

*Eternity Past*

*Eternity Future*

# The LandBetween

M I N I S T R I E S

*The mission of the LandBetween Ministries is to equip leaders to fulfill Christ's Great Commission of heart-focused discipleship in a broken world.*

Newsletter

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*"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."*

— Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

**"Those who devise sinful plans are as good as dead, those who dream about doing evil as they lie in bed. As soon as morning dawns, they carry out their evil plans because they have the power to do so." — Micah 2:1 (NET Bible)**

## TRANSFORMED INTENTIONS

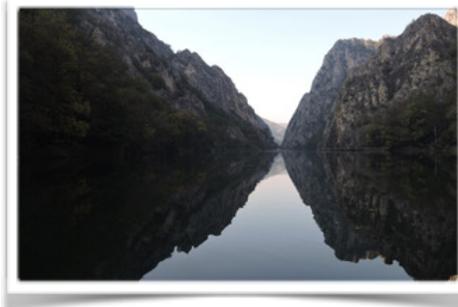
*"God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Tom opened the restricted access gate and drove us through. He then showed me a key building Adolf Hitler had built in Monaco, in S. France. Built with a thick, strong exterior and a large portico, Hitler had plans to use this powerful radio site to send Nazi propaganda to those in North Africa, Europe, and other regions.

Hitler's narcissistic grandiosity was on display in the building's large portico. Hanging from the ceiling of the portico were light fixtures made of wide strips of iron in the shape of globes. These fixtures represented Hitler's evil-inspired plans for Nazi control of the entire world.

But, God had other ideas. The courageous, sacrificial service of the Allied Forces, led by the United States, resulted in Hitler and the other Nazi leaders never using the powerful transmitting site in southern

France. But stopping Hitler was not the only move in God's transformative plans. God worked in amazing ways at the site Hitler built for evil. God honored the prayer and dedication of the leadership of Trans World Radio (TWR), which broadcasts the Gospel to 160 nations in over 230 languages. The French government eventually leased radio time to TWR for solid,



Bible-teaching radio programs that for decades have been broadcast to millions in places like the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, and other parts of the world.

Almost 20 years ago, God allowed me to serve on two short-term assignments under a team of dedicated career missionaries from around the world with TWR in the Principality of Monaco. Although

TWR no longer has an office in Monaco, the Gospel broadcasts continue to go out.

During the Cold War era, the short wave broadcasts from Radio Monte Carlo were, in many cases, the only source of Bible teaching available to those in the former Soviet Union, where being a believer in Christ meant assassination, slave labor, or dying in a cold, Communist prison cell.

Short wave radio technology with hundreds of thousands of watts goes a long way. The Gospel has been broadcast to many nations beyond the former Soviet Union. Countless people have come to faith in Christ through TWR, in spite of certain nations trying to jam frequencies.

Although the Internet is becoming more prominent overseas, God is still working through radio waves that are invisible to us, but not to the One who created them.

Jesus is still bringing millions of persecuted Middle Easterners and others hope and discipleship through His Word from the same radio site the well-funded Nazis built for the purpose of broadcasting hatred and other anti-Christ propaganda.

### WHAT MAN MEANT FOR EVIL...

When people hear the story of God transforming this powerful transmission site...

...in the Principality of Monaco, they often think of the life of Joseph, as found in Genesis 50. Joseph was sold into Egyptian slavery by his brothers, but after rising to prominent leadership, he told his brothers suffering from famine:

*"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." — Genesis 50:20 (NIV)*

The correlation between Joseph's story in saving physical lives during famine, and God saving spiritual lives by stopping Hitler's plans, has a common thread:

Evil intentions meeting face on with the living God...and losing.

### EVIL INTENTIONS—THE RESPONSE

We live in a world focused on winning and losing, and there is nothing wrong with that, per se, except one thing: The world's way of keeping score is managed by totally lost, depraved minds.

Throughout history, winning and losing is seen not only in wars or finance, but in racing. One of the oldest, most popular sports in history is various types of racing, and today it is a world-wide, multi-billion dollar industry.

From ancient times, and in some contexts yet today, racing is a comparison of military skill. For example, in ancient Rome, racing was integral to peace-time exhibition of the best military talent in preparation for war.

As in ancient times, modern "chariot" racing is dangerous. In the 1980s, even if wearing multi-point seat belts, minor accidents often resulted fatalities in car racing due to no constraints for the head. If a driver would hit a wall, even at lower speeds, their head would snap forward, leading to basilar skull fractures, the leading cause of death for drivers.

A now-retired mechanical engineering professor at Michigan State University, Dr. Robert Hubbard, had a brother-in-law, Jim Downing, who raced cars. During a race, one of Downing's friends died from a skull fracture in a crash.

Dr. Hubbard utilized his engineering skills and years of research to develop the HANS (Head And Neck Support)

device used around the world. The device connects the driver's helmet & head to support units behind the helmet, keeping the skull from flying forward, preventing fractures, loss of brain fluid, and death.

I first heard of Dr. Hubbard in the 1980s through my brother, when he was a Chemical Engineering student and took a course by Dr. Hubbard.

The point of this story about Dr. Hubbard is that I respect how he responded to the death of Downing's racing friend. Instead of allowing the leading cause of driver deaths to persist, Dr. Hubbard intentionally leveraged his skills and gifts to develop the HANS device. After decades of using this device, numerous drivers' lives have been saved.

As a believer in Christ, you have various spiritual gifts and skills (1 Corinthians 12) given to you by God to employ. But, you also have an enemy who is very *intentional* about getting you off course and crashing into walls of bitterness, anger, and self-pity. Ruth in the OT refused to become bitter like her mother-in-law and Job rejected cursing God in his pain. Joseph could have angrily hit the walls of his prison cell, but focused on how God could work through his set of skills to do saving work, even during a famine.

The true winners are those who remain faithful to Jesus, in good times and hard times. The genuine winners are those who believe God can respond to what the enemy intended for evil and transform it for God's glory—not by human effort but the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Charles Swindoll, in part of his well-known poem, "Attitude," has wise counsel: "I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it."

### INTENTIONAL CONDITIONING

During my undergraduate years, I had some science and other professors who were very intentional in attacking anything true about the Bible and Christians.

Today's growing anti-Christian culture in America is, in many cases, the result of decades of lies and anti-Christian conditioning infused in the minds of students. My professors would take Genesis 1:28 out of context where God told Adam and

Eve to "be fruitful and multiply." They would teach that the alleged "Overpopulation" problem is due to the charge in Genesis to "...multiply..."

The professors were wrong, as for decades the birth rate in predominantly Christian nations has been in steady decline. In contrast, the birth rate among anti-Christian cultures has been on the rise in recent decades. The world does not have too many people, but rather a corrupt mismanagement of God's resources.

Also, certain professors would blame global pollution problems on Christians due to God teaching Adam and Eve to "...subdue the earth." But, again, what they taught is disconnected from reality. I have seen first-hand that, by far, the worst polluters in the world are nations that are distinctly anti-Christian and proud of their hatred of the Bible.

In spite of the many benefits of a Bible-based culture you present to people, if they are haters of Christians, they will often not think objectively or speak truthfully. For example, the religious leaders in Jesus' day pretended to be interested in Jesus' opinion by asking Him questions, but Jesus could see through their hypocrisy and evil intentions (Matthew 18). Envious of Jesus (Mark 15:10), the religious leaders handed Him over to the Romans to be killed. But, their evil intentions failed. The numbers of those with a personal faith in Jesus grew exponentially *after* His death and resurrection.

Today, many Christians are being killed for their faith, as the enemy has conditioned these killers to think it is good that Christians die. We need to take measures to stop the genocide, and also trust Jesus can transform sinful intentions and make His will done on earth as it is in Heaven.

### CONCLUSION

The same God that blocked Hitler from propagating lies from Monaco, is the same God at work today. Jesus still has power to transform what people intend for evil and use it for good; He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Heb. 13:8)

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