



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 August 2009

"In Thee our fathers trusted; They trusted, and Thou didst deliver them. In Thee they trusted, and were not disappointed. I will tell of Thy name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise Thee"

- Psalm 22:4-5, 22

Please Lord get us to ...Nairobi

"... Bill is unconscious and his kidneys are shutting down. You either need to get him out of here or start planning a funeral." - Bill Stough

Uganda

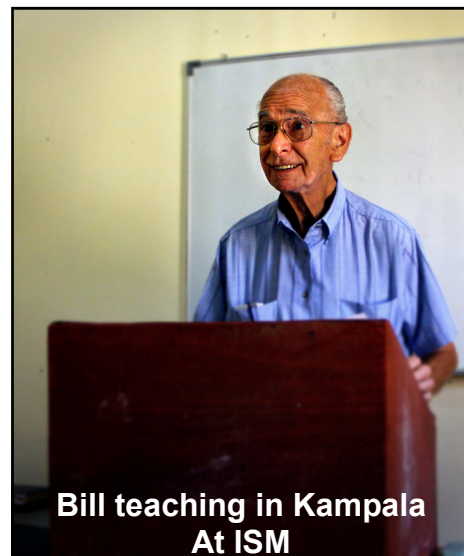


Bill on the respirator in Nairobi

the experience is a shining example of what happens when God's people "bear one another's burdens", even from half a world away.

While teaching a Bible class at ITMI's **International School of Missions** in Kampala, Uganda, Bill became delirious and incoherent. Bill had what was later diagnosed as cerebral malaria in an advanced and serious stage. Experiencing a serious illness here in the states where medical care is easily accessible is difficult enough. Cerebral malaria for a missionary his age in a foreign country seems, from a human perspective, a hopeless problem.

Kampala is the largest city in Uganda. Unfortunately, the medical service in Kampala isn't equipped to handle the serious medical consequences in such emergencies. As Bill's condition continued to deteriorate, we soon found out that there was no way to intubate his lungs for oxygen, no way to restart his heart except by hand, and no kidney dialysis machine for his failing kidneys. Bill was in a coma and the caring but under staffed medical team in Kampala didn't know if he was going to make it. ITMI Director **Steve Evers** received a phone call at 3 AM from **Bill Stough**, an American missionary friend who relayed what the doctors were saying.



Bill teaching in Kampala At ISM

"... Bill was unconscious and his kidneys are shutting down. You either need to get him out of here or start planning a funeral."

It was recommended Bill be flown to South Africa or Nairobi, Kenya. The quote to Medi-Vac him from Kampala to Nairobi was about \$10,000. Bill unconscious, was unable to authorize those funds. ITMI put the word out to local churches to pray with us. Individuals from **First Baptist Church - Tempe** drove themselves to the ITMI office and handed us checks, some with tears in their eyes as they just wanted to help and serve a brother in Christ in a time of need. Bill's adult children also incurred great expense to save their "daddy's"

(Continued on page 4)

At the age most people think about winding it down, **Bill Johnson** fired it up. Earning his Masters degree in Biblical Studies at age 60, Bill set out to use his skills and what time he had left for God in a foreign country.

Now at age 80, this ITMI family member serving in Uganda recently experienced a life-threatening medical emergency. What happened through

Update from the field...*Charl van Wyk and Family to Zambia*

The Samaritan

A quick visit to the Victoria Falls, one of the great natural wonders of God's creation, and photos at the statue of the great missionary Dr David Livingstone, after whom the town we visited was named, we were on our way again.



van Wyk family, John and Joyce Jere, friends

We reached Bishop John and Joyce Jere in Lusaka, Zambia and were very pleased to have arrived at our destination.

Dr John and Joyce have for many years run the Samaritan Children's Home (SCH) near Lusaka. The orphanage cares for children who have lost both parents, mostly to HIV/Aids. Some of the children have been HIV positive since birth.

Lately many children have been forced by government agencies and UNICEF intervention to be re-integrated into their extended families. This might sound a wonderful idea from a Western perspective but in Africa these families see such children as a liability and not a blessing. Normally they would not

receive education, only have leftover food and sometimes be sent out to work the streets and bring back money for the family.

SCH thus now supports 95 children and their host families with food, clothing and medicines. This is besides the support

they extend to suffering Zimbabwean pastors and orphans, two of whom have died due to malnutrition because Zimbabwe is falling to pieces while their tyrant president 'Bob' Mugabe exploits the country.

One family of four siblings were brought out of the Congo by their grandmother after they witnessed their father being shot by rebel soldiers and their mother being raped and murdered. Soon after their move to Zambia, their grandmother died. They are part of John and Joyce's Christian family now.

Roberta (12), John-Marc (6) and I joined Joyce and others in our vehicle to deliver much-needed food to these poor families. The fact that our vehicle has



Angel prepares more food deliveries

major repairs needing to be done after struggling on very bad roads to make a difference to the lives of suffering families, is a small price to pay when obeying our Lord's command to 'look after orphans and widows in their distress'.

Roberta nearly caused riots when she started a Ministry of Sweets Distribution to young children in the areas where we delivered food.

Cultural Mandate

John organized a television interview for me, as I represented the Christian Action Network a body that speaks to governments on applying Biblical principles to issues of governing nations.

The crew did not arrive at the conference centre. I then got chatting with another television crewmember. He said, "Wait here for me, and don't go away. I want to get this on tape."

He soon arrived with his television crew, interviewed me and that evening I appeared on the evening news. Amazing how the Lord allows His will to be done. John organized another full hour live television interview, which was recast the following day. Christians have an obligation to live actively in society and work for the transformation of the world and its cultures; to change our cultures and nations into Christ-centred cultures and nations.

Many on the National Constitutional Conference commented very positively to John about the television interviews they had seen.

Two teams of literature distributors had a wonderful experience handing out tracts that exposed the 'abortion holocaust' and lie of the 'pornography plague' in the name of freedom of expression. We pray the recipients of these will keep the heat on those writing the national constitution to protect the unborn and also women and children from the exploitative pornography industry.

Preaching at churches was a blessing as many repented of their sin of bitterness that was tearing their lives apart and keeping them from experiencing the fullness of God's grace and forgiveness.

Family Life

My whole family joined me on this extensive ministry trip of over 8000km by road.

- Charl van Wyk



van Wyk boys "protect" SCH



van Wyk children experience
Zambian washing machine

Dear Team,

Greetings to all you team members from the Director's seat. May we know deep within our souls that which the Psalmist shared in Psalm 22:5, "...In Thee they trusted, and were not disappointed." God delights in being trusted in challenging times, he delights in delivering us so that we can bring glory to Him.

Rejoice with me that **Bill Bathman** has now been allowed to go home to his own bed and his own nurse after the removal of the carcinoma and a portion of his lower lung. We hear that the recovery process may take up to 4 months, but we also know that won't stop Bill from "keeping on, keeping on."

Pray with us as we seek God's plan for replacing Bill Johnson's responsibilities at ISM in teaching pastors and partnering with **Muhindo Kawede** to impact the leadership of the churches in Uganda.

In His Service,



Steve Evers

Big Enough To Let Go...

You can see what is going to happen.

The guy in the parking lot is carrying a lot of stuff. Too much stuff. Under each arm and in both hands. As long as he doesn't lean too far side to side, forward or back, he will keep his balance. But he's starting to lose his grip. Instead of stopping to get a firmer one he just walks faster in hopes of getting to his car in time.

He makes it, but instead of setting all the bags down on the trunk while he pulls keys out of his pocket, he chooses to hang on to the two under his arm and the one in his left hand. That's when his juggling act luck ran out.

Clean up in the parking lot.

Watching from a distance, it looks like a no-brainer. Set the bags down, dude. Free up your hands. But he thinks he can hang on to it all and still make it work.

Sound familiar?

In a recent phone conversation with my friend Steve Evers, Director of In Touch Mission International, he related some of the overwhelming challenges their organization has faced in recent years. Circumstances that made him feel inadequate to the task at hand. God-sized problems that required a God-sized solution.

In sharing, Steve said something profound. "I prayed. I said, "God, make me big enough to let go of whatever it is that's making me too small to handle this."

Wow.

"God, make me big enough to let go of whatever it is that's making me too small to handle this."

Could it be that in our insistence on trying to carry it all, we're making ourselves too small to handle the task at hand?

Could it be that our refusal to let go is what's keeping us from attaining the results and stature God desires for us?

God, make us big enough to let go of our pride that makes us too small to be genuine leaders.

God, make us big enough to let go of our grudges that make us too small to forgive and forget and forge ahead.

God, make us big enough to let go of our selfishness that makes us too small to be generous with others.

God, make us big enough to let go of our self-sufficiency that makes us too small to enjoy the blessings you want to give us.

God, make us big enough to let go of our arrogance that makes us too small to live and love with humility.

What are you holding on to that's making you too small to handle your situation?

Ask God to make you big enough to let go of whatever it is that's making you too small. Then watch what God will do with your freed up hands.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke on you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and my load is not hard to carry."

- Matthew 11:28

- Todd A. Thompson



(Continued from page 1)



life, and meet the African way of paying for everything up front before service is rendered. ITMI assured the family that we, as an organization and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, would work side by side with them in getting the necessary funds to Africa in order to try and save their father.

Steve immediately began to serve as a facilitator of Bill's medical funds, a point of contact for family and friends, supporters, African medical providers, assisting and consulting Bill's family on African culture and communication, financial dealings, and security of Bill's personal items and property that were now at great danger of being stripped and looted.

When Bill arrived at the Nairobi Hospital, the doctors stated that he had arrived "just in time." Now it was determined he had another pressing and equally large problem, Bill needed platelets. A side effect of



malaria is damage to blood platelets. Because of rampant AIDS/HIV in most African countries, there are shortages in the blood banks, and especially in Nairobi. We were told that platelets could not be administered to "the patient", until the blood that these platelets come from would be replaced in the hospital's blood bank. This required at least six people to come into the hospital to donate blood on Bill's behalf. A challenge in any community, and especially so in Kenya.

We needed God to intervene and provide a way. ITMI started sending emails requesting help and blood to our many faithful, gracious supporters and contacts from the many years of travel. "Does anyone know anyone who lives in Kenya that would be willing to give blood?" The responses were surprising, encouraging and overwhelming. People around this country emailed with their contacts in Nairobi and the surrounding area. In the end, we had many people offer to go and donate the life giving blood on Bill Johnson's, an earthly stranger's, behalf.

Praise God, Bill's condition is improved. He is no longer in a coma and on a ventilator. Bill's kidneys are still struggling to restart and is on dialysis every other day. His family and the ITMI family are most thankful to everyone who stepped up in prayer, with financial contributions, emails and phone calls. It is a fact that without all this, Bill would have died.

None of us ever feel like we do enough. We'd all like to be able to give more, put in more time, pray more and be involved more. Yet look what God does with whatever we give Him to work with. It is true that whatever we give to God is an investment in His Kingdom. Never let that because we can't give all we want

to... get in the way of giving what we can give. For Bill Johnson, giving what you could, saved his life. And for that, we are all grateful.

Press Time update - Candis Morgan, Bill's daughter shares from Nairobi that Bill is still having trouble focusing his eyes to read, his mind is clearing up more each day, his kidneys have gone from producing 75ml per day to around 300ml, he needs to be over 500ml, and he still needs more blood donors.

Please pray that Bill will heal enough to be transported back to the States and that ISM will find someone to fill Bill's teaching and mentoring shoes with the needy and spiritually hungry pastors of Kampala.

- Todd A. Thompson, Steve Evers

Tempe

Each month we have a band of faithful volunteers who assist with mailing this newsletter. Most have been with us for many years. One consistent volunteer was **Evelyn Glancy** who served for many years alongside her husband Les. On July 4th, our dear Lord saw fit to take Evelyn home.

Evelyn had a sweet, quiet spirit. Even through a bout with skin cancer, she never uttered a word of complaint. She brought yummy treats on occasion, and had a charming laugh which she shared when teased about keeping her husband Les in line. She was a part of our family. Evelyn, we miss you...Heaven is rejoicing, and we will see you soon.

For Praise . . .

1. Bill Bathman's successful cancer surgery.
2. God sparing Bill Johnson's life and his continued recovery from cerebral malaria.
3. The encouragement and support of ITMI team members during these times of great challenge.

For Prayer . . .

1. That we all will be faithful to God's call and God's plan and not to any one or anything that would try to distract us.
2. Continued health and healing for our two "Bills".
3. Tim and Ashley Keller family as they travel back to Zambia with a container full of curriculum.
4. Gerhard and Elmane le Roux rebuilding their home and ministry house.

 **In Touch Mission**
INTERNATIONAL, INC.

P.O. Box 7575 • Tempe, Arizona 85281 • (480) 968-4100 • E-Mail: itmi@intouchmission.org
FAX: (480) 968-5462 • www.intouchmission.org • Outside Arizona: 1-888-918-4100

