



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

1 February 2006

Speaking of His second coming Jesus said, “*Keep watch...be ready.*” Matthew 24:42 There are precautions we can take and preparations we can make to avoid both embarrassment and loss. “*Therefore keep watch.*” In other words, “*walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.*” Up periscope! Be aware at all times of what is going on. Don't let yourself entertain the idea even for a moment that “I can get away with this for now. No one will know.” It's a dangerous game and you may well be caught out when others are caught up.

## An African Missionary Adventure

### Sudan

Nine men and 7,275 lbs. (3,300 kg.) of ministry tools were crammed into a DC3 airplane as it lifted off the runway in Nairobi and headed northwest toward Mundri. Their purpose: to glorify God in poverty-ridden Sudan. How? By means of eye clinics, the Matthew video, leadership training, discipleship, preaching the Gospel, mentoring, and encouragement.

The Mundri International Airport is a long strip of roughly packed dirt surrounded by thorns, cattle and bush. By the time the plane landed the team knew each other very well. ITMI's Director **Steve Evers** and veteran missionary **Tim Keller**, in week six of their African road trip adventure, were joined by San Jose inner-city pastor, **Steve Salazar**, a minister with a missionary heart. The rest were from **It Took A Miracle (ITAM)** a Tennessee-based team now on their third trip to South Sudan – all these men brought together by their common love for suffering Christians in this war-torn country.

The destruction dealt to South Sudan by Khartoum's National Islamic Front (NIF) government over the years has combined with related damage caused by the

rampaging *quasi*-Islamic terrorist group known as the LRA – Lord's Resistance Army (don't be fooled by their name; they have nothing to do with the Lord!). This violent and destructive approach to governing has left South Sudan in shambles, poverty and isolation. The infrastructure has long been destroyed. There are no phones and no electricity. Most buildings are built from mud, grass, and occasionally rocks or tin.



**Tim Keller supervises Frontline's bible delivery.**

Burning and looting by the NIF has more recently been replaced by merciless tribal conflicts that have intensified between the cattle herding Dinka-bor and the Moru, whose economy is agricultural-based. The Dinka-Bor were displaced when the NIF government charred their land. They were welcomed as refugees into Moruland by the peaceful, Moru tribe about 10 years ago.

Over time the crop destruction caused by the Dinka-Bor's uncontrolled cattle became more and more

unbearable for the Moru farmers. Recently one Moru man confiscated some cows as payment for the extensive damage done to his crops. When the cattle's owner heard this, he agreed and walked away, only to return later with a group of Dinka-Bor to murder the Moru family and reclaim the cattle. This sort of atrocity has become common in Moruland, as the Morus grow more and more weary of losing their livelihood, and the Dinka refuse to live in peace with their neighbors.

Until the 1<sup>st</sup> of November last year, the Moru village of Mariba was fortunate enough to be secluded in an area at least 30 miles from these uprisings. On that fateful, horrific day, the neighboring Dinka-Bor assembled to the northeast of Mariba and without warning, violently stormed the village, ruthlessly burning the school, medical clinic and many homes. The defenseless villagers had no choice but to scatter and hide in the bush until it was safe to return. Families were separated and homes were destroyed during the Dinka's seven day reign of terror in the town. Some remained in the bush for as long as 25 days unable to tell whether it was safe to return to their homes. When the smoke cleared and the survivors returned to their village, they counted seven people killed, including 3 women and 2 children.



**Vicki, a Sudanese Christian.**

# Jihad in Action: What to Expect Next

(as we move along the Islamic time-line for takeover)

As long as the Muslim population remains around 1% of any given country they will be regarded as a peace-loving minority and not as a threat to anyone. In fact they may be featured in articles and films stereotyped for their colorful uniqueness.

Between 2% and 3% they begin to proselytize from other ethnic minorities and disaffected groups with major recruiting from the jails and among street gangs. [Europe, Australia, USA and Japan]

From 5% on they exercise an inordinate influence in proportion to their percentage of the population. You will find not only the introduction of *halaal* food (giving food prep jobs to Muslims), but growing pressure on the super-market chains to feature it on their shelves (along with threats for failure to comply).

South Africa's Muslim population is 2%, but they control 35% of the businesses, a large percentage of the banks and have five Cabinet seats while Christians (77% of the population) have none.

From 10% you will notice growing belligerence in no-go lawless suburbs (ghettos), with car-burnings (*a la* France last October). After 20% expect hair-trigger rioting, jihadi militia formations, sporadic killings and terror bombings of Churches. [India, Mindanao (Philippines)]

At 40% you will find widespread massacres, chronic terror attacks and ongoing militia warfare. [Indonesia] From 60% you may expect unfettered persecution, sporadic ethnic cleansing (genocide), use of Shari Law as a weapon and Jizya confiscatory tax. [Sudan, Kosovo, Lebanon and Egypt]

After 80% expect State run ethnic cleansing and genocide. [Western Papua New Guinea, Iran, Biafra, Turkey and N. Nigeria]

100% will usher in the peace of "Dar-es-Salaam"-House of Peace – as in Saudi Arabia, Libya and Yemen.

This is a quick-reference, around the world situational analysis for your prayerful attention. "*Walk circum-spectly, not as fools*" Ephesians 5:15 KJV

**Statistic source:** *Slavery, Terrorism & Islam*  
by Dr. Peter Hammond

Evers, Keller and Salazar heard about this conflict and in spite of the risk involved wanted to see if ITMI/FF could offer any help, while they were there or in the future. They hoped to borrow some small dirt bikes from Samaritan's Purse to get to the village, but God had a better plan.

Earlier that week the trio had been in Mundri all morning and were returning to the place where they were staying, across the river in Lui. After crossing the river in a steel rowboat, the guys were waiting for their ride to pick them up when a garrison of SPLA (Sudanese People's Liberation Army) troops and their Brigadier General arrived at the river. They struck up a con-

versation with the General, who told several of his men to use his vehicle to give the Americans a ride to Lui. Covering the 15 miles on the rugged, Sudanese roads to Lui and back, takes about 1.5 hours, which is how long the General and part of his squadron would be waiting in the heat for the rest of his men to return.

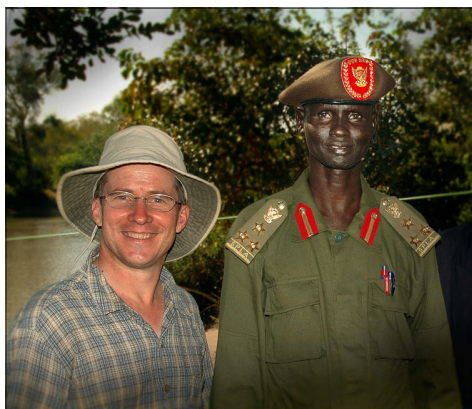


**Moru family in thier roofless home.**

Why would he show this kindness? The General and his men loved to be photographed (and we all know they had come to the right person)! In exchange for taking and printing their pictures plus some fuel, Steve negotiated a ride to the village of Mariba, complete with an entourage of SPLA troops armed with AK-47s for protection!

On Thanksgiving Day, the three missionaries were accompanied by several SPLA troops with their guns into the village of Mariba. They were greeted by a heart-wrenching illustration of the sinfulness of mankind. A family of 8 stood inside the cracked walls of what had been their home. The roof had been burned off, leaving them no shelter from the fierce Sudanese sun. Hopelessness shown from their eyes. They were beyond caring and feeling, so great was their despair. The team went from hut after hut, observing the remains of each family's earthly possessions, burned to nothingness, along with their hope for the future.

Eventually, the lay pastor gathered the town's people under a large tree. Steve Salazar took the opportunity to share one of his own past trials and tribulations as an example to encourage the villagers to forgive their oppressors. Afterwards they began to sing. Praising the Lord seemed to be the one joy they had left in their lives. As the town sang, the Americans could see tears pour out of the eyes of the Chief of Mariba. African males rarely show emotion, but the Chief's sorrow overwhelmed him, and he had



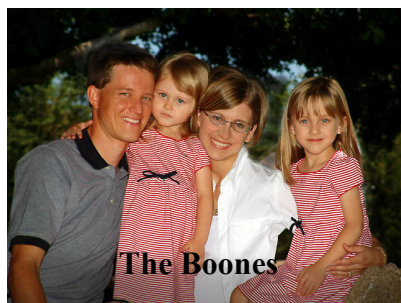
**Steve Evers and the Brigadier General**

Dear Team,

Last month's Summit Conference was a mountain-top experience. Around 50 young people came from all over southern Africa to the rugged retreat about an hour's drive east of Cape Town. South African "Summit Conferences" are a spin-off of Dr. David Noebel's annual conferences in Colorado Springs each summer. If you can't come to Cape Town, you should certainly visit Colorado Springs for this life changing experience.

This year marks ITMI's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! You are a vital part of a quarter-century missionary endeavor serving persecuted Christians in restricted-access countries. Later this year we'll give you a more detailed list of what that teamwork has accomplished.

My next book, "*How'd You Hurt Your Hand?*" is scheduled to be at the printers later this month. It is a contemporary exposition of the Gospel of Matthew, following the life of our Lord Jesus from the crib to the Cross, from His Virgin birth to His victory over death and glorious resurrection. The ITMI Board of Directors is working on a way to make sure each of you have a copy as our way of saying "Thank you" and acknowledge the important role you have had in making this outreach ministry possible. "*For we are laborers together with God.*" 1 Corinthians 3:9 KJV



The Boones

Two of our key ITMI families in Poland are currently expecting new arrivals soon. **Brooke and Richard Nungesser** are due as I write this and their little girl may have already arrived before we go to press. **Tucker and Meredith Boone** await their new arrival a little later this Spring.

Remember **Detective Inspector Kotze**? Many of you wrote letters to her expressing appreciation for the professional way she han-

dled the investigation of the death threat or "fatwa" made against Dr. **Peter Hammond** for his *Slavery, Terrorism & Islam* book. Her major surgery was successful in removing most of the cancer in her body, but she is still having radiation therapy and will be grateful for your continued prayers. We'll keep you posted on her progress.

The trial of the Muslim man who made the threat is still underway. The authorities are not releasing any information lest it prejudice the verdict. We'll stay on top of that too.

The Lord has opened a door for me to preach the Gospel in the Democratic Republic of Congo at the beginning of next month. The meetings will be both urban and rural. Please pray for my preparation, both physical and spiritual. There has been a lot of violence there in recent weeks leading up to the first multi-party elections in 40 years at the end of April. A power-sharing government including ex-rebels currently runs the war-ravaged DRC, after a peace deal was signed in 2002. Our team has been specifically invited to meet with potential new leaders and to teach them a Christian Worldview of government. These meetings next month could have a long lasting and far-reaching impact on this very troubled area.

Yours in His grip,

Bill Bathman



Richard and Brooke Nungesser

(Continued from page 2)

to cover his face in an attempt to hide his tears, shed for the suffering of his people. Indeed, this event, these pictures and their story are a testament to mankind's need for a Savior.



The Chief hides his sorrow.

The delivery of Christian literature and supplies, discipleship, evangelism and sending Christians who can teach the people trades or skills, are the vehicles that bring hope to the people of Sudan. When ITMI and FF team up to bring these to the local church, the church becomes empowered, with the ability to reach the lost in Sudan. Our hope is that through the Sudanese Church's evangelism, those who are bent on violence, will someday know and serve the Prince of Peace. Please consider how you can be apart of ITMI/FF ministry in Sudan.

Compiled and written by Summer Kelley

Please visit [\*A Heart for Sudan\*](#) link on the ITMI website.

## South Africa

Steve and Tim made their grueling, 7-week overland journey in a 1999 Toyota pickup truck – or *bakkie* (presumably because you can put stuff in the back). And the team put a lot of stuff – including Bibles, Christian books, audio-visual and other evangelistic equipment – back there and on top! It is equipped with a winch and snorkel (for fording rivers), reinforced suspension for bush road conditions and has twin fuel tanks for long range. There are no filling stations in South Sudan!

This vehicle has over 165,625 miles (265,000 km) on the 3-liter diesel engine and is not recommended for another Sudan journey. It's over 10,000 miles round trip to Sudan from our Cape Town base.

We have many mission projects in various countries along the way and each trip is used to the maximum. We can still use this ministry vehicle for shorter trips, but need to replace it with a newer and more reliable one for the

longer haul. A lot of precious people along the way will be eternally grateful if you could help us with this project. Please designate gifts: "Field truck for Sudan."

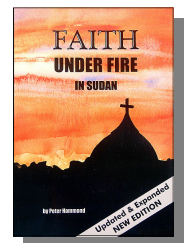
## Poland

Recently, **Megi** and the **Gospel Joy** Choir team finished their workshops in Poznan, Poland. There were 320 participants, two of whom were saved through the worship times held during the workshop. A week later, 30 of them showed up for the first weekly Bible study, where they studied Ephesians. For more information on the Gospel Joy Workshop, visit our website.

In December, one of ITMI's supporters volunteered to pay half (\$4,000) of Megi's annual salary for two years *if* ITMI can raise the other half. If we can accomplish this goal, Megi can be free of some secular work responsibilities and devote more time to the workshops, which is one of the very few ways that common Polish citizens can be exposed to the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider partnering with us in this.

## **Faith Under Fire in Sudan** by: Peter Hammond

Faith Under Fire in Sudan presents the inspiring story of the oldest community of Christians in Africa. Despite suffering some of the worst persecution in the world today many churches in Sudan are experiencing real revival and spectacular growth. This book will introduce you to some of the unforgettable heroes of Sudan and their legacy.



10.00 S+H

### For Praise . . .

1. God's protection for Peter Hammond in face of Muslim death threats.
2. Impact on students at last month's Summit Conference in Cape Town.
3. New highly qualified trio joined Frontline Fellowship staff last month.
4. Great start in launching a new Reformation Study on Thursday evenings.

### For Prayer . . .

1. Our Polish missionary families (now on furlough) awaiting new arrivals!
2. His strength for Lenora Hammond as she home-schools her 4 children.
3. Bill, as he prepares for ministry in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
4. Continued healing for Detective Inspector Estelle Kotze.

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