



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 April 2007

He was parked in the handicapped space, just outside the Temple. He was not a pretty sight at the Beautiful Gate. Peter and John spotted his outstretched hand as they arrived for the mid-afternoon prayer meeting. "I don't have any silver or gold," Peter said, "*but such as I have, I give thee.*" (Acts 3:6) Most of us can identify with Peter's poverty as far as precious metals are concerned, but the LORD is interested in the "*such as I have.*" God was about to make the immobile mobile – "*in the name of Jesus Christ.*" The man asked for *alms* and God gave him legs! He is still able to do "*exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.*" Ephesians 3:20

Rivers, Revival and Renovation (read on)

SOUTH AFRICA

In our report last month on **Kelly and Cherise Smith's** ministry, we noted that "the Amahlongwa River meanders frequently across the road." Wow, does it ever!

Last week I phoned Kelly on a routine matter to put him 'in touch' with another near-by missionary and he shared with me the following adventure:

"...the water rose around us and stalled the vehicle. We awakened our sleeping children..."
-Kelly Smith-

"Last night on our way home from a Bible study in Scottburgh, we were making one of our seven routine river crossings. Unknown to us it had rained much harder inland upstream than it had where we were. We decided to take a 4x4 two track detour over the mountain, which we do on a regular basis, to bypass most of the high water. Then we can usually make the last two crossings with ease.

"At 10:30 last night, half way through crossing number 6, the water rose around us and stalled the vehicle.

We awakened our sleeping children (already in their pajamas) on the back seat. As they rubbed their sleepy eyes we told them to put their shoes on because we had to get out of the car. Obediently they grabbed their shoes which were already floating in front of them!

"Pressure from the swiftly flowing river kept the door closed. Finally, I was able to take one child in each arm and the laptop to dry land. As I returned to the car to help Cherise, the river was already noticeably higher and stronger. A few minutes after we all found safety, the river won and swept our car away. It was an *eerie* feeling, staring at our family vehicle under the muddy brown water, with the dome light still glowing. A few remaining inches still stood above the surface as though it were swimming and gasping for air."

It sat there, submerged overnight. The photo was taken the next morning after the river had subsided. The 6-year old Land Rover was eventually pulled out with the aid of a tractor and lots of Zulu mussel.

Please pray for all our ITMI

missionaries, "*in journeyings often*" and sometimes "*in perils from waters.*" 2 Corinthians 11:26



Pulling the vehicle from the subsided river.

Special announcement:

To keep in touch more efficiently between our regular monthly publications, ITMI is building a special e-mail alert list to bring you late-breaking news (like the Smith's story) faster. See the box on page 4 to learn how to receive your copy gratis.

Last month marked the 40th anniversary of the Revival currently blessing **KwaSizabantu Mission** in Eastern Natal. Celebrations were followed immediately by the annual **Ministers Conference**, with approximately 3,000 pastors, evangelists, missionaries and others in full-time Christian service from more

(Continued on page 4)

Multicultural Suicide

In January 2007, for the first time in U.S. history, a freshman Congressman (Keith Ellison from the 5th district in Minnesota) took the oath of office with his hand on a Qur'an instead of a Bible. Apparently the Qur'an had belonged to Thomas Jefferson and was among some 6,500 other volumes in his library.

Our first Muslim congressman believes that Jefferson "received insight from the Qur'an in founding our country." Not true! Jefferson was using it to gain insight into the *thinking* of our Islamic enemy in our first war on terrorism against the Barbary pirates. The U.S. had just won independence from England and our navy was insufficient to combat the pirates especially at such a great distance.

In his book, *WHITE GOLD*, Giles Milton carefully documents the extraordinary story of Thomas Pellow and the one million European slaves captured by the Islamic corsairs of Barbary as they plundered coastal populations in England, Ireland, Spain, France, Holland and as far north as Iceland during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Investor's Business Daily notes, "Before American schools stopped teaching American history, everybody knew about the Barbary pirates, Islamic seafaring raiders who (when not engaged in lucrative slave trade) spent their off-hours raiding American and British commerce."

Jefferson and John Adams were appointed as ambassadors to negotiate with the local North African Sultan, leader of the Barbary States. After these high-level discussions they reported back to Congress: "Islam was founded on the laws of their Prophet. It is written in their Qur'an that all nations who should not acknowledge their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war on them wherever they could be found and to make slaves of all they could take as prisoners, and that every Muslim who was slain in battle was sure to go to Paradise."

Following the Jefferson-Adam's report, Congress sent in the U.S. Marines and their subsequent victory over the Barbary sultan is immortalized in the lines of their hymn, "...to the shores of Tripoli."

Sadly, little has changed in Islamic attitudes since that time. Islam's advance in Africa follows the same rules; Christians or non-Muslims who refuse to convert are shot on the spot or taken as slaves *a la* Sudan. They are committed to destroy the western "infidel." Now weapons of mass destruction have replaced the sword.

At the same time they are busy infiltrating without assimilating. An estimated 25 million Muslims are legally living within the European Union. Western governments have legislated *tolerance*, while liberal churches have embraced diversity and both are proudly

"multicultural." Muslims are allowed to congregate in their own communities without integrating with the rest of society – thus breeding their own ghettos. Some of these are already pushing to install *Sharia*, civil law based on the Qur'an.

The trend in western families is to limit their population through contraception or even abortion. Muslim immigrants have large families that effectively change the demographics and enable them to

elect government officials.

With the "salt" having lost its "savor" by downgrading the Savior, we could soon find ourselves trodden under godless, humanistic, Christ-rejecting feet. [See Matthew 5:13]

The secular EU has no strategy for dealing with the cultural dimensions of its problem. Without a religious context, European officials are reduced to endless calls for "dialogue," as they can only see the problems as economic or legal.

Europe is dying of theological thirst in a spiritual Sahara. This is apparent from the EU constitution. The word *Christianity* never appears in the 70,000-word document. To totally ignore the deep Christian roots of European civilization, seen in its art, heard in its music, read in its literature and attested to by majestic cathedrals, not to mention all the worldwide spin-off benefits of the Reformation, is vivid evidence of *Christophobia* – a purposeful and active denial of those roots.

"Whosoever shall be ashamed of Me," Jesus said, "of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed." Mark 8:38

Bill Bathman – Cape Town, South Africa

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[See Matthew 5:13]

Dear Team,

Six years ago this month the Lord began to lead us in our move to Cape Town. Since then God has opened many doors for us here and across Africa, extending my preaching ministry dramatically.

ITMI's Dr. **Piotr Zaremba** was in Israel last month lecturing at the Tel Aviv University. The invitation was as special honor in recognition of his monumental work in translating the Hebrew Scriptures into Polish. His subject: *Guidelines for the Present Times*. Wouldn't you just love to have been a 'fly on the wall' for that one?

Dr. **Adrian Ban**, ITMI's point-man in Romania was in the USA last month. He and ITMI's Director, **Steve Evers** visited a number of churches in the mid-West. Adi is grateful for all those who hosted him and shared in his ministry. He and his wife **Ema** are involved in pre-marital counseling for young couples in Romania.



Dr. Adrian Ban

Last week (March 29) I spoke at the 25th Anniversary of **Frontline Fellowship**. It was a special occasion celebrated in the local Town Hall. Now Frontline is incorporated in the United States. We rejoice in the growth of our sister-mission and the blessing of God on its founder, Dr. **Peter Hammond**. We urge you to pray for and support this ministry directly, as you previously have through ITMI in the past. Checks can be made to "Frontline USA" and sent to: "Frontline Fellowship USA, 1177 Branham Lane PMB 413, San Jose, CA 95118. *"He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the Day of Jesus Christ."* **Philippians 1:6**

When the Lord entrusted me with the initial concept of what is now ITMI, it was to put American Christians 'in touch' with Christians behind the Iron Curtain. We lived and ministered in Europe at that time and could tell their story from first-hand, personal experience. That was 1969. It began with a radio program, IN TOUCH – a weekly at first and then daily, Monday to Friday for the next 10 years. IN TOUCH was about communication, both to inform and inspire. This publication **IN TOUCH MONTHLY** is the logical outgrowth. With that in mind, we're launching an 'alert e-mail' service to keep you better informed between the mailings of **ITM**. The service is free. We hope you'll sign up. See the box on the next page for details.

Harriett's progress is slow and somewhat painful as she recovers from her broken ankle. She's making regular visits to the physical therapists and diligently following a daily exercise program.

Last month I had a routine eye exam and the optometrist was concerned about the build up of pressure in both eyes. She recommended that I visit an ophthalmologist as soon as possible. I did. His diagnosis was "chronic open-angle glaucoma." Two days later I had laser surgery. He says that I have cataracts in both eyes and will need to have them removed soon. I'm a little hard of hearing, so I told him I don't have a Cadillac, but I'd like a winkin' Continental. He was not amused.

Our family is scattered across three continents in two hemispheres. Ever since our nest emptied 19-years ago when Lenora, our youngest daughter came to Africa as a missionary, we have been separated from our children and grandchildren by an ocean and two continents. Now in our senior years God has let us to have an extended ministry in South Africa. It has been worth all the time, effort and energy for us to come to Cape Town. God, in His infinite goodness, has allowed us to see our grandchildren stand for a fleeting moment in the lengthening shadow of our lives. For this we praise the Lord – great things He has done! Amen!

Yours in His grip,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Bathman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Bathman

(Continued from page 1)

than 25 foreign countries. I was privileged to be there along with Dr. **Peter Hammond** and **Calvin**, my 8-year old grandson who is a budding evangelist.

MORESON CHILDREN'S HAVEN near Cape Town, continues to undergo renovations made possible by your investments and ITMI's involvement.

MCH Director **Gerhard le Roux** told me a few days ago, "So far we've upgraded the old kitchen and made the house more child-friendly by replacing the old rusted steel windows with wooden window frames." The old frames had cracked the glass causing a safety hazard. All the windows have safety-glass now.

Someone provided a new dishwasher. "This machine has been a tremendous blessing to **Elmane**," Gerhard noted. "It saves her lots of dishwashing time that can be used more fruitfully in [home] schooling the children."

"The wooden kitchen floor, covered in parts with linoleum, was old and rotten," Gerhard told us. "We've replaced it with concrete and tile." This has dramatically improved the overall hygienic conditions for the children. "By building brick walls with shelving in between, we got huge

new cupboards for a fraction of the price it would cost to install built-in wooden ones," he said.

Because the men at MCH are doing most of the manual work themselves, your missionary dollars are multiplied at least 4-times. "This is much cheaper than having a contractor do it," Gerhard beamed.



Showers of blessing? Plastic on the ceiling keeps out the rain.

Prior to ITMI's involvement, the Sunday service was held in the Le Roux's living room (see photo). I asked him about current needs. "The most pressing renovations still to be done is the fixing of the roof of our living room that was previously used as a church and dining hall for the mission," he told me. "The roof is leaking badly and needs to be repaired before the rest of the room can be renovated and utilized."

Later, Gerhard shared with me

the good news that, "By God's grace, someone has offered to pay half the expense for a new roof!" He's getting quotations now to get the roof completed before the coming winter (the rainy season) which begins in June. They're also praying for some more co-workers, perhaps from overseas, to help with the growing ministry at MCH. We thought you'd like to know.

Bill Bathman – Cape Town

Occasionally, ITMI has information from the field we'd like to share with you before **In Touch Monthly** comes out, such as:

- **Breaking News**
- **Partners' prayer needs**
- **Updates and stories**

We'd like to add you to our email list!

Please send your email address to:
itmi@intouchmission.org

Privacy Policy: ITMI will not, for ANY reason, give your email address to any other person or entity.

For Praise . . .

1. Safety of the **Smith** family as their vehicle was submerged in the river.
2. Timely provision for **Bill**'s eyes through medication and laser surgery.
3. The superb opportunity Dr. **Piotr Zaremba** had in Israel last month.
4. The ongoing Revival (40 years now) at **KwaSizabantu**.

For Prayer . . .

1. His provision for a new roof for **Moreson Children's Haven**.
2. Increased financial support for the **Bans**, ITMI's 2nd generation missionaries.
3. **Kelly** and **Cherise Smith**'s ministry to those dying of AIDS in Zululand, South Africa.
4. Increased concern for the people of **Zimbabwe**, suffering & starving under Mugabe.

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