



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 February 2008

By now we know that the Marines are looking for “a few good men.” So is God. The Old Testament drill-Sergeant, Ezekiel, thundered condemnation on Jerusalem because of her sins. Chapter 22 is a catalogue of her iniquities, and a warning to all generations that would follow. He concluded the chapter with a devastating indictment. God’s recruitment program: **“I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.”** Ezekiel 22: 30 NKJV The need is even greater today. God is still looking. Any volunteers?

Ex-terrorist converted to Christ



Former mortal enemies now want message Charl van Wyk has to offer

South Africa

ITMI’s **Charl van Wyk** had an interesting encounter last month with a man who’d been his mortal enemy a few years back. Siphso, an ex-unit commander of the terrorist **Azanian Peoples’ Liberation Army**, was part of their intelligence structure in July 1993 when his colleagues attacked a large Church in Cape Town, with hand grenades and automatic assault weapons – killing 11 worshipers and wounding over 50. The attack became known as the “St James Massacre.” You may remember that Charl shot back and the terrorists fled.

Five years ago, Charl was invited to speak at a “Unity and Reconciliation” meeting, organized by APLA (see **ITM** February 2003). Since then he has kept in touch with several of the top leaders (ex-terrorists) and some have trusted Christ as their Savior. Siphso was one of the converts.

Over the years Charl has invested a lot of time reaching out to these men.

A beekeeping course was one endeavor to help provide them with a craft or skill to become gainfully employed.

Siphso took part in the bee-keeper training program in November 2006. While traveling from the township to the beekeeping facility, Siphso made sure he sat up front in the pick-up truck with Charl. They talked ‘religion.’ “We all serve the same God” he asserted, “Africans worship god through their ancestors, the Muslims through Mohammad and the Christians through Jesus Christ.”

Charl explained, “We all have a different message of salvation. Muslims believe the only way you can be sure of paradise is to die in Jihad while trying to murder Christians. The Christian God tells us that we are saved by His grace alone, through faith and the finished work of Jesus

Christ, His Son, on the cross. The messages are very different and can’t both be right.”

He looked into the distance in deep thought; the seed had been planted.

Later Siphso was invited to the Great Commission Course in July 2007. Dr Peter Hammond, the director, designed the GCC as an intensive introduction to cross-cultural missions; to stretch minds and muscles, which included a blend of physical challenges, academic tests, spiritual disciplines, challenging and informative instruction, strenuous hikes, demanding assignments, practical workshops and numerous outreach opportunities. Siphso heard the Truth during the GCC course and a few months later trusted Christ.

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul.” Psalm 19:7

At first Charl was skeptical; he knew that in the African culture people are very gracious and will tell you what they *think* you want to hear, rather than offend you. Siphso was different. He



Siphso hears Charl share God’s good news

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Is there an Achilles heel to Shariah's Trojan Horse?

For multiple millennia the moral code of cultures world-wide has generally been summed up in the Ten Commandments, or a close variation thereof. Now comes Shariah law. This ideology, recently re-invented by Iranian mullahs and practiced by the Saudi “Wahhabis,” is promoted as Qur’anic in character while in fact it is primarily the man-made product of despot dictators and ruling caliphs over the past few centuries. More recently the horrors of Shariah came into sharp focus with the emergence of the Taliban in Afghanistan followed by America’s wake up call on 9/11.

Shariah is best known for demeaning women – as in polygamy and the sanctioning of wife beating – plus amputations, beheading, stoning, flagellation, so-called “honor killings” and other forms of unsociable barbaric punishment associated with primitive tribal practices in medieval Arabian deserts.

Is this what America wants? For the past half-century liberal judges have succeeded in removing the Ten Commandments from our schools and courts and an entire generation is being set up to accept Shariah. *“Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind.”* Romans 1:28 NKJV

Today Persian Gulf potentates, awash with petrodollars, are scooping up American banking assets (as in Citigroup) that will soon affect every one of us. Missionaries overseas are already feeling the crunch of a devalued dollar.

To further complicate financial matters we’re seeing an insidious penetration into American capital markets of something called “Shariah *finance*.” Usury has long been forbidden to faithful Muslims over the years, but now the creative mullahs have found a way to bypass the Prophet for a tidy profit on the side. But “interest” by any other name still smells as sweet to the hypocritical Shariahites.

Frank Gaffney, Jr. notes, “In overseas capital markets and increasingly on Wall Street, ‘Shariah advisors’ are being hired [] to *bless* investment instruments as compliant with this religious code.” So what is happening? Apparently a financial mechanism is being created to legitimize repressive theo-political regimes and install Islam worldwide. This gives a sinister new meaning to God’s truth that: *“The love of money is the root of all evil.”*

Are we blind? Western bankers, eagerly pursuing Mideast wealth, seem unconcerned for the implications of Shariah finance. Britain’s Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, recently declared his intention to make London the Islamic financial capital of the world. His government “intends to issue its own *sukuk* (or ‘Shariah-compliant’ bonds) sometime [this] year.”

Once we embrace Shariah in any form, but especially in finance, it will be impossible to deny Islamic activists their demands for general acceptance in the public sector. This will include “footbaths in public institutions, prayer rooms and time off for prayers in both public and private sector

establishments.” It will mean ‘halal’ food products (Islam’s equivalent of *kosher*) in our grocery stores (we have it already in South Africa). It’s all part of a patient but determined campaign to subvert free Western societies. It is Shariah’s Trojan horse.

But this horse may have an Achilles heel. Islam has no sense of humor.

We all remember the delayed reaction across the Islamic world to the Danish cartoons, deemed anti-Muslim in 2006, and the protests against Salman Rushdie’s *knighthood* by Queen Elizabeth in 2007. Who could forget the fate of Theo van Gogh, the Dutch film-maker, murdered by militant Muslim extremist in 2004 after he made a film portraying violence against women in Islamic societies? These are chilling examples of what can happen to an artist, writer of media person who is perceived to have offended Islam.

In November last year Gillian Gibbons, a British school teacher in Sudan, agreed to the innocent suggestion of a 6-year old pupil to name the class Teddy bear “Mohammad.” For this indiscretion she was sentenced to 200 lashes by an Islamic court in Khartoum, while screaming wild-eyed fanatics outside demanded her execution.

Freedom of expression has been curtailed for fear of religious fundamentalism. Robert Redeker, a French philosophy teacher is in hiding after calling the Qur’an a “book of extraordinary violence” in *Le Figaro* in 2006. Spanish villages near Valencia have abandoned a centuries-old tradition of burning effigies of Mohammad to mark the liberation of Spain from the Moors in the 15th Century. An opera house in Berlin banned a production of *Idomeneo* because it depicted the beheading of Mohammad (as well as Jesus and other spiritual leaders).

All this against the background of Mohammed’s assurance that, “Satan stays in the upper part of the nose all night.” (Hadith, Vol. IV, No. 516) Consequently, each morning the prophet would “suck water up his nose and then blow it out.”¹ Who then are the most ridiculous – Muslims, or the people who take them seriously?

The truth is however, Islam is no laughing matter. They are deadly serious. More importantly, they are lost without Jesus and need a Savior. Islam offers no assurance for the forgiveness of sin. Winning them to Christ is a matter of life or death – **our** life, or death.

Under a Caliphate there’s no “separation of Mosque and State.” The Mosque *is* the State – and you do what the mullahs tell you to do. We need to watch out for the *tsunami* of Islamic immigrants which will render the country uninhabitable. Visit Europe today for a peek at tomorrow. Formerly “Christian Europe” has all but succumbed to Islamic infiltration and immigration, but we’ll deal with that in a future article.

Bill Bathman – Cape Town

¹ LIFE ALERT – the Medical Case of Muhammad, Dede Korkut M.D. p. 84

President's Page

February 2008

Dear Team,

In times like these I'm grateful for God's assurance that, "*Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.*" At the same time, we need to know who our enemy is and exactly what we're up against. Today, Christianity faces one of the greatest challenges of its two-millennial history: militant, aggressive Islamofascism. Remember: "*God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*" II Timothy 1:7 and "*He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*" I John 4:4 NKJV

A note from **Harriett** for those of you who've enquired about her medical progress: "My last visit to the orthopedic surgeon at Mayo Clinic in Phoenix was on January 3rd. His encouraging word was 'Your x-rays are perfect,' meaning the syndemosis area of my left ankle had completely healed. A few days earlier, on New Year's Eve, Bill and I had read from God's word, '*Make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.*' Hebrews 12:13 NASB This verse has become a challenge and a praise; asking me to be faithful to Him (the possible) and He will continue to do the impossible in my *antique* leg! Thank you for your prayers."

We returned to summertime in South Africa on January 18.

This month **Lenora** and **Daniela** (our daughter & granddaughter) are in Europe. Daniela (15) is on the ice-skating syncro-team representing South Africa in the French Cup competition at Rouen and the Spring Cup in Milan, Italy. Last year her team won the South African national finals. After Milan they plan to spend a few days in Austria with our family there before returning home to Cape Town.

Milestones: Dr. **Ray Kauffman**, former ITMI Board member, passed away last month following a prolonged and complicated illness. He and his wife, Rose Mary an RN, were on the first medical / surgical mission trip to Romania sponsored by ITMI in March 1991. Dr. Ray took a cautery machine for cutting and coagulation during abdominal surgery. It was the first one in Romania and local doctors at the hospital were standing 3-deep watching his procedure. A second trip was made in April 1992. Dr. Ray's quiet, soft-spoken, gentle manner inspired confidence in his patients and his demonstrated skills earned the admiration of his Romanian peers. In January 1994, at ITMI's request, he went to Germany to select medical equipment from US Army surplus that could be used to establish a Christian medical clinic in Oradea, Romania. He supervised the loading of an 18-wheeler and then went on to Oradea to oversee the unloading and set up. In 1996 the Kauffman's went as medical missionaries to Papua New Guinea. His humble spirit was a blessing to all who knew him. He will be missed.



Yours in His grip,



Bill Bathman

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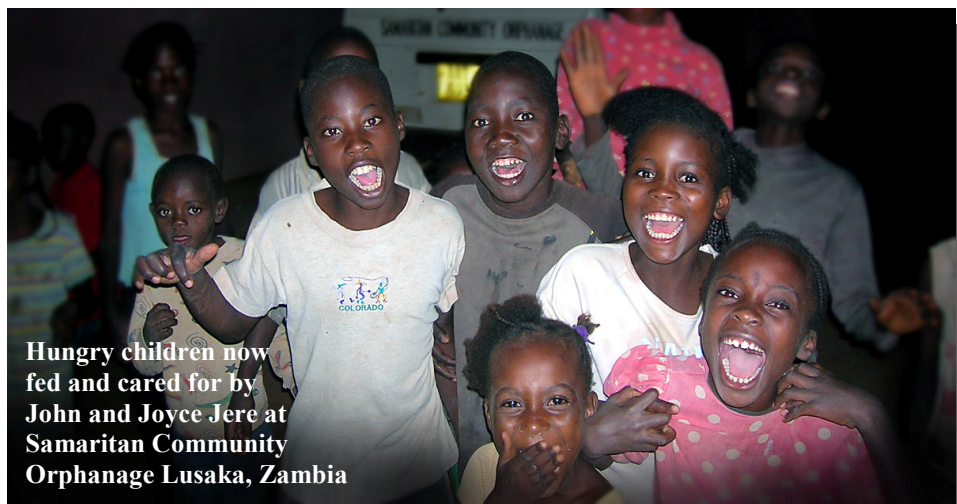
understood that repentance and asking for forgiveness of his sin, meant turning away from it. Making restitution and forgiving others also comes with true conversion.

Most ex-terrorists are idealists. They are willing to die for their cause; to change the world into a communist *utopia* in which we will share all resources equally – as in “what’s mine is mine and what’s yours is negotiable.” These people are bitter and angry. They have fought in a revolution and now those whom they helped come to power in South Africa, are not sharing their power or resources with them.

Last month Charl had breakfast with Siphso. In previous discussions he had given him a clear picture of the Biblical teaching of repentance and forgiveness, not simply, ‘just pray this prayer after me’ kind of message. Over bacon & eggs Siphso told Charl, “Soon after my conversion, I was held at gun point by a young man. I looked behind me and there were four others; they wanted my cell phone. The young man holding the firearm was on drugs and was shaking as he demanded my phone. The gun could have gone off at any moment. Charl, I could



Siphso contemplating his life decisions



Hungry children now fed and cared for by John and Joyce Jere at Samaritan Community Orphanage Lusaka, Zambia

easily have wrestled the pistol from that young man and shot them all, but enough blood has been spilt in South Africa. We must not spill anymore.”

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7

Without having other income, Siphso has given up his employment with a political party at Parliament because it will ‘compromise’ his new found faith in Jesus Christ. Having left his studies to fight in the revolution, now a born-again Siphso would like to study Education at a Christian college – like Cedar Training College at KwaSizabantu. Please pray for him, that his dream might be fulfilled.

GIFT DISTRIBUTION – AFRICA

We placed some of your gifts last month into His nail-pierced hand where they were blessed and multiplied – like the *loaves and fishes* – into many parts of Africa. Here’s a sample:

ITMI’s Zambian representative made two field trips into **Zimbabwe**, each with \$3,000 worth of food supplies for those suffering from the world’s most chaotic inflation rate: 56,000%. Imagine how much \$6,000 would be in Zimbabwe!

We sent \$2,620 to purchase beds and tables in **Zambia** for Rev. **John Jere**’s Samaritan Community Orphanage in Lusaka, plus another \$2,880 to buy school equipment for Rev. **Eugene Kalunga**’s Excellence Christian Academy in Kabwe.

In **South Africa**, Charl van Wyk received over \$2,000 to help meet his growing needs and ITMI invested \$6,000 in the **Moreson Children’s Haven** near Cape Town.

None of this would have been possible without your partnership in prayer and practical support. We praise God daily for your faithfulness.

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For Praise . . .

1. God’s perfect timing in meeting urgent needs both in Africa and Eastern Europe last month.
2. **Bill & Harriett** rejoice in being back on the field in South Africa again.
3. The life of Dr. **Ray Kauffman** who was so involved and committed to medical missions.

For Prayer . . .

1. ITMI office in Tempe urgently needs a staff person with administrative abilities.
2. Several individuals who are presently considering ministry commitment in Africa with ITMI.
3. Motivation for American Christians to prayerfully vote in this year’s Presidential elections.

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