

# FRONTLINE FELLOWSHIP

P.O. BOX 74 NEWLANDS 7725 SOUTH AFRICA

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**NEWS**

## CHRISTIANS UNDER FIRE IN ETHIOPIA

Archbishop Abba Mathias of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, has testified that: "Ever since 1974 . . . the churches have been subjected to multiple acts of persecution, suppression and injustice. From the very beginning the Military Junta and its Soviet mentors saw the Christian churches as the main bulwarks against an atheistic Marxist-Leninist ideology."

"They defined the Church as an enemy of the people, as an oppressor and enemy of the revolution, of being agents of Western Imperialism . . . and after concerted campaigns of hate propaganda, the Communist regime confiscated all church properties throughout the nation."

"The Communists have bombed several churches and converted many churches into military barracks. Priests and monks were left to languish in prison, 14

archbishops were arbitrarily dismissed from their posts – by the Communists. They appointed an unordained Marxist, Mr Yegzaw, to head the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. They confiscated the 'Radio Voice of the Gospel' station, nationalised mission hospitals, killed or imprisoned hundreds of ministers and turned 1 500 churches into Cadre ideology offices."

"The world must be reminded that it is the agricultural policies of forced collectivisation, coercion and the exploitation of farmers that . . . has led to starvation."

"As a result of religious persecution, gross violations of human rights, collectivisation of agriculture and a regime that is bent on imposing a godless alien ideology throughout the country and as a result of the raging civil wars, two million Ethiopians have fled from their country . . ."

## ETHIOPIA – LESSONS IN HOW TO RUN A FAMINE

After seizing power in 1974, Ethiopia's Marxist-Leninist Dergue (Armed Forces Coordinating Committee) launched a campaign against 'Capitalism'. They prohibited the private sale of farm products, executed thousands of students and skilled workers, imprisoned tens of thousands more, and caused over 2-million refugees to flee from their homeland.

With the encouragement of their 4 000 Soviet, 2 000 East German and 15 000 Cuban 'military advisors', the Marxist government used foreign aid to underwrite its military build-up to the point where today Ethiopia has the largest standing army in Africa – 300 000 troops.

The Ethiopian government gains its hard currency and foreign exchange by charging Western Relief agencies 'import tax' on all the free relief aid being brought into the country to feed the millions of starving victims of Socialism. The Marxists demand that the relief agencies supply new Mercedes trucks for distributing the food and still charge 100% 'import tax' on them, in addition to demanding that the trucks be handed over to the Ethiopian government after two years.

Over a million people have starved to death in Ethiopia while the Marxists have exported food to Egypt and the Soviet bloc! Food has actually been seen rotting on the docksides while the trucks were being used to ferry Cuban troops to burn down villages. Yet the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation has just promised Ethiopia R12-million more in aid.

Dr Tedla, a former cabinet minister in Ethiopia, told me how the Marxists deliberately manipulated the famine in order to punish unco-operative tribes, to force their re-location policy and to starve out opposing tribes like in the Tigre and Wollo regions. He said that during the Red Terror of 1977-78 over 30 000 people were executed publicly – with the parents or relatives of the victims being forced to pay for the bullets! "The concentration camps and death camps are all over the country," he said.



*Pray for the millions of Angolans suffering under Marxism.*

## THE ABUSE OF FOREIGN AID IN AFRICA

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has calculated that the net transfer of financial resources (both concessional and commercial) from Western nations to "the less developed nations" between 1956 and 1982 exceeded \$670 000-million. Adjusting for intervening inflation, this OECD estimate would be valued at over \$1 500 000-million.

That is enough money to buy out all the stocks and industries listed at the New York Stock Exchange! Yet what good has foreign aid done in Africa, aside from line the pockets of corrupt local officials, fill the Swiss bank account of dictators and life-presidents, and build prestige airports for the one to two planes a week that land at some banana republic's "international airport"?

(Commentary Magazine, March 1985)  
(Article by Nick Eberstadt)



# WHAT ON EARTH HAS HAPPENED TO THE WORLD?

**At the beginning of this century the Christian nations controlled the world. Missionaries were in every country and the world was being conquered for Christ. Brave and bold believers like Hudson Taylor, David Livingstone and C.T. Studd dared to step out in faith, trusting God for the strength to change their world.**

Today we have a tragic reversal. THE CHURCH HAS RETREATED FROM VICTORY. The Christian nations have long since abandoned their moral responsibility to bring the light of the Gospel to the heathen nations. Not only have hundreds of lands been handed over to paganism, false religion and atheistic communism, but the West itself has allowed itself to be invaded by heathen ideologies and is in love with godless religions like Humanism and its close relative, Marxism. Now most Christians live under persecution. Over 600-million believers are being persecuted for their faith by Buddhist, Muslim or Communist governments. Most countries forbid conventional Christian missionaries.

The rescue boat must be in the sea – rescuing the perishing. But the sea must not be in the boat. In the same way, the Church must be in the world (yet not of the world), rescuing the lost. But the world has been allowed to flood and sink the Church's standards.

There are many forces seeking to destroy the Church: Persecution by anti-Christian governments, false gospels and heresies within the Church, sin and temptation and guilt-manipulation. We have allowed ourselves to be misinformed, brainwashed and intimidated into feeling guilty for the great achievements of the Church over the past centuries, and to apologise for the mighty acts of those Christians who conquered heathen nations for Christ, converting cannibals, ending inter-tribal genocide, child sacrifices, witchcraft and voodooism. Now we have surrendered to the forces of darkness, entered into negotiations and co-operation with idolators and false religions,

"demythologised" the Bible, removed "offensive" Biblical passages from our preaching and lowered our standards to allow the unconverted easy access to the Church.

In the past the Church went out to conquer the world for Christ. Today, in too many churches, Christ is being sold for thirty pieces of silver, and the world is changing the Church.

For decades now the West has been turning away from the God-orientated, Bible-based, Christ-centred foundation of the Reformation which made the West great. Instead, the apostate Western World has now been turning to the man-centred humanism/socialism of the Renaissance/Enlightenment which has always inevitably led to the extremes of permissiveness or totalitarianism as seen in the French Revolution and the Russian Revolution.

The results of this apostasy is plain to see in the abortions, pornography and perversion of the West and in the massacres and concentration camps of the East. The result of abandoning God's eternal standards as revealed in the Bible is families that fail to nurture, governments that fail to punish the guilty and provide security for the law-abiding, schools that fail to educate and churches that fail to represent Christ – preferring politics to prayer and sociology to salvation.

We are living in an age of guilt-manipulation where the Church is being prepared for slavery by the abuse of Scripture and by the manipulation of our emotions. The key phrases in this campaign are; love, unity, equality, reconciliation and peace. Nice words. Noble sentiments. However, the slogan of the French Revolution was "Liberty! Equality! Brotherhood!" And we all know how that ended! 40 000 Heads rolled as the guillotine went into overtime and Europe was plunged into 25 years of war.

In the same way we must beware of the politics of guilt and pity which seek to manipulate our emotions and make us the willing tools of evil men who know how to dis-

guise their intentions. By observation I have noted that the clichés used in this revolution have hidden meanings. For example: LOVE means passive acceptance of evil; UNITY is conformity; EQUALITY you find in the slave camps of the Soviets; by RECONCILIATION is normally meant surrender. (Why should we disagree, argue and fight. Be reasonable. Give in to my way and we'll be reconciled); and the PEACE aimed for all too often is the peace of the graveyard – like I've seen in the killing fields of Northern Mozambique.

What is the solution? What can we do? Firstly, we need to study the Scriptures to learn the objective truth. The Word of God must be the judge and solid foundation of our actions. This is where the Reformation started. Until we know the Word of God we can be easily misled. Secondly, we must warn our people of the dangers of Humanism, Marxism, immorality, false religion and guilt-manipulation. We must wake up to what is happening around us and expose the tactics of the enemy. Thirdly, we must realise that truth is not determined by majority opinion but by the Word of God. We must not confuse change with advance. We must refuse to be guilt-manipulated. Refuse to apologise for the alleged sins of others.

Fourthly, we need to encourage our people and direct them to action and victory. We must restore patriotism (which is as positive as love for one's family – only expanded to include our neighbours), impart a vision ("without a vision a people perish"), instil courage and hope for the future, building up our faith in God.

People overcome by fear and guilt are unable to fight. Guilt-manipulation programmes us for defeat and makes us ripe for conquest. Let us turn to God through Jesus Christ and find forgiveness, freedom and strength through repentance and faith.

"The Lord alone is God;

God alone is our defence.

He is the God who makes me strong."

*Psalms 18:31,32*

## SERVING THE SURVIVORS

"Saul, a young Mozambiquan refugee, failed to control his tears as he related his story of how he had narrowly escaped death when his father, mother and sister were shot dead at their home in Central Mozambique. As Saul approached his village he could see from a distance the four heavily-armed men. Suddenly shots rang out and he saw his parents and sister falling down under the impact of the AK 47 rounds. For days he had run and walked and run and limped in desperation and fear; his swollen feet testified to that.

At last he found refuge across the border, where I was able to help him. Saul is only one of the many thousands of Mozambiquans who have been forced to flee from hunger or war. Please pray for me that the Lord will establish me as His messenger of Peace to these suffering people."

From a report of one of our evangelists.



*For five years Frontline Fellowship has been assisting suffering churches in Mozambique.*

### SOME STATISTICS ON MARXISM IN AFRICA

- Nearly 150 000 children died in the wars in Angola and Mozambique last year. UNICEF (United Nations Childrens Fund)
- At least 12 000 Christians in Mozambique and 7 000 in Ethiopia are imprisoned in concentration camps for their faith. IDEA (West Germany)

\* Frontline Fellowship has an exciting selection of **videos, literature and speakers** who are able to address your church, school, home fellowship or group on topical issues and first-hand accounts of missionary work in the war zones of Southern Africa.

Tel: 021-452083 or 021-612573



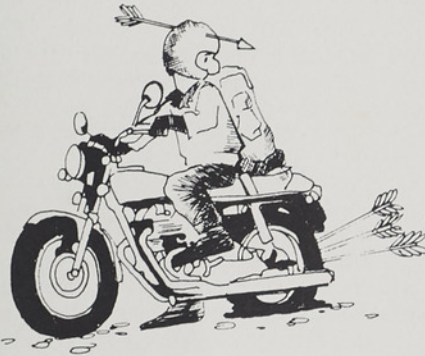
# WHAT'S IN A FIELD TRIP?



MONTHS OF PREPARATION



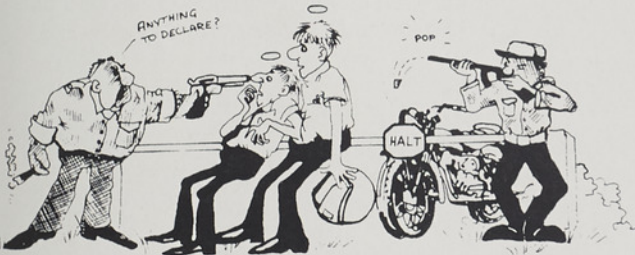
THOUSANDS OF KM'S TRAVEL



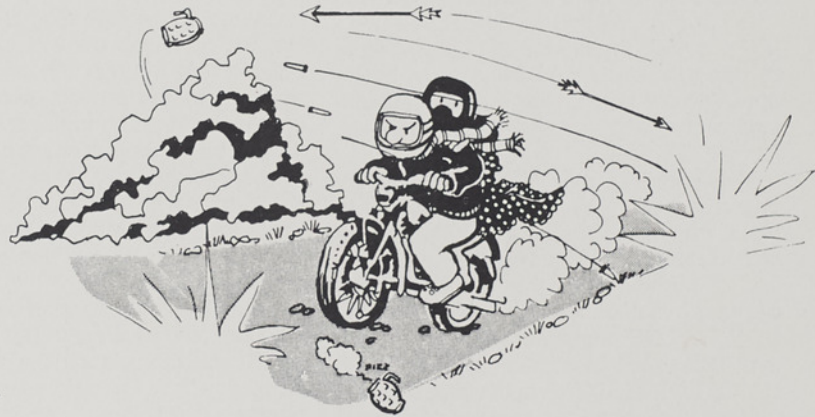
PUNCTURES



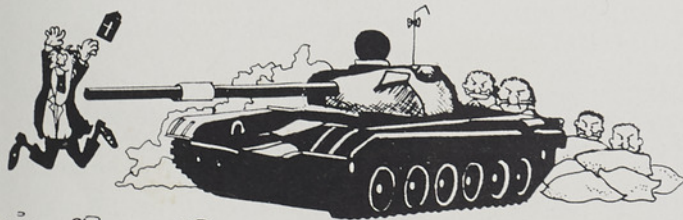
SLEEPLESS NIGHTS WITH FRIENDLY MOSQUITOS



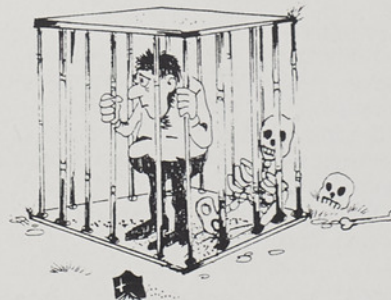
MANY ROADBLOCKS



SCENIC ROUTES



A WARM WELCOME FROM THE LOCALS



INTERESTING ACCOMMODATION



A CLOSE-UP VIEW OF WILDLIFE



EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITIES



THE RESULTS MAKE IT ALL WORTHWHILE



AND THEN AGAIN . . . IF IT WAS EASY EVERYBODY WOULD BE DOING IT



# CHRISTIANS CAN CHANGE THIS WORLD

**If God can change you – then God can use you to change some part of this world.**

That this fallen world needs changing is beyond question. When our newspapers and films glamourise immorality, undermine traditional family values and encourage selfishness; greed and rebelliousness; when criminals escape justice by legal technicalities and "clever lawyers"; when one half of this world is under totalitarian dictatorships and persecution; when perversion and venereal disease, divorces and abortions, pornography and the occult, terrorism and suicides are increasing – then we know that this world needs to be changed.

As John Wesley declared:

"Give me 100 men who love God with all their hearts and who fear nothing except sin – and I will move the world."

ELIJAH dared to stand alone against the 450 false prophets of Baal and the 400 false prophets of Asherah, and challenge their heresy and idolatry. Elijah's faith in God made him strong and bold enough to oppose the majority who were wrong. And Elijah changed history that day on Mount Carmel – by exposing falsehood and turning the people of Israel back to God. (1 Kings 18).

WYCLIFFE, HUSS, LUTHER and CALVIN changed the course of human history by daring to study the Bible, and by boldly speaking out against the unBiblical teachings and corrupt abuses of the medieval Roman Church.

Missionaries like WILLIAM CAREY changed history by taking the Gospel to India, translating the Bible into numerous local dialects and by ending the Hindu practise of burning alive the widow of each deceased man on their funeral pyre. HUDSON TAYLOR launched a movement that sent thousands of missionaries to China. DAVID LIVINGSTONE boldly blazed a trail through the uncharted regions of Central Africa, which ended the Islamic slave trade, inter-tribal warfare and the grip of witchcraft over those tribes. C.T. STUDD galvanised hundreds into the mission field and thousands into the Kingdom of God in the Congo.

Eastern and tribal thought has a cyclical view of history. Repetition and the "inevitability of history" is so ingrained in non-Christian thought that they see themselves as suffering history rather than affecting or making history. They see themselves as caught up in the process of history and at the mercy of the forces of nature/the spirits/ or the ancestors (all external forces), and

only a part of the community.

This is the contrast to the Christian world view which sees a linear development of history which starts at creation, goes through the flood, the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai, the incarnation of Christ, His crucifixion and resurrection, pentecost and will culminate in the Second Coming of Christ and the Judgement. Hence Christians say: "Only one life, it will soon be past – only what's done for Christ will last".

Each day is unique, every opportunity must be used. Time is limited in the Christian world view. The Christian sees himself as significant because he is an individual created by God with a purpose. This emphasis on the individual is unique to Christianity among the major world religions. We must each individually stand before God on the day of Judgement and give an account of our faith and conduct. Each of us must repent for our own sins and exercise personal faith in Christ for forgiveness and freedom. The personal relationship of the individual to Christ is at the heart of Christianity.

In Christian thought nature is subject to us, able to be developed and used. We are able to change the course of history because our Sovereign God is Almighty and He has endowed us with a free will. We believe that through the power of God's answers to our prayers and through our obedience to His commands and principles in Scripture – we can change this world.

The Bible teaches us to have a holy dissatisfaction with second best, a bold faith to trust God for great things, to step out and change what is wrong, and establish what is right.

It is this faith that ennobled Christians to step out and change history, ending the child sacrifices, cannibalism, voodooism, polygamy, slavery and widow-burning of heathen religions. Such Christians changed their world.

Are you such a Christian who claims: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phillipians 4:13.

If you are, remember: **YOU CANNOT HAVE VICTORY WITHOUT A BATTLE.** Sacrifice and risk are essential. We can never win if we keep avoiding problems – we must solve problems by facing them and dealing with them. The Future belongs to the Brave and the Bold.

May God find us faithful to His Word and His Work.

*Peter Hammond*  
(Director)



**EVANGELISING IN THE WAR ZONES.**

The 16-page booklet "MOZAMBIQUE REPORT" is now available in English, German and Portuguese, at R2,00 a copy (postage included). It will shortly also be available in Afrikaans.

## THANK YOU

A special thank-you to all who have encouraged us by letters, uplifted us in prayer, supported our outreaches, provided food, clothing or medical supplies for us to deliver to suffering believers in Angola and Mozambique, or Christian books or Bibles for distribution on the border, or have organised meetings for us. We thank and praise God for each of you. Without such support our Mission could not be accomplished.

## PRAY FOR:

- The distribution and impact of our recently published "MOSAMBIK-BERICHT, Augenzeugenberichte über Christenverfolgung" (German translation of the Mozambique Report).
- Our Director as he visits West Germany to present first-hand his research on Mozambique. This will include – at "Kirchentag" (the Protestant Church Conference), and through T.V. and Newspaper interviews.
- God's protection, guidance, provision and blessing on Frontline Fellowship outreaches and workers in Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, South West Africa and South Africa.

## A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

"The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!'"

*Luke 17:5*

Over the next five years we are trusting the Lord to enable us to establish Frontline Fellowship branches in Britain, West Germany, Australia, U.S.A. and other Western nations. We are also trusting God to provide the workers and resources we need in order to develop outreaches to the war zones of Central America, South East Asia and the Middle East. If you can help, please contact us.

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this."

*Psalms 37:5*

## INTRODUCING FRONTLINE FELLOWSHIP

**Frontline Fellowship** is an interdenominational Faith Mission dedicated to an intensive prayer ministry for, and evangelistic outreach to, resistant or neglected areas and groups in Southern Africa.

**Assisting persecuted churches** in Mocambique, Angola and the Cape Verde Islands.

**Bible distribution** in communist lands.

**Challenging South African Christians** to prayer for revival and missions.

**Defending the church** against the infiltration of unBiblical heresies.

### Evangelism in war zones.

**Film Evangelism** throughout Southern Africa.

**Giving emphasis to neglected doctrines.**

**Holding revival seminars** and leadership training camps.

### Intercession for

- the suffering churches
- bold evangelism of the unreached,
- revival in our land.