

FROM OS8 INDONESIA

This was very different from two months ago when I travelled through the region with my wife and workers from the refugee ministry in Manado.

"The other remarkable thing was the emptiness of the roads and villages. The people had fled. It was eerie.

"As we travelled closer to Tentena, a Christian stronghold, we saw evidence of an increasing number of refugees heading that way. In Pandiri, there were 843 new refugees, 193 families from the village of Malitu, destroyed Oct. 31 by the Jihad.

"In Poso, we passed lots of Jihad men by the Kayamanya mosque. Just past there, we pulled into a Pertamina gas station to refuel. We stayed in the vehicles behind the tinted glass so as not to draw attention.

"Just two months earlier this station was a hive of activity. Now it was almost deserted. Our guards said the station was blockaded, and that Christians were not allowed to refuel there. In fact, all fuel — gasoline, kerosene, diesel — was forbidden to be delivered to Tentena, which is under an embargo by the Jihad.

"Members of the Jihad had told the Pertamina officials that if they delivered fuel supplies to Tentena they would be killed. Even though the community of Tentena had paid for three tanker loads of fuel, the Pertamina officials were refusing to deliver them, for fear of their lives...

"The Laskar Jihad has already destroyed 30 villages and 4,000 homes in the last three months. Military guards have been removed from Christian villages, and police weaponry in Tentena has been reduced to three rifles for 35 men.

"Meanwhile, Laskar Jihad is allowed to operate a munitions factory in Palu, despite numerous requests from Christians to close it down. Afghans and Pakistanis arrived in Pandajaya, near Pendolo, to train local Jihad in the manufacture of weapons and bombs...

"Senior officials in Sulawesi have information that over a thousand more Jihad warriors from Aceh (northern Sumatra) are on their way to Tentena and will travel the south route up from Makassar to Pendolo, as they prepare for a 'bloody Christmas' in Tentena...

"In the displaced person camps that we visited, many of the inhabitants were thin and malnourished. The young children in particular were suffering. As a result, diseases like TB and malaria were on the increase. There were insufficient medical personnel, medicines and equipment to serve the needs of the people."

International Christian Concern: An ICC special envoy to Poso Nov. 18-22 reports on a fact-finding mission:

... In recent weeks, the route we were travelling had been attacked many times, and Christians were dragged from vehicles and killed. One 15-year-old boy was travelling in a bus with his mother when a band of Jihad warriors stopped the bus and dragged him into the jungle, never to be seen again.

Four miles from where we were passing Kasiguncu, a man was shot and killed. Ahead of us a gun battle raged across the road, as the Jihad tried to cross a strategic bridge into Christian Ranononcu on the main road to Tentena...

Our team met with a pastor and his wife who informed us of yet another attack. On the night of Nov. 15, Jihad terrorists attacked Patangolemba. Pastor Theophilus Kuhambo and his wife Sumiati Tomanga described it:

"The guards of our village were conducting their routine check of the village perimeter when they noticed a band of heavily-armed men dressed in black moving toward our village. The guards gave the alarm, striking metal

rods on the metal power poles. Fortunately, the people of the village heard the alarm, giving us all time to gather together at the church.

"With our four children, ages seven, nine, 11 and 15, we gathered with many of the people from our village in our church. The Jihad entered the village in a wedge formation, with bearded men in the centre carrying bombs, cans of gasoline, and torches. The Jihad who marched in file along the outer edges were carrying automatic weapons.

"The guards estimated that there were about 300 Jihad terrorists, but there were likely more who couldn't be seen because they were in the shadows. As the Jihad advanced they looted the homes, a church, and several businesses. Afterward they set all the buildings ablaze.

"In our town is an army post. There were a total of nine soldiers at the post and two of them fled into the jungles. The remaining soldiers fired their weapons into the air, but they did nothing more to stop the Jihad. Nevertheless, once the Jihad reached the army post they stopped their advance.

"Prior to that, the soldiers came and advised us to leave the church, telling us that they could not protect us. They led us to a ditch filled with water and told us to hide there. We remained in the water for nearly five hours (until) the Jihad left the area.

"At dawn, none of us dared to return to examine the destruction, for the Jihad were still on the bridge that leads into the village, setting it on fire.

"It was about seven in the morning when the Jihad left and when we were able to return to our village to inspect the damage. We found everything in ruin. A total of 250 homes and one church were destroyed. Only the 30 homes and two churches that were on the other side of the military post escaped destruction, but the Jihad will likely return to finish their work.

"Knowing that we could not safely remain in the village, we fled to the Napu Valley, while some of the other residents fled to the village of Soninanu. The number of people living in Patangolemba was over 1,500. Many homes had four and even five families living in them, for Christians from other villages that had previously been attacked had fled to Patangolemba. There is no place safe for us to live."

From: Jeff Hammond jeffhammond@bigpond.com Sent: Tuesday, Dec. 4

The Indonesian government is starting to take notice and hopefully will take firm action against the Jihad terrorists, who just this week destroyed 10 villages and made 12,000 people homeless. They sprayed the homes with petrol tankers and razed them to the ground after looting them. Yesterday they destroyed another church in Poso and held demonstrations against the military for daring to resist them...

With the influx of military there is breathing space for Christians — and Hindus who also had 4,000 homes destroyed in Tangkura near Poso. The Jihad still threaten to wipe out Tentena by Christmas but we trust their intentions will be thwarted...

South India-born Calgarian Koshi Thomas, organizer of the Forerunner Prayer Force, said the West is uninterested in the persecution of Christians overseas, because the locales are isolated and the mainstream media is prejudiced. On rare occasions when the Indonesian Jihad is reported, it is called "sectarian violence."

Updates can be found on the Web, however, at locations such as www.persecution.org, www.christianaid.org, or www.worldevangelical.org.

The Laskar Jihad Web site at www.laskarjihad.or.id is primarily in Indonesian, but the English banner at the top proclaims, "Onward to Poso."

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THIS OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU READ IN THE OBSERVER SECTION, PLEASE E-MAIL LETTERS@THEHERALD.SOUTHAM.CA

Festival of lights begins Sunday

Sundown on Sunday, Dec. 9, marks the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, an eight-day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev.

Hanukkah recalls the victory of Judah Maccabee and his followers over the Greek king Antiochus IV and his allies, the Hellenizing Jews, in the second century BCE.

"It's a relatively minor religious holiday," said University of Calgary religious studies professor Eliezer Segal.

"It's non-biblical and there are no work prohibitions, like the major holidays. But like Christmas, it's become more of a shopping season." The pre-eminent symbol of Hanukkah is the menorah, a candlestick with nine candles (one for each night of the holiday), and a "shammus" or servant candle. When the Maccabees recaptured the Temple of Jerusalem, there was only enough oil in its sacred candelabrum to burn for a single night; yet, while a new supply of oil was being retrieved, the newly-lit lamp burned for eight days. So the festival was declared to mark the miracle.

Birth control funding decried

The Concerned Christians Coalition has launched a campaign to reverse city hall's funding of the Calgary Birth Control Association.

The CBCA refers women for abortions and offers "anti-homophobia" education in Calgary high schools, all of which violates biblical principles, says CCC director Rick Hurley. For more information, visit the web site at www.concernedchristians.ca.

FAITH CALENDAR

Saturday, Dec. 8

- SunWest Christian Fellowship is holding a Christmas market from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 231 Midpark Way S.E. (office building across from Midnapore Mall). Baking, crafts, woodwork, refreshments and unique giftware.
■ FCJ Christian Life Centre: All events at 219-19th Ave. S.W. Call 228-4215. Today: Christian Meditation Retreat.
■ Calgary Free Methodist Church: Living Nativity, today and Sunday, performances start at 6:30 p.m., running every half hour until 8:30 p.m. Corner of 8th Street and Old Banff Coach Road S.W.
■ Calgary Catholic Charismatic Renewal Society: Monthly Prayer Breakfast, 1008 14th St. S.E., today, 9 a.m. Guest speaker to be announced. Call Charlene at 239-0588.
■ South Calgary Community Church: Musical, Four Tickets to Christmas, 2900 Cedarbrae Dr. S.W., today and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$7 each or \$20 for pack of four.
■ Trinity United Church is holding a tea at 1401 10th Ave. S.E., from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$3. Call 265-4305.
■ Knox United Church: Service of hope and remembrance, 506 4th St. S.W., 12:10 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 266-6450.

Sunday, Dec. 9

- Christ Church: A Christmas Carol. Dramatic reading with music, 3602 8th St. S.W., today, 3 p.m. Tickets: \$10, at TicketMaster.
■ Centennial Presbyterian Church: Hallelujah for Hospice, 103 Pinetown Pl. N.E., tonight at 6:30 p.m. Free will offering.

KEEPING THE FAITH

COMPILED BY JOE WOODARD CALGARY HERALD

Woman At The Well draws award

Energetic country gospel singer Denis Grady of Calgary has won the 2001 Country Gospel Song of the Year for Woman At The Well, at the Unity Awards in Washington, D.C., last week. The song is featured on his soon-to-be released CD, Grace in the Strangest Places.



Denis Grady

Grady, president of the Association of Gospel Musicians of Alberta, previously won the 2000 Best Country Gospel Song and Album awards at the Unity Music and Video Awards for his first CD and its title song, Running Too Long. Since then, he's been touring Canada, the U.S., Ireland, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

Two weeks ago, he visited ground zero, the World Trade Center site in Manhattan, an experience "sobering and eerie," but also, he says, the source of an amazing transformation in New Yorkers — "they were polite; there's a real spiritual hunger there," he said.

AGMA can be reached at 243-1049.

Arabic Baptist Church holds sale

Calgary's Arabic Baptist Church, reaching out to the city's more than 20,000 Arabs, is holding a bazaar this weekend, featuring Middle Eastern foods and crafts.

The Arabic Baptist Church worked and prayed for six years to get an Arabic Christian pastor past Immigration Canada — the problem apparently being his Christianity. But this fall, Pastor Fayeze Narooz arrived from Jordan. Now the church is holding the bazaar to purchase a sound system for worship.

The Arabic Baptist bazaar will be held at Cambrian Heights Baptist Church, 240 Cadiff Dr. N.W., from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. On Sunday, it will run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Fast for peace

Pope John Paul II has requested all Catholics, Christians and people of goodwill engage in a fast Friday, Dec. 14 for "just peace in the world." The official minimum fast, according to Catholic precepts, is two light snacks and one light meal, smaller than the two snacks combined.

Satan Claus?

Church and family groups have condemned a display at the Edinburgh Dungeon in Scotland. The exhibit opens Dec. 15 and features "elves impaled on spikes and robins roasting on an open fire, while Santa gently boils in a witch's cauldron."

A coffin pulled by skeletons will replace a sleigh and reindeer. Edinburgh Dungeon manager, Scott Williamson, 24, said the event was just harmless fun. "There is a slight occult idea behind it, but we are not trying to promote devil worship."

- St. NW, on Monday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
■ AnamChara Presbyterian Church: Labyrinth walk of prayer for Advent by candlelight, outdoors at Country Hills Landing NW (Harvest Hills Blvd. and Country Hills Road), on Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
■ St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church: Celebration of Life Candlelight Service, 703 Heritage Dr. S.W., on Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
■ Spiritual Directions: 1340B 8th Ave. NW. For more information call 210-2802 or visit www.spiritualdirections.com.
Dec. 15: When the Path Gets Rough.
■ House of Blessing Apostolic Church: Christmas concert featuring various choirs from around the city, 2323 Osbourne Cres. S.W., on Saturday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m. Admission is free. Call 226-0152.
■ Grace Presbyterian Church: Annual Christmas Cantata, 9th Street and 15th Avenue S.W., on Sunday, Dec. 16, 11 a.m.
■ Richmond Hill Baptist Church: Choir presents a cantata, The Gift of Christmas, 7251 Sierra Morena Blvd. S.W., on Sunday, Dec. 16, 6 p.m.
■ FCJ Christian Life Centre: All events at 219 19th Ave. S.W. Call 228-4215.
Monday, Dec. 10: PAIRS, 7 to 10:30 p.m.
Dec. 15: Retreat Day, Praying the spiritual exercises through the arts, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FAITH CALENDAR IS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO PUBLICIZE SPECIAL SERVICES AND OTHER EVENTS. THE DEADLINE IS TUESDAY NOON OF THE PUBLICATION WEEK. THE HERALD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT ALL SUBMISSIONS. SUBMIT IN WRITING TO: AMEE STUPNIKOFF, FAITH CALENDAR, CALGARY HERALD, P.O. BOX 2400, STN. M, CALGARY, AB, T2P 0W8, OR FAX NOTICES TO 235-7379.

The United Church of Canada

A Union of Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches of Canada

283 United Churches — For information 287-0375, Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. www.unitedchurch.ca

ST. DAVID'S 3303 Capitol Hill Cres. N.W. (Charlewood exit off Crowchild Tr. near U of C HST) Ph. 284-2276 www.telusplanet.net/public/stdavids

WESLEY 1315 - 7 St. S.W. 288-6340 Minister: Rev. Don Wright, Organist: Bill Bradley Website: www.wesleyunited.com Email: office@wesleyunited.com

TRINITY 1401 - 10th Ave. S.E. In Historic Ingledwood Rev. Geoffrey Carr 10:30 am - Worship Service & Sunday School & Nursery Phone: 269-8382

KNOX UNITED 506 - 4th Street S.W. Phone: 269-8382 A Contemporary Congregation in a Traditional Downtown Setting Nursery & Sunday School Free Parking (phone for locations) A PLACE TO BE AT CHRISTMAS www.knoxunited.ca

WOODCLIFF 5010 Spruce Dr. S.W. 249-3121 (Entrance to Embassy Park) TWO SERVICES 9:30 - Traditional Service 11:00 - Contemporary Service

ROSEDALE 1317 First St. N.W. - 277-5576 Rev. Paulette Phillips Worship Sundays 10:30 am - Nursery Available

ST. THOMAS 100 Hawkwood Blvd. N.W. Ministry Team: J. Griffith, D. Naylor, G. Mundle Dec. 9 - Services at 9:15 and 11:00 am Dec. 16 - Just Worship Service with Prayer Lights, 10:00 am Dec. 16 - Just Worship Service with Prayer Lights & Rosaries, 7:00 pm Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services at 7:30 p.m. (especially for those who may feel 'out of step' at Christmas Eve)

ST. STEPHEN'S 1121 14th Ave. S.W. Rector Brian Pearson 8:00 a.m. Traditional Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Nursery & Children's Church School Ph. 244-4875

St. Andrew's 1611 St. Andrew's Pl. N.W. 282-3234 Rev. Stephen Hallford 8:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School & Teenage Rev. Carmen Sheehy apostle@telusplanet.net

Pleasant Heights 289-9281 1112 - 19 Ave. N.W. Rev. Linda Holmes 10:00 a.m.

Hillhurst 1227 Bowness Rd. N.W. 11:00 a.m. - Worship, Sunday School, Supervised Nursery

Calgary Word of Faith Church 5225 - 4th St. N.E. Tel 208-3790 Pastors: Pastor & Jenn Nauffal Sunday 10:30 a.m., Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Wed. 7:00 p.m. Affiliated with Assoc. of Faith Churches & Ministers/Um Kaamen Ministries

THE ALLIANCE CHURCHES ROCKYVIEW 6927 Rundelhorn Dr. N.E. Pastors: Randy Rohrick, Jeremy Cook & Rick Kilbrat Sermon: "M.I.F.G." 9:00 a.m. - Worship Service and Sunday School 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service

Calgary Chinese Alliance Church 150 Beddington Blvd. N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2K 2E2 Phone: 274-6923 Fax: 275-7799 www.cmc-ccc.org 9:30 a.m. English Worship 9:30 a.m. Mandarin Worship 11:00 a.m. Cantonese Worship Senior Pastor: Rev. David Poon Staff: Rev. A. Law, Rev. B. Yee

ANAM CHARA means Soul Friend Join a circle of friends on the journey to Christmas AnamChara Presbyterian Church Msgr Neville Anderson School 10 a.m. Sunday Worship 327 Sandarac Dr NW Walking the Labyrinth with hope Wed. Dec. 12 7 pm Country Hills Landing NW Look for the High Cross 547.6050 anamchara@shaw.ca God is at work in you and through you.

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD Pastor Gordon Graham 3023 - 63rd Avenue S.W. 291-2285 282-2228 Worship Service, Children & Youth Church - Saturdays 2:00 p.m. An open, Christ centered worship community

Victory Cornerstone Church 2022 Centre Street N.E. Phone no. 248-2333 Fax: 207-4227 Sunday Services 10:00 a.m. Pastor Roger Pedersen Ministering 6:00 p.m. Pastor Roger Pedersen Wed. 7:30 p.m. Pastor Roger Pedersen Learning to Hold the Glory Senior Pastors Roger & Holly Pedersen

Lutheran Churches Foothills (L.C.) 3104 - 34th Ave. N.W. 294-1342 Pastors: Laverne Hautz, Gordon Heseltun www.cadvison.com/foothills - e-mail: foothills@cadvison.com 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 10:30 a.m. - Family Worship 10:40 a.m. - Deaf Worship (2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month) Foothills Lutheran Mission 11:00 a.m. Family Worship at the Glendale/Beaspaq Community Centre

FIRST - A Community Church of Joy 7102 - 14 Ave. S.W. (in Strathcona) Ph. 242-4544 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. - MORNING WORSHIP Sunday School & Nursery at both services www.first-lutheran-calgary.org COME CELEBRATE WITH US! Church of the Cross 10620 Elbow Dr. S.W. 255-4792 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School Dr. Rev. Roger Masbakkhan

Hope Lutheran 282-6033 www.cadvison.com/hopeluth/ 3527 Beaton Rd. N.W. Pastor Stewart Miller 9:30, 10:30 a.m. - Worship Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Mt. Calvary Lutheran 1100 Kensington Blvd. N.W. 274-1080 Pastor: Dr. Gary Wells 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Worship

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church 1963 - 19 Avenue N.W. Rev. Horat Aechter 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. - Worship, Sunday School, Nursery Sunday Services at 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Worship ALL WELCOME

Calgary Life Centre! with Pastor Anthony & Madeleine Greco "What if it's true?" Pastor Anthony For more information please call 239-9099 Polish Canadian Cultural Club 3015 - 15th St. N.E. Totally Awesome Kids Church, Too! 10:30 am every Sunday!

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1009-15 Avenue S.W. 244-5861 www.grace.calgary.ab.ca Pastor: Reverend Victor Kim, B.A., M.Div. Ministerial Assistant: Mrs. Margot Kellough Organist: Glenn Potter, A.R.C.T., B.Ed., M.M. 9:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Studies 11:00 A.M. - "ON BORROWED TIME" 11:00 a.m. - Church School - age 3 to Grade 12

ST. ANDREW'S Rev. Peter Coutts Rev. Marion Barclay 703 Heritage Dr. S.W. 255-0001 www.st-andrews.calgary.ab.ca Sunday Worship & Nursery - 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Church School - 3 years to Jr. High; Adults at 9:30 a.m. - 3 years to adult at 11:15 a.m. Sudanese Worship - 1:30 p.m.

St. Giles Rev. David B. Vincent, D. Min. 283 Ave. N.W. 10:30 a.m. - Worship & Church School

Trinity 258-5500 10:30 a.m. - Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 400 Midpark Blvd. S.E. Rev. R. Croukhank

Varsity Acres Rev. Ken Borden/Rev. Tom Brouklee 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. - Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 4612 Varsity Dr. N.W. v93@cadvison.com 288-0544

The Crowchild Centre for Positive Living Reverend Sharon Barlow Sunday Service: 11 a.m. 4411 Spruce Drive S.W. For more info leave message at 239-9661 "Candle On The Water." Sunday School Services with the "Virtue Program."

The Anglican Church of Canada The Diocese of Calgary Bishop: The Right Rev. Barry C.B. Hollowell 510-1207 - 11 Ave. SW T3C 0M5 Phone 243-3673 Fax 243-2182

ST. JAMES 6351 Ranchview Dr. NW 239-0104 Rev. Arthur Sheffield Rev. Tony Grainger Sunday 7:30 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; 11:11 a.m. Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. and 11:11 a.m. Nursery, Sunday School, Youth Groups Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Cathedral Church of the Redeemer 7th Ave. and 1st Street S.E. Phone: 269-1905 The Rev. Donald Axford, Canon Pastor VISITORS WELCOME Midweek Eucharist, 12:15 noon, Tues & Thurs Sunday 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Sunday, 10:30 am Advent Procession

CHRIST CHURCH 3802 - 8 St. S.W. 243-4800 Rev. William Pile, Rev. Roy Darcus, Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee Sunday: 8:00 am 9:15 am & 11:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Nursery & Church School 3:00 pm A Christmas Carol with CBC (locals from TicketMaster) Wed. 10:30 am & Fri. 6:45 am Holy Eucharist

ST. PETER'S 903 - 75 AVENUE S.W. 252-0393 Bishop Gary Woodley Sunday December 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (BAS Traditional) "Joy to the World" at 7:30 p.m. St. George's Roman Catholic Church

St. Stephen's 1611 St. Andrew's Pl. N.W. 282-3234 Rev. Stephen Hallford 8:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School & Teenage Rev. Carmen Sheehy apostle@telusplanet.net

St. Paul's 7 Sunnills Green S.E. 255-1428 9:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School & Teenage Rev. Carmen Sheehy apostle@telusplanet.net