



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Boy, can I breathe easier now. We can all ratchet it down a few notches in the worry department. All is soon to be more sure, for sure, for we Americans. Don't know what might happen - on top of all that is going on - but, whatever it is, it will get stopped in its tracks. Why? **Jack's back.**

Last night's two-hour movie, **24: Redemption**, sets up Season 7, due to launch January 11th. Where has the Special Agent from the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) been, anyway? On the run, all over the world, dodging a demand to come back to the US of A and answer to a congressional committee about his treatment of bad-guys on Fox TV (*don't those congressmen know that they're only actors, for heaven sakes? Why don't they just meet with those Ford/GM/Chrysler guys and see if they can get some souped-up congressional cars in return for their \$25 billion loan?*). Last night - for two hours, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, real-time, in classic 24 style - Jack was with an old special-forces buddy, at a school for orphans, in a virtual African nation that was in the throes of political-coup turmoil.

The core story: insurgent rebel forces were conscripting innocent children at gunpoint, taking them to their encampment... and giving them drugs and guns to ready them for



the assault on the capitol. Boy Soldiers isn't just a plot line in American television; it's a reality in sub-Saharan Africa, employed by evil forces who have abundant weapons but inadequate boots-on-the-ground. The world tolerates the intolerable, because it's Africa... and they don't make or buy iPods or BMWs. *The world may turn a blind eye, but not Jack...*

Jack's back. He - singlehandedly, of course - stands up to bunches of bad guys who have automatic weapons and helicopters... and gets 14 boys to the US Embassy, just in time to get the last flight out, at the expense of his own freedom. He makes a deal with the devil to secure the future for the kids; *I wonder if Jack would be willing to run for president in the future?*

Gotta give Jack credit: he is willing to care about - and, for - the less-fortunate, even when it's done at his own expense. He is the same guy - kind of Superman without the cape, and the boundaries - whether he's "on

the clock" (*officially representing CTU*), or "off the clock" (*never, in reality, but - figuratively - working while he's "on vacation!"*). Put need - real need - in front of Jack Bauer, and he's in.

Ryan and Gerda Audagnotti are **TMP** grads who moved to America from South Africa in '99. Their hearts were broken by the plight of the children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS crisis. Nearly 10 years ago, they opened their home in Johannesburg to some of those kids... and **Acres of Love** - their Kingdom-entrepreneur solution to the orphan crisis - was born. Today - in-part through the help of **TMP** and **Barnabas** participants - **Acres** has 18 of these homes open and caring for hundreds of these kids. *Jack's a TV hero; Ryan and Gerda are Heaven's heroes...*

They're gearing-up for Christmas for the **Acres** kids. The cost - per home - for Christmas (*tree/trimmings/a Christmas party/gifts for the kids*) is \$1200 (*bet YOU can't do YOUR family for that!*). We're hoping to "adopt" a few of those homes. Cheri and I have already put them on the top of our list; care to join us? **Hit the "Christmas in Africa" link on the sidebar and do a "count me in" commitment, via credit card.** *Every dollar will go to make Christmas happen for the kids...*

Fox Television may never do a special on a business couple from South Africa who decided to rescue a house full... and then another, and another. They're up to 18; their vision is 1000 houses, with 25,000 kids either adopted-out or raised in these house-parented homes. *They're prime-time with God...*

Thankful this week... and every week,

Bob Shank

Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).

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