected Muslim cleric told the crowd: “Thanks to your democratic laws we will invade you. Thanks to our Islamic laws we will conquer you.” As a former Algerian President told the UN in 1974, “The wombs of our women will give us the victory.” It’s called demographic preponderance. The West’s inability to even acknowledge this aggression is disconcerting.

This war cannot be fought with carnal weapons only. We cannot delegate command of our US armed forces to the UN, or to timid former allies (with Veto power) each with his own personal agenda. This is a job for men and women with courage and character and above all Christian conviction and determination. It will be a long, tough fight – but we can and must win.

Dear Team,

In the devotion this month we focused on the difference between commitment and surrender. It was my longtime friend, Dr. Josif Tson, who first alerted me to the concern for word replacement. Oswald Chambers notes in *My Utmost for His Highest* for September 13 that there are three kinds of surrender: (1) for Deliverance, (2) for Devotion and (3) for Death. He concludes: "After surrender – what? The whole life after surrender is an aspiration for unbroken communion with God." That far surpasses mere commitment. As our children used to ask, "Are we there yet?"

A missionary friend in Russia wrote me recently, "Thousands of Russians filled Red Square with anti-terror rallies Tuesday, as Beslan buried more dead. Funerals filled the streets beginning Sunday, 5 September. The Islamic Chechen standoff at School #1 in Beslan ended in disaster, with as many as 600 dead, many of them children." What kind of monster murders children in the name of religion?

My article on page 2, *This War is Winnable* is the third in a series on Islam and the War on Terror. Many have asked permission to photocopy and distribute them. Please do, but don't forget to pray for the one billion precious souls worldwide captive to Islam.

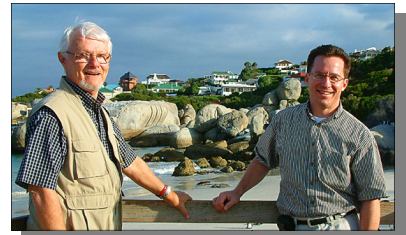


**Bill and Harriett:
53 years and counting**

Last month Harriett and I celebrated our 53rd anniversary in South Carolina. We visited our relatives and several supporting churches in Georgia and the Carolinas. We hadn't seen some of our family in many years. I preached one Sunday morning at the Sumter Bible Church, in Sumter, SC. This was the first Church to take on any of our missionary support (\$50 per month) and that was 50 years ago this month. They have been faithful every month since then. Thanks *you' all!*

Another longtime supporter (40 years) is Faith Baptist Church in Simpsonville, SC. Their pastor and my dear friend, Rev. Norman Eoute, is in ICU following serious heart surgery. Please pray for him and for his dear wife.

I'm taking Steve Evers place as keynote speaker for the autumn Mission Conference at Grace Community Chapel in St. Peters, MO this month. Steve is on a seven-week trek across Africa. We will depart for home in Cape Town one week later than planned.

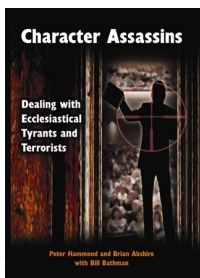


Bill and Steve working as a team

Yours in His grip,

Bill Bathman

Character Assassins a controversial new book by Drs. Peter Hammond and Brian Abshire,



with a chapter contributed by yours truly, was launched at the Christians for Truth Conference last month at KwaSizabantu Mission, South Africa. Today's climate of slander and lies is not limited to the political field. This is a must read for God's servants.

C. S. Lewis notes that many people find a morbid pleasure in other's faults. "Unfortunately, we enjoy thinking about other people's faults: and in the proper sense of the word 'morbid,' that is the most morbid pleasure in the world."

C. S. Lewis, "God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics," Eerdmans, 1970 pg. 154

(Continued from page 1)

That it was *reasonable* is self-evident. “Go ye” involves obedience on the part of a surrendered missionary. That it was *rapid* is illustrated by the fact that from the moment he received the call he had less than eleven days to finish the follow-up on his Europe trip, book his ticket (and still get a very good air-fare), rearrange his local program, cover a scheduled Mission Conference, get his immunization, preach on the weekend and prepare for our autumn ITMI Board meeting the day before his departure. Seldom have angles seen such a flurry of activity.

Steve jetted to Cape Town the middle of last month. This involved 24-hours of flying time, plus an 8-hour layover in London. At this moment he’s driving north from Cape Town. His long overland journey north will take him through many African countries. He will have ministry along the way and a bunch of photo-ops. He plans to return in November. Prayer: that’s where you come in!

Thanks for being part of the team.

Cape Town: Eshcol, ITMI’s latest project caring for abused and abandoned children. Graham and Jene Des Fountain write, “We have three little ones who have been with us now for some time and will be leaving at the end of September. It’s always a heartache to see them leave, but [our] present home is too small to accommodate them for extended foster care.” They will go to a children’s home.

“It’s not the best,” Graham notes, “but our faith is strong that the Lord will supply a larger, more adequate facility so we can look after more children for a longer time.”

That is what Eshcol, or “cluster” is all about. A cluster of small homes to shelter South Africa’s abused and abandoned children. There is a property available that would be ideal to meet this urgent need. The Des Fountains have put up their life-savings as a down payment. They need our generous help – now.

Recently they received a 13-year old girl who was with them 18 months ago. She and her sister were living in a parental abusive situation. They had been removed to foster parents, then to a children’s home, then back to their birth-parents.

“The situation there was tenuous” Graham said, “and she asked to come here [to Eshcol]. Everything within me cries out to have her safely with us, but we don’t have room to foster as well as be an emergency home.”

“She is such a lovely young girl,” Jene observed. “At 13 years old [she has] already experienced what she should be protected from. She has a fine mind and wants to become a children’s lawyer within South Africa’s legal system.” Your investment in this ministry is a positive vote for South Africa’s future generation.

Eshcol is an ITMI approved project. Gifts for this ministry are tax-deductible.

Visit ITMI on the web Check our regularly updated www.intouchmission.org

Character Assassins

by: Peter Hammond

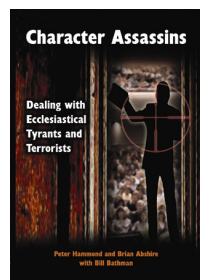
\$16.00 + s&h

“Those who have experienced such character assassinations will be greatly helped by this book. I am sure Character Assassins will prove a blessing in the lives of many who are wounded ministers or missionaries.”

Dr. D. James Kennedy, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church

Available from ITMI by credit card orders to our toll-free number.

Books will be sent by airmail from South Africa.




For Praise . . .

1. A marked health improvement for Kristi Blanchard, ITMI’s Administrator.
2. Steve Evers ability to listen and counsel both national and American missionaries.
3. ITMI’s dedicated Board members in their practical participation and outreach.

For Prayer . . .

1. Outstanding financial need for the purchase of Eshcol property by year’s end.
2. Safety and effectiveness as Steve and Tim travel and minister in frontline states of Africa. Bill & Harriett Bathman as they return to Africa for preaching, mentoring and writing.

Authorized to Accept  



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