

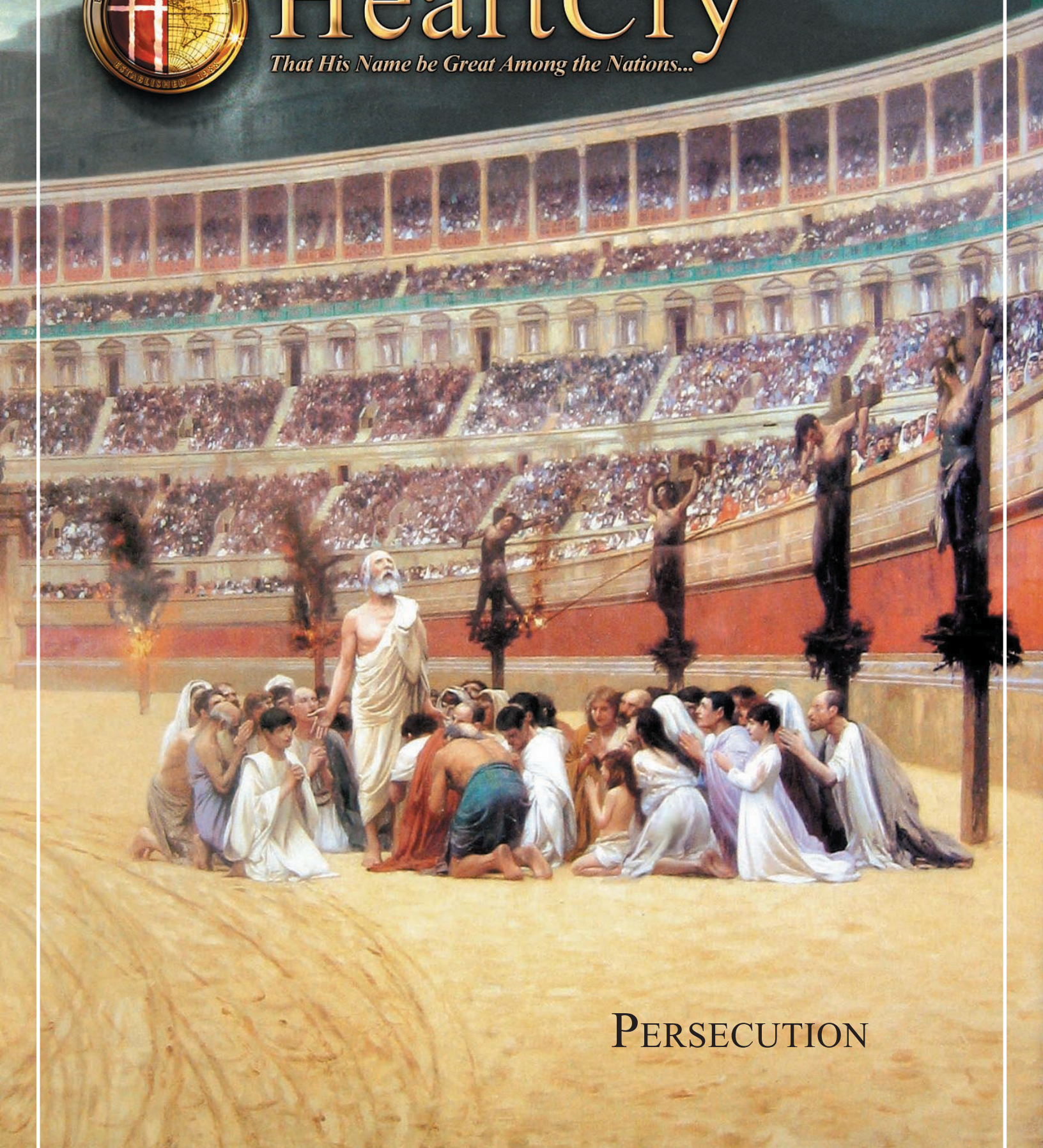


50th Edition

HeartCry

Missionary Society

That His Name be Great Among the Nations...



PERSECUTION

THAT HIS NAME BE GREAT AMONG THE NATIONS

HeartCry

That the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory
of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea... (Habakkuk 2:14)

The HeartCry Missionary Society

The HeartCry Missionary Society is a nonprofit organization functioning under the authority of the First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Although we recognize the great importance of sending missionaries from the West to unevangelized peoples throughout the world, we believe that we are led of the Lord to support indigenous or native missionaries so that they might evangelize their own peoples. We seek to work with godly men and women of integrity and faith in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant churches among their own peoples.



C O N T E N T S

FROM OUR DESK... P.4

STATUS REPORT ... P.5

A brief report on the status of our works in countries around the globe.

IT STILL COSTS ... P.7

Sorin Prodan describes the difficulties in preaching the Gospel in eastern Europe.

PERSECUTION IN ISRAEL... P.10

Missionaries suffer violence, spying, and anti-Christian bureaucracy.

HOSTILITY IN SIBERIA... P.14

The open door for the Gospel is quickly closing due to the opposition of the Russian Orthodox Church.

IN DANGER FROM ROBBERS... P.16

An account of the dangers faced by Peruvian missionaries Carlos Garcia and Javier Carhuapoma.

FROM THE ARCHIVES... P.18

Accounts of persecution and hardship from past issues of the HeartCry Magazine.

IMPORTANT HEARTCRY INFO... P.22



That the Lamb Receive the Full Reward of
His Suffering...

(Revelation 7:9-11)

MAGAZINE | The HeartCry Magazine is offered free of charge to all supporters and inquirers. WEBSITE | www.heartcrymissionary.com GIVING | All donations sent to the HeartCry Missionary Society will generate a tax-deductible receipt. PRODUCTION STAFF | Editor-in-Chief: Paul Washer. Graphic Design: Jonathan Green. Copy Editors: Amanda Glass, Anna James, Charo Washer. IDENTIFICATION | HeartCry is a bimonthly publication of the HeartCry Missionary Society, under the authority of Elders and Congregation of the First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals, 1915 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661 CONTACT US | 256-381-7510 or info@heartcrymissionary.com



4th Annual HeartCry Conference 2006

We are pleased to announce our Fourth Annual HeartCry Bible Conference. This year's conference will be hosted by our home church - First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals, AL. The theme will be "Prayer and Revival". Considering the theme, we have sought to provide opportunities throughout the conference itinerary for both individual and corporate prayer. Please be praying for the speakers and the conference, that God would get glory for Himself through vessels of clay as we ask our Lord "teach us to pray". We look forward to the opportunity of fellowshiping, worshiping, and hearing God's Word with you.

Thursday, Nov. 16th

Registration- 5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Worship- 6:00 p.m.- 6:15 p.m.

Introduction- 6:15 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Session #1- 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.
Bro. Paul Washer

Q&A- 8:00 p.m.-9:15 p.m.
All Speakers

Friday, Nov. 17th

Registration- 7:45 a.m.-8:45 a.m.

Continental Breakfast- 7:45 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

Prayer/Worship- 8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

Session #2- 10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
Bro. Bill McLeod

Lunch Fellowship- 11:30 a.m.

Session #3- 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m.
Journal Reading &
HeartCry Missions Intro
Bro. Paul Washer

.... Friday Continued...

Session #4- 2:45 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Prayer in History - Bro. Mack Tomlinson

-Afternoon Break-

Worship- 6:15 p.m.

Session #5- 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.
Bro. Bob Jennings

Session #6- 8:00 p.m.-9:15 p.m.
Bro. Bill McLeod

Saturday, Nov. 18th

Prayer/Worship- 7:45 a.m.-8:45 a.m.

Session #7- 9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.
Bro. Bill McLeod

Brunch Fellowship- 10:30 a.m.

Session #8-12:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m.
Journal Reading & Missions Report
- Bro. Paul Washer

Session #9- 1:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.
Bro. Mack Tomlinson

Session #10- 3:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Bro. Bob Jennings

.... Saturday Continued...

Dinner Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.

Session #11- 7:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m.
Bro. Bill McLeod

Closing

Conference Fee

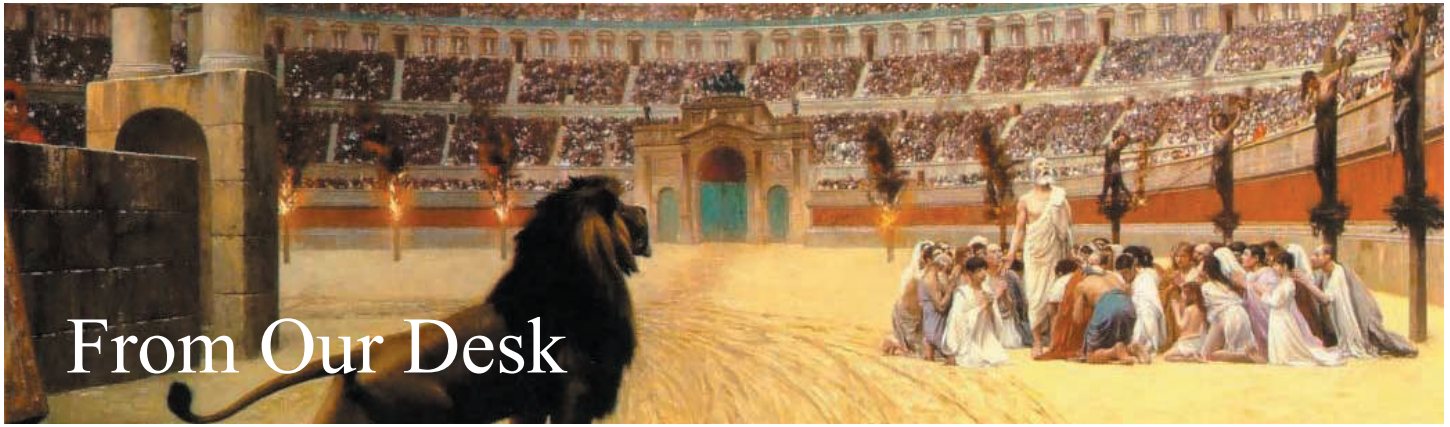
There is no cost for the conference this year. We will be receiving an offering to offset the conference expenses.

• Childcare •

Childcare services & "Cry Room" will be available throughout the conference.

"Thy Kingdom Come"





From Our Desk

As always, we hope and pray that this edition of the HeartCry Magazine finds you and your family growing in the grace and knowledge of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. All the staff at the U.S. Office are doing fine and send their greetings and thanksgiving. We are constantly aware that this ministry is more yours than ours. We are only the carriers by which your blessing reaches the nations. This ministry had its beginning and continues according to God's sovereign plan and your kind generosity. Thank you.

I am writing this article from the office of Pastor Conrad Mbewe in the capital city of Lusaka, Zambia. I have traveled here with a few other men for the annual Reformed Baptist Conference. The air is full of excitement, as hundreds of brothers and sisters are arriving from several different countries of southern and central Africa. How glorious is the Bride of Christ!

I am amazed at the work of God throughout the World. By His own right hand and power, He has raised up churches for Himself in the greatest cities and the remotest parts of the earth. For the most part, His Bride is hidden and unnoticed by the world. When the world does take notice, it is only to despise, scoff, and defame. "Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, the Lord knows those who are His" (II Timothy 2:19).

I often wish that everyone who supports HeartCry could see the things I have seen throughout the years. In Peru, there is the phenomenal work of God among the northern mountain peoples that is now making its way even into the jungle. The men are poor and uneducated, and yet, the work of God through them is unparalleled. In Zambia, there is the sound and deliberate work of men whose theology is as solid as their hearts are aflame. They have a passion to reach the whole of the continent, including the Muslim world. That their passion is not merely wishful thinking is evident in the fact that churches are already being planted in several countries throughout the south and central plains. The work in Eastern Europe is also prospering. Through our Bible conference ministry, many of our missionaries, and even pastors and missionaries outside of HeartCry, are learning to preach a biblical Gospel and to plant churches that are founded upon the principles of Scripture, rather than the dictates of tradition. In the 10/40 Window, James Dhale and his men continue to cross borders into India, China, Nepal, Tibet, and Myanmar. Finally, in Israel our men are still in the streets preaching the Gospel in spite of the bombings and persecution.

God is doing a great work throughout the world, but it is not without cost. First there was the cost of God's only begotten Son, who being equal with the Father and the exact representation of His nature, willingly left the glory of heaven, was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin, and was born the God/Man - Jesus of Nazareth. As a man, He walked on this earth in perfect obedience to the Law of God, and in the fullness of time, He was rejected by men and crucified. On the cross, He bore man's sin,

suffered God's wrath, and died in man's place. Secondly, there is the cost of those who have gone out for the sake of the Name to preach the Gospel among those who have yet to hear. How many have suffered and died for the sake of the Gospel since the first martyr, Stephen laid down his life (Acts 7:59-60)? How many suffer hardship, imprisonment, and death even as I write these words? What a great price is paid by so many!

This edition of HeartCry is dedicated to those brothers who labor in fellowship with us and who suffer hardship and even persecution for the sake of the Gospel. We hope and pray that what you read in these pages might motivate you to examine your own life and ask yourself just what it has cost you to follow Christ and to make His Gospel known to the unreached peoples throughout the world.

When we consider the cost of following Christ, it may be accurate to speak of two separate realities among the people of God - a cost extracted and a cost freely paid. For many of our brothers in Christ, the cost is extracted. They live in places all over the world where biblical Christianity is despised, persecuted, and even outlawed by the state. These brothers have no choice but to suffer. They cannot escape their homelands, and they will not deny their Lord or the Gospel He has commanded them to preach.

For many of us, there is little or no cost extracted. We live in places where biblical Christianity might be mocked or ignored, but rarely persecuted or outlawed. Because of this, we think that we have not been called to suffer or to pay a price. Here is where the problem lies. Those of us who live in such safe havens should not think that just because a cost is not extracted, a cost should not be freely paid. We do not suffer persecution at the hands of our enemies, but we can willingly suffer in prayer for those who do. We do not live in abject poverty because of our faith in Christ, but we can willingly deny ourselves the vain luxuries of this age in order to provide the basic necessities for our brothers and sisters who have nothing. We have not gone out into the jungles, or mountains, or teaming cities of the world to reach the unreached, but we can pray earnestly and give sacrificially to those who do. Does something have to be demanded from us before it is given? Does not Christian love itself demand that we join our brothers and sisters in their hardship and in their costly task of taking the Gospel to the nations. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us join that great evangelical army of men and women who have counted the cost and willingly pay it, so that we to might rejoice on that final day. What a joy will be ours to stand beside them before the Christ, knowing that we stood beside them in the battle.

Your brother,

Paul David Washer

HEARTCRY STATUS REPORT



According to God's grace, and through your faithful prayers and generous giving, HeartCry is working in fifteen countries on four continents around the world. It is our passion to go much farther than where we are. For we long to see the day when a banner for Christ is raised in every nation and people group on the earth. The following is a brief status report and summary of our vision for each major area where we work.

U.S. OFFICE

We are still in transition after our move to the First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals, but everything is beginning to fall into place. Dr. Nathan Berry and Amanda Glass are restructuring and reorganizing the office - the goal is efficiency and cost effectiveness. Jon Green has been working hard on the new website and will continue perfecting and expanding it until it is "just right". On returning from our last HeartCry conference in Peru, Chad Haygood is working with Paul Washer to find the best way to organize a program for Theological Education by Extension (TEE). Matt Glass and Dr. Berry are seeking to improve communications between the U.S. office and James Dhale in the 10/40 Window. Paul Washer has been traveling a great deal and even edited this edition of HeartCry while in Zambia at the annual Reformed Baptist Conference. At the close of the conference, he traveled to remote villages in the bush to investigate possible church plants.

PERU

Paul Washer and Chad Haygood led a team of pastor/teachers to Peru in the first two weeks of August. In that time, Bible conferences were held in the city of Lima and the town of Sullana. The Lima conference was limited to only twenty-two pastors for the purpose of spending time individually with each. The conference in Sullana was attended by more than 100 pastors from the northern mountains. The themes taught in both conferences were: The Authentic Gospel, Genuine Conversion, Expository Preaching, and the Biblical Family. Through the giving of believers in the United States, we were able to distribute more than sixty John MacArthur Study Bibles and many packets of John MacArthur preaching tapes. During our time in Peru, we were also able to make some progress regarding the work among the Aguarunas. God has raised up Pastor Thomas Urbina of Lima to visit missionary Mario Salinas every three months in order to encourage him and help him train the Aguarunas brothers.

EASTERN EUROPE

Eastern European director Sorin Prodan is back in Romania after attending the spring and summer terms at Southern Seminary in Louisville. He has communicated to us that the works are prospering in spite of the frequent hardships the missionaries must face. Our primary focus has been to organize the missionaries into church planting teams in place of the traditional approach of sending one man to work alone. The strategy seems to be working very well. As the Scriptures declare in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up."



Top: The First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals Alabama. HeartCry's new home.

Middle: HeartCry's Pastor's Conference 2006 in Lima, Peru.

Above: Sorin Prodan returns to the field in Romania after a season of preparation at Southern Seminary.

ISRAEL

All of us are aware of the turmoil in Israel at this moment. How it makes us long for the return of Israel's true King. He alone can bring peace to Israel and true peace to each Israeli's heart. The last two months have brought many trials to Leonid Banchik and Antony Simon. Leonid was attacked by ultra-Orthodox Jews and Antony Simon is facing the possibility of losing his visa because of his evangelism and church planting work. Regardless of these trials, they both remain strong in their faith and calling. It is in times like these that the doctrine of an all-sovereign God brings peace. Please pray for Leonid and Antony, as well as for every other missionary who is preaching the true Gospel of Jesus Christ in Israel!

AFRICA

Having just returned from Bible conference in Zambia, Paul Washer reports that the work continues to prosper. Once again there were several hundred pastors, missionaries, and leaders in attendance from several different countries from south and central Africa. It is our opinion that the work in Zambia is one of the most exceptional in the world today. The leaders of this movement are theologically sound and able to articulate their theology in their preaching. At the same time, their zeal for evangelism, church planting, and missions is unsurpassed. At HeartCry, we count it our great privilege to have a small part in the advances that are being made.

10/40 WINDOW

Pastor James Dhale and the men who work alongside him continue to persevere in spite of the difficulties of the work. The Royal Ambassador Academy (primary, middle, and high school) continues to teach the Scriptures to area children. The Grace Himalayan Mission continues to train, send out, and support several indigenous missionaries in India, the China-India boarder, Nepal, Tibet, and Myammar. The greatest obstacle we face in this vital 10/40 mission work is the lack of communication. Because of the rural setting and the constant social unrest that leads to the destruction of power and telephone lines, it is very difficult to maintain communication with Brother Dhale. At the moment, we are investigating the possibility of using a satellite phone to insure constant contact. Please pray that God will lead us in the best way to remedy this situation. We are hoping to visit the area in the first months of 2007. When the above mentioned obstacles are removed, this could be our greatest area of future expansion. Please pray that God will give wisdom to Matt Glass and Dr. Berry as they work through these problems.

PARTICULAR BURDENS

Our greatest burden is simply to do more. The harvest is truly plentiful, but the laborers are few. There is a need for more missionaries, more churches, more literature, more training conferences, etc. It is our prayer that God might make the years ahead a thousand times more fruitful than all the years before. Only God can do what must be done. It will not be accomplished through the arm of the flesh, but by the Spirit of the Living God. As the Scriptures declare in Zechariah 4:6: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD of hosts."

UPCOMING TRAVELS

There will be two major mission trips in the upcoming months. The first will be in November. Charles Leiter will lead a team of teachers to Romania to instruct pastors, missionaries, and university students. The team will also preach in many of the churches being planted by HeartCry sponsored missionaries. In January, Paul and Chad Haygood will travel to Peru in order to continue the Theological Education by Extension program that was begun in August. They will teach pastors in Lima, seminary students in Sullana, and pastors among the Aguaruna Tribe. They also hope to help missionaries Mario Salinas and Tomas Urbina in developing a strategy to better minister among the Aguarunas.



Top: Opposition from ultra-Orthodox Jews who defaced evangelistic posters with swastikas.



Middle: Outdoor services in Zambia.



Above: Pastor James Dhale working in remote areas on the Indo-chinese border.

~~It Still Costs~~

to Preach the Gospel by Sorin Prodan

The sound of the slamming cell gate was like a thunder followed by an earthquake. This was the death cell, and he knew what he could expect from such a place. A quick death would be a blessing compared to the long hours of interrogation under torture. After all, death was no longer a problem; he had died years before when he gave himself to follow the Nazarene. He was crucified with Christ.

During his first interrogation, he faced Russian roulette at the hands of a bony fingered man from the secret police. From that day onward, each time he heard the click of the trigger, he thought he would pass the narrow border between this world and eternity. Gradually, his soul was released from the fear of death, and he became immune to every form of terror. Nevertheless, the daily tortures were painful and with ever-increasing desire, he waited for that one day when he would see the One for whose Name he suffered.

The above scenario is just a brief glimpse of what happened to hundreds, and maybe even, thousands of Christians under the Com-



munist persecution in Romania which began in 1947. Names such as Richard Wurmbrand, Nicoale Moldoveanu, Traian Dors, Joseph Tson will never be forgotten. They are only a few examples of the great gallery of those who either suffered or were martyred for the faith. Nobody knows how many suffered and died for the cause of the Gospel during those years. Persecution took many different forms: mockery, the privation of freedom, physical ag-

gression, and cruelly devised torture treatments that led ultimately to death.

Although the official persecution has halted in Romanian, there are still countless thousands of men and women suffering under severe persecution in Communist regimes such as those in China, Cuba, North Korea, Laos, North Vietnam, and in the Islamic regimes working in Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other Arabic countries.

To suffer for the Name of Christ is by far the greatest honor which has ever been given to a Christian and the greatest test of the authenticity of their faith. We can be honorable members in a

church, great preachers, and great theologians, but until we have faced persecution and even death for the sake of Christ, our metal has yet to be tested. I will always be thankful to my Lord for the times when I faced persecution in the years of Communist oppression. Those experiences weight in my life more than any other experience. I also thank God for the men of God who suffered far worse than I, and who came to have a great impact on my life. Men like Richard Wurmbrand, who suffered 14 years of torture in some of the most terrifying Communist prisons; Traian Dors, one of the greatest Romanian poets, who spent 17 years behind bars; and Joseph Tson who spent days and nights under relentless arrests and interrogations.

Although I have spoken this way, it is important to realize that suffering for Christ is not something that happens only in extreme times under oppressive regimes. As I travel through the countries of Eastern Europe, which were released from the Iron Curtin nearly fifteen years ago, I see again and again that suffering for Christ is still a common way of life for those who preach the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul:

"To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now."

1 Corinthians 4:11-13

What you have just read is not significantly different from what I see whenever I visit our HeartCry missionaries, or I preach the Gospel in some of the cities and villages that are closed to the Gospel. The country of Moldova is a good example. Although it is no longer a Soviet country, it still boasts a Communist government and a mentality which works to exile God from the hearts and minds of people and keep them in darkness. Our men who minister there must pay a great price.

In Serbia, one of our HeartCry missionaries, Zoran Milovanovic, is under constant examination by police and is frequently accused before the authorities by the towns people who refuse the Gospel. Several times, he and his family have been forced to move out of their rented home after the owners discovered that they were Christians in the Baptist Church. In a number of cases, Zoran has been taken to the police station, his car has been confiscated and searched, and he has been interrogated. When he and the other believers began the construction of their church building, the local authorities harassed them and even delayed construction through bureaucratic red tape. When I visited Zoran in 2002, I was



detained at the Serbian border by the custom agents, who took me off the train and locked me in a hanger until the police fully interrogated me. Although the train was full of people carrying contraband, I was detained because I was carrying the Gospel. Because of their opposition to the Gospel, I was more dangerous to them than the smugglers. They said that they could “smell that I was in a sect” (Baptists are considered a sect in Serbia), and so they did everything in their power to send me back to Romania. Just recently, the Serbian government refused to recognize the Baptist Christians as a valid denomination. Because of this, the Baptists are labeled a cult, and the Serbian Orthodox Church constantly attacks them and pollutes the minds of the

was not the real Bible, that I was in a sect, and that I had no right to “poison the people’s mind”. I did not try to defend myself, but he hit me and all the Bibles that I had in my arms fell on the pavement. He quickly disappeared because many people witnessed the incident. While I gathered the Bibles, a lady came near and I offered a Bible. She was so surprised that I gave her a Bible for free that, in her excitement, she hugged me and kissed me on the cheek. Later that day, the same lady came and gave me a bottle of Coke to drink. I do not know if she was a real person or an angel. I do know that although Satan attacked me, Jesus came near to me and gave me a kiss and something to drink. These experiences are unique



Serbian people against them through a constant media campaign.

In Ukraine, some of the missionaries supported by HeartCry face rejection and expulsion from many of the villages where they try to share the Gospel. In a number of cases, the Orthodox priests have encouraged the people to destroy the Baptist church buildings. An old army tent that the HeartCry missionaries used for prayer meetings and to establish new churches was cut into pieces and destroyed through the encouragement and participation of the priest. A few years ago, one of our new buildings was covered in tar and all the window were broken out. In the county of Cernauti, where the HeartCry missionaries preach the Gospel, the people are deceived into following a priest who claims to have visions, heal sicknesses, and predict the future by following the Book of Saint Basil. The book is little more than white magic.

In my country of Romania, the same opposition from the Orthodox Church and local authorities reveals that, even though we are a free country, there is no freedom for the Gospel. Cursing, mockery, and sometimes even physical aggression are familiar experiences for a missionary in this part of the world. In the main public hall of the city of Pucioasa, missionary Nicu Vulpe presented a drama about the reality of heaven and hell. Suddenly a group of five men, clothed in the robes of the Orthodox priests went on the stage and disrupted the meeting. They kicked over the microphones and speakers, and even tried to intimidate our missionaries through physical aggression and filthy language. When the police arrived, they did not act in accordance to the law, but tried to cover up the incident and justify their vandalism. A few days later in the same city, I was attacked while handing out New Testaments and tracks. All of a sudden, a man with an Orthodox beard came to me and asked me for a Bible. After I gave him a New Testament, he said that it

and serve to build our faith!

The HeartCry mission team from the city of Draganesti faces conflicts and obstacles every month from the local authorities, Orthodox priests, and people involved in sorcery. More than once, the local Orthodox priests have stirred up the drunks and other rabble from among the towns people to intimidate Brother Raul and the rest of the mission team with threats and physical aggression. The city is well known for its sorcery and witchcraft. So when many unusual mishaps began to occur in Raul’s family and among the single missionaries, the entire team joined together to seek the Lord’s help against demonic activity. Since then, some of the witches have complained that they have lost the power to carry on their craft. On my last visit to Draganesti, three demon-possessed persons came to where I was preaching. The demonic presence was so evident that I was forced to stop preaching and call the believers to pray. As we prayed, one of the demon-possessed persons went out, slamming the door and cursing. After we prayed, the power of God came upon the message and three women publicly repented of their sins and confessed Christ. They stood before the crowd and confessed some of the most horrible sins. Rarely in all my life have I seen such brokenness and genuine humility.

At another time, I accompanied an American team led by Adrian Jones (a dear friend of HeartCry) to the city of Rimnicu Sarat. We went there to share the Gospel and distribute New Testaments to the Gypsy community. In a few minutes, a crowd of about 200 adults and 100 children gathered around us. They began to ask questions, and we used the opportunity to share the Gospel with them. About a half an hour later, the police appeared and asked me to give them my documents. I gave them my license which attested to my status as a missionary



in Eastern Europe. They then proceeded to write up a report which distorted everything we were doing there. They testified that "we were causing disturbances throughout the entire community, and that the people were fighting and harming one other because of us." Finally, they took us to the police station and held us for a few hours. I told them that we had U.S. citizens on our team and that their illegal arrest could have serious consequences. Because of this, they finally allowed us to leave. The next day we met with the chief of the local police. He treated us differently because he had personally seen changes in prisoners who had repented and believed the Gospel. He told us that the Orthodox priest was behind the entire incident and that he had called the police in order to stop us from evangelizing the people. The priest demanded that the village was "his territory".

The HeartCry Gypsy missionaries in Romania are closer than any of us to the realm of spiritual battle. It is well known that the Gypsies are often given to sorcery and witchcraft. Because of this, the work is difficult in Gypsy communities, but the Gospel still advances. Brother Moses Marin, the coordinator of the Gypsy ministry in Romania, has faced countless trials. Throughout his travels and preaching among Gypsies, he has been exposed to the hatred and hostility of leaders who refused to accept the Gospel. The Gypsy communities are somewhat tribal in that their individual leaders are respected as a "boolibasha" or king. If he accepts the Gospel, the entire community will often follow him in that decision. If he rejects the Gospel and is hostile toward it, the rest of the community will do the same.

In Frunzanesti, where HeartCry missionary Vale Marian serves, there are two groups of Gypsies that live in constant and sometimes mortal conflict. Each year, several people are killed because of the hatred that exists between these two groups. Often, even the children fight and injure one another. The two groups live in separate territories and no one from one group dares to even walk in the territory of the other. Brother Vale Marian built a church building between the two territories of the two clans and it became the neutral space between them. Now, there are believers from both groups, and they are a powerful demonstration that Christ can change lives. After decades of struggle, the police and local authorities were unable to do anything to bring peace between these two clans, but Christ's death brought peace and unity. The victory is great, but it has come at great cost to Brother Vale. He has had to bear with many threats against his life. One instance is particularly noteworthy. A very worthless man in the Gypsy community became infuriated when he discovered that his wife had repented and become a believer. He attacked Brother Vale from behind and hit him in the back with an axe. God was merciful in that he delivered our dear brother from what should have been a mortal injury.

All of these examples are just a few of the countless examples that we know of, and there are many others of which we are unaware. There are persecutions and conflicts that can be seen with the physical eye, and there is the warfare of demonic powers that are constantly engaged in battle against the men and women who take the Gospel to the lost world. In many cases, the price of spreading the Good News is suffering, but Jesus is worthy of anything we must suffer for His Name. Moreover, we have the promise that beyond the suffering there

is the sweet taste of glory, which will be fully revealed when Christ the Lord returns to establish His Kingdom forever. Now, we are in the valley, striving in the battle for our King. We have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men (I Corinthians 4:9). The entire cosmos has set its eyes upon those of us who struggle in this great conflict, but one day, we will all see the victory of our God and King. Like Him, we will overcome and gain the victory through our suffering. As the prophet Isaiah said of Him:

"He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our grieves, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:3-5)

Let us never forget His great suffering, which inspires us and gives strength to faithful Christians throughout the world. Peter's words should always be a source of great encouragement to us:

"...to the degree that you sharing the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exaltation" (I Peter 4:13).

The calling to share in Christ's suffering is not confined to missionaries and pastors in countries where there is strong persecution, but is a part of any normal Christian life. Whenever and wherever we are engaged in testifying for Christ, we must expect various degrees of persecution, and in that we should rejoice. As Peter declares:

"If you are reviled for the Name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you" (I Peter 4:14).

This is our calling! This is our battle! We should constantly remember in prayer those who share the sufferings of Christ, either through daily persecution or martyrdom. Who knows, but one day, you and I, may be called upon to make the supreme sacrifice? Let us stay in the battle! Let us suffer for the great cause of the Gospel! Let us pray for HeartCry missionaries who are on the front line of the battle! And never forget: "Greater is He who is in you, than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

On behalf of the HeartCry Missionaries
in Eastern Europe,
Sorin Prodan

Sorin Prodan is the HeartCry director over Eastern Europe. He is a vital member of our leadership team both in the United States and abroad.



Leonid Banchik is a wanted man in Israel. Those who oppose the Gospel know him well and do all in their power to stop him from preaching the cross. These posters are placed in strategic places to warn the people about this man who seeks to convert them. Brother Leonid writes, "We have many adversaries in Israel. In different cities around the country they put up my photograph with the title 'He baptizes Jews. Stay away from him!' They stand near our gatherings and yell insults at us. They send their agents to us. They are also trying to pass a law in the Parliament forbidding us to evangelize. But nothing and no one can stop the Good News from being spread!"



Persecution in Israel

The following letters are from missionaries Leonid Banchik and Antony Simon. They must not only endure the conflict of war, but the very persecution of those they labor to save.

Leonid Banchik :Attacked in Tel-Aviv

by Leonid Banchik

Dear brothers! Greetings to you from Israel! Recently, we traveled out to the Bat-Yam area of Tel-Aviv with the purpose of putting evangelistic tracts into the resident's mailboxes. Little did we know that such routine ministry would turn into an opportunity to suffer persecution for Jesus.

Toward the end of the day, my co-worker Denis and I were surrounded by the Orthodox Jews who demanded that we give to them all the tracts that we had yet to distribute. In order to avoid the conflict, we did as they demanded, but as soon as we moved toward our car, they jumped into theirs and started chasing us. When we reached the downtown district, they stopped their vehicle long enough for one of them to throw himself onto the road in front of our car. We had no choice but to stop. They then grabbed us out of the car and started beating us unmercifully. They badly beat Denis in the face while they continued to strike me in the head. They also beat upon our car. The bystanders who witnessed the event called the police, and our religious attackers ran away.

After being released from the hospital, Denis and I went to the police station, and the authorities opened a case. However, cases like ours (i.e. against Christians) are usually closed before ever reaching the court. It was a difficult ordeal, but the Word of God gave us great comfort:

“... And when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name” (Acts 5:40-41).

The apostles stayed firm despite persecutions and prisons and left us all an example of how we should also rejoice in difficult times. We know that it was according to God's will that we found ourselves in such a situation. Because of the persecution, we met a policeman who was a Russian immigrant. At first, he was extremely aggressive. He said to us, “I risk my life everyday fighting the bandits, but you endanger yourselves for the sake of your own religious nonsense. You can believe in Jesus if you want, but do it silently and do not draw attention to yourselves.” I answered him that Christ did not command us to stay in our rooms, but to go to the world and proclaim His truth. At the end of our conversation the policeman softened and even shared with us that his mother also believed in Jesus. I ask you to pray for his repentance.

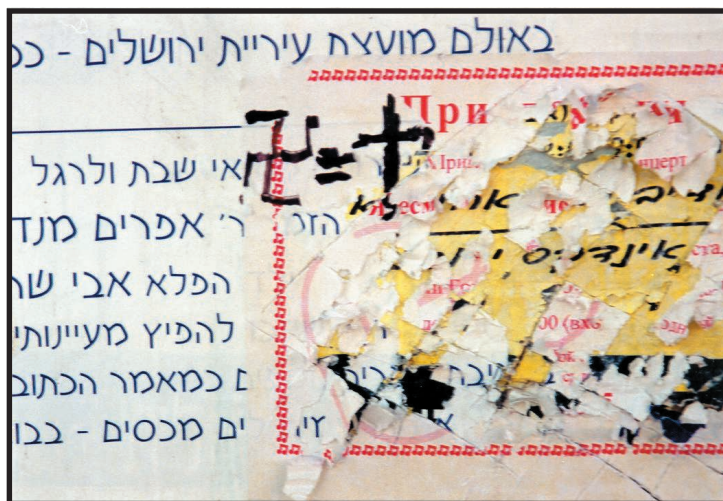
Please pray also about those who persecuted us. Being moved by their hatred and anger they do not know what they do. Please, pray for Denis's health and mine. The people who attacked us actually live in my neighborhood. Please pray for God's protection over our lives.

I thank you for all your help and prayers. May the Lord bless you!

With brotherly love,
Leonid Banchik



This is a photograph of one of the ministry's advertisements that has been vandalized by those who do not want the Gospel preached in Israel. They have drawn a swastika and equated it with the cross of Jesus Christ. Such men work diligently to discourage any of their countrymen from listening to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



The perseverance and endurance of Antony Simon and his team are evident. No sooner are their advertisements torn down than they simply put them back up again.



The last two photos on the right show an orthodox Jew recording the activities of Antony Simon and the other workers as they evangelize in the streets of Jerusalem. Such means are used to intimidate Jewish believers from sharing their faith in Christ with others.



The photo below proves that God uses all for His glory: an unavoidable confrontation provides an opportunity to witness.





Above Left: The Congregation in Kiryat Gat.



Above Middle: Evangelism tours at The Jaffa Gate, one of eight gates in Jerusalem's Old City walls.

Above Right and Below: Antony and his team share the Gospel during evangelistic tours of the city. They also distribute both Hebrew and English evangelistic literature.



Spies in Kiryat Gat

by Antony Simon

A few weeks ago, we discovered two spies who were attending our meeting in Kiryat Gat. At first, they presented themselves as two orthodox Jewish women claiming to be interested in the Gospel. Later, it came to our knowledge that they had come to spy on us and report back to whomsoever sent them. We rejoice that they heard the Gospel. We do not know their names, but they are known to God. Please pray for them and for the protection of the believers in Kiryat Gat.

Trouble at the Jaffa Gate

by Antony Simon

The evangelism at Jaffa Gate is going well. Last Saturday someone complained about us to the police, and then they tried to move us on. They even arrested me and took me to the police station. This someone was probably a religious Jewish person who was offended by what we believe. We were breaking no laws and were in no one's way. Our formal accusation was that we were obstructing the path with our books! The charge was ridiculous in light of the fact that local Arab vendors illegally sell in makeshift stalls right in the middle of the footpath with no problem. This was simply a case of the police trying to appease an angry group of people who oppose our Gospel. Jerusalem is a city of religious tensions and the police want a quiet life. No matter how quiet, legal, or unassuming we are, the police will shut us down if someone complains. I used this particular opportunity to ask the policeman the following question: "If we must pay for breaking man's law, what will happen to us if we break God's Law?" He made no visible response, but I hope it make him think.

Since our evangelism and tract distribution was completely within our legal rights, I told the police that we would return the next week and continue our work. When we got up to leave the police station, one of the officers approached us and apologized for all that had been done to us. The next week, we did return and experienced no problems, but as soon as we arrived the following week, a man from the municipality showed up and gave us a fine. We were later informed by the city inspectors that they had received a complaint about us. We have every intention of going to court in order to contend the fine. A few days later, a religious orthodox man from the municipality came and threw all our literature into the street. It is obvious that someone wants to stop our work at Jaffa Gate, but we are determined, with the help of the Lord, to continue. We know that what they are doing to us is illegal, and we will continue to seek the Lord's guidance as to how to proceed. Next week, we plan to continue our work at the Jaffa Gate, but we will keep all our materials in our backpacks. Please pray for this outreach. We shall continue as long as the door is open!



*Left/Right: Antony
sharing the Gospel
and distributing both
Hebrew and English
evangelistic literature.*

On Trial as a Christian

by Antony Simon

I was 26 years old when I left England and returned to Israel. Like many other Jews returning to the homeland, I enrolled in the army and fulfilled my two months of basic training. One of my fellow recruits was a Russian immigrant named Zeev (his name means “wolf”). He was ultra Orthodox, and he hated me because of my Christian faith. One day when we were running through a particular drill, he fell down, and I gave him my hand to lift him up. Instead of taking my hand, he hit me with the butt of his M16.

Years later, I was asked to help reconcile some believers who had a dispute. I tried to be as impartial as possible, but it eventually went to court, and I was asked to testify. The man who took these other two brothers to court was named Vladimir. He had attended our congregation, but never showed himself to be a genuine believer. When he appeared in the courtroom he was wearing a traditional black skull cap (*yarmulke kippa*) in order to identify himself with the Jewish faith. His lawyer was Zeev. The same man who had hit me several years before!

When it was my turn to testify, Zeev turned to me and asked, “Do I know you from somewhere?” I replied, “Yes. We were in the army together. I once tried to help you up after you had fallen, and you hit me with your rifle.” Zeev then answered mockingly, “You are a Christian so you must forgive me.” He then went on to explain to the court that since I was a Christian and not really a Jew, I had lied to the government when I made my application to return to Israel. Therefore, anything I said in court should be considered a lie.

To my surprise, the judge defended me. He said that I was Jewish even if I did believe in Jesus. After this, Zeev hated me even more. Every time he saw me, he cursed me, but I blessed him every time he cursed me. To get his revenge, Zeev took

the transcripts of the court proceedings to the Ministry of Interior in order to prove to them that my citizenship should be revoked because I was a Christian and not a Jew.

The two officials who interviewed me at the Ministry of Interior Ministry were Yochi and Zipi. They were very polite to me as they explained that I had been called to appear before them because of the complaint filed by Zeev and the transcripts from the court that he gave them. I told them the truth about my faith in Christ and explained to them the work I was doing in Israel. They asked me many questions, and I told them that I considered myself a Jew, that I believed in the Law and the Prophets, and that there was no contradiction between the Old and New Covenant. They asked me how the man Jesus could be God, and I encouraged them to read the New Testament to find the answers. When they recorded my interview, they purposely referred to Jesus as *Yeshua* instead of *Yeshu*. The rabbis teach that in this way one pronounces a curse upon Jesus.

To conclude the meeting, the officials told me that I might lose my citizenship and be expelled from Israel, or I could change my registration from Jewish to Christian, or some other status.

As I was leaving, they told me that I was the most honest person they had ever interviewed and that most people lie to them and tell them all kinds of stories. They also told me that I could come and speak with them anytime. I told them that I would pray for them, and that other Christians around the world would be praying for them. I thank the Lord that I was able to explain the Gospel to these two women, and I pray that their hearts will one day be open to receive the truth.

Please pray for us. Things are very uncertain for us now, but we trust in the Rock which cannot be moved. Thank you for you many prayers and support.

In Christ,
Antony and Dona Simon

Growing Hostility in Siberia

Brother Radzihovski is serving in Nizhnevartovsk, Siberia and is supported by your giving to the HeartCry Missionary Society. Roger Weil is the secretary director of "The Slavlands Mission" based in the United Kingdom. He introduced the HeartCry Missionary Society to the needs in Siberia and to missionary Vladimir Radzihovski.

Working Despite Intolerance

by Vladimir Radzihovski

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I am sincerely grateful for your prayers for us and our ministry. Thank you for continuing to support us financially.

We give thanks to the Lord that He is blessing and keeping our fellowship together, especially during the few months after my surgery when I could not even minister.

Unfortunately, we are not growing in numbers, and there are no new members in our church, but we are praying for spiritual revival in our town. We have managed to distribute approximately 500 Christian magazines, more than 300 Christian leaflets, and some Bibles and New Testaments with our address and telephone number on the front page. Sadly, no one responded.

We are working very hard to help the church member's spiritual growth. We are preaching the Word and teaching the believers how to build godly relationships with one another. We rejoice that the Holy Spirit seems to be working in us and bearing fruit. The church is growing spiritually, and such things as quarrels, conflicts, legalistic pride, and divisions are greatly diminished.

We give thanks to the Lord for two members of our fellowship who have successfully finished Bible College. They are now a great help to all of us. They are organizing and leading prayer

groups, and serving in several ministries in the church.

It is very sad for us to report to you that the government's attitude toward us (Baptists) is getting more and more hostile. One of the main reasons for their increasing hostility is the Russian fear of an American faith taking over the country, and the Orthodox fear of any religion but their own. There is a great deal of literature being distributed about the "hyperactivity" of Protestants in Russia. Many officials in Russia have read the book entitled, "Expansion," which speaks about the "American Faith" attacking Russia. Two former officers of the KGB have written the book, and now they are calling all government officials to do everything they can in order to drive the Protestants out of Russia and to protect the Orthodox Church's position. This book is a great threat to our faith because it claims that if the "Protestants" continue, Russia will lose its personality, it will no longer be an Orthodox country, and it will fall into spiritual darkness.

In spite of all these obstacles to our faith, I still believe that with God's help and with long-term sacrifice on our part, Russia can become a truly Christian country. Even now, the Orthodox Church has admitted to the fact that they have lost the younger generation. That means that the Orthodox Church does not have a future. Therefore, we Christians must work hard to evangelize the country and teach the people the Truth.

At this moment, we are saving our money and praying that the Lord would allow us to purchase a building to hold our meetings. We had to leave our last rented meeting place. Please pray for us.

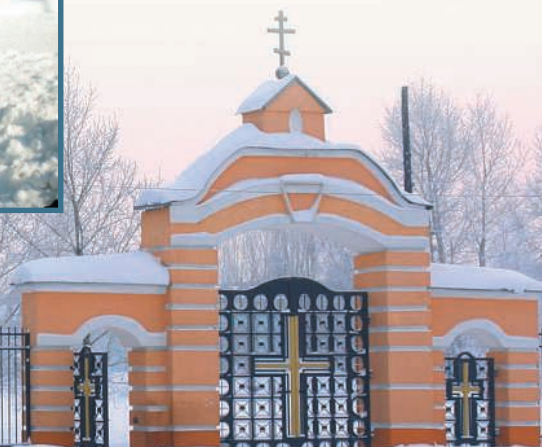
Once again, I want to say thank you very much for your help. Please pray for our town and country. My family and I used to be citizens of Ukraine with residential visas in Russian under the protection of the Ukrainian ambassador. But a few days ago, we were granted citizenship in Russia. We received it with gratitude to the Lord. We hope that this will allow us to do more work for the Kingdom of God.

With sincere gratitude and love in Christ,

Brother Radzihovski
Nizhnevartovsk, Siberia



The church in Siberia where Brother Radzihovski pastors.



An Open Door and Many Adversaries

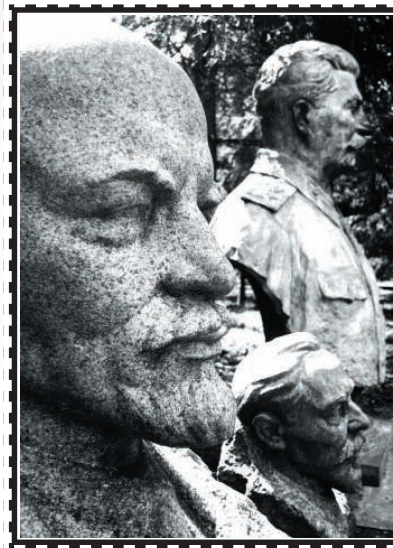
by Roger Weil

During the 1990s, after almost seventy years of political and cultural servitude, Russia finally rejected its slavery to Communism. For a few brief years under President Yeltsin, there was a degree of unprecedented religious freedom. An example of this freedom was the mission, "Christ to the Peoples of Siberia," organized during the two summers of 1991 and 1992 when steamers were hired to visit eighteen towns along the banks of the River Ob in western Siberia. One hundred and fifty missionaries spent a month on the ships preaching the Gospel to crowds of receptive Siberians who had never heard the message of God's love before. Thereafter, it was possible to hire cinemas, schools, and public halls to hold services for those who had responded to the preaching of the Gospel. Sites for new churches were then purchased, and, in due course, buildings were opened for public worship.

The Russian Orthodox Church looked on helplessly as hordes of Western missions invaded territory that it regarded as its sole possession since the days of the Apostolic Fathers of the early Church. It was unable to match the evangelistic zeal, organizational ability, and financial resources of those it regarded as heretical and sectarian. It could do little but denounce what it regarded as an ominous threat to its ancient position of privilege and authority.

Following the fall of communism in Russia, everything Western became extremely popular, especially with the younger generation. New freedom to travel opened people's eyes to a new way of life – the capitalist way. But this euphoria was short-lived. The rigid Russian bureaucracy was unable to adapt, and the economic collapse that followed led to hunger and widespread unemployment. People remembered the security they had enjoyed under communism, and a hostile reaction set in to all things Western. The Orthodox Church sought to capitalize on this by persuading the Russian government that Orthodoxy was the true guardian of Russian culture and that "foreign" religions were therefore a threat to the unity of the Russian people. In President Putin, it found a willing ally to its message of anti-Western xenophobia.

For the churches we [ie. The Slavland Mission] have been supporting since 1998, the effects of this anti-Western attitude have become more and more apparent. We had planned to open a new meeting place in the eastern suburbs of the city of Tiumen, where 150,000 people live without a single Gospel witness. At first, we rented a cinema, but when this was taken away, we rented smaller halls. Eventually, new



The fall of Communism: statues of Vladimir Ilych Lenin, Felix Dzerzhinsky, and Josef Stalin at Grutas Park in Southern Lithuania.

those who preach a non-Russian religion. We are a dangerous occult faith that distorts the truth and is intrinsically evil. Citizens should avoid us as they would the plague!

Largely due to the hostile influence of the Orthodox Church on the Russian government and the media, our plans to plant a church in this needy part of the city have come to nothing. When the church in Tobolsk applied to receive supplies of natural gas, on the same preferential terms as those applying to the nearby Orthodox Church, it was refused. The reason? "Because yours is a Western faith!" The same town council was very annoyed with the pastor for letting me speak in the Sunday service. Why? Because I was a Westerner, and all Western religious influences are bad for Russia! However, another reason for the general deterioration in the public attitude to spiritual things is described by Pastor Radzihovski of Nizhnivartovsk:

"The Bible says of sinners, 'No one seeks after God.' This is now true of our country and of our town. During the days of Perestroika under President Gorbachov, many people showed an interest in religion and in the Bible, but that has quickly changed. What we hear about people in the West has happened here in Russia. All people care about is to get as much money as possible, have a large flashy car, and indulge in carnal pleasures as much as possible. This has become their god, whom they worship and for whom they will sacrifice everything, even themselves! It worries me very much because their destiny is eternal death. For this reason, ten years ago I left my home in Ukraine to preach the Gospel in Siberia. At first the fields seemed ripe, but now, it's hard to find anyone who will listen to just ten words about Jesus and His salvation."

These negative influences have made the work of those we support doubly difficult. However, the churches in Tiumen and Tobolsk continue to experience steady growth. They have two baptismal services per year and on each occasion there are six or more candidates. There are not many churches here in Britain with a record like that!

In Dangers from Robbers...

"I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren..."
(II Corinthians 11:26)

Although not facing persecution for their faith, many of our missionaries expose themselves and their families to hardship and danger by living among those who need the Gospel most. In the following are two recent letters from HeartCry missionaries Carlos Garcia and Javier Carhuapoma. They both are planting churches and teaching in the seminary in Sullana, Peru.

our neighborhood. All the people have grown very tired and afraid of the evil and immorality of the gangs, and the lack of justice on the part of our elected officials. To protect themselves, the people have formed a neighborhood watch, but the delinquents are threatening and fighting against them. The situation is very tense, and everyone is very nervous. Even the brothers, and especially the women and children, are afraid.

The conflict is a great trial for our members because the majority of the confrontations are in front of the door of our church. This last Sunday, we could not enter the building for our scheduled Sunday school until the police arrived and disperse the gangs. Sometimes we must take shelter in the church building or in a brother's house until the fighting is over. The situation is so bad that even the three-wheeled motorcycle taxis that transport people around the town of Sullana will not take people to our church. Some that have attempted it have been robbed with a revolver or knife. My wife and I have been threatened several times,



In Harm's Way for the Gospel

by Carlos Garcias

Dear HeartCry Family,

Please receive our brotherly greeting in the Name of Christ our Savior. We are very happy because my wife is expecting our first baby. The doctor tells us that everything is OK and God has provided the necessary vitamins that she needs. Thanks to our God for this great blessing. Because of a past operation in which they removed a tumor from my wife, she has always had the fear that she would bear no children, but thanks be to God who has blessed us with a child. My wife looks forward to being a mother. I request your prayers for her health and pregnancy. Last night we had a scare when she began to feel a very strong pain in her abdomen. I give thanks to God that she had absolutely no pain when she woke up this morning.

In addition to the trials of being a first time father, our church is also passing through a time of testing because of the great number of gangs and other delinquents who live in

and she is often very frightened.

We are all waiting upon the Lord to deliver us from this conflict and restore peace to our neighborhood. I have had personal conversations with the gang members. I have also preached to them and tried to make them reflect on all that they are doing. I have even visited some of the gang members in prison and given them New Testaments and tracts. In spite of all of this, the situation continues to degenerate. We pray that the Lord, in His mercy, will touch their hearts and bring them to repentance. Meanwhile, we are preaching to the church and fortifying the hearts of the believers to continue being faithful. We greatly desire your prayers for safety and protection. We trust that the Lord will soon work for our deliverance.

We pray that the Lord will bless all of you in the greatest of ways. We always give thanks for your generosity. You are a great help and blessing for us. May the Lord multiply His blessings upon you.

His Servant,
Carlos Garcia

A Life Threatening Situation

by Javier Carhuapoma

Brother Carhuapoma was recently attacked by thieves after returning from a preaching engagement in the town of Paimas near his home in Paita, Peru. The injuries he received to the head have required surgery in the capital city of Lima. The following is one of the emails sent to us a few days after the attack.

Dear Brothers,

I have recuperated a little more since we spoke on the telephone. The attack and robbery has really affected me.

After preaching the evangelistic meeting in Sapillica, I was schedule to meet with several pastors in Paimas who have decided to study in our seminary. While I was there, they asked me to speak in their region-wide fellowship of thirty-six churches. Their main speaker was unable to make it on time, and they were desperate for a guest speaker. Because of their need, I agreed to stay in Paimas and preached. Immediately after the meeting, I began the journey home. I do not usually travel at night, but I had to preach the Lord's Supper the next day in my home church in Paita.

As I was making my way down the road, some men appeared out of nowhere. One of them pulled out a revolver and stuck it in my side, while another threw a sweater

over my head and held it fast. Then they threw me in their car and took me outside of the town. I believe that they had also placed some kind of drug in the cloth they held against my face because it was very difficult for me to think clearly. They threw me out of the car after they took from me the money that I was carrying for the missionaries here on the coast and in the jungles. I was very disorientated and afraid, but two women who witnessed the event led me to the bus stop and gave me money for the return trip home.

In all of this, I give thanks to God who saved me from yet another trouble, and who used me in the meetings to preach His Word and convert the souls of men.

Your brother,

Javier Carhuapoma

As we write this edition of HeartCry, Brother Carhuapoma is in Lima, preparing to undergo surgery for the damage done to his skull. The robbers hit him several times in the head with the handle of a pistol, which caused internal bleeding. So far, your giving to HeartCry has paid \$2100 of the \$3000 medical bill.



From the Archives

*A few of the sixteen
holes that the priest
tore in the tent.*

The following accounts of persecution and hardship are reprints from past magazines. We hope and pray that they might achieve three specific goals. First, that they might bring glory to God. Secondly, that they might encourage the reader to both pray and provide for those who have gone out preaching the Gospel for the sake of the Name. Thirdly, that they might motivate the reader to greater devotion to God and a greater willingness to count the cost and sacrifice all things for the high calling of Christ and the Great Commission.

Persecution and Revival in Tereblecea

by John Gireada

Ten years ago, we began the mission work in the village of Tereblecea. It has a population of 3,000. For years, we worked with almost no apparent progress. It was very discouraging, and there were times I would have given up if the grace of God had not sustained me. For nearly ten years I sowed the seed of the Gospel, but gathered no harvest. Now I have begun to see God's harvest. In the last year, nearly 40 people have repented of their sins and turned to Christ. At the moment, there are 37 baptized members in our church.

*The beautiful harvest
of our all sovereign God.*

For years, we held our mission services in a large green tent. We met three to four times a week to pray and preach the Word. Hardly anyone attended, and the Orthodox priest took little notice of us. When the revival began, so did the persecution from the Orthodox priest. He and many of the wicked men in the village were constantly trying to disrupt our worship services by making noise and throwing things at the tent while I was preaching. They also insulted me in public and slandered me to the people of the village.

Our greatest moment of persecution came after a village wide evangelistic activity that brought a great harvest. In order to reach our village for Christ, we decided to set up witnessing points at each of the four routes in and out of our village. Anyone who left or entered the village received a tract from us and was invited to the special evangelistic meetings we were holding. One night after the service, the Orthodox priest came to our tent with several of the drunks and immoral men of the village and tore our tent into pieces. They broke out all our windows and stole the kerosene lamps we used during the night services. Al-

*The newly constructed meeting
place in Tereblecea*





The old tent has been mended and sent back to the front lines to get glory for God.

though Satan used them to do great damage to us, God used them to display His power, salvation, and glory. While cutting a hole in our tent, the priest cut his own arm so severely that his blood ran down the tent wall and onto the snow. The most amazing thing is that the priest made 16 large holes in our tent with his knife and afterwards 16 people were soundly converted. God sovereignly converted one person for every hole that Satan made in our tent. Now we wish that the priest would come back and make more holes in our tents so that God might convert more people!

The Old Canvas

by Paul David Washer

Brother Ion Gireada's "old tent" has now been handed down to younger missionary Sandu Deac. As you can see from the photograph on the right, its wounds have been mended (though the scars remain), and it has been sent back to the front lines to

get glory for God. In the photograph below is the new mission begun by Sandu and Marta. The glowing faces of the newly born Christians are a testimony to the power of God and to His desire to use the smallest and weakest of things to do His greatest and most enduring works. There is a principle that runs throughout all the Scripture, and we would do well to understand it - the smaller and the weaker the instrument, the greater the glory that is gained by God!

By God's grace the old tent will be used again and again until finally its supports have all been broken, its walls have worn too thin, and its seams have all been torn. One day it will be thrown away - an old piece of canvas no longer worth the mending, and yet it has seen more of the glory of God than most temples, cathedrals, and mega-church auditoriums could ever contain.

There is a precious Scripture that comes to mind when I think of how God is still using this old piece of worn-out canvas. In the light of all our smallness and weakness, in the light of all our ignorance and dullness of heart, in the light of all our faithlessness and pitiful attempts at devotion, this Scripture and this old piece of canvas give us great encouragement:

"... but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God... so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

1 Corinthians 1:27-31



Another field and another harvest. Let us wear ourselves out like this old tent for the Glory of God!

Brother Ilie Glusceac is a HeartCry missionary currently working in Ukraine. The following is a testimony of his previous work in Siberia. It is an exciting testimony to the glory and power of our all sovereign God.

Ilie Glusceac

From Siberia to the Ukraine



I went to Chita, Siberia, in 1989, during the month of May, and I found a small group of sincere believers who met together on the outskirts of the city in a tiny wooden shack like the one used by only the poorest of people. In their meetings, they would read the Word and worship the Lord together. It was the only truly evangelical church in a city of more than 350,000 people.

Because of our evangelistic efforts, new people began to show interest in the Gospel, but they would not come to our services because we were located on the outside of town in a building that should have been condemned. As we searched for a new place to meet, we discovered three building that had been used by Baptists in the past, but in the 1930, they had been taken over by the communist government and given to other people. We also found a Muslim temple which belonged to the state, but was no longer used for anything. We spoke to the mayor of the city, but he said that he would not give us any of the buildings to use.

We began to pray and God worked a miracle. The government official who was responsible for overseeing all the religion activity in the area of Chita offered to us a building that was 47 by 17 yards square and was located in the very center of the city. It was built during the Russian Empire and used as a women's prison. From 1920 until 1940, it was used by KGB as a prison, and many of our brothers were detained there. After World War II, the building was given to the army and was used as a military prison for soldiers.

I was astonished when I first saw the building. It was surrounded by high fences and watchtowers. It had no roof and was inhabited by drunks, drug addicts, thieves, and other dangerous people. We were very afraid to even approach the place, but we prayed and

asked God for courage. At that time, the church had only twenty members - fifteen women, an 82-year-old brother, and four men who were able to work. We did not know what to do because we had no money, but God helped us. The entire summer of 1990 we tore down the walls from the cells and removed the garbage that had piled up over the many years. We did this type of work, because it did not require any materials or money. We worked with our bare hands, but the Lord helped us.

When the winter came, we received some money to do the work, but we could not find any construction materials. In spite of the many setbacks and discouragements, we began to build as the Lord prospered us, and by the end of 1991 we began to hold meetings in our new building. The number of our members doubled almost immediately. God added many young people to the church, and they were very happy to work. Every year, new members were added by the Lord and the work advanced. When I finally left Chita to return to Ukraine, the church had 170 members and the auditorium was almost done. Two months later they had the dedication of the church. In November 2001, I visited Chita and the church had grown to 210 members, with 310 people in a attendance.

There is an interesting thing about the man who is now pastoring the church, Mihail Medianic. In 1987, while he was serving in the army, he was thrown in jail for 24 hours as a punishment for his faith in Christ. The prison building where he was held is the same building where he now pastors the church. We praise God!

The future plan for the church is to use half the space for the worship services, 25% of the space for dormitories and a cafeteria, and the remainder of the space for the Bible school. There's still much work to be done.

"...we were located on the outside of town in a building that should have been condemned..."
"...The prison building where he was held is the same building where he now pastors the church..."



THE HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY



OUR CHURCH

The HeartCry Missionary Society is not a *para-church* organization, rather, we are a ministry under the authority and supervision of a local New Testament church and its elders. We call ourselves a society simply because the word denotes a proper association of people with similar interests, purposes, or passions. Those of our church and those who faithfully support this ministry have one abiding purpose: That God's Name be great among the nations through the redemption of men and the building up of Christ's bride.

Our church is the First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals (1915 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661). It is a Southern Baptist Church concerned with the restoration of the true Gospel and the biblical principles that ought to govern the local church. The elders serving at First Baptist Muscle Shoals are Phil Baggett, Andy Bolding, Steve Bradley, Donnie Dulaney, Jim Fowler, Alvin Lynch, Bill Newman, Jeff Noblit, Michael Statom, and David Wigginton.

OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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), and that the Lamb who was slain might receive the full reward for His sufferings (Revelation 7:9-10). We find our great purpose and motivation not in man or his needs, but in God, His commitment to His own glory, and our God-given desire to see Him worshipped in every nation, tribe, people, and language. We find our great confidence not in the Church's ability to fulfill the Great Commission, but in God's unlimited and unhindered power to accomplish all He has decreed.

WHAT WE DO

Although we recognize the great importance of sending missionaries from the West to unevangelized peoples throughout the world, we believe that we are led of the Lord to support indigenous or native missionaries so that they might evangelize their own peoples. We work with godly men and women of integrity and faith in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant churches among their own peoples. Our primary ministries are:

Church Planting: This is our primary ministry. Nothing can do more to advance the Kingdom and nothing is more difficult than planting biblical churches throughout the world. We also support works on university campuses in Eastern Europe, but always in connection with the local church.

Bible Conferences: Missions is not about sending missionaries, but about sending truth through missionaries. One of the greatest needs on the contemporary mission field is theological training and instruction in expository preaching. Our Bible conferences focus mainly upon the true Gospel, expository preaching, true conversion and assurance, and the biblical church.

Literature Distribution: One of the great needs among indigenous missionaries and pastors is solid Christian literature. Besides the basic study tools, it is our desire to provide works from such sources as the Puritans, the preachers of the Great Awakening, Spurgeon, Martyn Lloyd Jones, etc.

Ministry Tools: With prayer and discretion, we provide any number of resources necessary for the indigenous missionary to advance the work. Such things as boats, cars, pack mules, boats, generators, computers, construction, etc.



THE HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY



The HeartCry Missionary Society publishes a bimonthly magazine free of charge to all who request it. The primary purpose of our magazine is to share something of the great work that God is doing in the world through indigenous missions. In our publication, we share more than mission statistics, but provide personal testimonies and reports from the field that let the reader see something of the heart of the missionaries and the struggles they endure for the sake of the Name. We do all this with the goal of encouraging believers in the West to turn away from the vanities of this world, follow hard after Christ, and give themselves to the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the world. Remember: We are called to either go down in the well, or hold the rope for those who go down!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

You can find out all about the HeartCry Missionary Society on the worldwide web at: www.heartcrymissionary.com. Our website is designed to communicate our mission statement, history, a description of our ministry and methodology, a statement of our theology, and our essential convictions about the Gospel and Missions. It also includes news and event updates, an archive of past issues of the HeartCry Magazine, and downloads of sermons from Paul Washer and other preachers. Finally, there is also a page that enables you to communicate your thoughts to us and even donate on line. If you have enjoyed our HeartCry magazine, we are sure that you will be blessed by our website.

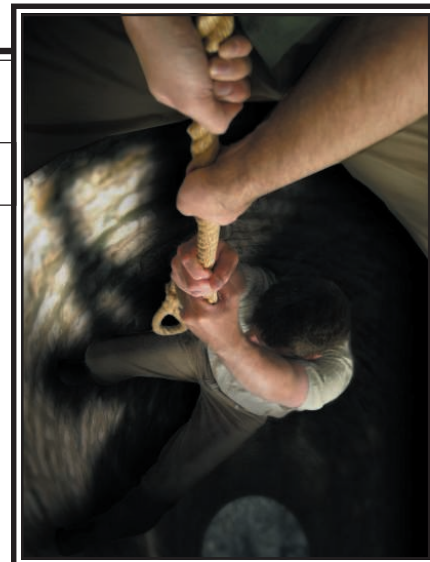


COME OVER... AND HELP US

The harvest is truly plentiful and the laborers are few. At this moment, there are countless works throughout the world that could be expanded if only Christians would turn from the vanities of this world and give themselves to the will of God in making the Gospel known to every man, woman, and child under heaven. The Great Commission can be divided into two distinct, but interrelated ministries. You are either called to go down into the well (i.e. go as a missionary) or hold the rope for those who go down (i.e. support missionaries). Either way, there will be scars on your hands. Those who do not go are called to support those who do with the same dedication and sacrifice. Where are your scars? What has it cost you to fulfill the Great Commission?

ACTS 16:9

As a Christian, you have been called to participate fully and sacrificially in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) in either going to the unreached or supporting those who go. However, it may not be God's will for you to do so through this ministry. Please seek the Lord in prayer and in the study of the Scriptures before sending financial support. Please do not send financial support to this ministry if you are not being faithful in giving to your local church.





THE HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY

How to Give

There are many needs on the mission field and many ways to give to the HeartCry Missionary Society. If you are first faithful in giving to your own local congregation, and if the Lord is leading you to join with us, we would ask you to prayerfully consider giving your gift to one of the following possibilities:

* General Fund:

This is the backbone of HeartCry. It provides for the support of the indigenous missionaries, the U.S. staff, and the general operational expenses of our mission.

* Pastoral Library Fund:

This fund is used to provide basic theological libraries to indigenous missionaries. The libraries usually include a Study Bible, concordance, Bible dictionary, Systematic Theology, and one volume commentary.

* Special Needs:

For many years, supporters of this ministry have asked us to make known to them any special needs that might arise on the mission field. In order to avoid any possibility of prodding or manipulating our fellow believers, we have been very reluctant in the past to share these needs even when asked. Through much pray, and the wise counsel of our board and longtime supporters, we have decided to share, with great discretion, certain valid needs that are communicated to us from the mission field. In the near future, these needs will be presented on our web page www.heartcrymissionary.com under the menu title: "Opportunities for Giving"

WHERE TO GIVE

All checks should be made payable to the HeartCry Missionary Society and sent to The HeartCry Missionary Society, 1915 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661. Giving is also possible on our website: www.heartcrymissionary.com.

All donations are tax deductible.

CONTACT US

We would count it a privilege to hear from you and answer any questions you might have regarding our ministry. Please do not hesitate to contact us by any of the following means:

ADDRESS:

HeartCry Missionary Society
1915 East Avalon Avenue
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

TELEPHONE: (256) 381-7510

WEBSITE: www.heartcrymissionary.com

EMAIL: info@heartcrymissionary.com

GO

HeartCry

1915 East Avalon Avenue
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 190
Muscle Shoals, AL