



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 November 2006

Someone said, "God made both tears and laughter, and both for kind purposes." I knew it was true, but I had to think about that one. He continued, "Laughter enables mirth and surprise to breathe freely, so tears enable sorrow to vent itself patiently." Then it clicked: "Tears hinder sorrow from becoming despair and madness; while laughter is one of the privileges of reason, being confined to the human species." Since Babel, men in different parts of the world do not understand one another's speech; but tears and laughter are understood worldwide. *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with them that weep.* Romans 12:15

South Africa

Gerhard Le Roux Director of **Moreson Children's Haven (MCH)**, stood in the middle of what was quickly becoming a building that houses the church that meets on the Moreson Farm property each Sunday and doubles as a schoolroom during the week. He and his ministry partners at the farm had spent the last few months renovating the buildings and preparing for an expanding ministry. The funds for the project had been provided by God through ITMI.

Gerhard and Elmane Le Roux have a vision for rescuing abused children, but their vision had been put on hold. Already parents of five, the Le Rouxs had adopted three children from abused situations, and were raising them within the space God had given them, which was two small rooms and a kitchen at Moreson Farm. The farm is shared with several other ministries, including a special pro-life hotline, a place of worship for a body of believers, and a place of refuge and accountability for individuals seeking to leave a life of drugs and abuse

His Yoke is Easy

"God's grace and goodness are beyond human understanding"

-Gerhard Le Roux-

behind. The Le Rouxs used the help from ITMI to improve all the dilapidated buildings on the property, thus expanding their ability to take on a larger ministry to children.

Over the course of construction, it occurred to Gerhard that by knocking down an old wall and building a new one, they could easily double the space available for worshippers on Sunday mornings. The Moreson team thought this was a good idea, and the men demolished the old wall.



As Gerhard stood in the middle of the church building that lovely afternoon, his heart sank as his mind was assaulted with doubts and accusations from the enemy. He was well aware that no other issue can divide the children of God the way that finances can. Our trust in him to manage the project weighed on his shoulders like a yoke of lead. He doubted that they would have the funds to complete the new walls of the church. He feared that the unfinished project would be a bad testimony.



But though the most faithful humans struggle with doubt, God is always faithful to provide for what He calls his servants to do. Remember, *His yoke is easy and His burden is light!* The very next morning, the remaining funds from ITMI that were in Eshcol's possession when they closed their doors had been deposited into the construction account for MCH. God provided the necessary funds to complete the project!

By God's grace and hard work on the part of those at Moreson

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How'd You Hurt Your Hand? by Bill Bathman

This 205-pager is a daily devotional that can be easily read between Christmas and Easter. The 101 Bible studies take a fresh expositional look at the timeless story of the greatest Life ever lived. Serious discounts available for bulk orders.

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Christian Radio voice silenced in South Africa

Good News Community Radio (GNCR) has been one of the longest running community radio stations in South Africa, broadcasting since 1995. Despite the petitions of over 100,000 listeners, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) has steadfastly refused to renew the broadcasting license for this popular family station. [See ITM June 2006]

The reason cited by ICASA for withdrawing the license for veteran GNCR (with an 11 year track record of award-winning educational and community programs) claimed it was *“not racially representative enough.”* However, GNCR had every racial grouping including Zulu and Indian in their station and on their board. However the other secular station to which ICASA awarded their frequency (98 FM) was only secular Zulus.

Apparently a multi-racial, multi-lingual radio station broadcasting in five languages, 24 hours a day, is not as *“racially representative”* as a station that, to this day, has yet to broadcast a single program, and which consists entirely of secular Zulus.

Prior to its closure, GNCR had faced on-going sabotage with regular, sometimes weekly, cable theft and electricity cuts, with electricity poles chopped down and burned at night. The GNCR staff noted that the power cuts were not accidental or coincidental. The timing was significant – just before court cases, when GNCR would

want to be communicating with their listeners.

When told in 1998 by a key government official that soon there would be “no Christian radio stations in the country,” over 10,000 Christians marched to Parliament in Cape Town to protest the plans to silence Christian community radio stations in South Africa. The ANC government backed off and reassured marchers that they would respect freedom of religion on the airwaves.

When GNCR’s 4-year license renewal came up for review, the same official (who is determined to shut down Christian radio stations) was on the committee which refused their license renewal. The Government turned a blind eye to this blatant conflict of interests.

The initial GNCR submission, which was rejected as *“not representative enough”*, included 27,000 signatures in support from members of the community. However, the secular Zulu station had only 500 signatures on their submission, all written on the same paper and in the same handwriting. *“It seemed to me that only 6 people wrote all their submissions. It was fraudulent,”* commented one observer.

Since the government closed down GNCR on June 30th, so that the secular station could take over, they have yet to use the 98 FM frequency on which GNCR had broadcast for over 11 years. The pledge to eradicate Christian community radio stations in South Africa is taking effect.

Bill Bathman – Cape Town

Farm, many of the ministries there are already expanding. With the completion of a home for the Loot family, who had previously shared the LeRoux’s home, several rooms were opened up for the LeRoux’s use. Thanks to the addition of a private bathroom and kitchenette for the use of the ladies seeking safety from abuse at Moreson Farm, the LeRoux’s realized even more additional living space.

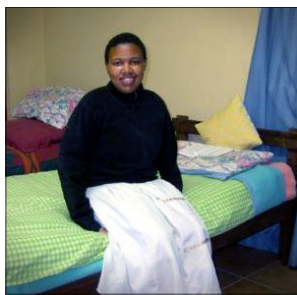


Additional space allows for a productive studying environment.

Gerhard shares, “There is a general sense of expectation with all involved with the vision of Moreson Children’s Haven.” Gerhard has already inquired about another abandoned child from the Cape Town area. The Moreson Farm team has also undertaken the

major preparations for a youth camp to be held on their property, utilizing the now doubled-in-size church building. Imagine, because of Gerhard’s vision, ITMI’s partnership and God’s goodness in allowing the project to be finished, many youth in South Africa will be included in this camp that otherwise may have been turned away for lack of space!

Gerhard, ever humble and considerate, asks us to pray for wisdom as he and his partners continue to guide the expansion of the ministry at Moreson Farm. Their vision is wide open, and the needs are great. They need to be ever responsive to the leading of Jesus as He guides the expansion of their ministry.



The ladies’ new accommodations.

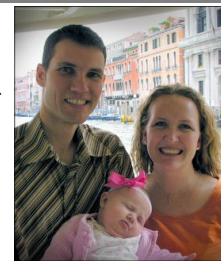


Lydia enjoys the new kitchen.

Poland

When **Richard and Brooke Nungesser** left for the mission field five years ago under ITMI, they had made a two year commitment to serve Jesus in Poland. They began serving Him by bringing tea and rolls to the many homeless taking refuge in Poznan’s train station.

Five years and one baby Adelyne later, this dynamic duo has founded



The Nungesser s.

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Dear Team,

You may remember that last year we returned to Africa six weeks early due to **Lenora Hammond**'s bout with hepatitis which required hospitalization. She's fine now, thanks to your prayers! Our return trip this year was delayed several weeks due to a combination of circumstances, some of which were physical. Harriett had major surgery twice while we were home, with 6+ days in hospital and I had more than the usual number of physical exams, plus an out-patient surgical procedure a dozen days before leaving. It comes with the territory when you reach senior years. No complaints – in fact we're rejoicing that we can still serve the Lord effectively side by side after 55 years of marriage and mission work. The idea is to keep on keeping on until He comes or calls.

Last month we had a great visit from a remarkable young man, **Muhindo Kawede**, from Uganda. He is the principal of ITMI's Bible School in Kampala. We're still collecting data concerning the benefit of his U.S. visit and will feature his story in our January newsletter.

Speaking of visits, the **Nungessers** – ITMI's dynamic trio – will be on U.S. itinerary during January and February '07. Plan now to meet them and hear their inspiring story.

Next month, the Lord willing, I will be speaking at the Annual Summer Youth Conference at **KwaSizabantu** Mission in Natal, South Africa. They are expecting over 5,000 teenagers and young people. This is a semi-annual (summer and winter) occasion that draws teens from hundreds of villages and towns across the country and is a fruitful time of soul-winning. Please pray now for a good harvest.

My new book *How'd You Hurt Your Hand?* has had a good reception. It's 101 devotional studies in Matthew's Gospel. Some have bought extra copies as Christmas presents. ITMI is offering serious discounts for bulk purchases – ten or more.

Thank you for praying for **Moreson Children's Haven**. Your gifts have quadrupled in value here on earth. Considering the concern of our Lord Jesus for little children, we are curious to see how your gifts multiply in heavenly treasure. Stay tuned.

I never cease to be amazed at God's perfect timing. Given our current physical condition and surgeries we've just been through, and at the serious suggestion of some close friends, I had prayerfully decided to trust the Lord for an upgrade ticket for the long and grueling 2-day and 2-night trip from Phoenix to Cape Town (24 hours in the air plus a 6-hour layover in London). Steve Evers shared this problem with an ITMI donor who wishes to remain anonymous. He provided the needed extra funds. Please accept our heartfelt appreciation dear Brother. May God bless you because He knows who you are.

Yours in His grip,



Bill Bathman

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Bread of Life (BoL), a multi-faceted organization that reaches the “forgotten” of Poland-the homeless, poor, addicts, and crisis victims- whom we all know Jesus has not forgotten. BoL offers Bible studies, discipleship, consultation points, crisis intervention, clothing closets, meals, after-school tutoring and the **New Life Center (NLC)**, a transitional home for homeless men.

BoL uses these avenues to share Jesus with those society has excluded for years, though we know these are close to the heart of our Lord:



*“...whoever is kind to the needy honors God.”
-Prov. 14:31-*

Founding an organization in a foreign country would be intimidating to a normal young American couple, but the Nungesser’s enthusiasm and passion has kept them going through all of its challenges.



Brooke with the girls from PIC.

As if founding and running Bread of Life wasn’t enough, Richard is the pastor

of **Poznan International Church**, a body of believers made up of students from all over the globe that has a very unique opportunity for evangelism.

The Nungessers have good help, though. They are mentored by ITMI’s European Director and vital visionary, **Dr. Piotr Zaremba**, and have another young couple, **Tucker and Meredith Boone** to assist them with the ministries of the church. BoL in Poznan has a talented staff of Polish nationals, headed by **Dawid Karel. Tomek Jezyk** is in charge of the branch in the city of Kalisz, where he has a unique ministry teaching Karate to street children. Karate provides the vehicle to encourage the kids by giving them confidence as well as a way to protect themselves, and allows Tomek to build relationships with them.

The New Life Center has an extremely qualified staff of professionals, including **Janusz Fredyk** (who’s name you might recognize because he also pastors **Gniezno Baptist Church**), the NLC Director. ITMI’s missionary, **Bob Taber** has joined the NLC team to use his background in construction to head the first phase of the educational building, which will help BoL offer skills education to those who are serious about starting a “new life.” When Richard and Brooke first started going to the train station with cups of



Richard and Piotr pray for this PIC member after baptizing her.

tea and sandwiches, it was something they could pay for on their own. But, as you can see, God had bigger plans for Bread of Life.

As many of you partnered financially, BoL was able to expand and begin finding more and more ways to reach those God had called them to serve. We know this is all His doing and rejoice in His greatness in guiding Bread of Life to where it is today. Just as Richard and Brooke needed your financial help to reach such a wide range of needy individuals, they are asking for help once more. Would you consider asking your friends, family and churches if Richard and Brooke can share with them the vision and the exciting work of Bread of Life as we change society together? They will be in the States in January and February of 2007. Please call the ITMI office to make arrangements.

Compiled and written by Summer Kelley



Tomek teaches Karate at BoL Kalisz.

For Praise . . .

1. Muhindo **Kawede** returned to Uganda with scholarship funds for Bible students.
2. **Moreson Children’s Haven** as they finish up construction improvements on the farm.
3. Expanding Polish ministry of the **Nungessers** – Bread of Life and New Life Center.
4. Successful surgical and medical intervention for **Bathmans** before returning to Africa.

For Prayer . . .

1. **Tim Keller** and team on extensive (and dangerous) overland journey across Africa.
2. The South African government will reconsider and allow GNCR to broadcast again.
3. **Charl van Wyk’s** U.S. itinerary this month.



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