



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 August 2007

“Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues.”
Matthew 10:17 Jesus individually called and gave His authority to twelve carefully handpicked men. They came from a wide background and represented trades, crafts, agriculture, civil service and politics. They lived and traveled with Him. They sat at His feet and learned. They witnessed every miracle and heard every sermon. They benefited from His provision as He fed the multitudes. They escaped the consequences of the storm as He stilled the angry waters. They were His disciples. Are you?

Translation for Transformation

Poland

[This month’s lead article is written by **Carolyn Zaremba**, daughter of ITMI’s Polish Director.]

People exposed to the new evangelical translation of the Gospel of John in Polish can hardly contain their excitement. *“Thanks to the Gospel of John and the study guide, my wife and I have finally discovered life everlasting!”*, exclaims a grateful Polish convert. *“I have read this gospel before in its older rendition, but when I was reading this one, it felt like a whole new book! The verses began to speak to me, I was amazed at their freshness and accuracy,”* says a believer from Gniezno, Poland.

“I once thought that the Bible isn’t a book for me, that it’s too difficult. But when a missionary gave me a copy of the Gospel of John with a study guide, everything started falling together, forming a clear picture.” Another adds, *“Now I know how important the Bible is in my life. When I don’t read it in the morning, I can just as well count the day as lost. My grey life has lit up with color.”*

In recent years, Polish society has undergone frightening secularization, brought about by the importation of questionable western ideals. Consequently, the Catholic Church has been preoccupied more with guarding the importance of its rites than with feed-

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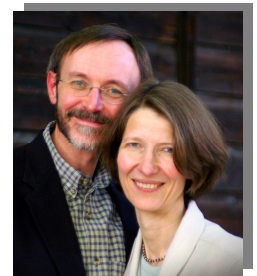
Page 1 of Polish Gospel of John.

ing its churchgoers with an applicable Word of God. Without being well-grounded in scripture, new-born Catholics are left to struggle with temptations and questions on their own, never grow into maturity and never experience the victorious life God planned for His children.

Throughout its millennial history, Poland has never

experienced a massive spiritual awakening. Over 90% of its 38 million population claims to be Catholic, but few are truly aware of their Catholic beliefs, and the majority values Catholicism merely for the cultural *mores* and humanistic role models it supplies.

It has been six years now since God gave **Dr. Piotr Zaremba**, pastor of the K5N Baptist Church in Poznan, Poland a daring visionary



Piotr and Krystyna Zaremba

thought: ***“Translate the Bible – for revival.”*** Zaremba’s zeal to give the Bible to the nation ignited others to get involved in the inspirational project. Anna Jozak and Agnieszka Pi-atek, Greek linguists, worked at his



Anna Jozak.

side as grammar and commentary consultants and translators. Prof. Piotr Muchowski, a Hebrew specialist, took on the challenge of translating the Pentateuch and historical Old Testament books.

ITMI’s **Dariusz Banicki** advises

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Guess who wins the game – fair play in an unfair world

Recently a non-binding resolution entitled *Combating Defamation of Religion* passed the UNCHR (United Nations Council on Human Rights). It states in part: “The Council expresses deep concern at attempts to identify Islam with terrorism, violence and human rights violations.” Really? Do they think that we’re all blind and asleep at the switch?

It gets worse: The resolution notes an intensification of the campaign of defamation of religions and “the ethnic and religious profiling of Muslim minorities, in the aftermath of the tragic events of 11 September 2001.” With invisible Muslim moderates failing to have any apparent control over the excesses of their co-religionists, it is not unreasonable to expect further deadly terror outrages

Many thought it was unusually convenient that the violent 'Cartoon Intifadas' of February 2006 (which erupted some five months after the controversial Danish cartoons were originally published) occurred only weeks before the UNCHR was due to consider the resolution. You don't have to be too cynical to wonder if the Arab League sponsored not only the resolution but the Cartoon Intifadas as well. We do not believe that all adherents of Islam practice “terrorism, violence and human rights violations,” but the cold, hard facts are that significant numbers do.

Note: the resolution opposes “the ethnic and religious profiling of Muslim minorities.” In other words, as long as Islam is in the **minority**, its adherents should not be “profiled” or be shown “intolerance, defamation or Islamophobia but ought to be granted ‘the enjoyment of all rights.’” But we must keep in mind that Islam is a politico-religious philosophy, which in Muslim-**majority** countries combines the force of law with its religious beliefs.

Thus when Islam becomes the majority religion, Sharia law comes into force and Christians along with other non-Muslims become second-class citizens. This is already happening in the former Soviet republics of Central Asia.

Not surprisingly, 21 Muslim-majority countries voted in favor of this resolution. Cuba joined in along with Russia and the Philippines (both with large Muslim minorities). Those opposed included France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, all of which have recently experienced rioting by Muslims, torching cars, businesses and public housing to demand their *rights*.

“Defamation” is not simply making rational and factually true arguments in favor of one position as opposed to another, but rather making slanderous and untrue arguments. To label something as “defamation” or “Islamophobia” simply because someone makes a logically sound and correct argument is in itself slanderous.

Commenting on this resolution a missionary friend in Russia writes, “I mention this not only because of the growing minority of Muslims in Russia, but also because of their increasing insistence on ‘tolerance’ of their world-view. The problem with so-called modern ‘tolerance’ is that it is often demanded by those who want to use [our] democracy in order to overthrow democracy. True tolerance must be reciprocal, with all sides agreeing to play by the same rules. If during a football game one team is not allowed to go beyond its half of the playing field, but the other team disregards that rule and runs all over the field, guess which team scores all the points and wins the game?”

Bill Bathman – Tempe, Arizona

“The problem with so-called modern ‘tolerance’ is that it is often demanded by those who want to use [our] democracy in order to overthrow democracy.”

Congratulations to **Kristi** and **David Blanchard** on the safe arrival of their son,

Asher Ellis Blanchard

on Sunday, July 22 at 11:48 p.m. He weighed in at 7 lbs and 10 oz, yawned and stretched out a full 21” – took a look at his adoring mom and proud papa and smiled. It was love at first sight. Y’all remember Kristi. She was a vital part of the ITMI administrative team for many years.

(This picture was taken when he was about 12 hours old!)



Dear Team,

Thanks to your prayers and generosity **Moreson Children's Haven** in South Africa now has a new roof! **Gerhard** and **Elmane le Roux** are getting triple use of the newly renovated space which serves as classroom, living and dining room. "God was gracious," Gerhard noted, "that whole week [during the construction] it did not rain." The old, leaky roof was removed and replaced with a new roof. Funds forwarded from ITMI made it possible to complete the work before the next big winter rain came.

In typical MCH fashion the missionaries all worked together to achieve their goal. This had the effect of quadrupling ITMI's investment. In so doing they were able to replace the old, water-damaged floor with a new one and put in two new windows to give more light. After the next severe storm Gerhard enthused, "We thank God for not a single drop inside the house under the new roof."

Gerhard was a guest speaker last month at **Frontline Fellowship's** Biblical Worldview Seminar in Cape Town, where over 100 delegates participated from countries across the world including Australia, USA, Ghana, Nigeria, Romania, England, Zambia, Zimbabwe and from all over South Africa.

Frontline Fellowship is now incorporated in the USA as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Please send all contributions for this vital ministry and personal donations for support of Dr. **Peter Hammond** to:

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Many have asked us about the condition of **Harriett's** broken ankle. She had an exam at Mayo's last month and x-rays showed that the bone has not joined properly. She is scheduled for a Cat-scan at Mayo's on August 2nd and the orthopedic surgeon will decide on the next step. Please keep her in your prayers.

The Reverend **John Jere**, founder and Director of the Samaritan Children's Home, arrives mid-month for a US itinerary. SCH is a refuge in Lusaka, Zambia for children who have lost both parents to AIDS. There are still some open dates in his schedule and a visit to your Church, Bible study group or home meeting would be a blessing to you and your friends. ITMI has a 10 minute DVD on this heart-felt ministry that you really ought to see. Contact our Tempe office for details.



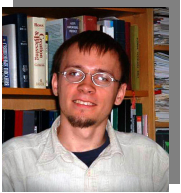
Rev. Jere holding Lydia.

Yours in His grip,



Bill Bathman

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Pawel Kozlowski.

the translators on the historical issues, and ITMI's **Kris Sielicki** wrote a new onomasticon especially for use by the translators. Cross-references have been meticulously prepared by Krystyna Zaremba and Adam Ciorga. Pawel Kozlowski, a talented computer designer, follows his artistic bent with the visual aspect of the translation's typesetting.

The input of volunteer reviewers has been invaluable as well, among whom was Prof. Andrzej Zaborski of the Jagiellonian University, a scholar of international renown. In fact, all members of the team have sound academic background certified in their area of expertise.

The upcoming publication of the New Testament is only a part of the project whose goal is to saturate the Polish nation with the Word of God. The next monumental step will be to complete the Old Testament. The team also envisions concordances, commentaries, student, teen, and family Bible editions, living and literal versions, as well as a Bible server and software, according to public demand.

The whole of the New Testament in literary form is due to be published in August 2007, although the gospels have already come out in the form of individual gospel booklets. The response they received was

enthusiastic. The gospel booklets distributed have exceeded 75,000 copies, and the Gospel of Mark was deemed the best available on the market.

Recently, the dissemination of the Gospel of John soared with the launching of *The Philip Project* - inspired by the apostle Philip's question to the Ethiopian eunuch, "Do you understand what you're reading?" Acts 8: 30 This project was designed to enable as many Polish people as possible to study and understand the Word of God utilizing Piotr's translation of the Gospel of John. The project features a mentoring strategy where people older in the faith give out copies of the Gospel of John to those who are still unsaved or freshly newborn, then serve as accountability partners to help the recipients understand what they are reading and grow in their faith.

So far, the project has been adopted in 60 different evangelical churches, and distributed to over 1,500 people. Through this practical use of the new translation of the Gospel of John, the first fruit of the Bible Translation Project in Poland are already being harvested!

These successes, however are still relatively small enterprises. The publication of the whole New Testament and its popularity may nettle the powerful Catholic clergy, especially since this translation will not receive the official recommendation of the Catholic Church. This

version is also liable to be pilloried by liberal activists, as it is the first in Poland to name homosexuality a sin. We ask you therefore to continue to fight in prayer for the vital Bible Translation Project in Poland.

We are promised that if the Word goes out, great things will result: "*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth... so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*" Isaiah 55:10-11

We're already witnessing the power of the Word of God on unbelieving hearts. Marcin, a young Catholic parishioner, was given the unusual "penance" of reading the Gospel of John by his priest at confession. His heart was convicted by the Word of God and he dedicated his life to the Lord. Now a highly active member of his local evangelical church, he became living proof of the power of the Word of God to change lives, communities, cities, and nations, even when they are entrenched in a rigid religious system that considers reading God's Word a penance.

Thanks to your financial and prayerful partnership with ITMI and the Bible Translation Project, this powerful, living and active Word of God is being unleashed in Polish society, and will not return empty.

By Carolyn Zaremba

For Praise . . .

1. Moreson Children's Haven has a new roof and more for the current winter in Cape Town!
2. Success and distribution of the Polish New Testament translated by **Dr. Piotr Zaremba** et al.
3. Safe arrival of Asher Ellis Blanchard. God's gift to Kristi and David.

For Prayer . . .

1. Proper diagnosis for **Harriett's** ankle and corrective surgery.
2. Visit of Pastor **John Jere** to America this month and next.
3. **Christopher Hammond** as he undergoes endocrinology tests.
4. Polish Bible Translation Project's continued success and distribution in the face of opposition.

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