

HeartCry

Missionary Society

That His Name be Great among the Nations...

Letters from Africa

The Testimony of Conrad Mbewe of Zambia
The Testimony of Solomon Owolabi of Nigeria
Reports from the Field: Zambia, Nigeria, Ghana, and
Benin

Volume 41: Oct - November 2004



HeartCry *Missionary Society*

*That His Name be Great
Among the Nations...*

Our Purpose & Passion

“For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My Name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My Name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My Name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord of hosts.” - Malachi 1:11

The chief end of all mission work is the Glory of God. Our greatest concern is that His Name be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun (Malachi 1:11). We find our great purpose and constant motivation, not in man or his needs, but in God, His commitment to His own glory and our God-given desire to see Him glorified in every nation, tribe, people and language.

Although HeartCry recognizes the great importance of sending missionaries from the West to the un-evangelized peoples throughout the world, we believe that we are led of the Lord to support native or national missionaries so that they may evangelize their own peoples. Therefore, we seek to work with godly men and women of integrity and vision in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant Churches among their own peoples.

Our Principles

- * While we recognize that the needs of mankind are many and his sufferings are diverse, we believe that they all spring from a common origin - the fall of man and the corruption of his own heart. Therefore, we believe that the greatest benefit to mankind can be accomplished through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the establishment of churches
- that preach the Word of God and minister according to its commands, precepts, and wisdom.
- * Every need of this ministry will be obtained through prayer. We may share our missionary vision with others and even make known to them the specific tasks which the Lord has laid on our heart to do, but we may not raise support through prodding or manipulating our brothers and sisters in Christ. If this ministry is of the Lord, then He will be our Patron. If He is with us, He will direct His people to give and we will prosper. If He is not with us, we will not and should not succeed.
- * We intend to never enlarge our field of labor by contracting debts. This is contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the New Testament. In secret prayer, God helping us, we will carry the needs of this ministry to the Lord and act according to the direction that He gives.
- * We will not compete with other biblical mission agencies, but use the resources that God has given to us to work in partnership with them. If the Lord directs, we will sacrifice our own goals and resources that other mission works may be helped and the Kingdom of God increased.
- * In meeting any need, those of us who are supported financially by this ministry will be the first to sacrifice all things necessary for the advancement of His Kingdom.
- * We will not measure the success of this ministry by the amount of money given, Bibles distributed or national missionaries supported, but by the Lord's blessing on the work.
- * Our Goal is not to enlarge ourselves, or to become a key figure in the Great Commission, but to be faithful and obedient stewards by the grace that is given to us. That men may see our weakness and glorify God for His strength; that they may see our inability and glorify God for His faithfulness.



Letters from Africa

- 4 - 6 *From our Desk:* What does the Glory of God have to do with missions? Absolutely everything!
- 7 - 8 *The Testimony of Conrad Mbewe.* Brother Mbewe is the pastor of the Kabwata Baptist Church in Zambia. HeartCry works in partnership with him by supporting indigenous missionaries that have been trained and sent out by his church.
- 9 - 10 *Kabwata Baptist Church Prayer Letters.* The two prayer letters are from the Kabwata Baptist Church of Zambia. They are a wonderful example of the transparency and sincerity of the indigenous leadership.
- 11 - 12 *Lichawa Thole is a HeartCry missionary in Zambia. He pastors the newly established Chisomo Baptist Church.*
- 13 - 14 *Kennedy Sunkutu is a HeartCry missionary in Zambia. He pastors the newly established Baptist church in the city of Kafue.*
- 15 *Wilson Kamaga is a HeartCry missionary in Zambia. He pastors the newly established Baptist church in the city of Choma.*
- 16 - 17 *Emmanuel Sakala is a HeartCry missionary in Zambia. He pastors the newly established Berean Reformed Baptist Church in the city of Chililabombwe.*
- 19 - 22 *The Testimony of Solomon Owolabi.* Brother Solomon is an indigenous missionary to Nigeria. HeartCry works in partnership with him by supporting the indigenous missionaries that he has trained and the Nigerian churches have sent forth.
- 23 - 24 *Andrew Martey is a HeartCry missionary in Nigeria. He is pastoring in the city of Minna and is seeking to plant additional churches throughout the city.*
- 25 - 27 *Samuel Ahmed is a HeartCry missionary in Nigeria. He is planting a church in Chanchaga, Minna.*



- 28 *Daniel Amoo is a HeartCry missionary in Ghana. He is pastoring the Pokuase Baptist Church and planting additional churches in nearby villages.*
- 29 - 30 *Joseph Lamptey is a HeartCry missionary in Ghana. He pastors the Ringway Baptist Church and is seeking to plant additional churches in the cities of Accra and Anum-Apam.*
- 31 *James Lamptey is a HeartCry missionary in Ghana. He pastors the Grace Baptist Church and is seeking to plant additional churches in the greater Accra region.*
- 32 *Abraham Babalola is a HeartCry missionary in Benin. He pastors the Eglise Baptiste Independant and is seeking to plant additional churches in the city of Porto-Novo.*

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Hallowed be Your Name!

Your Kingdom Come!

Your Will be Done!

From our Desk

by Paul David Washer

Is There A Purpose?

In the Greek New Testament is found a word that acts as a reminder to us all that we should not wander aimlessly. It is the word *télos* and it denotes the end to which all things relate, the aim or purpose of something, the reason for one's existence. It refers to the biggest question of them all. Why are we here? or What is the purpose of life?

A university student will not make it through his first lecture in Philosophy 101 before he hears this question of all questions, but outside of the classroom it is seldom asked. It seems that our materialistic, self-centered, pleasure-seeking culture does not want there to be a reason to live for the same reason that it does not want there to be a God. If there is no God, then there is no law to obey, and man can justify his vile behavior as nothing more or less than personal preference. If there is no meaning to man's existence then he can justify wasting his days on senseless, fleeting, self-centered pleasures.

I have often heard men debate passionately in favor of there being no God and no specific design for the human race. They propagate their views with the supposed noble purpose of freeing others from the slavery of religion and the harmful deceit of believing that there is some reason behind it all. Such men are like the fool who would saw the limb out from under his own feet. If there is no God and no design, we are the most pitiful of all creatures. Somehow, through the random chance of evolution we have been awakened to desire something more than mere existence, but there is nothing more. Such ideas do not bring freedom, but rather the inescapable dread of death and loss.

The Glory Of God

The Scriptures declare that there is a God and a specific and certain design for all creatures and events. It is this truth that makes a man both noble and free. We are not the product of random chance, but the creation of a personal God with a real and eternal purpose. That purpose is wonderfully put forth by Charles Hodge:

"Men have long endeavored to find a satisfactory answer to the question, Why God created the world? What end was it designed to accomplish? ...The only satisfactory method of determining the question is by appealing to the Scrip-

tures. There it is explicitly taught that the glory of God, the manifestation of His perfections, is the last end of all His works." (Systematic Theology, Vol.1, p.565, 567).

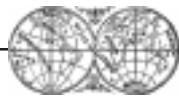
The Scriptures declare that the purpose or *télos* of all things is the glory of God, but what does it mean that God seeks His own glory or that He created the world for His glory?

For God to glorify Himself or seek His own glory is for Him to do that which most reveals or makes known His perfections or attributes, and thus gain for Himself the honor that is due Him from His creation. God may glorify Himself in many ways: the demonstration of His power through creating and sustaining the universe; the demonstration of His mercy through the salvation of men; the demonstration of His righteousness through their judgment, etc. **For God to create the universe for His glory** means that He created it to be a theater upon which He might display His perfections or attributes. The creation of the universe, the fall of man, the nation of Israel, the cross of Christ, the Church, the judgment of the nations, etc. have one great and final purpose - that the fullness of God's attributes be revealed to His creation and that creation glorify Him and enjoy Him as God. **For man to glorify God or give Glory to God** is for him to esteem the supremacy and worth of God above all things, to take joy in God and be satisfied in Him above all things, and to live before God with the reverence, gratitude, and worship that is due Him. **That God will not share His glory with another** means that He will not share His supremacy or the honor that should accompany it. It is the grossest rebellion to attribute to the creature or any other thing an equal or higher worth or importance than that which rightly belongs to God. To place ourselves above God, even to attempt to find our joy and satisfaction in anyone or anything more than God is to be guilty of giving God's glory to another.

Is It Right?

One of the most remarkable truths of Scripture is that God seeks His own glory above all things, and that He created all things and directs them for His own glory. At first, such a statement seems out of place and gives rise to several disturbing questions:





(1) Is it right for God to do all He does for His own glory? God is infinitely more valuable, excellent, and beautiful than all creation combined. Therefore, it is right that He takes the highest place among His creation, that He do all things for the purpose of displaying His own glory, and that He be the center of all thought, activity, and worship. For Him to deny His own worth, supremacy, and preeminence would be to deny that He is God. A.A. Hodge writes, "Since God Himself is infinitely worthier than the sum of all creatures, it follows that the manifestation of His own excellence is infinitely a higher and worthier end than the happiness of the creatures, indeed the highest and worthiest end conceivable." (Outlines of Theology, p.245). Charles Hodge writes, "The common objection, that this doctrine represents God as self-seeking, has already been answered. God, as infinitely wise and good, seeks the highest end; and as all creatures are as the dust of the balance compared to Him, it follows that His glory is an infinitely higher end than anything that concerns them exclusively. For a creature to seek His own glory or happiness in preference to that of God, is folly and sin, because he is utterly insignificant. He prefers a trifle to what is of infinite importance. He sacrifices, or endeavors to sacrifice, an end which involves the highest excellence of all creatures, to his own advantage. He serves the creature more than the Creator. He prefers himself to God" (Systematic Theology, Vol.1, p.567-568).

(2) Is it not selfish for God to do all He does for His own glory? The sin of selfishness or self-centeredness is found in man placing himself before God and violating the greatest of all commands: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind" (Luke 10:27). When God takes center stage of creation and does all He does for His own glory, He is simply fulfilling the very command He has given to men. If God should do otherwise, He would deny His own deity and become guilty of the grossest idolatry.

(3) How does God's concern for His own glory benefit His creatures? The greatest good God could ever accomplish for His creatures and the greatest kindness He could ever show them would be to seek His own glory and direct all things so that His glory might be fully displayed before them. If God is infinitely valuable and glorious above all things, then the most valuable and glorious gift He could ever give creation would be the revelation of Himself in all His fullness. A.A. Hodge writes, "Nothing can so exalt and bless the creature as his being made thus the instrument and the wit-

ness of the infinite Creator's glory, hence the proposing that glory as the "chief end" of the creation is the best security for the creature's advance in excellence and blessedness." (Outlines of Theology, p.245). Louis Berkhoff writes, "The supreme end of God in creation, the manifestation of His glory, therefore, includes, as subordinate ends, the happiness and salvation of His creatures, and the reception of praise from grateful and adoring hearts" (Louis Berkhoff, Systematic Theology, p.136). Again Berkhoff writes, "In seeking self-expression for the glory of His name, God did not disregard the well-being, the highest good of others, but promoted it" (Louis Berkhoff, Systematic Theology, p.137).

How Then Should We Live?

If all this is true, how should God's creatures respond? The greatest good that God's creatures could ever do for themselves and the greatest blessing they could ever obtain would be to seek the glory of God, to know Him in His fullness, and to find all their joy and happiness in Him. If we were made *for Him*, we can only be truly satisfied or fulfilled *in Him and Him alone*. Stephen Charnock writes, "For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things, to whom be glory for ever" (Romans 11:36). All our actions and thoughts ought to be addressed to His glory; our whole beings ought to be consecrated to His honor, though we should have no reward but the honor of having been subservient to the end of our creation" (The Existence and Attributes of God, p.461).

What Does This Have To Do With Missions?

Absolutely everything! The work of missions is an impossible task. The young missionary begins his work motivated by a love for man, but he soon discovers that such a love is not enough. The men he came to save will, for the most part, reject his message, disdain his life, and seek every advantage they can gain from him. If all he has to motivate him in the missionary endeavor is a love for a lost humanity, then he will soon find himself without zeal, loveless, bitter, and ready to go home. He needs something greater than mere love for lost souls to remain on the field with constant zeal for the advancement of God's kingdom. That one thing is a passion for the Glory of God. If this be the motivation of our missionary endeavors, then we will continue in the work undaunted. No matter what men may do to us or say about us, no matter if we plow and sow and see no fruit, we will remain faithful. For we do it for Him and for His Glory above all other things.

Your brother,

Paul David Washer

Letters from Africa



Zambia

Conrad Mbeve



The Testimony & Calling of Conrad Mbeve

The following is the testimony of pastor Conrad Mbeve. He is the pastor of the Kabwata Baptist Church in the country of Zambia. Besides pastoring, brother Mbeve travels the globe as a much sought after preacher in theological conferences and evangelistic meetings. HeartCry works in partnership with brother Mbeve by supporting indigenous missionaries that have been trained and sent out by his church.

I was brought up in a religious family, hence I always thought I was a Christian and went to church most of my life. The first time a person ever confronted me with the Gospel was while I was at Chiwala Secondary School, but I refused to believe that I was not a Christian – especially because the student witnessing to me lived the same worldly and sinful life that I was living.

Soon after completing school in December 1978, a friend of mine by the name of Fred Simposya, wrote me a letter in which he told me about the need for me to turn to God in repentance and put my faith in Jesus Christ. The contents of this letter hit me like a blow between the eyes. I recall that as I read it I felt so convicted that I knew I needed to do something about my life. Instead of doing what the letter said, however, I convinced myself that all I needed to do was to change my friends and become more regular at church.

For three months, from January to March 1979, I tried to do this and failed lamentably. During this period, I was

at Zambia National Service (ZNS) doing my compulsory military training. I discovered that sin was so much a part of me that I could not quit it on the whim of my will. While at ZNS, I was in the same block of apartments as Fred and saw how his Christian life just flowed “naturally”, whereas I was trying and failing to live the Christian life!

Fred’s testimony was complemented by my elder sister’s. She was converted towards the end of 1978, and I was able to see the amazing change in her life. This was at a time when we were having a very difficult time in our home. My sister was ever joyful in the midst of our troubles while I was always upset. I figured that this difference was because my sister had received something in her conversion experience that I did not have. These living testimonies set me searching for salvation despite my religious upbringing.

It was not until the end of March that the search came to an end. On the 29th of March, I left ZNS for home with the express purpose of sorting out my relationship with God once and for all. On the way home, I bought myself a Bible. The following morning, when everyone had gone to work and school, I pulled out Fred’s letter and read it once again. I noticed that he had directed me to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive and cleanse me. I looked for a prayer among the tracts in my sister’s room and found one that seemed to represent my plea. I knelt down and prayed that prayer twice over. Feeling no change, I threw it aside and cried to the

Lord from the depth of my heart.

It was not long before I felt the urge to pray disappear. I got up from my knees and wrote down in my new Bible: "Today, the 30th of March 1979, I, Conrad Mbewe, have accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour." Then I opened to the book of Ecclesiastes and read it from beginning to end. I was completely amazed that the Bible was so sweet to read. I went back to ZNS with a desire to tell everybody that Jesus saves. I found that my old sinful desires were gone, and I had new godly desires. I hated sin with the same intensity with which I once loved it.

Exactly one year after my conversion, on Sunday, March 30th, 1980, I was baptized at the Lusaka Baptist Church by Pastor Joe Simfukwe. As I came out of the water, I thought I could hear the angels singing, and I excitedly prayed, "Lord Jesus, from now on, I'm gonna fly all my flags high!"

That is how I became a Christian. But how did I sense God's call to the preaching ministry? Soon after my baptism, I began to have a strange experience. Often during my personal devotional exercises, especially while praying, I would feel a strong urge to go and preach the gospel to all who needed to be saved. At first, I tried to overlook this feeling, but it grew with time until I finally decided to seek counsel. At that time, I was studying for my Mining Engineering degree at the University of Zambia. I went to the room of a Christian whom I admired for his godly life and his knowledge of the Bible, and I confided in him about my experience. I was hoping he would immediately tell me to quit my studies and go off to Bible College, but he did not. He counseled me that it was one thing to know the Lord's call upon my life and it was another to know when it was that the Lord would have me to fulfill His call. He advised me to get back to the Lord and respond to this growing burden upon my heart, and then to wait prayerfully until He opened the door for either training or ministry. That is precisely what I did.

It was not until 1987, i.e. seven years later, that the Lord finally opened the door into pastoral ministry. It was in July of that year that the Kabwata Baptist Church issued a call to me to become their pastor, and I commenced ministry there on the 1st of September of that year. The seven years of waiting was not spent looking into the sky wondering what to do with myself. I was involved in private theological studies, a growing preaching ministry, and my leadership gifts were exercised and developed in various ways. I recall one day a fellow student coming into my room during my last year of studies at university and, looking at my bookshelf, he said, "Conrad, tell me, what are you studying at this university? Looking at your bookshelf, one would think you are doing a Major in Theology and a Minor in Mining!" He was right. I had invested all the money I could spare on the kind of books I felt were recommended text-


books for theological students. These books were not just decorations on my shelf; I studied them, especially during my vacations and after I finished the university and went to work in the mines.

My leadership development largely took place at the university. During my last two years of studies there, I was chosen to lead the University Christian Fellowship (UCF), which at that time had a membership of about 400 students on a campus of about 3000 students. Due to the different denominations represented in this group, I was stretched to the limit in terms of my leadership skills. During my last year at university, I was also chosen as the national student chairman for the Zambia Fellowship of Evangelical Students (ZAFES), which brought together every evangelical student witness on the university and college campuses across Zambia.

Outside the university, I was also involved in the life of the Lusaka Baptist church, especially in leading the Bible study group for university and college students. I also studied the life and ministry of my pastor, Pastor Joe Simfukwe. I sought to learn from the way he managed his personal life and ministry so that I would know how to go about my work as a pastor when my turn came. I was also involved in the planting of Kabwata Baptist Church. We would go out on Saturdays to evangelize door-to-door, and then invite the people to church on Sunday.

I graduated in 1984 and went to work in the copper mining town of Mufulira. The church I joined made me leader of the youth work. By the end of my first year in that church, the leaders decided that I would preach every Sunday as long as I was not working! Other churches began to call on me to preach for them too, so that by 1987 (the year that I left to go into full time ministry) there was hardly a Sunday when I was not preaching somewhere. When the call came from the Kabwata Baptist Church, I was more than ready to throw aside my hard-hat and hold the plough with both hands. Amen!





The following two prayer letters are from the Kabwata Baptist Church pastored by Conrad Mbewe in the country of Zambia. HeartCry has partnered with pastor Mbewe and the rest of the elders. These letters are a wonderful example of the transparency of the indigenous leadership and their desire to be accountable to others.



Kabwata Baptist Church Prayer Letter

"Pray without ceasing"
(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,
February 2004.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthians about the disorder that had characterized their love feasts, resulting in a number of them being judged by God, said, "If we judge ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world" (1 Corinthians 11:31-32). We learn from this the importance of self-examination. As we look at the year behind us and the year ahead of us, we look at our weaknesses and failures and try to see how best we can improve on them for the glory of God. Pray that we will see where we are now and recommit ourselves to the Lord and his cause so that we can be of better service to him in this new year.

John Laing Reformed Baptist Church: The failure to thrive that we have noted for many years in this place continues to be a source of concern. We have asked one of the young men in our Preachers College to assist with outreach work there and he is doing a commendable job. As a result of his labours there since November, eight individuals are indicating a work of grace in their hearts. They are being taken through the elementary teachings of the Christian faith. Pray for genuine fruit and continue praying for a full time missionary pastor there.

Chisomo Baptist Church: Membership still stands at thirteen. There are presently three individuals who are preparing for baptism and we have a baptism service planned for the end of March. There is also a new couple attending our church and they are seriously enquiring about the salvation of their souls. Three men in the church are being trained towards taking up leadership responsibilities. The church has been offered land to purchase at K15 million (about US\$3,000), and so we are working towards buying it. Pray for conversions as the pastor and the rest of the church labour in the work of the Gospel.

Kafue Reformed Baptist Church: Thank God that there is much progress in this work as it entered its fourth year last October. Though the number of visitors has gone down in the recent past, the church was finally constituted with a membership of sixteen. Five of the new members were recently baptized. The children's Bible Club has lost its initial impact due to a shortage of teachers. Mrs Sunkutu is the only teacher. Since she sometimes works on Saturdays, she is not able to teach them every Saturday. Pray for more teachers. Pastor Sunkutu has been having Bible studies with some of the husbands of the women who attend the church. Recently these men have begun to ask about baptism and church membership. Pray for proper follow up and for conversions.

Mazabuka Reformed Baptist Church: This work commenced on the 23rd of March 2003 and the attendance averages between eight to ten adults with numbers sometimes reaching as many as fifteen adults. A couple from a sister church has expressed the desire to be full-time missionaries there and discussions have reached an advanced stage. A number of evangelistic meetings have been planned. Pray for the growth of this work as God's Word is preached. Presently, a brother who is a member of our sister church (Lusaka Baptist Church) is preaching there for three months, ending in April. We thank God for his availability and ask you to pray for his ministry.

KABWATA

KABWATA BAPTIST CHURCH PRAYER LETTER



"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Dear Brethren,
May 2004.

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We would like to give you an update on how the Lord has led us in the last four months. Thank you for your prayers, and may the Lord continue to bless you.

John Laing Reformed Baptist Church: Out of the eight individuals reported to be evidencing a work of grace in our last letter, two were baptized while the others have disappeared back into the world. Another eight are scheduled to be baptized and this is a major breakthrough in John Laing. We are grateful to the Lord for these converts and thank you for your prayers. Continue praying that the Lord will give us someone as a full-time missionary.

Choma Central Baptist Church: Membership is at thirty-three, following the baptism of five more believers. Some of these were saved through the efforts of church members. Pray for them as they try to make their ministries more evangelistic in outlook and as they consider names for the office of deacon.

Chisomo Baptist Church: Thank God that they have clocked four years of existence. Membership is at sixteen, following three individuals who were baptized in April. Another four individuals are due for baptism classes. Evangelistic efforts are now centered among the youth. A campaign was held at one of the schools and others are planned for the future. Two seminars on what a Baptist Church is and what a Reformed Baptist Church is, were conducted there by Pastor Mbewe earlier in the year.

Kafue Reformed Baptist Church: Membership is at sixteen while a few more people are being considered for membership. Pray for more church members to be involved in the work of evangelism. Pastor Sunkutu needs extra hands in this so that he can concentrate his efforts on following up those who come to church. He has also continued to have evangelistic Bible studies with two young men and two couples. The church has also commenced reaching out to students of a Teachers Training College who live in rented homes around the town. Pray for the salvation of souls.

Mazabuka Reformed Baptist Church: A brother spent February to April as an interim pastor there. This provided some continuity for the church. Thank the Lord for the evangelistic efforts made and pray for tangible fruit. Continue praying for converts as the Word is preached every Lord's day.





May Letter

Dear Brothers in Christ,

We thank God for the abundant grace upon us as a church throughout the year. Indeed He has been faithful to us, though on many occasions we have failed Him. In this report, we will seek to highlight some success we have achieved under the hand of the Lord, but also to point out our areas of weakness and how we hope to make headway for the year.

By the end of the year 2003, our membership stood at thirteen. Most of these continue to show evidence of spiritual progress in sanctification. Attendance at Bible studies and evening services has been consistent. However, I am concerned about the level of each member's participation in evangelism. Evangelism has generally been limited to the pastor (door to door evangelism) and the outreach activities organized by the couples and ladies ministries. We need to get every member participating in this ministry. This we hope to do by challenging all the members through teaching and also by visiting those who are lazy in this area. The membership is slowly learning to be responsible in the area of giving. We hope to improve on this through challenging messages from the pulpit, one on one visitation, and the new believer's class.

We currently have three candidates enrolled in our new believer's class who will soon be ready for baptism. Two of these were converted under our ministry and one

was converted in a Pentecostal church. Since beginning our new believer's class, they have all come to appreciate our doctrinal position. There has not been any recent conversions, but the Lord has sent us a couple that has shown a keen interest in the Gospel. They have been enquiring a great deal about salvation and want to join the new believer's class. Pray that the Holy Spirit may drive home the biblical truths which they have learned under the preaching of God's Word.

Our Sunday services have continued with Bible study. Recently, we had the privilege of receiving two visiting preachers from Chikondi Phiri. Their names are Lameck Banda and Fred Kandiwo. Their ministry was greatly appreciated. The morning Bible study continues to be taught by Solomon Ngoma from Kabwata Baptist Church. I have been preaching evangelistic sermons in the morning services and teaching in the evening services. Lack of punctuality at these services is a source of concern. This matter is certainly being addressed.

Our Library has continued to attract readers from the community ranging from young people to church leaders and pastors. We thank the Library Ministry of Kabwata Baptist Church for the donations of books made to our library. Our Children's Ministry involves a Saturday Bible club and a Sunday school. The Bible club has been blessed by Action Zambia, a ministry that provides snacks for the children. We have also received Sunday school material with visual aids from some believers at Kabwata Baptist Church. Pray for the conversion of the children as they are taught the Holy Scriptures. Our Couple's Ministry continues to reach out to married couples through seminars and evening home visitations. Please pray for continued fruit. Our Women's Ministry has taken over the church's door-to-door evangelistic outreach. Pray for fruit. Our Youth Ministry has been the most inactive ministry in the period under review. As a result, we do not have many young people in our membership or among the regular visitors. This is a great concern especially in view of the high population of



Letters from Lichawa Thole

Brother Thole is a HeartCry missionary in the African country of Zambia. He is under the supervision of brother Conrad Mbewe and the elders of Kabwata Baptist Church. Brother Thole pastors the newly established Chisomo Baptist Church in the city of Matero. These two letters are his most recent.

young people in the area. We have arranged for evangelistic tea parties in schools. The first one will be in March at Matero Boy's Basic School. We also intend to involve the youth in various activities with a view to reaching out to other lost youth with the Gospel. Pray for God's blessings on these efforts. Our Music Ministry has continued to enrich the worship of the church by teaching new hymns. The project of compiling a new hymn book is far from complete. Pray for the success of this project. Our Leadership Training is advancing. Three men have been identified as potential leaders in the membership. We have started meeting every Tuesday and Saturday for lectures in church doctrine and practice. We will also be meeting for prayer an

hour before the Bible study on Sundays. We hope these men will make noticeable progress and develop a theological mind and heart within the next twelve months.

To conclude, let us emulate Paul's example in praying for the churches (II Corinthians 11:28; Philippians 1:3,4; Colossians 1:3). Pray with us for the conversion of souls, the establishment of ministries, and the spiritual progress of the saints. Lastly, we would like to thank you for the support you have rendered to us.

God bless you!

Lichawa Thole

August Letter

Dear Brothers in Christ,

The church has experienced solid growth both numerically and spiritually. We owe it all to God's grace, for it is He alone who has brought us thus far. Although the work has greatly prospered, it has also had its share of difficulties. We trust these trials will not discourage us, but that the Lord will use them to sharpen us spiritually and prepare us for even greater future challenges as the church grows.

The membership of our church has grown from thirteen to sixteen adults. The three new members were converted and baptized through this ministry. Their baptism was held at Kabwata Baptist Church on the 29th April, 2004. The three are comprised of a married couple and a single woman. Another baptism class was commenced on the 2nd of May with four candidates. All four were converted through our evangelistic efforts.

The morning services have continued on with evangelistic purpose and zeal. I am preaching through the book of Hosea. In the evening services, we are currently in the book of Colossians. Attendance in both services has remained around twenty.

It seems that God has granted grace so that three of our members have been called into the preaching ministry. In the last few months, one brother has preached twice and the other two have preached once in the morning service. Another member seems to have the calling and grace to be a teacher. He has conducted a series of Bible studies on Sunday morning in the book of Hebrews. After a time, we intend to appoint him as a teacher over the baptism class.

In the last few months (February 28th and March 6th), we held two seminars on the topic of "Baptist Principles". Pastor Conrad Mbewe conducted the seminars and most members were enlightened about the truths of Baptist church government and church life.

The Ladies Ministry has continued with their door to door evangelism every week on Tuesday. Their efforts are slowly yielding fruit. The Couple's Ministry has also con-

tinued its evangelistic efforts to couples on Saturday afternoons. The Children's Ministry has continued to conduct Sunday school on Sunday morning, while the Children's Bible Club has continued on Saturday mornings. By God's grace, we are now reaching out to the parents of these children. The Library Ministry has continued to attract readers from a wide cross section of people in our community and the needs have gone beyond our ability to meet them. We need more books on theology for our members who are taking specific Bible courses.

As a church, we have held two evangelistic campaigns at the local public school. We intend to continue similar efforts in all public schools in our area. Pray that the Lord will give more of such opportunities. I conclude with the following prayer requests:

1. Pray for conversions through our pulpit and ministry efforts, especially the Youth Ministry.
2. Pray for our three men who are striving to develop their preaching skills and the other brother who is seeking to grow as a teacher.

Your brother,
Lichawa Thole





May Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This marks the third year of the Baptist church in Kafue. Attendance is still encouraging though we have had less visitors coming lately. This is a reminder to us that more evangelistic work is needed and we must be careful to seize every opportunity (Colossians 4:5).

During our Sunday services, we are continuing with our studies in the Sermon on the Mount. We are presently in Chapter 6. It is especially important that I teach through the entire Sermon on the Mount because many of our visitors are very religious, but do not have the "righteousness that exceeds the Scribes and the Pharisees". One visitor has testified, "I was in a Pentecostal Church, but in time I stopped attending. Now I have decided to come back to God and learn His Word". This man, whose name is Mr. Kagona, is faithfully attending our meetings and is zealous to study the Daily Bible reading notes that we distribute. Our Sunday Prayer Meeting, which is held thirty minutes before each service, is a great blessing to all. It has been very encouraging to hear even the young Christians participate in praying, especially since the meetings were begun with the purpose of teaching young Christians to pray. Our midweek Bible Study and Prayer Meeting is going well. Mr. Phiri has been leading the studies in "The At-

tributes of God". He seems to be coping well for a person who is teaching on this subject for the first time. It is clear that he himself is appreciating these studies. He was previously in the Catholic Church and then attended a Charismatic Deeper Life Church. He has testified many times that they never studied the attributes of God in these other churches. My wife continues to teach the Bible Club, but is in need of another worker to help her. Please pray for God to send someone else to help in this ministry.

I have continued our evangelistic studies at home with two young men named Joe and Abel. Joe has since professed faith in Christ and is very keen on inviting his friends to these meetings and to our Sunday services. Abel is still not clear about the Gospel and seems to have several strongholds of sin in his life. I am encouraged that he still comes to both our studies and our Sunday services. Please pray for his salvation as we continue to talk to him. We have also had evangelistic Bible studies with two families whose wives are Christians. We are encouraged that both husbands have been attending our Sunday services and both of them have been inquiring about baptism. The ladies of our church have held another evangelistic tea party and it was well attended. The follow-up work has been slow and it is evident that much still needs to be done.

We had our second baptism service recently with six candidates being baptized in our local swimming pool. Four of these are a fruit of the work of this church. Please pray for tangible fruit in the lives of these new members and spiritual growth in the lives of the general membership.

During this period, we have been nursing my mother and my mother-in-law back to health. My mother is doing well and has returned to her home, but my mother-in-law is suffering from cancer.

I went on holiday for the first time since the church started and it was certainly refreshing. My wife, who works at the local maternity clinic, has been very busy since the new District Hospital opened. Many of the nurses who worked at the clinic have transferred to the hospital and those, like my wife, who have stayed behind, have greater and greater responsibilities.

I thank God for the opportunities I have had to minister in other sister churches. I have preached in

Kennedy Sunkutu

Brother Sunkutu is a HeartCry missionary in the African country of Zambia. He is under the supervision of brother Conrad Mbewe and the elders of Kabwata Baptist Church. Brother Sunkutu pastors the newly established Baptist church in the city of Kafue. These two letters are his most recent.

the new work in Mazabuka and in the work in Mufulira (Copperbelt Province). In the latter, I ministered at an all-day rally for the ladies of the Reformed Baptist Churches on the Copperbelt. I also had the privilege of ministering at the Kabwata Baptist Church Junior Youth Camp. I thank God for the thirteen young people from our church who were in attendance. Most of them are not saved so please pray for their salvation. Finally, I also had the opportunity to record a Christmas Radio Program, which was aired on our national radio station. May His Name alone be praised.

August Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After three years of labor, we recently had the joy of putting together a formal membership. We have an initial membership of sixteen adults. Eight of these are new Christians who were converted under our ministry here. After our formation as a church, it was agreed by all that we immediately begin to collect Tithes and Offerings to the Lord. On the same day, other obligations and privileges were clearly set before these sixteen members and they were encouraged to obey the Lord with all their hearts.

We have four others baptism candidates (two young men and a married couple), but their applications have been put on hold. Although they started off well, the two young men, Patrick and Matthew, have not lived well since their supposed profession. The married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Sakala, have had many unbiblical religious influences in their past and are struggling to accept some of our doctrines and ethics. Please pray for these four that the help rendered to them might produce the desired fruit. One of the young Christians who is now a member was heard saying, "I am happy that I have joined a church that takes membership this seriously." He was speaking in reference to the four who have been asked to wait. May the Lord help us to honor Him in such matters. Also, please pray for the sixteen members that we might be able to direct each one into a specific ministry in the church.

After completing our series on Matthew 6, we invited a few brethren from different churches to occupy the pulpit. Our purpose was to provide an opportunity for our people to hear other reformed preachers. The number of visitors has reduced during this time, but one young man and woman named Desmond and Violet have continued to attend faithfully. Desmond attended the Catholic church, but now says, "At least I am beginning to understand the Bible now." He has recently professed faith in Christ and so I visit him every week and review the Sunday sermon with him. Now he says, "I would like to be baptized since I was only sprinkled in the Catholic Church." Pray for this young man that his profession may be genuine. Please also pray for a few other young men who have continued to attend our Sunday services.

Most of the people present at our last churchwide prayer meeting were heard saying, "Let us increase this prayer meeting from thirty minutes to one hour." This is what we have done and the attendance has been encouraging. I am concerned for the young Christians who have yet to see the importance of prayer and who still need to be

encouraged to participate in praying.

We are very excited about our midweek Bible study & prayer meeting. We use this time to pray for the needs of our people and for outreach activities to the lost community. The devotions during these prayer meetings are meant to encourage the members to trust in the Lord for their needs and to reach out to the lost world by being faithful to participate in evangelism. The response is still not what it should be even from the older Christians.

God has been faithful in our ministry to children and youth. We thank Him that a godly couple has offered to help my wife teach the children during the Saturday Bible Club. This has been a need for some time now. We are very grateful to the Lord for providing an extra hand. There is still need for someone to help teach the Junior Youth Fellowship on Saturday afternoons so that I can concentrate on visitation and follow-up. I have found that such visits help to remind those who have promised to attend church on Sunday. I am thankful to God that the same brother who is now helping out with the Bible club, has also offered to teach Sunday school as well. This is a great answer to prayer. Having recognized this man's faithfulness, I have since asked him to help reorganize the children's ministry.

I have continued the evangelistic Bible studies in my home with two young men named Joe and Abel. Joe is more consistent than Abel and he usually brings along two or three friends when he attends our meeting. He is also very keen to invite his friends to our regular Sunday services. May the Lord enable him to see the fruit of all his efforts! It is a great encouragement whenever a young believer sees some of his friends converted. Joe has also begun to make inquiries about baptism. He has faced some opposition from his family who are Roman Catholic. Recently he told me, "We had a family meeting and I was the agenda. My father says as long as I am under his roof, I must go to the Roman Catholic church. What should I do?" Please pray for this zealous young man, especially in view of the opposition and persecution he must face. We praise God that he has continued to come to church.

I have continued our evangelistic Bible studies with two families and God seems to be working. The wives have been converted, but both husbands are still without Christ. I praise God that they have continued to attend on Sundays. Please pray for their conversion.

The Junior Youth Fellowship recently held an evangelistic meeting on March the 12th. It was not very well attended and demonstrated that our young people still need to

work hard in such efforts. Even though the attendance has not been very encouraging, one young man named Bernard, has started attending our Sunday services. He alternates between the Roman Catholic congregation and ours. May the Lord rescue this young man and bring him into His kingdom.

In our member's meeting, it was agreed that every first Saturday of the month would be used for door-to-door outreach activities and the distribution of tracts. So far, the participation from the members has not been very encouraging. Only five member are participating in this important work. We have also begun to reach out to students at the Teachers College. So far, a few of them have visited on Sunday

We have managed to find a parcel of land that would be a good location for our church. At the last members meeting, we agreed to start a building fund and to encourage our people to give any amount towards the building of a sanctuary. We have also asked a brother from one of our sister churches to do the

architectural drawings for the sanctuary. Since the building of a proper structure will take many years, we plan to put up a temporal structure on the plot so that we can begin to meet there. The documents for the Title Deeds are almost ready. We shall need to put water on the plot; therefore, we are negotiating with the local authorities in this regard. We hope we can use the site for evangelistic youth meetings as well.

I thank God for the opportunities I have had to minister in our sister churches. I was at the Kabwata Baptist Church during two evening services and also preached at the Emmasdale Baptist Church during the day. I also had the privilege of recording a Radio program with two other pastors. We addressed several topics in a discussion, which was moderated by Pastor Mbewe.

In Christ, Kennedy Sunkutu

Wilson Kamanga



Wilson Kamanga

Brother Kamanga is a HeartCry missionary in the African country of Zambia. He is under the supervision of brother Conrad Mbewe and the elders of Kabwata Baptist Church. Brother Kamanga pastors the newly established Baptist church in the city of Choma. The following letter is his most recent.

August Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the recent baptism of five new believers, our membership has recently grown from twenty-eight to thirty-three. One of the baptism candidates named Brenda gave the following testimony: "A member of this church by the name of John Mutisa shared the Gospel with me and I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour". We praise God for this and are looking forward to another Baptism Class in the near future.

Our Bible studies are progressing by the grace of God. During our Sunday morning Bible study we are working through the 1689 London Confession of Faith and in our main service we are preaching through the book of Isaiah. In our evening Bible study we are teaching through the book of Hebrews and in our main service we are preaching through the book of Colossians.

We also have three cell groups in place and have set aside the first Tuesday of every month for a church-wide prayer meeting instead of the usual meetings in our cell groups. The third Saturday of every month is our day for church-wide evangelistic outreach. The third Tuesday of every month is also set aside for every member to do local and personal evangelism in their own neighborhoods.

Six children are attending our "Junior Sunday School." We are constantly making an appeal to unchurched parents in the area to encourage their children to attend Sunday school consistently. As can be expected, the ungodly care little for the souls of their children. In our "Middle Sunday School", a boy named Opote testified that he had accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. He is currently under observation and has continued to attend with interest. There are seven young people who are consistently attending our youth fellowship. The Christians in the youth group continue to visit the Mawaggali Trades Institute for the purpose of testifying to the saving power of Christ. We have a number of activities planned for the upcoming months: a lecture on youth and drugs, and a sermon series on the doctrine of sin and its consequences.

We have recently started a couple's fellowship and have held two meetings. We are very encouraged to continue. The ladies fellowship is still meeting every second Saturday of the month. Three meetings have been held this quarter. There are plans to make their meetings more evangelistic than they have been in the past. The leadership of the church has appointed Mr. Banda to oversee the church's library and book table. We hope that the people will give them-

Letters from Africa

selves to reading godly literature.

Finally, we need your prayers for wisdom as we will be considering certain men for the office of deacon. We hope that these men will lessen our ministry load, especially in the area of visitation. We also need your prayers because we have had to practice church discipline on one of our members. This is always a painful duty, but we must be obedient.

Emmanuel Sakala

Sakala is a HeartCry missionary in the African country of Zambia. He is under the supervision of brother Conrad Mbeve and the elders of Kabwata Baptist Church. Brother Sakala pastors the newly established Berean Reformed Baptist Church in the city of Chililabombwe. The following is his most recent letter from July.

July Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We came to the town of Chililabombwe on the 5th of January 2004 to commence a Reformed Baptist Church under the oversight of the Chingola Baptist Church. Our motivation was founded upon Matthew 28:19-20:

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

It is our continued desire to bring biblical Christianity to this Copperbelt border town and then, by divine power, to enter into the Democratic Republic of Congo - it is only a fifteen minute drive to the border and an hour to reach the nearest town of Lubumbashi. My wife and I are already attending French classes and are progressing very well. We are doing all this in preparation for the Lord's future assignment in the Congo!

When we arrived in this town, we were received with both hands by the Bandas family (Sam and Mercy) and Lewis Chizyu. They have been anxiously waiting for us and the planting of a new church. These dear friends made the initial stages of our work much easier and quicker than we initially anticipated. We thank God for His marvelous providence that has worked out so many things for us in the commencement of this work. Mr. Sam Bandas is a former member of Fairview Reformed Baptist Church of Mufulira and is currently in employment with the Konkola Copper Mines (KCM), where he has been working for more than ten years. Mr. Lewis Chizyu is also from Mufulira and was a member of the Mufulira Central Baptist under the direc-



Emmanuel Sakala

tion of Pastor Mwalimu. Just as one old proverb goes, "The mouth that has tasted milk will never forget its taste", these brethren are hungry for the preaching of God's Word. They quickly embraced us and gave us not only their hands, but also their hearts. They could hardly wait to be a part of a new church that preaches the truths of the reformation - the milk that they had tasted before.

We arrived in January, but our accommodations in the guesthouse were not available until the 11th of February. While we waited, we stayed in the homes of our dear friends mentioned above. It was during the same period that we decided to take a thorough survey of the entire town. The work was difficult but proved worthwhile. It completely changed the initial impressions we had of the town. We were of the belief, like so many others, that Chililabombwe was a relatively small town in comparison to the other major Copperbelt towns such as Mufulira, Chingola, and Luanshya. But now we realize that this border town is as big as any other major town on the Copperbelt. It is large enough to actually support two extra churches! In fact, our survey tentatively shows that there is a higher population of people living

outside the non-mining areas. Thus, our evangelism strategy at the moment targets both the mining and the non-mining areas such as the Government compounds, the Council compounds and the shantytowns.

Our first church service was held on the 8th of February 2004, in the home of our brother Lewis Chizyu. There were eighteen people in attendance. This included Pastor Mwetwa and his family (from Central Baptist- Chingola). This was one of the most exciting days of our lives and has entered into our 'spiritual' diaries forever to remember. To see the birth of another reformed church is such an amazing and humbling event! The church began with two families and one single brother in whose house we were meeting. Soon after the service was over, we came together to adopt a name for the new church. It will be called the BEREAN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH (BRBC). The name together with its spiritual import was taken from Acts 17:11. We pray that the church will live up to its spiritual meaning hereafter. We continued meeting in the house until the 14th of March when we moved to a new location in the town's industrial area. We will continue congregating here until the Lord moves us. The facility is ideal for the church and is located in the very center of the town. The premises are currently up for sale, and thus, we would value your prayers.

We commenced our concerted evangelistic efforts a day before we moved to our new premises. We began by standing alongside the major roads in the mine townships and handing out tracts. We did the same in the non-mine areas the following week. During this same period, we distributed well over 400 letters introducing our church to the people. As a result of these efforts, we had five people

added to our number. On the third week that followed, we decided to change our strategy. Instead of standing along the 'highways and byways', we began visiting from door to door. This strategy was very successful. By the end of June, we managed to cover ten separate compounds, three of which are in the non-mining areas of the region. We also received tremendous support from our brethren from the Chingola Central Baptist Church (CCBC) who joined us on two different Saturdays to help us in spreading the Word of God. On another occasion, the ladies of CCBC organized a Ladies Evangelistic Tea Party for us at our home. This was very successful in that there were twenty-eight people in attendance. In the period of three months, we have recorded a number of more than fifty souls that have passed through our doors at church. As a result, we now have an average of 20 people attending our services every Sunday.

During the week, we have a follow up and visitation program tailored to minister to the various specific needs of individual souls. To those who have responded positively to the Gospel, we are holding catechism classes in their homes. We have also begun Bible studies with some families in our neighborhood. This is promising to bear fruit. In addition to this, we are also careful to visit each regular member once a week. In all these things, we are saying like the apostle Paul, "Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you" (II Thessalonians 3:1).

Emmanuel Sakala



Zambia



Letters from Africa



Nigeria

Ghana & Benin

Solomon Owolabi



The Testimony of Solomon Owolabi

The following is the testimony of Brother Solomon Owolabi, indigenous missionary to Nigeria. Brother Solomon works with Evangelism Missions International and receives his financial support through them. HeartCry works in partnership with brother Owolabi by supporting indigenous missionaries that he has trained.

This was the god that I worshipped.

When I went to the secondary school, there was a requirement that all attend the chapel. My parents warned me that I was from a royal home and was never to go to church no matter what. On the first day of class when the missionaries directed everyone to the chapel, I went and hid myself in the woods. I had planned to stay there until the chapel was over and then immediately join the other students and mingle with them so that no one would miss me. When I ran into the jungle, I realized that it was very thick and frightening, so I climbed up a tree and began to read one of my class books. But as I was reading something touched me on the back of the head. When I turned around, I saw a very large python wrapped around the tree. I was so frightened by the snake that I quickly jumped down and ran straight back to school. When I arrived, I could not hide anywhere and so I was forced to go to church. When I walked into the chapel the missionary was preaching. I did not like what he was saying and so I sat in the very back. I was so mean that I did not want to listen, but I sat there shivering because of the snake.

As I said, I had made up my mind not to listen to the missionary, but then I heard him say that the blood of chickens and the blood of goats can never atone for a man's sin. I was shocked and thought to myself, "Who told the missionary about my god and the blood of the chickens?" Then he repeated that the blood of chickens could not wipe away sin, but that God had sent His Son who died and offered His blood for our sins. He said that through the blood of Jesus Christ, God had provided for Himself a perfect sacrifice. Our sacrifice of chicken blood would never be able to appease the God of heaven.

As I sat there, I thought to myself, "This is something! The

My name is Solomon Owolabi, I was born in Nigeria and I am from the Yoruba tribe. Nearly sixty years ago my father went to live in Ghana where there were missionaries of the Gospel. As children, we were told to never go to the missionaries because they spoke against the religions of our ancestors. We were shut off from them and the message they preached. Finally, the missionaries discovered a way to reach us – they built a high school, which they used as "bait" to draw us in so that they could preach the Gospel to us. They required that all the students in the high school attend the chapel services.

I was from a royal line and we worshipped idols in our home. When we worshipped our idols, my father would hold a chicken before the stone god. As he prayed to the stone, he would tear off the chicken's head and pour the blood on the stone god. After this, he would drop the chicken to the ground and wait for it to die. If the chicken died with its stomach to the sky, it meant that the god had accepted the sacrifice. But if it did not die with its stomach facing the sky, he would kill another and another until finally the god showed his approval by making the chicken fall down and die with its stomach to the sky.

missionary is not talking about the blood of a chicken or even the blood of a large animal, but he is speaking about the blood of a man; and not only a man, the very Son of God! Why would God offer His Son for us in this way?" As I continued to listen to the preaching, I heard the missionary explain that God offered His Son because He loved us and the death of Jesus was the only way that sinful men could be saved. After his preaching, the missionary gave the invitation and said that anyone who trusted in Christ, believing that He paid for the sins of men when He shed His blood on the cross, should come forward and make their public profession of faith in Him. The missionary also told us that anyone who trusted in Christ would not only have their sins forgiven, but would spend eternity with Him in heaven.

Even though I was a young man, I knew the blood of the chicken offered to my stone god would not enable me to go to heaven. We sacrificed to our god, not in order to go to heaven, but to obtain things and favors from him here on earth. All these things began to rush through my mind as I watched many young people passing forward and proclaiming their faith in Christ. I also wanted to go and make a public profession of faith in this Jesus who died for me, but I was sure that if I left my seat, my father's god would immediately kill me. I held to my chair and did not move. I looked around me and people were being saved. I looked to the front of the church, the missionary was pleading to us to come to Jesus and his wife was singing the invitation with tears streaming down her face. I said to myself, "Look at this woman's tears for you Solomon. She is serious about what she is saying. I must go to Christ! Even if I die on my way to the front, at least the missionary will know that I was coming when my father's god killed me." So I took the first step thinking I would die and I did not die. I took one more step with great fear and again I did not die. At that moment, I knew that Jesus Christ was a greater God than my god. When I made it to the front the missionary showed me with the Scriptures how I could give my life to Christ. He told me that I must repent of my sins and believe the Gospel. I repented that day and asked Jesus Christ to come into my life and

save me. At that very moment that I was saved, I felt so happy. I felt as though I was walking on air. There was such joy. That day they gave me a Bible and I took it to my house and began to read it.

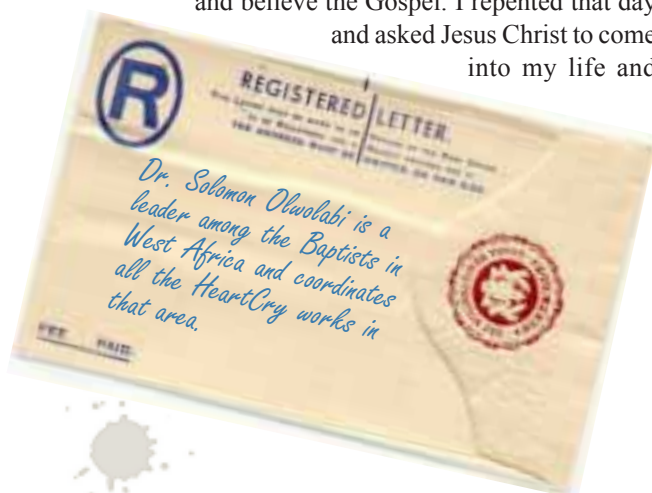
Each day after I read my Bible, I would talk to my mother, but she was afraid and begged me to be silent. She warned me that if my father heard about what I had done that I would be dead. Nevertheless, it was not long, before my mother began to see a change in my life. She asked me what had happened to me and what was the reason for the great changes. I told her about Christ, but she could not understand what I was saying. So I asked the missionary to come to my house and tell my mother about the salvation in Jesus. He came immediately and led my mother to the Lord. My mother had told me not to tell my father when I was saved, but when she was saved she went immediately and told my father! We were immediately driven from the house. My father thought that we would give in and return to the house, but we endured and would not give up Jesus no matter how much we had to suffer. Because of this, my father was also saved.

Immediately after my father's salvation, he threw away our stone god and we all began to serve Jesus Christ. Soon after the conversion of my family, the missionary taught me how to go out and witness. I had a burning desire to tell everyone about Jesus and so I would go to the neighboring villages and preach to them the Gospel. I did not know much, but I preached to them the way of salvation.

It was while I was preaching in a nearby village that I met an American man from Texas who was helping my country learn about agriculture. He listened to me while I was preaching to the people. When I finished, he asked me who had sent me into the bush to preach the Gospel. I told him that no one had sent me, but that I came because I wanted my people to know about the salvation of Christ. The man was overjoyed and asked me to come to the place he was staying in order to teach me how to communicate Christ using flannographs. I was so happy to have the flannographs and I traveled throughout the villages with them preaching the Gospel.

One day, the man from Texas asked me what I was going to do with my life. I told him that I was going to go to the university in Ghana and work in the bank to support myself. In my free time, I was going to preach the Gospel to my people. Then he asked me something that would change my life forever: "Suppose I help you go to Bible School in the United States, would you like that?" I was overjoyed with the offer and so were the missionaries who had told me about Christ. They wanted me to be trained in the United States and then return to Ghana prepared to be an instrument of God to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to my people.

Finally, it came time for me to leave Africa and study the Bible at Tennessee Temple in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



But there were many funny things that happened to me in my journey to America. I was from the bush and did not know anything. The missionaries told me that the first place I would land would be Kennedy Airport and that I would then take a taxi to La Guardia Airport where I would board a plane for Chattanooga. They gave me \$10 for the fare. When I arrived at Kennedy, I had to carry my three pieces of luggage out of the airport and so I balanced one on my head and carried one in each hand. I could not understand why everyone was looking at me because in my country it is customary to carry things on our head. As I was walking through the airport, I prayed God you are going to have to help me go through this great place. When I came to a large glass door, I decided that I would use the suitcase in my right hand to push it open and the one on my left to hold it open as I passed through with the third suitcase on my head. I was nervous and so I prayed, "Oh God you will have to help me!" No sooner did the prayer leave my lips than the huge glass door flew open by itself. My heart jumped inside and I threw down my suitcases and began to run around yelling, "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" I was so excited. Finally a man came to me and said, "Why are you so excited?" And I said, "Can you not see that the Lord opened the door for me?" The man looked at me and asked, "Where are you from?" I said, "I am from Africa," then he said, "African, you are crazy. Who told you the Lord opened the door for you? The door is automatic." I did not understand what he was saying to me so I just kept on praising the Lord for the miracle.

When I reached the place to take a taxi, I asked the man how much it would cost and he told me \$10. I reached my hand in my pocket for the wallet and it was gone. This is the very place where the Lord began to teach me to live by faith in Christ alone. I began to cry, but the people did not care. I stood in that airport far away from home and I did not know a single person. I wept. But I remembered that the missionary had taught me that God is everywhere, so I knelt down with tears and put my head on my suitcases and I prayed. "God, God! I have trusted You, but I do not really know You very well. If You are real, if You are really real, do one of two things for me. Choose one and do it: Send me back home to Africa, or help me out of here." This is where my faith in God really began! Everything will fail you, money, wealth, anything, but God will never fail. After I prayed, I did not know where I was. I sat down and put my feet on my suitcases so that no one would steal them and then I put my Bible in my lap.

A few minutes later, a man who was walking by, saw my Bible sitting on my lap. He stopped and asked me, "Are you a Christian? Where are you from?" I said, "Yes, I am a Christian and I am from Africa." He then



asked me, "What are you doing here?" I said, "I am going to a Bible college in Chattanooga, Tennessee." The man then said to me, "My name is Reverend Ben Hayden. I am a Presbyterian pastor in Chattanooga. Let me see your ticket." I gave him my ticket and he said, "I am going on the same flight with you." The man took me to La Guardia Airport and sat beside me on the plane. When we arrived in Chattanooga, my heart started beating because I thought he would leave me and I did not know where to go. But he told me, "Solomon, my wife will be here in a few minutes and we know where your college is. We will take you there."

At college, I worked 35 hours a week to pay for my studies and then I received a scholarship that lightened my workload to 18 hours. Through my years of college the Lord helped me and it was there that I learned how to win souls, train them, and teach them to win others. For seven years, I watched Dr. Lee Robertson preaching in the chapel and I learned from him about soul winning.

When my studies were over, I prepared to return to Ghana and Dr. Robertson asked me what I was going to do. I told him that I was going to get a job to support myself and on the weekends I was going to preach the gospel. He quickly told me that I needed to be preaching all the time, winning people for Christ and building churches. But I told him that things were different in Ghana and I would have to work to support myself. He then replied, "No, no, you must not work! God's people must support you!" Within a few weeks, I was in Africa starting churches, training my people, and starting a Bible school. My greatest goal is church planting, winning people for Christ, and starting local Baptist Churches. This has been my

passion in Africa since 1974.

At first, I worked in Ghana and started churches there. I trained people to go into the villages, win people for Christ, and start churches. I trained young men and sent them out to win souls, because that is what I believe in – Soul Winning! And when the people are won for Christ, we teach them God's Word and teach them to teach others. We have sent out many missionaries to plant churches and we have many more that are waiting to be sent out into the unreached villages of Nigeria and other parts of Africa. There are places where there are people who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ

members and I were blasphemers and that we did not deserve to live. He declared to the people, "We must kill them, we must slaughter the men, and their wives and their children should be taken as slaves." My family and the church was full of terror, but I would tell them, "Did not God send us here? The one saying these words against us is nothing but a man! When the devil is at his worst, our God is at His best!" I always remembered the verse, "Thou will keep in perfect peace, he whose mind is stayed on you." When I became confused and afraid I would remember this promise and pray, "God you told me you would give me perfect peace. My mind is on you. I am not going

The day I profess Christ publicly, will be the day they kill me. I will die that day!

and we have men who are more than willing to go there. This is my life work.

There are many things I went through when I returned to Africa to preach the Gospel. Many times when I entered a village, I would be challenged by the witch doctors. They would do all sorts of things to drive us away, but we would pray and pray. Even when they would attack us we would pray. And although they tried every means, God always proved Himself faithful. There have been times when even the witch doctors have been converted because they have seen the changes in the lives of other converts.

When I came to the north of Nigeria, it was very difficult because it is densely populated by Muslims. When I began my work, the Muslims tried every means to get us out. When riots would start, I would send my wife and my children back to my family in the south for their protection. Now as years have past, there are Muslims that have been saved and even some that have become preachers. We have gone through all kinds of trials, but the Lord has been faithful to us. It would be hard for anyone to understand the things we have been through unless they have been through the same themselves. Only a few months ago, several hundreds of Christians were killed. They were butchered with machetes and their churches were burned. One could see their dead bodies everywhere. But regardless of the trials, we are still here because God is sustaining us, He is keeping us by His power. And as long as we are here we will preach the Gospel.

When I first came to Minna in northern Nigeria to plant a church, I rented a house. Every day I would leave the house and go door to door winning souls. After I won a group of people for Christ, I gathered them together in my house and taught them the Bible. The house, I rented was owned by a Muslim and across the street from the house was a Mosque. Every morning at 5 am the Muslim priest would announce over the PA system for all the people to hear that my family, my church

to be afraid of that man. Help me!" I stayed even though that man did everything to turn the people against us. He said I was a heathen, that I was defiling the land, and that I should be killed. He said that my wife and children would be the slaves of the man who killed me. When my wife heard these words, she would be shaking with fear. Even though sometimes she wanted to leave, she stayed by me and now we have two wonderful churches here, and many preachers of the Gospel have come out of it. There are two converted Muslims who are now preaching the Gospel because by God's grace we stayed and did not run. The only thing I can say is that God is very good and always faithful.

Let me now tell you about a young Muslim man named Mohamed who was saved. Every time I witnessed to him, he would become very afraid and shake. Each time he left my house, I thought that he would never come back, but he would always return and say to me, "Tell me more." He never let me speak with him in public because he was afraid for his life. One day he asked me, "Look, pastor if I believe in this Christ and they kill me, what will happen to me? I told him, "You will go to heaven because you are believing in Christ." He then asked, "Are you sure I will go to heaven?" And I said, "Yes!" At that moment, he gave his life to Christ, but he would not tell anyone. One day I came to him and said, "Mohamed, you say that you have given your life to Christ, but God says that anyone who has truly been saved must tell others and confess Christ before men. Mohamed said to me, "The day I profess Christ publicly, will be the day they kill me. I will die that day! I will be declared to be a heathen and unfit to live, even by my family." But I told him, "Stop worrying. You just obey God and watch what will happen." He took my advice and professed Christ publicly before his family and everyone else, and because of this they poisoned him. In the hospital, we Christians gathered and prayed for him. I said, "God, prove to this people that you are God. Do not let Mohamed die." We prayed and Mohamed survived. Because of his miraculous healing, three other Muslims were saved.

Another time, I met a man and began to preach to him. I soon discovered that he was the son of a witch doctor or *juju* man. I knew that we were faced with terrible demonic power. I stood there sweating profusely and I did not know why. The demons began to manifest themselves and I prayed for God to help me. I tried to preach to him the Gospel, but my liberty was severely hindered. I am not making this up. I know how to preach the Gospel and to talk to men about Christ, but I was hindered by the demonic power and was not free to express myself. I began to pray and I saw his eyes begin to change. I also saw that he was standing with his foot

the courage to go. I cried, "God help me!" And then it seemed like so great a force was behind me. I went straight to the witch doctor's house where they kept him. I called his name and he responded. I said to him, "Look, you have been here for a week and your sickness has not gone." Come with me and the other Christians and we will help you." He then said to me, "Please help me, my whole body is burning, please get me out of here." Two brothers from the church had come with me and together we took him from the witch doctor's dwelling. I put him in my car and drove him to my home. We prayed for him every day and in a week's time he was perfectly healed, as if nothing had

I told you! I told you! All the witch doctors have joined together to kill me now!

on a certain stone, but I did not know that it had any significance. For some reason, I took the man and moved him off of the stone. That moment, the power hindering me was gone and I regained all my liberty to preach. I sat him down under a tree and preached the Gospel to him. I preached God's Word and preached God's Word and preached God's Word and he listened to me. When I finished preaching, he shook violently and his eyes were completely red like blood. He said to me, "You think Jesus can save me?" I said, "He will not only save you, but He will change your life! He changed my life and not only that, but when you die, He will take you to His home in heaven." The man asked me, "Does Jesus have a village?" And I said, "He has something much better than a village." Then the man said, "But when I am dead how can he wake me up?" And I said, "Do not worry, He will do it!" In that moment the man gave his life to Christ.

The following Sunday, because I knew he was the son of an important witch doctor, I decided to baptize him publicly for everyone to see. So I took him to a big river. We sang, "Oh happy day! Oh happy day! When Jesus washed my sins away." The moment we baptized him, he could not walk out of the water. His two feet were terribly swollen and we had to carry him out of the water in front of all of the people. He said, "I told you! I told you! All the witch doctors have joined together to kill me now! Will your Jesus rescue me? Will your Jesus rescue me?" I did not know what to do, but I asked all the Christians to pray. All the witch doctors came and got the young man and took him back to their dwellings. They were rejoicing and went through the villages bragging. They said, "Look at him! He left us! See what has happened to him! He has shown that he really did not come from us. He does not have our character or our power. He was going to join another power, but our power is stronger and it has conquered him!" I gathered the church together and we prayed for the entire week. Then I decided to go to him. I do not know where I got

happened. We pled the blood of Jesus and said that if there is power that can save in the blood of Jesus then that same power can put this man back on his feet again. He started walking.

Do you see what God has done? God allowed the witch doctors to come and take this man to the highest witch doctor of all. They thought they had won, but Jesus defied him. Jesus defied his power and he could do nothing. The son of the witch doctor, when he saw Jesus' power, was converted and became a Christian. He is now a pastor.

This is what God is doing here. This is what God is doing in Nigeria. You want to see the power of God to save and to keep? We see it in the Gospel. God not only saves His children, but He keeps them. The Gospel is real! It is real! I have seen its power with my own eyes and I have personally experienced it. God keeps me preaching, and those that get saved, He keeps.

At this very moment, we have sixteen trained men waiting to go into any area, but they have no support. We need help to train these people and send them out to plant churches. So please pray for our villages and us where people have never heard the Gospel. We want to reach these people, because Jesus died for them too, and the blood of Jesus can save them. So would you please pray for us. From Nigeria, we also want to go to the Republic of Benin, Togo, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Gambia and all the west coast of Africa. I have one young man who will graduate soon and he wants to go to Liberia. Even though he knows that there is war there, he says that he is a Christian soldier, and he is ready to fight. He says, "I was once a soldier there fighting in the war, but now that I am saved I want to go back as a soldier of Jesus Christ with the message of the Gospel. My people need to get saved before they die." I have another man who longs to go into the deep bush in the mountains and preach the Gospel to the wild people that live there. There are no roads to this place and the people live in caves and do not wear clothes. His dream is to reach these wild people for Christ after his graduation in May of

2001.

Our mission philosophy is this. When our men get support from the outside, they cannot stay in a church, but must plant the church, train a pastor, and then move on to another church plant in another area. If they decide that they want to be the pastor of the church they have started, then they must be supported by the church only and not by outside funds. I believe that the church should support its pastor. The people here are very poor. When they become Christians, it takes time to teach them to tithe. If we keep waiting, we must realize that souls are dying. Many of our national missionaries and church planters are all alone, and they suffer poverty and persecution. The help from others makes them see that they are not alone and that someone is thinking about them.

I believe in soul winning. I believe every church should be a soul winning church. I believe you must go out with the Gospel preaching the death, burial, and resurrection of

Jesus Christ. We must tell them what His death can do. We must tell them that He died to save them, and that because He has risen they can rise again too. We do not win them with emotional appeals, we do not win them with manipulation, we win them through the preaching of the Gospel. We use what works and it is the Gospel that works, the Gospel that God blesses. We preach the Gospel alone, the Bible alone, and souls are being saved. We have a sign in each of our churches that says, "Soul winning is the Heartbeat of this church." We believe that every church should go out soul winning. After we win them, we bring them to church, teach them God's Word, and send them out to evangelize others. There are many preachers who seem to think the Gospel has lost its power, but it has not. It is working here in Africa.

Solomon Owolabi

Andrew Martey



Andrew Martey

Brother Andrew is a HeartCry missionary in northern Nigeria, West Africa. He is under the supervision of Solomon Owolabi. Brother Andrew is currently pastoring in the city of Minna and is seeking to plant additional churches throughout the city. The following three reports are his most recent.

June Letter

Dear Prayer Partners,

Thank you for all your prayers and for your financial support. They have been a great encouragement to my family and me as we labor to make disciples for Jesus. Your support has sustained us and enabled us to make progress in the work.

We rejoice to inform you that fifteen people have professed faith in Christ since the last time that we wrote to you. Ten of these people have enrolled in our baptism and discipleship class. Kindly keep praying for them because they are like tiny seedlings. We must nurture them to become strong trees so that they might bear much fruit. They need your prayers to stand firm in the middle of the trials and persecutions that will come to test their faith. Please pray for the following:

1. Power to overcome our frequent trials and persecutions.
2. Power to focus on the Lord's work.
3. Souls to be won to Christ.
4. God's wisdom and direction.

We are always remembering you in our prayers. Thank you again for your support.

July Letter

Dear Prayer Partners,

Greetings in the name of our King of Glory, the Lord Jesus Christ. May His Name be praised forever. We are thankful to God for allowing Him to use you as a vessel of honor to His Holy Name.

Letters from Africa

We thank you for your prayers and financial support. We really feel the power of your prayers in our lives and in the ministry. Your prayers have sustained us until today. I implore you to pray fervently for us Christians who live in the northern part of Nigeria where the people are predominantly Muslim. We live in daily fear of another wave of persecution. Because of recent ethnic and religious fighting, thousands of people have fled from this area and we are in great need of your concern and prayers. Only a few days ago, local media reported fighting between Muslims and Christians in six remote farming villages between Plateau and Taraba States. According to the Nigerian Red Cross, many were wounded and killed. Muslim Fulani cattle herders and Christian Tarok farmers have been clashing for more than two months.

We praise God that the more the enemy fights us through fear, the more the ministry keeps growing. Souls are being saved almost every Sunday, God is blessing, and prayers are being answered. The following are a few of our prayer requests:

1. Pray against fear and for God's protection over His people.
2. Pray for a peaceful coexistence between Muslims and Christians in the north.
3. Pray for our soul-winning program.
4. Pray for our midweek prayer meeting.
5. Pray for our new converts.
6. Pray that God will give us the much needed land beside the church.

Once again we are grateful to God and to the Heartcry Missionary Society for your prayers and financial support.

May God richly bless you.

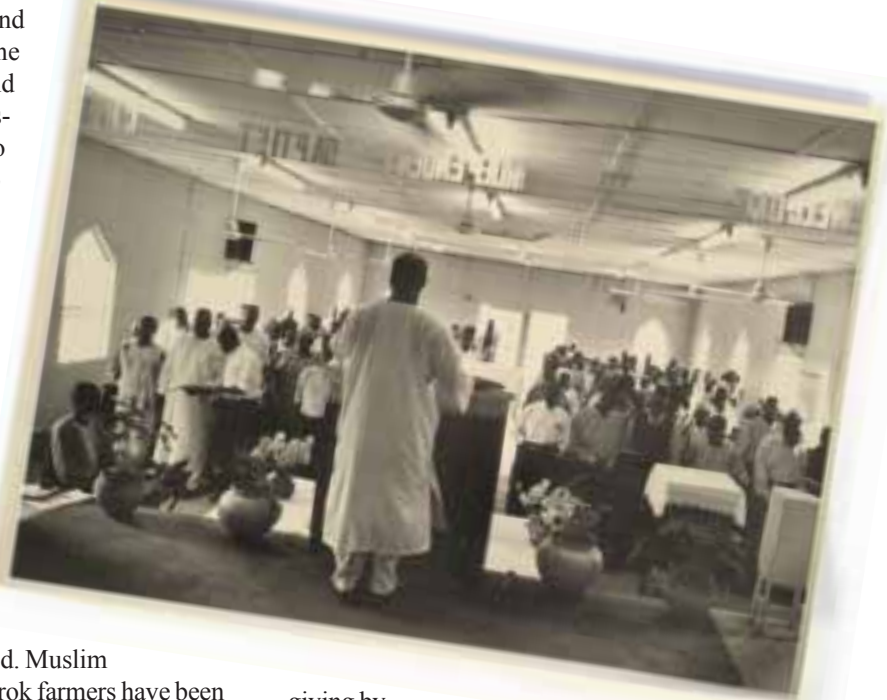
Andrew, Lydia, Richard, and Daniel

August Letter

Dear Prayer Partners,

May the favor and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be multiplied to you. We thank the Lord for the grace He has given to you by sharing the burden of meeting the needs of missionaries through your giving and prayers.

We also desire to use this opportunity to acknowledge your generous gifts to us. The Lord Himself will surely reward you. We are always praying for you that the Lord will make it possible for you to continue in this ministry of



giving by
blessing you more and more.

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."

II Corinthians 9:8-10

For the past few weeks, the northern part of the country has witnessed horrible desolation from the Muslim uprisings. If it had not been for the grace and intervention of God, the situation would have spread to other parts of the country. In the town of Yelwa, forty-seven Christians, who were holding an all-night prayer meeting, were attacked and killed. According to the report, the Federal Government did not take action. This led the people to retaliate. Buildings and shops were burnt down and many people had to go into hiding. The situation became so serious that the fighting spread into the town of Kano where lives and properties were lost as well. Christians in the north are living in fear, but under God's protection.

May God richly bless you.

Andrew, Lydia, Richard, and Daniel



Samuel Ahmed

Brother Samuel is a HeartCry missionary in northern Nigeria, West Africa. He is under the supervision of Solomon Owolabi. Brother Samuel is currently planting a church in Chanchaga, Minna. The following letters are his most recent.

April Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory be to God for His loving kindness over us everyday. It is with great joy and gladness of heart that we thank you for your prayers and financial support. May the choicest blessings of God be with you all in Jesus' Name.

We thank God for the power and strength He has given us in our soul-winning. We have two people who made professions of faith during our visitations, but they have not yet joined us in worship. Another man always comes to me for guidance and counseling, but he has not yet surrendered his life to Jesus Christ. He told me that he would have given his life to Christ and become a Christian, but he fears for his life because there is no one else in his family that is a Christian. As usual, I have been visiting

Brother Samuel Ahmed preaching to his Sunday school class. Since this picture was taken the church has moved into a more permanent building.

him a great deal. I covet your prayer support for this man and myself. I do not visit him openly and he does not come to me except when it is dark at night. We are in a place where the Muslims are forcefully trying to enforce their laws and so we need caution and wisdom. Glory be to God who has been guiding and protecting us from all dangers.

I have tried to sell my car so that we can do some much-needed work around the church grounds. The rainy season is coming, and we must be prepared. We need some rebar, cement, and sand to level the church and strengthen the roof so that it does not fall in when the rains come. Also, we need to finish the ceiling of the two rooms we are occupying in the building in order to reduce the number of mosquito bites.

My wife is not doing very well and so I appeal to you to pray for her and for quick recovery. She has a very bad infection that we cannot seem to conquer.

Our Preaching Program on the Radio is still going strong. I thank God for the man He is using to sponsor the program. Please pray for me because the people are making many requests. Among the requests are: [1] Copies of the messages that are preached on the air. [2] Christian Literature/Magazines to help them. [3] Requests for Bibles. May God bless you in all things.

Letters from Africa



Esther Ahmed's Sunday morning Bible class for young girls.

May Letter

Dear HeartCry Friends,

We are sending our warmest greetings to you and your families in the United States. We pray that the Lord God will guide you with wisdom in all you are doing over there. We wish you and your family the best of the season. Many are the afflictions of the righteous and the Lord will help you through all of them in Jesus' Name.

We thank God for the support we receive from you. We are very grateful to God.

The work of the Lord is going on very well. We witness to many people during our house to house visits and our soul-winning in the streets. We thank God for the four new people that recently gave their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord. We give glory to God for sending a man to our church who gave his life to Jesus. He worshiped with us for the first time last Sunday. We have been visiting him to strengthen him in the faith.

We thank God for saving our makeshift church building from a rainstorm that rendered many homeless in Minna. Four people died during the night of that storm and the roof of the house near us was blown off and lay flat in front of our building. Many other houses around us were likewise destroyed. They were built with good materials, but our makeshift building was not destroyed because God's

power protected it. We covet your prayers that we may one day have a permanent building to the glory of God.

We thank God for His protection over us. He has even delivered us from many snake attacks. I have killed several snakes since the beginning of the rainy season. In the third week of May, I killed five snakes - three deadly vipers and two others. One evening, my wife came to welcome me as I was returning to the house from soul-winning. Suddenly, she stopped and called on me to wait because she has seen a viper near an umbrella tree in front of our house. I picked up a stone and killed it. We are grateful to God for protecting all my family from the snakes.

May God bless you,
Rev. & Mrs. Ahmed

June Letter

Dear HeartCry Friends,

We have the pleasure to send this report to you and to thank you for your concern for us. God has been helping us in our outreach during this period of time. We give Him glory and honor for He has caused the people to be receptive to the Gospel message that we preach. We



Sunday morning worship is not dampened by the rainy season, poisonous vipers, or Muslim persecution. There is joy in the presence of the Lord.

give Him glory because six more people have recently confessed faith in Jesus Christ and three others have joined the membership of our church. We are so happy this month for the good work of God in our ministry. May His Name be glorified forever and forever! Amen!

We are planning to start an Adult Education class for the wives of our members who cannot speak or write English. Please pray that God will guide us so that they will be able to read the Bible. Please pray for our church building project because it is the greatest task before us. Thank you for all that you have done for the Great Commission and for us.

In Christ,
Samuel Ahmed.

July Letter

Dear Prayer Partners,

Greetings in the Lord's precious name. I trust that all is well with you and that you are rejoicing in the goodness of the Lord. We thank the Lord greatly for bringing you to be

a part of the ministry here in Nigeria. Without your kindness, things would have been very terrible for us. We thank you and the Heartcry Missionary Society for making yourselves available to be used of God for His Glory.

We thank God that in spite of the trials, hardships, fears, religious riots, community clashes, and political assassinations, the Lord is saving souls, believers are praying fervently, the Lord is blessing, and prayers are being answered.

We had six people give their lives to Christ. Among them is a twenty-five years old student from the Federal University of Technology in Minna. He had been on drugs, in cults, and was a thief, but now he has turned his life over to Christ. Among them also is a woman named Mrs. Idris. She had been a Moslem for many years and had even made the pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. She has given her life to Christ and as a result of her faith, she has suffered terrible persecution from family and friends. Please pray that she will be able to continue to withstand the terrible abuse she must face for the sake of Christ.

In Christ,
Samuel Ahmed



Daniel Amoo



Brother Daniel is a HeartCry missionary in the West African country of Ghana. He is under the supervision of Solomon Owolabi. Brother Daniel is currently pastoring the Pokuase Baptist Church and planting additional churches in nearby villages. The following are his most recent letters from the field.

April Letter

Dear Brothers in Christ,

It is my great hope and prayer that this report finds you growing in the grace of Christ. Here at Pokuase Baptist Church we are all doing well. The Lord has brought us this far to see another Easter and we hope for a great revival to come.

I have found the ministry to be an adventure of sailing through unknown seas. Nevertheless, the Lord is in control and is leading the way to bring His called ones into His perfect will (II Corinthians 4:8-11). I have come to believe that God is more than willing to show His glory by using us effectively, but we must die to the flesh and step out in faith.

The church in Pokuase is taking every opportunity to be used of the Lord for the work of the Great Commission. Please pray for us to see our work as a privilege and to act wisely in all that we do. At the moment, we are preparing six new souls for baptism in June. Please pray that more will be added and that they will be truly committed to the cause of Christ. Please pray

for a juju man (African witch doctor) whose name is King Crue. He loves to hear the Gospel, but he is unable to leave his idols. He is also afraid that he will not be able to make a living if he stops his practice of witchcraft. It is our hope that he will trust in the Lord's promises to His people and that fear will not longer control him.

At times it is very difficult to live for Christ. We are always facing different kinds of opposition in the ministry. The lukewarm attitude and carnality of some members affects the faithful and makes the work very challenging. Please pray with us as much as possible. We know that these trials are unavoidable and that they are ordained for our good, but we need strength to be faithful. Please pray that the Lord would revive the faithful so that they might accomplish His purpose in the church. Our goal is to build a faithful and obedient fellowship of believers by God's grace. We desire to see the Lord glorified in our weakness.

Please pray for my family and me, for we are praying for you. May the Good Lord bless all your efforts in accomplishing His purpose.

God bless you,
Daniel A. Amoo.

June Letter

Dearly Beloved,

It is because of the Lord's grace and mercy that we are still making it in the Christian race. It is a challenging race, but all is designed so that the believer will draw closer to the Saviour. The trails and opposition we face teach us to seek the Lord's face moment by moment (Psalm 119:71).

We give God the glory for an exciting and reviving service yesterday as the Men's Fellowship celebrated their first anniversary. Many rededicated their lives to the Lord and I believe this will enhance our soul-winning work in the church. Pray with us that it should not be a mere work of the flesh.

We have a dear sister in our church by the name of Shallot Sarvi. She was crippled at birth and needs your prayer support as we are seeking to find a wheelchair for her. She has been very faithful to the congregation and all the church's activities. When she cannot find a ride to church she has been known to even crawl to the evening services.

Please also pray for the baptismal candidates who will be baptized on the first Sunday of July. Pray also for the deacons who have been very committed to their work. Pray for the youth as well since they have been very slack in their work for the Lord.

The Lord has been very gracious to us in many ways. We are looking forward to His perfect will being accomplished among us. Finally, please pray for our church building project, which is very dear to our hearts. We hope and believe that the Lord will make a way.

We pray that the Lord will direct your way as you continue in this good work for Him. We appreciate all that the Lord is using you to do in our lives and ministry. We are with you in prayers.

In His vineyard,
Daniel A. Amoo



Joseph Lamptey

Brother Joseph is a HeartCry missionary in the West African country of Ghana. He is under the supervision of Solomon Owolabi. Brother Joseph pastors the Ringway Baptist Church that he planted and is seeking to plant additional churches in the cities of Accra and Anum-Apapam. The following letters are his most recent.

March Letter

Dear Friends,

We praise God for His faithfulness and goodness, and for calling us into the fellowship of His dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We thank God for yet another opportunity to share with you what He is doing here in Accra.

This year, the Ringway Baptist Church has been praying about three major ways to be more effective in the ministry, to reach more people for Christ, and to plant more churches. First, we have begun a soul winning and discipleship training program to equip every church member to share their faith correctly and effectively. Secondly, we have planned a week of evangelistic meetings with Dr. Solomon Owolabi. Thirdly, we have planned a week of street preaching. It is our earnest prayer that brother Paul Washer will be able to visit Ghana and preach for us.

I thank God for what He is doing here in our city. About three weeks ago, I took a taxi to visit one of our church members. While in the car, I began to speak about the saving grace of God to the driver whose name was Mr. Johnson. I asked him if he thought he would go to heaven when he died. He replied that he was trying to "do good". I shared with him about the death and resurrection of Jesus and explained that a sinner could be saved only through the perfect work of Christ on the cross. As I spoke, tears began to run down his face and he said, "This is the first time that I have understood the meaning of Jesus dying for

me on the Cross." We parked the taxi and he cried out to the Lord for salvation. After the man drove away, I felt like flying! I was very happy!

We now have thirteen new converts preparing for believer's baptism. Please continue to pray with us as we trust the Lord for our every need.

May the Lord bless you always,
Joseph Lamptey

April Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,

My wife and I particularly wish to express our profound gratitude to you for the prayers and financial support. It has helped us to carry the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus to the unsaved. We also wish to express our deep gratitude for Rev. Dr. Owolabi and for his care, prayer support, and concern for the Lord's work here in Ghana. Dr. Owolabi has been a source of great encouragement to us and we owe him a debt of gratitude.

I still want to thank the Lord for all that he is doing in the Ringway Baptist Church. He has allowed us to see a steadily rise in attendance. One woman named Mary left our church in a very backslidden state because of her relationship with men. We went to visit her when she came into town and now she is back in the fold of the church. I ask you that you would hold her up to the Lord in prayer that she might be kept by the power of God.

In only a short while, we have had twenty professions of faith in Christ. Presently we have ten brethren preparing for baptism. One of them is an ex-convict who was converted in our church. His name is Inkoom. The Easter Friday and Resurrection Sunday morning services were very special and the Lord moved ten people to publicly professed their faith in the Lord. We praise God for what he is doing in the work. Please continue to pray for us as we trust the Lord for revival services in June and a crusade in August.

We would appreciate your prayer support as we look for a permanent place of meeting. We praise God that two of our young men will be graduating from Bible school in June.

Stay Blessed, Joseph Lamptey

May Letter

Dear Brothers,

We certainly must thank God for the wonderful privilege of sharing what the Lord is doing in the ministry of the Ringway Baptist Church.

The brethren wish to thank the Lord Most High who is also the Lord of the Harvest because by His grace we are His servants and reapers in His vineyard. Our heartfelt thanks also goes out to the HeartCry Missionary Society for their support and to Dr. Owolabi whose prayer, counseling, concern, and financial support is carrying this ministry forward. A Scripture in I Peter 1:3-5 encourages me in this work:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus

Letters from Africa

Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

The Lord continues to do spectacular things in the ministry here and I give Jesus all the praise. We have three young men in the Ghana Baptist Theological Institute, and two of them, Brother Philip Ahodokpo and Brother George Boakye, are graduating this June after three years of training. I give God the praise and thanks for the lives of these two young men who have been faithful, consistent, and humble, and who have labored very hard in the matter of soul-winning. I ask your prayer support for them that the Lord will keep, strengthen, direct, and meet their financial needs as they serve Him in church planting. The church here continues to grow.

A taxi driver named Mr. Tackie, who previously used to take us to church every Sunday, was saved in the church on the 23rd of May. Mr. Tackie, who is 60 years of age, had often been

invited by my wife and I to visit the church, but would always decline the invitation. A couple of weeks ago, I met him in town and invited him to visit us. To my surprise he came. After I had preached and made the altar call, Mr. Tackie raised his hand, walked to the pulpit, and confessed Jesus as his Savior. I would appreciate your prayer support for this man that he might continue to serve the Lord.

Please continue to pray with us that the ten brethren who are preparing for baptism might remain in the Lord. Pray especially for sister Mary and brother Inkoom. During the month of May, twenty-three people professed faith in Jesus Christ. During this same month the church spent a week-long period of fasting and prayer, trusting God to strengthen us and to meet the needs of the church, especially with regard to finding a permanent site for the Ringway Baptist Church.

You can count on our prayer support for the ministry of the Heartcry Missionary Society.

Stay Blessed,
Joseph Lamptey

James Lamptey

Brother James is a HeartCry missionary in the West African country of Ghana. He is under the supervision of Solomon Owolabi. Brother James pastors the Grace Baptist Church that he planted and is seeking to plant additional churches in the greater Accra region of Ghana. The following letter is his most recent.

April Letter

Dear Brethren in Christ,

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has enabled us by His grace to be partakers of His mercy and love.

By the grace of God, the month of April has been favorable in many ways. For the past two months of March and April, I have dedicated the Sunday evening services to teaching THE ART OF SOUL WINNING. The saints are beginning to get seriously involved in winning souls for the Lord. On the 18th of April, about eight souls gave their lives to Christ and on the 25th of April, we had four first time visitors who also gave their lives to Christ. We praise the Lord for His goodness.

On the 25th of April, we took a giant stride in the history of our church in that we moved into our uncompleted church building. We had been meeting in a rented room in a public school, but this caused us many problems. We were forced to cancel our services every time there was a special event in the school. We have now constructed a temporary shelter within our unfinished building for the purposes of Sunday morning services. The evening services are still held in my house.



James Lamptey

We shall covet your prayer support at this time for our church during this transitional period. My family and I are particularly grateful to the Lord for His provision and protection over our lives. We also want to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for your continuous prayer and financial support for us. May God bless you.

Your Partner in His Vineyard,
Pastor James Lamptey



April Letter

Glory and honor be unto our Lord Jesus for the wonderful things he does for us. It is a great joy to see our church marching forward. Yesterday, April 25th in our Sunday service two people gave their lives to the Lord. Gradually our attendance is moving forward to the glory of God. This is the result of your prayers for us.

We covet your prayers for the new converts so that they might become useful instruments in the body of Christ and so that nothing might tempt them to look back to the world. Also pray that God might give them understanding in His word and a stable mind in the midst of trouble.

As I stated in my previous letter, we are trusting God for a place and the means to build our church. God is our provider and in Him we are trusting. Please join with us in prayer that God might do for us more than what we can even think. As the Scriptures say:

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us..." Ephesians 3:20

Please also pray for the radio program that has been taken off the air. I greatly desire that God would restore this very useful ministry. It was a good opportunity to dispel all the false teaching that is ravishing our land. I strongly believe that God will heal our land, but only through the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray also for God protection over

my family and me. Pray that God might fulfill His purpose for sending me here to Benin.

Greetings to all of you and know that we are thankful for your labor of love, concern, prayers, and monthly support. My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus.

Yours in Him,
Abraham Babalola



August Letter

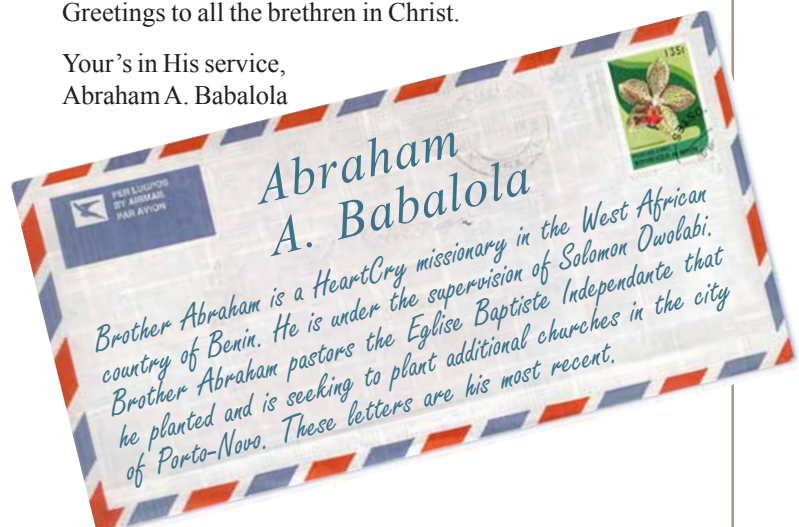
Glory and honor and thanksgiving to God who has made us to be His minister at this time. I also give thanks for His sustaining grace in this field where He has placed us. Although I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I have no cause to fear, because He is ever faithful to His promises to keep us and provide for all our needs.

On the 8th of August, we observed our second anniversary in our church in the Republic of Benin. It was a wonderful time. Eighty people attended, and through the preaching of the Gospel, five more were added to the church that day.

The greatest challenges facing us are with regard to the land. I am trusting the God who sent me here to give us a place to meet. We are also facing great obstacles with regard to our church registration. It will take nothing short of a miracle to get us approved. Please join us in prayer, because the government has issued an order to close the door of any church that has not been registered under its government act. Pray with us that our church will not be found among those that have been closed. Pray for me because I need God's wisdom. Pray that He might use me for His work in Benin to bring souls into His kingdom. I pray that self would die and God would grant me a spirit of humility. Pray for my wife because she needs sound health. She has frequent pains in her stomach and nothing seems to help her. Pray for my children's up bringing so that they might serve the Lord with all their hearts. Pray that God would meet our family's needs according to His riches in glory.

I sincerely appreciate your love, concern, and support. God will meet your own needs because you have sacrificed so much so that I may do that which I have been called of God to do. I know that you will never be put to shame. Greetings to all the brethren in Christ.

Your's in His service,
Abraham A. Babalola



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What part of “GO” do you not
understand? Matthew 28:18-20



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