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**LINKING GOD'S PEOPLE TO  
REACH THE UNREACHED**

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## THE SANDQUISTS — PRAYER WALKING THROUGH NORTH AFRICA



*Last summer a group of missionaries and pastors were together in our home in Louisville, KY. We believe we heard the Lord say we were to go to North Africa and pray at the sights where influential Christian churches once stood. We call it, "Re-digging the wells." Teams will be prayer-walking in 5 nations as well as in Israel.*

*Islam successfully stopped up those wells in a mere 25 year period and now the whole of North Africa is dominated by Islam — very strategic and effectively, but God's Holy Spirit is wiser and has amazing strategies ahead for the captives of Islam.*

*Our team will be in Morocco where we will mostly prayer-walk around the coast where these churches existed; Tangier and Rabat. We'll also be visiting a Jewish settlement and a Spanish orphanage. Our desire is to encourage as well as pray. We will be there from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup>.*

*We covet any prayers and support you can send our way. Please pray with us for God to creatively re-dig these wells so that the Good News of Jesus Christ can once again burst forth and flourish in these regions. For Christ and His Kingdom,*

Ted and Dawn Sandquist

## FROM THE EDITOR

*"...Bad, getting worse ... a possible meltdown ... rapid deterioration ... the worst since the Depression ...".* Strong, scary words are being expressed by politicians and newscasters in describing our present global economic crisis, justifying the government's nearly one trillion dollars spending packet that might avoid "an economic Armageddon catastrophe".

It is good to take stock of our own lives and readjust our sails for the storm that might lie ahead. However, we have to guard our hearts that fear does not overcome our faith. There is good reason why there are **365 verses in the Bible that tell us not to fear — one for each day! God is with us!!**

We thank you for the positive responses we received from so many of you to last month's Bridge Report — for each of you who are reaching beyond your own needs and continue to pray and give! Thanks for your many encouraging notes!

As the doors to traditional mission work are closing, the opportunities to share the love of Jesus are still there! **Hanny Feurer, and Ted and Dawn Sandquist**, represent individuals who, each in their own unique way, defy fear and travel into dangerous regions where they intercede, encourage, equip, and fund the workers in the field. **Please pray for them!**

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LINKING GOD'S PEOPLE TO REACH THE UNREACHED

# The Bridge Report

## Being a Blessing to the Nations



In the first few years after communism fell, The Bridge facilitated the travels of hundreds of short term mission teams from the States and Europe into the then Soviet Union. Firstly, they did pioneer evangelism, then they came alongside the emerging indigenous churches and helped them grow in spiritual knowledge and maturity, primarily through teaching at the various Bibleschools we sponsored, and by conducting leadership seminars. As the national churches matured, we moved more away from using Western teams, and have focused on direct support of pioneer outreaches and projects done by the indigenous believers. This has turned out to be very fruitful, whereas Westerners travelling into the third world and emerging nations has greatly diminished as the world has become a more dangerous place (especially for those travelling on American passports) and the open sharing of the Gospel is increasingly forbidden.

Here, we want to honor our many Western friends and ministry partners who continue to travel into the mission field via short term mission trips. They are most often self-financed and often go into tough, inhospitable regions where they spread the love of Jesus to the unsaved while encouraging and ministering to the local believers. They are global bridge-builders between members of the Body of Christ. **Ted and Dawn Sandquist and Hanny Feurer** are good examples of this group of ministers.

Ted and Dawn Sandquist and I have been friends since 1974 when I moved to Upstate New York to established a Christian grade school for *Love Inn*, a Christian community of young people from the hippie-era where Ted was a pastor. Presently, the Sandquists live in Louisville, KY, where Ted is the senior pastor of a local church. Ted is also a song-writer. His worship music is well known in the States and in other nations. Their outreach, *Global Worship Initiatives*, is also located in Louisville. They minister mainly in Costa Rica, Portugal, and North Africa.

I met **Hanny Feurer** (left in picture on p.1) through a mutual friend in 2004. When she visited Steve and me in Florida, we discovered that we had similar burdens for the same regions of the world.

Hanny's colorful, sometimes exotic life, confirms how the Lord will use both our good and bad experiences to bring us to the



Graves of children massacred in Besslan.

call He initially prepared for us — even if it takes half a lifetime! Born and raised in a Christian family in Switzerland, Hanny became a school teacher, but quit her job as she felt God was calling her into pioneer mission work. She then enrolled in a Bible College for Wycliffe translators in Chicago; did further linguistic studies at Michigan University; a year stay at **Francis Schaeffer's** retreat center in Switzerland; initiated pioneer work to establish a French-speaking chapter of Inter-Varsity Fellowship at the University of Quebec; obtained a doctorate in linguistics; lived in Beijing, China, while teaching Chinese teachers to teach English; then onto Tibet on an invitation from the Tibetan government to study Tibet's dialects as a researcher from the University of Quebec. After Tibet, Hanny returned to Quebec University and worked as a professor in linguistics until she retired.

At age 48, Hanny's faith derailed due to a wrong decision, and for seventeen

years she was in a spiritual desert during which she embraced Buddhism as her new spiritual reality! After her parents' death and the break-up of a long standing relationship, Hanny found herself emotionally and spiritually bankrupt. Then her life suddenly took a new turn. A girl-friend invited her to a church meeting during which she had an encounter with the Holy Spirit. There, in God's presence, she was brought through repentance, deliverance, and healing into a new, fresh walk with the Lord.

Hanny returned home pursuing God's call to reflect His Glory among the downtrodden, the downcast, those who suffer for their faith, and those who serve God in difficult places. She is ordained by her church as their itinerant missionary. From that platform, the Lord has led Hanny to many nations - alone or with teams. Her quiet servant-hood demeanour brings her in contact with believers on a grassroots level. Sometimes she teaches and ministers among leaders, sometimes she counsels, sometimes just listens, prays and wraps her arms around those who suffer. Other times, she sees a financial need or a worth-while project and she finds ways to provide the needed funds.

In 2005, I invited Hanny to join me with the Bridge team traveling to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan with the Sheasbys. It was a wonderful time for us all.

Hanny now travels overseas once or twice a year. She keeps going to the Ukraine where she ministers with **Paula O'Keefe**, a British missionary who runs a trauma center for Chechnyan refugees, and she delivers relief aid to **Oleg and Lena's** orphanages. She has been to Besslan, Russia where terrorists massacred school children in 2007; also to Israel, Rwanda, Argentina, Benin - Western Africa, and to Canadian Inuit Eskimos and Mohawk Indians.

Six months ago, Hanny and her team embarked on a three month visit to the Ukraine, Russia, Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka. She is asking for prayer for the Indian pastor, **Suresh in Sri Lanka who is being accused of a crime he did not do, so I am passing it on to you for prayer.**

Hanny's testimony might be an encouragement to those of you who are retired and have a desire to visit the mission field—

that it is not too late. Hanny is now 70 years old, but she is hoping to minister abroad for many years to come!

**We all need one another to fulfill the Great Commission:** those who give funds and pray from home, those who connect the donors with the recipients, and those who do the hands-on work in the field. The Apostle Paul's words in 2. Cor. 9:7-15 is an encouragement to us all!

### SRI-LANKA: PASTOR SURESH AND MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

**Suresh Ramachandran**, his wife, **Mercy** and their daughter, **Misha** are part of the Indian Christian community in Sri Lanka, surrounded by Hindus and Buddhists. Suresh came from a Hindu family. When he was saved as a young boy, his mother used to daily beat him to force him to renounce his faith, but the Lord worked in her heart, and in 1979, both Suresh and his mother got baptized.

Ten years ago, Suresh, his wife, and three young people opened a new



church and named it *Mount Carmel Church*. The church has today several hundred members, a four year Bible College of app. 15 students who are being prepared as church planter and pastors. Thy have also planted several new district churches. The Gospel is prospering!

The Buddhist and Hindu communities are increasingly becoming more

hostile to Christians and physical violence against believers is becoming more commonplace, sometimes with the blessings of the authorities. Two years ago, some sacred Buddhist statues were vandalized and one of their leaders killed. The Christians were accused of the crime, so Suresh was dragged into court. If found guilty, he might be killed. The court case is tough on the family and the believers, and has financially been very costly.

Through prayer, the believers have seen God's hand move on behalf of Suresh. The final hearing and judgement, scheduled for January 22, has been postponed until June 11, as the witnesses did not show up, and the militant Buddhist judge has been assigned elsewhere. We believe for full victory and this to be a testimony to all! **THANKS FOR PRAYING!**