



Reaching and Serving the Persecuted Church

IN TOUCH MONTHLY

1 February 2009

“We need to send a bold signal of hope to the world with a human rescue package. We are at a critical juncture where we risk watching hunger spiral out of control as the world’s population is set to climb toward 9 billion mid-century.” Josette Sheeran, World Food Programme Executive Director, at a speech in New Delhi, India in December 2008

Feeding Body & Soul

ZAMBIA

A few days before Christmas 2008, ITMI sent some much needed financial relief to our Project Partner, **John Jere**, in Zambia as he put together two special “feeding programs” for orphaned children in the townships that surround the capital city Lusaka. These special programs attract hundreds of children who are lovingly fed a hot meal and told the story of the Savior Who came to rescue boys and girls like them. And that last part – *about a rescuing Savior* – is the stark difference between the failed UN agency fighting global hunger (World Food Programme), and a caring, outward-focused church.

In the same December speech quoted above, Josette Sheeran called for 5.2 billion dollars (US) in aid for the food program her organization administers on behalf of the 932 million underfed and undernourished people of the world. According to her, the “bold signal of hope” must come from governments who are willing to allocate a portion of the funds earmarked for financial bailout packages to address this crisis. As the population of planet Earth – at 6.7 billion – continues to grow exponentially, so does the price tag for a man-centered



“Better to die from a bullet than to die of hunger.”

**–Zambian boy
11 years old**

salvation according to the UN.

Erik, a starving Zambian boy, stands in sharp contrast to the well-fed politicians and policy makers of global decision-making. One of

the orphans the Reverend John Jere was able to minister to during the Christmas season, 11-year old Erik is learning to put all his hope in God rather than in the UN. Asked

(Continued on page 4)

Honor Killings: *saving face* vs. Saving Grace

Caution: the following contains graphic detail that may cause discomfort to sensitive readers.

To put it simply: Islam is a religion of hate and death based upon lies, while Christianity is a personal relationship of love and life based upon the Truth. The two are incompatible.

Islam teaches, supports and condones the practice of so-called “honor killing.” This barbaric throwback to 6th Century Arab culture has its roots in the traditional Muslim belief that women are inferior to men. They are considered half-human. In the Qur’an women have half the rights of men, sisters have half the rights of brothers and women are considered deficient in intelligence.

In Islamic tradition a woman is an object, owned by the man who assumes responsibility for her behavior and her life. The social and religious traditions lead to the isolation of the woman in her home. She is required to cover her entire body in order to maintain the *honor* of the man. In the Qur’an, prophetic traditions and Sharia law there is a strong presumption of woman’s chastity along with many safeguards to prevent any suggestion of un-chastity.

A woman who is raped becomes a source of shame to her family. No man will marry her because she has been spoiled and her family becomes the object of gossip in the local community. Hence the family can lose prestige. No one would give a daughter in marriage to the brothers of that girl and no one would marry one of her sisters. This vicious cycle can only stop if the family cleanses that stain with blood. The woman thus defiled must be killed even if she is the victim of rape.

They are called “honor killings” but in reality it is pre-meditated, cold-blooded murder. What on earth is honorable about killing a family member because their sense of values in a religious belief happens to differ from yours?

The practice is common throughout the Muslim world. In Jordan, three penal-code articles offer leniency to the killers. Such murders are considered *misdemeanors* and the average sentence for them is only six months. Many get off scot-free.

Honor killings occur regularly in the Middle East and South Asia. While a few of the victims are men the vast majority are women whose actions – whether actual or suspected – violate the honor of their family, an honor thought to depend entirely on the sexual purity of its female members. In Islam, men are not held to the same moral standard.

Islam’s mythical male-oriented Paradise consists of sheer lechery with promised ‘virgins’ and the false hope for future “pleasures” they were forbidden in this life. What kind of religion would promise such nonsense much less promote it?

In some circumstances mutilation is sufficient to satisfy the blood-lust of Allah’s followers. Ayesha Baloch, 18-year old wife of Eisa Khan Khosa, went to visit her family. Eisa accused her [unjustly] of adultery and took his brother Akbar to fetch her. On the way home they cut off her nose and lips and left her bleeding in a field.

Such mutilations are connected with Muslim honor killings. Consider the case of Shamin Mai who committed the “crime” of marrying a man of her own choosing instead of allowing her family to choose her husband. For this “crime,” her brother Bashir and her uncle Bilal, along with four other men, chopped off her legs.

Islam’s double standard does not apply to the men. Some of the problems are “all in the family.” Take Rofayda Qaoud, a teenage Pakistani girl. Her “crime” was that she had been raped by her two elder brothers and had become pregnant. The child of the rape had been born and given up for adoption. Though it is regarded as a sin to commit suicide, Rofayda’s mother, Amira, gave her daughter a razor blade and ordered her to kill herself by slashing her wrists. When she did not obey, “her mother put a plastic bag over her head, sliced her wrists with the razor blade and when her daughter went limp she finished her off with a blow on her head with a stick.”

Honor killing is not limited to Muslim-majority countries. Mohammed Riaz lived in Lancashire, England with his wife Caneze and four daughters, Sayrah (16), Sophia (15), Alicia (10) and Hannah (3). Riaz did not like the westernized clothes and life-style his wife and children appreciated, so he set fire to their beds at night and all perished in the flames.

In Denmark 19-year old Ghazala Abbas was gunned down on the streets by her brother in an ambush arranged by her parents and siblings, because she had married a man from Afghanistan, against her parents’ wishes.

Nor will we forget last year’s tragedy in Dallas, Texas when Islam Said, an Egyptian taxi driver, shot his two daughters, Amina (18) and Sarah (17) in cold blood because he didn’t approve of their western clothes and friendship with American boys.

We care for the souls of Muslims. They need to hear the Good News of God’s saving Grace through our Lord Jesus Christ. **He** has revealed the Truth of God and His wonderful plan of salvation and has truly liberated both men and women. John 8:32

Bill Bathman – Tempe, AZ

Dear Team,

I've been amazed at the amount of positive comment received regarding my recent page 2 articles on the various aspects of Islam. Many have not heard of Sharia law or Sharia finance. Most have said (in one way or another) they appreciate that I can be candid without being caustic. "It's what we need to know and haven't been told" seems to sum up the appreciation. The articles led to invitations for me to speak at a State-wide organization last month and a phone call from Florida booked me for a national conference in Texas this April. I am grateful for this encouragement and gratified that my research is beneficial – but I remain a missionary evangelist and my foremost calling is to preach the Word of God.

For 40+ years Harriett and I have ministered the Gospel throughout the communist world. During that time I have traveled to and preached in every major communist country and most of the minor ones. For the past seven years we have lived in a communist country. Please believe me when I say that there is a much greater threat facing America today than that posed by the Reds – **it is Islam**. We must win Muslims to Christ. It is a matter of life or death – our life or death.

To be effective we must know the truth about what they believe. My editorial subject this month is "honor killing." Islam is a cult of death; you need to know that. Remember, Allah is not Jehovah. God's Word says, "**All those who hate me love death.**" Proverbs 8:36 Islam is a religion of hate. Christianity is a relationship of love. "**Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.**" Proverbs 10:12 We must know the Truth and take the initiative. Our Lord Jesus said, "Love your enemies" and in some cases this calls for tough love.



ITMI's Polish Director, Dr. **Piotr Zaremba**, will be in America this month. The first week he's in the Chicago area, then he comes to Arizona for two mission conferences: February 9-11 at North Village Baptist Church and February 25-March 1st at Palmcroft Baptist in Phoenix. For more details, or if you'd like to book him for a meeting, please phone Debbie at our Tempe office. The story of his Bible translation project and what the Lord is doing through all this is very inspiring.

Steve Evers and **Bob Fulkerson** arrived home safely from their mission trip to Uganda and Sudan last month. They were in the bush much of the time, miles from any internet café, so details are few, but we'll bring you up to speed next month.

Regular readers of ITM will know that we are a solid pro-life mission. We urge you to pray for a resounding defeat of FOCA, the so-called Freedom of Choice Act, now before congress. It will expand abortion and eliminate virtually every pro-life law in America – using our tax dollars to pay for the slaughter.

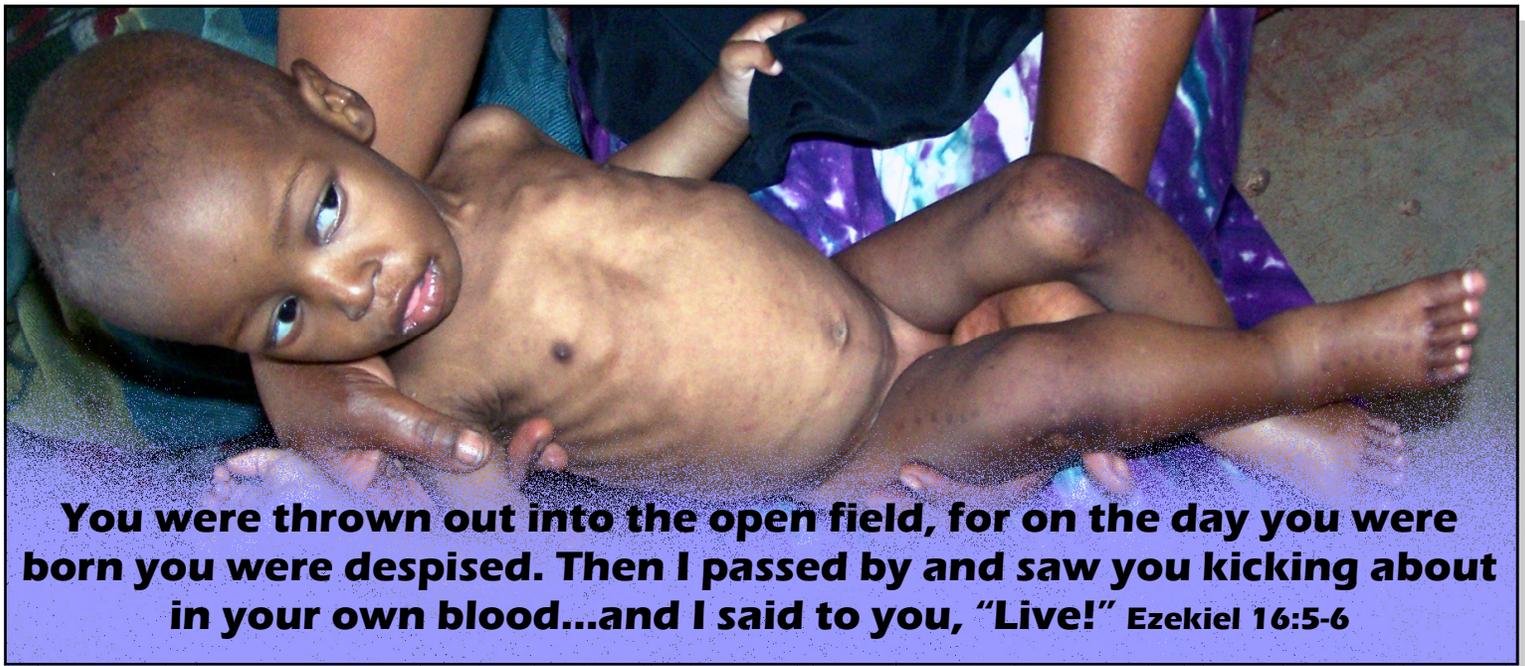
ITMI's **Charl van Wyk** was ordained to the Christian ministry at a supporting Church in Lusaka, Zambia last month. Details are few as the news arrived just as we go to press for this issue. We'll give you more details next month. Meantime, congratulations Reverend Charl!



Yours in His grip,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Bathman".

Bill Bathman



You were thrown out into the open field, for on the day you were born you were despised. Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your own blood...and I said to you, "Live!" Ezekiel 16:5-6

(Continued from page 1)

why he would say, "Better to die of a bullet than to die of hunger," Erik explained: "Because hunger is painful and takes a long time for one to die while a bullet kills a person instantly."

Growing up in his grandmother's house, with thirteen siblings and cousins, made fighting for scraps of food commonplace. With mom and dad gone from their lives, the children would drink water and go to bed to fool their stomachs before drifting into fitful sleep. Grandmother crushed rocks for a living and wept at the daily responsibilities with no help except from caring Christians. Erik said that when help came, the children would dance and sing as grandmother cooked for them.

Ten of the children are now in Luyando Open Orphanage, in Old Kanyama Township, under the care of Mrs. Kapindi who helped Erik's grandmother when she could. Erik is now in grade 4 and working very hard. He says, "I always pray to God to help me." This is the hope that will never disappoint.

John and Joyce Jere were also involved in handing out Christmas gifts to orphans, because of the generous gift giving of ITMI supporters. And while the food and gifts were a special way to show the orphans that someone cares for and loves them, John knows that without the gospel message of the rescuing Savior Jesus all other "rescue" efforts are in vain.

This poor country of AIDS orphans cannot grow up to maturity unless the Sovereign Lord says, "Live!" This is the hope that the Jeres share with others as they point to a "human rescue package" that was already paid for **in full** on the Cross of Golgotha 2000 years ago.

Thank you for your part in helping ITMI reach across continents to join hands together with the Jeres. Thank you for helping us offer the gift of life freely to those who are suffering under the harsh realities of life. And thank you for helping us bring hope to a nation of "Eriks" – whose hope is in the Bread of Life instead of a hopeless bullet.

Jeff Black – Tempe, AZ

For Praise . . .

1. **Steve Evers & Bob Fulkerson** safe return from Africa to the USA!
2. **Vicky Waraka** has verbally translated 12 chapters of John in Sudanese dialect for mp3 project!
3. **John & Joyce Jere** ministering to physical and spiritual needs of orphans around Lusaka!

For Prayer . . .

1. **Piotr Zaremba** on a US tour of speaking engagements in churches and small groups.
2. **Richard & Brooke Nungesser** may find another apartment that does not have mold or mildew.
3. Pray for the defeat of the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) now before Congress.

Authorized to Accept  

itm **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

