

HeartCry

MAGAZINE

Discipleship
THE GOAL OF
THE GREAT
COMMISSION

"Make disciples of all the nations." – Matthew 28:19

GREETINGS

We will begin this Fall Edition of the HeartCry Magazine with a reminder of the great and primary task given to the church as a whole and to every one of us individually – the Great Commission:

“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

It is not enough to know the key matters of this text or even to expound it with precision. We must see the text as an outline of our great responsibility, and we must obey it with all our heart.

We have all been given stewardship of our lives, time, and resources. Each of us has a life we have been given; each of us has been allotted a specific amount of time on this earth; and each of us possesses a certain degree of resources – spiritual gifts, talents, finances, etc. Furthermore, each one of us will be judged according to what we have done with all that has been entrusted to us.

For these reasons and more, we must not be foolish; we must understand what the will of the Lord is (Ephesians 5:17). We must understand that the great task He has given us is the advancement of His kingdom throughout the world, into every home and to every individual on this planet.

As this year quickly passes by, we are reminded of the brevity of our own lives. Let us seize the day for the will of God before there is no day left to seize!

Your brother,
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.”

Discipleship

THE GOAL OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

“Make disciples of all the nations.” – Matthew 28:19

The above declaration is the “great” command of the Great Commission. In fact, it is really the *only* command in Matthew 28:18-20. The words “go,” “teaching,” and “baptizing” simply serve as clarifiers that explain how the command is to be fulfilled. The end goal of missions is not going, teaching, or even baptizing, but making disciples! Therefore, regardless of our zeal or sacrifice, our work on the mission field will prove to be little more than hay, wood, and stubble¹ if we are not endeavoring to accomplish the task for which we were sent – the making of disciples.

THE GOAL OF DISCIPLESHIP

The phrase “make disciples” is translated from the Greek word *matheteúo*, from the verb *mantháno*, “to learn.” The noun form, *mathetés*, which is often translated “disciple,” denotes a learner or pupil. Thus, a disciple is someone who is always learning through instruction and imitation to be like his master. A disciple of Christ is someone who, having entered into a saving relationship with Him through faith, is now actively seeking to become like Him through the study and assimilation of His teaching and the imitation of His person. This definition fits precisely with these words of Christ:

“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master.”²

The great goal of the disciple is to be like his master. In most if not all religions and disciplines outside of Christianity, the disciple eventually attains to the same level as his master and may even replace him. However, in the Christian faith, no matter how advanced the disciple may become, he will always remain a disciple. The Christian Master is not merely a man who has walked the path longer than his disciples; He is God Incarnate – the embodiment of all truth, wisdom, and righteousness. He is separate and distinct from His disciples and from creation itself. The difference is not merely quantitative, but qualitative – He is in a category all to His own! It is for this reason that Christian disciples are always referred to as disciples and never masters or teachers. Jesus said:

“But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ.”³

The missionary would do well to remember this truth. Like sanctification, discipleship is a never-ending process in which we are always learning, always seeking to assimilate more truth, always striving to imitate our Master. Our training is not complete with graduation from Bible college or seminary.

It comes to an end only at the coming of our Lord in glory and the transformation of “our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.”⁴

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

Christ’s command to “make disciples” means something significantly more than counting raised hands or decision cards at the end of an evangelistic campaign. A disciple of Christ is someone who has been soundly converted through the preaching of the Gospel and brings forth fruit corresponding to repentance and faith.⁵ He is a person who, having been justified by faith in his Master, continues to be transformed into His likeness.

Throughout the Gospels, various characteristics of true discipleship are given. Although it is beyond the scope of this article to address them all, there are three texts in the Gospel of John in which Christ describes the essential characteristics of a disciple. These three texts act as something of a comprehensive summary of what it means to be and make disciples.

The first characteristic of a true disciple is found in John 8:31-32. The text reads: “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’” Here we learn that the genuine disciple of Christ continues in subjection to His word or teaching, and consequently, he experiences greater and greater freedom from the bondage of sin. In no way is Jesus teaching sinless perfection in the life of His disciples, but He is telling us that the true disciples will hold to His Word and grow in grace as a result of it.

The second characteristic of a true disciple is found in John 13:35. The text reads: “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Here we learn that the disciple of Christ will openly identify with other disciples and love them to such an extraordinary degree in practical works of service that even the unbelieving world will attest to their relationship with Christ. This love breaks down every barrier of race, social class, and economic stratum.⁶

The third characteristic of a true disciple is found in John 15:8. The text reads: “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.” Here we learn that the disciple of Christ will bring forth fruit or works that prove or demonstrate the validity of his confession. This is one of Christ’s most fundamental teachings on the matter of genuine conversion and discipleship. Consider: “So then, you will know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”⁷

It is evident from the above texts that there is nothing trite or superficial about true discipleship. As we have already stated, a true disciple is someone who devotes his life to learn from and imitate his master. Yet how is this to be done in the context of the Christian faith? Two millennia have passed since Christ walked upon this earth. How can we be confident that we are truly walking as He walked?⁸ The answer to this fundamental question is revealed in the Great Commission itself. The disciple learns to follow Christ though the commands that Christ has given.⁹ In other words, we cannot be Christ’s disciples apart from His teaching and commands that He has preserved for us in the Scriptures. Apart from the full counsel of God recorded in the Bible, mature discipleship is an absolute impossibility; and any “disciple-making” that is not built upon the inerrant Word of God is an absurdity, a contradiction of the worst sort. For the harvest to be healthy, proper seed must be

sown abundantly and without mixture of another grain. If this rule is not strictly followed, the result will be a mutated crop, a dangerous blend of all sorts of strands.

For this reason, if the missionary is going to be a disciple maker, he must be a disciple himself. He must be devoted to the teachings of his Master that are found in the Scriptures. He must dedicate his entire life to obeying, teaching, and exemplifying Christ's commands to others. This is a great truth! Its importance cannot be exaggerated!

THE EXTENT OF DISCIPLESHIP

In the Great Commission, Christ is clear and unapologetic – we are to make disciples of “all nations.” Some scholars have doubted that the phrase “all nations” was included in the original commission. Their argument is that if Christ had been so specific with regard to the universality of the mission, then the disciples would not have been so hesitant to reach out to the Gentiles. However, this interpretation is totally unnecessary. A different, more plausible explanation exists – the disciples' hesitancy was due to their extreme prejudice. In fact, the prejudice against the Gentiles was so ingrained in the early Jewish church that it was not until the Jerusalem Counsel that the matter was finally settled.¹⁰

The command to make disciples is always in jeopardy of being disobeyed. Even today there are forces at work to turn the church's attention away from its global responsibility. First, there is the problem of “out of sight, out of mind.” A faraway need is quickly forgotten. Second, there is the tendency toward self-centeredness, self-preoccupation, and self-preservation within individuals and congregations alike. Thirdly, there is the powerful cultural sentiment that considers religious proselytizing to be arrogant and intolerant – a near crime against humanity. Finally, there is the small but ever-encroaching heresy of inclusivism – the idea that although Christianity may offer a superior revelation of the truth, other religions contain enough truth to lead their followers to God.

In the face of growing opposition and countless foes, the missionary must be utterly convinced of the absolute truthfulness of one of Jesus' most radical claims: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”¹¹ Furthermore, the missionary must believe that it is the will of God for the Gospel to be preached to all creation.¹² Finally, the missionary must hold unflinchingly to the truth that this will not happen unless men and women leave all to follow Christ into an unknown land:

“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent?”¹³

¹ I Corinthians 3:12

² Matthew 10:24-25

³ Matthew 23:8-10

⁴ Philippians 3:21 (ESV)

⁵ Matthew 3:8; Luke 3:8

⁶ Colossians 3:11 – “A renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.”

⁷ Matthew 7:20-21

⁸ I John 2:6

⁹ Matthew 20:19 – “...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.”

¹⁰ Acts 15:1-35

¹¹ John 14:6

¹² Mark 16:15

¹³ Romans 10:14-15

“ QUOTES ” WORTH REQUOTING

Be encouraged and challenged by some of our favorite quotes from missionaries around the world. They provide a powerful impetus in a few words.

“The Gospel is only good news if it gets there in time”
– Carl F. H. Henry

“Sympathy is no substitute for action.” – David Livingstone (missionary to Africa)

“Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist.”
– Oswald J. Smith

“The Christian is not obedient unless he is doing all in his power to send the Gospel to the heathen world.” – A. B. Simpson

“In our lifetime, wouldn't it be sad if we spent more time washing dishes or swatting flies or mowing the yard or watching television than praying for world missions?”
– Dave Davidson

“Is not the commission of our Lord still binding upon us? Can we not do more than now we are doing?”
– William Carey

“A missionary is one who never gets used to the sound of heathen footsteps on their way to a Christless eternity.” – Unknown

“We have the means of evangelizing our country, but they are slumbering in the pews of our churches.” – John Stott

“God is a God of missions. He wills missions. He commands missions. He demands missions. He made missions possible through His Son. He made missions actual in sending the Holy Spirit.”
– George W. Peters

“The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.” – Henry Martyn (missionary to India and Persia)

“Obedience to the call of Christ nearly always costs everything to two people – the one who is called, and the one who loves that one.”
– Oswald Chambers

“I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light”
– John Keith Falconer

“All my forefathers have passed away into darkness without knowing anything of what was to befall them; how is it that your forefathers, knowing all these things, did not send word to my forefathers sooner?”
– African chief speaking to missionary David Livingstone

“Oh, that I had a thousand lives, and a thousand bodies! All of them should be devoted to no other employment but to preach Christ to these degraded, despised, yet beloved mortals.”
– Robert Moffat (pioneer missionary and linguist to Africa)

“Does it really matter how many die or how much money we spend in opening closed doors if we really believe that missions are warfare and that the King's glory is at stake?” – Unknown

“Let us press on. All Africa must be won for Christ. Though a thousand missionaries die, send more.”
– Missionary Andreas Riis (missionary to Africa)

Africa

A Special Thanks for and from

A NEW MISSIONARY IN ZAMBIA

In June of this year, HeartCry approved support for Matthews Fikati (featured in the previous magazine). Matthews started a church plant in late March in Chambishi, Zambia, after completing a year-long internship program with Kabwata Baptist Church (KBC), which oversees all of the HeartCry works in Africa. Below are a few brief thank-you notes from KBC, from the church that is sending Matthews, and from Matthews himself. It is a small reflection of all that God is doing through your prayers and support.



FROM MISHECK KUMWENDA

HeartCry Missions Coordinator and KBC Elder

“This is great news for the Chambishi work. We are very grateful to the HeartCry Missionary Society for the support that is so willingly given. We cannot thank you enough, brothers! Already you support a good number of our KBC missionaries, and I am certain that this new endeavor will come as a very refreshing provision to the work of Nkana West Baptist Church. Pastor Ndonji Kayombo will rejoice, and Matthews Fikati will rejoice too.”



FROM NDONJI KAYOMBO

Pastor of Matthews Fikati's Sending Church

“I am the pastor of Nkana West Baptist Church in Kitwe, Zambia, the sending church for Matthews Fikati, missionary pastor to Chambishi. I was informed by Misheck Kumwenda that our application for financial support for this work was approved. On behalf of the church, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for this commitment you have made to partner with us in the planting of this church. We have been praying, and God has answered our prayers through you. We are very thankful to the Lord for this act of kindness. We will therefore endeavour to update you on how the work is proceeding in Chambishi through our missionary pastor. Please pray for the salvation of souls!”



FROM MATTHEWS FIKATI

New HeartCry Missionary



VIDEO INTERVIEW:
bit.ly/mfikati

“Warm Christian greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I wish to extend my gratitude to you for approving support for God’s work in Chambishi. This is good news for us indeed, and we have received it with gladness. Brethren, this partnership in the Gospel will be of invaluable assistance to us. The church plant in Chambishi took off on March 30, 2014, and it is slowly progressing with its own showers of blessings and challenges. We shall certainly keep you informed on the wonderful workings of God here in Zambia at Chambishi Central Baptist. May the Lord richly bless you for all that you have done to extend the kingdom of God through us and other brethren in different parts of the world!”

MISSIONARY REPORT

SAM OLUOCH - KISUMU, KENYA

Sam has been in the ministry since 1999. In November of 2000, he teamed up with Grace Baptist Church in Kisumu to begin the work of church planting in Western Kenya, near Lake Victoria. Sam holds a B.A. in theology from Highlands Theological College in Scotland.

We thank God for the many things He is doing among us here in Kenya. I have provided you with a simple list below so that you might rejoice and thank God with us. We are grateful for your prayers!

1. The baptisms of Sam (a new member) and Grace (HeartCry missionary Paul Onyango's daughter) have given excitement to the church, and we continue to pray that the two will grow in faith. Sam's wife Jacqueline does not attend church frequently, and my wife Melly and other ladies in the church have been urging her to consider this as they share the Gospel with her. Please pray for Jacqueline.
2. We continue to talk to people about Christ while distributing gospel tracts both at the Millimani church plant (which is now holding a morning service under Pastor Paul's care) and here at Grace Baptist in Kisumu. Feedback has been good, at least in receiving the tracts, but very few have responded to our Sunday church service invitations. However, the Lord has brought quite a number of new people to church, and we will soon hold a welcome party for them in which the Gospel will be presented again in their hearing. We expect up to thirty people. Please pray that the Gospel would take root in these people's hearts. Continue to pray also for both Grace Baptist Church and the Millimani church plant.
3. In June, Pastor Naphtally Ogallo and I conducted lectures for our students at The Kisumu Reformed School of Theology. Eight students attended. The discussion times were quite helpful and encouraging. Naphtally taught on the Doctrine of the Church, and I spoke on the Doctrine of the Last Days. Pray that the students will be faithful and that these lectures would prove to be a long-lasting help in their ministries and personal relationships with God.
4. Plans are under way to revive the Maseno University ministry that has been on hold for a while now due to transportation difficulties. We pray that this will be sorted out soon. The need for ministry at the Maseno campus is still vast. Please pray that we would be able to resume our ministry to this needy university and that our efforts would produce fruit unto salvation.
5. Our family is doing well. Recently, we have opened our home to a young brother in Christ, Boniface Ochieng, who is keen to be in full-time ministry after his university education. Bonny's parents and siblings found his choice of career unacceptable to them, as they expected him to get a "better" job and help alleviate the family financial burden. Life became unbearable for him at his home, so we offered him refuge in ours. Bonny, who has blended well in the family, is always encouraging and supportive both in church and in our home. He has provided us with sweet fellowship and has been a great help to our church body, both in preaching occasionally and in serving as our "IT expert." Please pray that Bonny would continue to grow in the grace of our Lord. Pray that God would fulfill both his spiritual and his physical needs.

ASIA

GOD'S WORK IN JAPAN

BY LUIS R.

Luis has been serving the Lord in Japan since 2004. He is a native of Lima, Peru. He met his wife Nicola in Japan, and they were married in 2005. They are primarily laboring among the large Latin American community in Tokyo.

Praise God for His salvation and His Word! Praise God for giving us the privilege to preach the Gospel, baptize, and make disciples! This last month, our church celebrated its sixth anniversary. We praise our Lord Jesus for His salvation and rejoice in His blessings. But most of all, we praise Him for giving Himself to us throughout the years.

A Swiss lady heard the Gospel and became a Christian while visiting her native Switzerland. After returning to Japan to study at a university, God guided her to our church. She has now been worshiping with us, serving, and attending Bible studies since the beginning of this year. Last Sunday, she was baptized on our church's anniversary. She shared a powerful testimony of how God had changed her life. Through the entire testimony, her passion for the Gospel was very evident. It is wonderful to witness God's mighty work in calling to Himself a people from many nations. This is the only explanation for how a Peruvian pastor can baptize a

Swiss lady in the country of Japan!

We are now going to resume our study of our declaration of faith in three languages. Please pray that God will give us joy and passion to meditate upon His truth and to strengthen our beliefs.

God is blessing our church with more and more visitors who are hearing the Gospel for the first time. Please pray for Toshiro, Junko, Gloria, and Octavio. They are not yet believers, but they are coming regularly. They are showing interest in learning about the Gospel of our God.

We are continuing to search for orphanages where we can visit and preach the Gospel. Please pray that God would lead us to the right ones. Also, please pray for our church families, that they might maintain a proper balance between their work and their homes. Here in Japan, the time demands that are placed upon employees are destructive. There is always pressure placed upon Christians who do not want to live as company slaves.

Finally, I was recently invited to preach at the American military church on a Sunday, and I have been invited to return. Please pray for me, and praise God for the privilege that has been given to us to share His Word. Pray also for God to continue transforming the hearts of people.

VIDEO TESTIMONIES FROM CAMBODIA

In May, Matt Glass, Southeast Asia coordinator and HeartCry missionary to Indonesia, visited our partners at "Shalom Mission" in Cambodia. At that time, he filmed three video testimonies of the men who are supported by HeartCry to labor in this needy land. We hope that you are blessed by what you hear about how the Lord is at work in this small Southeast Asian nation. Please pray for these dear men as they daily minister among their own people for Christ's kingdom. To see these videos, go to: <http://bit.ly/video-cambodia> ◀



Smartphone QR

Ministry Update from

THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH INDIA

The following update is from Brother Ranjit K., who labors in the mountains of North India. After working for seven years to plant a church in Nepal, he returned to his native state to plant more churches. He is now working in five villages and has seen the Lord open many doors. He has built many relationships as a result of his willingness to serve those around him. Ranjit also teaches occasionally in a nearby reformed seminary.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Praise the Lord for His grace and faithfulness in our lives! This summer, we organized VBS camps in four villages with a focus on reaching the children and teenagers. Ap-



Two students (Ananad and Rakesh) from a seminary were our summer interns. They showed a Hindi Christian movie to the children and taught in Sunday School. "That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God" (Psalm 78:6-7).



Ranjit K. and the fellowship in northern India. God has blessed the work.

A local family invited the team to hold a Bible study in their home.



Praise the Lord! Ten new believers were baptized and added to the church membership!

proximately 300 children joined us, mostly from unbelieving families with no background in the Gospel. All the children learned about God, the Bible, the world, and salvation. I have included some of the photos (previous page) showing how the Lord has worked among us.

The Lord has done many things among us, but we always desire more of His grace and glory. Kindly uphold us in prayer in the following areas:

- ⊕ Please pray for our special meetings for ministers and leadership.
- ⊕ Please pray for our dear family of God. Here in the mountains, the rainy season can be difficult for all of us.
- ⊕ Please pray for our children and teenagers, that they would continue to trust God and obey Him in their daily lives.
- ⊕ Please pray for our team as we go to various villages to counsel, encourage, and share the Gospel with the families who dwell there.
- ⊕ Please pray for two married couples from Nepal who will be starting their first semester of seminary.

Thank you brothers and sisters for your prayers and support for the Gospel. We always thank God for you and for your love for His mission. We need your regular prayers for our lives, our witness, the power of the Holy Spirit, and our faithfulness to the Gospel ministry.

INSIGHT INTO INDIA

The Republic of India is a vast and populous country in South Asia that touches three major bodies of water (the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, and the Bay of Bengal) and shares a land border with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh. It is the seventh largest country by area and has the second largest population in the world (over 1.2 billion people). India has a wealth of history and culture, and it is home to the beginnings of four world religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. India became an independent nation in 1947, having gained its independence from the United Kingdom after the non-violent resistance led by Mahatma Gandhi. The government of India is a federal constitutional republic, divided up into 28 states and 7 union territories. Though its economy is the tenth largest by nominal GDP and third largest by purchasing power parity (PPP), the financial disparity within India is evident through its widespread poverty and malnutrition, while corruption and even terrorism consistently blemish the Indian government.

Although India contains an extensive array of religions, it is traditionally and predominantly a Hindu nation. Almost three quarters of the people of India align themselves with Hinduism, filling the country with the worship of countless different false gods and idols. Islam is also a very significant religion among the Indian populace (14 percent), and India has the third most Muslims of any nation in the world. The country's professing Evangelicals only comprise an estimated 2.2 percent of the population, and the churches have been greatly weakened by false doctrine and cults. With over 400 languages spoken and 2,365 people groups that are considered unreached with the Gospel, India can legitimately be argued as the greatest missionary challenge in the world.

Sources: Wikipedia, Joshua Project, and Operation World

WESTERN EUROPE

THE NETHERLANDS



The Kingdom of the Netherlands consists of twelve provinces in North-West Europe and several islands in the Caribbean. The European portion of the Netherlands borders the North Sea to the north and west, Belgium to the south, and Germany to the east. The capital of the Netherlands is Amsterdam, and its seat of government is in The Hague. About twenty percent of the country (both in area and population) is located below sea level, and fifty percent of its land lies less than one meter above sea level. This fact contributes to the country's name: *Nederland* (Dutch) or "Low Country." In 2011, the Netherlands had the tenth-highest per capita income in the world, and its economy ranked seventeenth out of 177 listed countries in the Index of Economic Freedom. In May 2011, the Netherlands was rated the "happiest" country according to results published by the OECD (Organization for Economic

Cooperation and Development).

Despite the Netherlands' glorious history of religious liberty and mission, Christianity there has reached an all-time low. More than fifty percent of Dutch people claim no religious affiliation, and only twenty percent attend church with any regularity. The attendance in traditional Protestant churches has declined from sixty percent in 1900 to eighteen percent in 2010. As a result, the younger generation is swept up in a tide of secularism, materialism, rampant immorality, false spirituality, and hopeless nihilism. Only four percent of the population claims affiliation with an Evangelical church, and overall growth is less than one percent annually. Compare this with six percent of the population claiming affiliation with Islam, which is growing at an annual rate of 2.3%. There are also many megamosque building projects throughout the country.

Evangelism and Church Planting in the **NETHERLANDS**

BY JACQUES BRUNT

Jacques T. Brunt is an itinerant preacher, teacher, and evangelist in the Netherlands. He was born in 1979 and converted to Christianity in 2000. He is the youngest of five children and was raised in a Dutch Reformed family. He was married to Annette in 2004, and they have three children: Levi, Boaz, and Jesse. Jacques' ministry can be divided into three specific areas: he is a leader and teacher for Heart Cry Netherlands (separate from HeartCry Missionary Society), he is a teacher in his local Baptist church in Alblusserdam, and he is an itinerant preacher throughout the Netherlands.

Recently we were moved by the following story about Charles Wesley, entitled "The Power of a Hymn." We would like to pass it on as encouragement:

Charles Wesley was looking out of his open window at the beautiful landscape. Suddenly, he saw a small songbird being chased by a hawk.

The hawk kept flying above its prey and then would quickly drop itself onto the other bird, but the little creature skillfully kept dodging out of the way. The predator, however, would not cease and kept repeating its attacks. The unequal struggle could not last much longer, because the little bird seemed exhausted and



was already flying more slowly. It looked desperately for a hiding place. Finally, it spied a very unexpected one and flew straight through the open window and hid itself under the coat of Wesley – to his great surprise! Its little eyes looked frightened, and its wings were still trembling; but it was beginning to calm down in the safety and shelter of the garment, near the heart of its rescuer. Soon the hawk disappeared, and the little bird was able to go find its nest. This incident was of great significance to Wesley. Even as he had been standing there,

he had been sad and filled with inner turmoil over trials and difficulties. He didn't see a way out, and inside it was dry and dark. Through this little bird he suddenly saw the solution. The desperate creature had been saved by its only refuge. Did he himself not have a Refuge? Could he not flee and hide from danger with his almighty Savior? This day was a turning point in his life. He thanked his Master for this lesson taught, and deeply impressed, he wrote the hymn that was actually a prayer: "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

*Jesus, lover of my soul, let me
to Thy bosom fly,*

*While the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.*

*Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;*

*Safe into the haven guide; O
receive my soul at last.*

*Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on Thee;*

*Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.*

*All my trust on Thee is stayed,
all my help from Thee I bring;*

*Cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of Thy wing.*

Recently, the Lord has enabled us to do a lot of work. It was a tremendous privilege to speak at the Heart Cry conference in Belgium. It is encouraging to see how several young families in Belgium have found one

*Pray for Jacques as he preaches throughout the Netherlands
in tents like the one pictured here.*





Jacques, his wife Annette, and their three children: Levi, Boaz, and Jesse.

another and have a mutual desire for spiritual revival in their country. There is much darkness in Belgium, but the Lord is at work. It was a blessing to speak the Word of God there.

Over the last few weeks, I have been given the privilege to speak at various evangelistic events in Holland. Much like tent meetings in America, a large tent is erected in the middle of a village, and meetings are held all week long. During this time, the Gospel is preached to young and old. These tent meetings are interdenominational and open to people that do not have much or anything to do with church but would like to know more about the Bible. During the day people can walk in, ask questions, and drink a cup of coffee. There is Biblical literature available, and people who do not own a Bible can receive one in the tent. After a week the tent is set up in the next village. Our children go with us during these tent events and consequently become involved with this beautiful and necessary work at a young age.

For six months, I have been involved with planting a new church in an extremely Orthodox village. After I had preached in the village several times and had organized a day of prayer, we decided to plant a Baptist church there. There is an enormous spiritual hunger in that village for the Word of God. Several families stay home on Sundays because they no

longer know where they should go to church. There is a tremendous spiritual need. Meanwhile, an older Baptist pastor has stepped forward to help with planting this new church in the village. Most likely there will arise much opposition to this new church from the existing churches. But the brethren truly feel that this is the way of the Lord and are willing to stand up as men and take their responsibility towards their wives and children and above all towards God. It is a blessing to be involved with this work, and it has become a new phase in my life and ministry.

This month, I will finish teaching a study series from the book of Romans. I taught through the epistle in twenty lessons. For me personally, it has been spiritually enriching, but the visitors also experienced a spiritual deepening. It was a blessing to study the book verse by verse. By doing this, all sorts of topics are brought out. The interest is overwhelming each time. We pray that the Lord will use these evenings to the glory of His Name and that the blessing will spread like wildfire in the area where we live.

During this study, I met a man who was supposed to serve a prison sentence, but had decided to allude the police and not to report to jail. That has now changed: four weeks ago, he voluntarily registered himself at the jail. I am currently trying

to get access into the facility so that I can pastor and disciple him. He is open to this. This is an important prayer need!

During the summer vacation season in Holland, we start our evangelistic work at various campgrounds. Our family stays at a campsite in the north of Holland for two weeks. I try to teach ten Bible studies there and to enjoy the peace and quiet and the time spent with my family.

In September, after summer vacation, we start a new Bible study series in Ephesians. During eight evenings, I hope to go through this beautiful epistle verse by verse. We believe that these expositions are meeting a huge need, and we are looking forward to starting this new series. We have made a flyer for these evenings to spread the word. It is a great encouragement to see how many young people are attracted to

the Bible studies.

We are deeply amazed and grateful that the Lord is willing to use us for the salvation of lost sinners and the building up of His church. It is a joy to be able to do this work. There is spiritual warfare, but that is to be expected. Where the Lord is at work, there will be struggle. But we find such encouragement from Nehemiah 8:10: "Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Thank you for your involvement in our family and ministry. Thank you for your compassion and prayers. Thank you for your financial support. We need it all. It is great grace that you have given ear to the call of the Lord in your hearts to support us. Please know that we deeply appreciate it!

Across oceans we are closely united in our Savior!
Jacques, Annette, Levi, Boaz, & Jesse

A Scandal of

EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS

BY DON CURRIN

Don Currin is the HeartCry Coordinator for Eastern Europe and an itinerant evangelist. He and his wife Cindy currently live in Tusculumbia, Alabama, where he is also pastoring a church. For more information on Don's ministry, please visit his website at: doncurrinministries.org.

The biblical Gospel continues to incite hostility in the world. Its scandalous content arouses bitter opposition from both the religious public and global populace.

Two aspects of the Gospel that have provoked increased antagonism are the identity and exclusivity of Christ. Most men do not have a problem with Jesus as long as He is reduced to a moral teacher or miracle worker. But if His deity is introduced, the believer has a battle on their hands; for to declare that Jesus is God is to attest to His supremacy over all things, including His Lordship over all other gods.

The second aspect of the Gospel that offends humanity is the exclusiveness of Jesus. To tell someone who embraces a self-atoning method for their salvation that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven is to insult him in the worst possible way. Yet the Scripture teaches that "there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5).

Undoubtedly, one of the greatest problems in Evangelicalism today is that many Christians do not present the Gospel in such a way that would cause anyone to reject it. The urgent need in this dark hour is to declare the Gospel in such a way that it intersects the carnal reasoning of sinners to make them renounce their god for Christ. Although scandalous, it will be saving for all who believe.

EASTERN EUROPE

Outreach on the

DANUBE DELTA

BY SORIN PRODAN - ROMANIA



The Danube River crosses Central and Eastern Europe and flows into the Black Sea, forming in Romania a delta of outstanding beauty. Hundreds of thousands of acres are covered by canals between the three main branches that split the Danube River before flowing into the sea. The population of this region is a mixture of Romanians, Russians, Turks, and some remnants of former German communities. You can see here and there some Orthodox churches in a Romanian or Russian style, some Lutheran churches, and even some mosques.

Recently, the HeartCry missionaries in Romania joined together in a massive outreach in the Danube Delta, where HeartCry supports missionary Florin Galateanu. Almost an entire week was set aside to travel to the delta and visit its towns and scattered villages with the Gospel. Our desire was to reach these isolated



communities within Tulcea County.

Florin began his ministry of church planting a few years ago, after working for more than a decade as a Campus Crusade missionary on a major campus university in Romania. HeartCry began to support him two years ago to establish new churches in the isolated land of the delta.

The people of the delta have an acute sense of loneliness and depression. The population is mostly poor, and only a few benefit from the tourism that is drawn to the Delta's ecosystem.

The focus of our outreach was in two communities – Mahmudia and Nufaru – situated on one of three branches of the Danube Delta called St. George. The twelve missionaries canvassed each street of each town and shared the Gospel with the people in the street, in their homes, and in the local institutions (schools, city hall, stores, etc).

One particular group of people that was targeted consisted of the fishermen who were fishing along the river that flows through these towns. It was fairly easy to engage in a discussion with them, since they had nothing else to do but wait to catch something.



Missionary Florin Galateanu preaching the Gospel in the open air.



The HeartCry missionary team having breakfast before going to the streets of Mahmudia and Nufaru.

The days were rainy, but there was no hindering us in going and reaching out to the people on the streets. One day at breakfast, it was pouring rain, and there was a bit of concern about what we were going to do if it did not stop. One missionary prayed that God would make a window in the sky so that we could preach the Gospel to the town of Nufaru. When we drove to the village, we saw a miracle. All around the village were storms and floods, but not one drop of water fell in the town of Nufaru! The village was blessed that day with the rain of the glorious Gospel, and some hearts became the good ground on which the seed of the Gospel fell!

At the end of the day, we met in a courtyard because the mayor of the town refused to allow us to use the Culture House for evangelistic meetings. The courtyard was full of people, sitting on the chairs, the concrete stairs, or on a pile of stones. Some twenty-five people in the village came to hear the Gospel that evening. What a beautiful picture of those hungry souls!

In the town of Mahmudia, the

time was very fruitful in terms of personal evangelism and Gospel proclamation. We split up into teams of two, taking each street of the town and trying to speak to every person on the streets or in the courtyards. Most people would stop on the street or open their garden gates in order to have a discussion with us; only a few were reluctant. We expected that the people in poverty would show interest, but surprisingly, we also had some good discussions with some wealthy people. Two of them in particular, who own hotels in the area, showed a great attention to the message of salvation. The Gospel is for all – it is a message of salvation for those who believe and a message of condemnation for those who refuse!

A number of young people from the local schools were also approached. Many shared how discouraging it is for them to live in the area. Most of them are planning to leave, either to study at a university far away from the Delta or to work abroad.

Religion is very strong in Mahmudia! There are two major religious communities. The first is Eastern Or-



Part of the HeartCry Team visiting a little port in Tulcea, the main city on the Danube Delta.

thodoxy. It is mostly committed to the rituals of the denomination, but it has no real spiritual life. The other is a community of Russian-speaking people called “Lipoveni.” They are very different from the followers of typical Eastern Orthodoxy. They have their liturgy in an old Slavic language and follow a different religious calendar.

We ended our outreach in Mahmudia with a major evangelistic event at the town’s Culture House. The city hall approved the event, and approximately fifty people attended. The Gospel was preached with great power, and we had confidence that the Holy Spirit would give new birth to some of those who came.

It was an interesting experience to travel deep into the Delta. One brother from Mahmudia, Ermil, is a local fisherman. He took us on a two-hour trip in the delta with his boat. Ermil is a Lipovean, but he was saved and now has a powerful testimony before all the fishermen in the delta. We spent one night

The HeartCry team visiting the fishermen and taking the Gospel deep into the heart of the delta.





Evangelistic meeting in the Culture House in the town of Mahmudia of Tulcea County.

in the heart of the delta, sleeping in tents and meeting fishermen that were fishing on the canals. It was fascinating to see their life, understand their customs, and share with them the Good News that even fishermen in the isolated land of the Danube Delta are loved by God and called to be saved.

The whole experience of proclaiming the Gospel message in the Danube Delta proved to be a great blessing for us all. Florin Galateanu felt encouraged to see how the Gospel reached so many people in the towns of Mahmudia and Nufaru, and the groups of fishermen in the Delta. Florin will continue to follow up with the people that demonstrated an openness to hearing about the life that is found in Christ. He also plans to start a new church plant in the town of Sulina, which is the last town in Romania, on the central branch of the Danube. Pray for Florin Galateanu. Pray for the missionary work in Mahmudia, Nufaru, and Sulina. Pray for all of the isolated groups that are scattered throughout the Danube Delta.



EURASIA

Outreach Efforts in SIBERIA

BY VLADIMIR RADZIHOVSKI

HeartCry has been privileged to partner with Brother Vladimir since 2003. He and his family labor among the peoples of Siberia. Physically and spiritually, this is a very difficult place both to live and to work due to the harshness of climate as well as the vast and rugged landscape. It is an undesirable place in almost every way, and only a small percentage of the world's population calls it their home. However, the need there is great.

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We sincerely thank God for all of you and for your continued support, despite the difficulties that come with international relations. Thank you for your prayers for us and for God's work here!

In our family, we are almost all healthy, except for Katie, who is sick. We had to take her to the doctor on Sunday. She is home now, but has yet to fully recover. Please support her in prayer.

In our family worship, we continue to read through the book of Exodus, paying special attention to the weakness or inability of people to live out the holy and righteous laws of God. Apart from the Holy Spirit, man lacks the ability to follow God in obedience.

In the church, we are currently studying through chapters 1-2 of the book of Revelation. In these chapters are revealed the power of Christ over all the authorities of the world and His special power over the Church, which is intended to be a light for Him to the world.

Recently, a young family moved to our area from Ukraine. They are attending our church with great interest. We are thankful that the Lord has brought them here to us.



There are five men with whom I am regularly sharing the Gospel: Konstantin, Nikolai, Vadim, Peter, and Alexander. Nikolai and Alexander are growing in their understanding and desire for God! I praise the Lord for working in Nikolai's life in such a way that now I am discipling him as a child of God and no longer preaching to him as a lost sinner! Vadim and Peter are still enslaved to alcohol. When they are sober, I meet with them and share the Gospel. Please pray for their salvation.

In previous reports, I have mentioned the contact that God has allowed us to establish with a local charitable organization called "Help Hold." We have received a lot of information from this group about specific people in our area who are very needy. This month, our church has begun to serve these people. Some of them have very serious diseases. There are also many women and children who are abused by drunkards and then kicked out of their homes. There are young people who are now too old for the orphanage, and even though they have housing, they do not know how to live independently. Because of the assistance that we have given them, many of these people are open to the Gospel. The service we are offering does not require a lot of finances, but it does require us to give a great deal of time and attention to the people. I ask you to please pray for us so that we might know how to best serve these people so that God might be glorified. Also, please pray that many lives would be truly saved by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Newly Printed

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

IN RUSSIAN | BY HOLDEN BARRY

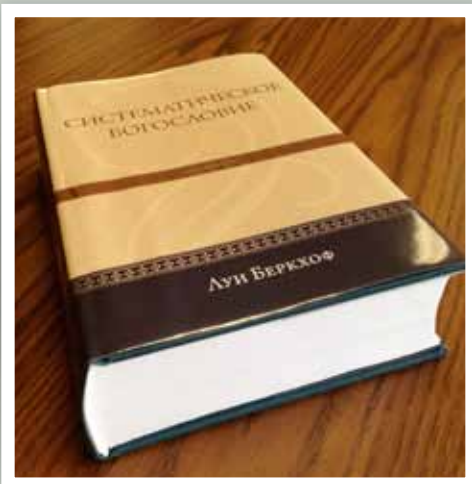
Another important HeartCry translation project has been completed! The 784-page *Systematic Theology* by Louis Berkhof has been translated into Russian. The translation and publishing ministry, Gospel and Reformation, led by Slava V. in Belarus, has been working very hard to complete this work. It was a monumental task that now stands as a massive contribution to the Russian-speaking church.

We have just printed 1,500 copies of the book and are very pleased with the quality. The cover was designed by HeartCry media specialist Jon Green. The books are made with a hardcover and sewn binding.

Now that Berkhof's *Systematic* has been completed and published, we will continue to partner with Gospel and Reformation in order to translate other solid theological resources for the Russian-speaking world. Here is a recent progress report from Slava regarding Gospel and Reformation's projects that HeartCry is funding:

1. *The Holy Spirit* by Sinclair Ferguson – Translation is complete; 120 out of 290 pages have been edited.
2. *The Church* by Edmund Clowney – Translation: 190 out of 340 pages are complete.
3. *The Providence of God* by Paul Helm – Translation: 160 out of 250 pages are complete.
4. *Gospel's Power and Message* by Paul Washer – Translation: 115 out of 280 pages are complete.

We are on schedule with the first three titles, but have been unable to keep on schedule with the fourth. Presently, we are giving priority to these projects and hope to have everything ready for printing by the time our readers receive this Fall Edition of the HeartCry magazine.



Please pray for Gospel and Reformation's translation efforts in Belarus. This is a complex and oftentimes difficult work that must be done at a high level of scholarship and integrity. We must always remember that in the history of reformation and revival, the distribution of sound theological and devotional literature has always been key. Furthermore, we must always keep focus on what the Great Commission and mission work truly are – the communication of God's truth to men. All true doxology (worship) and praxis (practice) result from sound orthodoxy (doctrine). In the West, we have access to the Scriptures in their original languages as well as in sound translations. We have access to the great theological, biblical, and devotional works from nearly two thousand years of church history. However, outside the West, countless people groups do not even have an adequate translation of the Scriptures, a concordance, or a Bible dictionary. Our wealth of literature and the benefit that we have received from it should lead us to do everything in our power so that our brothers and sisters around the world might be blessed by the same.

MIDDLE EAST

The Secret Church in

ARABIA: AN INSIDE LOOK

BY JOSH COBLE

This article is based on information gathered from a HeartCry-affiliated observer of the underground church in Arabia.

CHRISTIANITY IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

Thorough study of the New Testament shows that Christianity had a strong beginning in the Middle East. In fact, it wasn't until the mid-seventh century that Islam became the dominant religion of the region. But because Islam was founded in an intensely tribal culture, it spread rapidly and sank deeply into all aspects of life. For this reason, it is extremely difficult for Arabs to separate the religion of Islam from their own cultural identity. For Muslims, questioning Islam not only goes against every cultural instinct, but also involves incredible personal danger.

In the Arabian Peninsula, Islam is the law. The Islamic Sharia, or Islamic Law, is an all-encompassing religious law (derived from the Quran and the life of Muhammad) that governs all areas of life, ranging from dress code to civil government. If a Muslim publicly professes faith in Christ, he is charged with apostasy and legally sentenced to death. In many cases, however, they are murdered by one of their own family members.

Despite these challenges, many Muslims are flocking to Christ. Each one has a different story – some have come because of a dream or a vision, while others through the direct influence of a missionary or fellow-Arab believer. These indigenous Arab converts, called “Believers from a Muslim Background” (or BMB’s), meet together secretly in small underground house churches.

AN INSIDE LOOK

The following account comes from a missionary who visited one such secret church in the Arabian Peninsula:

“Just as it was beginning to get dark, some brothers and I set out for the house where the church was going to meet. After we had walked some distance, one brother stopped suddenly and whispered through the darkness, ‘We can’t all go in at the same time. You wait here for three minutes, and then follow.’ I stood waiting in the cover of an alley and watched their shadowy figures grow small in the distance. After three minutes, I poked my head from the alley and glanced around before following after them. After I had walked for about half a mile, I watched them disappear into a dimly lit house.

“When I entered the house, I saw about twenty men in the room. They were worshiping quietly, but with an obvious passion. Their worship was more beautiful than that of any of the extravagant worship bands I had ever seen. These people were worshiping God with the awareness that at any moment they could be discovered and killed.

“Noticing that there were no women in the room, I leaned over to my friend to voice my observation. He assured me that there were just as many women in the church (if not more), but they met separately for both cultural and safety reasons. If either of the groups were ever discovered, their children would still have one parent to take care of them.

“Recently, a Christian woman from a nearby city was discovered by her family and burned alive for her loyalty to Christ. In the Lord’s kindness, her husband and children were not home, but were able to flee to another country and start a new life.

“Like the church of Acts, these people meet together in love to worship, share the Lord’s Supper, study the Bible, encourage one another, and share testimonies of God’s faithfulness through difficulties and persecution. This church is not familiar with the ‘complicated Christianity’ of today and has no place for activities and programs. For them, God is enough.”

DESOLATION BRINGS A NEW OPPORTUNITY

This particular house church has faced extraordinary difficulties from Islamic extremist groups during its existence. Within

the last year, all of its leaders have been forced to flee the country. For this reason, the church has been left without any biblical leadership or solid teaching, like sheep without a shepherd.

But one of HeartCry’s Arabic missionaries, Boutros B., has been given the opportunity to move to this incredibly dark and hostile country to be the new pastor of this small flock. He and his wife have long carried a burden from God to reach this country and finally have plans to move there permanently at the beginning of October. Please pray for them and their new church – that God would: 1) provide a sufficient platform as a cover for their ministry; 2) supernaturally protect them and the church from harm; 3) pour out an abundance of grace, power, and gifts on the people; 4) cause the Gospel to run rapidly across the land; 5) raise up strong leaders who will give their lives for the Church.

Much-needed Theological Resources

FOR THE ARABIC CHURCH

BY JOSH COBLE



The Church in the Middle East has a great need for solid, biblical teaching and resources. For Christians living in the Middle East, good books and other resources are

difficult to find in their own language. HeartCry is currently working on several translation projects in an effort to strengthen and expand the Arabic Christian library.

Recently, HeartCry funded the printing of 500 copies of the newly translated workbook, *The One True God* by Paul Washer. The books will be distributed to like-minded church leaders, who will use the material for teaching and discipleship in their congregations. These leaders are excited to use the workbook, which they believe will be incredibly applicable and beneficial to the Church in the Middle East.

Pray that these resources might be a great help to the Church and that God might raise up more men and women to spread the true Gospel to their lost brothers and sisters who remain in the bondage of Islam.

UPDATE FROM ISRAEL

BY LEONID B.

Leonid has planted a church among the Russian Jews in an undisclosed city in Israel. Though the church is small, their hope is that God would use them to bring many hearts to His Son. Leonid also helps Antony S. with the evangelistic tour ministry and performs evangelistic concerts in cities throughout Israel. Furthermore, he writes articles about Israel that are published in various Christian magazines. He has now published these articles in a book entitled, "Around Jerusalem with the Bible." In the past, Leonid has been severely beaten for preaching the Gospel and has suffered much for the sake of Christ. Pray for him as he ministers in two cities in Israel.



Greetings to you from Israel! I went again to a prison near N_____ to minister to the men who are incarcerated there. Some of them have come to faith in Christ, and we are teaching them the Scriptures. Others are open to hearing the Gospel, and we continue to evangelize them.

Nikolay is one prisoner who has recently come to faith in Christ. He has been sentenced to life in prison for murdering four different people. During our previous meetings, he expressed hope that he would one day be released. He submitted an appeal that the court has rejected. He now understands that he will be imprisoned for the rest of his earthly life.

Nikolay believes in Jesus, and he shares the Gospel with all the other Russian-speaking prisoners. One day, I spoke with him about John the Baptist and his death. He then admitted to me that it was painful to

read how Herod cruelly executed this man. I told him that John the Baptist is sometimes called by theologians, "the last prophet of the Old Testament." He was Christ's forerunner, an extraordinary and courageous person, and now he is with the Lord! I encouraged Brother Nikolay that all of us who know and walk with the Lord can have that blessed assurance that we will be with Him, no matter what happens to us. Before I left, we had a wonderful time of prayer together.

I continue conducting Bible studies in two different cities. We are currently going through the workbook by Paul Washer entitled, *The One True God*. We just finished the first lesson, which is devoted to the Trinity. This lesson was very helpful to all of us. The leaders of some messianic congregations in Israel try to avoid teaching on the Trinity. They very often claim that because the specific word "trinity" is not found in the Scriptures, any teaching on the subject is not essential. Some messianic leaders have even admitted to me in private conversation that they do not believe in the Trinity. I am seeking to help them understand the truth and importance of this doctrine. Please pray with me that the Lord will cure them of this heresy!

I thank the Lord for an older lady named Natasha who lives in the nursing home. Ever since I shared the Gospel with her, she has been regularly listening to sermons and reading the Bible. It seems clear that the Lord has given her new life in Christ! We praise the Lord for how He is working among us here. Please pray for:

- ▶ Nikolay.
- ▶ The growth of our church and God's blessing on the bible studies.
- ▶ The messianic leaders who do not believe in the Trinity.
- ▶ Natasha.
- ▶ Our evangelism efforts.
- ▶ Peace in Israel.

LATINAMERICA

THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL

BY IVAN TASSARA

Ivan graduated from a Bible academy in the Dominican Republic and is now serving as the pastor of the church "Jesus Is the Only Hope" in Sullana, Peru. He is also a co-laborer with Javier Carhuapoma.

Thanks be to our God, who leads us from victory to victory and who manifests the fragrance of the knowledge of Himself through His people. How great our God is, and how small we are! Yet, it is His good pleasure to use us to proclaim the glories and riches of His Kingdom.

STRUGGLES AND VICTORIES

More than ever before, we are battling with the enemy and fighting off his fiery darts. I say this because with every increase in the proclamation of the Gospel, we find more and more obstacles. Now more than any other time, we are seeing that, for many people, Christ is the Stone of Stumbling. To the degree that we are preaching the Gospel, many people have proven to be stubborn and cold, refusing to listen and obey the Gospel of repentance and showing the true desire of their heart. However, though there are many who do not have eyes to see or ears to hear, there have also been some who have listened and are growing in the knowledge of the Gospel.

The Lord has recently added another brother to our number. He is an older man named Sebastian, and he is a shepherd who lives close to our home. When my wife and I met him, he explained to us that he had heard about the Gospel for many years. At one point he even traveled to a church some distance away in order to hear more about the Bible, as there were no churches close to his house. We talked with Sebastian about his life and explained to him the message of the Gospel. The Lord has now opened his eyes to understand little by little, and since that day, he has come faithfully each Sunday to our



Ivan Tassara - Ivan and his wife Yamin outside of the church plant in Nueva Esperanza, Sullana, Peru

church meetings. It has now been two months since he began attending our services, and he is growing in the knowledge of the truth. We hope, by the mercy of God, that Sebastian will continue faithfully in the Lord and that he will increase in understanding. Please pray for Sebastian. Pray also for Blanca, a young woman who has begun coming to the church with her two small children. She visits the church regularly, and we are praying for her salvation.

Our great goal as a church is to know more of God. We firmly believe that as a regenerate people,

the knowledge of Him will cause us to love Him more and, as a result, to serve Him more effectively. We are still a young church plant and are not large in number, but I see in the believers an abundant love for the work of the Lord. It has been a great satisfaction and encouragement for me to see our prayers worked out in the lives of the brothers and sisters in

the local church.

We ask for the prayers of you all, that we might continue growing in a love for the Lord and that we might have a constant passion and longing for His glory. I know that God is greatly blessing us, and I consider all the trials and battles to be blessings, knowing that through them He is molding us to His character.

A ROBBERY, GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY, AND ENDLESS HOPE

It is a great source of joy to know that we depend upon a God who is inscrutably powerful. When Habakkuk came to grips with this truth about God, he was able to say that the adverse circumstances in which he found himself – and in which all believers at some point find themselves – were not and could not be a reason for displeasure or bitterness. Rather, they must be seen as an opportunity to truly understand from the heart that the Lord is our strength (which only a regenerate heart is able to understand). Even if we were to be without basic necessities, we have an all-powerful God who strengthens us.

I am assured that circumstances are not enough to cause our convictions to waver. This month, the trials the Lord has allowed us to pass through and the temptations of the enemy have been very difficult. It seems that more and more each day I am realizing that real life is often much more difficult than the life we read about in many books. It is one thing to know in theory the sovereignty of God (His decrees, His reign over all things, His rule over every detail of our day, etc.), but it is an entirely different thing to experience it. However, when we experience the sovereign hand of God in the midst of trials, He also equips us and enables us to say, "We are nothing without our God! And this life has nothing to offer us apart from Him!"

Toward the end of the month, we were once again victims of criminals in our neighborhood. A couple months ago, they broke into our

house and stole money along with a few other possessions. This time, they broke the back door and stole a laptop and other household items while we were visiting one of the sisters of the church. Thanks to our God, we were helped by the police, and in a short time we were able to get back some of what was stolen. However, the thieves had already sold most of what they had stolen; we were not able to get any of those items back. While it is humbling and difficult for the flesh to accept, I know that these men are lost and are in need of the Lord's mercy. Therefore, we pray that His mercy might reach their lives. I also know that this is perfecting my character, and it is equipping me to trust more completely in our God. We worship God for the work He is doing in our lives, even through these events, knowing that all things work together for the good of those who are called according to His purpose.

Regarding the ministry that the Lord has entrusted to us, He has been overwhelmingly good. So many things have happened that should have crushed me under the weight of shame and despair, and yet God has reminded me that all that takes place is ultimately in accordance with His grace and mercy toward us.

As a church, we are continuing to study the Word of God. Just this month, we finished a year-long series on the Sermon on the Mount. How the church has been blessed as we have come to see the distinctive marks of the believer and our supreme goal, which is attaining to a fuller reflection of the character of

Christ! Personally, I have been abundantly blessed in the preparation of expository sermons on these three chapters, and the Spirit has opened my eyes through this text to attain a deeper knowledge of our wonderful God.

Beginning this month, the church is taking advantage of the library provided by HeartCry by the grace of God. Once again, thank you all for your love and concern for the work of the Lord here and for the support that you give. It is such a blessing to us. Though we do not know one another personally, the Lord has made us brothers and members of the same body, and He has given the

same charge to each of us to play our part in rowing the boat. God has put us in different places, and we all have different fields of ministry, but all of us work for the same God and the same Lord.

Please, continue to pray for my family, as this month has consisted of many struggles in our health. Praise God that it is through our weakness that His power will be perfected in us.

While we are yet in this earthly dwelling, our lives must be consumed in service to our beloved God. I long for the Lord to find us as faithful servants until the day that our Master comes for us.

Fruitful EVANGELISTIC PREACHING

BY JAVIER CARHUAPOMA

Javier is the pastor of the Baptist Church of Maranatha in Paita, Peru. He has a long-standing relationship with us as a HeartCry missionary, and we consider him to be one of our most trusted co-workers in Latin America.

May thanks always be given to our Lord Jesus Christ for the blessings He has poured out on my family and ministry. This month we have seen more people awakened to their need for Christ through the preaching of the Gospel. We recently held a preaching event to which we invited all the parents of the children involved in the Compassion ministry in our city. Many of these parents have occasionally come to our church services, but it seems that very few have been attending recently.

That Sunday, we ate breakfast together with all the parents (approximately 150), and I preached to Gospel to them afterwards. It was wonderful to see so many people listening to the Word of God. It was even more amazing to have seven families come up to me afterwards

to tell me that they had been broken by the preaching and that they wanted biblical counseling for themselves and their families. Three of those families came to the service in the evening, where they again heard the preaching of the Word of God. All three families told me that they wanted to continue coming to the services to hear the Gospel.

That same night, I also counseled another family. The husband told me, "Pastor, I've been studying the Bible for several months since you preached the Gospel to me, and God has shown me my sin and my need to be saved. Pastor, I feel that God has been drawing my family and me close to Christ. Please, pray for us."

I plead with each of you to be praying for this family that they would all be saved. We will continue to have these evangelistic services one Sunday morning each month for the parents of the children. Our prayer is that the Lord will keep the door open wide for us to be able to preach the Gospel to these families.

*The Family and***THE LOCAL CHURCH**

BY JOSE LUIS SIANCAS

Jose Luis is the co-pastor of “Jesus es la Puerta” (Jesus Is the Door) Baptist Church in the town of Mallaritos, Peru, just outside of Sullana. He also helps to lead certain sections of the theological education by extension in several different locations.



Pray for the opportunity Jose Luis has to influence more churches with biblical teaching on the family.

A major portion of our ministry in the local church consists of counseling, teaching, and praying with the married couples and families. On several occasions this past month, we took advantage of Saturdays to expound God’s Word with regard to the topic of raising children in light of the Gospel. During these times of teaching, there were many visitors, the majority of whom were women.

In our culture, it is commonly accepted by men that the raising, teaching, and disciplining of children is the responsibility of the woman, not the man. However, the Scriptures teach that it is the role of the father to lead the home and that it is as much his responsibility to raise and discipline the children as it is the mother’s. The man is not to flee or shrink back from this responsibility. The family is a vital part of a healthy local church, since it is in the home that the children are most to be instructed with regard to sin; God’s righteousness, love, and holiness; true worship; and the Gospel.

Other churches around us have heard about the teaching that we have been carrying out with regard to this subject, and they are now asking that we help them by giving the same teachings in their churches. To God be the glory! There are now two churches asking us to hold a conference on the biblical family. We will be teaching on marriage and the importance of the Gospel in family life.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to preach the Gospel in public places. We emphasize that man is dead in his sins and that the wisdom of God has been revealed by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise again on the third day in order to reconcile God and man. All this is done in the open air outside of our church building. We have specific times of emphasized evangelistic efforts, where we preach and speak with people in the streets for three consecutive days. I greatly rejoice, not only in preaching Christ in evangelism, but also because this month, after praying for and exhorting a brother in the faith, he has returned to the flock in repentance. He has a humble desire to be restored for the glory of God.

I want to give my life in gratitude to the One whom I serve. I also thank the brothers that support us spiritually and financially. Grace and peace in the life of each of you!

As a church, we have once again begun the Biblical Ministry School (BMS). We are beginning the Bible courses by working through the great confessions of faith throughout the history of the Church. Currently, there are fifteen brothers in the classes who are seeking to prepare for the ministry. Our hope is that this school will deepen and strengthen the convictions of future leaders of the local church. Every Monday we are meeting to study for two and a half hours. On the other days of the

week, we are busy visiting the believers in their homes and carrying out individual discipleship.

This month we also went to visit and encourage a church in the town of Santa Cruz, which is where the late Pastor Angel Colmenares was raised. This church is very small, and they have asked our church to come alongside by both helping them in evangelism from house to house and teaching them biblical doctrine. We will continue serving these brothers and sisters out of love for God and His Gospel that has been entrusted to us. Please pray for Pastor Miguel and Brother Andy, who are serving as

leaders of the church in Santa Cruz.

Earlier this month, we held a dinner on a Saturday night in the church to which we invited many friends and neighbors with the intention of sharing the Gospel with them. There were many people in attendance, and they all heard the Word of God preached. Many of them promised to return again. While only a few of those who said they would return have actually come, we give thanks to God for those who do continue to come faithfully to the church meetings. We are praying for their salvation and asking that God would open their eyes to see the wonders of His Word.

A Funeral and **A CHANCE TO PREACH**

BY MIGUEL CARHUAPOMA

Miguel is a pastor and HeartCry missionary serving in the small town of Sapillica in the mountains of northern Peru. He is the brother of Javier Carhuapoma and a faithful co-laborer in the harvest of the Great Commission.

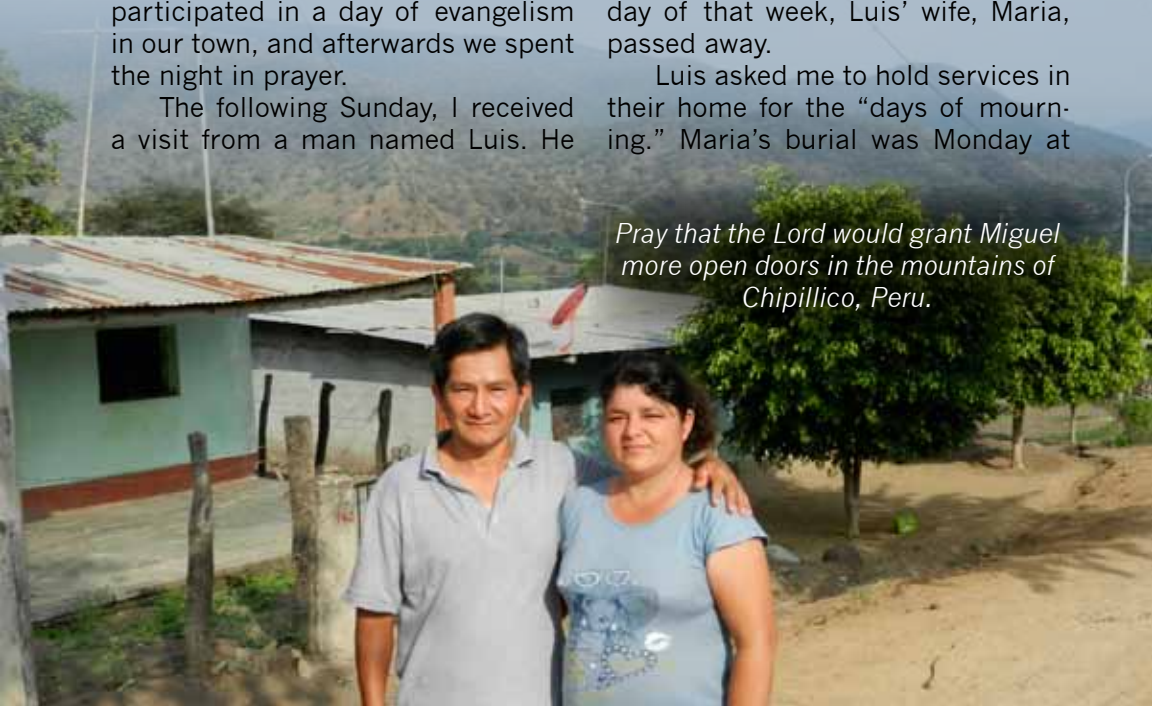
Thanks be to God! We are seeing growth in our church, both numerically and spiritually. The second Saturday of this last month, several brothers and sisters from the church participated in a day of evangelism in our town, and afterwards we spent the night in prayer.

The following Sunday, I received a visit from a man named Luis. He

asked us to be praying for his wife, who was in a very delicate situation with her health. Luis told us that he had taken his wife to the doctors, to the local witch-doctors, and to different priests in order for them to pray for her; but she had not been made well. Later that same morning Luis visited the church together with his children and son-in-law. A few days later, we prayed with this family in their home and asked that the Lord's will be done in their lives. Saturday of that week, Luis' wife, Maria, passed away.

Luis asked me to hold services in their home for the "days of mourning." Maria's burial was Monday at

Pray that the Lord would grant Miguel more open doors in the mountains of Chipillico, Peru.



10 o'clock in the morning, and I was given the opportunity to preach the Word of God to all who were in attendance. After this, they asked me to help with the services after the days of mourning and the burial. It is the custom to hold these meetings for nine nights, and each night I was asked to preach the Word at 11 PM. It was a difficult task, but it was worth the sacrifice. Many of the brothers and sisters from the church also joined in helping Luis and his family and, according to the custom, helped prepare food for all who attended the nine nights of services.

During those nine nights, I explained the condition of mankind and the riches of the Gospel. The last night, I gave a strong exhortation to all in attendance to repent and seek the Lord. Several people showed con-

cern for their souls, including Luis and one of his daughters. On Sunday, they came again to the church service, and the brothers and sisters from the church welcomed them warmly. We even had a special time of prayer for them. Please pray for Luis and his daughter Reinelda. Also pray for Luis' two sons, whom we are visiting in their homes and who are wanting to receive instruction from the Word.

In addition to these things, please pray for the evangelism that we are carrying out in our town and for the families with whom we are sharing the Word. Pray also for those who oppose the work here and often speak falsely against us. Thanks be to our God, we are growing despite all opposition, and the church is continually strengthened.

Evangelism and a Growing

CHURCH IN CUZCO

BY WEHRNER PANCORBO

Wehrner is the pastor of the church "Iglesia Cristiana de Gracia" (Grace Christian Church) in Cuzco, Peru. He moved from Chiclayo, Peru, with his family and began this new work in February of 2013. Cuzco is located in the central mountains of Peru, near the famed tourist attraction, Machu Picchu.

I am very happy in the Lord to see that the ministry that He has given us in Cuzco is continually strengthened. There are now many more people that have begun attending the church services, and they are showing a real interest in the Gospel and a desire to hear the Word of God. There have even been Sundays when we have not had enough room in the small building we are renting. Because of this, we have changed meeting locations to one that is slightly larger, and now everyone is able to fit. We thank God for this.

Please pray for those who have recently begun attending our congregation with an obvious interest in hearing the Word of God. In all, there are seven people who seem to show the most interest. We are visiting them in their homes for discipleship.

Regarding evangelism, each Sunday we go out to talk to people in the city plazas. Sometimes the authorities do not allow us to preach, but other times they do. In addition to Sundays, we also go out into the city to evangelize some evenings. Though there have been many people who seem to show interest when we share the Gospel with them, we have yet to see people come to the church through this ministry. Nevertheless, we will not lose heart; we will continue to proclaim the Gospel in this city.

We also recently participated in an evangelistic medical event in a town outside of Cuzco called Si-

matauyca. There is no Evangelical church in the town, but there is one family there who are Christian. During this event, I had the opportunity of preaching the Gospel on two separate occasions, and we were also able to speak with people one on one during the day. Praise the Lord! There

were many people who listened to us as we explained the Gospel, and they have shown great interest in hearing more. We are visiting them each Sunday. While we cannot say that we have seen any of them converted yet, we have great hope in our God, and we are praying for them.



Rogelio Acea in the streets of La Victoria, Lima.

Proclaiming Christ

IN A REHABILITATION CENTER

BY ROGELIO ACEA

Rogelio served for years as the pastor of a Baptist church in one of the most dangerous areas of Lima, called La Victoria. He is a HeartCry missionary and a long-standing friend.

Brothers and sisters, I rejoice greatly in the opportunity the Lord has given me through an invitation extended to me to help with a Christian rehabilitation center nearby. I am ministering to men who are addicted to drugs and alcohol. Since I was rescued by the Lord from that same kind of lifestyle, the Lord is using my testimony to help these men see the power of God in the transformation He has brought about in my life.

The center is named “Casa Hogar Nueva Vida en Cristo” (New Life in Christ Home). The brother that is in charge asked me if I could help with the work, and I happily agreed, since I have experience working with people immersed in these types of problems in other rehabilitation centers and in prisons. Another reason for my decision to help with this ministry is because I never want to say “no” when I sense that it is the Lord calling me to serve Him. Wherever He might call me to serve, I want to be diligent to respond in obedience. I am sure that this has been a calling from the Lord to serve in this home for drug addicts, and my answer was, “Amen, Lord.”

In addition to my teaching and preaching in our church, my wife and I continue to regularly visit the hospital to share the Gospel with the patients and their families. As a result of our visits, we are seeing an inter-

est in some of the people, because they see that we are not giving up on visiting them and exhorting them in the Word. My wife and I are very encouraged and eager to continue in this hospital ministry.

Concordances & Study Bibles **FOR ANDEAN PASTORS**

BY LUKE NASH

Over the past year, HeartCry has come alongside Jairo Sangama in the training of pastors in the jungles and mountains of Peru through providing resources such as Study Bibles, dictionaries, concordances, etc. We recently had the opportunity to provide Jairo with more training tools for twenty-five pastors from the Andes Mountains who met in Cuzco for a week of courses. Each of the twenty-five men that received a Study Bible and concordance are currently pastors of congregations and are eager to receive any training that might enable them to be more effective in their ministries. Jairo

also taught a course for the men with regard to how to use the concordances. Praise the Lord for His provision! Please pray that He might use these tools and the instruction given to these pastors to further establish and strengthen His Church in Cuzco and the surrounding mountains. The following is an e-mail sent from Jairo after the conference:

"I would like to thank you in the love of God for helping us through the provision of the materials for the Quechua pastors. The men who were present at the conference are all

All twenty-five Andean pastors received a Study Bible and Strong's Concordance.



pastors serving in either Cuzco or Aymara de Puno, Peru. Prior to the conference, the majority of the men had a Bible, but most did not have a Study Bible or other resources. They all expressed their deep gratitude to HeartCry, and we hope to be

able to continue helping these men in the future. The twenty-five men also participated in several courses on the theme of 'Pastoring the Flock.' May God help us to continue serving the servants of our Lord."

Logos Software FOR MISSIONARIES

BY LUKE NASH

In an effort to encourage and aid in further equipping some of the young missionaries we support in South America, HeartCry has provided four pastors in Peru, Argentina, and Brazil with the Spanish edition of Logos Bible Software. This resource provides these men with commentaries, word study tools, doctrinally sound literature, and other useful materials. Thanks to the generous giving of the brothers and sisters that the Lord has raised up to support and pray for this ministry, these men now have a much-needed study tool to help them be more effective in accurately handling the Word of Truth. Please pray that the missionaries who received this gift will be helped in their study and preaching. Pray that this will result in great encouragement and strengthening for both their churches and the men they are training for the ministry.

Lima Bible Academy UPDATE

The Bible Academy in Barranco, Peru, continues to make progress. Please visit our website to watch an update from HeartCry missionary David Silva - <http://bit.ly/BibleAcademyUpdate>.



Smartphone QR



Meet the

HEARTCRY STAFF

NIKOS COX | DIGITAL MEDIA MANAGER



The Lord saved me about four years ago while I was studying at Virginia Tech. At the time, I would not have been able to describe my conversion in specific theological language or even understand what exactly had happened to me. Nevertheless, I knew by the changes that took place in my life that God had done a work in me.

I grew up in a church that was only a block away from where I lived. I went to a private Christian school until the eighth grade, and most of my family went to church regularly. I believed in an absolute morality and truly believed that there was a right and wrong way to live. I was always around people who had at least some sense of who God was and would often acknowledge Him in their conversation and prayers. Because of this, I did not think much about my salvation or eternity. I believed I was “OK”!

As a young man, there was not much in life about which I truly cared or in which I had real interest, at least not for any lengthy period of time. I mostly did what I was told and tried to please other people. I had no real aspirations of what I wanted to do in life or what kind of person I wanted to be. I just went along with what everyone else was doing, unless it seemed morally wrong. Even then, I made exceptions.

In the midst of my complacency, I still read the Bible and attempted to

pray every day. A devotional life was something that I had learned from a young age, and I felt guilty if I did not comply. When I began studying at college, I still acknowledged God and thought that I was a Christian. However, I did not really care about God. I only knew that He saw when I did something wrong and that I should keep praying and reading the Bible. I even confessed my sin when I thought I had done something wrong. But as I look back now, I realize that I merely had a sense of *morality*, not of *God*.

By the end of my sophomore year of college, I could see that my life was not where it should be. Obviously my life was full of sin because I did not really know God. There were two incidents in particular that stood out to me as more than just mere “mistakes.” First, I had been unfaithful to God in a relationship with a girl. Secondly, in an attempt to join a certain fraternity, I was willing to say or do whatever they asked of me, even declaring that I would give up all my friends. Both of these compromises gnawed away at my conscience. I realized that I held to a list of morals that I could not keep.

The same year that all this happened, I started attending a Bible study on campus, and I could tell that the people who led it were different from me. They looked like me and were about the same age, but they had a tangible “life” about them that I did not possess. They did not just hold to a certain standard or comply to a list of “dos” and “don’ts.” Instead, they had a reason for living the way they did, and it was based on the Word of God. Everything was about pleasing God.

The summer following my sophomore year, I attended a vacation Bible school that was centered around true friendship. It was based on the story of David and Jonathan. I still remember hearing all the points about what true friendship is and considering the people who were my friends at the time. None of them fit into that mold.

More than that, I realized that I wanted to be closer to God, and the people around me were not a help but a hindrance. At parties, I would always see them drinking and doing drugs, with very little sense of who God was. There was a growing sense in me that I could not be around this same group of people and truly grow in this new relationship that I desired with God.

Leaving the life I had built created an uncomfortable feeling in me. I did not know if I was doing too much or not doing enough, but one thing was true: I felt a greater desire to know God. I remember one night in particular when I came back to my dorm room totally discontent. I tried to watch TV, listen to music, and surf the internet; but nothing gave me peace or had any sense of fulfillment for me. I knew I needed something else. Finally, I decided to read the Bible; but even though it may sound strange, not even the Bible fulfilled me. I had a new desire to know God, but I still did not really know how to “be” a Christian. It seemed like the things that I learned while growing up allowed me to think I was a Christian, while looking and living like the world. Accordingly, I thought a person was “bad” only if they did something extraordinarily and outwardly evil. Yet, the more I read the Scriptures, the more I began to wrestle with that false idea. I began to see over and over how God truly looked at the heart. He saw the outward actions, but cared more about the motivations for them. I realized that Christianity was not just a list of rules, but about pleasing God; but I really did not know who He was!

The next couple of years could be summed up in one word – “hard.” I tried to live a “godly” life without any real knowledge of what that meant, and I was tempted to go back to the same life I had when I first came to college. Most of those friends were still around, and they were still doing the same things. I liked my new friends, but I could not always relate to them. I even served in a campus ministry that year and taught other people about God; but I did not know much more than they did, though I acted like I did.

Finally, during the summer of 2010, I experienced what it means to be a part of a community of believers. I had attended churches, but I had never been a member of any one church in particular. That summer I saw that being a part of a local body of believers was extremely important. I was serving on a mission trip with a



Nikos filming an interview in Belarus.

lot of people who were gifted in many different areas. We lived together, prayed for one another, encouraged each other, and worked out all conflicts as believers, doing everything as unto God. I had never experienced such true fellowship before – not in the church I had grown up attending or in the ones I had been visiting for the past few years.

I was greatly convicted that summer, because I realized that I had spent my life “doing my own thing.” I was trying to be a Christian, but I hardly ever asked for help from other believers or confessed my needs and sins to others. I was struck down by my sense of pride – I saw myself as mature and knowledgeable, and I did not think I needed anyone to tell me about the Scriptures or how to live. But this was the very reason why all my past years could be summed up as “hard.” I was confused about so many things with regard to the Christian faith. I did not truly recognize my need for Christ or even who He was.

I now praise God for the work He has done in my life and am ever grateful that the Lord continues to show me more about Himself and my need for the Gospel!

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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