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NZ family fears for orphans

By Aaron Ironside

THE New Zealander expelled from Morocco on religious grounds said he was "gutted" when he was first told that his family had to leave the country.

Birkenhead residents Chris and Tina Broadbent, and their two small children, have been accused of proselytizing children in the Moroccan orphanage where they had been volunteering.

Mr Broadbent insists they were "not missionaries" but had never denied their faith.

"We have always said that we are Christians, we're a Christian organisation.

We're not here to evangelise — we're not here to convert Muslims to Christianity," explained Mr Broadbent.

The couple had been serving an orphanage called Village of Hope (VoH) run by Christian volunteers and currently caring for 33 Moroccan children.

The children are being raised by Christian parents, but authorities have concluded that this constitutes illegal proselytizing. The children are taught about Islam as part of the official Moroccan school curriculum. All the foreign staff were given a day to leave the country.

Mr Broadbent was surprised by the decision to expel the foreign nationals after allowing the orphanage to operate for 10 years.

The fate of the orphans

is now unknown.

The orphanage has been caring for "children who would otherwise be killed or placed in state-run 'mega' orphanages," says Mr Broadbent, a former member of the New Zealand Police Force.

The couple says they will never forget the experience of the midnight interrogation that lasted several hours.

"We were interrogated for 2.5 hours, without recourse to representation, any explanation of our rights and obligations, or any explanation for the purpose of the interrogation. They wanted to interrogate us separately but I insisted that this not happen. There were between four and seven people in the room with us at varying times, some in uniform, some not.

"This was all done in the presence of our two children. The questions asked included how we came to know about VoH, how we were personally financed, whether we were 'sent' by any agency, what we did when we meet together in our Sunday morning services, whether we were 'evangelising', and similar questions," says Mr Broadbent.

The Broadbents were forced to surrender their residency visas to officials.

They would be heading home to New Zealand with the future of the 33 orphans weighing heavily on them. ■



RAISING THE ROOF: Worshipers were enthusiastic at the JAMA conference.

Young Koreans stirred to pray

By Michael Hamilton

THE atmosphere was electric as nearly 2000 young Korean Christians from around New Zealand gathered for the JAMA New Awakening Conference at City Impact Church on Auckland's North Shore from March 3 to 5.

JAMA (Jesus Awakening Movement for America and All Nations) is an organisation of Koreans who are concerned about praying for the countries they live in.

Sixteen Korean leaders involved in JAMA in the United States flew over for the conference, which a number of Auckland's 100 Korean Christian churches helped organise. Sam

Chapman, who runs Awhi Community Development and Peter Mortlock, senior pastor of City Impact Church both gave a welcome and a brief speech at the gathering.

Mr Mortlock said it was great to see so many Korean Christians coming together in New Zealand.

"I thought their worship was exuberant, the preaching was passionate, and it was a pleasure to host them here," he said.

Mr Chapman, who was invited by the Korean community to speak to them from his perspective as a Maori Christian leader, said he was delighted and honoured to be involved with JAMA.

Mr Chapman invited the

Korean delegates to a South Auckland marae for a traditional Maori welcome.

"They were so blessed by this welcome and the experience through it, and they then asked if I would welcome the JAMA delegates.

"So 40 Kapa Haka group members went to Friday night's JAMA meeting ... I shared what an honour it was to have them here and we wished to acknowledge what God's intentions were.

"Then I shared with them that rather than them as Koreans having an imposed reason about being in New Zealand, why don't we discover together, seeking the Lord together with open minds and then we will create what our

future should look like."

Mr Chapman said we now have a challenge to meet with Korean leaders in the future.

A key organiser of the conference, Shine Kim, said many delegates felt the presence of God and were stirred in their hearts to pray for this nation.

She said 99 per cent of JAMA staff here had never seen what JAMA conferences were like so this was a good experience for them.

Miss Kim said the next conference would be held at a larger venue and promoted to the wider Church, for people of all ethnicities to come together to worship and pray for New Zealand. ■

Aid group grieves over 'senseless' killings

WORLD Vision is mourning the brutal and senseless deaths of six members of its staff in the Mansehra District of Pakistan after an unprovoked attack by gunmen.

Gunmen entered the international humanitarian organisation's compound, threw grenades and opened fire on staff inside

its office, and left the compound after letting off a self-made bomb.

The compound is located 65 kilometres north of Mansehra town.

In addition to those killed, eight employees were hospitalised with injuries.

Four of them were released from the hospital, while the other four remain

hospitalised in a critical but stable condition. No threatening letters were received prior to the attack.

World Vision's relief and development work in Pakistan is conducted by local citizens and local leaders have strongly condemned the attack. World Vision sees the attack not only as an attack on its

own local staff, but also on the Pakistani people themselves. All of World Vision's operations in the country have been suspended for the time being.

World Vision remembers those staff who have died as dedicated people seeking to improve the lives of people affected by poverty and disasters. ■



HAPPIER TIMES: From left William, Tina, Samuel and Chris before being forced out of Morocco.

<http://kiwimadepreaching.wordpress.com/>