



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church **IN TOUCH MONTHLY**

1 July 2007

The French historian Alexis de Tocqueville toured the United States in the early 19th century to analyze the strengths and drawbacks of democracy. Concerned over the disparity between the American War of Independence and the recent French Revolution, he sought for an answer to the French disaster. He visited our factories and our farms, our ports and principal cities searching for what had made America great. Then he visited our Churches and found the secret of this countries true greatness. His considered conclusion: "America is great because America is good. If America ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."

What would de Tocqueville think if he knew we'd caved-in to the ACLU and removed prayer and the Ten Commandments from our schools? More importantly, what does God think about a nation that no longer honors Him? "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind." **Romans 1:28**

Director's trip to Europe

Poland



Steve's mid-night routine.

ITMI's Director, **Steve Evers**, recently returned from a month of travel in Eastern Europe. His objectives while abroad were to observe and encourage ITMI's partners, brainstorm and envision their

future growth plans, and touch the lives of those whom our partners serve when the opportunity arises. Each day began early and was packed full of travel, meetings, brainstorming, encouraging, praying and advising. Steve's dedication to fulfilling his calling to serve ITMI partners and donors is seen in the sacrificially long days he spends communicating with them and working on their behalf. At the end of a full day, he cheerfully burned the midnight oil next to his

Steve was touched at the way the residents and staff of the New Life Center sat around one table as a family.

computer to fulfill the regular responsibilities of being ITMI's Director.

But you won't find Steve complaining, "It's not like a job to me," he says, "I love it." It's blatantly apparent to the rest of us that he enjoys his time with the ITMI partners and is greatly honored that they allow him to serve, encourage and invest in them.

While in Poland, Steve had the privilege of visiting **Bread of Life's New Life Center (NLC)**, a transformation home for Poland's homeless, with **Richard Nungesser** and **Dawid Karel**. Steve was touched at the way that the residents and staff sat around one table as a family, fellowshiping with one

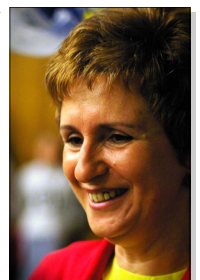


The NLC staff and residents.

another. "The residents are grateful to be there, to have a home, to be valued and to have the highly gifted staff to help them with their challenges. There is a great flavor in the atmosphere at the New Life Center," Steve remembers.

There is a marked difference between the residents who had been at NLC for quite awhile and the newer ones recently arrived. This illustrates the life-changing effect that the staff is having on the residents. Steve enjoyed fellowship with the Bread of Life and NLC staff members, too. Their passion to care for those whom society seems to have forgotten is very moving.

Steve was especially impressed with **Magda**, who is involved in counseling and therapy for the residents. "She is



Magda.



Steve fellowshiping with the NLC staff and residents.

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Is America following France?

This month marks the 231st birthday of the United States of America and still I hear people expose their historical ignorance by comparing the French Revolution of 1789 with the American War of Independence of 1776. Today many Americans are annoyed if not outright angry with France, for a host of reasons. **But -**

...actually we could learn a lot from France – specifically things *not* to do.

When Louis XIV revoked the Edit of Nantes in 1685, making Protestantism illegal, thousands of Huguenots fled France in a mass exodus. Many settled in America and South Africa. With these champions of Christian liberty out of the way, it was just a question of time until tyranny evolved into anarchy.

As a result of bigotry and opposition to the Reformation on the part of its rulers, plus a long term persecution of the Huguenots, France was deprived of the leavening influence of the Gospel. Unlike North America, France had no Puritans or Great Awakening to create the political climate for true liberty.

Young French intellectuals, heirs of the 18th century so-called Enlightenment, launched the first revolution in all history against God in general and Christianity in particular. Paris, immediately before the French Revolution, prided itself on being skeptical, sinful and scholarly.

King Louis XV had a long line of mistresses, one of whom, Madame Pompadour, arranged for him a constant stream of virgins to satisfy his perverted lusts. He eventually died from an STD contracted from one of his *safe* virgins. His last mistress, Jeanne du Barry, well-known to many men close to the king, became the ardent enemy of Marie Antoinette, wife of the future king Louis XVI.

When Louis XVI became king in 1774, France was the largest, wealthiest and most powerful nation in Europe – a superpower with a population equal to Russia. It was in France's self-interest to help the Americans in their quest for independence from the French arch-enemy, England. We were indebted to them for that; a debt we have repaid many times over in blood and treasure.

The old regime in France had a major problem, unprecedented in history at that time. French intellectuals, middle and upper classes had grown ashamed of their country, history and institutions. The roots of this strange evil were in what was euphemistically called the Enlightenment. It began with **Voltaire** and his attacks against the Catholic Church and the absolutism of France's Crown. From there it grew to include arguments against God and any established authority. The movement campaigned for an ideal political, economic and educational system where men would forever be rid of prejudice, sin and error – a utopian dream.

In their zeal to destroy the old system, men of the Enlightenment rummaged through the trash bins and graves of the past to rediscover every crime or transgression and place the blame at the doorstep of the Church. It must be remembered that this was an apostate Roman Church that had scorned and resisted the Reformation which had swept northern Europe.

These attacks gained momentum and some credibility with the emergence of **Rousseau**. His ideal was a naked savage, gloriously free of all civilized restraints, whom he deified as the noblest of beings. He preached equality of all classes, sanctity of the poor and sovereign rights of the masses. To him, all evil and sin was the fault of Christianity.

At the same time there were ancient forces at work: pornography, perversion, prostitution and now a new one, the press. For the first time in history the press was the font and fuel for these discussions. Paris had more printers, bookstalls, journalists and theorists than any city in Europe. Journals were a mixture of politics and smut. They admired agitators and never mentioned the Church unless to expose some scandal. Sin in high places was a daily diet of conversation.

In Paris, Marie Antoinette launched relief efforts, soup kitchens and bread distribution from her own personal funds. The propaganda newspapers in Paris were displeased. They charged that the Queen, being told that so many people had no bread, responded by saying that they should eat cake. This lie went through the country like wildfire and was bitterly repeated everywhere.

In fact the Court was working hard to aid in the emergency, but its efforts were turned against it. Relief stations were set up in Paris but the propaganda newspapers insisted nothing was being done. At the same time leaflets appeared in other cities saying that free food could be had in the capital and a stream of the destitute began to flow toward the city, thus adding to its misery.

The storming of the Bastille followed and soon the Monarchy was replaced by anarchy – the Queen by the guillotine. By June 1792 error led to the Reign of Terror.

There is no comparison between the American War of Independence (with 18,500 British and American soldiers killed) and the French Revolution (with 3 million killed, including over 300,000 civilians). The former led to true liberty and freedom. The latter spawned the godless communist revolution and the brutal tyranny that followed. *“While they promised them liberty, they themselves are the slaves of corruption.”* 2 Peter 2:19

So what do we learn from France? Just this: All you need to destroy a nation is an *elite* that no longer believes in the Christian ideals that made our country great; that re-writes history to make citizens feel ashamed about our culture, our institutions and about themselves – intellectual termites eating away at the foundation of our Christian culture and heritage.

Bill Bathman – Cape Town, South Africa
Research source: *Robespierre*, by Otto Scott

July 2007

Dear Team,

France rejected Christianity and chose to be a secular State. The French Revolution followed with anarchy, the Reign of Terror and over 3 million dead. They didn't want God's Law in the form of Ten Commandments, so now they have turned the clock back 1,000 years and exposed themselves to Islam and Shariah law, complete with amputations and beheadings. Please pray for France.

Remember our report of the South African government's closure of a Christian radio station in Durban, Natal last year? [See **ITM** June and November issues] The **Good News Community Radio** frequency 98FM handed over to a secular broadcaster was not used. We asked you to pray. God responded!

Letters from concerned Christians across the world to the government authority, led to a change of heart. GNCR has been granted another frequency with a more powerful signal. The team is looking forward to manning the mikes again and sending out the Gospel. One problem: their legal defense costs to maintain their right of broadcast ate up funds that they need now to replace obsolete equipment. Now that they have a new permit, let's help update this equipment and get them back on air.

ITMI's **Moreson Children's Haven** is in the process of putting on a new roof over an important part of the main house. We mentioned this urgent need last month and a dear sister in the Lord was moved by Him to help us make it happen. And the One who could *still the storm on Galilee* is giving us a break in the weather.

Rain damage caused by a leaky roof also spoiled the floor, so we're redoing that as well. One brother wrote from Arizona asking if he could help and when we told him about the damaged floor he responded, "We want to be involved." We're overjoyed with His blessings. Please continue to pray for these precious children.

For the past 18+ years ITMI has enjoyed a sister-mission relationship with **Frontline Fellowship** in Cape Town. We have receipted funds for them and they have helped ITMI establish our work in Africa. We rejoice with **Frontline** as they celebrate 25 years of mission outreach in Africa. Now they are fully incorporated in the USA and we wish them well. Frontline Fellowship is now able to issue 501(c)(3) tax-deductible receipts from their U.S. office in California.

Please send donations, book orders or personal support for Dr. **Peter Hammond** and his family to:

Frontline Fellowship USA
1177 Branham Lane PMB 413
San Jose, CA 95118

tel: (408) 370-1653
fax: toll free 866-796-0651
email: info@frontlinefellowship.net
Web: www.frontlinefellowship.net

We're back in Arizona for the summer. Are we crazy? No. Both Harriett and I have some surgical and medical needs and will appreciate your prayers.

Yours in His grip,



Bill Bathman



The Hammond Family.

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Magda ministers to children in Gniezno.

gentle and gracious,” he says, “She is a champion.” Magda is a quality, dedicated servant of Christ, who in addition to her service at the New Life Center, plans and executes regular community outreaches through **Gniezno Baptist Church**. The outreaches are so successful in bridging the gap between evangelicals and their community that the local Catholic Church authorities felt threatened enough to send a letter to everyone she ministers to, warning them not to participate. But Magda didn’t roll over. She personally contacted every single person who had received the letter, explaining to them that the

accusations made were false, that she and her helpers love and care for the children of the community. Almost all responded positively and continued sending their children to the events.

Another top-notch Bread of Life worker is **Kris Sieliccy**, who has been leading Bread of Life’s Holy Start meetings on Friday mornings. After graduating from seminary, Kris married **Megi**, who is working with *Gospel Joy*, last July . Kris has a heart to reach people, build relationships with them, and invest in them through discipleship. “Kris is a quality guy,” Steve said, “I really like his heart.”

Kris has truly been able to connect with the guys at Holy Start in an exceptional way. They come to him for advice and guidance, and when it comes to spiritual advice, he is careful to emphasize the importance of a relationship with Jesus over religious church attendance, which they’ve been conditioned to believe helps them enter heaven.



Kris Sieliccy.

Bread of Life asked Steve to

deliver the message at Holy Start. The Holy Spirit gave him a moving illustration using an every day technological tool. Kris later shared with Steve that some who listened were moved to tears, and others shared that they had learned a great deal that day.

With quality people like Magda, Richard, Dawid, Kris and **Piotr Zaremba** to mentor and guide them, God is doing great things in Poland. God is using Steve and ITMI in a great way to partner with these dedicated servants of God to spread the gospel farther and wider.

Compiled and written by Summer Kelley

To read articles about Polish sunbathers who got a little more than sun, how Bob Taber helped change a life without saying a word, the newest church plant in Poland, Steve’s visit to Casa Dorca and more, please visit www.intouchmission.org.

For Praise . . .

1. Steve Evers’ safe and effective ministry trip to Eastern Europe.
2. Transition from tradition to relationship with Jesus creating new life in some Romanian churches.
3. Spiritual and personal growth in the lives of New Life Center residents.
4. The Bathman’s safe return to Tempe, AZ.

For Prayer . . .

1. Continued ministry for Bread of Life at the New Life Center.
2. Bill and Harriett’s medical needs during their time in the US.
3. Construction challenges for the Gniezno Baptist Church renovation project.
4. A much needed new church in Poznan, Poland being planted by Kris Sieliccy.
5. That Magda receives funding to continue her ministry opportunities with Bread of Life and Gniezno Baptist Church.

