



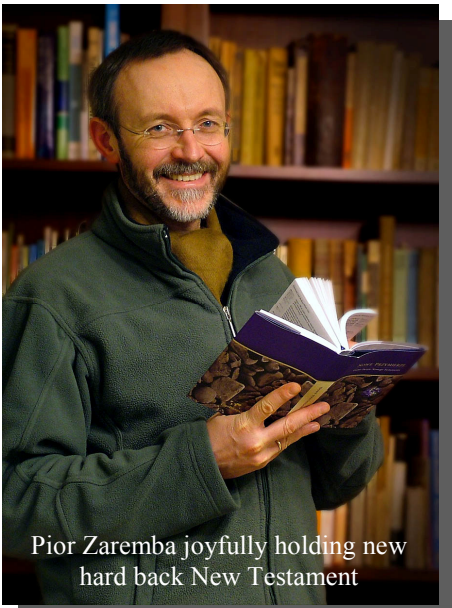
Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church **IN TOUCH MONTHLY**

1 January 2008

Life can be *routine* much of the time. I read somewhere that only 18 days in the entire life of Jesus Christ are accounted for in the Gospels. We live in the valley and long for the mountaintops. This year, make it a habit every morning to say, “*This is the day that the LORD has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it.*” Life will become an adventure as we discover that “God gives us great opportunities, brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.”

Plenty of action in northeastern Europe

Poland



Piotr Zaremba joyfully holding new hard back New Testament

ITMI’s Polish Bible Translation project, led by Dr. **Piotr Zaremba**, has now published the New Testament in both hard and soft cover. The reception in Poland has been terrific. His vision of translating the *Bible for Revival* is beginning to take shape. Whole congregations in churches across the nation are welcoming this long overdue edition. Fellowships in Krakow, Tarnow, Poznan, Szczecin, Koszalin, Szczecinek and Czlochow have already adopted it. Copies were bought for a Polish community in Edinburgh, Scotland.

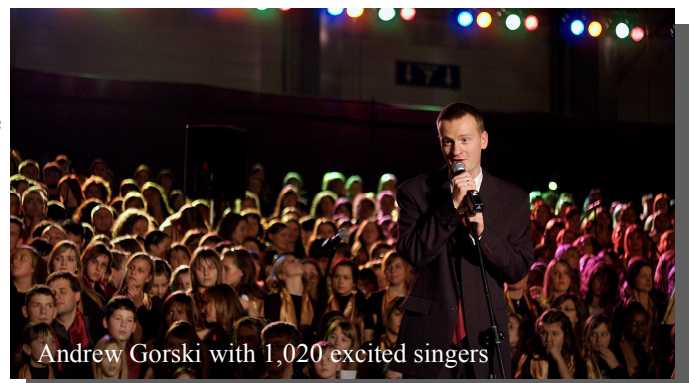
Last month Polish Baptists launched a jubilee year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of their movement in Poland. They announced this translation as the Evangelical one of choice. This is the first ever translation from Greek and Hebrew into the Polish language from within evangelical circles. All previous ones were translations of a translation [with the exception of the Catholic *Biblia Gdanska*, 1632]. Dr. Zaremba and his team have followed the same pattern used by those who translated the King James Version in 1611 – working from the original language into the common language. Congratulations Piotr and Professor Piotr Muchowski, and to your excellent team of scholars. We’re prayerfully awaiting completion of the Old Testament.

Another mountain-top event last month was Gospel Joy Choir’s music seminar in Poznan. Black Gospel music is a growing phenomenon in Poland. Large numbers attended the GJC’s multi-day workshop which was prerequisite in order for them to sing in the closing concert. **Andrew Gorski** had not anticipated so

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many showing up. By the end of the week, 1,020 singers had trained – which meant that they had all heard the Gospel clearly shared and were able to present it in song.

This was the largest Gospel Choir ever assembled in Poland and possibly in Europe! Now the problem was to find a venue large enough to accommodate both the Choir and the 2,000+ who had bought tickets for the Concert. There was no public hall or Church building large enough in Poznan, Poland’s second largest city. Eventually Andrew found a huge roofed area at the International Trade Fair Center and it was *all systems GO*



Andrew Gorski with 1,020 excited singers

(Continued on page 4)

The most dangerous place on earth; terror war on the un-born

Warning: This article contains graphic language the author deems necessary to help the reader fully appreciate the seriousness of the issue, both to the present and future of our nation and culture.

We mourn the loss of every service man or woman in Iraq, and rightly so, but we murder more Americans in the womb **each day** than the total death toll in Iraq over the past five years. Few are the voices raised against the terror-war waged on the un-born child in America! Where is the outrage? Many churches and individuals are silent in the face of this slaughter. This is tragic. God will hold us accountable for this holocaust.

This month marks the 35th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. Over 52 million Americans have perished during that time in their mother's womb. Meanwhile our politicians are worried about Social Security funding downrange, due to a dwindling support base. If we had not been *legally* murdering our un-born children across 3.5 decades there would be an additional 22 1/2 million working Americans over 21 years old in the labor force today, paying taxes and contributing to Social Security.

If the media were fair, responsible and consistent, they would demand to film the carnage as they did in Viet Nam and later in Iraq. Nightly we would witness grisly scenes of babies being dismembered. There would be footage from the sonogram showing a living baby trying to escape the probing of a hostile instrument. Against the background of dramatic music we would see the heart monitor register the obvious fetal fear and distress. We would be aghast at the sight of tiny limbs yanked ruthlessly with forceps from the body before extracting the remains of the torso and putting them in a plastic bag. The camera crew would then follow the "health worker" out the back door and film the bag as it's tossed carelessly into a dumpster.

What kind of monster could conceive, much less carry out a late-term abortion, commonly known as D&X? Picture a viable baby, limbs and torso deliv-

ered with only the head remaining inside the mother, little arms and legs flaying; the doctor punctures the base of the skull, suctions out the brains, crushes the tiny head and the little one drops lifeless into a waiting bucket. This is America in 2008 folks. When will the barbaric carnage cease? **"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves."** Proverbs 31:8

Instead, the media describe activities inside the murder mills in antiseptic prose such as "pregnancy termination." This has been going on for 35 years. 4,000 times a day in the United States a delicate, diminutive, defenseless and completely innocent little baby is mangled, rent, cleaved, split and ripped out – that's one every 21.6 seconds. In the time it takes you to read this article ten wee tots have been

trashed; ten miniature marvels of creation have been prematurely terminated.

It's been 35 years now. The carnage must stop. Surely the patience of God is wearing thin. We are in danger of Divine judgment. If good, solid, decent Christian men and women will not cry out against this wanton slaughter then we become accessory to the crime. God help us.

Footnote: If you have, or someone you know has had an abortion, our Heavenly Father knows all about the circumstances surrounding this tragedy in your life.*

There is no sin that any of us has ever committed which is beyond the pale of His forgiveness and redemption through the precious blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9

Talk to Him about it.

Bill Bathman – Tempe, Arizona

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* See **WORLD magazine 12/15/07 cover story "Daniel of the Year"** for an inspiring example.
www.worldmag.com/articles/13590

Dear Team,

Tribute: Last month, ITMI's Rev. **Richard Nungesser** celebrated his 5th year as Pastor of the **Poznan International Church**. PIC is the spiritual home of many foreign students and workers for whom English is a common language. His ministry has been greatly blessed over these past years with many precious souls coming to know the Lord Jesus as their Savior. Richard and wife **Brooke** went to Poland in September 2001 with a 2-year commitment. Their goal was to share the Gospel while teaching English as a second language.



Adelyne and Daddy Rich in Poznan

In their quest to win souls they reached out in a variety of creative ways. I spoke to over 60 people at their first Thanksgiving dinner the year they arrived. They taught a class in Gniezno, and on return to Poznan by rail one night, saw several homeless people at the train station. Richard went home and put on the kettle. He embellished the *cup-of-cold-water* in Jesus' name, with a thermos of hot tea, a bag of trail-mix and two Granola bars then headed back to the station. By year's end the Nungesser's had begun the Bread of Life ministry to homeless people in Poznan, pointing them to our Savior. That ministry has borne much fruit.

Early in 2006 God rewarded their faith with a precious little girl, **Adelyne**. She is extra special because doctors had told them that they wouldn't be able to have children. You can appreciate this picture much more, now that you know *the rest of the story*. Look closely. How wonderfully wholesome to see this man with a Samaritan heart, a Pastor's concern, a husband's love and a father's tender touch experiencing hilarious joy teaching his miracle daughter to catch snowflakes on her tongue.

This beautiful family who, with delightful self-deprecating humor refer to themselves as the "Polish Nuns," merit our prayers and partnership.

Milestone: Mr. **Ian Smith**, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) died 11/20/07. Born in rural Rhodesia in 1919, he joined the RAF and flew Hurricanes and Spitfires during WWII. He was shot down over North Africa and later in Italy, where he joined up with the local Resistance movement and continued to fight behind enemy lines.



Bill, Ian Smith, and Harriett in 1992

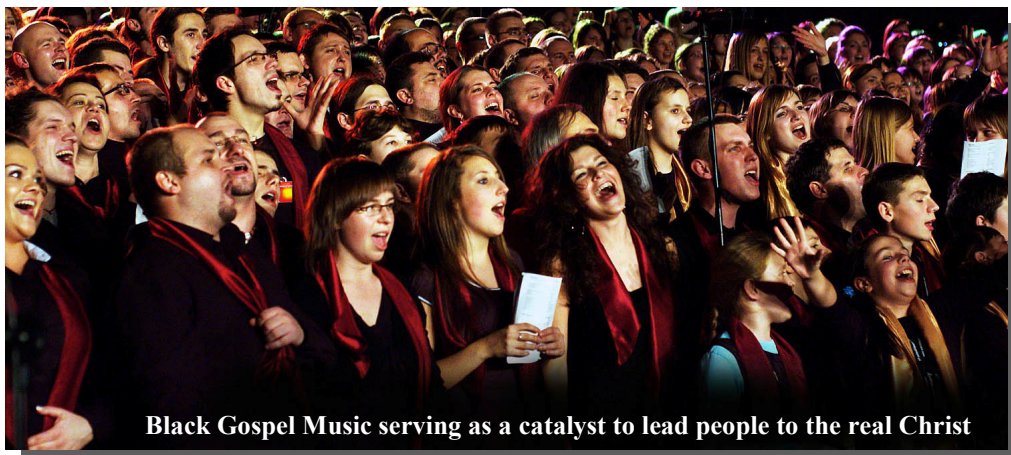
After the War he went back to his farm in Rhodesia. His leadership ability landed him in Parliament and by 1964 he was elected Prime Minister. He led Rhodesia through Independence in 1965 to ward off betrayal by Britain and the US State Department, while he waged a courageous campaign to resist Soviet expansionism. Dr. Peter Hammond, who grew up in Rhodesia during the bush war, noted, "Had Rhodesia not resisted, the consequences for South Africa and the West could have been disastrous. If South Africa had fallen to communism during the Cold War, the strategic Cape Sea Route and vital minerals essential to western industry and defense would have fallen into Soviet hands."

On several occasions, Harriett and I met with Mr. Smith for lunch or afternoon tea. We talked about many contemporary issues. I shared with him God's plan of salvation and prayed with him while he was in the hospital. He knew the Lord and was ready to meet Him. He will be greatly missed here.

Yours in His grip,



Bill Bathman



Black Gospel Music serving as a catalyst to lead people to the real Christ

from there. "We were bombarded with the Gospel," Piotr's daughter Dorothy exclaimed. Pray that the Word in song will bear much fruit.

Remember **Gniezno**? It was once the capital of Poland and is still a center of Catholicism having hosted Pope John Paul II before he died in 2005. Several years ago Dr. Zaremba planted a Baptist Church there, the only evangelical witness in this city of 80,000.

ITMI helped them purchase a building near the center of town. The location was great, but it needed a lot of repair. Plans were drawn, estimates given and funds were raised. It took the local Catholic council over two years to approve the plans. A local construction company was contracted, but they postponed building month after month for another year.

Meanwhile, Poland joined the European Union and many Polish workers (no longer needing *visas*) emigrated to Germany and the UK for better paying

jobs. Local labor costs skyrocketed. All this geo-strategic activity took place while the US dollar plunged in value and inflation took its toll. Result: cost of living has increased some 55% for our missionaries serving in Poland. Building costs have soared too. This devalued \$ cash-crunch affects all American missionaries living abroad. Some are weighing the painful choice of further tightening their belts or returning to the US.

The Baptist Church in Gniezno may have to halt construction (already begun) and close its doors unless the Lord works a miracle with a massive infusion of immediate funds. Would you like to be part of a miracle?

It's winter in Poland. The sky is leaden and low, days are cold and short – but our ITMI missionaries work hard, knowing that "*the night cometh.*" They are racing the clock

to finish current projects almost completed, with dollars devaluing almost daily. It's a race they are determined to win. They have *gone into all the world*, they have denied themselves and taken up their cross, they have *put their hand to the plow* and not looked back; they are getting on with the job. They're our kinda guys!

Our guys could use some extra help right now. Will you roll up your sleeves and go over and pitch in and give them a hand? Maybe some talent or special gift you have is just what they need. If God-given circumstances in your life prevent you from physically going, will you pray? After that could you say to some of the dollars under your control "*go ye*" into all the world? It's a start. Help us finish together.





Gniezno Church renovation project

For Praise . . .

1. Publication of both hard and soft cover editions of the Polish New Testament.
2. The wide-spread acceptance of the New Testament by congregations across Poland.
3. The wide diversification of ITMI ministries, under Dr. **Piotr Zaremba's** leadership over 20 years.

For Prayer . . .

1. Our missionaries, both US and nationals, whose financial support is decreasing due to falling dollar.
2. Dr. Piotr Zaremba's US itinerary next month, including large Polish community in Chicago.
3. Finances sufficient to complete renovation of the Baptist Church in Gniezno.

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