

HeartCry

MAGAZINE

MISSIONS

A Theological Endeavor

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AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST,
RUSSIA, SOUTH AMERICA

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A Special Welcome:

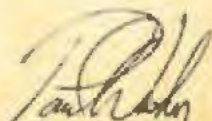
OUR NEW COORDINATOR FOR ASIA -
AARON PIKKARAINEN & HIS WIFE CHRISTINA

HeartCry

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Welcome to the Fall Edition of the HeartCry magazine. It is our prayer that you are growing in the grace of Christ, laboring in His Name, and looking forward to His return. This edition is so full of news that our greeting and introduction had to be shortened to make space. In these times of turmoil and crisis, the Lord continues to advance His kingdom and build His church. May the Lord bless you as you read; may you grow in your confidence in His strength; and may you be motivated to love and serve with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Please be certain to read the short paragraph below. It is entitled *The Wonders of the Gospel* by W. Poole Balfern (1858). It has been a great encouragement to me!

Your brother,
Paul David Washer



"Oh, the wonders [the gospel] will accomplish! It wipes guilt from the conscience, rolls the world out of the heart, and darkness from the mind... It will put honey into the bitterest cup, and health into the most diseased soul. It will give hope to the heart, health to the face, oil to the head, light to the eye, strength to the hand, and swiftness to the foot. It will make life pleasant, labour sweet, and death triumphant. It gives faith to the fearful, courage to the timid, and strength to the weak. It robs the grave of its terrors and death of its sting. It subdues sin, severs from self, makes faith strong, love active, hope lively, and zeal invincible. It gives sonship for slavery, robes for rags, makes the Cross light and reproach pleasant; it will transform a dungeon into a palace, and make the fires of martyrdom as refreshing as the cool breeze of summer. It snaps legal bonds, loosens the soul, clarifies the mind, purifies the affections, and often lifts the saint to the very gates of Heaven. No man can deserve it; money cannot buy it, or good deeds procure it; grace reigns here!"

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MISSIONS

A THEOLOGICAL ENDEAVOR

by Paul Washer

In this edition of the HeartCry magazine, we will reflect upon two important truths regarding the Great Commission. First, we will consider the primacy of the gospel in all missionary endeavors. To “do” missions correctly, we must recognize the great importance of the gospel, seek to comprehend its contents, and train ourselves to clearly proclaim it to others. Secondly, we will consider the theological or doctrinal nature of missions. The Great Commission is primarily a theological or doctrinal endeavor. It is not about sending missionaries, but about sending God’s truth through human instruments. For this reason, the missionaries we send must be

To “do” missions correctly, we must recognize the great importance of the gospel, seek to comprehend its contents, and train ourselves to clearly proclaim it to others.

diligent to present themselves approved to God as workmen who do not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15).

truth
#1.

THE PRIMACY OF THE GOSPEL

The Great Commission is about communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ to others and building up those who believe through continued instruction in the gospel. The apostle Paul declared that the gospel is not only the power of God for the salvation of the lost,¹ but it is also the great mystery which leads to true godliness in the life of the saint.² There is no Great Commission apart from the gospel; in fact, there is no Christianity! In light of this, we must ask ourselves the question, “Do we really understand the Gospel?”

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest of all treasures given to the church and the individual Christian. It is not “a” message among many, but “the” message above them all. It is the power of God for salvation and the greatest revelation of the manifold wisdom of God to men and angels.³ It is for this reason that the apostle Paul gave the gospel the “first place” in his preaching, endeavored with all his

might to proclaim it clearly, and even went so far as to pronounce a curse upon all those who would pervert its truth.⁴

Each generation of Christians is a steward of the gospel message and is called upon to guard through the Holy Spirit this treasure that has been entrusted to it.⁵ If we are to be faithful stewards, we must be absorbed in the study of the gospel, take great pains to understand its truths,⁶ and pledge ourselves to guard its contents. In doing so, we will ensure salvation both for ourselves and for those who hear us.⁷

As is commonly known, the word “gospel” comes from the Greek word *euangélion*, which is properly translated “good news.” In one sense, the gospel is found on every page of Scripture; but in another sense, the gospel refers to a very specific message – the salvation accomplished for a fallen people through the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

truth #1 continued

In accordance with the Father's good pleasure,⁸ the eternal Son, who is equal with the Father and the exact representation of His nature,⁹ 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.¹⁰ As a man, He walked on this earth in perfect obedience to the Law of God.¹¹ 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.¹² On the third day, He was raised from the dead. This resurrection is the divine declaration that the Father has accepted His Son's death as a sacrifice for sin: the penalty for man's disobedience has been paid, the demands of justice satisfied, and the wrath of God appeased.¹³ Forty days after the resurrection, the Son of God ascended into the heavens; sat down at the right hand of the Father; and was given glory, honor, and dominion over all.¹⁴ There in the presence of God, He represents His people and makes requests to God on their behalf.¹⁵ All who acknowledge their sinful, helpless estate and throw themselves upon Christ will be fully pardoned, declared righteous, and reconciled to God.¹⁶ This is the gospel of God and of Jesus Christ His Son.

One of the greatest crimes of this generation of Christians is its neglect of the gospel, and it is from this neglect that all our other maladies spring forth. The lost world is not so much "gospel hardened" as it is "gospel ignorant," because many of those who proclaim the gospel are also ignorant of its most basic truths. Absent from too many pulpits at home and on the mission field are the essential themes which make up the very core of the gospel: the justice of God, the radical depravity of man, the blood atonement, the nature of true conversion, and the biblical basis of assurance. In many cases, the gospel message has been reduced to a few creedal statements,

conversion has become a mere human decision, and assurance of salvation is pronounced over anyone who prays the sinner's prayer. This is a great crime.

Missionaries are primarily "gospel bearers." Therefore, they must make it their great priority to know the gospel and to know how to proclaim it correctly to others. Missionaries carry with them the gospel seed that will grow into the root that will spread out as branches bearing fruit among the

**The lost world is not so much
"gospel hardened" as it is
"gospel ignorant..."**

people to whom they have been sent. It is frightening to think that the seed we carry may not be pure, resulting in the fruit of death rather than the fruit of life!

A missionary's stewardship of the gospel is of utmost importance. Therefore, before we launch out in zeal, we must be sure that we are grounded in the truth! Do we really know the gospel, or have we simply learned some method of evangelism? Many today see the gospel as Christianity 101 that can be learned in a few hours or days. Such a view betrays an ignorance of the gospel. It is the greatest and deepest revelation of God to man! After a lifetime of study, the greatest mind will not even have reached the foothills of this great Everest of the Christian faith! In fact, after a thousand eternities there will still remain much to be learned about the gospel!

At the risk of sounding too severe, the following must be stated: A person unschooled in the gospel of Jesus Christ has no business on the mission field. The missionary with a superficial view of the gospel is the great bane¹⁷ of the Great Commission.

The didactic nature of the Great Commission and the extreme importance of a right understanding of the gospel's contents naturally leads us to the following theme: Missions is a theological or doctrinal endeavor. As we have already stated, the Great Commission is not about sending missionaries, but about sending God's truth through missionaries. Jesus commanded the church to make disciples by going, baptizing, and teaching! Therefore, all the sending and all the missionary activity in the world is of little value unless the ultimate result is the promulgation of biblical truth, resulting in the transformation of lives in accordance with the revealed will of God.

In past ages of the church, theology was considered the queen of all sciences, the highest and most worthy occupation for the human mind. However, in recent years, theology and anything that has to do with doctrine has fallen upon hard times. Doctrine is not just ignored, but often disdained, and not only by liberals, but also by those who claim to be Bible-believing conservatives. Furthermore, doctrine is no longer seen as the foundation of unity, but as the great divider of the church and the poison that puts sincere believers at odds with one another. Finally, biblical doctrine is even frowned upon by some missionaries, who see it as dangerous unless it is first carefully strained through the filter of cultural sensitivity.

How did it come to this? The answer is rudimentary and ancient. The serpent of old—who asked our first parent, “Has God said?”—is at it again.¹⁸ He has fashioned our culture into one that not only rebels against the truth, but even denies that the truth can be known. However, his deception has not stopped at the borders of secular culture. The plague has passed over into the land of Christendom and contaminated our fields also. For too long the church has grazed on the deadly weeds of relativism, which denies the possibility of absolute truth, and hu-

manism, which makes man's opinion and culture to be the standard of all things. Throw into the mix an absolutely absurd view of tolerance, and you have a situation in which belief in the truth and the proclamation of it is scorned as imbecilic at best and immoral at worst.

All that we have mentioned above has eroded the mind and heart of Christianity and its missionary endeavors. We have been wrongly influenced by the erratic thinking of our times and have dug the foundation out from beneath our own feet. By denying the importance of doctrine, our missionary activity has become something of a contradiction, even an absurdity. In the following paragraphs, are mentioned a few of the most glaring examples:

FIRST, it has become popular opinion that doctrine or theology divides believers and destroys heartfelt passion. However, those who hold to such opinions fail to realize that “doctrine” is just another word for teaching, and “theology” literally refers to a study of God. Should we banish these disciplines because not all agree? Furthermore, we should realize that all men are theologians (*i.e.*, all have some opinion about God). It is just that some are more diligent than others to study the Scripture and to abandon their own opinions in favor of God's truth. Finally, is it really possible that a greater understanding of the person, work, and will of God is destructive to the soul and the enemy of heart-felt passion? Theology and doctrine are not the problem. The problem resides with the bad theologian and his bad theology!

SECONDLY, it has become popular opinion that Christians should lay aside their doctrine and unite around their common faith in Christ. However, the harsh reality is that there are many different versions of Christ being proclaimed on the earth today by those who claim to be His followers. How can we distinguish the true Christ from the multitude of false christs except through a careful study of the Scrip-

truth #2 continued

tures and a faithful application of its doctrine? Are we to preach a Christ to the nations that is so general or vague that we fill the world and the church with countless contradictory opinions regarding His person and work? Unity cannot logically be founded upon our common confession of an undefined Christ and contradictory opinions regarding the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

THIRDLY, it has become popular opinion that Christians should lay aside their theology and unite around the common cause of the Great Commission. However, the Great Commission is primarily a theological endeavor. To lay aside theology in order to advance a theological endeavor is logical suicide and destructive to both. It is absurd to think that the Great Commission can be the thread that binds together individuals who differ in major tenets of doctrine. Unity must be based upon a common view of who Christ is and what He taught.

FOURTHLY, it has become popular opinion that Christians should only concern themselves with agreement regarding major doctrines and not sweat the small stuff. There is some truth to the famous quotation: "In essentials, unity; in doubtful matters, liberty; in all things, charity."¹⁹ However, there are also some inherent dangers. One of the most serious problems has to do with the current trend in Christianity which increasingly depreciates the importance of absolutes. As this trend continues, Christians relegate more and more doctrines to the "small" category. Doctrines that were previously held to be absolute essentials are no longer considered worth arguing about. Another problem has to do with the practical realities of real life ministry. Being unconcerned about everything except the absolute essentials works fine if you are meditating in an ivory tower or philosophizing with your

friends in the seminary student center. However, when you begin to plant a church, or when you begin to disciple real people with real questions, those small matters of doctrine become extremely important and demand definition.

"By denying the importance of doctrine, our missionary activity has become something of a contradiction, even an absurdity."

LASTLY, it has become common practice for mission organizations to reduce their doctrinal statements to the *lowest common denominator* in order to include as many missionary candidates and supporters as possible. In most cases, this is done with proper motives (e.g., to more quickly advance the Great Commission). However, it is a blatant surrender to pragmatism, and it is ultimately self-defeating. This truth is best explained by Walter Chantry in his book "Today's Gospel: Authentic or Synthetic":

"Those who believe in God's Word have been grasping at the same superficial solutions that liberalism has adopted. Relevance, respectability (whether intellectual or social), and especially unity have become the aims of God's people with the hope that these will revitalize a weakened church. 'If only all Bible-believing people join together, the world will sit up and listen,' thinks the church. 'Let's merge our mission boards to pool our funds and our personnel. Let's join giant evangelistic projects. If every evangelical joins in a common organization, we can have greater depth of evangelism.' Thus organizational unity becomes the aim of gospel

churches. Having accepted the theory that unity is all-important for world evangelism, both the church and the individual must lower their estimate of the value of truth. In a large congress on evangelism, we could not insist on a truth of God's Word that would offend any brother evangelical. Thus we must find the lowest common denominator to which all born-again Christians hold. The rest of the Bible will be labeled 'unessential' for missions. After all, unity (among Christians) is more essential than doctrinal preciseness. It is just for this reason that mission societies have been unwilling carefully to examine the root problem in preaching. Mission boards are hesitant to answer the question, 'What is the gospel?' Thoroughly to answer that would condemn what many of their own missionaries preach. It would destroy the mission society, which is a federation of churches who have differing answers to that question. To adopt the position of one church would be to lose the support of five others. The whole system built on unity and generality would crumble. The local church may not get too specific about truth either. It may affect its harmony with the denomination or association. To define the gospel carefully will bring conflict with the organizations working with teenagers. It will prompt irritating problems with mission boards and embarrassing disagreement with missionaries supported for years. It may condemn the whole Sunday School program. Giving too much attention to the content of the gospel will mean friction with other evangelicals. And unity is the key to success."²⁰

To conclude, we must reiterate that the purpose of Christian missions is the promulgation of a biblical truth. Any attempt to fulfill the Great Commission by depreciating the importance of doctrine is a theological and philosophical contradiction; an absurdity of the worst sort. We must reject the lie that doctrine, except in the most

fundamental matters of the Christian faith, is not essential. Doctrine is not the antagonist of the Christian faith, but rather its foundation. Although there are those who do great damage by splitting hairs without love over truly minor issues, a great deal more damage has been done by those who depreciate the importance of doctrine and do not follow the apostle Paul's admonition to young Timothy:

"Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."²¹

¹ Romans 1:16

² I Timothy 3:16

³ Romans 1:16; Ephesians 3:10

⁴ I Corinthians 15:3; Colossians 4:4; Galatians 1:8-9

⁵ II Timothy 1:14

⁶ I Timothy 4:15

⁷ I Timothy 4:16

⁸ Acts 2:23

⁹ Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 1:3

¹⁰ Philippians 2:7; Luke 1:35

¹¹ Hebrews 4:15

¹² I Peter 2:24; I Peter 3:18; Isaiah 53:10

¹³ Luke 24:6; Romans 1:4; Romans 4:25

¹⁴ Hebrews 1:3; Matthew 28:18; Daniel 7:13-14

¹⁵ Luke 24:51; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 7:25

¹⁶ Mark 1:15; Romans 10:9; Philippians 3:3

¹⁷ The term "bane" comes from the Old English word *bana* which referred to a thing which caused death or a poison. It refers to any cause of great distress or annoyance.

¹⁸ Genesis 3:1

¹⁹ Although commonly attributed to Augustine, there is much debate as to the actual author of this famous quote. It is interesting that this quote is cited by "a dizzying variety of incompatible Christian traditions" (Web article posted by Steve Perisho, <http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/jod/augustine/quote.html>).

²⁰ "Today's Gospel, Authentic or Synthetic?" By Walter Chantry and first published in 1979.

²¹ I Timothy 4:16

A VIEW FROM THE FIELD



Africa

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

BY MARC GLASS

As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, Kabwata Baptist Church has established a new residence for their extensive internship program. They will now be able to bring men to Zambia from various countries throughout Africa and house them while they are trained through Kabwata's preacher's college. At the first of this year, HeartCry assisted KBC in securing their first house for this residence program. Over the last month, we have also assisted them in purchasing a second house which is needed for the growing ministry. Together, these two houses will be able to hold at least six interns and their families.

Work among the Lozi in the Western Province of Zambia continues moving ahead. Brother Conrad Mbewe recently emailed us this picture of the vehicle HeartCry had purchased for the Reeces' initial work among the Lozi. Along with the picture, he attached the following words: "I have just received this from Charles Bota, one of our elders. He is presently in Mongu, Western Province, and has sent this photo showing Binwell Chibesa and his wife standing next to the HeartCry-donated vehicle. We hope you do not mind us keeping the name on the car. It has a special meaning to the brethren in the Western Province. You can tell from all the sand that this is the Western Province of Zambia!" It is encouraging to know from our end that this vehicle is still serving its original, sanctified purpose: carrying the gospel to the Lozi! Please pray for Pastor Binwell and KBC as



they continue to advance the cause of Christ in the Western Province.

To bring this update to a close, I will share with you the contents of an email from Malawi missionary Frank Maxson regarding the late HeartCry missionary Percy Chisenga and the work he left behind. It is a testimony to the Lord's past and continued goodness to His church in Malawi.

THE LEGACY OF PERCY CHISENGA *by Frank Maxson*

In light of the departure of our dear brother Percy Chisenga, I desire to share a few words in retrospect. I thank God for the way He opened the door for me to know and labor together in Malawi with our dear departed brother. I first met Percy at a pastors conference in Zambia in 1999. Little did we know at that time what the future would hold for us together. All I can say from that brief, casual meeting is that I took a liking to Percy from the very beginning. I was impressed with this quiet, sober-minded, and theologically minded brother.

After moving a home Bible study out of our sitting room in Zomba, Malawi to a school classroom at CHESA Private Primary School, I began to see a need for help from like-minded brethren. Therefore, I travelled to Chipata, where I met with the elders and deacons of Chipata Calvary Baptist Church. They understood the call and sent Percy along with Brother Mutimushi to minister to us and to scout out the land. In short, Percy heard the call of the Lord, and he “sold the farm” in Chipata (quite literally) and moved his family and belongings to Zomba.

From the outset of his ministry in Zomba, Percy labored to preach in the language of Nyanja. He brought to us a well-exercised gift of expository preaching with a strong emphasis on preaching Christ. He had a pastor’s heart, a theological mind, and a love for lost souls. Percy and I met every Wednesday for our weekly “elders’ meeting.” Our prayer times were a blessing to my spiritual life. Here was a man who believed in prayer, who loved prayer, and who kept his eye on Christ as he prayed. My life was enriched by our times together.

Percy was diligent in visiting the flock, following up on visitors, and reaching out to the community of unsaved people around us. He was faithful in preaching the Word systematically and expositively. He always had an eye for the young men who showed any promise in leadership, and he organized a group of them for lessons on leadership and preaching. He saw the need for men to catch a higher vision.

There are racehorses, and there are plodders in the equestrian world. Percy would have been classified as a plodder. He did nothing in a hurry. Nearly everything he did was slow and deliberate. He read slowly. He talked slowly. He preached slowly. He



↑ | Pastor Percy Chisenga

walked slowly. But lack of speed was no hindrance to progress. Percy diligently kept at any task at hand until it was completed.

In His Providence, God took Percy home at a time when we would have thought the work was not quite ready for autonomy. But the church in Zomba had a solid doctrinal foundation laid in the preaching, teaching, and counseling ministry of Percy Chisenga. Upon his departure to heaven, the church chose to ordain two elders and three deacons, and they are now autonomous.

I wish to thank Kabwata Baptist for standing in the gap and for taking up the support of Percy and the oversight of the fledgling work in Zomba during her growth in infancy. Grace Baptist Church in Zomba owes a debt of gratitude to you for your sacrifices and prayers. May God bless you and increase your labors for His glory. I also thank the men of HeartCry who had the vision for supporting an indigenous missionary in Africa. God bless your labors.

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT MONAMETSI MONCHO

Monametsi is one of our newest partners. He is the pastor of Central Baptist Church in Gaborone, Botswana. CBC began as a mission under the supervision of Kabwata Baptist in Lusaka, Zambia.

INTRODUCTORY LETTER

On July 1, Conrad Mbewe of Kabwata Baptist wrote the following words regarding Monametsi:

"This is to inform you that today at 16:00 hours we will be completing the process of officially setting apart our brother Monametsi Moncho Bahudi, the only remaining leader over the work in Gaborone, Botswana, as a missionary pastor. He was with us in January for 3 weeks, during which time he integrated very well with the church family here. He preached wonderfully on his last Sunday. So when the church voted 97.6% to call him, we were not surprised. This will be a very important milestone for the development of church planting in Botswana. God has been very good in providing us with this man to carry the work forward.

"For a year or so, he will still be in his secular employment while he works his way out of the job. However, by the end of today, he will be a fully ordained man who must seek by the help of God – and us, his brethren – to establish our three churches in Botswana's ground that is particularly hard. Remember us all in your prayers."

TESTIMONY OF CONVERSION

I came to faith in Jesus Christ during the month of July 1992. I was pursued by a gentleman who really did not give me a chance in that he was always inviting me to Christian meetings. I really just went with him because he was insisting. During the meeting, the sermon was about Naaman and his issue of leprosy. I became convicted that my own sin could only be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ, and I believed on HIM as my personal Saviour. Afterwards, I spent some

time not affiliating with any church as there was a strong debate on which church was the correct church. Finally, I joined a Baptist church in 1994, was baptized, and began to experience true growth.

In 1995, there were Baptist missionaries in the church who isolated about five of us young men and began to teach us sound doctrine. In time, I became a leader for the youth and also began to preach when our pastor was gone. I became competent at preaching through that time, even though I cringe when I listen to the things I taught in the past. Con-



tent and scope have since improved.

In 2003, I worked in Francistown and was in the preaching roster of my church. When I moved back to Gaborone, I became an associate pastor and was exposed to close scrutiny. At that time, the church wanted to register with the government, so we had to fill out some

forms which required us to put down our beliefs. This opened a can of diverse expressions of what we truly believed as members. A lot of things happened, and it was clear that I was incompatible with the church, especially over matters of church government and the authority of the Bible, which were held in complete disregard. Fellowship became increasingly difficult. The church finally decided that I was a heretic and was preaching the doctrines of the devil. For this reason, I joined Central Baptist Church in July 2004.

TESTIMONY OF CALLING

The Bible teaches that when a man desires the office of eldership, he desires a good thing. I sometimes felt that I was called to this office, but I would try to suppress it. In 2005, our church was hoping to find an experienced pastor, and I looked forward to being under an elder who would guide me through the questions about my calling. My desire to serve as an elder was getting stronger and clearer, but I avoided mentioning it to my fellow brothers

for fear of appearing presumptuous. One day, I had a long chat about the matter with a visiting preacher, and it became clear that I was the servant that God wanted to use to lead Central Baptist Church. Since that time, the church has been affirming my preaching and leadership, and I feel more confident that God has called me. I am now planning my exit from full time government service, so that I can devote more time to the church.

FAMILY

I am married to Tshoganetso Moncho, and we have four daughters. My late sister's son also lives with us. Our first daughter, Omphile, is 16 years old and is very reserved and quiet. Eunice, our second, is 12 years old and is not quiet at all. Abigail, our third, was 6 in December. Finally, we have Rene, who was 2 years old in October. Ignicious, my sister's son, is 19 years old. He is very respectful, but does not like church. We notice that he dislikes family worship and many things to do with our religion. We continue to pray for him and guide him.



COORDINATOR'S REPORT

by Matt Glass

Matt and Amanda Glass and their three boys are ministering in the country of Indonesia. Currently, they are working with our indigenous missionaries, building relationships with the lost, and learning the language. Please pray for them as they seek to glorify God.

I'm happy to be writing you all again to update you on God's work in Asia. Since I began to work with HeartCry almost six years ago, the Lord has shown me over and over again that in ministry, there will always be difficulty to overcome and problems to address. Sometimes the difficulty is due to our own sin and weaknesses, and sometimes it is due to those of others. In the midst of these circumstances, especially when they involve those who profess Christ, it can be hard to see God's people as He sees them. But we must keep in mind the glorious picture we are given of Christ's bride in Revelation 21 and realize that consecrated men and women are a means through which Christ's Spirit works to help paint this picture. Samuel Hugh Moffatt once wrote, "In the history of the church, defeat is never final, and triumph is never quite complete..." Even in the darkest times and unlikeliest places, God can raise something out of the ashes to glorify Himself. But these "victories" and "successes" are just a small part of that great battle that will continue until the coming of our Lord.

This past month, my family celebrated one year living in Southeast Asia. To be honest, we've had some good times and some difficult times, but through everything – good or bad – I always sense the blessing and favor of our God. I feel like I understand Charles Wesley's desire when he wrote, "O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." In fact, I wish I could speak a thousand different languages in or-

der to say this one phrase to everyone: "God is faithful." He has been faithful to us as we moved here; He has been faithful to us as we have lived here; He has been faithful to us as we have tried to learn the language and culture; He has been faithful to us as we've had another child and dealt with sleepless nights; and He has been faithful as we're now struggling through the birth pangs of ministry in the most populous Muslim country in the world.

The Indonesian church-planting team is doing well. They continue to minister to one of the largest unreached people groups in Asia, and the Lord seems to be blessing their work. It seems that whenever God begins to work, the enemy also begins to work, and as a result, opposition has been stirred up against our brothers and sisters. Several weeks ago, an Islamist group came to one of the villages and stayed for days, going from house to house asking the villagers about their own faithfulness to Islam and where the Christians lived. When they found out where they lived, they visited them and tried to angrily convince them to return to Islam. It was encouraging to hear how the believers used this opportunity to speak of their identity in Christ. Please pray that God would continue the work He began in these believers' lives; pray that He would build His church and mature His people.

This fall and winter will be busy months. In September, I will be trav-

eling to India and Nepal, along with a pastor from the States and a few others. Our plan is to host three different conferences in three different locations. In January, I plan to meet up with HeartCry missionary Yulianus Aburude in Papua, Indonesia. Lord willing, we will travel up and down the Mamberamo River in order to preach in his native Fuau villages. Through Yuli's ministry, many people

in these villages have come to see their need of the new birth. However, most are still desperately lost, claiming to be Christian while holding on to animistic beliefs and behaviors. Please pray and ask God's blessing upon our visit. Ask that He would mature His church, better equip its leaders, and save those who are lost.

FROM THE FIELD

In the following pages, you will find two reports from HeartCry missionaries Raj K. in northern India and Luis Ramirez in Japan.

RAJ K. - Northern India

Brother Raj works alongside seven other HeartCry missionaries in northern India. He also oversees all our missionary efforts in Nepal.

Greetings to you in the Name of our Savior and Lord Jesus! We are doing well here, and we hope the same for you. I would like to share the following with you:

A church worship service was disturbed, and believers were beaten in the hills about 240 km (149 miles) away from us. The church has about 18 families who have put their trust in Christ for salvation in the last four years. The believers have been mistreated because they do not participate in the worship of a local deity. The leaders have asked us to pray for them. They have been blamed for converting others to the Christian faith. The matter became a legal issue (police and court) after the beaten believers were cared for in the government

hospital. Other than local believers, no one is permitted in the village.

We continue to meet with the local like-minded brothers during the first week of each month. When we meet, we have singing, prayers for the families, teaching, and sharing about God's faithfulness. Under the leadership of Seema Raj, the women's fellowships continue to meet every month. They study the Word of God and pray for the mission work associated with us, and for the church worldwide. The fellowships take place in different villages each time according to requests. They are also reaching out to unbelievers through sewing.

All the children who come to our church on Sunday and other days are

Brother Raj teaching pastors and laborers in Nepal.





of unbelieving parents. They learn to read and write in our HELP Tuition Center (please visit www.helpht.blogspot.in). Most of them are from poor and illiterate families. Please ask God to use these little ones to make a bridge to more villages.

In June, I went to Nepal to visit HeartCry's partners in this Himalayan country, and it is my pleasure to write some points about the work.

I went there with my wife and both children. Since it was hot in the plains, we continued on our journey through Nepal until we reached Pokhara. It is a beautiful and cool city surrounded by mountains and many green trees. We could even see some high mountains covered with snow. After visiting the city, we moved to a nearby region in the Palpa district and spent three days and nights in fellowship with the believers.

While there, I took a ride by motorcycle and went to a village about 13 kilometers away from where we were staying in Tahoan. Brother Sarvajeet was brave enough to drive the motorcycle on the muddy road. The most difficult part was when it rained on the way. It made our journey even more difficult. We almost wrecked at more than five places, and I had to get down in three places so that we could make it safely to the village. Despite the hardship, it was good to visit three different women and their families.

They are new believers and growing slowly in the knowledge of our Lord. In the same village, we saw two other women during the Saturday fellowship who had walked on foot for three hours to listen to God's Word.

Brother Gopal G. is known in the whole area. All the children (of believers and unbelievers) love Mr. Gopal and greet him with the Christian greeting, *Jai Masih Baje*, which is translated in English, "Hail to Christ." The word *Baje* means "grandfather." Due to the nature of his work, Mr. Gopal is a famous man now in the villages. They all know that he follows Christ and spreads the Christian faith.

All our friends who work together gathered in one place, and I taught them from God's Word about how a leader should be and act from I Timothy. After the Bible studies, we prayed together and then shared about our work – how God is using us, our needs, etc. Mr. Dal Bahadur works among the Bhojpuri-speaking people. He recently lost his wife. He became very emotional while sharing about his life and work. He has sons who are seventeen and twelve years old and a daughter who is six years old. He said that the most difficult part of his life right now is when he has to answer his little daughter who asks at night, "Where's my mother?" Please remember Mr. Dal in your prayers.

Finally, I would say that the Nepalese people are coming to the Lord, and the church numbers are on the rise. But they are lacking in training and organization. The leadership needs to be a lot more mature in the



↑ Brother Gopal G. in the mountains of Nepal.

faith with solid biblical teachings. They need to go beyond singing beautiful songs and sharing experienc-

es. Sound doctrine must be taught and heard! We appreciate your love, prayers, and ongoing support.

LUIS RAMIREZ - Japan

Brother Luis and his wife Nicola work as HeartCry missionaries to Japan. Although they began working primarily with Hispanics, God is now using them to minister to the Japanese who are also coming to Christ.



Aya is a lady who started attending New Life three years ago. She introduced herself as a Christian, but she had never attended church before coming to us, did not want to be baptized, and practiced idolatry. Her main problem was that a pastor had told her that she was a Christian because she prayed a prayer. When she heard the gospel in our Bible studies, she could not hide her anger or her rejection of the real gospel. She even tried to discourage other non-Christians from attending our outreach. However, God is a God of miracles. After one of our members remained faithful to Christ in the midst of terrible persecution, Aya started asking questions. She began attending our Sunday services, joined our believers' Bible studies, and expressed to us her new faith in Christ. However, she still did not want to be baptized publicly because of her fear of her husband and family.

Aya spent the last year attending our church, but she struggled with her desire to confess Christ as her Savior and her fear of her family's rejection. Finally, during a Friday night Bible study at our home, God changed her heart, and she decided to confess Christ in public baptism no matter what the cost. Last month, Aya was baptized. During her baptism, she shared her testimony with

her family and many non-Christian Japanese. She is now the third Japanese member of our church, together with our persecuted sister K____ and our dear elderly sister Miyoko, who is currently facing an aggressive form of cancer, but persevering by the mercy of God. Please pray for Aya's husband, parents, and sons. God has blessed her with a family that is not opposing her faith.

I have included in this report a photograph of the baptism of our dear sister Miyoko. She is very faithful, but only attends church on Sundays because of her age and the distance she lives from our church. For these past four months, my family and a group from our church have been traveling five hours each week to do a Bible study in her home.

Please pray for a Peruvian named Max. Three years ago, I invited him to our fellowship. He listened to the gospel several times, but always rejected it. Last month, we saw on Japanese TV that he had murdered a Russian lady and was in jail. Max asked his lawyer to contact me because he needed to talk. Please pray that I will clearly speak the gospel, and that God will bring Max to repentance and faith.

Finally, pray for Japan. For hundreds of years, this country has rejected God, but He has not removed His mercy. All glory to God!



Europe

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

BY DON CURRIN

Brother Don Currin is the HeartCry Coordinator for Europe. His ministry and that of his wife Cindy have been an invaluable asset to our home office and to the men on the field in Europe.

While in Europe recently, my wife Cindy and I were encouraged as we witnessed the hunger of so many young men and women to know Christ and to make Him known. Their love for the Savior and His redemptive work was very evident as they shared gospel seed with regularity. Believing that he that "sows bountifully, shall reap bountifully," many remain faithful in their commitment to live and proclaim the gospel.

Providence Church in Brasov, Romania has taken to the streets to preach the good news. Many of our Romanian HeartCry missionaries joined the Providence faith family in a recent open-air evangelistic endeavor in Brasov. During this outreach, our brothers shared the gospel through literature distribution, one-on-one conversations, and open-air preaching.

The Providence faith family is continuing to grow under the servant leadership of our dear brother, Sorin Prodan. His expositional teaching through the book of Acts has served to motivate the church body to pursue the lost. As a result, the Lord has prospered their evangelistic efforts. While in Brasov, we were privileged to witness the church's first baptismal

service, in which two young women were baptized.

As reported previously, our missionaries receive tremendous encouragement through having their fellow HeartCry missionaries join them for designated evangelistic events in their field of ministry. Once a month, our brothers from across Romania gather together for an average of two to three days to canvas a certain area with the gospel. The personal motivation, mutual edification, and accountability received from one another during these times have proven invaluable in exposing a greater number of unsaved people to the gospel.

Another significant factor in their effectiveness has been the discipline of fasting. Some of our brothers fast often to see the gospel come in power. They believe that privation of food and other temporal delights will solicit more of the power and presence of Christ in their outreach. As a result, they have witnessed the gospel moving with amazing clarity and swiftness.

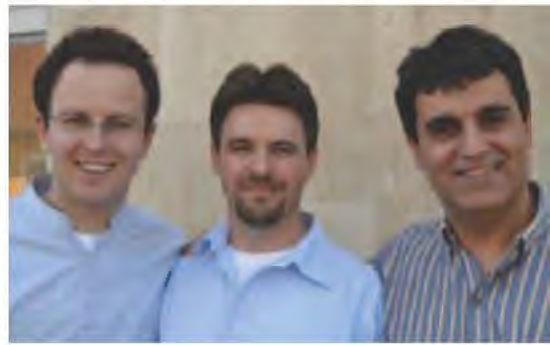
Please continue to remember our missionaries in Eastern Europe in prayer, that they might partake in more of the harvest. While each one believes that God gives the increase, they long to see a greater ingathering

↓ Providence Church's first baptismal service.



Adi, Sorin, and Ion
Providence Church, Brasov →

of sinners into the kingdom of God. Also, pray for them that they might scale greater heights of gospel truth in their study and meditation, and that they might know increasingly the love of Christ that passes knowledge.



OPEN DOORS AND OPPOSITION BY SORIN PRODAN

Brother Sorin Prodan is the HeartCry Director for Eastern Europe - Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine. His ministry on the field has been a great catalyst for the evangelism and growth of the churches there. We consider it a joy and a privilege to support him and his dear wife Trish.

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ...

The Word of God says that “to those whom much is given, much will be required.” The Lord has blessed us with many resources and freedoms here in Eastern Europe. Many of the resources we have are due to your sacrificial love, for which we are thankful. We are currently experiencing a time of freedom to spread the gospel, and we feel responsible for the “much” that was given to us. We realize that we are stewards who must live for the advancement of the kingdom.

We began the month of June with an evangelistic outreach in Brasov. The first of June is Children’s Day in Romania, and so we decided to organize a pro-life gathering. We prepared 300 DVDs with the “180” documentary from Ray Comfort and hundreds of CDs with very good audio material against abortion. We handed out these materials in the downtown area where thousands of people were walking. While we were there, God gave me the opportunity of meeting the mayor of the city, who was walking in the street and talking with people for his political campaign. I approached him, handed him a DVD, and explained to him what we were doing. He recognized me because only a week before I had a meeting with him, along with other pastors, in order to discuss how there might be better communication between us and the authorities.

A few months ago, the HeartCry teams joined together for a major outreach in the city of Brasov. One of our missionaries preached in the central park with a sound system and was stopped by the security guards. He insisted that there was no law to hinder our preaching. I joined the discussion and told them that the Constitution’s declaration on “freedom of speech” allowed us to preach the gospel. Because of this, they became very angry and called the police. Finally, a team of police came and arrested me and another HeartCry missionary named Adi. At the police station, they threatened us with more words, saying that if we continued, they would put us in handcuffs and throw us in jail. After we left, they sent many policemen to patrol in the downtown area. Afterwards, we went to the authorities and asked approval, but our request was rejected. We could take the matter to the court, but this would only be a waste of time. We have now been fined and must go to court on the seventh of December. Adi and I have decided not to take a lawyer, but rather to represent ourselves. Pray that God will give us wisdom and courage to preach the gospel even in the court.

Our church has been making good progress. I continue to preach through Acts. We are now studying persecution, which seems to be a fitting message for what we have recently experienced. We see that people have been touched, and we trust that the Lord will save them. Please pray

for Vali, who expressed his desire to be baptized. He was saved a few months ago. Praise God for his passion and dedication. Florin is another student who wants to be baptized. A few days ago, he asked me to become his mentor. He is praying about going to a Bible school. A young lady named Aura is seeking to know the Lord. She is very sincere and touched by our message. She has many questions, and it is clear she seeks the Lord. We

pray that she will open her heart to the calling of salvation.

Pray for the upcoming evangelistic projects that we are planning: an English camp, a Women's Conference, two major outreaches (Fieni, Draganesti), etc. We trust that through these means, God will save those who are appointed to eternal life. Moved by His love, we will go to the lost. We count on your prayers that God will save as we proclaim His Name.

FROM THE FIELD

We have room for only two short reports from HeartCry missionaries in Romania: Florin Stan in Fieni and Marian Jipa in Pitulicea.

FLORIN STAN - Fieni, Romania

This last month, we organized a medical event through which we were able to share the gospel. We worked with a team of doctors and nurses, but our main purpose was to share Christ. This ministry of mercy prepared the hearts of the people for the preaching of the Word. The project lasted for two days in the city of Fieni, and approximately 400 people heard the gospel. Many people showed interest and left their phone numbers for more in-depth discussions. I now have many addresses of inquirers, and in the following days, I will begin visiting them.

The people who attended showed all kinds of reactions. Some listened intently and asked questions; some broke down crying; others were amazed by the beauty of the gospel;

and still others could not wait to be rid of us, because they only wanted the medical services.

During our campaign, we encountered some difficulty from the Orthodox priests who spoke evil of us in front of the locals and tried to talk people into not coming to the event. In spite of their efforts, the Lord was good to us and the people. Many who did not know about the event heard about it from the priests and began to seek for the location of the Baptist Church where we held the event!

Although we wanted this event to be organized in the city of Moroieni, there were some problems, and we did not get the approval. The Orthodox priests had heard about our intentions and put pressure on the mayor not to allow it. They told him that we blasphemed God, and so the mayor rejected our request. In spite of the mayor's decision, we rejoice that many people from Moroieni heard about the event and came to Fieni anyway. They were evangelized as they received medical care. I can say that the event was effective and worth all the efforts. Four hundred people heard the gospel!



← Florin and Mariana Stan.

MARIAN JIPA - Pitulicea, Romania

We gave out New Testaments and other literature in the city of Florica and then returned a couple of days later to see how the ministry was advancing. We discovered that an Orthodox priest and a few children from the school went from house to house to collect all of the literature that we had distributed. Many of the people that gave it back were old and uneducated, but there were many who would not. Some even confronted the priest, telling him that there was nothing wrong with reading the Bible. Others who were afraid of the priest said that they were not at home when we gave out the books and that they did not know anything about it. I was very glad to hear that some people held on to what we gave them. I hope to contact all of them very soon.

I recently visited a brother from our church that lives in the neighboring village of Caldarusanca. His wife is an Adventist. He told me that the Adventists talked a lot about our outreach and that they were very jealous of us because of our evangelism ministry (they have never evangelized so openly). Another Adventist from the same church said that he appreciates what we are doing, and also told us that his uncle in Casota was very impressed by the way we shared the gospel with him. Please pray that they might come to know Christ.

Through our evangelistic outreach, we met many new people this month. We had good weather, so I was able to walk around and talk to people while they were sitting at their gates or under a tree. I spoke simple words for their understanding. They were fascinated. Many have said that they had never heard anything like it before.

I met a woman about 35 years old who was carrying a little boy. He was eleven years old, but he had suffered severe brain trauma at birth and was very tiny. He did not look good at all. But his mother hugged him and loved

on him. She was very sad because her husband had left her and the child. The woman was also very upset with God and said He had done a great wrong to her. She could not understand why all these bad things had been happening to her. God gave me great words of encouragement for her and did a great miracle in her heart. I showed her that God is a good God who never creates sin. She felt a great burden lift off her heart, and we cried together. She understood that God really loves her and her child.

I was also invited to visit a sick person. He was lying in bed from an operation on a femur fracture at the level of his hip. Since the operation was not successful, they had to repeat it, and now he has one leg shorter than the other with terrible pain. After speaking to him for a while and letting him tell me the story of his suffering, I suggested that we pray. We prayed with great faith. I prayed, and then he prayed too. A few days later, I learned that he was in a good hospital in Bucharest and getting better every minute. He is reading the Bible and praying several times a day.

Finally, I met an older lady whose son had hung himself many years ago. Her heart was not yet healed. We spoke about God's grace. I let her pour out her pain. By the end, I could see a spark of hope in her eyes. The following week when we met again, she said she felt much better and was more confident in the goodness of God.



↑ Marian and Coca Jipa.



Middle East

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

BY MARC GLASS

While it is true that the persecuted church is blessed by God in innumerable ways, a Christian-friendly government can also help to facilitate the growth of the church. Therefore, we must pray for the many countries in the Middle East where the governments either permit or promote the persecution of Christians. With all the political turmoil that has happened in the region over the past year and a half, there remain many “unknowns” about the future. Egypt has just elected a president from the Muslim Brotherhood. Only the Lord knows what this means for the Egyptian church. We must

pray for God's providential work and care for His people.

In Egypt, our brother Sam S. is doing well. Jon Green and I spent some time with him in June, and there seems to be growth in the church plant that he is leading – not necessarily in numerical growth, but in the godliness and sincerity of the believers. There is also a group of believers in Cairo that has now established a church. This fledgling fellowship has grown out of a group of young men and women who were regularly meeting together to study the Bible and theology. Initially, a church plant was not in their plans, and they were all attending several other churches

FROM THE FIELD

The following two short reports are from HeartCry missionaries Petrus Kaya in western Turkey and Dr. Andrew among the Arabs in the Middle East.

PETRUS KAYA - Western Turkey

My wife and I are very thankful to the Lord for His great help and provision during my wife's pregnancy. Although the weather here is getting hotter every day, my wife and our baby girl's health are good. We went to the doctor the other day and learned that the baby is growing so well that she may be born a week earlier, which is the 23rd of August. It is wonderful to hear that our baby is growing healthy, and we are excited to see her. Please continue praying for my wife, our baby, and myself.

Our church's Bible studies are going well. God is still teaching our church and changing us by His Word.

We are studying the book of Genesis and learning a lot about God's character and the fallen nature of humans by looking at lives of the patriarchs. Our church's mentoring ministry is also going well, even though some of the students had to return to their hometowns for the summer break. The students seem to be growing in their faith and are living their lives in a manner worthy of the Gospel. Please pray for these young people and the new believers whom we mentor that God might conform them to Christ and use them for His Kingdom. Please also pray for me and the other mentors so that we might also grow in maturity, faith, and Christian

in the city. However, as the Lord has matured them in their understanding of the Bible and in their love for one another, they have seen the need to establish a new church. Our brother Walid in Lebanon is praying about his future long-term involvement with this group. Please pray that the Lord would make His will clear to him.

Our brothers in Israel are continuing to do well. Antony Simon and Leonid Banchik continue their evangelistic efforts in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. They are also meeting with the Sudanese refugees four days a week, seizing every opportunity to evangelize them before they are repatriated to South Sudan. Michael Karpovetzk, whom HeartCry has partnered with for a number of years, is now relocating his family to the U.S. Some of you may remember that his wife tragically passed away at the first of this year. Because of this, he has made the decision to move his children near their extended family.

In Turkey, we have supported two men (Petrus and Ester), an evangelistic outreach, and a translation minis-

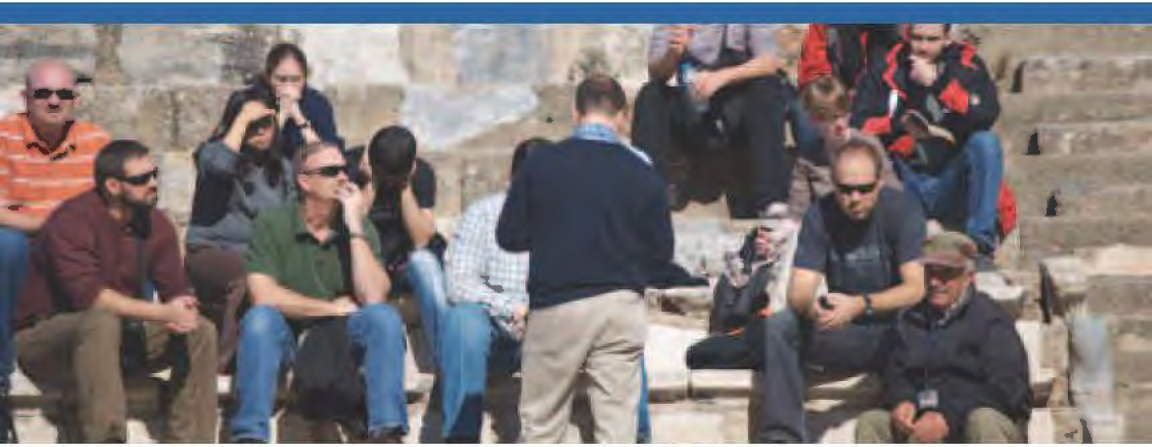
try. In the near future, it is very likely that Ester and his wife will be moving to the U.S. for one year to undergo training through a church's ministry program. HeartCry will resume their support when they move back to Turkey. Please continue praying for our partners in Turkey. The Lord is doing encouraging things in this very difficult place.

Dr. Andrew in northern Arabia continues to reach out to the Bedouin in his area. He has a number of ministries over which the Lord has placed him, not the least of which is a veterinary clinic that treats the camels, sheep, and other animals of the Bedouin herdsmen. The clinic has enabled Andrew to make numerous relationships that would have been impossible otherwise. Through his work, we are currently praying about sending a man to a very security-sensitive region of the Arabian peninsula. Please pray that the Lord would direct these plans according to His will.

character. Especially pray for me in my endeavors to find, train, and disciple leaders in our church. I want to minister according to God's will. We are still a church plant and want to grow spiritually and numerically so that God might use us to plant other churches in our country. We know that we can do this only according to the will and power of God. Please pray that we might have the wisdom, endurance, and love required for these goals.

Our church's evangelism is going well. We are still in touch with the seekers with whom we have made contact. One lady, who contacted us via our church's website, keeps sending us her questions about Christianity. She still does not feel secure to visit our church because of the pressure that might come from her family and friends. This is a typical

situation for many non-believers in our country. For this reason, using media such as books, videos, audio files, web pages, and the internet is very helpful in reaching out to seekers. Our student outreach program is also going well.



Petrus speaking to a small group at the ancient coliseum in Ephesus.

Although it is summer time and there are so few students on campus, our church and other sister churches are diligent to go on campus to share the gospel with the students, the majority of whom are either Muslims or atheists. Please pray for us that we might evangelize patiently and wisely. We desire to be fully dependent upon God and not on our own talents, knowledge, strength, or strategies. Please also pray for the young brother who came to Christ through our university outreach program last year and is now attending our church's baptism class. He seems very enthusiastic in learning more about Christ and wants to be

baptized soon. He is a quick learner and a good evangelist. He shares the gospel with his co-workers and everyone in his family. Praise the Lord for drawing His people to Him and sending them to find the lost.

God has been helping us in our church's spiritual growth. God shows His greatness, grace, love, faithfulness, protection, and provision even in the midst of our trials. Praise the Lord! One member of our church, who began attending our church several years ago, was caught stealing other people's money and belongings. He had done this before and was disciplined by the church. After each discipline, he would tell us that

DR. ANDREW - Mission to Arabs

The following is a series of updates from Dr. Andrew regarding two distinct situations he has dealt with over the past six months. The first situation concerns a couple, O _____ and R _____ (names withheld), who came to Christ from a Muslim background. The second concerns a man,

H _____, who also comes from a Muslim background, but through Dr. Andrew, has seen the truth of the gospel. Both situations are illustrative of what missionaries and Christians living in Muslim majority areas deal with on a frequent basis. Let these accounts move us to prayer.

FEBRUARY

My friend O _____ and his wife R _____, both of whom are believers from a Muslim background, have been facing severe persecution from their families and the secret police because of their new faith. In the office of the secret police, the police beat them up and threatened to take their two daughters from them! Two death threats have

been made against them from the wife's family and a secret police officer. O _____ and R _____ have refused to deny Christ and have stood up for their faith. We need your prayers that they might have more courage and boldness to witness about their Savior. O _____ is the first person I won to Christ in 1999. Because of this situation, we have had to stop the under-

he was sorry and asked for our help. Each time we forgave him, yet he kept abusing the good intentions of our church. This last time, he stole one of our brother's money, camera, and cell phone during our summer camp. We caught him red-handed and got the items back from him. Last Sunday, we excommunicated him and informed other churches in town about the situation. We are sorry for this man, but he needs God's discipline. We are so thankful to the Lord for helping us to grow in maturity as His local Body by letting us pass through these trials.

Please also pray with us for our goals and visions and for the future of Christianity in Turkey. Our church and other like-minded churches in town want to organize either a Christmas or Easter celebration together next year. We plan to rent a place which will hold a couple hundred people. It will be a great time for worshipping our Lord altogether, praising Him for what He has done for us, and reaching out to the lost as much as possible through the gospel. Please pray for us in this vision. We want to do it according to God's will.

Another goal of our local church is to train and disciple people to be leaders for the church in Turkey. Please pray for the right people to be raised up and equipped for His mighty works in our country. Please also pray for me and other pastors who must be careful in choosing and training people for the ministry. We do not want to rush and make mistakes, but we want to obey our Lord and try to lay a sound foundation with His direction. Related to this vision, we also have a vision of having the first Turkish Seminary in our country. We want to be able to train and equip leaders for God's Kingdom and help our brothers and sisters to grow in the Word and sanctification. We know that we have a lot of work ahead of us. We also know that no man can do this without God's help. Nevertheless, we believe that it will happen if it is in accordance with God's will. So, my brothers and sisters, please pray for God's wisdom, peace, discernment, direction, and provision in terms of these visions and dreams. May God bless you! You have been a blessing to us!

ground Bible study group. Pray that God will show us what to do.

One month ago, I sat with a Muslim man called H_____. He was searching for the truth, and one of my friends referred him to me. I sat with H_____ and talked about Islam and Christianity. He had many questions about the Christian faith, the crucifixion of Jesus, the Song of Solomon, the Trinity, and many other things. Yesterday, he called me and was very upset, disappointed, and confused. He said: "I am so confused because I cannot make up my mind about my religion! I am not Muslim anymore because Islam has totally collapsed in my eyes; and I am not a Christian because if I convert, my Muslim friends and family will kill me!" I would appreciate it if you would join me in praying that God

might give H_____ wisdom and courage so that he can take this step of faith and follow the one true God.

APRIL

Regarding O_____ and his wife R_____: Since my last e-mail, they have heard nothing from the secret police, but their families have threatened to kill both of them and take their two daughters away from them if they do not reject their belief in Christ! After much prayer, this bold couple decided to stand firm in their faith in Christ and have not betrayed Him. So, they went to their family and told them that they will not betray the Lord who saved them, but that they would leave their country! Now O_____ and R_____ are leaving for another



Dr. Andrew (with his back to us) is sitting before the tents of a group of Bedouin, building relationships and sharing the gospel.

Middle Eastern country to start their lives as a Christian couple! What they have been through leaves them with scars and bitter memories, but they do believe that the Lord is faithful and that He is going to guide them in their future steps. PLEASE keep them in your prayers as they are moving to another country. Pray that our Lord might open a wide door for them to share the love of Jesus with Arabs there.

What happened with O _____ and R _____ raises a very important question about Christians from a Muslim background: How should we deal with them when they decide to follow Christ? Who will protect them? And what about their children? Are they going to be raised as Christians or Muslims? The parents want

them to be raised as Christians, but the community deals with them as Muslims! This causes a great identity crisis!

Regarding H _____, I met with him, and we talked for over an hour. He explained to me the struggles that he has in his mind. He no longer struggles with doubt, because he has reached the point where he does know that Jesus is the ONLY way. Mostly, he struggles with the idea of rejecting the faith that he has been practicing for the last 35 years, and he worries that his family will discover the truth and persecute him! His main issue is the fact that he realizes that Islam is fake, but he is still afraid to get out of it! Please keep him in your prayers ... I believe that one day we will baptize him!

JUNE

It has now been two months since O _____ and R _____ moved to the U.A.E. Now O _____ is working as a part-time masseur and R _____ works as a part-time nurse and part-time translator in a Christian hospital. Unfortunately, up to this point, neither of them has been able to adapt to their new culture. While talking with them over the phone the other day, O _____ told me that he hopes that this relocation will be a new beginning for them to live their lives as a Christian couple. He longs to witness to others about how faithful the Lord has been to them. O _____ and R _____'s story teaches us that while we are living our lives as Christian people and worshiping the Lord in our churches, many of our brothers and sisters are living their faith in secret, and still others are worshiping

the Lord in prison.

I contacted H _____ to meet with him while I was in the South and to see where he is in his new understanding of Christianity. His work schedule is really tough, and we were not able to meet, but over the phone he told me that his dilemma is getting bigger. Day after day, he is realizing his deep need for the redemptive work of Jesus; but on the other hand, his respect for his tribe is so big that he does not want to offend them by converting from Islam! H _____ is a living example that following Jesus is not merely a decision that is made out of one's own understanding, but it is the outcome of the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of a fallen person. Please keep praying for H _____ and his ongoing battle.

Russia

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

BY HOLDEN BARRY



"... And having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them." Hebrews 11:13b-16 (NASB)

Together with our brothers and sisters in Russia, we confess with the saints of old that we too are strangers and exiles on earth. This reality becomes even more evident with the political unrest and efforts being made to stifle the worship of God all around the world. Over the past few months, we have seen the tension between Russia and the U.S. increase. The president of Kazakhstan has negated all of the country's religious freedom, and the authorities in Belarus are actively throwing some pastors in jail and requiring their churches to pay fines. Yet in all this, the missionaries' attitudes remain the same – "Should we expect anything less? We are strangers and exiles here, for this is not our home!" As a result, the work of the gospel advances forward, and our relationships with the missionaries continue to prove fruitful.

The missionaries in Siberia are experiencing new life, both physically and spiritually. Two of the families in the Irkutsk region are expecting babies this summer: Brother Vsevolod and his wife Mary are expecting their third child, while Brother Maxim and his wife Vera their first. Please be praying for these families as they embrace the joys and challenges that are soon to follow. Also, we rejoice with the church in Nizhnevartovsk as they are seeing an awakening in their fellowship! You can read the details of this in Brother Vladimir's most recent report, which has been included

in the following pages.

I invite you to join these men and their families in the work that God has called them to. Though you may not be able to go physically and help in person, please join with us in praying earnestly for them.

FROM THE FIELD

In the following pages, three reports from HeartCry missionaries are given: Dimitry Chubukin in Yekaterinburg, Siberia; Vladimir Radzihovski in Nizhnevartovsk, Siberia; and Bakhid K. in Kazakhstan. Please keep them in your prayers.

DIMITRY CHUBUKIN

Yekaterinburg, Siberia

Greetings to all of you dear friends who support this ministry. Peace to you all! I thank God for your sincere work. God has been very gracious toward my fam-

Dimitry Chubukin, his wife Katya, and their children Ksenia and Timothy. ↓



ily. He continues to meet our needs, and therefore, we have no reason to be anxious.

In recent days, God has caused me to focus more of my attention on my own spiritual condition, as well as that of my family. My wife and I are increasingly aware of our responsibility to be diligent as we seek to have a more biblical influence in the lives of our two children. We are in the process of listening to good sermons about biblical discipline and are trying our best to improve in this vital area of our lives. We both understand that we must serve as good examples not only for our children, but also for our church.

Last Sunday, I preached on I Peter 4:7, "The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers." We are reminded not only that the Lord's coming is near, but also that the judgment of this world is approaching. My greatest desire as a pastor is that everyone in our church might be self-controlled and sober-minded. I also desire that everyone would be able to give a bold account of their hope in Christ before this world. Some members of our church have told me that God is influencing their hearts and that they now have an increasing desire to change. In our latest small group meeting, we talked about how God humbled His enemy Saul and transformed him into a chosen vessel through repentance (Acts 9). This victory for Christ motivates us to be witnesses for Him and to believe that the repentance of sinners is in His hands.

We are beginning our work of equipping every member of our church to be a witness for Christ through the Scriptures. In the next few months, my goal is to visit every member of our church in order to clarify their commitment and to answer their questions about how to be a witness for Christ. I hope that God will help me accomplish this and that He might give the believers the desire to live what they know. We have seen numerous examples of

how people have been lured into attending other churches through false promises that do not come from God or His Word. As a result, many have lost interest in the things of God, and other true believers have been weakened in their trust in the divine power of the gospel to save. Please pray that God would strengthen the people in our church to have the right motivation.

Not long ago, a young man named Dima visited our home in order to install a water meter. In the course of our conversation, it became evident that he attended a church. Unfortunately, it appears that the church he attends is the kind that is filled with false teaching. We talked for a long time, and he had many questions. As a former drug addict, he was thankful to that church for helping him to break away from his addiction. But the problem is that the leaders of this movement are well-known false teachers throughout Russia and other countries. I think that God has opened Dima's heart toward me and that he is now able to see the problems in his church. Please pray that we would be able to serve and help him.

Alexander and Alexandra Kotov are from the city of Pyshma and have recently been attending our church. They are going through a trial due to their mother's current battle with cancer. She has a tumor on her neck that is growing rapidly. She is not open to the gospel, and they are very concerned about her. They continue to minister to her and are finding their strength, hope, and trust in the Lord. Please pray for them as well.

VLADIMIR RADZHOVSKI

Nizhnevartovsk, Siberia

Place to you! We are thankful to the Lord that He is merciful to us and keeps us. By His grace, we continue to serve in His kingdom! We are thankful to all of you that pray for us and support us.

For the last week, temperatures have risen to 92°F, which is extremely hot for our area in Siberia! As a result,

there are a lot of wild fires in the surrounding forest. The grass and peat easily catches on fire, and some of the trees have burned down. The town was covered in smoke for several days, and it was hard to breathe. Though



the fire has been partially put out, the Lord reminds us that the earth and everything on it will be burned away. We continue to serve with Bible teaching on Thursdays, and as usual, we have services on Sundays.

I am at the end of a cycle of sermons in our congregation on the Gospel of Matthew chapter 16 - Denying oneself, taking up the cross, and following Christ. A few weeks ago, I was approached by a young woman who apparently was quite attentive in listening to my sermons. She has had many temptations to begin following

after the world; but yesterday, she said that she wanted to become a disciple of Christ, be baptized, and to live for Jesus! I asked her if she understood that following Jesus would be accompanied by suffering, hatred, ridicule, and banishment (which is very likely given her current situation). She said that being with Jesus was all that truly matters and that He will help her. We praise God for that. We are grateful to God that her diligence and attention to the Word of God has grown significantly since then.

On Sunday, I will begin teaching a new course on "The Basics of Christian Faith." I hope that this course will prepare our new sister and two others for baptism. We continue to pray for them, and we praise God for what He is doing in our midst. I also continue to counsel with a man named Nikolay. Unfortunately, he must work Sundays and cannot come to church. Nevertheless, he continues to be concerned about his spiritual growth. Please pray for these people in whom the Lord is working.

It has been difficult to balance my time between construction of the new church building and pastoral duties. A great part of my time and effort is taken by seeking construction materials at good prices, providing meals for the workers, and overseeing the construction. My desire and prayers are that the construction will be

Vladimir teaching a weekly Bible Study in the home of a church member.



completed quickly, and I might once again dedicate my time to the work of a pastor-missionary. For now, we continue to work on the construction. We are thankful to God that, after fasting and prayer, He has helped us to find three specialists for roof construction. We ask you to please pray for their discipline and sobriety. Here it is extremely difficult to find workers who remain sober for the job. It

seems as though everyone is an alcoholic. By God's grace, the roof is now 50% completed.

Finally, I also would like for you to pray for me that I will not be more concerned about the construction and the building than about my need of personal fellowship with the Lord. Above all things, He wants our hearts to be dedicated to Him and fervently loving Him.

BAKHID K.

Kazakhstan

In my previous report, I mentioned my desire to go visit my father, with whom I have almost no relationship because he is a Muslim minister. After I became a Christian, he refused to have anything to do with me. Whenever I come to town, he feels very ashamed because my Christian faith discredits him as the Islamic imam. This is why we rarely touch upon spiritual subjects.

A few months ago, I caught myself thinking that I have never actually shared the full meaning of the gospel with him. From that moment, I had a great desire to see him and to share with him the full message of the gospel. Needless to say, it was a very intense trip, but I knew that it was necessary so that he might hear the good news and have a chance to repent.

Unfortunately, the trip did not turn out the way that I had hoped. My

father did not want to hear anything I said, and he made it abundantly clear that he did not want me to visit him again. What can I do? It is all in God's hands. Please pray for him.

I praise the Lord for what He is doing in the life of an old acquaintance of mine. This man called me at the end of last month and told me he became a Christian. About 13 years ago, we were both locked up in the same prison. For about 10 years after my conversion, I kept in touch with him, sharing the gospel with him and his family and praying for them. Now, all these years later, he told me that they have become believers! Furthermore, they want me to come visit them! The Word of God is true indeed and always does what God intends for it to do. It is very important for me that they become a part of a church with sound teaching. That is why I want to spend some time with them and admonish them to worship God in spirit and in truth. I thank God for His mercy.

Bakhid (center) leads an evangelistic meeting in the home of a Kazakh family.



South America

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

BY PAUL WASHER



My family and I spent the entire month of June in our beloved Peru. It was a great joy to be back in the country where Charo and I began as missionaries so many years ago. It was also a great blessing for our children to see the field and all that the Lord is doing there.

At the present time, HeartCry is supporting thirty-two missionary families in the field in Peru. The great majority of the churches under their care are growing both in grace and number. There are also two new missions that the Lord has raised up in Lima, in the districts of Los Olivos and Ate. We also have plans to begin a new mission in the city of Cusco, near the famous fortress of *Machu Picchu*. Finally, the new church in Rosario, Argentina is doing well under the direction of HeartCry missionary Nicolas Serrano.

Not only are the churches growing in Peru, but we are also being bombarded with requests from other Christians and churches throughout South America and Spain. Almost every day, there is a Macedonian call from someone asking us to come over and help them (Acts 16:9). The Church of the Savior in Lima is currently involved in online

training in several countries of Latin America, as well as the Portuguese-speaking country of Brazil. They also sponsor online training in personal evangelism and street preaching. Finally, the elders at the Church of the Savior have personally made several trips to other Latin American countries to teach and to do open-air preaching. HeartCry and the elders at the Church of the Savior are currently in contact with believers and churches throughout the Hispanic world – Argentina, Chile, Columbia, Venezuela, Mexico, and even Spain.

Please continue to pray for all of our missionaries in Peru and our one missionary in Argentina. God is blessing the work, but there is also much opposition. Much of the superficial evangelism that has wreaked havoc in the U.S. has been exported to Latin America. Many claim to be evangelical, and yet demonstrate little evidence of conversion. For this reason, the battle rages on both sides: On the one hand, we must work to preach the gospel to every creature; and on the other, we must work to maintain the doctrinal purity and integrity of the church! Who is sufficient for these things?

The Church of the Savior in the district of Barranco in Lima, Peru has now become a hub for all of our missionary activity in South America.

FROM THE FIELD

We have space for only one report from HeartCry missionary Alfonso Nuñez.

ALFONSO NUÑEZ

Alfonso Nuñez and his wife Polyanna are HeartCry missionaries in Lima Peru. Alfonso is currently an elder at the Church of the Savior in Barranco and director of its evangelism ministry that is training people throughout the continent in the biblical methods of evangelism and street preaching.



Glory to God for all that He has done in our midst this month. I traveled to the north of Peru together with Brother Paul Washer and his family. It was a great time of fellowship with our brothers there. Brother Paul preached at some churches in Sullana, and I had the privilege of preaching in a church that is helped by our congregation in

Lima. Also, we preached the gospel in parks and to many people from the surrounding areas of Piura.

In Lima, our church was very blessed and encouraged by Brother Paul and his wife Charo. They both taught on many important topics of the Christian life, such as: prayer, the role of men and women in the family, homeschooling, and the disciplining of our children.

We continue seeing the fruits of our preaching everywhere we go. We received a visit from a man who is being drawn by God to repentance and faith. He received a gospel tract some time ago and came asking for help. We are praying for his soul, and that we may be instruments in his salvation. This is very encouraging to us, because we are giving away an average of 2,500 gospel tracts each month, and many are beginning to know the biblical gospel. Many of our brothers and sisters are preaching one-on-one, some in the open air, others in buses, etc. We are amazed by how our great God is doing this work among us.

The School of Biblical Evangelism is bearing much fruit, with many new brothers and sisters joining us in the classes. We constantly receive many encouraging e-mails from brothers and sisters who are willing to preach the gospel to every creature. Also, we are very glad to have with us a brother named Eduardo and his wife, Odette.

↓ Alfonso preaching on a city bus in Lima. This is a common practice among the elders and members of the Church of the Savior in Barranco, Peru.



They are from Chile and have come to preach the gospel and fellowship among us.

We have received requests from some churches in Lima to share the biblical gospel with them, and also to help them teach on evangelism. This will demand time from us, but we have to organize our schedules in order to help them.

We continue with our Friday night prayer services after evangelism in the park, where we are praying for many things. We pray especially for the extension of God's kingdom

continue teaching on revival, prayer, the filling of the Holy Spirit, and evangelism. Also, we have seen the importance of teaching about the role of men within the family, church, etc.

This month, we baptized three brothers in a river near the town of Chosica, where we had the opportunity of giving a public testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ and His salvation.

Our church is being led by God to continue being a center for missions and evangelism. Many brothers and sisters are arriving asking for help, and we are convinced that we must help them in every way we can. Some of them participate in our online discipleship lessons; and many come to get gospel tracts, books, audio, videos, etc. for their churches. This is very encouraging because we see how God is expanding His gospel in many places.

The church plants in Los Olivos and Ate are growing steadily. We give thanks to God for our brothers Igor, Eder, and Junior who are working hard in these districts.

My family is doing very well, growing in holiness and dedication to the Lord. Please pray for the salvation of my children.

Thank you very much for your prayers and support. May God bless you abundantly as you continue working for the extension of His kingdom in this world.



↑ Pollyanna ministering to the lost and needy who gather to listen to her husband Alfonso.

throughout the earth.

The Church of the Savior is growing not only in members and people who are attending the services, but also in fervor and a desire to be more like our Lord Jesus. As one of the pastors, I am very encouraged to

Alfonso preaching on the city streets. We must go to the highways and hedges.





NICOMEDES SAAVEDRA

Nicomedes is the pastor of "Christ is the Head" Baptist Church in San Lázaro, in the district of Pacaipampa, in northern Peru. He is also a passionate missionary/church planter. Brother Nicomedes is married to Esterfilia and has eight children, ranging in age from eight to twenty-nine.

TESTIMONY OF CONVERSION

My life was a mess, and I was a wicked man sold into sin. I was constantly lost in drunkenness, and I mistreated my wife. On November 10, 1985, I was drinking with my friends and doing a lot of terrible things before God when this man from Pacaipampa drew near and talked to us about the gospel of Jesus Christ. He explained what Christ had done on the Cross for sinners; that He rose from the dead on the third day; and that He is seated at the right hand of God, ready to judge the world with justice and truth. That day, I understood the gospel through the Scriptures. The Lord changed my life and saved me when I was nothing but a bad man, drunk and wicked. He changed my life and made me a new creature; He made me a new man. At the beginning, I did not understand

how this change was made possible until I started to study the Scriptures and gather with God's people.

After my conversion, I began to study the Scriptures every day and testify of our Lord Jesus Christ to my friends and family. In time, my brothers were also transformed by the grace of God. They turned away from idols to God and are now serving with me in the ministry of the church.

TESTIMONY OF MINISTRY

In 1986, God called me to serve in the pastorate. From that time on, I began to preach the gospel as a missionary and church planter. Pastor Ángel Colmenares and Daniel Colmenares trained me and other men through the Baptist Bible College called "Hombres Fieles" (Faithful Men). This training helped us to start five more churches, reaching the most remote places of the highlands and even the jungle of Peru.

To this day, we do not worry about the heat or the cold or the long hours on the way. With my fellow-missionary Urbano Gómez from Pacaipampa, we teach everyone who will listen. We also meet every two months with more than forty-five pastors from the areas of Pacaipampa and Chalaco. Every three months, we hold the training program "Hombres Fieles" with Pastor Daniel Colmenares and eighty other pastors and leaders. By God's grace, I have been given the charge of being the President of Pastors in the areas of Pacaipampa and Chalaco. To God be the Glory!

The Baptist church of which I am a pastor was founded in 1985. It started with six brothers and has now grown to one hundred members. Six pastors were trained in our church, and now they are working in new churches.



WELCOME **AARON & CHRISTINA**

In August, Aaron and Christina Pikkarainen moved to Radford, Virginia. Aaron will coordinate our efforts in Asia.

As I write this article, I am rejoicing in God's grace, having been just recently married to my beloved wife, Christina, and looking forward to fruitful ministry with HeartCry. We are very excited and humbled to labor for the sake of the gospel among the nations with HeartCry, and we would ask for your prayers for the grace of God to cover us during this time of new beginnings. I pray that as I describe to you my conversion, my calling to ministry, and my expectations at HeartCry, that your love for Christ would increase, your devotion to Him would be strengthened, and the grace of God would be glorified.

TESTIMONY OF CONVERSION

The Lord called me to Himself almost nine years ago in the fall of 2003. I grew up in Columbus, Ohio with a nominally Christian background. My family occasionally went to a Baptist church, and my parents

taught me some basics about Christianity. I believed that Jesus Christ was my Savior, that He died for my sins, and that He was the only way to heaven. What I gleaned from the church services was that if I believed in Christ and asked Him to save me, then I would go to heaven.

This was the basic understanding that I had about Christianity growing up; but our household was very much conformed to the world. We loved the television, movies, and video games of the world, and our home was very liberal. My brother and I did not have a curfew, we did not receive much discipline or guidance, and we were free to experience life as we wanted. Much of this freedom came after my parents were divorced when I was 12 years old.

My interests were fairly typical for a suburban, American youth. I had many friends, played lots of sports, and spent countless hours on television and games. As I think back to my unconverted life, what would best describe me is that I loved the world and lived for its pleasures. I loved the things that most people love. I was always getting into some kind of athletic or entertainment diversion, and my life was consumed by these earthly interests.

In the midst of my childhood, I developed what I thought was a genuine relationship with God. I considered myself to be a believer in Jesus Christ and even a strong Christian. I would pray every night. I would try to get some of my friends to come to church at times. I would sometimes correct my friends if they used the Lord's Name in vain. I would stand up for the truth of God's existence if my friends denied it. This was the gist of my Christianity. I thought I loved God, but I loved the world more.

I almost never read the Bible, so I was oblivious to the reality and sinfulness of sin. My brother began getting into alcohol, drugs, and sexual sin; and he had a large influence on me. We did not have any true Christian influence in our lives. I never met

anyone who lived much different than anyone else; everyone I knew seemed to love the world in their own different ways. We did not know a single genuine Christian among our peers until my brother met a certain man through his time in the military.

I was going into my senior year of high school, enjoying much success in athletics, and living a deceived, sinful life that I thought to be joyful. I was not seeking God or thinking I needed more significance in life. However, it was at this time that God stepped into my life with the power of the gospel.

My brother began talking with a Christian who worked with him at the air base where they were stationed. This man very patiently and gently instructed my brother in the truths of the faith and pointed him to the Scriptures. His conduct and speech were unlike anyone's my brother had ever known. Through the witness of this Christian man, God radically converted my brother and saved him out of a life of great darkness. My brother began passionately talking about God all the time when he was around me, and he would share with me the things he was learning from the Bible and from his Christian friend. I had never seen anything like this—someone who truly cared about what God thought of him and talked about Jesus with unceasing interest and sincerity. On top of this, he had decided to completely turn from all known sin in his life and wholeheartedly follow Christ.

My brother was given a small book of Bible verses divided into categories, and as I looked through it, I was shocked to find out what the Bible taught. Scriptures that condemned my lifestyle were presented to me, and I was now at a major crossroads. For a few weeks, I teetered between my old, sinful life and the new life I was now exposed to. The pleasures of sin were enjoyable, but the things I was seeing in my brother and in the Bible were more real to me than the deceived, worldly life I had known. The words of Christ particularly affected me when He said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one

who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). And I was struck by the plain teaching that the sexually immoral, idolaters, the greedy, and drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

After more exposure to the Scriptures, God opened my eyes, and I was ready to forsake everything and follow Christ. The sins I used to enjoy lost their taste, and now Jesus was glorious to me. The spiritual hunger I saw in my brother was now in my heart, and I found myself consumed with the things of God. I began to tell all my friends what I had come to know in the Bible and how my life had changed; but I was very sad to see that almost no one wanted to hear what the Bible said, even professing Christians. Instead, I was being reviled and challenged for my faith. My friends were trying to persuade me to go back to how I used to be, but God was faithful to sustain my newborn faith in Christ. I found myself captivated with Christ and strengthened by His joy to persevere through my last year in public high school as a new Christian.

As time went on, I felt so free. I was free from so many fears and worries. I was free to be myself in Christ and to not have to try to impress people. The peace that God brought to my life truly "surpassed all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). I now saw the world in a far different light. Before, I was consumed with the temporal world; but now, it was like I was looking in from the outside. It was like God had removed a veil over my eyes and awakened me from a dream. Heaven used to seem so foreign and far away; but now, I longed to go and be with the Lord. I rejoiced to know God and follow Jesus for the rest of my life.

TESTIMONY OF CALLING

Very soon after my conversion, I wanted almost nothing but to serve God with my life. I now knew the truth of the gospel and had been saved from the corruption of the world.

How could I do something other than spreading the message that rescues hell-bound men and imparts eternal life? Though I desired greatly to be about the ministry, I accepted the providence of God to go through college and was sustained by His grace to complete my undergraduate degree in Computer Science at Ohio State University.

My hunger for serving Christ only increased after college as I became more and more exposed to the need of the gospel among the unreached peoples of the world through preachers like Pastor John Piper and Paul Washer. Soon the Lord opened a door for fruitful ministry overseas through a Filipino pastor I had known for a few years. Sensing the Lord calling me into preaching and missions, I quit my job in software engineering and moved to Mindanao, Philippines.

Ministry in the Philippines was both joyful and challenging. I enjoyed four months of preaching and teaching at the local Bible college and discipling a few students. Then I wrestled with my calling toward missions, returned back home to the States, and sought the Lord's will for my life. The Lord led me to move to Minnesota and to get involved at Bethlehem Baptist Church, sitting under the preaching of Pastor John Piper. I experienced the grace of God at Bethlehem in numerous ways: working on staff at the church, fellowshiping with many passionate brothers and sisters in Christ, and eventually doing full-time outreach ministry with United for the Gospel.

Through the evangelistic ministry I was involved in, I helped lead two short-term trips to India in January 2011 and February 2012. We took teams from Bethlehem to work together with a dear Indian brother, Vijay (HeartCry missionary), doing theological training for pastors, Bible distribution, and evangelistic outreaches to villages. We saw the grace of God in remarkable ways and witnessed a very significant hunger for the gospel among these predominantly unreached peoples.

Upon my return from my second trip to India, I was very moved by God's evident work among us, and

I began praying how the Lord might want to use me more for the sake of the gospel among the unreached. Pastors were being trained to take the pure gospel to their lost Indian brothers, hundreds of villagers were coming to each outreach event to hear the gospel, and some of the most anointed messages I have heard were being preached by my teammates.

It was at this time that I received a phone call from one of the brothers at HeartCry asking if I had ever prayed about working with HeartCry and coordinating missions in Asia. I knew very soon after this conversation that the Lord was calling Christina and me to join with HeartCry for the sake of the gospel. After a month of prayer, receiving counsel from brothers at Bethlehem, and a visit to the brothers in Virginia, Christina and I committed to joining the ministry at HeartCry following our wedding in July.

We are very eager to serve our Lord and Savior in this worthy work of reaching the unreached with the gospel of Christ through the ministry that God has entrusted to HeartCry. We look forward to walking in the good works God has prepared beforehand for us, and we hope to be faithful ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ and hold fast to the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. We pray that God would use our lives for His glory and further advance the gospel to the unreached peoples of Asia. May we be ever faithful to Christ and His Word, never peddling or tampering with the Word of God or straying from the truth of the gospel.

We also seek to grow in our love and devotion to Christ, our Savior, and to be good and faithful servants of Him. We desire to be true to God and uncompromising in integrity, both in our personal lives and our public ministry. May we be content to know Christ and make Him known, not for our name's sake, but for His!

Finally, pray for our new marriage, that Christ would be glorified; that we would be the husband and wife God desires us to be; and that our first year would be the start of a God-centered, life-long union that exalts Christ's relationship with His Church.

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"The world lives in a time of crisis. Christians alone are in a position to rescue the perishing. We dare not settle down to try to live as if things were normal."
- A. W. Tozer



"If by excessive labor, we die before reaching the average age of man, worn out in the Master's service, then glory be to God, we shall have so much less of earth and so much more of Heaven!"
- C. H. Spurgeon



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