

# IN TOUCH MISSION

international

Monthly

1 August 2015

**“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” - 1 Corinthians 2:9**

## Keeping Company with God's Saints

**“Raised in a peasant home he was acquainted with poverty.”**

### Romania



**Intensity and passion were constant companions of Dr. Nick. He boldly preached Truth in spite of expected persecution.**

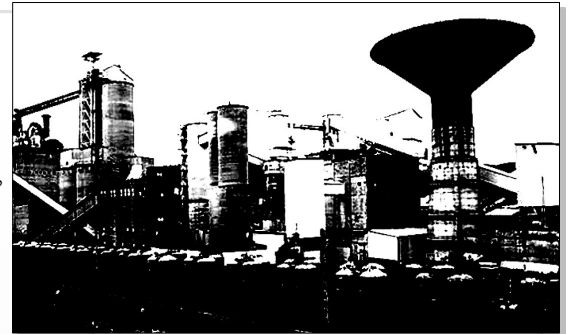
**ITMI grew out of a vision God gave us to put American Christians ‘in touch’** with fellow Christians in closed or restricted-access countries. We found precious Brothers and Sisters in Christ living there, behind the Iron Curtain, during the Cold War years under constant persecution from their atheistic communist oppressors. At our Lord's command to **“Go,”** we took Bibles and medical supplies and shared God's Word, **yet they ministered to us** in a far deeper, spiritually-enriching way.

We praise the Lord for the *caliber* of Christians He has brought across our path, whom we've met across the years and along the way.

They were innovative. Pastors of local churches encouraged their flock to memorize God's Word, so when the communists confiscated their Bibles they still had the Word, literally ‘hidden in their hearts.’ A congregation of 260 people (each memorizing one chapter) would have the entire New Testament memorized. Larger churches, with 1,189 members could recall the entire Bible from memory.

Think of Dr. **Nicolae Gheorghita**, one of God's choice Romanian saints. The Lord taught me many things through his life. Raised in a peasant home he was acquainted with poverty. His farmer-father refused to join a ‘collective farm,’ so Nick was not eligible for a scholarship to the university and they had no money. Having graduated from high school with top grades, he applied and was accepted to take the entrance exam in another city.

His mother carded the wool to weave the cloth to make a suit for him to wear when he left for the 5-day exam. He had no money for food or shelter, so he slept on the floor in the railway station. By the third day he was very hungry. A friend said to him, “Let's go have a beer.” Nick told him he needed food! So the boy took him to his home for dinner. When the exam was over, Nick didn't have cash for a bus ticket home, so he sold his shirt to pay for it. There were



250 places for new medical students; Nick came in 17<sup>th</sup> out of 2,500 who took the exam that year. He went on to become Romania's top Endocrinologist.

Consider his humility: In the early 1980s he answered God's call to leave his medical practice in Deva and pastor the **Second Baptist Church** in Oradea – the largest Baptist Church in Europe, East or West. He asked the Lord to give him a co-pastor, **Dr. Paul Negrut**. From the beginning Dr.

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**Dr. Nick and Bill Bathman, two very dear friends, with many miles and meetings under their belts. Bill founded ITMI for the purpose of helping and serving our brothers and sisters reach their people.**

# Newsbytes

## Zambia

As we go to press, we received news of our water well project in Western Zambia going to a new level. We are working out the details with a long time ministry friend, introduced to ITMI by our own **Timothy Keller**, who has a focused and intentional ministry to evangelizing the Zambian people that live west of the Zambezi River. This includes the area of **Lukulu West** where we have already drilled water wells. We are plotting out how ITMI's help with resources for water wells, and **John Leach's, Waymakers** ministry, with boots on the ground, will further the sharing of the Gospel to this group of 600,000 Zambians who have had little exposure to the Gospel. John reminds us that these water wells will save lives of village women, provide safe and accessible water and many, many opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus.

We also heard from the Kellers that they are now new parents again. Ashley delivered **Ian Albert Keller**, born Sunday, July 26th, 12pm, in Johannesburg, SA, weighing 2.8kg (6.2lbs).

Mother and baby are doing well and we all praise our great Physician for Ian's excellent health.

Tim and Ashley felt the need to deliver in South Africa due to potential health concerns and now that little Ian has arrived, the Keller family of 6 are ready to trek back to their home and ministry in Zambia. Pray for safety and strength as they travel and settle into loving and raising four beautiful little missionaries.



## We Have a Need!



**Lazarus Yezinai - SALT teacher and Church Leader- asks for Arabic version of SALT.**

We have a need. Ok, ITMI family, you can help! We need an Arabic speaker who wants to change his/her world for the good.

Let me explain. In January I traveled to **Juba**, the once Islamic controlled capital of **South Sudan** to meet with our partners **Jahim Buli** and **Vicky Waraka**. I also got



**Dr. Nick and Dr. Paul Negrut (January 1982)**

Nick said (regarding Dr. Paul), "He must increase and I must decrease," quoting John the Baptist. Dr. Nick was a brilliant doctor serving the medical community in a vital position and well known interna-

tionally. The communist authorities had grudgingly tolerated his Christian activity, but when he resigned his practice to pastor a Baptist Church, serious problems began.

Life for him became, what for lesser men would have been intolerable, but he was immaculately dressed in the 'whole armor of God,' which enabled him to 'stand against the wiles of the devil,' – in his case the communist government. He could talk and reason with the authorities without compromise.

He was generous. Dr. Nick was a living example of Christian virtue. *The fruit of the Spirit* was clearly evident in his life. Like the Apostle Paul he knew how 'to be abased, and how to abound,' yet he was always charitable, so any



abundance was short-lived. Whatever we took to him was quickly passed on to someone else whom he perceived to have a greater need: "Cornel needs a fridge," (which we could buy at the dollar-shop); "Nelu needs a car." His attention and concern for his fellow man was for the *whole person*: **body** [he was a doctor], **mind** [he launched a 'School of Prophets'], **spirit** [he preached the Gospel and won souls to Christ].

Dr. Nick was a diplomat. In dealing with the communist authorities his logic was practical and down-to-earth. He convinced Romania's Chief Medical Officer (the equivalent of U.S. Surgeon General) that Romanian Baptist (third largest group in the world, after USA and Russia) had many

friends in America, who were very concerned about the ill-treatment of their Brothers in Romania. He persuaded the CMO that Romanian Baptist could be regarded as 'the goose that laid the golden egg' as far as obtaining high tech medical items and other goodies from



**Typical overloaded transportation in Communist Romania. (Pandele 1980s)**

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to reconnect with **Lazarus Yezinai** a godly young South Sudanese that sees the hurt and pain of his anger and revenge built culture, and how it keeps people from knowing and loving God.

As you know, I have been pushing, as hard as is right to do, the **SALT** discipleship material that **Victorious Christian Living** has so wonderfully compiled and provided for ITMI and anyone that wants to understand why the flesh and the world fails and God's way always succeeds.

Jahim, Vicky, Lazarus, Paul Y. in India, and many others have seen the transforming effect of God's truth as laid out in the SALT material. In fact, Lazarus looked across that garden table, on a hot afternoon in Juba, in January and started a fire storm. Lazarus asked, "Steve, I want permission to translate the SALT material into ....Arabic." I asked, "Juba Arabic or Classical Arabic?" Lazarus responded, "Oh yes, Classical Arabic!" He continued, "And when it is translated, we have people in Khartoum and Egypt." The fire storm just got hotter!

You see, God's truth as shared in the

SALT material has been giving hope and reconciliation to hopeless and severely broken South Sudanese, ever since Lazarus has standardized on using SALT for his key core hope giving, life changing good news discipleship material. Lazarus even wants to start a SALT school that South Sudanese can come to and get that much coveted fancy piece of paper that they hang on the wall, and also an in-depth study of God's truth about why the centuries old African cultural norms just don't lead to real peace and joy.

The fire storm is burning even hotter, you see, this view of Lazarus' Arabic culture is exactly the same as every other Arabic culture. Dysfunctional, hurtful, damaging and void of any and all hope and peace. If you haven't noticed, that culture is really messing up the heads and lives of a whole lot of people. They are even exporting that messed up belief system to every other country around the world. God has built a burning fire inside me to take SALT to the Arabic speaking world... no, the whole Arabic speaking world, one underground believer or church at a time.

God's truth as laid out in SALT will blow apart the generational hopeless baggage that even many Arabic speaking believers still carry.

We need you to help us find an eternal-minded, Classical Arabic trained translator who is willing to trust with a Joshua or Gideon style hope that God can use their unique skill to attack a huge and ever growing godless belief system, by translating the truth into their language. I believe God wants Arabic speaking believers to have this unique and effective, "won't-return-void" weapon to further infiltrate and enlighten the ranks of the ungodly juggernaut that is destroying everything in its path.

If we can't find a special volunteer that has the proper Classical Arabic talent, and who has the time to translate this material, then we will have to go another direction. There are 388 pages in the seven SALT books. We don't know exactly how much it will cost per page to translate and lay out for printing. We believe that if we do have to pay someone to do the translating and

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their Brothers abroad. It worked. After ITMI delivered a fetal monitor to the CMO's 800-bed hospital, he was able to get the bulldozer, poised to demolish the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church, removed!

Dr. Nick had the unique ability to 'fail' without being a 'failure.' For example: when the Dictator Ceausescu issued Decree 407, proclaiming that 'no visitor from the West could speak to any group of Romanians on any subject under any circumstances without written approval from Bucharest' - Dr. Nick bravely *failed* to comply. Within two days an ITMI evangelist arrived and an itinerary was immediately arranged for him to preach the Gospel in churches right across the country, thus challenging the decree. It was later abandoned due to impossible enforcement.

Working for over 30 years throughout Eastern Europe brought us into contact with many of God's choicest Saints. They were 'as unknown,' to the world, but to our Savior, 'well known.' Paul described the Corinthian Christians, "*as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet*



Steve, Dr. Nick, Cornelia, and Darlene  
(2008)

*possessing all things.*" 2 Cor. 6:10 Fellowship with them was like being in the very presence of Jesus Christ. After each trip we returned to the West as spiritual *millionaires* while we had only taken them a few material things that "*moth and rust corrupt.*"

Regarding persecution: Jesus said, "*If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you...remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.*" John 15:18, 20

The SCOTUS redefinition of marriage has already sparked an inevitable wave of accusations of 'hate' speech directed toward Christians who believe and follow Biblical teaching about homosexuality. Those demanding "tolerance" from others are least likely to be tolerant themselves. Serious persecution of Christians is on the way to the USA. "*The time is coming that whoever kills you will*

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A man who photographed a similar line at a local butcher shop was imprisoned for 6 years.  
(Pandele 1980s)



**Dr. Nick and Cornelia's family:  
Corina Hossu, Ema Ban, Radu Gheorghita  
(Adi Ban with Ema)  
(2012)**

### Editors Note:

Bill helped Dr. Nick help a large number of needy Romanians. Students, Pastors, and families were many times anonymously supported via Dr. Nick's humble generosity. Pastors serve in Romania today due to Dr. Nick financially supporting them while in school.

There are still great needs for families and students in Romania. Because of the example of their father, Dr. Nick, his children want to continue what Dr. Nick started - helping students who can not afford school fees - attend school, and helping families to have hope of a better life through submitting to God's plan.

Dr. Nick's children have, through ITMI's Adi and Ema Ban, have created a project that will grow into a Foundation to further Dr. Nick's example of sacrificial generosity to students and families.

ITMI is in full agreement that Bill and Dr. Nick's example can not be allowed to stop. Romania still needs our help and attention.

A gracious donor who loved ITMI's work in Romania has offered to start the "Dr. Nick Gheorghita Scholarship Fund" with a



**Dr. Nick, Cornelia and Bill sharing  
old stories of God's  
protection and provision.**

matching \$1000 usd seed gift. As you who have a love for Romania give, the seed funds will match, dollar for dollar, up to the \$1000 amount.

Would you like to honor Dr. Nick's faithful and obedient service to God and the Body of Christ and help the next generation of pastors, Christian leaders and families in Romania. We have just the vehicle to help make that happen. We will continue what God has already started with the help of you being put "In Touch" with our Romanian partners.

Check our new web site for more stories on Dr. Nick and his life.

-Steve Evers

*think that he offers God service."* John 16:2

What can we learn from our fellow believers who endured communism during the Cold War years? Dr. Nick's consistent example of true Christianity under pressure, teaches us that the first step on the road of compromise leads to disaster.

Written by Bill Bathman  
Archival research: Harriett Bathman

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layout, we should be able to find a translator who would do it for \$13usd per page. We are asking that our donors don't try and pay for the whole 388 pages themselves. We feel strongly that there are a lot of you out there that want to have your fingerprints on this Arabic translation of SALT and it's eternal implications. Please if you are so led, only fund a hand full of pages or maybe a whole chapter (55 pages) so that others can help with this project also.

If you do fund pages of the Arabic SALT and we do find an Arabic volunteer who wants this to be their service to God, we would ask you to grant us the freedom with funds for this project: 1. Honor the volunteer with a token of our appreciation, 2. Use excess funds to help us print as many of these SALT books in Arabic as we can.

Thank you again for your partnership in taking God's truth, His righteousness, and His love to the needy of this world.

### **For Praise . . .**

1. **India - Paul and Molly** - Much praise that God has not allowed the large Hindu population to shut down the Church.
3. **Poland - Tomek Jezyk** - Reports opening a new BOL facility in Kalisz for addicted people, people with cancer, and children.
4. **Poland - Piotr Zaramba** - Thankful - thirteen more people have confirmed their desire to follow our Lord Jesus.
5. **South Africa - Charl van Wyk** - Stone Hill Ministry's 2nd container "classroom" bldg has arrived and is being installed.

### **For Prayer . . .**

1. **South Sudan - Jahim Buli** - Wisdom and godly insight as he leads two upcoming pastor's SALT discipleship training.
2. **India - Paul and Molly** - Wisdom, protection as 500 agitated Hindu neighbors signed a petition for the closing of the new church.
3. **Zambia - John Jere** - Pray for John as he works through many tough issues at this season of his life and ministry.
4. **Zambia - Tim/Ashley Keller** - Safety, health and provision as they travel home to Zambia.
5. **South Africa - Kelly and Cherise Smith** - Pray - As they move forward on the much needed "Children's Village" project.
6. **USA - Needed-** Special Arabic speaking believer who will partner to take SALT material's life changing truth to their world.

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