

Here we stand

On October 31, 1517 a courageous Augustinian monk by the name of Martin Luther boldly nailed his 95-Theses to the door of the *Schlosskirche* (Castle Church) in Wittenberg. It was the spark that ignited the Protestant Reformation. Later when called to account by ecclesiastical authorities at the Parliament (Diet) of Worms he affirmed, “My conscience is captive to the Word of God. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise.”

It has been just over 11 years since we stated clearly where ITMI stands. In the meantime we have continued to faithfully do what God has called us to do – preach the Gospel and serve persecuted Christians in restricted-access countries, both communist and Muslim, as Jesus Christ commanded in the Great Commission.

In answer to the question, “What is In Touch Mission International?” here is our response. We are –

- A voice for persecuted, suffering Christians emerging from the yoke of communism or languishing under the tyranny of Islamic oppression.
- A Christian mission supporting and facilitating the ministry of nationals in restricted-access countries.
- A mission *weather vane* monitoring a changing world and reaching out to countries in the immediate path of totalitarian aggression.
- An evangelistic mission that stands without apology for traditional Christian values and the absolute

authority of the Word of God. We preach Christ: crucified, risen and coming again!

- We believe that “*all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,*” Romans 3:23; that God calls us to “*repent, and believe the Gospel*” Mark 1:15; that “*Christ died for our sins...that He was buried, and He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.*” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. We are “*not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.*” Romans 1:16
- We are concerned to be “*salt and light*” in this world as Jesus commanded. We believe that life begins at conception and that termination of that life by deliberate or artificial means prior to birth must logically be described as murder. We understand that there are differences of opinion. Ours is not an opinion, it is a conviction: God says, “*I have set before you life and death, therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.*” Deuteronomy 30:19.

We believe in taking the long view of mission endeavor. This includes investing in havens for abandoned children and establishing Christian schools to evangelize and train the future generation of national pastors.

All this requires patience and long-term commitments. We’re 25 years into it now. Thank you for standing with us and for keeping in touch.

Bill Bathman, Founder of ITMI – Cape Town, South Africa