



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

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Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." Some Pharisees who were with Him heard Him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains." (John 9:39-41)

Twin Goats of Poznan

POLAND

At twelve o'clock noon in the Old Market Square, a pair of white goats appear above the heads of citizens and foreigners of Poznan, Poland's 5th largest city with a population over a half million residents, to settle an ancient score.

On the turret of the Town Hall clock tower, these famous cast-iron wonders purposely and methodically butt heads against each other twelve times in a mechanical ballet of violence. Though both goats return to their respective places within the clock tower, the line of demarcation has been publicly reaffirmed. Morning no longer dominates. Evening now rules.

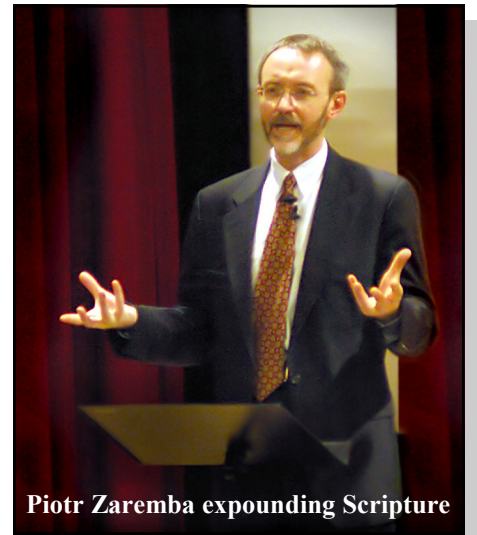


Town Hall clock tower

The spirit of Poznan, exemplified in its dueling metal goats, is found in this symbolic – yet real – struggle for dominance. New runs up against the Old. Form smashes heads against Substance. And Tradition locks horns against all forms of Innovation. Even the serpentine river Warta divides up the city into two distinguishable halves by snaking its way through the heart of Poznan.

It is here that **Piotr Zaremba**, ITMI European Director, has returned after a week-long series of speaking engagements at a youth conference in Canada while still remaining involved in the translation of the Psalms in quieter moments at the hotel. Over 150 Polish-speaking young people were on hand to hear of the Polish Bible translation project and the newer work of preparing the text for a Polish-English New Testament that will be published and distributed by the International Bible Society here in the US.

Like the two horns of a goat, what sets the Polish translation project apart from previous projects is its twin-stated goals of battling archaisms and the subtle weaving of Catholic dogma into



Piotr Zaremba expounding Scripture

the text of Scripture. For instance, Dr. Zaremba has often quoted Philippians 2:12 in special meetings as an example of the "faith **plus** works salvation" teaching that is infused into the fabric of the Scripture text ("work *for* your own salvation" in the popular Catholic translation where the original is better translated as "work *out* your own salvation"). At the same time, the Gdansk version of the Polish Bible is similar to the KJV in its use of now archaic terms.

Of course, the Roman Catholic tradition that no one can properly understand the plain words of Scripture without having a priest interpret it is the reason why so much of the Bible is like a dark

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Islamic Halaal: demanding more than we can swallow

No fair-minded person would deny or deprive any member of a minority group a special choice of food. Jews have enjoyed things *kosher* for five millennium without affecting consumer choice. The Muslim equivalent is *halaal*. It is an Arabic word meaning “permissible” and is a procedure originally designed to meet Mohammad’s dietary requirements.

Halaal is a Sharia law requirement of Islam that animals for consumption are made to face the Ka’aba (a shrine in Mecca where there is a black stone) and slaughtered in the name of Allah, the god of Islam. Non-meat products must be free from pork or alcohol. The irony is that pork-eating, wine-drinking non-Muslims (called “kaffirs” in the Qur’an) handle the carcasses at the abattoirs.

Halaal hoax: Islam’s commercial bite

Food products for Muslim consumption must bear the label “Halaal.” However, as a non-Muslim, every time you buy a halaal product you unknowingly pay a surcharge that goes to a halaal certification body. This surcharge accumulates into big money. Khairy Jamalludin, Chairman of the World Halaal Forum, says that globally the halaal industry is estimated at \$580 billion per year. Halaal products typically bear the crescent moon and star symbol together with “SANHA,” or “MJC,” or “NIHT,” or “ICSA.” These abbreviations stand for the halaal certification bodies in South Africa. That there are four bodies instead of one is evidence of how lucrative the halaal hoax really is.

This has happened right across South Africa [where I’m writing this article], but it’s headed for the “politically correct” USA. America’s largest Arab and Muslim populated area, Dearborn, Michigan now offers *halaal* chicken nuggets at McDonald’s outlets. Other halaal meat producing companies operate in North Carolina and Missouri.

Here in South Africa you will find pork and halaal side-by-side in all the major supermarkets like Pic ‘n Pay, Woolworth’s, Checkers, etc. Ironically very few Muslims actually shop at these stores. Traditionally they support Muslim-owned stores even if the price is higher and the quality inferior.

Over 98% of shoppers at the major food stores stocking halaal are non-Muslims, yet all customers are forced to pay the halaal surcharge because of a lack of non-halaal alternatives. This is a total rip-off. Many poor South Africans living below the poverty line have no choice but to pay the halaal surcharge.

Most halaal certification bodies are privately run organizations even though they are registered as “non-profits.” Among the directors of these organizations are several ex-politicians that have been barred from holding public office, while another executive has been charged with pedophilia. There is bitter rivalry among the halaal bodies because each wants a bigger share of the prize. They are not mandated by the Qur’an or by the Muslim population and generally do not have the support of the Islamic theological authorities (ulamas) who judge this practice “grossly unscrupulous.”

Revenue from halaal is used to pay exorbitant salaries to the directors of the halaal bodies, to create employment for Muslims only, to propagate radical Islam and to advance Islamic political causes both locally and abroad. Through lack of alternatives, some 98% of South Africans are coercively forced to support this financial scam of Islam.

Be warned: Don’t be a victim of the Islamic halaal food scam. This is such a lucrative operation it will soon spread to medicine and clothing. Indeed, Cuba and Malaysia are currently working on a halaal vaccine for meningitis which will undoubtedly be exported to SA.

Less than 2% of the population of South Africa is Muslim, yet they have become such a loud and obnoxious minority that they frequently get their way simply by decibel disadvantage. Their influence unfairly discriminates against Christians, who for the most part, play by the rules. South Africa is made up of ten Black nations which cumulatively make up the majority. In addition, there are Whites (approximately 12%) then Coloreds and Indians. Over 75% of the population claims some affiliation to Christianity and this identification cuts right across all racial groups.

“Be warned: Don’t be a victim of the Islamic halaal food scam.”

While living in Europe and working for Christ behind the Iron Curtain, I studied Marxism to learn what made the communist tick. Now, with militant Islamofascism posing an even greater threat – not only to our freedoms, but to our very lives –

I am convinced that we must understand what motivates the jihadists and learn what the Qur’an tells them to do and why. This page reflects a few Islamic ‘truths’ recently learned. Muslims do not assimilate, they dominate. Every nation must conform to their 7th Century custom and practice, or die! There is no compromise or accommodation. Islam means “submit.” The choice they offer is simple: **submit or die.**

Remember this when you hear some dear, but uninformed, brother blather, “O but we all pray to the same God.” **No**, we do not! Allah is the moon god, he is not Jehovah! Allah has no son through whose substitutionary death and resurrection we have forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God.

Trust me, Saddam Hussein believes in Jesus Christ, right now – but for him it’s too late. One day “*The desert tribes will bow before Him, and His enemies will lick the dust,*” (Psalm 72:9 NIV) Meanwhile we must “Preach the Word” and hasten the day when *every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God.*

Bill Bathman – Cape Town, South Africa

Dear Team,

This month marks the 40th Anniversary of the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia, now the Czech Republic. I vividly remember preaching in that troubled little country during that time. The first chapter of my book, *Going Through* relives those dramatic days.

It's ironic: China is indignant over worldwide demonstrations prior to the Olympic Games, but they send military supplies to Zimbabwe to perpetuate the pathetic reign of a ruthless communist dictator, Bobby Mugabe. Leading up to the Summer Olympics, many groups will try to exercise some kind of leverage for their cause if they perceive Beijing is vulnerable to worldwide pressure. Meanwhile China's economy is booming and its financial power is growing overseas, especially in Africa, while it spends more and more money on its military.



Bill with Maasai tribesmen

Last month was a memorable one. I spoke at the Biblical Worldview Seminar at Mizpah, high in the Hottentot mountains east of Cape Town. Young people were there from Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, France, USA and all over South Africa. Two men were from the Maasai tribe in Kenya, and they were greatly used in the Outreach programs.

A statement was issued at the BWS conclusion: "The Mizpah Declaration" – 42 essential articles of a Christian Worldview. These cover the Nature of God, the Nature of the Universe, the Nature of Truth, the Nature of True Values, the Nature of Authority, the Nature of Salvation, the Nature of Human Government and the Nature and Purpose of History. You can read this at: www.christianaction.org.za

About 20 minutes after Harriett and I arrived home following our final meeting at Mizpah, the phone rang with an emergency "Macedonian call." Rev. Erlo Stegen wanted me to come and speak at the Winter Youth Conference at KwaSizabantu in KwaZulu Natal, where they expected some 5,000 teens for a week. I left within a few hours.

They had joined two large tents together at the north end of the landing strip, because the auditorium was destroyed by fire in June. The Lord gave me great liberty in preaching. I was conscious of the Holy Spirit's anointing. God opened my mind to understand some of the unique tribal and cultural differences and to address them head-on, especially in the area of ancestor worship. The very first night several hundred youth trusted Christ. This was one of the most fruitful series of meetings in my entire 31 years of working in Africa.

Yours in His grip,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Bathman".

Bill Bathman



Feeding the 5,000 with the Word

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mist to many in Poland. As evangelicals, we understand from the clear teaching of Scripture that the natural man, who is blind from birth because of inherited sin, cannot – of himself – truly see the light that shines brightly from the lamp of God as it enters into the blind man’s room. Only God can open the eyes of the blind. But woe to him who comes into the room with a blindfold of man-made traditions to cover the man’s eyes and then pompously reads the word of God to him in a language he cannot understand! “Blind guides...” Jesus said. (Mt 15:14)

Nevertheless, God’s Word is marching triumphantly through the land of the Poles—bringing men and women out of darkness and into the glorious light of the Kingdom of God’s Dear Son. Every day, our Lord is pleased to make mud cakes to put on the eyes of the “blind” in Poznan, sending them to wash in the rivers and lakes that dot the Polish countryside to publicly testify to His free and sovereign grace. He continues to work in the **K5N Church** of which **Piotr** is the senior pastor, as well as working in the English-speaking church jointly ministering with **K5N – Poznan International Church**.

ITMI Project Partner **Coralanne Nungesser**, sister of **Richard Nungesser** who serves with his wife **Brooke** and daughter **Adelyne** as pastor of PIC, recently sent word that the Lord had worked a miracle in

PIC’s Annual Spring Retreat in the southern mountains by bringing a total stranger named Lee, a friend of Ania - one of the Polish campers, into living contact with the Word.



Coralanne Nungesser with Lee

Lee, an international student from China, enjoyed the fellowship of believers at the retreat, returning to Poznan with an insatiable hunger to know the Word. After receiving her first Bible from the Nungessers at the PIC office, she hid herself in her room and devoured the Scriptures – missing parties at friends’ houses and reading non-stop through the entire Bible in one week!

The following Sunday, Lee came to the PIC worship service and announced to everyone that she had become a believer in Jesus and hoped that she might be able to

share with others in her homeland the gift that she had so freely received from Him.

Still, life is not without daily pressures and difficulties for those who identify with Christ and carry their crosses with Him on their journey to the heavenly City. The Scriptures say: “...everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Tim 3:12).

Andrew Gorski, ITMI Project Partner with Gospel Joy Choir & Workshops, set up a booth at the largest Catholic expo of the year where thousands gathered in attendance. However, because evangelicals are often viewed with suspicion – even disgust by some, only *five* attendees showed enough courage to leave contact info with Andrew. Yet we remember how the Lord used five loaves and two fish to feed thousands!

So for the time being, the twin goats of Poznan are a constant reminder of the separation between evening and morning - along with the reality of the warfare that rages on in the material and spiritual realms. One day the Lamb of God will appear over the city to put an end to all division. After the Judgment and final separation occurs, a New Heavens and Earth will appear. Then as Scripture says: “*night will be no more*” (Rev 22:5).

--Jeff Black, Tempe, AZ

For Praise . . .

1. **Piotr Zaremba**’s project with IBS-STL for the publication of the Polish-English New Testament!
2. The ministry of **PIC** missionaries to international students like Lee!
3. **Charl van Wyk** & fellow co-workers unharmed in armed robbery incident!

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For Prayer . . .

1. The **Bathman**’s fighting off lingering cold/flu symptoms during the Cape Town winter season.
2. **Steve & Darlene Evers**’ trip to Poland and Romania from July 21 to August 14.
3. **Muhindo Kawede**, Principal of International School of Missions in Uganda, is battling malaria.

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