

# HeartCry

MAGAZINE

KOROWAI

## *the Treehouse People*

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

*A View from the Field*  
AFRICA, EUROPE, EURASIA,  
LATIN AMERICA

*Missionary Spotlight*  
DAVID SILVA IN PERU  
KRIS P. IN THE U.S. OFFICE

# GREETINGS

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the HeartCry magazine. I hope that it finds you growing in the knowledge of God, the grace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

I am writing this from Campiña Grande, Brazil, where I am preaching with other men in a week-long meeting with over 9,000 in attendance. It is just another great illustration of how God is working in the world. Although many parts of the West seem dark and without hope, the Gospel continues to march forward in full strength, people continue to be saved, and believers continue to grow in grace and truth.

In the darkest times, we must always remember that God has not abdicated His throne. Although the nations are in an uproar and the peoples devise a vain thing; although the kings of the earth take their stand against the Lord and His Christ; God's only response is laughter. He has installed His King upon the throne of heaven, and the nations will not prevail against Him (Psalm 2:1-6). In fact, if all the armies of earth and hell were to join forces and come in full strength against Christ's throne, it would be like a tiny gnat beating its head against a world of granite.

For this reason, the Church can continue to march into the darkest places on earth with confidence in the guarantee of ultimate victory. Although we are a mixture of faith and doubt, obedience and hesitation, the Gospel will ultimately triumph, because all authority in heaven and earth has been granted to Christ. This was the strength of the early church, and it must be ours. Like the first disciples, we look at ourselves and see that it is an impossible task; but when we look to Christ, all our doubts dissipate. David Brown writes:

“What must have been the feelings which such a Commission awakened [in the first disciples]! ‘We conquer the world for Thee, Lord, who have scarce conquered our own misgivings – we, fishermen of Galilee, with no letters, no means, no influence over the humblest creature? Nay, Lord, do not mock us.’ [Then the Lord responds,] ‘I mock you not, nor send you to warfare on your own charges: All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore. Lo, I am with you all the days. Go ye therefore.’” (The Four Gospels, p.134)

Your brother,  
Paul Washer

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Korowai: The Treehouse People..... 3**  
*HeartCry Associate Trevor Johnson shares about the work among the Korowai people: a remote, animistic, and sometimes polygynous lowland jungle tribe of Indonesian New Guinea.*

**A View from the Field: HeartCry Coordinators and Missionaries give updates on the Lord's work in their respective areas of labor.**

**Africa..... 9**  
*Zambia: Conrad Mbewe and Marc Glass share about a new strategy for training students for the mission field. Kenya: Naphtally Ogallo gives a report of his recent work.*

**Western Europe ..... 14**  
*Germany: Peter Schild and Nathanael Armisen tell us about their recent*

*efforts in planting biblical churches. Netherlands: Paul Washer shares about a new ministry tool for Jacques Brunt.*

**Eastern Europe ..... 16**  
*Sorin Prodan and Don Currin give a comprehensive overview of the work in Romania, Ukraine, and Moldova.*

**Eurasia ..... 24**  
*Holden Barry and Dimitry R. give us an idea of how the Lord is currently working in Russia.*

**Latin America ..... 28**  
*Walter Isse shares about the advances in the work in Lima, Peru.*

**Missionary Spotlights: Conversion testimonies from a missionary and a coordinator.**

David Silva, Peru ..... 29  
Kris P., U.S. Office..... 31

JAN - MAR 2014

# KOROWAI

## *the Treehouse People*

BY TREVOR JOHNSON

*Trevor Johnson and Paul Snider have been laboring among the Northern Korowai, just north of Papua's Asmat region, since 2007 and 2012 respectively. They are trusted associates of HeartCry. You can read their testimonies on the HeartCry Missionary Society website ([www.heartcrymissionary.com](http://www.heartcrymissionary.com)).*

### THE FURTHEST PLACE FROM ANYWHERE

**T**he island of New Guinea resembles a left-facing dead bird. Its carcass lies sprawled across the South Pacific, just north of Australia. Formerly known as Irian Jaya, Papua is the left half of this envisioned fowl – the eastern end of Indonesia. While Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation, its easternmost portion is home to some of the most remote and neglected tribal peoples

house People.” Their jungle huts sit perched at elevations of between six and twelve meters (20-40 feet) off the ground. Four thousand semi-nomadic, never-dying tribal souls live spread out over these several hundred square kilometers of dense lowland jungle. The Mission Aviation Fellowship pilot who lands here calls our area “the most remote area in an already remote land” and “about the furthest place from anywhere.” His float plane sets down with a splash on our narrow river – a river often too dangerous for a float plane due to wide fluctuations in depth (which makes medical evacuation for emergencies precarious during the dry season). Roads, electricity, and land airstrips have yet to find their way into this broad region. Governmental presence has only recently begun to be felt. Two years ago, this tribe was counted in the Indonesian census for the very first time.

Two dozen villages and many treehouse clusters dot this vast green expanse, and two dialects of about 2,000 speakers each divide this area roughly in half between north and south. A faithful Dutch translator labors in the southern dialect of the Korowai and is making excellent linguistic progress. We live further up-river, in the centrally located village of Danowage, among the northern-dialect speakers (the Korowai Batu or “Rock Korowai”). We are currently partnering with seventeen indigenous Christian evangelists from the highland Dani tribe. We desire to saturate this whole region with a solid Gospel witness.

### OUR MINISTRY TEAM

**O**ur team which ministers to the Northern Korowai consists of two American families: Trevor and Teresa Johnson (and their chil-

A typical Korowai tribesman.



remaining on earth. Our two families – the Johnsons and the Sniders – serve one such group: the Northern Korowai people.

National Geographic calls the inhabitants of our region “the Tree-



*One of the local churches among the Korowai people. Advances are being made at great cost to both the cross-cultural missionaries and the indigenous missionaries who partner with them.*

dren Noah, Alethea, and Perpetua) and Paul and Patricia Snider (and their children Lane and Marianne). We also work closely with a Dani couple, HeartCry missionaries and evangelists Jimi and Perin. They have proven particularly fruitful in helping people to understand the Gospel, especially among the women and youth in this region. There is also a broader team of over a dozen other Dani Christian evangelists of varying capabilities serving the various preaching posts throughout this region. However, at the moment, we are a bit undermanned. Five of the seventeen have been hospitalized within the past several months due to illnesses contracted or injuries sustained while serving this region. For example: Pastor Bimber has a broken shoulder; Brother Ainus was mauled by a wild pig; and others have malaria, tuberculosis, etc.

The Gospel was planted in the mountains of Papua a generation ago among the highland Dani tribe. While many problems still face the Dani tribe and church, many faithful believers still remain, gripped by a tremendous missionary zeal to carry the Gospel to others no matter the cost. Rather than bypass these indigenous believers that God has raised up, we hope to equip and facilitate an indigenous movement in order to help fully reach the Korowai. We want to see highland Papuan Christians reaching lowland Papuan animists. Zealous Dani highland churches have

already sent over two dozen evangelists and airstrip workers here to the lowlands to aid these efforts. Some have gone out with no financial support and have even arrived at mission posts with merely their machete and a net bag full of seeds and basic supplies to plant their gardens. They are a shocking redefinition of what it means to be a “tent-making” missionary. These Dani evangelists are frequently stricken with malaria; and they endure much hardship, hunger, and threats in the service of Jesus Christ. Some have even buried children here. But a readiness to suffer and a zeal to reach their distant Melanesian kinsmen with the Gospel compels them onward.

## THOSE TO WHOM WE MINISTER

**T**he Korowai are a remote, animistic, and sometimes polygynous lowland jungle tribe. They practice semi-nomadic cultivation of sago trees, bananas, and pandanus for food. Tribal women, with babies swinging from their net bags, dam up small streams and then use shovel-like spathes of the sago tree to bale these streams in search for minnows left on the muddy bottom. Some villagers still use a local plant to stun the fish for easy capture, but the younger men have all but forgotten this skill. They hunt pig and cassowary and consider the sago grub worm (the larva from a local beetle)



*Missionary Paul Snider with some of the Korowai tribesmen after a discipleship lesson.*

a delicacy. They periodically gather socially for grub feasts.

The Korowai fear demons and death-dealing witches. They rub pig-fat on the door frames of their tree-houses and fashion charms to appease dark forces. Some Korowai still clutch their heads if you photograph them since they believe that the top of the head is where the soul escapes upon death. They believe there is a separate world that exists on the underside of this world made up of demonic *Tario* (*Laleo* in the southern dialect), who desire communion with *Yanop* (people). This term has also come to be used as an adjective to

describe non-native things that come in from the outside world. Thus, I have been called *Tario-Alin* (a white *Tario*), my clock is a *Tario-Tup-Kun* (a demonic or foreign sun circle), and bread is *Tario-O* (demonic or foreign sago). Chief among the *Tario*, if even considered one of their class, is *Saip* (sometimes *Saif-Abul*, the Shiver-Man), whom most now identify as Satan.

Something resembling a belief in reincarnation exists (though we are still learning). The dead are reborn in the world of the *Tario*, and the *Tario* are reborn on this side of the world. These two worlds are meant to stay



*Missionary Trevor Johnson teaching Korowai evangelists so that they might teach others.*

apart. There is a belief that whenever the outside world of the *Tario* and the Korowai world of the *Yanop* mix, surely the end of the world is at hand.

The *A'huwah* (or *xaxua* or *A'ua*) are witches who are also greatly feared, who can live among us. They supposedly shoot their victims with invisible arrows and eat their victims' guts while they remain unconscious. They then replace their innards with leaves (sometimes ash), slowly causing death. Sometimes sick people come to our porch during afternoon clinic complaining, "I have been shot by a hidden arrow from Satan." People attribute many illnesses to witchcraft and often accuse the weak and defenseless (usually young boys) of witchcraft when there are sicknesses. Anthropologist Rupert Stasch, who focused his work among the southern dialect in the mid-to-late 1990's, documented over 200 witch executions in the recent past. The father of my son Noah's soccer companion, Pilemon, was murdered, dismembered, and eaten as a witch when Pilemon was still a young child. Yamis is a young boy who is cared for by HeartCry missionaries Jimi and Perin. Two years ago, he was also accused of witchcraft. Evangelist Ainus (now

recovering on the coast after being mauled by a feral pig) untied and carried Yamis back to Danowage after the community in Ujung Batu could not decide whether to strangle him or drown him. Yadison, a mentally challenged boy from Waina, was tied up in the middle of his village in 2009 until evangelist Yownus shielded him with his body and brought the boy into his own home. Now Yadison attends every session of Bible teaching and tries to soak up as much as he can despite his mental limits.

One part of the evangelization process done by the highland indigenous Papuan evangelists has been the gathering of people from scattered tree houses into villages to facilitate teaching and preaching. These new village houses are built close to the ground on stilts and do not follow the traditional "treehouse" pattern. These new "village-dwelling Korowai" often struggle with this dual existence of static village living and semi-nomadic jungle circulation. The gathering of the Korowai into villages brings them into closer proximity with one another and often increases conflict for a time, until they get used to each other's presence.

A normal way of relating to

*A Korowai tribesman teaching his people the Scriptures through proclamation and illustration.*





*Joyful Korowai evangelists are ready to launch out once again into the jungles to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their people.*

one another among the Korowai is through threats of violence or vociferous demands. One anthropologist describes this as “brinkmanship” (think of the Soviet Union and the United States during the Cold War either threatening or appeasing one another as tensions ebbed and flowed). If a husband dies in America, people will visit and offer gifts and condolences to the widow. In contrast, a Korowai widow will be met with harsh demands for foodstuffs and gifts by the extended family.

Finally, the Korowai are sometimes polygynous. Men barter for young girls as future wives. These young girls then go and live in the home of their future husband until menstruation begins and the marriage can be consummated. Many young mothers and their babies die at childbirth due to poor nutrition or the young age of the girl during her first pregnancy. Women often go out into the jungle to give birth, and

it is reported that they do so over a hole dug in the ground for such a purpose. Some abandon their babies in the jungle and push leaves down their throats with a stick in order to keep them quiet.

## OUR LONGING

**W**e long to see a church of Korowai believers led by Korowai shepherds. We pray for indigenous pastors and evangelists who themselves know the Gospel and who can teach the Gospel to others. Our methodology is based on II Timothy 2:2: “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” Our goal remains discipling tribals who can then make tribal disciples (reaching the lost to reach the lost). We read and discuss bible stories to six or eight young tribal men throughout the week. Several profess faith and show lives con-

sistent with the Gospel.

It is exciting to see that a few men are going out to their families' clan areas to proclaim the Gospel there as well. Brother Simson claims that he does not have a single member of his family who has not heard the Gospel clearly and believed. Brother Salomo states that what he most desires in life is to become an evangelist. Brothers Amsal, Daud, and Musa have trekked a day's hike to voluntarily deliver food to the sick in the treehouses, praying for them afterwards. Brothers Barnabas, Wahyu, Simson, and Salomo regularly lead church services in various plac-

es. Every week we continue to proclaim the Gospel to these disciples using simple pictures. During the weekends, these six or eight tribal believers then take those lessons out to other villages and treehouses. On Monday morning, they begin their journey back to Danowage to spend another week learning another round of stories for further distribution.

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.” (John 10:16)

## CONCLUSION

**W**e have seen people profess Jesus and repent of sins. We have seen some lives changed; but not as many as we would hope. We have seen some of the sick be healed and some who were close to death recover; but not as many as we would like. We have seen other missionaries recruited into missions; but the needs are still many.

I remain confident that the Good Shepherd has His elect sheep scattered throughout this remote region. He will call them invariably through His Word. Victory is assured. Each human soul is exceedingly precious. We are immensely privileged to serve God in this needy area. Despite many trials, we thank God every day that we may serve Him here.

We know from Ecclesiastes that “he who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.” We have, therefore, resolved: “In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not

withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good.” (Ecclesiastes 11:4-6). We are planting despite frequent unfavorable weather and stubborn soil. We remain confident that the Master of the Harvest will grant fruit to our labors. ■





# A VIEW FROM THE FIELD



REGIONAL REPORTS

## Africa STUDENTS IN MISSIONS

GO

BY CONRAD MBEWE

*HeartCry's primary partner on African soil is Kabwata Baptist Church in Lusaka, Zambia. We have worked with KBC for nearly fifteen years in their church-planting and mission efforts throughout Africa. In an email correspondence at the end of 2013, Pastor Conrad Mbeve conveyed the following vision for the next season of labor.*

“More must be done in Africa. What's the next challenge?” After ten months of praying about this question and never being at peace with the answers that presented themselves, I believe that my heart has finally landed on the next challenge. It is related to our new initiative for campus outreach ministries and is in line with our effort to swell the ground force for missions. I have discussed the matter with our elders, and we are all excited to go forward. Let me explain:

Our ground troops are already laboring on several different campuses, struggling with meagre resources, but sharing the Gospel with students. A few months ago, I asked Misheck,

*Above: Some of the students attending the Students in Missions Conference in Lusaka, Zambia, in January of 2014. It is hoped that from this student ministry God might raise up an army of missionaries for the continent of Africa and beyond.*

our missions coordinator, to develop a short-term missions program that would enable us to use Christian students in missions during their holidays. Whenever I would come across an article on short-term missions, especially if it had to do with students, I would forward it to him to help him come up with our own program. I suggested we call it our *Students in Missions* program. At that time, it was purely an effort to use the energies of Christian young adults who are students to supplement what our missionaries were doing in their various stations. As the weeks turned into months, the burden kept growing. I watched our own young adults in the church busy serving the Lord through various outreach efforts with hardly any push from me or any of the other elders. They are in love with the Gospel and want to see it impact their generation. It then hit me that the



*Students at the Students in Missions Conference communicating the truths of the Great Commission through song.*

next best move was to expose these same young people to missions in the rest of Zambia and Africa. I realized that once they got out there, they would translate this same love for the Gospel into missions endeavours throughout the whole of Africa. It is a fact that the great missionary movements of the 19th and early 20th centuries were born among students (for example: the Haystack Prayer Meeting in Williams College in 1806). So if we could get even more students with sound doctrine exposed to missions while they are in this formative stage of their lives, we could, *under God*, begin an unstoppable ground swell of indigenous missionaries to take the Gospel across Africa and beyond.

I put these things before our elders, and they heartily endorsed them. In fact, they agreed that our next missions conference in January of 2014 should be under the theme “Students in Missions.” Furthermore, we intended to “bus in” students from the various college and university campuses across Lusaka for four days of preaching about mis-

sions. We would use the conference to launch the program that Misheck had been working on. We would give out brochures to the students so that they could read about Christ’s call to give themselves to this great kingdom work.

Finally, with HeartCry’s help, our one-year pastoral internship program is growing. Next year, we are expecting interns from Zambia, South Africa, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Canada, and more. This year, we have sent out one man who has gone through the internship program, and we are in the process of ordaining a second one. Although this is extremely profitable, the benefit of the *Students in Missions* program is that we will have the students with us for about three to five years. During this period, they will be taught the Gospel in all its height and depth, disciplined by older church members, and exposed to missions. If this ground swell does occur, it could be the start of a second great missionary movement from African students! Pray with us! Pray with us!

## STUDENTS IN MISSIONS UPDATE

*In February of 2014, Pastor Conrad Mbewe updated HeartCry on what transpired at their annual missions conference in January. He also noted, as you will read, a further development in KBC’s vision for their Students in Missions program.*

**W**e have just finished our 2014 missions conference and missionary prayer retreat. The Lord was with us. The theme was “Students in Missions,” and Isaac Makashinyi did an excellent job in showing us the personnel, the potential, and the price of missions.

Pastor Isaac Makashinyi was the main speaker for the 2014 Students in Missions Conference. He delivered powerful exhortations on the need and cost of missions.



Last night, one student wrote to me, “I enjoyed the missions conference; it was a big eye-opener. It is only after that conference that I realized how under-utilized I have been. I have been comfortable with just being saved. It was indeed a beneficial theme!” We had a very good spirit among all our missionaries. I can sense a maturing taking place among most of them, especially when I compare them to their first years with us.

We have also decided to make a new desire of ours a matter of prayer and planning: the planting of at least one reformed Baptist church in each of the capitals of English-speaking African nations. We believe that if we can achieve this, these

churches would become a springboard for further missions work in their respective nations. It would also be easier to network these churches in an Africa-wide fellowship, as they would all be using the same language. Once we have covered the majority of the English-speaking nations, we can then start spilling over into the French- and Portuguese-speaking countries as well. We need to cover Africa with good, solid churches that will have a “lighting” and “salting” effect upon their nations. We have lost too much ground to religious chaos. We think that *Students in Missions* may give us the nursery bed for the indigenous missionaries we need to cover the whole of Africa!

## HEARTCRY'S INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENTS IN MISSIONS

BY MARC GLASS

Springing forth from their vision to further utilize college students in mission and church-planting endeavors, HeartCry has committed to helping Kabwata Baptist Church in two specific ways.

First, we have sent funds for KBC to purchase a bus for transporting students to various mission stations throughout the country. Every year at Kabwata's annual missions conference, they take up a one-time offering to be used for a missions cause. Prior to the conference in January, KBC's elders determined that this year's special offering should be designated to purchasing a missions bus. During the school term, the stu-

dents will be bussed to the church from various campuses around Lusaka for the purpose of continuing discipleship efforts. Because the various colleges and private universities close at different times throughout the year, KBC will be able to utilize different groups of students for short-term missions trips throughout the year. These short-term trips will also bolster our mission stations, as the students will work alongside current KBC and HeartCry missionaries. Combining HeartCry's gift with the missions conference offering, Kabwata was able to purchase two missions buses.

Secondly, part of the *Students in*

Missions program will involve training young adults for the work of missions. To avoid giving them a paid holiday, Kabwata will have the students raise a certain percentage of their money needed for the trips. The students will do this by asking Christian friends and relatives to sponsor them and by doing extra fund-raising

work. Those that are active members of KBC already do this for the various ministries of the church, so now they want this to translate into missions endeavors. To help in this work, HeartCry has determined to give a set number of “scholarships” to be applied to some of the students’ funds, at Kabwata’s discretion.

## MISSIONARY REPORT

BY NAPHTALLY OGALLO

*Naphtally has been involved in church planting since 1975, when he worked to establish Trinity Baptist Church in Nairobi, Kenya. He holds a B.A. in Theology from Wales Evangelical School of Theology in Brynertion, Wales. He and his wife Helida and their two children are now laboring in Grace Baptist Church in Eldoret, Kenya, a church that Naphtally planted and has pastored since its inception.*

Once again we are glad to write and share with you our news so that you might pray for us. It is the practice of many to make New Year’s resolutions, and our congregation is not exempt. At the beginning of the year, I preached from Hebrews 12:14: “Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.” Why this choice of a passage? At the beginning of the year, I phoned a dear Christian brother, my former teacher and mentor, to wish him and his wife a Happy New Year. In our brief conversation, I expressed to him that looking back over the previous year I have had a sense of regret since I did not achieve “great things for the Lord” as I would have wanted. Now standing at the threshold of a new year, I wondered if I would realize those desires for the Lord. This godly man gently exhorted me and said, “Naphtally, what ultimately matters is not what great things you will have achieved, but whether or not you are holy; for without holiness, you will not see the Lord!” This was a very timely reminder. I was then immediately convinced that my congregation needed the same guidance. The two subsequent

sermons on holiness were most appreciated.

I also continue to preach expositionally through the Gospel of Mark on the Lord’s Day. It is wonderful to continue to see the Lord Jesus Christ as the gracious and sovereign Saviour of sinners. Through and through, our Lord kept to the purpose of His coming – “Not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

We are glad to see how the Lord is equipping Paul Wamkowa Keno in the area of preaching. Paul has come to embrace the doctrines of grace with all his heart and might. He is greatly benefiting from our reformed theological studies. He delivers God’s Word with passion and is active in evangelism. Please pray for this dear brother’s continued development.


As a church, we have a weekly memory verse, and a recent one has greatly encouraged us: “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58). With a small membership in our church, it is not unusual for us to doubt the Lord’s presence; but this verse has been of constant encouragement to us. We want to spend and be spent for the Lord. We are learning to count it a privilege as we share in our people’s lives. Two young men who are church members are in the university, two other young men are in college, two boys are in secondary school, and now three girls have just enrolled in tailoring and dress-making courses. As each one of them faces similar

economic challenges, we do what we can for them and then encourage them to learn to look to our sovereign Lord. Please pray with us for them.

Please pray with us also with regard to a plot of land that is earmarked for our church use. We have been steadfast in prayer to the Lord for the provision of funds for the purchase. We believe that eventually moving the church to its own plot will make a radical difference to our ministry in Eldoret.

We continue to receive invitations for ministry from various institutions. The two wings of learning at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital have called us for ministry. At the School of Medicine, I preached from Ephesians 2:10; and at the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) for nurses, I taught on what is currently a controversial national debate – homosexuality. The discussion afterward revealed just how timely and relevant the teaching was. I was invited to preach on Sunday, February 23, at Achego Girls High School. My wife Helida and I had already had an opportunity to address the same school last month on January 12. Another invitation that has come is to a local FM Christian Radio Station. I have been asked to prepare a brief series of talks on “Family Life.” We are greatly encouraged and excited by the interest being generated in these important institutions for biblical teachings.

The death of my only sister, Grace, on January 6 became a difficult experience for our entire family, but especially for Helida and me. We



*Paul Wamkowa Keno is being prepared for the Gospel ministry by Brother Naphtally.*

had traveled from Eldoret to visit her at her hospital ward in Kisumu in the company of my mum and my older brother. While we were still within the hospital, she passed on! Our plan to travel back to Eldoret the same day was therefore canceled, and we began to make burial arrangements. We decided to conduct the

burial five days later. Mobilizing all of our family members to the practical realization of our goal turned out to be one of the most testing and challenging task of our lives. However, the Lord was very gracious to enable us to give our only sister and the youngest member of our family a decent burial. The more we felt pushed to the wall, as it were, the more we experienced and felt the sufficiency of God's grace. My sister left behind a daughter, Helen, and a son, Tom, who has just joined secondary school. Two weeks after the burial of my sister, my cousin's son was brutally murdered while at night duty. He was buried last Saturday. Please pray that these tragedies would push our whole family to seek hard after the Lord.

A fierce exchange of gunfire erupted a week ago between Islamic youths and the police at a mosque in Mombasa. The youths were being “radicalized” in connection with Al-Shabab. The government has reacted by tightening requirements for operations of religious groups, including churches. We must pray if the Gospel of the grace of God is to be the urgent and true response to all these threats and reactions. Please brethren, pray with us! ■



*Brother Naphtally and the members of Grace Baptist Church of Eldoret, Kenya, in front of their temporary meeting place.*

# WESTERN EUROPE

GO

## REACHING THE LOST IN GERMANY

BY PETER SCHILD AND NATHANAEL ARMISEN

*Peter Schild and Nathanael Arminen are working to plant biblical churches in Germany. Throughout the week, they are teaching, preaching, and evangelizing in the streets of Wetzlar and Frankfurt.*

**W**e would like to begin this report with a very powerful and challenging quote by Charles Spurgeon of the Metropolitan Tabernacle. He said:

“Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself. Be sure of that... If a man has come to have a love for perishing sinners and his blessed Master, then the saving of souls will be an all-absorbing passion to him. It will so carry him away that he will almost forget himself in the saving of others. He will be like the brave fireman, who cares not for the scorch or the heat, so that he may rescue the poor creature on whom true humanity has set its heart. If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in

the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.”

Next to our weekly preaching and teaching ministry in the church, we consider it a tremendous privilege and pleasure to share the Gospel with hundreds of people on the streets of Germany and from door to door. We preach Christ to all kinds of people in all kinds of situations. Every week we hand out a great number of Gospel tracts, Bibles, and booklets. We face a lot of rejection, but the more we proclaim the Gospel, the more joy we receive. Every week we encounter people who are open to learn more about the Gospel and show interest in visiting our services. For example, we recently had the opportunity to visit the home of two Syrian asylum-seeking men three times in a row to speak to them about the Gospel and to study the Bible together for several hours.

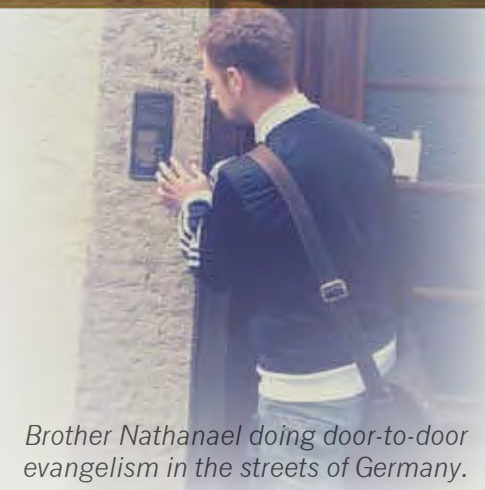
Our church in Wetzlar (Reformed Baptist Church) has now officially sent us out as missionaries to begin a church-planting work in the city of Frankfurt. As soon as we have a place to meet in a flat, we will begin to evangelize in Frankfurt and to offer a weekly Bible study and fellowship time.

*Nathanael answering the questions of an inquirer at the book table. The response of the people is greatly varied. Some oppose, some are only curious, but others stop and listen. Whatever the case, the Gospel is preached, and for this we must rejoice.*



Please pray for the moving process – that we will be able to find the right place to live and make all the proper arrangements. Also pray for Nathanael and his wife Dominique, as they are expecting their first child in August. Finally, please pray for all of us as we strive to make Christ known in Wetzlar and Frankfurt. We need the Lord to grant us a greater and greater burden for the lost. We desire that sinners be saved for God’s glory, that they turn from their sin to worship the one true God.

At the end of March, our church will host a conference with the title “Evangelism with Heart.” Pastor and author Jeremy Walker from the U.K. will be the speaker. We expect visitors from across the country and beyond. As a church, we long to see more biblical evangelism and church planting in our country, and we hope and pray that this conference will be



*Brother Nathanael doing door-to-door evangelism in the streets of Germany.*

a wake-up call for many Christians to join the Great Commission more earnestly. Please pray for the preparation, the speaker, and everyone who will be attending.

Finally, thank you so much for every single prayer that you offer to the Lord on our behalf! We are truly blessed through your intercession.

## A NEW CAR FOR A WORTHY MINISTRY

BY PAUL WASHER

Jacques T. Brunt is an itinerant preacher, teacher, and evangelist in the Netherlands. He was married to Annette in 2004, and they have three children: Levi, Boaz, and Jesse. Jacques’ ministry can be divided into two specific areas. He is a teacher in his local Baptist church in Alblasserdam, and he is an itinerant preacher traveling throughout the Netherlands.

Jacques’ itinerant ministry demands that he preaches in many different places throughout the Netherlands. His ministry includes Sunday worship services, conferences, evangelistic outreaches, church week-ends, and numerous other meetings where he preaches the Gospel. He is also involved in an interdenominational, rural prayer group of pastors and preachers with Oscar Lohuis and Arjan Baan. Through Stichting Heart Cry (separate from HeartCry Missionary Society) and the Baptist churches, they have built a very large

network throughout the Netherlands.

A trustworthy vehicle is absolutely necessary for Jacques’ itinerant preaching ministry. For this reason, when we heard that he had need, we were glad to help. Through your giving, HeartCry was able to supply the \$11,600 that was still needed for a new vehicle. Jacques wrote, “We have received our new car today. Your financial gift is well spent. It is a large, seven-seater car with plenty of storage space – perfect for our family and our ministry. We are so grateful to the Lord for your help. Glory to God.” ■



*Jacques and Annette’s children standing beside their new ministry tool.*

# EASTERNEUROPE

## MINISTRY OVERVIEW

GO

BY SORIN PRODAN

**E**astern Europe is presently under a great deal of political turmoil as countries that were formerly under the hegemony of the now-dissolved U.S.S.R. attempt to join the European Union. Two of these countries in particular are also the mission field of many HeartCry missionaries – Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. Both countries are going through intense trials, but the situation in Ukraine is particularly severe. Riots in the streets have led to hundreds of casualties. The country is now split into two parts, both politically and ethnically. The conflict is deeper than can be seen or understood on the news. There are spiritual powers behind the dictators and their imperialist desires. But despite this turmoil, the Gospel is being preached, and the Kingdom

is growing.

While the strife and uncertainty grows in Ukraine and Moldova, the ministry in Romania is passing through a time of refreshing. This is a direct result of the renewed commitment to prayer and fasting in most of the HeartCry churches and missions. This greater concern for seeking God's face has led to an increase in conversions, and more baptisms are being reported by our missionaries in Brasov, Pucioasa, Fieni, and Bucharest. The Gospel is preached on the street, in schools, in kindergartens, in factories, and in homes. Some prayer groups have also been established in new communities such as Pietrosita, Mihailest, Nufarul, and Casota. In the future, Lord willing, these groups will become starting points for new churches.

## FIRST QUARTER 2014 MISSIONARY REPORT

**T**he beginning of 2014 brought a fresh move of God's Spirit over the missionaries and their ministry in Eastern Europe. Renewed commitments, prayer weeks, fasting days, planning, and praying for this new year have been the norm at every mission point that is under the HeartCry banner. This time of seeking God's face quickly resulted in fruit. A significant number of people were converted in January, and as a result, several missions had baptisms in February or March.

### BRASOV, ROMANIA

We are glad to report that several homeless people from the streets have been converted. This outreach is coordinated by Adi Martin, a

man with a real heart for the destitute people of our city. The weekly Sunday night meeting brings 15-20 homeless together for a cooked meal and the preaching of the Gospel. Out of this number, eight of them have been sent to rehab centers, and



*Evangelical believers praying for Ukraine.*





*A open-air baptismal service at Providence Church in Brasov. The work was started by Sorin Prodan, shown here performing the baptism.*

three have professed faith in Christ – Liviu was baptized several months ago, and Gica and Dorin were baptized in March. The student ministry in Brasov is also bearing fruit. A student who was saved at the end of last year has asked to be baptized. We are also glad to announce that we have begun an internship program with six men from our church who are pursuing ministry. The program is going to last two to three years and will provide theological training and exposure to ministry.

#### **BUCHAREST, ROMANIA**

Costel Gheoanca has just completed one year working in our new church plant in the capital city of Romania. His ministry has been evaluated and approved for another year. He is currently preaching through a series of sermons on the identity of a biblical church and teaching a small group class using Charles Leiter's book *Justification and Regeneration*.

#### **PUCIOASA, ROMANIA**

Nicu Vulpe is reporting healthy progress in his ministry. The outreach activities during Christmas

and the New Year brought together several hundred people to hear the Gospel, and the fruit is clearly visible. The Gospel touched a number of families and individuals. Many testify of a deep work of God in their lives. A lady named Monica was recently converted and freed from her drinking addiction. She will soon be baptized.

#### **FIENI, ROMANIA**

Florin Stan and Marian Bicaian continue to visit the many families in Fieni who were exposed to the Gospel during the annual Christmas banquet. Two people are being prepared for baptism. The mission in nearby Petrosita also continues reaching out to children and families.

#### **DRAGANESTI, ROMANIA**

Danut Opris and George Serban continue to reach out to new families in the villages of Coteana and Stoienesti. We have just appointed George as the new missions coordinator for the entire area. It is a post that was previously held by Raul Costea, who will be stepping down in order to return to the pastoral ministry in the Draganesti area.



*The Church in Pucioasa has experienced significant growth.*

### **DANUBE DELTA, ROMANIA**

The work of Florin Galateanu in the Danube Delta area is moving slowly. The church in Mahmudia has been hindered in its outreach to others by the bad testimony of some who attend there. In spite of this conflict, Florin continues to visit some families in the village of Nufarul, where there seems to be an open door for the Gospel. Florin also traveled by boat to reach some isolated and destitute families living in small communities scattered throughout the Delta.

### **BUZAU, ROMANIA**

Marian Jipa reports with joy about open doors in two more villages – Mihaiesti and Casota. These openings are a direct result of a time of prayer and fasting in the mother church, which was planted by Jipa!

### **UKRAINE**

Ion Gireada continues visiting the families that live within the proximity of his church, and God is granting fruit. One man, who is the husband of a Christian women, invited Ion to preach the Gospel in his house. He invited over fifty of his neighbors, who were mostly Orthodox and Catholics. At the end of the meeting, he declared that he had surrendered his life to Christ and asked to be baptized. His bold confession of faith had a great impact on all who were attending. Brother Sandu Deac continues to be encouraged with the revival and renewal in his area. Surprisingly,

more and more people keep coming to the mid-week service. One family is ready for baptism. Brother Ilie Hluscac held a church-wide public prayer meeting during one week in January. The time they spent in prayer refreshed the church and challenged it to be more focused on evangelism. He also visited some churches with an ex-Orthodox priest who had been converted. This man preached in all our HeartCry missions, and his testimony had a powerful impact on the lives of many people. Vitalii Rusnac reported that two people, Vadim and Mariana, were recently converted. At Christmas, they caroled and shared the Gospel with more than fifty unsaved families. Also, a new children's group from non-Christian families has been established in Vitalii's home with the purpose of teaching them the Gospel. Finally, the work of teaching in the Romanian schools in Ukraine continues. Many of our missionaries are now teaching Christian ethics (and the Gospel) in the public schools. They report that the principals of the schools have had a change of heart about Evangelicals and consider them a positive influence among the students.

### **MOLDOVA**

Anatol Dunas, the coordinator of the team in Cahul City, reports about their outreach to over 120 children from the village of Andrusu. In addition, the Vacation Bible School in Cahul had forty-five children in attendance, and many of these are now attending Sunday School meetings. Ten poor families outside the church were helped with food for six months. This kindness, along with the continuous proclamation of the Gospel, had a tremendous impact upon their lives. After two more outreach events to the youth of the area, several young people seem to have been converted. Anatol and Gelu Ciorna are teaching classes in the public school about sexual abstinence. But the principals from different schools are now asking them to take on even

more classes. Nicu Dunas continues to reach out to young people through his sport ministry. He is now training several hundred students in sports, and he preaches to every one of them the truth of the Gospel. Finally, Gelu has passed through a trial of fire. The doctors predicted that his son would die at birth; but the Lord has answered our prayers, and the child is now five months old and continuing to get better.

Igor Seremet coordinates the HeartCry team in Anenii Noi, working alongside other team members Pavel and Natasa. Six months ago, a new church plant started in the village of Harbovat. During January the team held a three-day children's camp with over seventy children in attendance. This winter has been hard on many people, so the church in Anenii Noi also provided food for ten poor families and wood for seven other families. Sister Natasa no longer has any family members left in Moldova because they all went to Russia or Turkey to look for work. However, she was visited last month by her relatives, and God opened a great door for her to share with them about salvation.

## THE GYPSY MINISTRY

**T**ony Anghel, our missionary in Strehaia City reported to us about how ten buses loaded with Gypsy people left Strehaia for France. This is a common thing now among the Gypsy communities. Many of them are neighbors of the church, and some are even believers. He spent time visiting these families and teaching them to stay close to the Lord wherever they go. The winter was hard here, and some families were afflicted by severe poverty. The church in Strehaia provided food supplies for some families in critical situations.

Sorin Iordan, who ministers in Rosiorii de Vede and Troianu, reports that there is a genuine revival in the



*Emmanuel Church  
in Cahul City, Moldova.*



*The HeartCry team in  
Anenii Noi, Moldova.*



*A recent baptismal service at the  
Romanian church where Marian Vale  
(second from right) pastors. HeartCry  
missionaries Moises Marin (far right) and  
Marian Toma (far left) were also present.*

church as a result of forty days of prayer and fasting. During this time, he also visited thirty-three families in the two different towns. He reported to us about how the Lord worked in

a family that was on the edge of divorce. Like many Gypsy families, the husband left Romania for work in Norway. After a short time, the wife reported to her husband that she also found a good job in Romania. They were making so much money that in a few months they were able to buy an apartment. However, the dream exploded when the husband discovered that his wife was working for a prostitution ring. As a result, he returned to Romania and asked for a divorce. The wife repented of her

Recently, after having been beaten by her husband, she came covered in blood to the church, seeking for help. The brothers intervened. Please pray that God would keep this dear lady and that He would change her husband's heart.

A ministry of great impact which is supported by HeartCry and coordinated by Brother Moises is the Gypsy School. Hundreds of children from destitute families have attended this school in the past several years. Presently, there are approximately twenty children enrolled in the school, and a new school is about to be opened. HeartCry provides support for the teachers' salaries and for various supplies.



*HeartCry's school for Gypsy children in Bucharest, Romania.*

Marian Nae, the missionary in Glina, has shared with us how Mariata, a recently converted women, opened her house for a Bible study. There are now five families coming to her house! In the village of Frumusani, the work is still advancing. However, they had a huge snow storm that left the town completely cut off for several days, and many Gypsies suffered terribly.

sin and asked Pastor Sorin Iordan to help save her marriage and two children from divorce. Sorin counseled the family, and by God's grace, the husband forgave his wife and withdrew the divorce papers from the court. They have both repented and are attending the church faithfully. Praise God!

Our missionary Marian Toma serves in the villages of Tunari and Tamasi. He recently shared with me about a very unusual incident at a funeral that led to the preaching of the Gospel. The car that was taking the coffin to the cemetery broke down on the way. When this happened, a group of religious people came and demanded that the body of the deceased person be taken to the Orthodox Church, as the tradition requires. This gave Marian an opportunity to explain to them that the deceased person was a repentor (Christian), who followed the Bible rather than tradition. Around the same time, a brother in the church in Tunari was told by the doctors that he was going to die. As he was dying in the hospital, the church ministered to him, and the door opened for them to minister to and share the Gospel with many of the other sick people who were languishing there. Finally,

Brother Moises Marin, our coordinator for the Gypsy ministry was very sick. After spending most of December in the hospital, he was diagnosed with a bad illness. For a while, he was very restricted in his ministry work, but now he is recovered and is back on the field serving his church and the Gypsy missions throughout Romania. He recently shared with me a sad story about a Gypsy woman who was abused physically by her husband because she became a repentor (Christian).

in Tamasi, a mother was close to losing her life in a miscarriage, but God spared her. She and her husband used to attend church, but they had stopped seeking the Lord. With this trial, they promised to return to the Lord if He would save her life. God was gracious, and they are now back in the church.

Our missionary Marian Vale shared with us that during a recent baptismal service in December, other people were touched by the Gospel. Now he is preparing for another bap-

tismal service! These new converts are from the villages of Pantelimon and Petrecheni. Through them, the church in Frunzanesi has an open door to begin prayer and Bible study groups in these unreached towns. One of the new Christians is named Ica. She opened up her house for such a group, and six other people were saved. This is how the Gospel advances in these Gypsy communities. We can only praise God for His sovereign plan to take the Gospel to all nations, languages, and peoples.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

**H**earthCry missionary Alex Palade held an evangelistic event in Ploiesti; more than fifty unconverted students attended. Similar events were also held on other campuses in the cities of Sibiu, Brasov, Targu-Mures, and Bacau. Ion Tomeci is now discipling a student named Daniel. He is an orphan who came from Bucharest and joined Providence Church in Brasov. Ion often shares with us how difficult it is to help him because he was so badly affected during his years of living in a state orphanage. Ion's wife Ani leads two Bible studies: one with the married ladies and one for single ladies. She is also helping Nicoleta, who is divorced and raising two children alone. Before Nicoleta met Ani, she was so desperate that she was considering suicide. Ani was introduced to Nicoleta by a young lady named Alexandra, who was also converted during her studies in the university.

Our missionaries Dana L. and Ruxi worked very hard to prepare the annual student ski camp in February. God used it to reach out to many with the Gospel of Jesus. Dana is currently leading a discipleship group using Charles Leiter's book, *Justification and Regeneration*. She also continues to lead a Bible study of the Gospel

of John for the ladies in the pregnancy center. Ruxi shared with us the good news that a young female student who attended the ski camp last year was saved and has asked



*Student Ministry of Providence Church in Brasov, Romania.*

to be baptized. Please pray for her, for her mother opposes her decision vehemently. Ruxi is also discipling a mother who is growing both in her spiritual life and in the way that she raises her children.

Lastly, God has opened a great door for ministering to Muslim students on the campuses in Romania. Please pray that this work might be fruitful!

# UKRAINE'S CIRCUIT-RIDING PREACHERS

BY DON CURRIN

In the past, the phrase “circuit rider” referred to ministers who were either assigned or compelled to travel to specific geographical locations to serve communities by evangelizing and planting churches. Their ministries also included making disciples and edifying the body of Christ.

In southern Ukraine, four HeartCry missionaries have taken on the role of circuit riders. For years, Ion Gireada, Ilie Hluscac, Sandu Deac, and Vitalii Rusnac have invested their lives in traveling to various communities to preach the Gospel of the straight gate and narrow way. In spite of sub-zero winters, antagonism from local Orthodox priests, cynical villagers, and ongoing disappointments in their families and ministries, they have not wavered in the work.

## ION GIREADA

Ion is HeartCry’s point man in southern Ukraine, where he works with our other three missionaries in Cernauti County. Although the area was formerly part of Romania, it is now part of Ukraine; however, most inhabitants still speak Romanian and consider themselves to be Romanian. Brother Gireada ministers to different congregations in the villages of Tereblecia and Bahranești. His pastoral ministries include preaching in churches and homes, visiting the sick, counseling, organizing evangelistic meetings, and leading prayer gatherings. In a recent report, he wrote: “Last Sunday, the unbelieving husband of one of our church members came to church and invited us to have a worship service in his house. After arriving, we found the house full of his Orthodox and Catholic friends. We had a wonderful time together as a guest preacher

from Romania preached the Gospel. The host said he wanted to repent and be baptized. We are thankful to God for His wonderful works and for the doors He opens for us to preach the Gospel.”

## ILIE HLUSCAC

Ilie was born in Russia. While he lives and serves different congregations in his community in the Ukraine, he also regularly travels back to his beloved Russia to share the Gospel. In brother Ilie’s update last month, he wrote: “Beginning in January, I met with unbelievers almost every day; and in the evenings, we held prayer meetings with the church members. Some of these people that I visited continue to come to our Sunday worship services. On January 6, we had a special program with the children, and many unbelieving parents came to the meeting.” Ilie’s ministry in his church in Poleana continues to grow. Unfortunately, Brother Hluscac could only get to the church one time last month because of a heavy snow.

## SANDU DEAC

Brother Sandu has experienced much difficulty and disappointments in his life as a minister. But the hardships have only strengthened him in his ministerial labors. Encouraged and sharpened many times by his HeartCry brothers Ion Gireada and



*Brother Sandu Deac.*

Vitalii Rusnac, Sandu has rebounded from intense assaults from the enemy. Consequently, he has become a burning and shining light among the people in his area. In his most recent report, he related what God is teaching him in evangelism:

“An important thing for me is personal evangelism. I am thankful to God for giving me the opportunity to talk to people. I believe that a Christian and servant of God must testify about the Lord everywhere. I pray every day that the Lord might give me good opportunities to share the Gospel with the people I am going to meet that day. Because of this, I have the honor of telling someone about my Lord almost every day. This is one of the most special things that I can do, and I try to do it as much as possible for my Savior’s glory and for the salvation of souls. I do not have an exact number of people with whom I shared the Gospel this month, but I believe it was about a hundred.

“Most of the people with whom I talked, especially those that do not want to have anything to do with me, did not have a good response when they heard the Gospel. It is also true that most of them were totally uninterested in hearing about God. The majority of both the young and the old here know almost nothing about the teachings of the Bible. In spite of all of this, God has given us a wonderful opportunity by opening the public schools for us so that we might teach the Scriptures to the children in a systematic way. This is indeed an extraordinary thing and is a proof of God’s grace for us and our people. Even if all the people refuse to hear, we must still testify about God’s love and kindness, His faithfulness towards us, and His enduring passion to save ev-


eryone who believes. I am praying to God to keep me full of passion for His glory and to help me testify about His wonderful works as long as I live.”

#### VITALII RUSNAC

In the little village of Storojinet, Vitalii pastors his flock. His duties as a minister of the Gospel include preaching, teaching, counseling, and serving his fellow ministers in their respective villages. He related in a recent report about how the power of the Gospel was displayed in the salvation of souls:

“On December 31, the Lord searched the heart of Vadim, and he received Christ. Since then, he has received much opposition from his family (his uncle is an Orthodox priest); but he is strong in faith. I gave him some written testimonies about several priests who came to Christ, and the materials helped him a lot. On the sixth of January, we visited his family, sang Christmas songs, and invited them to church. Unfortunately, they do not have enough courage to come. We continue to pray for them. At the same time that Vadim was converted, a young lady named Mariana also made a profession of faith. Her parents came to the Lord five years ago. We are very glad that both parents are active Christians. On January 6th, our church was able to visit fifty homes and sing Christmas songs. People were open as we invited them to come to our church meeting. Six people attended for the first time. We were very joyful for this opportunity.”

Please continue to pray for these men and their ministries. Your intercession for our Ukrainian brothers and their families is invaluable to them. Please continue to pray for their churches and that the Lord might protect them in the wake of the civil conflict that is engulfing their country. ■



Brother Paul preaching the Gospel to over 700 people on the first night of the youth conference in Samara, Russia.

# EURASIA

## GO COORDINATOR'S REPORT

BY HOLDEN BARRY

### TRAINING CONFERENCE IN SAMARA, RUSSIA

As I reflect on the recent conference in Samara, Russia, that Paul Washer and I attended, I am thankful for God's faithfulness. It is evident that the Lord's hand is upon the church and training center there and that He was also at work during our week-long trip. The first three days were devoted to an annual youth conference, followed by a day of meeting with the HeartCry missionaries. The trip concluded with two full days of training students and pastors. In total, Brother Paul preached over twenty times. The Lord answered many prayers. There were no major obstacles, and the entire trip went exceptionally well. Thank you to all who prayed on our behalf!

The youth conference was reported to be their largest yet, with over 700 people from all over Russia attending. This is quite uncommon for the Evangelical community in Russia, and it came as a surprise to many. For three days, Paul centered his preaching around the theme of "Understanding the Gospel," and he was able to answer several good questions from the youth. There were many reports of people being con-

victed of their sin and confronted with a biblical understanding of who God is for the first time. As a result, people turned to Christ alone for salvation. Glory to God! Also, many believers testified that their faith was strengthened and their love for the Gospel of Jesus Christ deepened as a result of the preaching.

HeartCry currently supports six men through the Samara Center for Biblical Training (SCBT). They were all present for the conference, and we were able to meet with each of them. It was a great encouragement to talk, pray, and fellowship with these men. All of them are SCBT graduates who have been sent throughout Russia and Kazakhstan to plant churches and proclaim Christ.

We continue to be impressed with SCBT's high level of training, coupled with their ability to truly hold these men accountable with regard to both their lives and doctrine. Furthermore, all training is done through

*Five of the six HeartCry missionaries supported through SCBT. From left to right: Andrey G., Dimitry R., Bakhid N., Alexander S., and Eugene M.*







*Brother Paul teaching during one of the training sessions at SCBT.*

the local church – Transfiguration Church. At SCBT, the missionaries are taught Greek, Hebrew, hermeneutics, expository preaching, and biblical counseling. The goal is not to churn out big-brained theologians who are detached from the church, but to raise up and adequately train pastors to better know and love God, His church, and the lost.

Perhaps the most blessed time of the entire trip was the last two days, which were devoted entirely to training the SCBT students as well as many pastors from the surrounding areas. Altogether there were about one hundred men present for the training, in which Brother Paul focused his teaching on personal prayer, communion with God, and

the minister's life. This was a special time as the Lord drew near and made His presence felt among us. Brother Paul mentioned feeling especially helped in his teaching, and most of the men were greatly impacted.

Even though the trip was very brief, I glorify God that it was fruitful, and I trust that it will prove to have made an impact in His Kingdom for eternity. Pray for those who put their trust in Christ alone for salvation at the conference. Pray also for the missionaries whom HeartCry supports through SCBT. Finally, pray for the students and pastors who were at the training – that their living, preaching, and praying might reflect their sincere imitation of Christ.

## NEW MISSIONARY

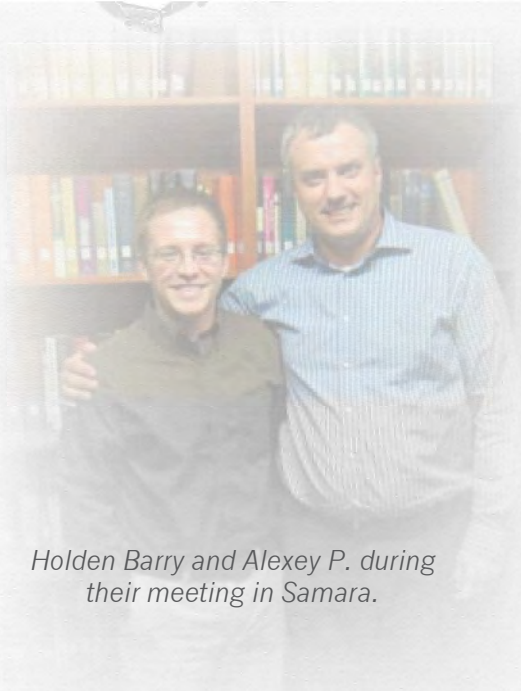
At the beginning of December of 2013, HeartCry began supporting a new missionary in Eurasia – Alexey P. This brings the total number of missionaries that we support in Eurasia to fourteen. Alexey ministers in European Russia, specifically in the city of St. Petersburg. He is a graduate of SCBT and was sent out from his home church in Penza (west of Samara). He and his family have accepted a request by a small group of believers in St.

*Alexey P. and his family.*



Petersburg to plant a church. With a population of 10 million people, St. Petersburg is the second largest city in Russia; and the need for Bible-centered, Christ-exalting churches there is enormous. Alexey began his church-planting efforts in the fall of 2013.

During our time in Samara, Brother Paul and I had the privilege of meeting with Alexey and his family. According to the leadership of SCBT, he is a wonderfully gifted brother, who graduated at the top of his class. In our meeting with him, we were encouraged by his humility and his love for people. You can read more about Alexey P. on the HeartCry website.



*Holden Barry and Alexey P. during their meeting in Samara.*

## MISSIONARY REPORT

BY DIMITRY R.



### TRANSPARENCY AND DESIRE TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS

*The following update from Dimitry R. is both encouraging and transparent. Here is a Russian pastor who genuinely desires to be further conformed into the image of Christ and is willing to share his struggles because he understands the necessity and power of others praying for him. Please read Dimitry's report and pray for the requests of our brother.*

**P**ace to you dear mission servants! A new year has come, and the coming of our Lord is approaching. I decided to search my

heart more diligently this year, to get rid of anything that is not pleasing to the Lord Jesus. Other than that, everything is the same – I am preaching on the third chapter of the Gospel of Mark, and we are finishing the Epistle of James in our small group. We have particularly enjoyed our study of James. By God's grace, we have started noticing things that need to be changed in us. All of us are tempted today in the same way that the people in this letter were. As a result, the brothers and sisters have been sharing how God works in their hearts and teaches them to apply the Word in their lives. It makes me glad! In this letter though, I would like to share with you how the Lord is working in my own heart and ask you to pray for me.

Last Sunday, we had a young married couple come to our service. They came earlier than many members of the church. I came up to them to introduce myself. To my surprise, they said they had found out about the church from the internet and decided to come and visit. They explained how they were not Christians but wanted to attend a "lecture" of such kind. Also, they were

expecting to see a lot of people. I answered some of their questions and told them about the service we were about to have. Unfortunately, many members of our church had not yet come and were running late. I felt discouraged, and deep down I started condemning my brothers and sisters for taking our service so lightly and for not being responsible enough to be on time. I immediately felt I was doing something wrong.

When we got done reading the Word of God and were about to pray, I felt that my grudge was not going away, and I knew it was really bad. I started asking the Lord to show me the true reason why I felt so upset. I realized that I could not preach until the issue was resolved in my heart. In just a few moments, it became clear to me. The true reason for my discouragement was my desire to look better and more successful than I really was – I wanted the glory. I repented and asked the Lord to help me avoid having the same problem during the sermon, but I still felt ashamed. As a result, I decided to confess before the church, which was fully assembled by then. The Lord gave me grace to tell them how I felt and how I sinned against them. Then we all prayed about our sins and our secret desires to worship ourselves instead of Christ. After that, I was able to preach like

normal. It was one of the best services and prayer times we ever had!

Please continue to pray for me and for the work here, brethren, especially in the following areas.

1. Pray for me to seek the glory of God when I prepare sermons; pray that I would hide behind Christ and His Glory when I preach instead of trying to show myself off or seek attention.
2. Pray that I would always remember that I cannot do anything to build Christ's Church if I do not have His power dwelling in my weakness.
3. Pray that I would immediately be aware of my sin when I fall to the temptation of seeking for personal glory. Also, pray that I would not be discouraged when this happens, but that I would turn to Christ for healing, joy, and gratitude.
4. Pray that I would have an ever-increasing burden and desire to proclaim Christ to unbelievers.
5. Pray that I would always have a complete dependence upon the Spirit of God, that I would use only the means which are pleasing to Him, and that I would not fear people but love them.
6. Pray that the Lord would raise up new pastors and leaders in the Church in Russia. ■

*Dimitry R. and his wife, Yekaterina, with their daughter, Ksenia, and son, Timothy.*



# LATIN AMERICA

BY WALTER ISSE



## EAGER FOR GROWTH IN LIMA, PERU

*Walter Isse is a native of Argentina, but is currently serving as a HeartCry Missionary in Peru. His primary responsibility is working alongside David Silva to raise up a work in Lima, Peru.*

I sincerely hope that this report finds you all growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and that your lives are abundantly filled in Him.

This new year finds us desiring as a church to know and obey the will of God in humility. We are all devoting ourselves to prayer and desiring for the church here to move forward in a way that encourages all the believers to serve and work for the Lord according to our gifts. For the Lord has given gifts through His Spirit to each of us for the building up of the Body of Christ, His Church. In order for this to happen, we are depending upon the supernatural work of our God, who equips us by giving us grace to fulfill such a calling. We understand that separate from Christ we can do nothing. We pray that together, as brothers and sisters, we might attain the full assurance of understanding of who Christ is and what He has done, so that by His mercy we might grow as a church in service to Him.

The Lord has been very good to us recently. Over the past few months,

He has added some new brothers and sisters to our congregation. Some time ago, the Lord brought a precious family to us through a very painful experience in their lives. The little three-year old daughter of this family suffers from a degenerative disease that affects her motor skills. The sickness has left her paralyzed from the neck down, and she is now dependent on a breathing machine. However, the Lord has used this traumatic experience to bring this family to Himself, enabling them to see their own impotence in the midst of such circumstances. They have surrendered to Christ, repenting of their sins and trusting in Him for salvation. Their testimony of faith and patience in the Lord encourages us deeply and leads us to give glory to our good God for His infinite mercy. According to the doctors, their daughter does not have long to live; but we know that the only determining factor in the life of this child is the sovereign will of our Father, in whose hands rests the life of every man. Please pray for this family, that they might grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that the work God has begun in them He will continue to perfect until the day of the coming of our Lord Jesus.

During this current year, we have many challenges and opportunities of which we want to take advantage. We want to grow in each area of our lives and be good stewards of the things that the Lord has entrusted to us. We want to continue focusing on the care of the life of every brother and sister in the congregation, and we desire to see significant advances in each individual. With all of my heart, I desire personally to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, abounding in Him in everything and drawing nearer to Him each day. Here are some specific areas in which we would like to see significant improvements as a congregation:

- ⊕ To grow in individual discipleship, with a special emphasis on preparing believers for the work of the ministry.
- ⊕ To grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus that we might all attain to the full stature of a mature man, to the fullness of Christ.
- ⊕ To grow in evangelism individually and collectively, proclaiming the Gospel in the church building, in houses, and on the streets, as the opportunity arises.
- ⊕ To make use of every biblical means in order to spread the Gospel of Christ.
- ⊕ To grow individually and collectively in reliance upon God through prayer, encouraging the brothers and sisters in the church to meet together and persevere in prayer.
- ⊕ To grow in love for others, knowing that this is the most visible distinguishing mark that we are truly disciples of Christ.

Looking back on 2013, I can see how the Lord has carried us through great deserts. I can see that He has tried us in ways that have shown us that only His grace and faithfulness are able to sustain us. Our great God has placed us in difficult situations in order that we might see that He alone is able to uphold us. If it were not for the grace of God, we would have been overcome by every trial. Yet, in our most needy moments, we have found that the answer is always to have more of Christ. He has been our fortress, and His Word our refuge. His promises have led us, and the glorious hope that we have in Him has sustained us and enabled us to persevere. We recognize that apart from Him we are nothing and we can do nothing. We are vitally united to Him, and our strength is dependent upon our abiding in Him. His Name and His glory are the joy of our heart.

May the grace, mercy, and peace of God and of our Lord Jesus be with each of you! ■

## MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

### DAVID SILVA



*In 2013, HeartCry began supporting missionary David Silva. Along with his family, David left the Amazonian city of Iquitos, Peru, in order to serve as a teacher in the HeartCry Bible Academy, which was recently established in Lima. Currently, he teaches several theology courses at the academy. He also helps with the teaching and preaching at various new works in Lima.*

I was born in 1983 in the city of Iquitos in the jungle of Peru. I was raised in a family that professed to be Christian, but when I was twelve years old, my parents separated. Throughout my childhood, I had always heard that one must believe in Christ to be saved and that only He could save us from our problem. Because of what I was taught, I knew that I had a problem, but I could not see its gravity.

During my childhood, I liked to be with the church, but only because I enjoyed singing the songs and hymns. The part that I did not enjoy was the time of preaching. When it was time for the sermon, I often became so bored that even before the pastor began speaking, I was already falling asleep. What was most displeasing to me was that no matter the theme on which the pastor was preaching, he always had to mention Jesus Christ. In every sermon he said the same thing: that Jesus died on the cross and that one must believe in Him. Little did I know that this is the core of all bibli-

cal preaching.

When my parents decided that they were no longer going to live together, I looked for refuge and comfort in my friends at school. I tried to please them and earn their respect by doing the same kinds of things they were doing. I thought that by disregarding all the rules and authority of my parents, I was becoming an adult. I thought that I was wise and mature, with liberty to do as I pleased. However, I was completely wrong, and later I saw that this kind of wisdom was not wisdom at all.

In all of this, I knew that God existed and was always present, but I did not know Him. I knew that God speaks to us through His Word, but I did not hear Him. I knew that I was a sinner, but my sin did not bother me. I knew that I was supposed to hate my sin, but I loved my sin very much.

As the years passed, I continued trying different things that the world has to offer, but I was never happy. I never felt peace. I thought that having a lot of money, women, and alcohol was going to make me feel better about my life, but I never found happiness or peace. I knew that I was not right. Something was missing from my life. Now I know that it was not "something" that was missing from my life, but "everything" – God was missing.

When I was seventeen, after many years of not attending church, an acquaintance of mine invited me to attend services at his church. For several weeks, I was able to avoid him or make an excuse for not going, but eventually I agreed to go with him. The people at the church were very pleasant, and I enjoyed their company, but still I continued with my sinful life; I continued to give myself over to my own pleasures and desires. Over time, as I occasionally attended the church services, I began to realize that the believers in that congregation had something that I lacked. They had joy in their lives, and they loved one another very much. They cared about me and were concerned for me and for others. They could be happy without resorting to the same worldly pleasures that I was seeking after.

As I listened to the preaching of

the Word, I began to understand the Gospel, and I started to see my own sin. Through His Word, the Lord began to show me His holiness; and at the same time, I began to see His mercy. Finally, at the age of 21, I was brought to the feet of Christ. The specific date of my conversion is not known to me, and I cannot explain exactly how it happened. I only know that I started to be so ashamed and had such a sense of my unworthiness because of my sin that I felt I was the most foolish man on the earth for not having seen the gravity of my sin before. I was overwhelmed with terror, knowing that God was against me because of my wickedness; and yet, through faith in Christ, I gained the tremendous and inexplicable joy of knowing that I was now at peace with Him, having been completely forgiven in Christ.

I had been born again. I felt that I was different than the people around me, and I sensed that I no longer belonged to this world. Glory to God for all that He has done! Thanks be to our Lord for His mercy! Thanks be to Christ for His love displayed on the cross, for taking my sin upon Himself and dying in my place!

With time I grew in my desire to study and understand the Scriptures. Often I would stay in my house for hours with the purpose of knowing more of God and His Word. Now that I knew the Gospel and had forgiveness of sins, I also wanted others to see the same, so I began sharing my testimony whenever I had the opportunity. I was always looking for a chance to proclaim the Gospel. Seeing the need in churches for a true knowledge of doctrine, and seeing the lack of spiritual growth in many churches, I could not remain silent. However, I knew that I also needed to grow in my own understanding. So in 2005, I began preparing in a Bible institute in Iquitos, Peru.

Though I cannot explain exactly how the Lord called me to the ministry, I do know that from the time I was converted I could not keep from speaking of Him. This is the primary motive I have for serving Him: He saved me. That is more than sufficient. I have been serving the Lord in the ministry for nine years now, and

I am now training current and future pastors and missionaries. I have been married since November of 2010 to a daughter of God named Angelica, and we have one child named Jaris, who was born on April 16, 2012.

This is the truth that weighs on my heart: if the Master and Owner of the universe had compassion and mercy on David Silva, a sinful man worthy only of punishment and less than a worm; and if He sent His only Son, the only One who has ever truly

loved the Father above all things; and if He made Him responsible for all my sins, all the filth of David Silva; and if He made Him suffer with tremendous pain, abandoned by God for David Silva; and if God has credited the righteousness of Christ to my account, saving me from my disgrace and misery – He has now told me to serve Him; then how can I refuse such an opportunity? How could I not want to obey such a commandment? Thanks be to God for His great love! ■



## MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

### KRIS P. | U.S. OFFICE

*Kris is co-coordinator for South Asia with his brother Aaron at the HeartCry home office in Radford, Virginia. Kris is married to Crystal, and they have two sons: Kamron and Timothy.*

I grew up in a nominal Christian family with sporadic church involvement. Some years we went to church every Sunday, and other years we only went on Christmas and Easter. My mother taught me some things about Christianity as a child, and from a young age, I always believed I was a Christian. I thought I had a pretty good relationship with God, and I prayed and talked with Him regularly. I believed all of the standard Christian truths that I had been taught: that Jesus died for our sins, that He was the only way to heaven, etc. I cannot remember ever hearing anything that made me

question whether or not I was truly a Christian, and nobody that I remember ever expressed doubt to me that I was genuinely converted. My pastor had taught us to ask Jesus into our hearts in order to be saved and to believe that He died for us on the cross. I did this at an early age and meant it just as much as anyone else. I even repeated the prayer a few times down the road, “just to make sure,” as my pastor would sometimes tell people.

My father owned a small landscaping business during my childhood, and he worked a very heavy schedule. So I was predominantly raised by my mother. She expressed a lot of love to her children, but her parenting style was very indulgent, often giving in to whatever my brother and I wanted. I learned how to manipulate my mother and to get her to give in to my demands.

From a young age, I became attracted to violence, and I began listening to heavy metal music. I was also attracted to many of the kids who would always get into trouble in school. I found them to be more interesting and exciting than the others. They had a bad influence on me, and I eventually began watching R-rated movies and listening to gangster rap music. Because I had learned to manipulate my mother, I could get her to buy music for me that she didn't realize was full of violence, profanity, and all manner of wickedness.

My parents began having serious marital conflict when I was in middle school, and my father moved out of the house when I was in 8th grade. Although he wasn't around much to begin with, I now saw myself as the man of the house. I felt I could do just about anything I wanted to, and I didn't think there was anyone around to stop me. My mother had largely given up trying to control me, and she was also very distracted due to her marital problems.

When I was 14, I began experimenting with tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana with some of my friends. This eventually led to many more dangerous drugs, and I also began getting involved in sexual relationships and other escapades. Though I considered myself to be better than my friends, we were increasingly corrupted by the music we listened to and the influences of others we met.

I was always involved with sports throughout my childhood, and I played high school basketball during my first two years at the school. I was considered to be one of the best basketball players in my city (Gahanna), and some teammates even made the statement in 8th grade that they thought I would one day play in the NBA. I didn't think this was necessarily feasible, but I did think I would at least play Division I basketball in college. During the two years I played in high school, I had many problems that greatly interfered with my success on the team. Some of these were due to my parents separating and eventually getting divorced, and

others were due to my relationship with the basketball coach and his son. The coach's son and I were rivals growing up, and we did not like each other. We also played the same position, so I didn't have much of a chance to start over him. Eventually I decided that I had had enough of high school basketball, and I went hard core into drugs and further depravity.

It was around this time that I met Crystal at a local night club. Crystal and I began dating shortly afterward, and her presence in my life had some positive effects on me, such as improving my performance at school. However, there was something else happening to me around this time that was very ominous. The attraction to violence I had acquired in elementary school had been growing and growing, and I had now also developed an intense anger and hatred for the world and for other people. I hated the way that the world operated, and I sometimes wondered if this was the way it was supposed to be. I felt that I needed to destroy the weakness of my emotions in order to properly deal with the pain and adversity in life. I also began to experience recurring fantasies of taking out my anger and rage on other people, since I felt that many people had wronged me throughout my life, and I thought they deserved to feel my pain and suffer my vengeance. However, I believed that I was a Christian, and I knew that God would not approve of such a thing.

In 2001, I started college at Ohio State University, and after one quarter, I joined the Army National Guard. I needed a part-time job during college, and my mother had told me about the Guard and how they paid 100% of your college tuition, along with a significant amount of money for only working one weekend per month. During Basic Training, I went to church every Sunday and fairly regularly read my Bible since it was the only thing we were allowed to read other than the Army handbook. The standard church service there was a Pentecostal service, and I really en-



joyed the preaching and the worship. I often “felt” what I “thought” was the love of God during the worship portion of the service.

Before I went to Basic Training, Crystal and I had started attending a Church of Christ that was associated with the church in which she had grown up. I really liked the pastor, for he seemed like a very caring man and was often moved to tears himself during his sermons. I had never before known a pastor like him. I had planned to continue attending the Church of Christ when I finished Basic Training, but circumstances in my life prevented me from doing so. My National Guard unit was activated in the beginning of 2003, and I was called to provide security for an air force base in Ohio. During my training at Fort Knox, I heard another soldier mention a man in our unit who “listened to Christian Rock music.” I had never heard of Christian Rock music before, and I was curious and intrigued. I felt like God wanted me to reach out to this man and get to know him.

After my training at Fort Knox, I was stationed at an air force base outside of Columbus, Ohio. I was retrained as a military police officer (MP) in order to beef up the security at the base in case of another terrorist attack (following September 11, 2001). During this time, I often worked on the same shift with the man who listened to Christian Rock. I found that he was very different from the rest of the soldiers in my company. Soldiers are known for using very filthy language, and this man never used profanity. He was very kind, gentle, and respectful toward others. There was also another thing about him that was truly amazing to me. Many of the soldiers would look at pornography while on duty. One day some of us were watching a pornographic movie in the guard shack, and Sargent (the Christian man) was in the room. When they turned

on the movie, he looked away from the screen, and eventually he left the room. The other soldiers made fun of him, but I had never seen anything like this before – someone near my age who did not like pornography.

During the time I worked with Sargent, we would often talk about the Bible. I liked talking about the Bible, and it was nice to have someone else to talk to about it. Sargent would share verses and passages with me which often were difficult to understand. He also gave me several books to read. Two of these had Bible verses organized into different topics, and the other contained stories of Christians who had died for their faith in Christ.

I began spending time reading these verses and also reading the Bible myself. I was shocked at some of the things I found in the Bible. For example, I read that it was not only a sin to commit adultery, but also even to look at another woman with lust in your heart (Matthew 5:28). I thought, “If this is true, I’ve committed this sin thousands of times!” One day, I asked my squad leader what he thought about this verse. He was a pleasant, respectable man whom I looked up to, as well as a professing Christian. He told me that the Bible is not meant to be taken literally but rather is more of a guidebook. This explanation was pleasing to my “itching ears” (2 Timothy 4:3), but it didn’t quite sit right with me. I considered myself to be a very intelligent man, who used sound logic to arrive at my opinions. And although part of me hoped that he was right, the verse in the Bible seemed pretty clear in what it was communicating.

As I read more of the Bible each day, I began to be very impressed with some of the statements that Jesus made. Though I strongly thought of myself as a Christian, I sometimes wondered if it was really possible to know the truth. I believed that Jesus was the Son of God and that one

The attraction to violence... developed [into] an intense anger and hatred... However, I believed that I was a Christian.

could only be saved by believing in Him, but I wondered if it was possible to know this as an absolute fact. I felt like I just wanted to know the truth about the world. But as I read more about Jesus, I found His life and teachings to be self-validating. I saw Someone who spoke differently from anyone I had ever seen. His teachings contained a wisdom and righteousness that I had never experienced before. His words seemed to explain everything about the world, including many of the things that I had had trouble understanding.

Though God was clearly working in my life at this time, I was still utterly enslaved to my sin. My inner hatred and rage were continuing to grow stronger, and I began to be afraid of what was happening to me. My relationship with Crystal was also on the rocks, and she was strongly considering leaving me.

One evening, I was sitting on Crystal's bed by myself. I was completely awake, but all of a sudden, I felt like I was flying through some very dark place that looked like a wasteland. It was almost completely pitch black, and I felt like I was on fire. After a few minutes, I snapped out of it and was back in the bedroom. I thought to myself, "Was God trying to tell me something?" Though I completely believed myself to be a child of God, I felt like maybe God was showing me I needed to change.

Thus far, nothing had happened to me that made me question whether or not I was really a Christian. Sargent had never told me that he didn't think I was a Christian, though he did share a number of verses with me to express this idea. But I didn't understand many of them, and I believed that I had a close relationship with God and that He was my closest friend. I saw that Sargent lived differently from everyone else I worked with in the Army, but I believed that God's will for him was different from His will for me. I thought God was

permissive of my profanity, drinking, and smoking as long as I didn't hurt anybody.

I had a friend that I sometimes hung out with at this time, and we sometimes got into arguments about religion. He was a Catholic, and he believed that you just had to be a good person to go to heaven, regardless of your religious beliefs. I knew that the Bible said believing in Jesus was the only way to heaven, so I stood firm on this conviction. One night, I went to a bar with this friend, Crystal, and another guy. As we were having a drink, my friend suddenly started angrily debating religion with me. He told me that I was stupid for believing that Jesus is the only way to heaven, and he was

I thought God was permissive of my profanity, drinking, and smoking as long as I didn't hurt anybody.

shaming me and trying to convince me that you just need to be a good person. Normally this would have made me furious, as I was a person with great pride who thought that nobody should ever talk to me as my friend was and get away with it. But something very strange happened that night. I had read how Christians are supposed to be persecuted

for their faith, and I realized that this is exactly what was happening to me. So it completely made sense to me that my friend was so upset. It was with *Christ* he was upset, not me. And instead of feeling animosity toward my friend, I felt a great love for him that seemed to come from a source outside of myself. Instead of responding with anger, I responded with a meekness and love that I had never felt before for another person.

While my friend was arguing with me, a man came over from another table to join us. He told us that he couldn't help overhearing our conversation, and he said that he was a pastor. I immediately knew that God had sent this man to help me. My friend began debating harshly with this man. He told the pastor that if he could show him a passage in the Bible where it says that it is only by believing in Jesus that

people are saved, he would change his stance. The pastor pulled out his Bible and read to him a verse that answered exactly what we had been arguing about. The verse said that we are saved through faith and not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9). My friend then asked the pastor what version his Bible was, and upon finding out it was not the King James Version, he claimed to only accept that version.

As my friend debated the pastor that night, I realized that every single Christian was supposed to live like Sargent, exactly as the Bible tells us to live. I had never seen this crucial fact before; I always thought that God's will was different for Sargent than myself. But I now knew that God was calling me to surrender my life to Him and live like Sargent.

When I got home that night, I lay on my bed, deeply pondering the events that had taken place that night. I began counting the cost of what it would mean to wholeheartedly follow the teachings of the Bible. There were many things I loved that I knew I would have to give up, especially pornography and gangster rap music. However, I felt like I loved Jesus, and I wanted to do whatever it was that He desired for me. Still, I knew it would be the biggest decision I ever made in my life. What would my friends think about me? They would think I'd absolutely lost my mind! I needed something to assure me that I would not regret this decision and that it would all work out well. Suddenly, as I was thinking about this, I felt the presence of God more strongly than I ever had before in my life. I experienced an overwhelming joy and love inside of me, and it was absolutely clear that God was assuring me that He was with me and that I could trust Him to take care of me if I surrendered my life to Him. All of my remaining doubts and hesitations were swept away, and I confidently decided that I would start living exactly as Jesus teaches in the Bible to the best of my ability.

The next day, I went to work at the military base, and everything was different. The love and the joy I felt

from the previous night continued to be with me, and it seemed as if all the anger and hatred that had been building up over the years had evaporated. I felt a love for everyone I encountered, and I wanted them all to know about Jesus. I also started to see sin everywhere. It was all around me, including in myself. The conversations people were having were filled with profanity and sin, and I saw it as filthy. Some people were watching a television show in the guard shack called *Jerry Springer*, which we often watched. I usually found the show funny. We were even watching it the previous day, and I had had no problem with it. But now I was stunned at what the people on the show were doing. I thought, "Don't these people know how much God must hate what they're doing?" It was utterly putrid to me, and I wanted nothing to do with it.

There is much more I could say about my post-conversion experiences, but the important thing is that these changes have continued to this day, by God's grace. Though I was often very tempted to go back to my previous sinful life, the Lord never allowed me to return. He always sustained me and helped me to continue to follow Christ, fleeing from sin and pursuing obedience to His commandments. Sanctification is a process, and though my desires often waver, I have continued to desire that Christ be honored and glorified through my life on this earth. He is my great Treasure and my Portion, and I can honestly say with the psalmist that "there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You" (Psalm 73:25). I only count my sanctification and continued fruit as evidence that the faith God has given me is genuine. My hope is completely and utterly in the Gospel and in Christ's perfect sacrifice, atonement, and propitiation on my behalf. By His grace, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). ■

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Collinsville VA  
PERMIT NO. 57

HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 3506 RADFORD, VA 24143-3506

Algeria American Samoa Andorra Angola Argentina Aruba  
Australia Austria Bahamas Bahrain Bangladesh Barbados Belgium Belize Benin Bermuda  
Bhutan Bolivia Bosnia and Herzegovina Botswana Bouvet Island Brazil British Indian Ocean  
Territory Brunei Darussalam Bulgaria Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroon Canada Cape Verde  
Cayman Islands Central African Republic Chad Chile China Christmas Island Cocos (Keel-  
ing) Islands Colombia Congo Cook Islands Costa Rica Cote D'Ivoire Croatia Cyprus  
Czech Republic Denmark Djibouti Dominica Dominican Republic East Timor Ecuador Egypt  
El Salvador Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Ethiopia Falkland Islands Faroe Islands Fiji Finland  
France French Guiana French Polynesia French Southern Territories Gabon Gambia Germany  
Gibraltar Greece Ghana Greenland Gibraltar Guatemala Guinea Guinea-Bissau Guyana Haiti  
Heard and Mc Donald Islands Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Iceland India Indonesia Iraq  
Ireland Israel Italy Jamaica Jordan Kiribati Korea Kuwait Lebanon Lesotho Liberia  
Liechtenstein Luxembourg Macao Macedonia Madagascar Malawi Malaysia Maldives Mali  
Malta Marshall Islands Martinique Mauritania Mauritius Mayotte Mexico Micronesia  
Moldova Monaco Mongolia Montenegro Morocco Mozambique Myanmar Namibia Nauru  
New Caledonia New Zealand Nicaragua Niger Nigeria North Macedonia Norway Oman  
Pakistan Palau Panama Papua New Guinea Paraguay Peru Philippines Poland Portugal  
Puerto Rico Qatar Reunion Romania Russian Federation Rwanda Saudi Arabia Senegal  
Serbia Seychelles Sierra Leone Singapore Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands South Africa  
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands South Korea South Sudan Spain Sri Lanka  
St. Helena St. Kitts and Nevis St. Lucia St. Vincent and the Grenadines Sudan Swaziland  
Sweden Switzerland Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Timor-Leste Tonga Trinidad and Tobago  
Tunisia Turkey Turkmenistan Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine United Kingdom United States of America  
Uruguay Uzbekistan Vanuatu Vatican City Wallis and Futuna Yemen Zambia Zimbabwe

# Go OR Send

"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



FOR MORE INFO, GO TO [WWW.HEARTCRYMISSIONARY.COM](http://WWW.HEARTCRYMISSIONARY.COM)