



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 May 2010

ITMI's passion and goal is to bring glory to God. We accomplish this by serving and empowering the godly nationals with whom God partners us, using many types of necessary resources. II Timothy 2:2 tells us *"The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* We are reminded that each day, no matter where we are, we can "resource" someone with truths that God has graciously taught us. Be a resource-er!

Lost Boy Goes South *part II*

"Because I could not pay, and had nothing valuable with me, I had to receive a hiding with sticks (African term for a caning or a beating), and a few slaps to my face and a kick. There was no other way for me to enter..."

South Africa

In last month's **In Touch Mission's** monthly featured story we left a poor, homeless, Sudanese teenager, who had been working his way south. His family felt it best to send him away due to the brutal civil war in Southern Sudan. We left our lost and fearful **Danny Swaka** at the Mozambique border crossing, trying to get in without any official papers (passport). Danny shared that as the bus had pulled into the terminal at



the border, the police were there waiting for the bus. Danny said, *"For the first time I was really scared. I thought to myself, 'How is it possible? I have managed to get this far! I cannot be taken captive now.'"*

Now we continue as God continues to nudge and move Danny southward to his ultimate and intended destination.



After a tense time of waiting, the police unexplainably left the bus station and Danny was able to board the jam packed, standing room only bus that was headed further south.

Trouble struck again at the **Maputo, South Africa** border crossing. Danny was confronted by an official looking person who asked for money. Danny and the others who were naively trying to get across the border with as low "under the radar" exposure as possible, believed that this person was going to help them. When the currency of the weary travelers was removed from their many tattered and torn pockets and handkerchiefs, it conveniently and immediately was labeled as "foreign" and unacceptable.

However, the "official" would take all the foreign currency and "help them out" by getting it converted into local and usable currency. Danny

gave him all his money. *"After a few hours I asked the others, 'where is the guy who took our money and promised that he would go and sort things out for us?'"* The answer came, *"...you will never see your money again, you must find some other way to the other side of the border."* Imagine Danny's state of mind as he shares, *"...I wanted to become discouraged then, but decided [that] God would not leave me now. This was just another challenge I had to face, ...it was not a stumbling block, but a stepping stone."*

A few of the currency-less travelers decided to go to the fence near the **Komatipoort** (South Africa) border post. Without proper papers and without funds they were clandestinely directed to some holes in the fence where there were people sitting next to each hole. They were helping people enter South Africa illegally, but there was a ...price.

Danny shares it this way, *"Because I*

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You will definitely want to come back next month to see some new things that God is leading ITMI into. One of the new things that will immediately stand out to you next month is our fresh and newly designed In Touch Monthly name and header. Over the last few months, we have been working with **Charles Stanley's InTouch Ministries** to develop a design that better identifies ITMI and our ministry and make sure that there is little chance for confusion with their ministry.

Also, in next month's ITMI newsletter, we will introduce you to a 54 year old baby Christian from the tiny and very remote Micronesian island of **Ulul**. **Kasper Danny** and his journey as an island warrior takes him in a small open bow, out-board boat, lost at sea for month(s) at a time, and finally lands him in front of a

Chuukese national missionary that you and ITMI helped launch.

Danny finally finds that thing that his heart has always longed for.

Steve Evers will share how he and ITMI's **Gary Howell** met, fellowshiped and discipleshiped



Sheldon and Kasper study God's word

Kasper and his oldest son, **Sheldon**, on their latest trip to **Chuuk, Micronesia**. Stay tuned for this heart warming story.

Special Announcement:

ITMI missionaries to **Poland, Richard and Brooke Nungesser**, are available for speaking engagements, here in the States, during the months of July and August. Richard is the Founder and International Director of the ITMI's **Bread of Life (BoL)** homeless ministry that is taking Poland by storm. BoL has also expanded to Moldova and the Ivory Coast and is reaching people and their needs at the most basic levels.



Richard also is the Senior Pastor of one of the most unique churches on the globe, **Poznan International Church (PIC)**. PIC unites international students who are studying in Poznan from all parts of the world in a vibrant, growing and life changing New Testament style church.

In you are interested in being greatly blessed by hearing what God is doing in Richard and Brooke's lives, consider scheduling them at your church, Bible study group, children, youth or college group, or even in your home. They would LOVE to work it into their itinerary.

You may e-mail Brooke at brooke@breadoflife.pl or phone the ITMI office at 480-968-4100 or toll free 888-918-4100 to discuss the many possibilities.

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could not pay, and had nothing valuable with me, I had to receive a hiding with sticks (African term for a caning or a beating), and a few slaps to my face and a kick. There was no other way for me to enter through the hole in the fence except to endure this [payment]."

To Danny's surprise, and assuredly a gift from God, there was as he called it a "friendly young man" waiting to transport Danny in a taxi to **Johannesburg**, which was at least a couple hours away. As quickly and mysteriously as Danny was picked up, he was also dumped off. "[The taxi driver], he just told me 'Sudanese man, get out of my taxi, and welcome to **Hillbrow!**'" For hours Danny walked and wandered until he approached a security guard at a petrol station. Again, graciously this Sudanese traveler was helped to find a place to "...sleep on the street [concrete slab] next to the garage."

The next day the security guard took Danny to meet some Sudanese people that lived near by. God's hand was in this as there were Christians in this group, and they welcomed Danny in. Once again, he had people that could understand his heart language and who understood his heart needs.

Danny's new Christian friends helped Danny enroll and get accepted to **Wits University** to study medicine. This was the answer to all his dreams. The joy didn't last very long. Our lonely alien was not going to be able to attend school because he had no "sponsor." Danny had no one to sponsor him and pay for his school fees. Danny was again all alone and without hope.



Danny at CCE Graduation with Sudanese Friends

Soon Danny connected with another group of Sudanese Christians who happened to be attending **Cedar College of Education (CCE)**. CCE is supported and housed on the **Kwasizabantu Mission (KSB)** compound outside of **Durban, South Africa**, right in the middle of **Zulu** land. Kwasizabantu Mission is a wonderful oasis outside of Durban, South Africa that **Bill Bathman, Steve Evers** and

In Touch Mission (ITMI) have partnered with for years. "To my surprise, I was accepted at CCE at the end of 2005."

This is where you as an ITMI and Sudanese Lost boys supporter come in. Together we, have been working and supporting the good work at CCE for years now. Those of you who have faithfully given to ITMI have had a real and valuable part in "sponsoring" students that come to CCE for hope first and an

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Greetings Team,

What a great month of ministry as **Gary Howell, Dakota Smith, Jim Baugh** and I visited the isolated south Pacific island of **Chuuk, Micronesia** to encourage, teach leadership and disciple pastors and local island brothers and sisters in Christ. Gary's marriage and family counseling experience was received through his teaching with quite a few tear-soaked eyes. Whether it is the language barrier or just island culture, the island people tend to be closed and even emotionless at times during training sessions. However, when you see tears that can't be held back and you later speak one-on-one with those that are more vocal, you begin to realize the depth of the impact of the encouragement and sharing of God's wonderful and empowering truths. A full story next month of how God used ITMI to help launch a national island missionary and how he impacted a tiny unreached island even further out in the vast isolated Pacific Ocean.



You can't know the joy and appreciation that welled up inside me as **Darlene** (my dear wife and partner) shared that many of you last month sent a note stating your financial help was to be used to help ITMI's organizational needs, in response to our plea last month. What wonderful and active partners you all are!

Please pray for the Evers family as we visit the **Roanoke, VA** area to celebrate Darlene's mother's 80th birthday. We ask you to pray as we spend maybe one of our last opportunities with Darlene's 93 year old father. I just sent him a "Dear Daddy" letter with a clear sharing of how much we love him and because of that, we must risk asking him if he truly is ready when Jesus says his days are finished.

Rich Blessings on you,

"Prayer At The Pumps"

When I work in **Roswell, New Mexico** I always go to **Sam's Club** to fill up my gas tank. Not to save a nickel a gallon, I go in hopes that **Bob** will be on duty.

On my first trip to Roswell I pulled into Sam's Club to refuel. I've never seen an attendant at a Sam's Club gas pump. Yet here he stands. Baseball cap, mustache and the blue Sam's Club vest with an I.D. badge pinned to it.

"I see by those Texas plates that you're traveling somewhere. Is there anything you need prayer for?"

My first reaction is to look around. Am I on camera? I've been to Sam's Club more times than I can count. I expect low prices. I don't expect their employees to pray for me.

I give Bob a closer look. He doesn't look like a nut. He looks normal. More importantly, he seems sincere.

"Now that you ask, I sure do. It's been a tough day and I could use all the prayer I can get."

With no more small talk, Bob launched into a prayer. He prayed for me. For safe travel. For God's intercession in the problems of my life. He asked God to bless me. Then he said, "Amen" and told me to drive safely before turning his attention to the next car.

As I opened my driver's door I couldn't see him but I heard him ask someone, "Is there any-

thing you need prayer for?"

While the digits on the pump keep track of the gallons, Bob prays...and every time I drive away blessed that someone cares. That someone has lifted me and my concerns up to God.

I've seen people smile awkwardly and respond to Bob's offer to pray for them with a, "Nope, I'm fine" or "I'm good, thanks." But it doesn't stop Bob from asking. And I bet it doesn't stop Bob from praying.

We expect ministry to happen in church. That is as it should be. Yet I wonder if people realize that the gas pumps at Sam's Club are a place where earth touches heaven? A place where problems and hurts and worries and fears are lifted up to God? A place where kind words and encouragement are spoken? A place where strangers are welcomed and cared for?

Who wouldn't shop at a place like that?

Come to think of it, who wouldn't go to a church like that?

And if our churches aren't like that, why aren't they like that?

We expect ministry to happen in church. That is as it should be.

Wherever we are and whatever we do, we can pray for others.

That is as it should be, too.

Be a Bob.

"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving..." - Colossians 4:2

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education second. Danny was able to finally find a sponsor in you, ITMI and CCE. He was now able to attend CCE in part due to your prayers and financial partnership.



Danny tells his story this way, "Arriving at Kwasizabantu Mission in January 2006, my eyes were opened to many things of the Christian life, which I did not know before. After the first devotion at the College on that Monday, I knew that I was carrying a lot of burdens on my shoulders and I knew now for the first time, there was a way to get rid of it. I could confess my sins, I could bring things to the light and open up all the deep things I had done wrong [and] all the feeling of revenge. I could leave it



all at the feet of the cross of Jesus Christ. For the first time I experienced forgiveness and freedom from the burdens I carried with me since childhood."

Danny has now completed his fourth year, and has been the Primarius (number one student) of CCE for two years. He wants all of us to know, "...that my future is in God's hands and I am waiting for God to lead me in the right direction."

Danny's incredible journey has taught him a lesson that many of us are still in the process of learning—waiting on God to help him find what will be the next step, and trusting that our God is truly big enough to take care of all our needs.

ITMI is committed to following the Lord's leading and finding the "Dannys" of this world who are willing to sell out and fully trust our God to use them to impact His Kingdom. ITMI could not have participated in Danny's growth and development if you had not locked arms with us and obeyed God's leading. How does it feel to have given hope and help launch a Sudanese boy into a productive and growing member of the army of God? Let's do it again!

-Danny Swaka and Steve Evers

Poland

ITMI's **Richard Nungesser** shares the following brief but tragic message with **Poznan International Church** members:

"Saturday the 10th of April the Polish **President Lech Kaczynski** along with his wife and top leaders of Poland and others died in a plane crash in Western Russia. They were traveling there to remember the victims of the massacre of some 22,000 Polish officers in and around **Katyn** forest."

"Please pray for Poland and for us as we do our best to share the love of Christ and comfort those who are mourning."

Richard Nungesser, Pastor

It is hard for Americans to grasp the depth of this tragedy to the Polish people. Regardless of our political beliefs, we can not imagine losing 88 of our top government leaders in one swift accident of this magnitude. Even the usually cool Russian-Polish relationship took a step toward comforting when Russian Statesman Vladimir Putin knelt at the crash site with the now deceased Polish President's brother, and then hugged him as they stood up.

Piotr Zaremba has long prayed and translated "...the Bible for revival..." He so wants the almost 40 million Polish people to know the Christ that he knows, to know the peace that he feels, and to rest in the joy that transcends all human sadness.

Please do partner with us and double your prayer effort for our Polish partners during this unique and special time of mourning and contemplation of the fragility of life.

May God be Glorified!

For Praise . . .

1. ITMI's **Tomek Jezyk** of **Bread of Life** in **Kalisz, PL**, united in marriage with his long time ministry helper, **Eliza**.
2. Dedication and first Baptism in the reclaimed and newly renovated **Gniezno Church** project building.
3. Decisions and commitments made on the island of Chuuk, to love and know God in a deeper way.

For Prayer . . .

1. Richard and Brooke's ministry trip to the States in July and August.
2. God's continued provision for all the ITMI projects and nationals as they serve God in their communities.
3. The hearts and souls of the Polish people as they grieve and contemplate the reality of life and death.
4. **The Kellers** - Lord's Hand of protection as they navigate the malaria and measles season in **Zambia**.
5. Medical help and medicine for little **Eliza Banicki** who is fighting **Niemann-Pick type C syndrome**.

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