



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 May 2007

Have you ever said with the Psalmist David, “*I poured out my complaint before Him;*” or lamented “*I laid before Him my trouble.*”? **Psalm 142:2** Jesus said, “*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted*” **Matthew 5:4** The Bible doesn't condemn the grieving process; it just warns us not to get stuck in it. F.B. Meyer says, “There are some who chide tears as unmanly, [even] unchristian. They comfort us with a chill, bidding us to put on a rigid and tearless countenance. We may well ask whether a man who cannot weep can really love? Sorrow is just love bereaved; its most natural expression is tears. ‘Jesus wept.’ The Ephesian elders wept on the neck of the Apostle whose face they were never to see again. Tears are valuable. Pouring out your heart to God is a vital step to becoming whole.”

High lights from hinterlands

Poland

Poznan: ITMI's Dr. **Piotr Zaremba** is back home now, having successfully completed a month of speaking and research in Israel. He described it as a, “very challenging trip.”

Challenging in four specific areas: (1) Material. Apart from the first five days in a nice hotel while he was a guest speaker at the Tel Aviv University conference, the rest of his time was spent in very modest conditions in order not to exceed his tight scholarship budget. As a result he learned a lot about Eastern music, odors and aesthetics.

(2) Physical. He worked very hard in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University libraries. But he took break times, “to do my 110+ push-ups, sit-ups and I never use the elevator to get to my 5th floor room” in Tel Aviv. The whole idea of this kind of regime was to “get my body obedient to the mind.” He still took time for a daily walk, with his computer in hand, to the coffee shop to log-on while downing an “*espresso kafool, ayn halaf ve ayn sukar* – double espresso, no cream, no sugar.”

(3) Linguistic. It was difficult to

make the change from his passive knowledge of Hebrew to a modern and active one. He made progress, but lamented that the time in Israel was too short.

(4) Spiritual. This was the greatest challenge. Acknowledging that it would take too long to develop this subject, he wrote “Suffice it to say that we should continually thank God for Jesus, who freed us from the bondage of religion. My experience of Jerusalem was rather painful in this respect.”

“...we should continually thank God for Jesus, who freed us from the bondage of religion.”

-Piotr Zaremba

His journey began on March 10th with participating in the conference at Tel Aviv University. The invitation was in recognition of his translation of Old Testament Scripture from Hebrew directly into Polish. This translation is part of a Polish Bible Translation Project that ITMI is involved with. Our goal is to provide a nation of 45 million Poles with the first-ever translation of the Bible done by Polish evangelicals. The translation is from Hebrew, Aramaic

and Greek into modern Polish. There are already over 112,000 Gospels in print.

This translation from the original language is widely appreciated and much sought after in Poland today and has sparked a new nation-wide interest in Bible study. You, Dear Reader, have had a vital part in this important Project through your gifts and prayers.



Piotr at the Wailing Wall, Jerusalem.

BREAD OF LIFE

Now in addition to meeting on Friday for a meal together and sharing the Gospel, a new Bible study for Poznan's homeless has been launched on Wednesdays by ITMI's **Kris Sieliccy** with the help of his wife, **Megi**. (You might remember Megi's day job is

(Continued on page 4)

A World led by Scoundrels

As you dutifully paid your taxes last month did you wonder about the role of taxation in shaping important historical events across the years? How is it that one of the most powerful forces structuring society has been largely ignored?

“The prosperity as well as the declining of nations has always had a tax factor. Human rights have suffered even more than nations – whatever the tax man wants, the tax man gets, including our liberty, should he so desire.”¹

Historically taxes, more than ideology or armies, have been a powerful mover of people. The concept of an independent United States of America was born in the hearts of ordinary men who were frustrated by the harsh realities of “taxation without representation.” Their frustration led to the Boston Tea Party.

“Angry taxpayers can be a lethal threat to a government that institutes oppressive taxation.”²

History records that as taxes increase taxpayers rebel. There are identifiable phases which lead to destructive cycles. The initial phase is rampant tax evasion followed in some cases by flight to avoid tax. The second phase involves riots and the third is violence.

The first casualty of excessive taxation has always been liberty, followed closely by the nation’s wealth and strength. Good taxes are supposed to provide for the common defense of a nation. It is generally acceptable

for taxes to build an efficient infrastructure of roads and bridges for the good of all citizens. Beyond that legitimacy is questionable. Extreme taxation, which transfers honestly accumulated wealth from the productive sector of society to a non-productive sector in order to buy votes and perpetuate power for the politicians authorizing the transfer, is evil (because it will destroy us) and should be identified as such. Evil because it entraps, enslaves and enlarges the number of non-producers.

In the prosperity and poverty of nations, in revolts, revolutions and most of all in wars, taxes have played a pivotal (although virtually invisible) role in the great events of history. From Biblical days through the Middle Ages and on into the modern era, historians have focused on some *façade* as a ‘cause’ for war (i.e., slavery in the Deep South) when the real reason was taxes.

Over the entrance to the Internal Revenue Service building in Washington, D.C. are the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes: “Taxes are what we pay for a civilized society.” The question is, at what point do taxes become uncivilized? Without a doubt, “how we tax and spend determines whether Americans are prosperous or poor, free or enslaved, and most important, good or evil.”³

¹ “*For Good and Evil*” Charles Adams, 2 & 3 *ibid.*
Madison Books, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, MD

Bill Bathman – Cape Town, South Africa

IRA Charitable Rollovers – New law for tax-free giving

Now you have a wider choice. If you would prefer to share money, currently being paid in taxes to the federal government, with Christian ministries close to your heart – *‘For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also’* Matthew 6:21 – you have a window of opportunity this year.

Last year President Bush signed the Pension Protection Act of 2006 which allows individuals over 70^{1/2} to make charitable donations of up to \$100,000 from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) and Roth IRAs without having to count the distributions as taxable income. This provision expires on December 31, 2007.

The ECFA reports, “The existing IRA Rollover, though limited, has already led Americans to make millions of dollars in charitable donations from their IRAs. Many individuals have more than sufficient funds to retire comfortably and do not need all of the money in their IRA accounts.” If you are in this position: Praise the Lord! If not, perhaps you know someone who would benefit from this opportunity.

Note: The above information is provided as a service for your consideration only. ITMI is not a qualified financial advisory entity. Please consult a CPA or your own personal financial advisor before taking any action.

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
or
mark the enclosed form.

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

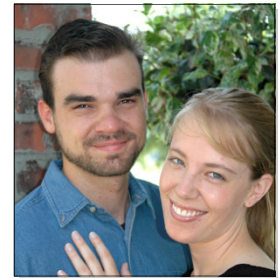
Dear Team,

South Africa is currently in the grip of an unprecedented crime wave. Many of the criminal elements are illegal aliens from Nigeria and Zimbabwe. A few years ago, ANC terrorists were car-bombing public buildings, burning schools, shooting policemen and telling people not to pay taxes. Now, *they* are the government. Now they are concerned about the lack of law enforcement, inadequate schools and the fact that people are refusing to pay their taxes. Truly, we reap what we sow.

Speaking of taxes, there is a unique window of opportunity this year for concerned Christians to exercise wise stewardship and multiply their gifts to missions in a dramatic way [see article on page 2]. If you are interested, please contact ITMI's Director **Steve Evers** for more info on IRA rollovers. You can reach him at the ITMI office at 1-888-918-4100.

My phone rang while I was writing this page. It was **Kelly Smith** on the line from KwaZulu Natal with a praise item: the insurance company has paid him out for his 4x4 that was washed downriver last month [see ITM April 2007]. They gave him what he'd paid for the vehicle, which is good, but it means that he will need just over \$12,000 to replace it with similar equipment. They live in a very rugged rural area and a 4x4 is their only means of transportation and obtaining supplies from outside.

Remember **Alicia** van Huyssteen from Jivanadi Mission in South Africa, who came to the US to study communications at Moody Bible Institute? There she met and subsequently married **Barrett Marcantel**. Last month the Lord blessed them with twins! Alicia delivered the babies – **Conner**, a boy and **Christi**, a girl – by cesarean on April 5.



Alicia and Barrett

Christopher, our soon-to-be 12 year old grandson with chronic renal failure, underwent a complex GFR (glomeruli filtration rate) test last month at the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town. His GFR is 34, which reflects only a 20% function of his one remaining kidney. After extended consultation with his nephrologist, he is now scheduled for more tests next month with an endocrinologist. The entire Hammond family is in the United States this month on a ministry and educational tour.

ITMI missionary **Tim Keller** and Miss **Ashley Hilde** are tying the knot in Tucson the 5th of this month. Both are from the *Old Pueblo* and currently serve the Lord in South Africa with Frontline Fellowship. Rev. **Jeff Niell**, Tim's home church pastor, will perform the ceremony and Dr. **Peter Hammond** will bring the nuptial message.

We are so grateful to God for your participation with us in both prayer and practical support. May He bless you abundantly is our sincere prayer.

Yours in His grip,

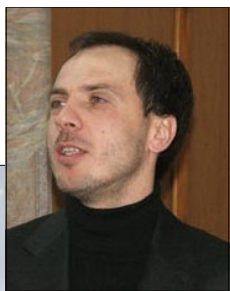
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Bill Bathman'.

Bill Bathman

(Continued from page 1)

ministering through **Gospel Joy**.) This midweek meeting is without a meal.

“We want to see how many are interested in Jesus only,” Megi confided.



Kris (above) leads the Wednesday meeting and Megi (left) leads worship.



Poznan is a city of almost 800,000 people. There are only a few small Evangelical Churches here and they are mostly on the north side of the Warta River (the lighter area on the map below). The team is praying about starting a new Bible study on the other side of the river and watching it grow. As the Bible studies multiply soon a Church will be born. Your prayers can water this precious seed.



Poznan, Poland

Each one of these precious souls has a tragic side of their life. Stan [not his real name] was only a boy when his mother died. Later, his father married again but his step-mother rejected Stan and he had to leave home. His father tried to help him and brought food from time to time.

As a homeless person he was regularly abused and frequently robbed. When the **BoL** team met him he was 34 years old, depressed and without hope. When he heard about Jesus, he prayed and trusted Him as his Savior. In mid-March he moved into the New Life Center established by ITMI's **Richard and Brooke Nungesser**.

Late last year various Health Ministers in the African Union met in Mozambique and signed the “Maputo Protocol.” The intended effect is to force all 53-member states of the AU to legalize abortion continent-wide. Such documents

have been used to change national laws in many instances. One strategy of the European Union is to make aid money to Africa contingent upon compliance. As we go to press with this issue Health Ministers of the AU are meeting in Johannesburg to work on details. Your prayers can help to thwart their schemes.

Zambia

Rev. Eugene Kalunga, Principal of Excellence Christian Academy writes from Kabwe, “Foundations for the three [new] classrooms were dug and concrete foundations poured in. We hope that one classroom will be finished by the end of the first term.” They are also preparing to build a school Assembly Hall.

South Africa

Work continues steadily at **Moreson Children's Haven** near Cape Town. The kitchen is now completed. They're racing the clock to finish repairing the roof before winter comes next month and the rains begin. This is a 'cover up' we're happy to be associated with. Would you like to help us complete this shelter?

Africa

For Praise . . .

1. A very beneficial trip to Israel last month by Dr. **Piotr Zaremba**.
2. “Thank God for Jesus who freed us from the bondage of religion.” P. Zaremba.
3. New ministry opportunities in Poland for the **Bread of Life** team.
4. Safe arrival of **Alicia's** twins – **Conner** and **Christi**.

For Prayer . . .

1. Plans to be thwarted for a continent-wide abortion program in Africa.
2. Safe ministry tour in the USA for the Hammond family this month.
3. New roof for **Moreson Children's Haven** facility, before winter rains begin in June.
4. **Kelly Smith & Tim Keller** both need vehicle replacements. One was washed away, the other worn out.

