

HeartCry

MAGAZINE

GOING OUT
IN CHRIST'S
AUTHORITY

GREETINGS

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the HeartCry magazine. It seems like the year has only just begun, but now half of it has already passed. This serves as an effective reminder of how quickly life comes and goes and how brief our pilgrimage upon this earth truly is. According to the Scriptures, we are a flower that comes forth and withers (Job 14:2); a shadow that does not remain (Job 14:2); a wind that passes and does not return (Psalm 78:39); a mere breath (Psalm 144:4); a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away (James 4:14).

These texts are not placed in the Scriptures in order to discourage us, but to remind us to live our lives in light of the transient nature of this life and the eternal nature of the life to follow. It is for this reason that David prayed: "LORD, make me to know my end and what is the extent of my days; let me know how transient I am" (Psalm 39:4).

We only have one life to live, one opportunity to serve the Lord in the midst of conflict and trial. It is here in this life that we are tested, and rewards are gained and lost. What we do now will have an unalterable effect upon eternity. Therefore, we should invest our time wisely, according to the will of the Lord (Ephesians 5:16-17).

In John 9:4, Jesus said, "We must

work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work." Although the immediate application of this verse has to do with Christ's own ministry and His impending death, it also has a wider application that speaks to us even today. While the opportunity remains, we must serve the Lord in the advancement of His kingdom. A day will come when all opportunities will have passed. Until then, we must lay aside all distractions and the sin that so easily hinders us, and we must run the race with all our heart (Hebrews 12:1). We must lay our hand to the plow and not look back (Luke 9:62). We must enter into the fields of labor to replace those whose work is done and who have been called home to receive their reward (John 4:35-38).

This is our goal at the HeartCry Missionary Society: to serve our generation in the preaching of the Gospel and the edification of God's people. Like all who have gone before us, our time on earth will quickly end, and our name will soon perish from among the living. Yet we know that "if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (II Corinthians 5:1). May we hear on that final day, "Well done, good and faithful slave... Enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21).

Paul Washer

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"THE HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY EXISTS TO GLORIFY GOD THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BIBLICAL CHURCHES BY EQUIPPING AND MOBILIZING INDIGENOUS CHURCHES AND MISSIONARIES IN THE LEAST EVANGELIZED AREAS OF THE WORLD."



GOING OUT

IN CHRIST'S AUTHORITY

by Paul Washer

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

Matthew 28:18-20

Apart from Christ's claim to deity, the above declaration is possibly the most remarkable that He ever made, for in it He claims absolute authority over everything in the realm of creation without limitation or restriction. There is absolutely nothing beyond or above His sovereign rule.

The authority of Christ is the foundation and source of the Church's authority to carry out the Great Commission among the nations. For this reason, it is imperative that the church grasps both the extent of Christ's authority and its far-reaching implications for the missionary endeavor.

THE EXTENT OF CHRIST'S AUTHORITY

It is simply impossible to overestimate the limitless nature of Christ's present authority. Regardless of the abundance of terms employed and the surplus of poignant emphases made, the extent of His reign cannot be exaggerated. Even the Apostle Paul's glorious description of Christ's exaltation does not exaggerate the reality it seeks to communicate:

"God seated Him at His right hand in the heaven places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet."¹

The absolute sovereignty of Christ over heaven and earth is confirmed not only by the New Testament, but also by the Old Testament prophecies that predicted His coming. More than five hundred years before the incarnation, the prophet Daniel spoke of a "Son of Man" who would receive unimpeded dominion over all the nations and peoples of the earth:

*"I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed."*²

A wonderful illustration of this text is found in the life of Joseph, who was betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, and unjustly confined to prison for a crime he did not commit. However, at the time appointed by God, he was brought before the most powerful ruler in the world and exalted to his right hand:

*"Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Though I am Pharaoh, yet without your permission no one shall raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.'"*³

This exaltation of Joseph over all the land of Egypt was only a small type or shadow of the exaltation of Christ over the entire universe. As Joseph was taken from prison and exalted to the right hand of Pharaoh, so Christ was raised from the dead and seated at the right hand of God. As Joseph was given authority over all of Egypt, so Christ was given authority over all creation so that without His permission no one would raise his hand or foot in all the cosmos!

GOING OUT "IN" CHRIST'S AUTHORITY

The truth of Christ's claim to absolute authority has great significance for the church's completion of the Great Commission. This becomes especially apparent in light of two undeniable facts – the colossal nature of the task and the weakness of the individuals who have been called to undertake it. In the verses immediately preceding Christ's declaration of authority, we read the following:

*"But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful."*⁴

Our text reveals a group of men who appear the least likely to change the world. They were not great men of faith or valor. Like us, they were a mixture of belief and doubt, obedience and hesitation, willingness and fear. They were not the stuff of legends! Nevertheless, Jesus discerns their weakness and goes out to meet them. He counters their doubts and fears with a declaration of His absolute authority over everything without exception, limitation, or restriction. In the following observations, David Brown and John Trapp brilliantly portray this interaction:

"What must have been the feelings which such a Commission awakened! '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.' '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.”⁵

“Go! In this My strength, as Gideon did against the Midianites (Judges 7:13), and though but a barley cake, coarse and contemptible, yet shall ye overthrow the world’s tents, yea, the strongholds of Satan; though you have but lamps and pitchers in your hands, yet shall ye achieve great matters.”⁶

In the end, Christ’s declaration of supreme authority had its desired effect. By His authority, the disciples and their courage and faith soon did become the stuff of legends! In one generation, they conquered kingdoms and “turned the world upside down.”⁷

This same authority, which has aided the Church against insurmountable odds for the last two millennia, continues today with undiminished strength. If the Church in this present generation is to accomplish the task of taking the Gospel to every creature under heaven, she must once again rely unreservedly upon the scepter of Christ. If the present-day missionary is to truly be an instrument for the global advancement of Christ’s kingdom, he must lay aside all confidence in the flesh and find his strength and boldness in the absolute authority and inexhaustible power of the One who sends him. When we compare the malevolent strength of this fallen age to our own frailties, the Great Commission appears to be an utterly futile goal. But when we look to the exalted Christ, who has conquered and goes forth conquering, we are able to believe that what is impossible for men is possible with God!

What then does it mean that all authority has been given to Christ in heaven and on earth? It means that “he who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed, shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.”⁸ It means that at our Lord’s return, there will be “a great multitude which no one can count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, [with] palm branches...in their hands, [crying] out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’”⁹

GOING OUT “UNDER” CHRIST’S AUTHORITY

Most who are involved in missions would heartily agree with everything that has been said thus far about Christ’s authority and its implications for world missions. However, we often fail to recognize that in order to go out “in” Christ’s authority, we must also go out “under” His authority. In other words, both the *content of our teaching* and *our methodology of missions* must be taken from our careful and painstaking study of the Scriptures. We have no right or warrant to carry out the Great Commission according to what seems right in our own eyes.¹⁰ Our doctrine must be thoroughly biblical and not the product of our culture or its so-called wisdom. Our methodology or mission strategy must be drawn from the same Scriptures and with the same care and exactitude as our doctrine. We must not employ unbiblical means to propagate biblical truth or carry out a biblical endeavor.

When Moses was about to erect the tabernacle, God gave him this solemn warning: “See that you make all things according to the pattern which

was shown you on the mountain.”¹¹ Now we know that “whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction”¹²; therefore, we can conclude that at least the same care to follow God’s pattern should be taken with regard to God’s greatest endeavor – the building of His Church through the Great Commission. Like Moses, we have no right to alter God’s design or to replace it with one of our own. To reject or even ignore the biblical pattern for advancing the Great Commission will ultimately result in failure. We must never give into pragmatism, nor can we ever accept a certain methodology of missions simply because it seems to have some apparent success. In both our doctrine and our strategy, we must lash ourselves down to the Word of God!

God has given the Church and her ministers the Scriptures so that they “may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”¹³ It is only through the Word of God that we may know how “one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”¹⁴ In all our missionary endeavors, it will matter very little that we hold to the *inerrancy* of Scripture if we do not also hold to its *sufficiency*. We must tenaciously hold onto the truth that we have everything we need in the written Word of God to instruct the nations and to order our steps.¹⁵

We must decide from what source we will draw both our teaching and methodology. Like Moses we must take care to do all things according to the pattern that is shown us in the Scriptures. We must renounce the works and strategies of the flesh and search the Scriptures to discover both the content and methodology of missions. The more we trust in the arm of the flesh, the less we will see God.¹⁶ We must throw off Saul’s armor and pick up the smooth stones of the Gospel that have been neglected far too long.¹⁷ It is the only way to slay the giants that oppose us and to win this war of world missions.

¹ *Ephesians* 2:20-22

² *Daniel* 7:13-14

³ *Genesis* 41:44

⁴ *Matthew* 28:16-17

⁵ The Four Gospels, p.134

⁶ John Trapp, Commentary on the New Testament, *Matthew* 28:18

⁷ *Acts* 17:6 (KJV)

⁸ *Psalms* 126:6

⁹ *Revelation* 7:9-10

¹⁰ *Judges* 17:6; 21:25

¹¹ *Hebrews* 8:5; *Exodus* 25:40

¹² *Romans* 15:4

¹³ *II Timothy* 3:16-17

¹⁴ *I Timothy* 3:15

¹⁵ *Psalms* 119:105; *I Thessalonians* 4:1

¹⁶ *Jeremiah* 17:5-8

¹⁷ *I Samuel* 17:38-40

A VIEW FROM THE FIELD

REGIONAL REPORTS

Africa MISSIONARY REPORT

BY NAPHTALLY OGALLO
ELDORET, KENYA

Time passes rather quickly; how we must labor while it is still called today! We are glad that He who is unchanging has brought us this far. Our church weekly memory verses recently brought us to II Chronicles 32:7-8:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.”

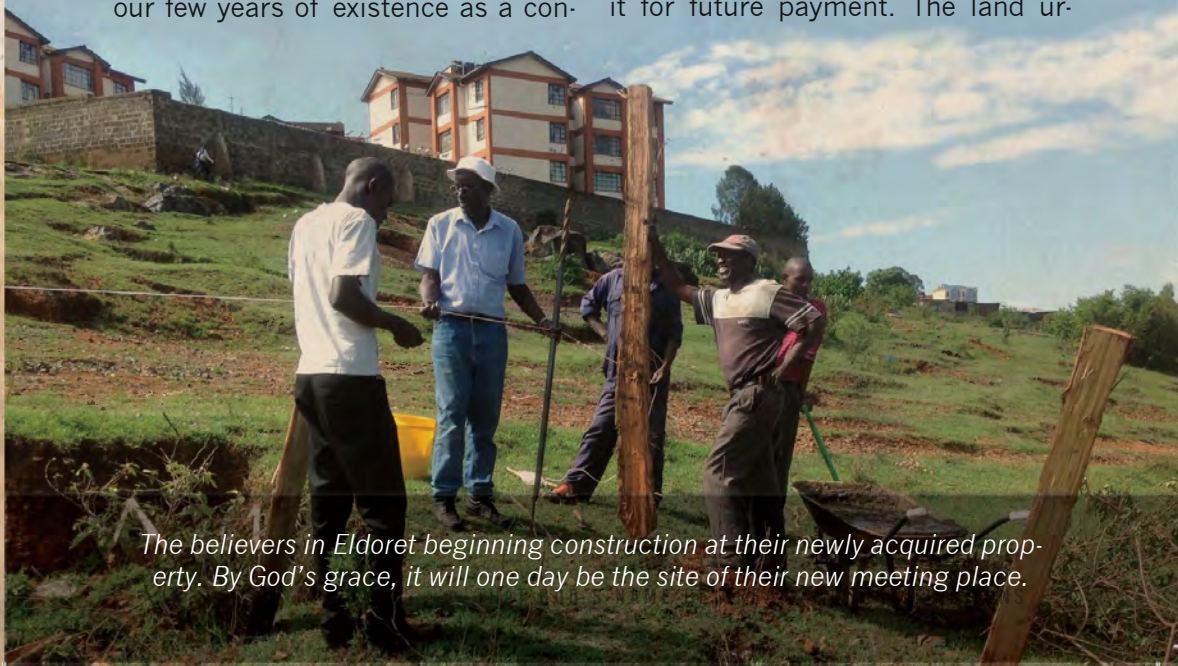
We too have drawn encouragement from God, who is our strength.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH - ELDORET

The Lord's Church is a family; what a wonderful blessing it is to belong to a local church! In our few years of existence as a con-

gregation, we have experienced deep bonds among us. However, for various reasons, some have had to leave our body. Yet even with all these changes, our encouragement still comes from the unchanging Lord.

On a positive note, our church's structure is progressing. Paul Wamukowa Keno was recently recognized as our second Pastor/Elder, and Timothy Olenyo was appointed as the first Deacon of the church. Please pray for these two brothers, and pray that we as church leaders will all work harmoniously as a team for the fast spread of the Gospel. The church has finally received the title deed for the land deposited to it for future payment. The land ur-



The believers in Eldoret beginning construction at their newly acquired property. By God's grace, it will one day be the site of their new meeting place.

gently needs fencing and immediate structures for security and a temporary church meeting place. We have begun this work, but it will take a fair amount of time to complete it.

Please join with us in prayer about these things. We believe that these steps will lead our church to unique and exciting opportunities for the sake of the Gospel.

VISIT TO UGANDA

On May 20th, my wife Helida and I traveled to Kampala, Uganda, by bus to join Pastor Chipita Sibale (of Kabwata Baptist Church of Lusaka, Zambia) and Pastor and Mrs. Sam Oluoch (of Grace Baptist Church – Kisumu, Kenya). Our host was Pastor Bill Issa, who is leading a new work in the suburbs of Kampala, Uganda's capital city. The Lord powerfully saved Bill from Islam and has wonderfully preserved him from deadly persecutions. God's providence led Bill to attend the Zambian Conference in August of 2013, where he was spiritually edified and became determined to return to Kampala and stir his young church towards sound doctrine. In December of 2013, Pastor Issa attended the Kenyan Conference held in Kisumu and cemented his church's relationship with GBC-Kisumu. The purposes of our visit to Kampala were to encourage Bill and the young church there and to help Bill map out the most strategic plan for the spread of the Gospel in Kampala and beyond. It was agreed that for maximum impact, the church should relocate its

ministry nearer to the city center, where most institutions of learning are situated. Please pray for Pastor Issa, his family, and this young church.

CHALLENGES IN KENYA

In the past three weeks alone, over a hundred people have tragically died throughout Kenya from various causes. This serves as a sobering reminder to us of the urgent need of the Gospel. Road accidents due to over-speeding and un-road-worthy vehicles, the recent terrorist activities associated with Al-Shabab, and the abuse of drugs and alcohol have all contributed to the death-toll. While governmental corruption and impunity may not directly cause deaths, they are causing Kenyans to writhe under their weight and are driving them into even deeper poverty. The deadly 'Health and Wealth gospel' only makes things worse. We urge you to partner with us in prayer for the sake of the Gospel of grace, which alone holds the living hope for our nation!



Pray that the believers in Eldoret might achieve much for the sake of the Gospel and that the church construction project would be completed quickly and smoothly.



MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

MATTHEWS FIKATI - CHURCH PLANTER
CHAMBISHI, ZAMBIA

With HeartCry's support, Matthews completed the one-year pastoral internship program at Kabwata Baptist Church in December of 2013. In March of 2014, with the recommendation of KBC's elders, he was sent out to plant a church in Chambishi, Zambia. It is with joy that we are now able to partner with him in this endeavor.

TESTIMONY OF CONVERSION

Before my conversion, I thought that I was a Christian because I was brought up in a Christian family. I was taught good morals, and I actively attended Sunday school and youth meetings. Consequently, this made me feel very comfortable and secure, and I even boasted that I was a Christian. This went on until 1996, when the Spirit convicted me of my sins and opened my eyes to see clearly that I was not a Christian, but rather, a person who was headed for destruction! This took place after I heard the Gospel preached from Romans 1:18-32 in a sermon titled, "The Wrath of God Towards the Ungodly."

The message really sank into my heart, and it caused me to be restless

for almost an entire week. Finally, after this week of anxiety, the Spirit of the Lord opened my eyes to the see my need of the Savior in my life. This came so strongly that I could not resist. I repented of my sin and surrendered my life to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

CALL TO MINISTRY

The Lord bestowed the call to ministry upon me gradually. It began through some members of my church who noticed a call upon my life and started asking me questions about whether or not I had considered the Christian ministry. Up to that time I had never had a personal conviction or desire for the Christian ministry, but some of the brothers continued asking and encouraging me to think and pray seriously about the matter. In 2001, after contemplation and much prayer, the desire and burden for Christian ministry began to grow very strong. It grew so much in fact, that whenever I thought of doing something else, I had no peace of mind. This struggle lasted for almost two years. Then, in 2003, I finally set my heart on the Christian ministry, and I was filled with peace.



Shalom Mission to Cambodia, HeartCry's national partners.

Southeast Asia

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

BY MATT G.

I hope this report finds you all doing well. The Lord is so good to us. He has given us the wonderful privilege to be His fellow workers in advancing Christ's kingdom throughout the world. As the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:9-10: "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God, which was given to me, like a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it."

CAMBODIA

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit HeartCry's partners in Cambodia. We have now been working with Shalom Mission to Cambodia for more than five years. Although like anyone in ministry they do face times of discouragement, it is a great blessing to see the slow but consistent way in which the Lord is at work through and among them. They are men who desire very much to be used by God and to make an impact on a nation that in many ways is filled with hopelessness and despair. Cambodia bears social scars that are visible even to someone like me, who

only visits from time to time. Atrocities took place 30-35 years ago that are yet to be accounted for and dealt with in a way that would ease the nation's conscience. Many in Cambodia are Buddhists who search for solace in a religion that proclaims that everything – whether good or bad – is only an illusion. Others have bought into the lies of materialism – the West's mantra of peace. This noticeable hopelessness can be discouraging, but our hope in Christ leads us to confront the darkness of this world, knowing that the Gospel alone transforms the ruins and rubble of a fallen creation.

For three days we met together, studying the topic, "Our Union with Christ." It was a great opportunity to look at some of the most basic Gospel truths and to see how they apply to all those who are in Christ. Together we studied that oneness with Christ is the reality that binds together all the elements of salvation. Jesus is not just a Savior outside of us, but He is within us, and we are in Him. It is this union with the living Savior which has brought us salvation.

The time with the men was also a great opportunity to dialogue about life and ministry. I feel that I learned



HeartCry missionary Salim Hartono teaching a group of pastors in Southeast Asia.

a lot from these conversations. The men had many questions related to the topics being discussed, as well as questions about ministry in general. It was encouraging for me to also see how they interacted with one another and helped each other to think more biblically. Please pray for these men as they labor in Cambodia. Pray that God would help them depend completely upon the power of the Word and Spirit to advance His kingdom.

PROTECTED AREA

There is a lot that I could share about the ministry in my part of Southeast Asia, but I will limit myself to asking that you would pray specifically for two things.

First, pray for my coworkers and me as we seek to reach out to those from the unbelieving religious majority. There are many Christian things

happening in my country – many good things – but there is very little which crosses over the religious and cultural barriers that have existed between Christians and Muslims for hundreds of years. Pray that the Holy Spirit would open wide an effectual door for us to penetrate with the light of God's truth through the veil of Islam, which lies firmly around these people's hearts.

Secondly, my wife is pregnant again with our fourth child, and she's been very sick since we returned from our furlough in the United States in February. She has not only had sickness related to the pregnancy, but she has also had an infection for the last two months. Please ask that God would heal her.



South Asia

THE WORD ADVANCING IN NORTH INDIA

The following update is from HeartCry Missionary Rema S., who is working in North India. Rema oversees a church-planting movement that supports and trains Indian pastors to preach the Gospel and establish healthy churches.*

**For security reasons, we cannot provide photos or real names for our protected missionaries; pen names are provided.*

LOCAL CHURCH

Over the last three months, our local church has been learning from the books of Haggai and Ephesians on Sundays. Our weekly Bible study, where we are working through Romans, was on a break for the winter, but resumed in March. In the weeks leading up to Good Friday and Easter, we had meetings in the houses of people who attend our church. We hope that the seeds planted during this time will bring fruit in the days to come.

TRAINING CONFERENCES

In the past few months, we conducted three different training conferences for pastors and field workers who are working in rural parts of North India.

On the 18th of January, a half-day training meeting was conducted by a pastor from Scotland on the topic, "Preparing to Preach." Recognizing that there is a divine as well as a human dimension to preaching, the seminar focused on what the preacher needs to do in preparing the sermon. He pointed out that authorial intent is what the preacher should be after and that application should be based on a clear understanding of the text. Regarding the components of the sermon, he spoke of the title, introduction, structure, and conclusion. He explained how each part should be. It was a blessing to all who attended, and we hope that the lessons learned will be put into practice by those working with us.

On the 5th and 6th of February, a two-day seminar was organized for our ministry staff on the topic, "Loving Muslims." A convert from the Muslim faith, who is now a pastor, taught the seminar. He talked about the origin of Islam and its major beliefs. He also gave us some practical advice on how to engage Muslims with the intention of sharing the Gospel. Muslims worldwide are one of the most unreached people groups in the world, but there is only a small percentage of missionaries working among them. We hope that, as a result of this seminar, some Muslims can be reached through our workers' efforts so that they can also worship the one true God!

From the 18th to the 21st of February, a four-day training conference was conducted in partnership with the HeartCry Missionary Society. The teaching was based on the life and doctrine of the Apostle Paul. This conference was crucial to understanding the Christian's life and ministry, because Paul himself repeatedly urged believers to follow him as he followed Jesus. The topics covered were:

- ➡ Paul's background and conversion.
- ➡ Paul's life – characterized by holiness, love, sacrifice, faithfulness, humility, and boldness.
- ➡ Paul's motives – the glory of God, the fear of God, the love of Christ, and Paul's desire to please God.
- ➡ Paul's goals – the salvation of sinners and the purity and unity of Christ's church.
- ➡ Paul's doctrine – God, sin, Jesus, the cross, union with Christ, the new creation, the Church, the kingdom of God, and the coming of Christ.

The teaching was very meaningful and powerful. We hope that it will bring forth great fruit in our ministry.

BUILDING PROJECTS

Three building projects are now under way in surrounding areas for church buildings. In A***** the walls have already been raised and the roof has also been constructed. All that remains is the finishing work. In M***** and U***** the buildings' foundations are being laid. Work is in progress, and it will go on for the next few months. The new building in M***** will also be used for ministry to the village children through the Compassion project.

SPEAKING OUTSIDE OUR CITY

Our leaders had opportunities to minister in different places outside our city in the last few months. One brother spoke at Cross Conference at the end of December on ministry in India. Another brother taught from the 21st to 24th of January in North India at a seminar on the Gospel and discipleship. Still another brother was invited to preach at the evangelistic meetings that were held during the centenary celebrations of a Baptist convention on the 31st of January and the 1st and 2nd of February. More than one hundred thousand people gathered for these meetings.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ➡ The building projects in A*****, M*****, and U***** are continuing. Please pray that work will go on smoothly and will be completed very soon.
- ➡ We are hoping to purchase a plot of land adjacent to our church to expand our facilities. Please pray for the owner to be favorably disposed toward us.
- ➡ We will be following up on our efforts to reach out to surrounding colleges. Please pray that we would be able to form good relationships that lead to open doors for the Gospel.
- ➡ The Lord blessed HeartCry missionary Rekem K.* with a baby daughter last month. Please pray for the mother and the baby.
- ➡ India has recently conducted general elections. Please pray that the government will not be a hindrance for Gospel work.

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." – Ephesians 3:20-21

MISSIONARY STATISTICS

177

TOTAL MISSIONARIES

+projects in Turkey and Brazil

32

TOTAL COUNTRIES

including Turkey and Brazil

6

TOTAL REGIONS

ONE GOSPEL





Don Currin and Sorin Prodan at a recent conference with the HeartCry missionaries from Romania and Moldova.

EASTERNEUROPE

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

BY DON CURRIN

During a recent HeartCry Conference in Bran, Romania, most of our missionaries in Romania and Moldova were present to share a personal update about their families and ministries. Unfortunately, due to the continued political and social unrest in Ukraine, our four missionaries from that part of Eastern Europe were unable to attend the event.

One does not have to interact with our missionaries very long to witness their continual growth both in their personal character and their love for the Scriptures. Both through our personal discussions and the questions that they directed toward the teachers at the end of the sessions, the graces of humility, hunger for God, love for truth, and doctrinal precision became very evident. I am convinced that this personal progress can be attributed to the Theo-

logical Training Extension Program; the loving oversight of our Coordinator in Eastern Europe, Sorin Prodan; and the prayers of so many who partner with them before the Throne.

The yearly HeartCry conferences are tremendously beneficial because they afford our missionaries the opportunity to hear the Scripture from biblically sound men who are gifted to equip them in kingdom work. This year, we were blessed to have Dr. Bruce Ware from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, teach on positional and progressive sanctification. The content was excellent and engendered much thought-provoking dialogue.

Another benefit from the HeartCry conferences is that they provide a family-reunion-type atmosphere where our missionaries can strengthen and challenge one another

through corporate prayer and mutual edification. It is good to see the body life of Christ's Church functioning so beautifully in their relationships with one another.

Your prayers would certainly be appreciated for the physical needs of some of our missionaries. At the beginning of one of the conference sessions, we asked those who were suffering from a physical malady or carrying a heavy burden to stand.

Surprisingly, almost half of our HeartCry family stood. This led to a very sober, yet sweet, time of prayer for those in need. Also, pray that our men and women will carry out their responsibilities with joy. Pray that they will live in the realm of reality in their devotional life. And finally, pray that in their ministries they will love as Jesus loved, being always governed by the law of Christ.



MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

STEFAN GAE

A FAITHFUL MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL

Stefan Gae is HeartCry's oldest missionary in Eastern Europe and a seasoned minister of the Gospel. Known for his devotion and discipline, he has demonstrated unwavering loyalty to Christ and His people in his labors for the kingdom of God. His life of integrity has been a worthy example to many believers in Eastern Europe.

Brother Stefan was born in Sibiu, Romania, on September 23, 1932. In 1959, he married Paraschiva, and the Lord gave them five children. Today, they are the joyful grandparents of thirteen grandchildren. Brother Stefan has devoted himself to preaching and teaching the Word of God for over 50 years. He is the author of ten textbooks for Bible teachers and is the founder of the Baptist Sunday School Teachers Association and the College for Sunday School Teachers, which has over 600 graduates. Stefan and Paraschiva live in Sibiu. They are members of Bethany Baptist Church, where he has served as an elder for over 30 years. Brother Stefan would appreciate your prayers for his wife who suffers from multiple health problems, including degenerative chronic rheumatism.

STEFAN'S TESTIMONY

I was born in an Evangelical Christian family. From the time I was a little boy, I was taken to the church. My family was made up of twelve children from two different

mothers. In 1936, when I was three years old, my mother died and left behind seven children. Because of this my father had to remarry.

In order to provide a better liv-



ing for us, my father sold our property in the village where we lived and moved us all to Galati. In 1940, the Second World War began. Because of all the explosions and attacks, my father decided to move us back to Oltenia. I finally finished high school in 1952, and in the same year, I went off to college in Bucharest. Since I was from a poor family with twelve children, the government granted me studies in the USSR. I studied there until 1957, when I graduated as an electrical engineer from a college in Saint Petersburg.

Coming back to Romania, I was sent to Brasov, and then to Sibiu, where I live now. In Sibiu, I worked as a teacher at the Technical High School and as an engineer at the factory of electric networks. It was in Sibiu that I met Paraschiva, who later became my wife in 1959. After I met her, I discovered that she was a believer and that she was attending the Baptist church. In time, I knew that the Lord was also calling me to Him through her. I began to attend the church's services, and God spoke to me. Although my conversion took place over fifty years ago, I can still remember the words of the preacher. He was Brother Jean Staneshi, a pastor and ex-professor at the Baptist Seminary in Bucharest. Teaching from Ezekiel 18:32, he cried out, "Turn around from the way of sin!" I remember sitting on the last bench and crying. God had touched me and moved me to repentance. I received

the Lord into my life that day. Then, on February 11, 1959, I was baptized in Brasov. As many other young men born into Christian families, my repentance was not something that happened quickly, but something slow and sure.

A few years after my repentance, God started to allow sufferings in my life. Because I was a Christian and would not involve myself in the politics of the Communist Party, I was often fired or forced to move from one job to another. I was persecuted, despised, and marginalized by the Communists. But God, who is faithful to all His promises, worked deep in my heart and life. I totally gave myself up for Him, and a life of holiness became the most important thing of all. Prayer also became essential for me, and I utilized every opportunity available to stand before God.

For me, the Lord's call to the ministry was something quiet. First, I saw it only dimly. Then, it began to take shape and become specific. I had a great desire to teach others, and I was conscious of having the gift of teaching. It was this gift that led me even to teach engineering in secular schools. However, God took me out of the state educational system where I worked for four years (1959-1962), and He put me in another education system – His! He began to teach me what is biblical and spiritual.

From 1959 to 1982, I was a member of The Hope Church in Sibiu, but from 1982 until now, I have been a member of Bethany Baptist Church in Sibiu. From 1967 through 1973, I worked with the youth. But in October of 1974, the Lord's calling on my life finally took shape. One Sunday, I went to the German Evangelical church in Sibiu to get some materials for the young people. While there, I attended a Sunday school class for children that was very well-organized. While I was listening to the way that the Word was being taught, God put it in my heart to become involved in children's

ministry. I came back to our church and told the pastor what I had seen. I also told him that I thought that it would be very good if our church also began such a ministry. He replied: "We will do anything for the Gospel!"

From that moment until today, I have worked with children and with the teachers of children. I extended the ministry to other churches across the country. The call in the ministry and the ministry itself are complementary: the call determines the ministry, and the ministry confirms the call.

I have now taught hundreds and hundreds of children and young people. Many of them received the Lord Jesus in their hearts, were baptized, and have become strong members in their churches. Many of them have married and raised children that are blessed by the Lord.

In 1990, after the Revolution, we founded the *Baptist Sunday School Teachers Association of Romania*. In the same year, we founded the *College for Sunday School Teachers*, which became part of the Baptist Theological Institute in Bucharest. Until now, about 600 students have graduated from this school for teachers. In addition to this, we also train teachers through conferences and camps in the larger cities of Romania.

In all that we have done, there were persecutions, especially before the revolution in 1989. On February 17, 1984, I was detained and

searched at my work place by the political police. Then I was taken home in one of their old vans, and they turned my whole house upside down. They found more than 600 teaching materials and religious books. On each of the books, my wife and I were obliged to write: "Found on me, on the 17th of February 1984." Then we were taken to the security headquarters to be investigated. Finally, at 6:00 PM, we were released. I was accused of illegally obtaining and disseminating Christian literature from outside the country. The sentence for this crime should have been two years and three months in prison, but they did not condemn me. The military attorney told us that he would not forward my case to the tribunal and that it would be closed. As it turned out, they revoked the decision to condemn me because the matter had been communicated to Germany through Radio Free Europe. The Romanian government did not want a "black spot" on their image, and they did not want to hurt their relations with the USA.

I have no criteria whereby to justify my call in the ministry except its fruit. It is very hard for me to write about all these things because I do not want to be seen as a man who has done some great thing. Personally, I have the conviction that I am an unrighteous servant who has not accomplished any work. It has been God's grace working through me!



EURASIA

SPECIAL REPORT

FROM THE SAMARA CENTER FOR BIBLICAL TRAINING

The following report from our partners in Samara highlights the recent advancement of the Word of God through Bakhid N.'s influence and ministry in Kazakhstan. Bakhid is a graduate of Samara Center for Biblical Training (an extension of The Master's Academy International), and he has been supported by HeartCry since 2012. We rejoice to see how the Lord is answering our specific prayers, namely, that He is opening doors for the Word and the Gospel to spread throughout Kazakhstan!

BAKHID TAKES BIBLICAL TEACHING INTO THE KAZAKH LANGUAGE

BY BRAD KLASSEN



The mission of Samara Center for Biblical Training (SCBT) is founded on the Apostle Paul's final words to Timothy: "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (II Timothy 2:2). Not only do SCBT instructors strive to convey faithfully the sound doctrine entrusted to them, but to convey the spirit of teaching and responsibility of transmission as well.

An exciting example of this is the ministry of Bakhid N. in Kazakhstan. Bakhid, a Kazakh national, was raised according to nominal Muslim customs and grew up speaking the Kazakh language. But because of the heavy Russian influence in his home

city, he quickly became much more fluent in Russian. Though intelligent and promising according to worldly standards, his unsaved condition soon led him into crime, and in turn, to prison. Yet it was there where he heard the Gospel and was saved.

After being released, Bakhid soon joined a local Evangelical church, where his zeal for the Scriptures and the church grew quickly. At the recommendation of his pastor, he completed SCBT's Level 1 training in expository preaching in 2008, and in 2010 he was ordained to pastoral ministry to serve alongside his church's senior pastor. It was at that time that Bakhid felt compelled to return to his Kazakh language roots. With very few Evangelical believers among the Kazakh people (who are traditionally Muslim), and with very few biblical resources written in Kazakh, Bakhid began improving his language skills in order to achieve enough fluency to preach and write in the language.

A unique opportunity came earlier this year. A small Evangelical magazine published for Kazakh believers in the country (the print run for the magazine is 3,000) invited Bakhid to contribute an article to the 2014 spring edition. Bakhid was overjoyed and wrote an exposition of Galatians



Bakhid and his family, Kazakhstan.

3 entitled, “From Curse to Blessing,” in which he boldly presented the truths of salvation by faith alone in Christ alone.

Shortly after the article’s publication, the editor of the magazine contacted Bakhid with an urgent request: “Thank you so much for your sermon. Please send more – on any topics you can write about. Your sermons are very much needed.” Bakhid is now busy preparing the next articles, which in turn will be distributed to thousands of readers in the Kazakh language all across Kazakhstan.

Bakhid continues to grow in his theological and ministerial abilities.

He is scheduled to graduate this June from SCBT’s modular training in biblical counseling and is also involved in developing new opportunities for church planting in the southern region of the country, among the highest concentrations of Kazakhs. At the request of Kazakh believers, he is also now beginning to record his sermons in Kazakh and then make them available over the internet.

We can only marvel at God’s grace in Bakhid’s life and how God has used SCBT in his life to strengthen believers and spread sound doctrine among a very needy people/language group in central Asia.

MISSIONARY REPORT

BY EUGENE M.

Eugene is a graduate of the Samara Center for Biblical Training. He is pastor of a church in Isil’kul, Russia. HeartCry began supporting Eugene in October of 2012. He is married and has four sons. In the following report, Eugene gives helpful insight into the difficulties in evangelism that



the church faces in western Siberia. He also gives much encouragement by sharing how the Lord can provide opportunities to share the gospel with someone through the most unlikely of circumstances.

Greetings to you, dear friends and coworkers in the fields of God! Here in western Siberia, the snow has just melted, and most streets in our city look like streams of mud. We have to wear rain boots to travel to our church. Since it is warmer this time of the year, we usually have more opportunities to see people and to share the Gospel with them. It is much harder to evangelize in the winter months, when it is 25-30 degrees below zero!

Unfortunately, the influence of the traditional Russian Orthodox Church is very strong. This is one of the most significant roadblocks in the way of evangelism in our area. Most of the people I have had conversations with lately are very “religious” sinners. People in the streets are closed to any

contact, and they do not want to talk to us, because most of the time they think we are “the watchtower witnesses” who are constantly spreading our “false religion.” Cultivating relationships and being intentional with the people we know and with those with whom the Lord has brought us into contact remain the most effective ways to share the Gospel here.

Due to my preaching and counseling responsibilities, I have not had as much time for evangelism; but there are a few specific people for whom I continuously pray and whom I often visit. One of these people, Alexander, died recently. Last summer, I studied the Gospel of John with him, but sadly, he has now left this life without ever giving evidence of saving faith. Please pray for his wife, Nadyezhda, and his daughter, Luba, who has had health problems in the past. We pray that the Lord might use Alexander’s death to have a positive effect on his wife and daughter and that they might realize their need for the Savior.

THE KIND PROVIDENCE OF GOD UPON A SINNER

The Lord miraculously brought a criminal to our church service last Sunday. He saw a car parked near the house where we gather for church and wanted to steal

a tire so he could sell it and buy alcohol. Instead, he decided to knock on the door, and Igor (the owner of the house where we meet) invited him in to sit and listen to the preaching. It

Eugene and his family are serving the Lord in the western Siberian city of Isil’kul.



turned out that I knew this man! His name is Sergei. Prior to my conversion, I actually used to do drugs with him, and we had even done a few robberies together.

The last time I had seen Sergei was in a village not far from our town where I was evangelizing with other believers. We had a long conversation, and I shared the Gospel with him and his wife. I also shared with them how God had changed my life, but there was no response to the call to come to Jesus Christ.

Many years have passed since then; Sergei's wife has left him, and his life is spiraling downwards. I do

not believe in coincidences, but I do believe in God's providence! Therefore, I have great hope that the Lord has a purpose for bringing this man to our church! I rejoice that I had another chance to tell him the truth about Jesus. It was a blessing to hear him confess even to the crime that he was intending to commit against our church before he knew who we were and what we were doing. The Lord truly works in mysterious ways! Sergei left me his phone number, and we agreed to meet again. I earnestly ask you to please join me in praying for this man.

HEALTH AND OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS

Please pray also for my health. Due to my history of hepatitis, there is a lot of bile accumulating in my gall bladder and liver ducts. I have been taking some prescribed medication for over a month now, but there has been no improvement thus

far. A sharp pain has since developed on my right side. I do not think this condition presents any threats to my life, but it does create some serious discomfort, as the pain is sometimes very strong.

Finally, please pray that God would open the hearts of people to accept the Gospel and that He would also open new opportunities for us to be able to carry out the Great Commission. And again, please do not forget to pray for the repentance of Sergei.





MIDDLE EAST

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

BY MARC GLASS

I am very encouraged by the work that the Lord is doing through our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. Though the region has hosted numerous conflicts and clashes throughout the last year, there still remain real, tangible proofs of the grace of God working through His church. In fact, one could make the argument that the unrest itself has been used of the Lord to awaken many to the unrest that exists within their own souls. One of our partners in a protected area of the Middle East reported late in 2013 that he had seen more fruit the previous month than he had ever seen in a month's period throughout his ten years in the ministry.

More recently, HeartCry hosted a family conference in Cairo, Egypt, for a number of pastors and their wives. HeartCry Coordinator Don Currin and his wife Cindy met us in Egypt for this conference. Cindy was able to teach the women several times, while Don did the lion's share of the teaching for the conference as a whole. For this conference, we saw the need to address a number of family and church issues that are prevalent in the Middle East. Overall,



Don Currin teaching on the biblical family at a conference in Cairo, Egypt.

there was a positive reception of the biblical truths proclaimed.

During this trip, HeartCry was also able to further cultivate a number of the relationships that we have established in Egypt. First, we were able to spend a great deal of time with several of the members of House of Grace in Cairo. This young church plant was originally started by a very gifted teacher and pastor named Ha-

Cindy Currin with some of the wives at the family conference in Cairo, Egypt.



run R. House of Grace began as a Bible study that Harun started after coming into contact with a number of young Christians who were anxious to learn biblical truth and solid doctrine. Hani eventually put several of these young believers to work in translating and subtitling good English sermons, many of which Brother Paul Washer had preached, into Arabic. This translation work eventually cemented HeartCry's relationship with this young group of conscientious Christians.

Sadly, approximately a year and a half ago, Harun tragically died in a car wreck in Cairo, leaving behind a leadership vacuum within the church. The church's story over the last year and half has been one filled with ups and downs and great struggles. However, due to the grace of God, these young men and women have carried on with the calling that the Lord has placed upon them. During our ten days in Cairo in February, we were able to sit with the men and women of House of Grace and give them advice regarding the future of the church. It was truly a special and helpful time, but the church remains in need of prayer.

Secondly, I was able to meet with a Sudanese Christian that had given up everything for the sake of Christ. This man grew up as a Muslim in the Darfur area of Sudan. As a black Arab, his people had experienced a great deal of ethnic persecution from their fellow Sudanese in Darfur.

As a young adult and through a web of circumstances, this devout Muslim man came to know the Lord Jesus. After his conversion, he felt

compelled to train for the pastorate, which he was able to do in Sudan. As he became a more respected church leader, he was eventually placed on a "hit list" of Sudanese Christians to be targeted and killed. To spare his own life, he left the country, and he and his family are now starting over in a new country, away from family and friends and without a means of support. This man's life, filled with persecution and now displacement, is sadly the description of many of our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world. Jesus said, "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you" (John 15:18-19). Our Sudanese brother is hated by the world simply because of his identification with and love for Jesus Christ!

Please pray for the
leadership and the members
of House of Grace in
Cairo. Please pray for our
Sudanese brethren and the
church under persecution
and conflict
in the Middle East.



*View of the Nile River
in Cairo, Egypt.*



LATIN AMERICA

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

ESTEBAN TOLOZA

NEW HEARTCRY MISSIONARY IN ARGENTINA

In July of 2014, HeartCry will begin supporting Argentinian missionary Esteban Toloza. Several years ago, together with HeartCry missionary Nicolás Serrano, Esteban helped plant Family of Grace Church in Rosario, Argentina, where they now co-pastor the growing congregation. In addition to this, the Lord has opened the door for Nicolás and Esteban to train and assist pastors of new church plants throughout Argentina. Our prayer is that HeartCry's support will increase both of these missionary-pastors' effectiveness in caring for the local church and allow them to devote themselves to the study of the Word as they prepare to train and equip men for future ministry.

EARLY YEARS

I was born in an Evangelical home. My father was saved by God in his youth, having been rescued from a life of bad habits, crime, and violence. My mother began attending an Evangelical church as a young woman after being raised in a Catholic home. When I was born, they were both members of a denomination that began as a holiness movement in Argentina in the 1950's and 1960's. My parents were some of

the first members of a congregation that eventually reached over one thousand members. From the time I was born, I was surrounded by Bibles, Christian books, Christian music, evangelistic campaigns, etc.

My parents sought to raise me according to what they understood and what they had learned in their denomination. I had learned from a very early age the central facts of Christianity. However, there was not much clarity with regard to the Gospel and its meaning, especially with regard to justification by faith. Thus, I never had a true understanding of the Gospel and its implications. It was not until I was an older teenager that I began to understand what the Gospel meant and to see my need to be saved by God.

The denomination in which I was raised had two basic teachings that were crucial components of my pilgrimage. First, they taught that a person must be baptized to be born again. Second, they put a very strong emphasis on the pursuit of personal holiness and self-denial.

When I was ten years old I came to understand, according to what I was being taught, that I must be baptized if I wanted to be a Christian. So I spoke with the leaders,

and in a short while, I was baptized. From that point on, I considered myself to be a Christian. Also, because of what I was taught regarding self-denial, I wanted to take seriously Jesus' strong demands for holiness. However, since I did not have a new heart and did not understand the Gospel of justification through faith, I was wrapped up in an endless struggle and pursuit of holiness, with the only result being constant failure and sin.

When I was in my teen years, the tension was very strong within me. A strong sense of internal morality made me see that many things about me were sinful and did not make sense; and yet, everything within me seemed to quickly drag me toward sin. I knew that the things I was doing were wrong, but I confess now with shame that I loved them much more than the things of God. I loved the world, the things of the world, the way the world thinks, and everything that opposed Christ. Inevitably, all of those things drove me to a false religiosity, hypocrisy, and condemnation. To everyone else I was a Christian; but in the depths of my heart I knew that I did not love God, but rather that I was ashamed of Him. And I did not really love holiness; I hated it. Sometimes, in the depth of my being, I felt that God and holiness were really just things

that had come to take away all my hopes for delight and enjoyment.

When I was sixteen years old, I began striving harder than ever to take seriously the demands for holiness. I diligently devoted myself to the congregation and began discipling other young men. Once or twice a week, I visited men who were living on the streets and talked to them about what I believed to be the Gospel. In fact, I was very bold during that time and even devoted myself to visiting known criminals in the most dangerous neighborhoods in my city. I saw clearly (or rather, I thought I saw) that nothing mattered except living for Jesus and His Kingdom. At one point, I even considered dropping out of my high school in order to study in a seminary, but my parents prevented me from doing so.

In the end, it simply became an impossible burden for me to carry. I knew what I was supposed to do, but I was incapable of doing it; and in reality, I did not even desire to do it. Rather, I found myself as the men described in Romans 1:31: "And although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

TESTIMONY OF CONVERSION

It was in 2008, in the midst of all of this, that I began to understand who God really is. One of the pastors of the congregation gave me a video of a sermon on the Gospel. I remember that as I watched the sermon I was invaded with a sense of the majesty, holiness, and justice of God like I had never before experienced. I began looking for and listening to as many sermons by this preacher as I could, and every word I heard, every sermon, every lecture,

was like an arrow that went through me and mortally wounded me. I literally shut myself in my room to listen, to meditate, and to pray about the things that I was hearing. Little by little, I abandoned all my religious activities and spent hours seeking to understand the Gospel and to know God. Today I can see that it was God working in me through these different stages.

The first thing that happened to me was that I truly awoke to the majesty of God. Before this time, I thought I knew my wickedness and my sin, but I really did not know. I thought I knew something of the



Family of Grace Church in Rosario, Argentina. The church was founded by HeartCry missionaries Nicolas Serrano and Esteban Toloza.

holiness of God because of all my legalistic efforts, but I knew nothing of God's holiness. I began to see that God was more interested in an upright heart than in external works rooted in the strength of one's own will. When I began to understand this, I discontinued my activities in the church because I saw that they had no meaning if my heart was not upright. I was more and more consumed by the majesty of God. He was the greatest, the most holy, the most awesome, and the most righteous. He was more than I had ever imagined before, and I realized that I never really knew Him at all.

Together with this awakening to the majesty of God, I was also awakened to my own wickedness and perversion. The pursuit of morality had produced in me frustration and condemnation; but when I saw who God was, it was then that I really found out what it meant to be condemned, guilty, filthy, and wicked. I was invaded by a sense of my sin, and I knew that I was lost. I told my friends about what was happening, but they only said, "No, that cannot be true. You are just confused." But I knew that it was more than that. I knew that I was not confused, but

rather that I was lost, dead in my transgressions and sins.

This began a period of great struggle. With all my heart, I determined to find God and know Him. Nonetheless, because I did not entirely understand the Gospel, my struggle was very intense. The glory of God was a terrifying reality to me, but I still had not come to know that His glory shines intensely bright in the face of Jesus Christ, full of grace and truth! My struggle was principally due to the fact that I did not want to simply "convince myself" that I was saved. During that time, I ignored many of the truths of Scripture with regard to the Gospel, the love of God, and Christ; and this ignorance was one of the great stumbling blocks in my pursuit of the Lord. Yet there remained in me a determination to seek to know the Lord day after day, even if it meant dying in the pursuit.

Little by little, God was putting an end to my darkness. After several months of seeking, the true Way was becoming clearer to me. As I began to grasp in my heart and mind the truth of the Gospel of justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, the clouds of doubt

began to flee.

I remember listening to a sermon series on justification by faith, and oh, how my heart rejoiced to receive that word! It was then that I understood that in order to reach salvation, my gaze must be placed not on myself, but on Jesus and His perfect work on behalf of sinners. Though I have failed many times, Jesus never failed, and He did not fail in the hour of His saving work! The precious truth of justification by faith, based upon the merit of Christ, broke the shackles of my legalism and self-righteousness, and it also ripped apart the chains of condemnation. At the same time, I understood that the work of regeneration, the transformation of the heart, was a work that God must accomplish purely by His grace and that my greatest concern ought to be to look to Jesus. I needed to rely on Him, rest entirely in Him, trust only in His merits, seek after Him, and love Him with all my heart.

To come to such a conclusion was liberating because until that point I was constantly examining myself in a strictly introspective way. When I saw that my great concern must be Christ and His work,

When I saw that my great concern must be Christ and His work, the joy of salvation became a reality in my life.

the joy of salvation became a reality in my life. Of course, I did not stop examining myself, nor did I stop seeking to conform my life to holiness and uprightness as Christ commanded His disciples. Rather, I understood that I was never going to find hope by looking at myself, and at the same time, I would never lack any hope if I looked constantly to Jesus.

It is not possible for me to discern the specific moment in which Jesus freed me from the claws of Satan and from my sin. But not knowing the exact moment of my salvation does not darken in any way the joy and freedom that I have found in Jesus. Joy and freedom have accompanied me to this day, and they will accompany me forever. All this has happened so that for all eternity angels and men might adore and wonder at the marvelous, inexhaustible, and indescribable mercy of Christ, who has saved a miserable wretch like me. Blessed be our Lord forever and ever, who is and who was and who is to come! Blessed be our Savior, who has washed all my sins away with His blood and who will soon come to find me and take me to be with Him for eternity!

CALL TO MINISTRY

When I look at the way in which God was working in my life to lead me to serve in the pastoral ministry, I can say that even as an unconverted man He was preparing me for this work. Of course, that does not mean that as an unconverted man I understood that He was doing so, but looking back I see that even that period of my life was designed by God so that my future service would be more effective. The primary way

that He was preparing me at that point was by allowing me to be around men that worked in the ministry. Although I recognize that some of them had (and still have) major deficiencies with regard to doctrine, I also must recognize that several of them were (and are) men of integrity who sought to live with a pure conscience and give their lives for the spiritual growth of others. In several of them I could see an intimate relationship with Christ

and such a profound commitment to their mission that even in my unconverted state I was convinced that to live with that kind of purpose was to give true meaning to life. In these men I saw a sacrificial love and a dedication to “present every man complete in Christ.”

Also, when the Lord saved me, several other things happened that I interpret today as part of the calling of the Lord on my life. In the first place, an enormous passion to proclaim what I had come to know overpowered me. Now that I had found Christ and His Gospel, what was there that had any meaning except to live for Him? Another thing that happened some time after my conversion was that I began to see an enormous need in our country for biblical churches centered on Christ and the Gospel. I saw that the majority of the churches had been dragged off by unbiblical methods and doctrines: “easy-believism,” a false gospel of prosperity, carnal methods to attract people, ignorance with regard to regeneration,

and more. Seeing such a panorama left a heavy burden on my heart, both for the glory of the Lord and for the good of the people.

In addition to the things I have already mentioned, there was another significant event that contributed to my calling. The Lord used a comment made by a pastor saying the following: “Everyone is complaining, ‘Where is a biblical church? Where is a biblical church?’ Well, my question to them is, ‘Where are the men to plant biblical churches? Where are the men to rise up and do what needs to be done?’”

Even though that sermon was preached many miles from my house, those words were directed at my heart like burning arrows, igniting a fire within me that was never to burn out. It was as if I had received a divine charge or a solemn admonition: “You must do this, and you cannot refuse.” It was then that I planted the church, Family of Grace, together with Nicolás Serrano.

Equipping the Saints: Literature Distribution

LITERATURE PROJECT IN THE JUNGLES OF PERU

BY LUKE NASH

Last month, pastors from many different towns and villages throughout the jungles of northern Peru met for a week of training in the town of Chazuta, near the city of Tarapoto. In addition to the training, HeartCry gave all forty pastors a Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance. Although it may not seem like much to a Christian in the United States, such a resource is pure gold to a pastor who has no other study tool. Last year, HeartCry provided the same men with study

Bibles. In the upcoming yearly conferences, each pastor will continue to receive more resources until they are equipped with a basic pastoral library. The reason for distributing only a few resources at each conference instead of an entire library all at once is to ensure the men’s faithfulness.

The following is an email sent to HeartCry from Micah Tuttle, an American missionary who is devoted to training up men for the ministry in Peru’s jungles:



HeartCry administrator Eddy Solano delivering exhaustive concordances to the pastors in the jungles of Peru.

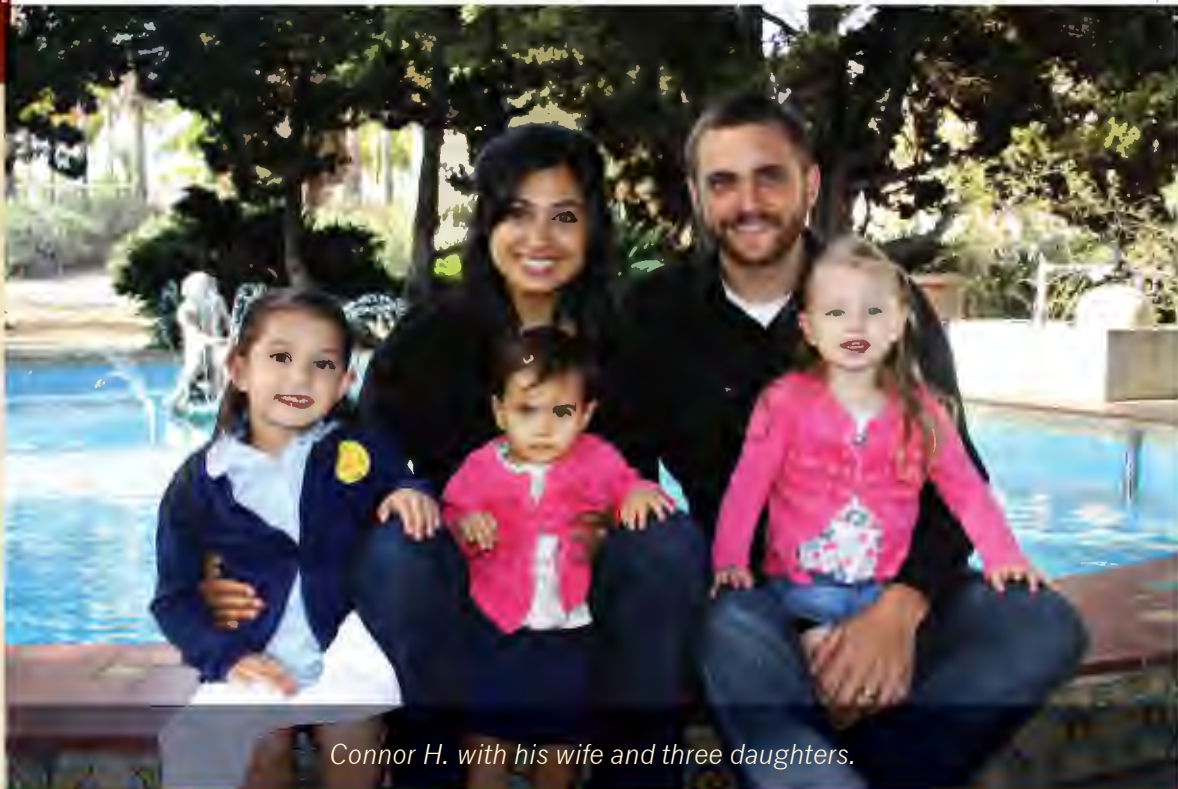
"I wanted to write you to tell you that we had a great time with brother Eddy Solano [HeartCry administrator in Peru] here in the city of Tarapoto and in the village of Chazuta. The Strong's Concordances were a great blessing to all forty students. All of them were very grateful and want to take full advantage of this resource. Some traveled four days in order to attend the conference in Chazuta, which was led by David Sills. The number of concordances was perfect for the number of students present, and during the course of the week, brother Jairo taught the men how to use this valuable tool. We give

thanks to God for using HeartCry in the equipping of pastors here in the Peruvian jungle."

Please pray that the Lord might continue to use the training of these men in order to bear fruit in Peru and that the literary resources might enable these men to more clearly expound the Word of God.

Group photo of the pastors and resources that were distributed to them at the last training conference near Tarapoto, Peru.





Connor H. with his wife and three daughters.



MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT CONNOR H.

Connor H. and his family have been sent out to North India by Zion Christian Fellowship (of San Diego) in close association with HeartCry. They have been sent to assist churches in North India in training ministers and planting more churches. The area where they will be working is so difficult that it is known as the “missionary graveyard” of India. Please keep them in your prayers.*

EARLY YEARS

I am from San Diego, California, and grew up in a Christian environment. My parents were faithful to keep our family attending a church throughout my childhood, but as a child, Sunday school and church were not things to which I looked forward.

During Junior High, a youth pastor reached out to me, and we built a good relationship. I quickly became involved with youth group events and began to enjoy it. Our family eventu-

ally settled down in that church.

During those same Junior High years, I made new friends at school who were not Christians. I invited them to the church outreaches, and they also soon became involved. In reality, we did not care much about God or eternal things. We liked the youth group and the youth pastor, but we did not truly love God or want to serve Him.

At this time, my friends and I developed the sinful habit of tearing people apart with our words and with our humor. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21), but we rarely used our tongues for life. We lived to laugh at the expense of others. We rarely spoke a serious sentence. While I do believe humor and laughter are gifts from God, our particular type of humor was very dishonoring to God and destructive to people.

As I entered High School, the opportunities for sin multiplied. We pulled many pranks, some of them



Connor teaching the Gospel in a village in North India in 2012.

dangerous, cruel, harmful, and unlawful. But they were hilarious to us. I became a thief with multiple offenses, yet was never caught. I started getting drunk early in High School, but few knew about it. My church did not know. My family did not know. There was one shameful occasion when I “led worship” for a youth outreach while inebriated. But no one knew.

Not only did I live for empty humor, but I also lived for my own glory. My friends and I were in a band, and we had aspirations of “making it big.” If you are familiar with the local music scenes, you know that most of it (if not all) is vanity. Those on the stage love the worship and admira-

tion from the crowd. Those attending the concerts are usually concerned with the latest clothing fad. It is a fashion show for individual glory and self-exaltation. The anthem of this sub-culture is, “Let us make a name for ourselves.” I lived and thrived in this scene. I cannot speak for everyone in my band, but I know that my motives were for my own glory.


Ironically, during all of this, my friends and I became increasingly involved in the youth group, and I even came to be seen as a spiritual leader. There were some that lifted me up as an example for others to follow. Many complemented my maturity and spiritual growth. If only they knew who I really was – a hypocrite.

TESTIMONY OF CONVERSION

Oftentimes I wish I had a date that marked my conversion or even a year to which I could point. But I do not. God saves some men with a glorious show for all to see, like the Apostle Paul; while He saves others in a less conspicuous manner, like Timothy. The reality is

that until the middle of High School I did not understand the Gospel. I knew that Jesus died, but I did not understand how His death on a Roman cross could remove my sin and guilt. There was a great disconnect in my mind. I deserved hell, not just a cross. So why did Jesus just die on a cross? How did that take care of my sins? I had no clue that Jesus died as my Substitute under the wrath of God.

When I was sixteen years old,



I decided to start attending Zion Christian Fellowship, a new church plant in San Diego, since I had a relationship with a few of the pastors there. It was during this changing of churches that my life also started to change. I began desiring to follow Christ and disdaining my sin. God opened my eyes to the vanity of my pursuits, and I quit the band. I felt as if I was no longer my own, like I belonged to another. When I sinned, my conscience would smite me. I developed a love for the Scriptures, and I found myself slipping away to spend time alone with God. I found hiding places, whether in the hills of East County or on the coastal cliffs of La Jolla, where I would spend hours reading the Word of God and calling out to Him in prayer. These were sweet times. For the first time, I felt like I was beginning to know God directly and not second-hand.

CALL TO THE MINISTRY

When I was twelve or thirteen, I remember having a sense that I would one day end up as a preacher. When I was eighteen, shortly after my conversion, I went on a short-term missions trip to India with one of my pastors. Our focus was to visit some orphanages and indigenous missionaries. During that trip I met men who were planting churches in remote villages – men of God who had few possessions, yet possessed everything. Many had been beaten, stabbed, or almost burned alive for the sake of the Gospel. I saw their unswerving faith in God and love for Christ. That encounter with those men awakened me to the reality of the Christian life in light of eternity.

When I returned to the U.S., I was quite undone. I began to feel that I would never be content to live a life as a business owner (which had been my aim). I went on an extended fast with hopes of discerning God's will

The first push-back I received was from my friends. I spent less and less time with them and was ridiculed for it. They said that I was trying to be "holier than thou." When I did spend time with them, they said that I was different and no longer any fun to be around. As I look back now, I realize that what they meant as criticism was actually evidence that God was changing me.

I did not have a specific time when I sat down, repented of my sins, and consciously put my faith in the person and work of Christ; but I was increasingly living a life of repentance and faith. When I learned something new about Christ or His Gospel, it resonated within my heart, and the truths became my own. My conscience grew in sensitivity. Somewhere in this whole process, God had converted my soul.

in the matter. As a result of the fast and through the counsel of my elders, the Lord led me to go back to India – this time by myself – to live with the indigenous pastors for three months. This trip proved to change the course of my life.

I was still eighteen when I went to India on this second, extended trip. I expected that my time would be spent learning from these Indian men and in hours of prayer, but in the strange providence of God, they had planned to spend most of our time in evangelism. For two out of the three months of my stay, we traveled to countless villages sharing the Gospel. Someone from the team usually would choose an area for preaching, mostly in the open air. We would then go around to the mud huts, houses, and fields to invite the locals to hear a message in the evening. We would then spend a season in prayer to ask God to bring them. Usually around 8:00 PM a crowd would gather, and we would stand on a bull cart or a hefty table and preach to twenty, fifty, or sometimes a hundred people who gathered.



Connor's daughters in an auto rickshaw, shortly after arriving in India earlier this year.

Other times we ministered in small mud huts to a family or two. During this time, I was preaching through a translator four or five times a week.

These were some of my first experiences preaching. While standing there and preaching, I felt a burning in my heart and a joy, thinking that I would never be content to spend my life doing anything other than preaching the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Those few months were instrumental in my call to the ministry. Although I now feel that I was not then mature in the faith and that I probably should not have been preaching, God had His own purposes. He was calling a young man into the ministry. He took my lips that were once used for destruction and used them to proclaim the life-giving words of the Gospel. He had shifted my pursuit of my own glory into a pursuit of spreading His fame and glory in one of the most unreached places on earth.

To be transparent, I came back to the U.S. as a prideful young buck.

I wanted to move to India right away and felt that I was ready. My elders did recognize something of a call, but they saw my immaturity and admonished me to be patient and to learn while serving in our church. The Lord humbled me and helped

me decide to submit to their wise counsel – which may well be one of the most important decisions I have ever made. They began to mentor me in what was an informal internship.

I was hired on staff at the church in an administrative role. At that time, our church did not have its own facility, so I worked at the house of one of my elders, Brian Hendry. I was in

his house every day of the work-week for over a year. One of the greatest benefits of this season was that I was able to observe his everyday life: how he treated his wife; how, when, and why he disciplined his children; how he handled matters in the church. Most importantly, I learned how to love Christ and His Word. I would not

My prayer for India is that through the gospel, India would “be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).

exchange that time for anything.

I began going to Bible College online, and I continued my short-term trips to India over the years. As time passed, the elders gave me more and more teaching and ministry opportunities.

I now have a lovely wife and three precious daughters. When my wife and I began courting, our first conversation was about ministry and India. I wanted to know if she was willing to move there. I shared that God was not calling me to be a businessman (though I ran a business at the time); rather, He was calling me to preach the Gospel, and most likely in India. By God's goodness, she was supportive from day one, and a year later we were married. It has been nearly ten years since my first trip, and now at last we are in India.

INDIA AHEAD

My prayer for India is that through the Gospel, India would "be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14). Some might say that our sights are set too high and that it would be better if we lowered our expectations. I know that we are few in number. I know that we are weak in frame. But we serve the One True God of the Bible. This desire is not just our ambition; it is God's desire and promise. Would it not be tragic for us to ask Him for anything less?

Zion Christian Fellowship is our sending church, and we will be working closely with HeartCry while on the field. In India, we will be a part of a local Indian church that is affiliated with HeartCry. The elders of that church love Christ, they love their

flock, they love the lost, and they are theologically sound. What a blessing this is for my family and me, that we can be a part of a church while on the mission field. While countless laborers are needed in India, there are bursts of light that are scattered across the darkness. This is an encouraging truth, and we should not ignore its reality!

When considering the enormity of India's needs, we could easily become overwhelmed, not knowing where to start. But thankfully, God has given a clear and simple "game plan" that we must not change. As a minister of the Gospel, God has called me to give myself to the following things: prayer, the study of the Word, the preaching of the Word, sacrificial love, and the training of "faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (1 Timothy 2:2). Beyond these things, we have no strategy. I believe that if we devote ourselves to these callings, the Gospel will prevail and spread in India.

If I could ask one thing from you, it would be that you would pray. Remember my family and me. Pray that I serve my wife and children and do not neglect them for the sake of ministry. Pray for our transition to this culture that is very different from our own. Pray that God will continuously fill us with His Spirit, with wisdom, with patience, with endurance, with love, and with joy. And pray that God would spread His fame and worship in North India.

** For his security, a pen name has been used for this missionary.*

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

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



FOR MORE INFO, GO TO WWW.HEARTCRYMISSIONARY.COM