



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 May 2006

Peter discovered on a rooftop in Joppa that, “*God is no respecter of persons.*” Acts 10:34 There is no such thing in the marketplace of God's economy as “Most Favored Nation” status. There will be those, young and old, rich and poor, from every nation and race around the Throne because of His grace. Little Samuel, dedicated to the LORD before his birth, and the repentant thief on the cross, will stand side by side before Him on that glorious Day, *redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.* Will you be there?

Expanding Ministry in Africa

South Africa

Gerhard LeRoux and his wife Elmane have a great heart for children. Several years ago they opened their small suburban home to any and all. They are no “respecter of persons.” Talita was the first child they took under their wing. As their mixed-family grew, they became part of KwaSizabantu (KSB) Mission in the Western Cape. Their ministry to abused and abandoned children was known as “Talita Home.”

Later the government clamped down, insisting that if they wanted to continue caring for little ones they would have to legally adopt them. This was done to force all the children into government care so they could be turned into little communists.

Gerhard and Elmane were not deterred. They adopted three children immediately and now have eight. Even before his marriage, Gerhard wanted to someday adopt children. When he was courting Elmane he discovered she had a similar vision for a large family.

Gerhard is a full-time missionary

working among drug-addicts (many of whom are HIV-positive) and other handicapped persons. They live by faith. In typical KSB fashion they never mention money, or make financial appeals, though their needs are great.



In discussion with Gerhard about the possibility of linking with ITMI, he began by saying, “We have dropped the name ‘Talita Home,’ because a few people who had given occasional gifts for the children’s work would come by and want to ‘see’ the trophy children, making remarks like, ‘Now is this the one you found at the garbage dump?’ and ‘Is this the one that was so badly abused?’ etc. It was embarrassing to us and damaging to the children. These are our children

now. We've adopted them along with our own children. We love them all and we are a family. We don't want our children exposed to this kind of crass ‘inspection.’”

When Bill first talked with him he explained his strategy for adopting more children. “We want children that are younger than our present brood, so that our kids can be a role model for the new ones.” He also said that the Lord has put it on their heart to adopt handicapped children.

They presently live in two small rooms and all ten persons share a single bathroom. They do not have a car and to travel they must borrow a *bakkie* (pick-up truck). Elmane home-schools all 8 children. Lenora and the Hammond children (also home schooled) are great friends. Lenora comments, “I've never seen such polite and well behaved children.”

Their ministry is now called **Moreson Children's Haven (MCH)**, after the well-known farm where it is located. The title “Children's Haven” was inspired by the book “Firewood Out of Fire” – which had a great

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“Moderate” Islam?

The notion that “we cannot win the War on Terrorism without the support of moderate Islamic forces” has become a popular *mantra*. Joseph Goebbels, German propaganda Minister for the Nazi party in WWII, proposed that if you tell a big enough lie often enough it would eventually be accepted as “truth.”

We’ve heard the common assertion about the importance of “moderate Islamic support” so often, and from such highly respected sources, that this nonsense has gained currency even among some conservatives – but not me. I challenge this assumption on the basis that:

1. It limits the omnipotence of God. Remember, His name *is above every name* and one day “*at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*” Philippians 2:9-11 Yes, that includes all those who today cry “Allah akbar!” – whether moderate or fanatic.
2. It attributes power and influence to a segment of Islam that is unjustified. “*If God be for us, who can be against us?*” Romans 8:31 Remember, God is **Jehovah** – not Allah.
3. It fails to produce the moderates to prove the point.

Until now the so-called moderates within Islam have remained both silent and invisible. If they are a credible force to rely on, why have they not spoken up in the almost 5 years since 9/11?

Surely the proper solution is to tell the **truth** about Islam. We must expose their false doctrine and reveal

their crimes, not excuse their unbelief or rationalize their atrocities. We must tell it like it is: Islam is a religion of hate and death based upon a lie. By contrast, Christianity is a relationship of *love* and *life* based upon the *Truth*. The two are incompatible. Co-existence is possible only because of Christian tolerance. Islamofascists have no room for tolerance and seek only to “kill the infidel” – meaning Christians!

People who parrot the “moderate” mantra have apparently been inoculated with the same vaccine that has persuaded some pastors that if you make sinners comfortable they’ll come to your Church. The end result, however, is not a harvest of precious souls won for Christ, but a lukewarm church full of worldly sinners who remain comfortably unconverted.

What if Moses had listened to that kind of counsel? “We need the moderate Egyptians to help us get out of bondage.” He would have copped out before reaching the coast. Instead, he trusted Jehovah and on the sandy shore told his followers, “Stand still and see the salvation of the LORD.” In response, God opened a path through the Red Sea without any “help” from the “moderate” Egyptians.

Elijah was willing to stand alone against 450 false prophets of Baal without appealing to any “moderate” Baal worshipers. Our God and Savior is still “*the same, yesterday, today and forever.*” We trust Him – not the silent, invisible moderates.

Bill Bathman – Cape Town



Six of the Le Roux’s kids share one room.

impact on both Gerhard and Elmane. It is the moving story of Maria Klopfer’s Children Haven and her adventure in raising over 2,000 children in the early 20th Century!

ITMI has adopted Moreson Children’s Haven as a replacement for Eshcol, since the two ministries are almost identical, and the funds we have received were designated for that purpose.

After Church on Sunday morning, Bill went over the application forms for joining ITMI. Gerhard explained that he hadn’t put in the “banking details” (where to send the funds) because they “didn’t want to *presume*

that ITMI would accept them.” This will give you a little glimpse of the ethical caliber of these missionaries we are now linked with. Their humility is so inspirational.

Bill Bathman – Cape Town

ITMI launched another missionary family to South Africa last month. We are looking forward to partnership with **Kelly** and **Cherise Smith** in their ministry to Zulu AIDS/HIV victims in KwaZulu, Natal. The Smiths are veteran missionaries, having been on the field for several years in ministry to Mexico and on the Navaho Indian Reservation in northern Arizona. They have two 5-year-old children, Christopher and Zoe, who will join them as they use AIDS/HIV relief and education to reach the Zulu people with the



The Smith Family

Gospel. Please see the ITMI website to read about how God has already worked out many details of their ministry in the short time they have been on the field!

Romania

Viorel and **Daria Pop** have quietly and faithfully been working to expand **Bethesda Foundation’s** ministry to elderly widows in Romania. Old people in this Latin nation, who do not have relatives to care for them, often freeze to death in their homes because their tiny government pension is insufficient to pay for the heat necessary to survive a grueling Romanian winter, where temperatures frequently dive into single digit Fahrenheit. Bethesda Foundation is the life-saving answer to this dilemma for 17 widows, 11 of whom are bed-ridden.

On December 1, 2005, after much toil, the Lord allowed them to open a

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Dear Team,

At the beginning of this month the leadership of both ITMI and Frontline Fellowship is ministering in various parts of Europe. **Steve Evers** is in Poland and Romania, while Dr. **Peter Hammond** and I will be guest speakers at the KwaSizabantu European Minister's Conference in Kaltbrunn, Switzerland. We're expecting over 300 pastors.



Attentive listeners at Sunday services on MCH property.

In March we announced the closure of ITMI's project to abused and abandoned children, due to health problems of Jene, the co-founder. Last month we mentioned consideration of Talita Home, a ministry of KwaSizabantu (KSB) in the Western Cape. This ministry is larger than Eshcol.

In 2001, Talita Home moved with KSB mission to the Moreson farm, near Malmesbury in the Western Cape. This provides a healthier climate and unlimited opportunities for expansion. The ministry is known now as **Moreson Children's Haven**. Last month the ITMI Board officially approved MCH as our newest project. (See lead story.)

The Court case involving a Muslim death-threat to Peter Hammond continues. There is a black-out of news while the trial is on. We're watching and we'll keep you posted.

Last month Harriett and Lenora (Hammond) spent 10-days in Austria, ministering as grandma and aunt respectively, plus getting to know our two fine great-grandsons. I stayed in Cape Town to finish my new book and "batched-it" with our doggie Mitch. It was easy on this non-domestic husband because Harriett had everything organized before she left, right down to freezing all my meals ahead of time! Check out the photo of our freezer compartment.



Organizing for a happy hubby.

Commemorative Memorial Gifts

We praise the Lord for a friend and ITMI supporter who recently told us he would like to "cover" a month of administrative operating expenses (estimated \$25,000) in memory of a loved one. We're praying that others will follow his example and partner with us in this way to honor a very special life or occasion.

Like Europe, the United States is becoming secularized in its public institutions and increasingly in the private lives of many citizens. America's steady moral decline can be traced to the moment we turned our backs on Him, allowing liberal courts to remove prayer and Bible reading from our schools, sending the message to American children that God is irrelevant. Former education chief, William Bennett, observed, "We have a real problem in the country when it comes to values. We have become the kind of society that civilized countries used to send missionaries to." Amen, Lord, send them here.

Yours in His grip,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to be "Bill Bathman".

Bill Bathman

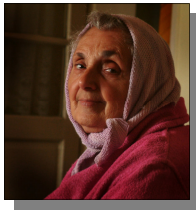
P.S. Tim Keller, Frontline Fellowship Field Director, is in the States for a few weeks and available for meetings.



Daria and Viorel Pop.

new house, and take in a few more widows. This expansion presented the Pops with the need for two more nurses to help care for these dear women. However, they lacked the funds to pay them. Meantime, ITMI (unaware of this situation) had sent a generous gift to the Pops at the end of the year. The Pops were not aware of this due to the inconsistent Romanian communication network. Then God, in His perfect timing, allowed Viorel to discover the \$4,000 from ITMI, sitting in his bank account. This would cover the nurses' salaries for 8 months! Praise the Lord that He allowed us to be used by Him to "...defend the cause of the fatherless and widows."

Deuteronomy 10:18



A Bethesda resident.

Poland

We're grateful to God for the work that He is doing through the youth ministry of **Leszek and Ania Wakula** in Antoniew, Poland. He has provided

Ania with several new and wonderful opportunities to disciple and mentor women and girls in their ministry. She is seeing the fruit of her labor as young girls and staff members become enthusiastic about Jesus and eagerly share their faith with those around them. He has really used Ania in the life of a Polish girl who was raised in an alcoholic home with no positive role models. Ania and Leszek rejoice as they watch Jesus change the shape of this girl's life to conform to His image, and also exercise His role as "a father to the fatherless." Psalm 68:5

Darek Banicki, Assistant Pastor of **Gniezno Baptist Church**, has three children, two of whom are suffering from Niemann Pick 'type C' disease. New research has developed a drug that has had positive results in stopping the progress of this disease. They are praying that his children are allowed to participate in the second stage of the research for this medication. Please join ITMI in praying for the Banicki family.

Compiled and written by Summer Kelley

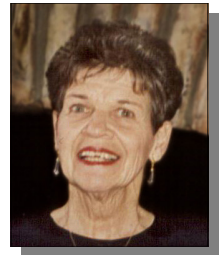
Memorial Gifts

In honor of his mother, **Francis Virginia Morse**, a local Phoenix businessman, Mitch Pierce, has generously provided for ITMI's administrative expenses during the month of May.

Francis Virginia Morse

May 10, 1937-June 8, 1998

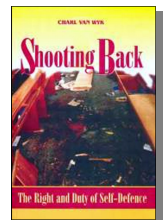
Francis was a great humanitarian, always looking for a way to help people in need, and always serving them with joy and a great sense of humor. Francis instilled in her family a strong work ethic, as well as a love for life and for the Body of Christ. Her favorite scripture was Psalm 23. Francis was a born-again believer, raised in the Catholic faith, by Italian parents. She exhibited a close and consistent walk with the Lord while she was here on earth. Her family appreciated her strong sense of humor, her zest for life, and her evident passion and love for them. Francis went to be with the Lord June 8, 1998.



Shooting Back by: Charl van Wyk

10.00 S+H

Charl van Wyk was an ordinary Christian man until the day he was called upon to be extraordinary. The date was July 25, 1993 and the event was what was to become known as the St. James Massacre.



For Praise . . .

1. Zimbabwean co-worker **Colin**, interned in South Africa, avoided deportation.
2. Safe arrival of **Anya**, 4th child of **Charl & Sonja** van Wyk. (They still need a car.)
3. Safe return of **Harriett** and **Lenora** from Austria.

For Prayer . . .

1. The children's ministry of **Gerhard & Elmane LeRoux** and **MCH**.
2. God's provision for the **Banicki Family's** medical needs.
3. **Bill** and **Peter**, ministering in Switzerland at the KSB Minister's Conference.
4. **Steve Evers'** safety and effective ministry in Eastern Europe.

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