



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 September 2006

While Paul waited in Athens for Silas and Timothy he took advantage of every opportunity to preach Christ in all the old familiar places – the synagogue and market. City intellectuals invited him to the prestigious pulpit of Mars Hill, where he identified the “unknown God” and moved on to His resurrection. (Acts 17:22-34) The response was varied: **derision**, *some mocked*; **delay**, *we will hear you again on this subject*; and **decision**, *but some believed*. The world is waiting to hear. We must tell them!

The Great Conductor

Poland

Last November, ITMI partnered with **Project CURE** to send a container of medical supplies to Poland for the benefit of a small Polish congregation, **Maranatha Baptist Church**.



Maranatha Baptist Church.

This tiny church in the picturesque seaside town of Swinoujscie, Poland, was within days of having their land and facilities confiscated by city authorities and auctioned off to the highest bidder. The church had accumulated \$170,000 in back payment of a fine they’d received years before when the previous pastor illegally cut down some trees on their property. The ex-communist mindset of the city officials caused them to aggressively prosecute the only evangelical church in this city, which happened to be situated on prime city development property. The church had appealed this action in court, but the judges sat on it refusing to make a ruling. Meanwhile, the city officials were already beginning the process of confiscating the property.

When ITMI got involved, **Steve Evers** and Jason Corley of Project CURE met **Piotr Zaremba**, ITMI’s

European Director, in Poland and together, they struck a deal with the city officials. Project CURE would fill a container with used medical equipment and new medical supplies for the local hospital in Poland, and ITMI would find funds to ship the container, which would more than pay off the debt of Maranatha Baptist Church, since its contents were worth over \$300,000. The church was temporarily saved from the auction block as the officials waited for their medical supplies to arrive.

After a series of intense back and forth negotiating for specific medical supplies, machinery or equipment, Project CURE had the supplies ready. An ITMI supporter had graciously provided the funds for shipping the container. A group of volunteers from Project CURE and ITMI worked together in loading the container with medical supplies on Saturday, November 5, 2005. ITMI rejoiced: the deal was progressing and soon the church would be in the clear...or so we thought. Little did we know that the *only* reason that the church was even close to clear was because there was a sovereign *Conductor* who was about to orchestrate the events harmoniously in a way we could have never predicted.

“There are a thousand ways that this project can fail, and only one way it can succeed.”

- Steve Evers -

When the container arrived in Poland, the customs officials found reason after reason not to release it to the church. Meanwhile, it was gathering impound fees of approximately \$100 per day. After jumping through many ridiculous hoops trying to redeem the container, the church leadership began to feel that the customs officials were not going to release the container no matter what they did. They felt some panic as the impound fees were skyrocketing.

In the end, the church felt that their only hope was to sell the container to someone who agreed to pay its impound fees. We are told that the container went to Iraq, where there is great need for the supplies it contained.

At this point, Steve, Jason and Piotr agreed they had done all that they could and that God had a reason for not allowing the church’s debt to be paid off. They threw up their hands and left it in His.

A couple months later, Piotr Zaremba received an email with good news from an elder of

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Who won the Mid-East War?

Hezbollah claimed victory, but Beirut was blasted and Lebanon wound up with a flat Tyre. The truth is, nobody really won. There was serious damage all around.

Pandemonium, the capitol city of Hell in Milton's *Paradise Lost* was a place of wild uproar, unrestrained disorder, tumult, chaos and the abode of all the demons. Sounds a lot like Beirut, Damascus or Tehran today.

War changes everything. I was 14 years old when the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor in December 1941. For the next four years America poured every resource and asset into fighting Japanese Imperialism and German Nazism. Food and gasoline were rationed. Everything was in short supply or non-existent from nylons to new cars. Tires were re-treaded. There were no more new cars until 1946, a year after the end of hostilities.

Moral outrage over the cowardly surprise attack at Pearl Harbor led to the demise of the dictators, Hitler and Tojo. That same moral outrage is in short supply today.

It's been five years since 9/11 taught us that it's easier to destroy than to create and build. We live in 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.

News of this disaster had them dancing in the streets of Baghdad, Tehran and Damascus. *"Whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished."* Proverbs 17:5 NIV

They have the advantage of surprise. We must deny them that advantage. How?

Evaluate the lessons of 9/11. We are faced with an implacable foe, fired by an intolerant fanatical idealism that demands our annihilation. From their perspective there is no reasonable negotiation, it is simply "Death to the infidel" – us!

Use the strategy of surprise to our advantage.

Bomb carefully selected Islamofascists targets unexpectedly – surprise.

Advise selected Arab capitals of undesignated target escalation – then do it without negotiation. Make them nervous. Keep them off balance.

Notify them of our intended additional attacks if there is no identifiable immediate compliance. We must take the initiative. Put the fear of God (not Allah) into them.

This kind of strategic determination could have a widespread and positive effect. Remember how quickly Libya's Colonel Quadaffi gave up his nuclear ambitions, disarmed and joined the civilized camp when he saw video footage of Saddam's statue falling and later emerging from his spider-hole hideaway.

By now we will have earned credibility. They will be highly motivated to root out any subversives in their midst and deliver them to us. (We should then send them to Club Gitmo and ask the Mossad to help with the interrogations.)

Sebastian Rodriguez, writing in a Spanish newspaper noted that, "Europe died in Auschwitz. We killed 6 million Jews and replaced them with over 20 million Muslims."

"People of culture, thought, creativity and talent expressed in every area of life including science, art, music and international trade were slaughtered. They have been replaced by people of stupidity, ignorance and religious fanaticism, content to live in poverty because they are unwilling to work and support their families with pride."

He continues: "They have turned our beautiful Spanish cities into the third world, drowning in filth and crime. Shut up in the apartments they receive free from the government, they plan the murder and destruction of their *naïve* hosts. Thus, in our misery, we have exchanged culture for fanatical hatred; creative skill for destructive behavior, intelligence for backwardness and superstition."

Let's face it, Europe is not going to help us in the war against Islamofascists. When you have millions of unassimilated Muslim youth, seething in the suburbs around every major city, you aren't very eager to send troops into an Arab country to fight alongside the Americans and Brits.



Last month's Mid-East war was a diversion to take the focus off of Iran's nuclear program. Iran armed, financed and encouraged Hezbollah. No one really knows just how far along they are toward having a nuclear weapon – but it is clearly their stated goal.

We're all supporting terrorism every time we fill our tanks at the pump – thereby transforming Arabs into a superpower. Right now there's no alternative, but we need to be seriously working on one. Maybe then we will win the Mid-East war.

Bill Bathman – Tempe, AZ

Dear Team,

This month Harriett and I celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary. She's amazing to have put up with me all these years! Truly, I have *a treasure in an earthen vessel*.

Our grandson, **Christopher Hammond** turned 11 years old last month. At birth the doctors gave him 5 days to live. He is truly a miracle boy. A recent checkup at the renal clinic showed he'd gained 3 lbs since the last visit. He has difficulty with his creatine metabolism because of limited kidney function. He still needs your prayers.

So far everyone's very pleased with the positive reception of my new book, **"How'd You Hurt Your Hand?"** It's a series of 101 Bible studies in the Gospel of Matthew. One reader phoned to say it was "a blessing and a joy." An ITMI Board member suggested it would make a good Christmas gift for their friends.

Dr. **Peter Hammond** is on a US itinerary this month. He will be visiting us in Mesa, Arizona next month when, on October 5th he will speak at 7 p.m to a public meeting in Sunland Village East in the Mesa Verde building. SVE is in the southeast corner of Baseline and Sossaman, just south of the US 60 freeway.

ITMI's **Moreson Children's Haven**, near Cape Town, is a "hive of activity" these days thanks to your generosity and prayers. The extreme pressure of living in such tightly cramped quarters (19 people sharing a single bathroom) has been resolved with a sensible building program. Bedrooms for the children have been enlarged. A new septic tank dug and installed. An old cowshed has been transformed into a school and auditorium. Because **Gerhard LeRoux** and his team are doing all the physical work, every dollar invested is multiplied four-fold. Gerhard sent us a user-friendly PowerPoint that tells the story vividly. We can e-mail it to you on request.



Gerhard on a jackhammer.



Dr. **Adrian and Ema Ban** rejoice in all that the Lord is doing in their lives while they serve Him, counseling young married couples in Romania. They travel a lot in their ministry throughout the country and have recently expanded into Hungary, Austria and Bulgaria. It takes some getting used to. While lecturing in Sofia they were confused at first by the audience reaction. Nodding the head means "no" while moving sideways means "yes."

I hope you will have an opportunity to hear some of our Polish visitors this month and next. They include **Carolyn Zaremba** (Piotr's daughter) and **Dawid and Aura Karel** (details from the ITMI office). And don't miss **Muhindo Kawede**, a Congolese brother serving in ITMI's school in Kampala, Uganda. He has a story to tell. Please pray for these special ones.



We continue to praise the lord for your faithful prayers and practical support.

Yours in His grip,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Bathman".

Bill Bathman

(Continued from page 1)

Maranatha Baptist Church. While the church had been going back and forth with the customs officials, the judicial system had decided to review the church's case in court. They ruled that the town never had the right to confiscate the church's property!

The church leadership wanted it to be known that thanks to your faithful prayers for this project, the negotiations with the town officials in Poland, which began over a year ago, caused the officials to delay in confiscating the church's property until the justices "decided" (although we know Who really decided) to rule in favor of the church keeping their land and worship facilities. God's timing is perfect, and we are grateful that He allowed us to go along for the ride. From the beginning, Steve said of the project, "There are a thousand ways that this project can fail, and only one way that it can succeed, and that is if the Lord steps in and sees it through." He did, and He gets all the glory.

Romania

Casa Dorca orphanage, located in Pripipet, Romania, is one of ITMI's oldest projects. It is a combined effort of a few rural Romanian churches to

meet the needs of orphans in their community and is home to 28 children with no where else to go. The children rely on *Casa Dorca* for their food, safety, and well-being.



Casa Dorca children.

In May, **Pastor Ion** of *Casa Dorca* phoned Dr. Nic Gheorghita, a long-time friend of ITMI and a well-known Christian leader in Romania, hoping for help. Unbeknownst to ITMI, *Casa Dorca* had been given a \$5,000 donation from a US foundation, who sent it through their Romanian branch, where it "disappeared," before ever reaching them. *Casa Dorca* is in the middle of building a new building, and they now have more children than they've ever had before: they needed that money. With sorrow, Dr. Nic had told them there was



Casa Dorca.

nothing he could do.

As Steve Evers listened to Dr. Nic recount the story, he was rejoicing inside. He would be at the orphanage in a few days with a large sum of money earmarked for *Casa Dorca*, thanks to the ITMI family of partners, prayer warriors and supporters!

God's timing is always perfect. He was not caught off guard, or surprised by the situation at *Casa Dorca*. In fact, he orchestrated Steve's trip so that he'd be at *Casa Dorca* at just the right time. He truly is a great *Conductor*, directing each section of His orchestra to contribute at the perfect time, and creating beautifully harmonious masterpieces everywhere He works. We are grateful to be in the orchestra.

Written by Summer Kelley

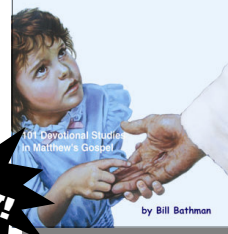
How'd You Hurt Your Hand? by Bill Bathman

101 Bible studies in Matthew's Gospel. This 205 page book by Bill celebrates ITMI's 25th Anniversary. It is a current commentary considering the question, "what if Matthew took a look at us? Would he recognize 21st Century Christianity?" We are encouraged by the positive response to its launch last month. Some have ordered additional copies to use as Christmas gifts.

\$10 + S&H

Discounts available for quantity purchases.

How'd You Hurt Your Hand?





For Praise . . .

1. Exceptional building progress at *Casa Dorca*. The number of children is growing.
2. Effective US ministry of our Polish summer visitors: Megi Sielicki, Carolyn Zaremba and the Karels.
3. Vice President of Zambia's conference with Peter Hammond re Biblical principles for government.
4. New Frontline co-worker, Abraham for ministry in Congo.

For Prayer . . .

1. Ban's in Romania
2. Rev. Muhindo Kawede from our Uganda Bible School on US speaking tour.
3. Implementation of Christian principles in Congo following first elections last month.

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