



# Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

## IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 March 2008

After reading Psalm 37 recently, I wrote this prayer: “Dear Lord, I believe Your word teaches that good will overcome evil; that righteousness will prevail over perversion and sin. Help me to trust when the flesh says, “doubt” and while trusting, to do good. Let me truly delight in the reality of your daily presence in my life and have the courage to face every circumstance and situation that confronts me along with the assurance of Your gracious provision of my legitimate daily needs – not my covetous creature greeds.”

## They could have *tranced* all night – and did



Rave site's late night screams confronted with Jesus' good news

### South Africa

Moreson Children's Haven is located on a farm near Malmesbury, about 25 miles from Cape Town. ITMI has been involved with **Gerhard** and **Elmane le Roux** and their ministry at MCH for several years. With your help and in answer to many prayers we have been able to make significant improvements to the complex which has not only benefited the children, but everyone on the farm. This includes a ministry of rehabilitation to drug addicts, abused women and occasional homeless souls.

Last month a very dramatic event occurred. The owner of the farm right next to MCH agreed to rent his property for a weekend to a group of 'entertainers' who needed

a rural setting for a 'music festival.' Having been assured by the organizers that it would not be a "rave" party or anything disorderly, the owner then left for a holiday get-away. Wise move!

On Saturday, Gerhard and his colleagues realized that this was going to be more than his neighbor had bargained for. Big tents were being pitched, huge amplifiers and loudspeaker towers were being erected and a dance floor spread out under the trees. Cars began to arrive by early afternoon. It was obvious that a lot of people would be coming to this event.

The MCH team swung into action. They parked a family trailer and pitched a tent right on the border of their farm less than a hundred yards from the main dance floor. They put up a large

neon "Coffee Bar" sign and set up a huge 13-foot cross illuminated with florescent lights.

By 5 p.m. the music began. After a few melodies it turned into rock songs and from there into "trance music" with an intense beat dominating the sound. When darkness came some eerie light combinations were projected onto the trees behind the dance floor.

As the night progressed the beat became more intense and aggressive. One observer noted, "We heard continuous screaming in the sounds, very much like demonic manifestations."

This is Africa – amplified. The powerful beat was so loud and so strong that trance party participants say they can *feel* it for days afterwards. Most live from one trance to the next.

Gerhard said, "It was sad to see parents coming to drop their chil-

"The powerful beat was so loud and so strong that trance party participants say they can *feel* it for days

# Don't lose your head over Islamic Eschatology

## Dangerous to your health: Part Two

Six months ago we looked at Islamic beliefs about the 'end times' and discovered that in addition to their basic faith in one god, Allah, the second in importance concerns the Last Day. We learned that Muslim scholars actually apply Bible verses about the anti-Christ to their awaited savior, the Mahdi.

"The Qur'an specifically denies that Jesus was ever crucified, or that He even experienced death." He was assumed into heaven alive, much like Elijah, where He remained with Allah to await His return to earth. To Muslims He is not a "Savior," but just one of many prophets. They believe that when Jesus returns He comes as a radical Muslim and will oversee Sharia law worldwide. (p. 72)

Sharia is the system of Islamic law that operates in many Muslim countries across the world, specifically Sudan, Egypt, Libya and Saudi Arabia. Other nations have secular codes that function alongside and are subservient to Sharia. Under Sharia, **beheading** is the method of choice for capital crimes. According to CBS News, 6/27/04, "The Saudi government beheaded 52 men and one woman [in 2003] for

crimes including murder, homosexuality, armed robbery and drug-trafficking. A condemned convict is brought into the courtyard; hands tied and forced to bow before the executioner, who swings a huge sword amid cries from onlookers of *Allahu Akbar!* (Arabic for 'Allah is great')."

The gruesome Islamic practice of beheading began with Muhammad as his favorite method of killing. His career of violence and aggression began when his small band of Muslim warriors attacked commercial caravans traveling between Mecca and Damascus. These unarmed merchants were soft targets for such treacherous bandits. Citizens of Mecca, depending on these caravans for their life, sent local men from the tribe of Quraysh to attack Muhammad at what became known as the Battle of Badr. Muhammad and his gang gained a surprise victory that day and following the surrender of Quraysh proceeded to decapitate between 700 and 800 prisoners.

This slaughter in 627 A.D. awakened a blood-lust in the desert bandit. He joined with two other groups – the Khazraj and the Aus – and had 400 Jews beheaded. But the pattern Muhammad established came back to bite him. "In 680 A.D. the Prophet's favorite grandson, Hussein bin Ali, had his head chopped off (along with 71 of his male companions) in Karbala, central Iraq, by the soldiers of the Caliph Yazid. Placed on a silver platter, the severed head was sent to Damascus and forwarded on to Cairo for inspection by the Governor of Egypt." New York Post 5/14/04

Stories of beheadings have filled Islam's history. While modern revisionist historians present Babur, founder of the Mughal Empire, as a paragon of Muslim tolerance, this is what he wrote in his autobiography *Baburnama* about infidel prisoners of a jihad campaign: "Those who were brought in alive [having surrendered] were ordered beheaded, after which a tower of skulls was erected in the camp." [Editor: While traveling in Eastern Europe, I have personally seen such a tower, between Belgrade and Sophia with some 2,000 skulls.]

Now, fast-forward to 1842. "Afghani Muslims overtook the British garrison in Kabul and beheaded over 2,000 men, women and children. The heads were placed on sticks around the city for decorations." The practice continued during the 1980s in Afghanistan, where an estimated 3,000 Soviet troops were beheaded by Afghani warriors. "In 1992 the mullahs sent a 'specialist' to cut off the head of Shapour Bakhtiar, the shah's last prime minister, in a suburb of Paris." *Ibid.*

More recently the American journalist Daniel Pearl, and

Nicholas Berg the American contractor, and Kim-Sun-il the Korean translator and missionary were all beheaded against a background chorus of '*Allahu Akbar!*'

According to Islamic law, Muslims are allowed to kill non-Muslims. "*Then slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captive and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush...*" Surah 9:5

With all this in mind be advised that last month the slightly Reverend Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, recommended the adoption of Islamic law in Britain! To adopt Sharia "seems unavoidable" to the leader of 70 million Anglicans worldwide. Williams' announcement brought indignation from Parliament and a rebuke from Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Alistair McBay said it would "directly undermine" the concept of citizens being equal under the law. "We have segregated schools, segregated scout groups and even segregated toilets for Muslims, and now the archbishop says we should have different laws. It's madness." he said.

The Apostle John reveals his vision of events during the end times: "*Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the Word of God,*" Revelation 20:4 We must be aware that Islam's driving goal is to literally eradicate (behead) what it sees as false religions and that all Muslims at all times must strive through *jihad* for global domination. (p.156)

**To be continued**

Bill Bathman – Cape Town

**"Stories of beheadings have filled Islam's history. It was Muhammad's favorite method of killing."**

## President's Page

March 2008

Dear Team,

We praise the Lord for **Lenora** and **Daniela Hammond**'s safe return to Cape Town from their trip to Europe. Their ice-skating syncro-team represented South Africa in the French Cup and later in Italy for the Spring Cup. The competition was fierce. They were up against the Finnish Team and managed to finish last. It was kinda like the Jamaican bob-sled team in the Winter Olympics a few years ago! But they had a great time, learned a lot and were glad for the challenge. Afterwards they recouped for a few days with our Austrian family near Salzburg.

The big news in our family last month was the safe arrival of our third great-grandchild, Miss **Madilyn Mae Lemke**, in Colorado. She weighed in at 6 lbs., 7 oz. Her father, Cpl. **Vincent Lemke**, is in the USMC stationed at Camp Pendleton, California. He flew in the day before and was able to coach **Melissa** through her labor (they had been to Lamaze classes) and he got to cut the umbilical cord. Vincent's mom is **Linda Joy**, our middle daughter.



Next month, Linda Joy and her other two boys – **Daniel** and **Jesaja** – will be in England for soccer matches. Jesaja plays on his school team in Loveland, Colorado. His coach is from England and has arranged several matches there. Playing those British boys will be tough. Most of their time will be in Birmingham, but they'll also visit Manchester, London and Eastbourne (where Linda Joy was born).

Jesaja is #22 in the picture. He and his soccer-mom got to the practice early because they needed to shovel snow off the artificial turf field before play could begin.

When Harriett and I went overseas in 1952 we never dreamed that one day our grandchildren would be involved in international sports. Guess that comes with the territory when your missionary ministry is international.

Looking ahead, we're awaiting news from **Tim** and **Ashley Keller** in Tucson, about the soon arrival of Miss **Monica**. They returned to Arizona last month to await the arrival of their little girl.

This month we welcome **Jeff Black** to our ITMI staff in Tempe. He brings a lot of experience with him and will be working closely with Steve Evers.

My editorial this month (p. 2) is the second in a series on Islamic eschatology. There's much more to be said on this important subject. People act on what they believe, whether it's fact or fiction. Our Lord Jesus said, "*You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" John 8:32 I believe the Truth will also *keep* you free! We need to know the truth about Islam. It is a religion of hate and death based upon a lie, whereas Christianity is a relationship of love and life based upon the Truth. We must win Muslims to Christ. They are lost without Him. We need your continued prayers.

Yours in His grip,



Bill Bathman

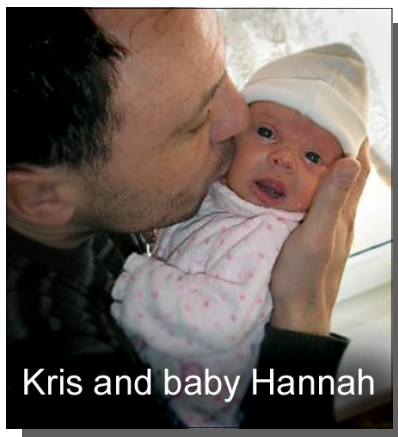
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dren at the event and then leave.” There were between 1,000 and 1,200 young people attending. As the evening progressed there was drug and alcohol abuse along with sexual immorality.

The participants had no respect for ownership of private property. They wandered onto the MCH farm and swam in their reservoir. This madness continued until 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon – 23 solid hours of high-decibel mayhem.

**But there was a positive side,** thanks to the MCH outreach. As the cars drove down the gravel access road past their farm, the team distributed tracts to each vehicle. Many concert participants visited the Coffee Bar during the night and were introduced to the Gospel. There was much curiosity about the illuminated cross which attracted a large number of visitors. This was the site of great opportunities for witness and counseling teens who were confused and lost. There was a lot of serious heart-searching that night, literally at the foot of the cross. Pray for the seed that was sown.

## Poland



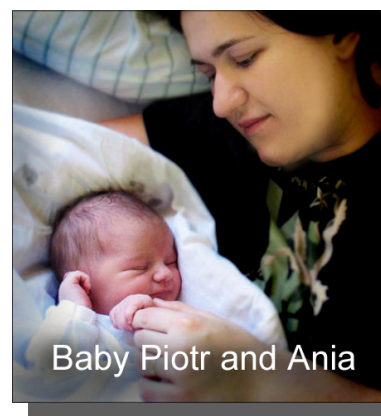
Kris and baby Hannah

Congratulations to **Megi and Kris** of *Gospel Joy Choir* [see ITM 1/1/08] on the arrival of a new prospect for the soprano section, Miss **Hania** (Hannah), born January 30. Another darling little Polish sausage named **Piotr** (Peter) arrived on February 4 to bless the home of **Ania and Andrew Gorski**, leader of *GJC*. ITMI's Director **Steve Evers** commenting on the new missionary arrivals says, "This is a great way to grow the ministry."

ITMI's Polish Director Dr. **Piotr Zaremba**, is in the United States

this month to introduce the new Polish Bible translation to Polish communities in America. **Richard Nungesser**, Director of **Bread of Life Ministries**, is also home briefly for ministry here.

**Bob and Sue Taber** are home in California on a brief furlough from Gniezno. Bob has had some health problems during the past year. An angiogram last month ruled out any serious blockage, but his cardiologist wants him to have a bit more rest before returning. The Tabers will appreciate your prayers.



Baby Piotr and Ania

### *How'd You Hurt Your Hand?* by Bill Bathman



101 Bible studies in Matthew's Gospel. This 205-page book by Bill celebrates ITMI's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is a current commentary considering the question, "What if Matthew took a look at us? Would he recognize 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christianity?" We are encouraged by the positive response to its launch. This is a great gift for someone you love.

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### How'd You Hurt Your Hand?



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### For Praise . . .

1. The evangelistic outreach of MCH team to the trance party event next door to their farm.
2. The safe arrival of precious new life to our missionaries in Poland.
3. New ITMI staff member **Jeff Black** to work with Steve Evers. Welcome aboard Jeff!

### For Prayer . . .

1. That many of the trance party youth will respond to the Gospel witness by the MCH team.
2. **Piotr Zaremba** and **Richard Nungesser** during their US itinerary, and for their families in Poland.
3. Growing concern over Islamic population growth. The fields are ripe for harvest.
4. Bob Taber - desire for strength and health so he can continue serving the people he loves in Poland.

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