

IN TOUCH MISSION

international

Monthly

1 March 2014

"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that come from the mouth of God!" - Matthew 4:4

Five Humble Heroes

"...I feel that this Person really knows me - because He is speaking my language."

Poland

Not many will know him by his official name or by his given name.

But **Frederick III**, Elector of Saxony was a hero.

Born in Torgau, Saxony (Germany) during the Renaissance period in 1463 to a powerful family that was very well connected to the Holy Roman Empire. Eventually he became second in authority to Emperor Maximilian.

The glowing words of Hieko Oberman, authority on Martin Luther shares, "Historians of every stripe have found only one statesman thoroughly praiseworthy: **Frederick the Wise**...a man of integrity."

Frederick the Wise was the man that master mined the *helpful* kidnapping of Martin Luther in 1521. Both the Pope and the Emperor wanted to crush Martin Luther and truth contained in Luther's famous 95 thesis. Frederick held them at bay. This truth from God's word was one of the most valuable catalysts in the Reformation of the Church.

Frederick the Wise was a hero.

Andrew van der Bijl or better known as, **Brother Andrew** (1928-alive) another hero to many. He Attended a 1957 Communist youth

conference behind the Iron Curtain in Poland. The brain washing of these young people broke his heart. God used a breeze of wind to flip the pages of his open Bible to Revelations chapter 3, where he read, "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die." He then knew the remaining believers in Poland must not die. They must be strengthened. This is when he became a hero by smuggling God's word to the Polish believers.



**Brother Andrew Eastern Europe
late 1950's**

A name most all of our readers will know is that of **William Bathman**, better know as Bill Bathman, ITMI's founder and Director for many years. Bill is a hero to many on multiple continents - especially to the many brothers and sisters in Christ who were imprisoned in Eastern Europe's Communist countries during the 1960-1980s. He encouraged, delivered Bibles, and he preached God's message of salvation and hope to countless hungry souls.

ITMI presents to you today someone else that according to testimonies below, qualifies as a hero. Our hero will very much



Frederick the Wise

deny this title. In 1984, while he was a freshman in a Warsaw university, Bill Bathman asked him, "what do you need?" "We need dictionaries, Greek and Hebrew interlinears, and Bible lexicons...if we will not start [translating the original Bible languages into a usable and accurate Polish translation] now, it will not happen after



**Bill Bathman at KSB Youth
Conference 2009**

(Continued on page 2)

Newsbytes

USA

Nineteen years ago **Delmar George Kehl**, better known to all his friends as Del, joined the ITMI Board. Del's commitment to ITMI and our projects was only superseded by his commitment to his Savior, his family, and his ministry through literature. ITMI lost a dear Board member and friend in February when Del proceeded us to our eternal home-going.



After Del completed a bachelor's degree, he received his master's degree from the **University of Wisconsin-Madison**

and received a Ph.D. in American Literature from USC. He taught in the English Department at **Arizona State University** for 40 years. He also served on numerous graduate degree committees. More recently he held the position of **Professor Emeritus at ASU**. Del was on several boards including **Community Ministries International, In Touch Mission International**, and associate editor of the academic **C.S. Lewis** journal, *Sehnsucht*.

Piotr Zaremba writes, "Two things stand out in my mind as I think of our late Brother Del."

First, he was a learner, ready to discover new things. "How could I be effective in your mission field in Poland?" he asked one day. Somewhat surprised

with his readiness to stretch his abilities, I answered: "If you could prepare a presentation *Jesus in American literature* I could organize many meetings in Polish public schools. Then, during your presentation, you could also evangelize." Availability to Christ always makes a man's life count for eternity.

Second, Del — like **Aslan** — was a lion untamed. The depth of familiarity and friendship we shared in the Board of ITMI never weakened his devotion to Biblical standards. We all could count on him to stand for the Word of God even if it meant our immediate disadvantage. In the long run, his integrity made us all prosperous.

Wanda, Kevin and Kenyon thank you for loaning us your much beloved husband and father for all these years.

30 years."

Bill faithfully equipped and supplied this budding hero, unleashing a thirty year journey of growth. In this time our valiant hero faithfully studied the original Bible languages. He went from a proficient translator to an expert. He finished a sixteen year season of nose-to-the-grind-stone work that drove what is truly a great accomplishment. His heart, passion and dedication has given the 40-plus-million- strong Polish-speaking world, an accurate version of God's word in their mother tongue and heart language.

Sixteen years, untold hours of prayer, study and translation, and now ITMI's Polish partner, **Dr. Piotr Zaremba** can look back over a large portion of his life and 6620 finished Bible pages of literal and literary versions of the most accurate and understandable Bible that Poland has today.

Piotr doesn't want to be a hero. He continually gives all the credit to what God has done, and to all many partners and donors whose fingerprints will forever be attached to this exceptional accomplishment. He doesn't want to be named with champions of old, however when you hear what current Believers and Seekers alike say about this new Polish Old and New Testament, you might have to disagree with Piotr.

The passion, excitement and gratitude will become clearly evident as you read - translated from Polish, words of excitement over this new Bible translation.



I couldn't go back to the old translation. ... the clarity of vision I get with the new translation outweighs all. Imagine now how deeply touched I was when I first read St. John's letter in the new translation, which uses the contemporary verb for "love". Suddenly, the entire epistle became strikingly personal and incredibly real, and I felt so close to God, surrounded by His never-outdated love.- Basia, Olsztyn



The new translation is very user friendly... brings the reader closer to God...it makes it easier to study the Scripture...at the same time it encourages deeper reflection by including different textual variants...the footnotes are extremely helpful, a real mine of information. - Artur, Poznań



The new Bible translation has first and foremost inspired me to dig deeper, beyond the written letter - to explore the fullness of what God wants to communicate to people in His Holy Word. The footnotes included in the translation have been tremendously helpful...! There are a lot of passages and verses I was able to understand on a much deeper level. - Agnieszka, Poznań

After a tragedy ripped apart my personal life, I was left to

(Continued on page 3)

USA



Over twenty five years ago **Bill and Harriett Bathman** recruited a dear lady from their **Grace Community Church, Tempe, AZ** Sunday School class. They were and are experts at recruiting. ITMI has a history of people, recruited by the Bathmans that are champions— or heros for the Lord. **Dorothy McCandless** is one of them.

Dorothy knew that she would never travel to Communist Poland or Romania with Bill and Harriett, nor would she trek off to Sudan or other parts of Africa. She did know that God uses all kinds in all kinds of positions. As the Body has many parts, no one part is less or more important than the other. Dorothy knew this and lived it to the fullest.

Dorothy started years ago individually addressing envelopes so that ITMI could send out our monthly newsletter. When the list of interested newsletter partners got too long, Dorothy lobbied and finally convinced Bill that "...printed labels were a better way to go." Bill resisted the labels since he has always wanted each of you to know that we personally appreciate every one of you in a "hand written" sort of way and not as a faceless name on a label.

Somehow Dorothy convinced Bill that she would personally apply each label with love, care and commitment, and she has done that for over the last twenty plus years now.

Every month this sweet little volunteer, would come to the office and pick up boxes of enve-

lopes and sheets of labels. These were then married with intense care as she sat in her recliner at home.

Dorothy can't do this from home any more, she has hit that stage in life that seems to limit our ability to function on our own in our own home.

However, Dorothy with the help of her dear daughter **Sally McMullen**, also an ITMI volunteer, sits in her new chair, a wheel chair in her new care facility home and lovingly applies each label, as she has done since the Berlin Wall was opened to the West, and the Romanian people over threw President Ceausescu.

Not only did Dorothy address envelopes, she came faithfully the last Tuesday of each month for almost 300 months, to help us mail our newsletter around the world.

That is faithfulness! That is a hero! That is someone that chose to use what little or much that God gave her, and to use it faithfully and to the fullest - and who is finishing well!

(Continued from page 2)

pick up the pieces...frantically grasping at anything that might offer even a shred of comfort. New Testament in the new translation was my first encounter with the Word of God. Pastor Peter...one day told me plainly, "Read the New Testament. It will transform your life"...I took a chance, and I was instantly hooked. I read through the entire New Testament in 10 days. I couldn't wait to come home and lay my hands on the book again, just as if I was reading a bestselling adventure story. ...it answered all the questions I grappled with...in a very straightforward way. My life began to change. First there was the constant peace that replaced the usual ups-and-downs. Second, I saw clearly my life as it really was...the Word of God made me realize how much filth there was in the recesses of my seemingly "clean" soul: spiteful thoughts, indulging in gossip, obsessively controlling every aspect of my life.

*To those who were involved in giving me this amazing translation of the Word of God, I would like to say, "You are a part of something incredibly beautiful." It's priceless... I can...hold it in my hand, give it to my relatives. I have one thing to say to them now: "Read this, and your entire system of thought will clear up." - **Kasia - Poznan***

I've been feeding on the Word of God for over twenty years. However, when I first got to know the new EIB's translation, I was impressed like never before. Suddenly a lot of passages

stood in vibrant color! The contemporary language cleared a lot of doubts I had about some verses. I feel encouraged to read more and more. Even my 17-year old son reacted enthusiastically to the translation. He started reading the NT book by book, happy that "he finally understands everything"! (I think a lot of other adolescents felt the same way, so this is nothing short of a breakthrough!).

We give a wholehearted thank you to everyone who supported the project! It was time and money best spent! We're looking forward to the seeing the entire Bible published! Amen.

- Karolina, Poznań

The text is clear and natural...no inflated words, which sound totally outdated to a contemporary ear. At the same



*time, the translation stays faithful to the original text. The passages which are difficult to interpret are clearly marked and described in footnotes. Personally, I find this translation to be very much needed for our times, and I'm not the only one. This is the version I've been waiting for! I keep wanting to know more about the living Word of God! - **Jacek, Poznań***

When I read it, I get the feeling that it is directed with equal strength and urgency to every generation, including my own. It's easy to read and understand. There are a lot of passages that I understand now on a deeper level...and the truths they communicate feel readily available, within my reach. One example is the Lord's prayer. The new translation made

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

it fresh and full of meaning, natural and bringing one closer to God. Also, this new translation encourages and inspires me to reach out to other people. All in all, it's a great piece of work. I'm thankful to God and to everyone who has played a part in making it become a reality.



- Marek, Poznań

I'm very glad we have a new translation of the Word of God in contemporary language. It has helped me understand its truths in my everyday life. I know now God's wishes of happiness are definitely worth pursuing!

- Adam, Poznań

Its definite advantage is the straightforward style and clearly built sentences. There are a lot of verses that literally came to life in this translation...my recent favorite is Paul's prayer in Eph 3:17-18. For me as a psychologist, this wording packs a real punch!

- Ania, Warsaw

I've been reading the Bible regularly for many years, but this translation is the first one that made me feel that my daily readings are real conversations between me and Somebody incredibly close. I feel that all that important information comes from a Person who loves me and values me. Not only that, I feel that this Person really knows me - because He is speaking my language. Previous translations would leave me with a feeling of dis-

tance. Now, that distance is gone, and the truths I read about in the Bible feel very natural - I don't have to decipher them in my head to suit my daily reality.

- Beata, Poznań

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, everybody who supported the precious project of translating the Bible into contemporary Polish language...Thank you for believing that this project will bear fruit! Thank you for supporting our pastor,

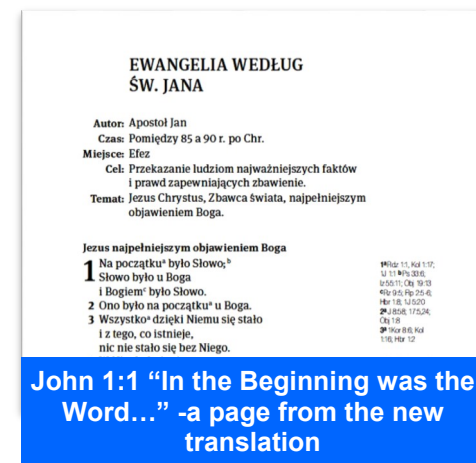


Peter Zaremba. Can you imagine how hard it is to encourage a fresh believer or a child to read the Bible if the text is full

of 'old fashioned' words. My husband Reinier and I are Sunday School teachers at 5N. We teach kids age 10 to 11. We have noticed that it is much easier for our pupils to understand the message if we use the new translation of 'The New Testament and Psalms'. Previously, the kids would not understand! They would focus on the strange words which sounded artificial and distant rather than on the message. The word 'dziatkom' in old Polish means 'children' but it is pronounced exactly the same way as another word meaning 'grandparents' - 'dziadkom'. Imagine now the confusion on reading 'grandparents' instead of 'children' [in Mark 10:14]: 'Suffer the grandparents to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God.' Being a 10 or 11 year old kid, what kind of a vision of heaven do you get after reading that? The contemporary version done by Pas-

tor Zaremba sounds much more optimistic though.. As you can imagine, we are looking forward to the printed version of the new translation of The Old Testament as well! May God bless you dear Sister, dear Brother, for helping us, both teachers and children in Poland, to understand the Word of God better. - Maja & Reinier van den Berg

You might be asking, "Who is the 5th Hero?" The 5th hero is yet to be decided. The 5th hero will be all who are led to help Piotr now finish what he has started - the publishing of this new translation. The goal has not yet been reached. The long and difficult portion, the translation is done. The finish line is in sight. We can all be a part of this monumental project if we will commit to pray and seek God's leading as we need to resource Piotr in the proofing and printing stage of this Bible translation project. Will you become a hero to Piotr and to possibly 40+ millions Poles who need God's word?



For Praise . . .

1. **South Africa** - **Charl van Wyk** and family's blessed gift in finding and purchasing a new vehicle for safe ministry trips.
2. **Zambia** - **John Jere** - continued healing from a long and multiple bout with malaria.
3. **Zambia** - **Tim and Ashley Keller** being able to move into their sufficiently completed home on their compound in **Kabwe**.
4. **Zambia** - **Sarah Phiri** - One of John and **Joyce Jere's** 95 children, has experienced much progress in her eye health issue.
5. **Poland** - **Piotr Zaremba** - Complete audio version of the New Testament and pre-proofed PDF version of the Bible available.
6. **South Sudan** - **Jahim Buli's** continued work with displaced women and children in refugee holding camps in South Sudan.

For Prayer . . .

1. **South Sudan** - **Jahim Buli** as he seeks and plans on how best to help, serve and show God's love refugees numbering 500,000.
2. **Poland** - **Piotr Zaremba** - energy and provision as he seeks to now be able to print what he has translated for the last 16 years.
3. **Zambia** - **John Jere** - Safety and protection from real threats to imprison him and other religious leaders due to ungodly politicians.
4. **USA** - New volunteers and partners willing to come along side ITMI and help us continue the mission God has given us.

itmi In Touch Mission
INTERNATIONAL

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