

HeartCry

MAGAZINE



the
DESIRE of GOD
THAT ALL MEN MIGHT BE SAVED

IN THIS ISSUE

- ELIS PRAMONO'S GOSPEL WITNESS
- CYCLONE RELIEF IN INDIA
- ARABIC AUDIO BIBLES FOR IRAQ
- UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES TO PROCLAIM CHRIST
- and more...*

GREETINGS

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the HeartCry Magazine. In the last three months, the world has seen much negativity: Western culture continues to drift further from God, war wages in Ukraine, and the Middle East is engulfed in turmoil. The threat of terrorism continues to grow in almost every corner of the globe and the persecution of Christians continues to increase.

The stage seems dark; and yet, in the midst of this darkness, the Gospel continues to triumph. Although evil makes the headlines and God's work goes unnoticed, those of us who believe know that "our God is in the heavens" and "He does whatever He pleases" (Psalms 115:3). And although the Kingdom is like a mustard seed – smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil – when it grows, it "becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches"; and "the birds of the air can nest under its shade" (Mark 4:31-32).

We must be careful to never judge God's works by mere appearances, but by what He has declared in His Word. He has told us that He "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). Will He not then work for the salvation of men and for the spread of His Gospel of truth? Even now, He is accomplishing a great work that if

fully revealed would astound believers and unbelievers alike. God is not doing a small thing upon the earth, but a work of gigantic proportions! He is not losing; He is winning every step of the way. Though presently unseen to the carnal eye, the final day will reveal it!

The most difficult aspect of being the editor of the HeartCry Magazine is having to cull so many testimonies and reports, simply because there is not enough room in these thirty-six pages to tell them all. It is for this reason, among many others, that I praise God for the internet and for our staff who are constantly posting content on the HeartCry website.

This magazine is just a small glimpse of all the Lord's work around the world in which He has allowed us to take part. If you would like more information, please go to www.heartcrymissionary.com. There you will be privy to the testimonies of over two hundred missionaries; hundreds of missionary updates; and information regarding the doctrine, convictions, and ministry principles of our society. Additionally, there are over fifteen hundred sermons that have been posted in more than twenty different languages from around the world (including English, Chinese, Spanish, Hindi, etc.). All of this is designed that you might be encouraged and give glory to God!

Paul David Washer

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AFRICA

Since 2000, HeartCry has partnered with Kabwata Baptist Church of Lusaka, Zambia, to plant churches throughout Africa. Through this partnership, HeartCry is now supporting twenty-four indigenous missionaries in Zambia, Botswana, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa. We consider the work in Africa to be one of the brightest stars in the world today because it is founded upon biblical truth and fueled by a zeal to see Christ exalted throughout the entire continent. The following report from Malamulo Chindongo in Malawi is just one small example of the faithful labor of all our African church planters.

MALAWI UPDATE

BY MALAMULO CHINDONGO

Malamulo is pastoring Antioch Baptist Church in Blantyre, Malawi, where he has been laboring since 2008. Please join in prayer with Mala as he labors for the Gospel in this city of over one million people. Pray for him as he shepherds his family and the church, preaches through the Scriptures, seeks to translate biblical resources, and labors to better reach the lost multitudes in his city through the church's evangelism efforts.

There have been many positive developments in the last two months within our ministry here in Malawi. It is always with great joy that we testify and acknowledge God's grace among us. Recently, as I have been thinking of what God is doing here in Malawi, I have been encouraged with two texts of Scripture. One is from Isaiah 9:7: "The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." The other is from Isaiah 11:9: "For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." These have been good reminders for me as I shepherd God's flock that the work belongs to the Lord and that He will zealously fulfill all His purposes.

By the grace of God, my girls are doing very well. Thank you for all your prayers and support for our family. Both Rachel and I are basking in the joy of being new parents. Little Amelie (born October 2014) is doing well,



and she is a great joy to us. She smiles often, a trait I believe she got from her mother. She has grown so much in the last few months. We are thankful for the Lord's sustaining hand in that He has given Rachel and baby Amelie good health. Your prayers are not in vain. Please continue to pray for us as we seek to raise Amelie in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

THE CHURCH

I have spent the last two months preaching a series of messages entitled, "The Christian's Work Ethic: Earning a Living As God Intended." This has helped our church to have a biblical understanding of work, finance, wealth, poverty, hospitality, and giving, and how these must all point to one goal – the furthering of Christ's Gospel for the glory of His Name!

In my last newsletter, I shared about our preparations for baptism. I am pleased to report that we just had the joy of seeing four men make a public declaration of their faith in Jesus through water baptism: Josey Kachiza, Joshua Alexander, Lenson Mwalwanda, and Webster Moyo (pic-

tures below). I was delighted to see these men take a firm step of obedience to their Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, and become members of our church. We can only say, "Glory to God, for He has become our salvation!" As you pray for us, also remember these men.

TRANSLATION WORK

I am delighted to share with you that our church has teamed up with several churches in the United States to translate a booklet from English to Chichewa, the national and most widely spoken local language in Malawi. The booklet, written by L.R. Shelton Jr., is entitled, *Biblical Repentance: the Need of This Hour*. The Chichewa version will be printed by our friends at Chapel Library in Pensacola, Florida.

As I write, the project has already reached the half-way stage. At the moment, a brother in our church is doing the first proofreading. As soon as he is done, I will do a second proofreading before sending it to a Chichewa-speaking brother in the USA for final editing. It will then be

sent to Chapel Library for printing.

Our church has been involved in translation work for a number of years now. We have translated many small books and tracts on the Gospel and Christian living. We would love to continue doing this so that we can put more sound literature into the hands of Chichewa-speaking people in Malawi and some parts of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. We were encouraged three months ago to learn that some of our translation work has ended up into the hands of pastors in Mozambique. In the providence of God, someone bought a few titles of our Chichewa translations and shipped them to a pastor's conference that was taking place in that needy country.

EVANGELISM

In God's providence, the members of our church live in many different parts of the city of Blantyre. Beginning this year, we are splitting ourselves into small groups based on location in order to conduct evangelistic activities in the form of door-to-door evangelism, book tables, tract distribution in small market places, and bible studies within the neighborhoods. We are very excited about this strategy, and we are praying that our efforts will be effective in the spread of the Gospel in this city.

God willing, we will spend all of 2015 evangelizing through these small groups. Going into these locations means that we are going "face to face," confronting and being confronted by the false gospel of the prosperity preachers. These are places where it has taken root. Pray for wisdom! Pray that the Lord Jesus will open people's hearts for the Gospel and give people faith for salvation. Pray that we will be bold and not fear to go in! Pray also as we continue to reach out to the universities around us. ■



ASIA

MISSIONARY REPORT

UPDATE FROM MATT AND AMANDA G.

Matt graduated from Union University in 2004. Two years later, he began working with HeartCry as the Missions Coordinator for Asia. In July of 2011, Matt, his wife Amanda, and their family moved to Southeast Asia to serve as missionaries/church planters and to oversee the indigenous missionaries sponsored by HeartCry in that region.

We trust you are doing well. We are getting ready to go away for a short vacation, and we wanted to send a brief update before leaving. Since our last update, little Andrew, our fourth son, was born in B_____. He is now four months old and is getting more and more active. He looks a lot like Aidan and a little bit like Owen and Elliot, but in different ways of course. His big brothers love to play with him and even try to soothe him if he's crying. Sometimes, though, they only make it worse! But, for the most part, they're all three helpful, especially Aidan. He's now even had the experience of changing diapers!

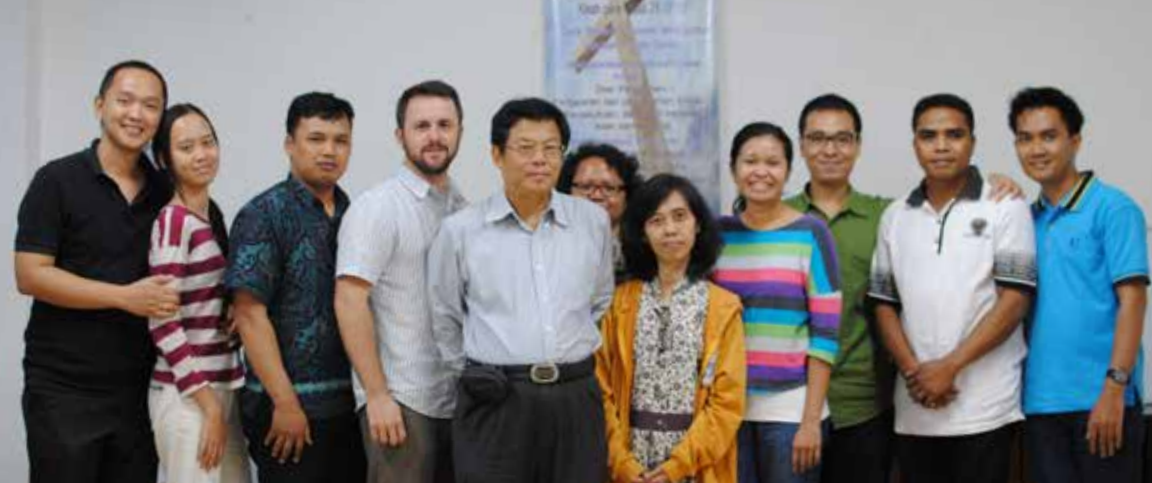
Amanda's dad was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer. He is

now in a hospital in Houston, Texas, and it seems that he has been getting very good care. Please pray that our capable Lord would heal him of this disease.

Matt has continued to have a busy schedule, though of course it cannot quite match the busyness of a mother of four (Matt is writing this!) Since January, the HeartCry missionaries in B____ and B_____ have been meeting with those in J_____ two or three times each month in order to spend the day studying the Scriptures together. There have also been a few people meeting with us who have a desire plant churches in the future. Some are in still in college; others have already graduated and are working in various occupations.

We finished studying the doctrine of God with Pak P_____ (a former seminary professor of systematic theology) at the end of this month, and next month we will begin studying a theology of missions in the Old Testament with a brother who is the rector at a Baptist seminary. These days of study have been a great blessing as we learn and fellowship togeth-





Matt G. (fourth from left) with fellow believers and co-laborers in Southeast Asia.

er. Please pray that God would use these study days to further equip his labourers in Southeast Asia.

On Friday mornings, Matt continues his weekly meeting with the B_____ missionaries. Usually, they spend time in worship and prayer. On Friday nights, Matt also has a Bible study with a group of people, most of whom are involved with the house church. We studied through the book of Titus, and now we are studying a book about how the Lord worked in different movements throughout history. Please pray that God would use this time to help us all learn more deeply what it means to obey Jesus Christ. It was striking to me when I recently read, “Jesus didn’t command us just to teach people, but to teach them to obey.” The Great Commission is more than a transfer of knowledge from one head to another; it is being God’s instrument to help his people grow in obedience to the Master.

We continue to meet each week in our house church. We feel that the Lord is continuing to use this group for the purpose of making disciples. Matt’s greatest burdens are that leaders would be raised up out of this group, that all would use their spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ, and that God’s people would grow to maturity.

There are many other things we could write about – a new place to teach English, sharing the good news with Muslims, a trip to B_____ to see HeartCry co-laborers – but unfortunately there is not enough time to do so now.

Please know that all of you who read our updates are a great blessing to us, and we are very thankful for you.

Yours in Christ,
Matt and Amanda G. and the boys



Owen, Aiden, Andrew, Elliot (left to right) – a quiver full! They do not come any more rambunctious than this bunch. A reticulated python would not stand a chance in a battle with these boys.



ELIS PRAMONO'S GOSPEL WITNESS

Elis Pramono is a gifted evangelist and a woman of prayer. She and her ministry partner, Sari Saat, have seen the Lord bring many Muslims to faith in Jesus Christ. For her protection, her true identity and location must remain undisclosed.

A few nights ago, I was able to catch up with two HeartCry co-workers after not seeing them for about three months. As always, hearing their testimonies of how God was at work was very encouraging and challenging. One sister, Elis, has spent most of the last three months caring for her sick brother, who has now just passed away. In order to be at his side during those months, she had to leave her normal place of ministry and stay in the capital and largest city. When I saw her the other night, she was filled with stories from her time there. She was excited about how God had been at work and thanked the Lord for open doors that she never would have imagined even five years ago. The following is one of the stories – perhaps not even the most dramatic – of how God used her while she was ministering to her sick brother.

One night, some Christian friends came to visit her in order to pray with her dying brother. Providentially, her Muslim sister and brother-in-law were both sick that evening, so they were not able to go to the local mosque for the evening prayer. In spite of their presence in the house, Elis and her friends were still permitted to pray for her brother and to fellowship within earshot of her sister and brother-in-law. The next evening, after they were well, the sister and brother-in-law returned to the mosque only to be rebuked by their *imam*. He scolded them, saying, “Why would you allow Christians to come to your house and pray for you while you are

It is less shameful [for a Muslim] to be thought of as immoral and “forced” to become a Christian rather than as someone who would willingly choose to follow Jesus Christ.

sick? Why did you not ask Muslims to come?!” Evidently, rumors had already spread in their neighborhood about Christians coming and praying in their house. Those who started the rumors didn’t realize that they had only prayed for Elis’s dying brother and not her sister and brother-in-law.

This misunderstanding then provoked the local *imam* to visit Elis in order to try and persuade her to return to Islam. All the people in Elis’s family’s neighborhood know that she is a Christian, but they had never been told how she had become a follower of Christ. Out of shame, Elis’s parents had claimed that she became a Christian because she had married a Christian man (which is a strange story, as Elis has never been married). Many in the neighborhood, therefore, suspected that her marriage was the result of her becoming pregnant. That Elis’s parents would start and allow these rumors to persist about their child is insightful. It shows how deep the shame is for these Muslims whenever one of their family members becomes a Christian: it is less shameful to be thought of as immoral and “forced” to become a Christian rather than as someone who would willingly choose to follow Jesus Christ.

The *imam*’s tactics to convince Elis to come back to Islam are also insightful. He used manipulation and shame, two enemies of the truth and

genuine spirituality. Muslims often use these two weapons to “brow beat” those who have become Christians or to keep others from considering the claims of Jesus Christ. The manipulation went something like this:

“You have become a Christian. Do you not know what that will do to your family? Think about your mother and father who have passed away! They, along with the rest of your family when they die, will be tortured in hell because of the decision you have made! How can you be so selfish?”

And the shame:

“You are murtad [apostate]! You have done the worst possible sin! You have betrayed your family; you have betrayed your people!”

Elis said that during this conversation, the Holy Spirit enabled her to respond to the manipulation and shaming of the *imam*. She was able to tell him precisely why she had become a follower of Jesus – not because she had been forced to get married to a Christian, being found with child; for she had never been married, nor had she ever had a child. Rather, she became a follower of Jesus Christ because God had opened her eyes to see the truth of what the Bible says when it speaks about the finished work of Christ. He is “the way, the truth, and the life”; and there is salvation in no one else, for there is “no other name under heaven given to men through which we must be saved.” The *imam* also tried to quote her the *hadith* (the collection of Muhammad’s sayings and doings). Having grown up as a Muslim, she would have heard countless stories and sermons based on this book. Nevertheless, she responded:

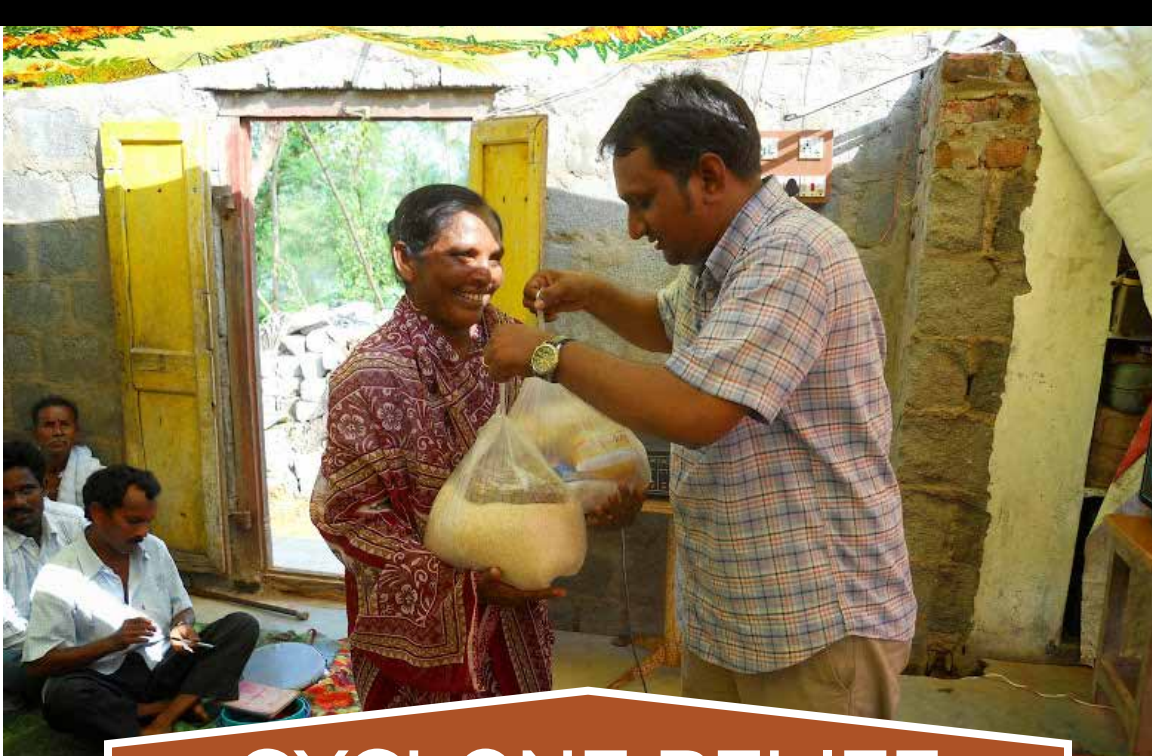
“My mind is empty of what the hadith says. It is not important. What is important is what the word of God, the Gospel, says.”

The *imam* became very angry and said that he was coming back and that next time he would bring with him an *imam* who had studied in Cairo, Egypt, and had already *khatam* [read the entire *Qur’an*] several

times. Elis welcomed the possibility of another visitor who would give her the chance to speak about her faith in Christ.

Elis did meet with the *imam* who had studied in Cairo, and their conversation contained more of the same manipulation and shaming that she had experienced with the first *imam*. As I listened to Elis describe both conversations, I saw more clearly the societal consciousness that most Muslims possess. Self-identity is really only important so long as it identifies you with the larger group. And this ideology makes sense in an Islamic context. Embedded within the religion itself is the mistaken belief that social uniformity is accomplished through religious uniformity. To Muslims, Allah is distant; he cannot be known relationally. However, what is very close is your community, filled with people with whom you must live in harmony; therefore, cohesion – personal, social, cultural, and religious – with those who share your “bed, kitchen, and well” is vitally important.

When someone like Elis, then, becomes a follower of Jesus, it rocks the boat of the family and everyone else in the community. To most, it is shocking and offensive that someone would choose a different path, and the resulting negative reactions vary. Most react with shame, some with tears, others with violence and hatred. For many reasons, most Muslims feel that the social upheaval caused by someone becoming a follower of Christ is unnecessary. But this is precisely what Jesus said would happen to those who have genuinely experienced the nearness of God in the person of Jesus Christ. When someone truly experiences God through the Gospel and they possess a supernatural faith in the resurrected Savior, social cohesion and acceptance are eclipsed by a new identity in Jesus Christ. Talking to Elis the other night, I saw that this was emphatically true in her experience, as it should be for everyone who has counted the cost and anticipates the glory of bearing Christ’s Name. ■



CYCLONE RELIEF

BY SAMUEL B.

Samuel is a pastor and missionary leader in South India with whom HeartCry began partnering in February 2013. He is married and has two children. Together with his father, Samuel oversees the training of several pastors who labor in the villages surrounding his city.

The terrifying cyclone ‘Hadhud’ rocked the coastline of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha (in South India) on the October 12, 2014. The mighty winds, moving at a speed of two hundred kilometers per hour, rattled many houses, damaged the communication systems, and thwarted the power supply in the whole region. To put it in the insightful words of my uncle, who lives in Visakhapatnam, “It was devastating. What is the point of having all the money in the world when you cannot save yourself from something like this?”

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

First of all, we must understand that God was in control and that this cyclone was no accident. We must also understand that God, in His Grace, sometimes shakes the very foundations of human pride and causes men to repent of their sin and turn to Jesus Christ, His Son. Now, the question is, “What are we as Christians supposed to do when something like this happens?”

“WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?”

Based on what is written in the Scriptures, we can safely assume that Jesus would preach the Gospel of repentance to everyone present (Luke 13:3, “[U]nless you repent, you will all likewise perish”; I Timothy 2:4, “[He] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”). And then, He would heal the sick and give them something to eat and drink (Matthew 14:14-16; Mark 5:43; Matthew 25:31-46). People’s hard-heartedness would not deter Him from reaching out to them with compassion (Mark 8:2).

“WHAT SHOULD WE DO?”

Responding with compassion and kindness towards the grief-stricken is of paramount importance. Like Tabitha, we should be relentless in helping others (Acts 9:36). In fact, selfless, sacrificial love is a proof-positive that we have the true God dwelling within us (1 John 3:17). To put it in the Spirit-inspired words of Moses, “But you shall open your hand wide to him [the poor brother] and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs” (Deuteronomy 15:8).

WHAT WE DID!

As I looked at the damage caused by the cyclone, the Lord placed a strong desire within me and others in the church to help the people in some way. Of course, we were aware of our own limitations. Ours is no mighty organization, nor is it our first prior-

ity to do such relief work. Therefore, it became necessary for us to find a church near the affected area where we could be of help. Thankfully, we found a church in a village in the V_____ District (name withheld). The roof of the church building was

PASTORS' TRAINING CONFERENCE WAS BLESSED BY GOD

BY SAMUEL B.

T



blown away by the cyclone, but the believers were still worshipping there. Many other people from the community came to the church in anticipation of receiving aid.

After traveling 550 kilometers, Brother Reuben* (a member of our church) and I reached V_____ on the night of the 13th. We were able to distribute Bibles, blankets, and food among eighty-four families. We truly praise God for helping us so that we could in turn help these poor people. We are also thankful to HeartCry for their help with traveling expenses and Bible purchases. We made a point to admonish all those who took the Bibles to actually read

them and not to just take them as some sort of magic charm!

We arrived at the village somewhat late, but many were waiting for us. I preached the Gospel, emphasizing the need to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, who alone is Savior, who alone has the power to control our lives. I preached from the text, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul" (Mark 8:36). Some of the people were convicted of the love of God, and we talked with them concerning their souls. We praise God for all that we were able to do there in such a needy place. ■

"Because of this conference, the way I look at the Scriptures has changed. I now seek to find Christ in all of it." – Duke B. (Student)

"My daughters and I recorded the messages on my phone, and we are still listening to them. We have been truly affected by the teaching in the conference." – Pastor R.B.

"I have seen many American preachers, but I have never seen men who taught from Scripture like this before. I am very thankful to Pastor Samuel for inviting me to the conference." – Pastor S.

The themes of this year's conference were "Seeing Christ in God's Word" and "Showing Christ to God's People." Pastor Jim and Pastor Jordan labored on these themes for four days with local the pastors. Pastor Jim gave us an overview of seeing Jesus Christ from eternity past to eternity future. Under this overarching theme, he spoke about seeing Jesus Christ from the writings of Moses, from the prophets, from the fulfilled prophecies in the New Testament, and from the book of Revelation. This last part was particularly encouraging, because we saw that Christ has become our future hope and that He



will return with the angelic host to execute judgment and to establish His future Kingdom with His people.

Interspersed between Pastor Jim's teachings, Pastor Jordan spoke to us about the biblical calling and qualifications of an elder. He showed us that one of the ways that we "show Christ to God's people" is through being a biblical elder according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. On the final day, Pastor Jordan explained in great detail what the true Gospel is. Many pastors confessed that it was a spiritual feast for them. Some even admitted that they had not rightly understood the Gospel before and that they had never heard such things.

Please pray that all the pastors and laymen who attended the conference will have an increasing desire to know the truth, live the truth, and preach the truth. God has graciously left one outlet in His Church to dispel the darkness: pulpits that are filled by men of God who preach the Gospel unashamedly without any compromise. Join with me in prayer that the Lord would raise up such pulpits to bring His purposes to pass. ■



ONE BAPTISM OBSERVED AND ANOTHER HINDERED

BY SAMUEL B.

I would like to share with you an update about how the Lord is working in our midst. We rejoice in the Lord that His Holy Spirit convicts and converts people (1 Corinthians 2:10) and that the Gospel is sufficient to bring sinners to repentance (Romans 1:16).

A BAPTISM OBSERVED

Sarai*, a young woman in our church, was baptized on February 1, based upon her profession of Jesus Christ as the Savior and Lord of her life. Last year, she came to our Children's Home for help. Although she has both a mother and father, we let her stay at the Children's Home because she could not shuttle between her school in V_____ and her village some distance away. We rejoice in the Lord that He has opened her heart, just as He opened Lydia's heart in the book of Acts. Who can do such heart surgery, except the Great Physician Himself? Here is her testimony in her own words:

"I was a terrible sinner. No one, except the Lord, could forgive the sins I have committed. I thank the Lord Jesus that He died for such a terrible sinner like me. I feel so happy that my sins are cleansed in His blood. I need Him every hour of my life. When I told my parents that I was going to be baptized, they tried to discourage me. But I told them that when I consider the kind of punishment the Lord Jesus went through, I cannot disregard His clear teaching on baptism."

Oh, how our hearts were warmed on that Lord's day when we heard Sarai's testimony! Please pray for her.



A BAPTISM HINDERED

Please pray also for a young man named Daniel*, who has been attending the church for the last two years. He has heard the Gospel many times and shows great evidence of salvation. He was supposed to be baptized on the same day as Sarai, but his family prevented him. When he expressed his desire to be baptized and to join the church as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, they were displeased and began to place much pressure on him.

To this day, he has been struggling within and without, though never missing a Sunday morning service or a Wednesday evening prayer meeting. Will you please lift him up before the Throne of Grace, that God Almighty might have mercy on him and give him the courage to take up his cross and follow Christ and Christ alone? Pray that this would be an op-

portunity for his whole family to witness true Christianity!

OTHERS WHO ARE SEEKING

Please pray for Mrs. Achamma, Naik, and Bindu, all of whom are showing tremendous interest in listening to the Gospel. Pray that they would submit their lives to the Lord. Lastly, please pray for me and my family, that we would continue to serve Christ and His people with love and humility. ■

** Real names withheld for their security.*



GO ONLINE!

CHECK OUT THE VIDEO:

"PRAY FOR THE KOROWAI TRIBE"
by Paul Snider

Paul Snider and his family were recently back in the States on furlough. They busily visited churches and family over the past few months and have now returned to their place of ministry: Papua, Indonesia. While Stateside, Paul and his wife Trish were able to spend some time with us here at the HeartCry office. Paul shared about the work and explained how people can pray more specifically for the many needs that are there. Please watch the video at the web address provided and help serve the Korowai Tribe through prayer.

 VIDEO LINK:
bit.ly/hc82-00



EURASIA

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

ANATOLY C. - NEW MISSIONARY IN BELARUS

HeartCry has begun to support a new missionary in Eurasia. Anatoly C. is a gifted pastor and translator in Belarus. Previously, he taught English at the Linguistic University in Minsk and is now working with "Gospel and Reformation" to translate much-needed

theological resources into Russian. He is also currently taking classes by extension through Reformed Theological Seminary. Anatoly is married to Anya, and they have two children – Vita (daughter) and Vladislav (son).

ANATOLY'S TESTIMONY

I was born in Minsk, Belarus, in 1983 into an ordinary family with two children. I was the second child, born four years after my elder brother Nikolai. My mother was a formal member of the Eastern Orthodox Church, and my father was indifferent to all religion. I was baptized in the Orthodox Church at age six, but it did not mean anything to me at that time.

Things began to change when my brother and my cousin were invited to Sunday school at Central Baptist Church in Minsk. It was a great novelty in those days, as we never had any experience with Baptists. My brother went there and brought back a copy of the Bible as well as candy and other treats that I had never seen before in my life. Naturally, I wanted to join him. I wanted both to learn about God and to get chocolates and toys! But I was unable, because the small Sunday school classes could not hold all those who wanted to attend! I had to wait for a couple of years before I could join.

When I was finally able to go, I was deeply moved by the godliness and kindness of the teacher and the general atmosphere of love and reverence for God. However, I was a growing teenager who felt that a holy life was too difficult for me, and I wanted to give up Sunday school so that I could immerse myself in the joys of this world instead. In God's kind providence, that never happened.



I was invited to attend a summer Christian camp. The two weeks I spent there changed everything. I finally understood what the Gospel was. I saw godly counselors who really loved the Lord and made it evident in their actions. I knew that I did not have what they had and that my faith was not real. Finally, I trusted Christ at the age of thirteen in 1996. The following year, I was baptized and became an active church member. Over time, I became involved in every area possible: visiting the elderly, singing in the choir, singing and preaching at village churches, and handing out leaflets in the street. My life was by no means perfect, but God still used it and His Word to make a strong impression on my mother. She was converted three years later. We praise Him for His grace to us and hope that other members of our family will follow us and embrace Christ.

As soon as I became a Christian, I became a fanatical Bible reader. I also read any Christian book that I could get my hands on. One year after my conversion, at the age of fourteen, I preached my first sermon. Our youth group would often travel to small villages and towns to visit other congregations. I usually participated as a preacher, a guitar player, or a singer. Sometimes I did all these things. When I was about eighteen, I became an assistant at a Bible study group for a couple of years. I was thrilled to explain the meaning of the Bible to people. I never had any doubt that my calling was in the area of preaching and teaching. I knew that I wasn't particularly gifted as an evangelist, but when I taught, people seemed to get a better understanding of Scripture. That encouraged me a lot.

When I was twenty, I was involved in a church plant. It was a congregation of people mostly in their twenties and thirties. Young as I was, I was one of the elders. It was a time of growth, a lot of work, and a lot of learning through various mistakes. I preached one or two Sundays a month and taught a weekly Bible study in my home. My wife and I loved having people at our house. Our place was always busy with meetings and discipleship appointments.

After seven years in that church, I made a transition to the church where I currently serve. This move changed my ministry in many ways. First of all, I found myself among people who were much older than I, and because of this, I had to learn a lot of humility. I came to understand experientially that I was not the savior of the world and that I could not do everything for everybody. My circle of friends and connections grew tremendously. I learned how helpful in-

teraction between different churches can be. I was taught a great deal from older pastors with grey hair. I saw the needs of many smaller churches – the need for encouragement, sound teaching, and trained ministers.

Since then, my ministry has taken a certain shape. I am more aware of what I can and cannot do. I am one of two pastors in our church. As a pastor, I preach about twice a month, teach a weekly Bible study, and do counseling on request. I also speak at other churches and at conferences when I am invited. By God's grace, I am building relationships and gaining influence within a circle of pastors who are wanting to move their churches in a more biblical direction. I make it a priority to visit these smaller churches that need help. I see it as an important expression of practical love between churches when a larger church can occasionally share its resources and people with other small churches. Finally, I also have a blog on which I write articles about theological and practical issues relevant to Evangelical churches in the nations of the former USSR. Writing is a skill I would like to develop for ministry.

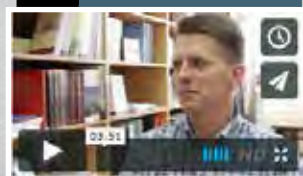
Another important area that God graciously opened up for me is seminary education through the help of HeartCry. As of September 2014, I am now an online student at the Reformed Theological Seminary. It is definitely a new thing for me, and I am sure it is going to demand a lot of my time and energy for the next three years or so. Thankfully, in this whole endeavor, I enjoy full support from my wife and my church. I believe the Lord will use it for my spiritual and intellectual growth. I hope it will enable me to make a lasting contribution to the work of the Gospel in Belarus and beyond. ■

“THANKFUL FOR OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY”

Watch as Anatoly C. shares his excitement about the opportunity to further his theological education. HeartCry began supporting Anatoly in September of 2014 by funding his theological studies through Reformed Theological Seminary and providing partial monthly support for him and his family.



VIDEO LINK:
bit.ly/hc82-001



ANYA'S TESTIMONY

I was born in Belarus in 1981. Our family was quite happy in the first years of my life. However, our family environment took a poor turn when my father began to drink. Suddenly, he no longer got along with my mother, and he started to spend most of our money on himself. He would often come home drunk and dirty. He would shout at us, call us names, and threaten to beat us. When he was sober, he always behaved as if nothing had ever happened. He never admitted to being an alcoholic. Our mother divorced him when I was in my teens; however, he still lived with us in the same apartment, because we had no means to move away.

The first Christian in our family was my grandmother. She was raised in a Christian home, and her father was a pastor before World War II. She only came to faith in her forties after suffering many difficulties in her family and developing a serious disease. Because of her, I began to at-

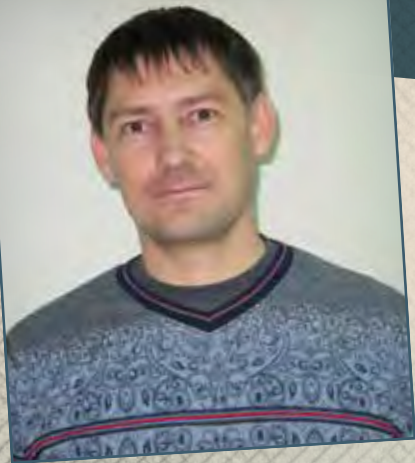
tend Sunday school. I went to church with her for a number of years.

In 1999, our church was visited by a famous Russian evangelist. We came to hear his sermon, which was quite powerful. He presented the Gospel and urgently called unbelievers to come to Christ to receive forgiveness of sins. I had heard all of these things before, but for the first time in my life I felt convicted that I needed to make a radical decision. My mom, my sister, and I all went forward to receive Christ. We began to attend worship services and Bible studies. I gave up many of my sinful habits (especially swearing) and began to serve the Lord in whatever way I could.

I continue this service to this day, primarily as a pastor's wife and a mother of two children. I love the church. It is like a real family to me. I hope that the Lord will use me to glorify His Name and advance His Kingdom in our country. ■



Anatoly and his wife Anya, and children.



EVANGELISM, A STOLEN CAR, AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

BY EUGENE M.

Recently, HeartCry provided the necessary funds for missionary Eugene M. and his church in Isil'kul, Siberia, to rent an adequate meeting space that will enable them to conduct evangelistic meetings for the people in their city. In the following report, Eugene thanks HeartCry for this help. He also shares about the recent training on evangelism that he completed with the church and how the Lord miraculously provided opportunities for him to share Christ with the lost.

Greetings to you, dear brothers and sisters!

First of all, I would like to thank HeartCry for your help and support concerning the rented meeting space for our church outreach. I am so grateful for everything you do for us, for the financial provision for my family, and for your prayers about our church. It is extremely important for us to realize that we are not alone – we have friends who share in our love for the Lord and service to Him!

We have finished our training on evangelism this past month. I believe that those who share the Gospel have had their skills improved. Evangelism is a little difficult for the women of our church. Some of the ladies share the Gospel when they are at the store or other public places. Others have acquired a deeper and clearer knowledge of the Gospel, but are still shy and uneasy when it comes to sharing it. In situations like that, I can only encourage them, pray for them, and set the

pattern with my own life. Of course, I wish that all the members of our congregation were active evangelists, but we are all different. Everyone has their own gifts. After gaining some experience, it usually becomes easier for them to share the Gospel. Please pray that we would be zealous in sharing about Christ, and that God would help us to be a church full of Gospel witnesses.

Recently, something interesting happened to me. One night while I was at home, I thought about a friend of mine named Sasha. He is one of those people with whom I maintain a relationship in order to share the Gospel with them and point them to Christ. I have been praying for Sasha for six years now. He is a drug addict and is HIV-positive. As these things were going through my mind concerning Sasha, I spent some time in prayer for him. I asked God to keep him alive and allow us to meet again so that I could point him to the Savior once more. I went to bed with this prayer in mind, but I was unable to fall asleep. Suddenly the phone rang. I answered it, and to my astonishment I realized that it was the very person for whom I had just been praying! He said, "I apologize for the late phone call. Did I wake you up?" I answered, "No, I have been praying for you." He then explained to me that he went to buy drugs in another village, which is more than a hundred kilometers away; but instead of getting the drugs, he got into a lot of trouble. Some robbers beat him and tried to steal his car from him,

but they were drunk and drove into a ditch. When they couldn't get the car out, they threw the car keys and left. Sasha needed my help to pull his car out and tow it home. By that time of night, the temperature had reached twenty-eight degrees below zero, and I didn't have the right engine oil in my car for such temperatures. However, to my surprise, my car started up right away! When I thought about it later, I could clearly see the hand of God through all of the events that night.

I took enough money with me for fuel to get to the place where Sasha was and back, but I did not take into account that I would need more fuel since I had to tow his car behind mine. We almost ran out of fuel before we got to a gas station and used the rest of the money to put some more fuel in the tank. It was just enough for the two of us to get home. I prayed that we would not be stranded in the cold or have an accident. Praise God! He kept us safe.

All of this enabled me to have a serious conversation with Sasha. I shared the Gospel with him again, and I told him that he needed help with his addiction. He spent the next ten days at a Christian rehab center and is keeping in regular contact with me. Though he has not fully come to

Christ, I believe that this situation was a good testimony for him, and I pray that the Lord would use it to bring him to true repentance. God used this event to also give me an opportunity to meet Sasha's parents and share the Gospel with them. Now they are also among those people for whom I pray and with whom I try to build a relationship. Please pray for the salvation of Sasha and his parents.

I also thank God for the other people that He has recently placed in my life. One lady who came to our Christmas service has started attending our church services regularly. I also started visiting a woman who was rescued by a neighbor when she tried to commit suicide. Together with her husband, we study the Bible. I do not know for how long they will have a desire to meet with me, but they have not driven me out yet! The husband has no desire to be the leader of their family, so the wife is the one who leads. Here in Russia, such a family model is most common. Pray that the Lord would bless these new relationships that He has given me and that lives would be changed as a result. Pray specifically for my meetings with this woman and her husband, that the Lord would reveal Himself to them and save them. ■



A BLESSING FROM GOD

NEW RESOURCE IN RUSSIAN

BY HOLDEN BARRY

The Russian translation efforts of HeartCry and the Belarusian publisher, “Gospel and Reformation,” continue to progress at a steady pace. HeartCry recently funded the translation and printing of the first volume in the “Recovering the Gospel” series, *The Gospel’s Power and Message* by Paul Washer. The books are now being circulated throughout Eurasia. The remaining two volumes in the series are currently in the translation process.

There remains a great need for more resources to be translated into the Russian language that are both Gospel-saturated and theologically rich. This is evident in the following excerpt from a letter that we received from one of the pastors that HeartCry supports in Russia. His name is Alexander S. Like most of HeartCry’s missionaries in Russia, Alexander does not speak English; therefore, he is limited to only the resources that are translated into the Russian language.



“

“I thank God for this book. I feel blessed, enriched, and satisfied when I read it. This book explains very clearly the main concept of the Gospel and everything connected with it. Every believer should read it several times. I got it at just the right time. I plan to use it in our evangelism classes that we have, and I am sure I will quote it in my sermons. Praise the Lord for this spiritual enrichment!” ■

RESOURCES FOR RUSSIAN LEADERS

BY PAUL WASHER

At the Symposium on Inerrancy and the Shepherd's Conference this year, we ran into several of our dear friends in the ministry from Russia and Zambia. Thanks to your gracious giving, we were able to purchase resources totaling to more than \$2,500 and to distribute them among three professors at the The Master's Academy International (TMAI) Training Center in Samara, Russia, and Pastor Choolwe of the Copperbelt in Zambia (not pictured). This is just another example of how your gracious giving is advancing the Kingdom around the world!



Above: Igor, Alexey, and Sasha from Russia with their new literature.

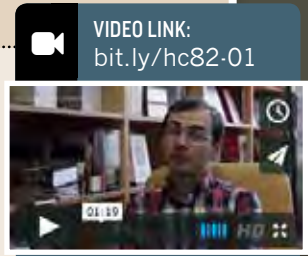
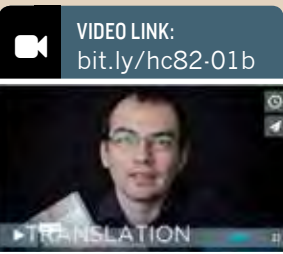


GO ONLINE!

CHECK OUT THE VIDEOS:

“THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN BELARUS”

Watch as Slava V. shares about the theological education that HeartCry is helping to provide in the nation of Belarus.



“RUSSIAN TRANSLATION”

In this recent video, Slava V. provides further insight into the ministry of publishing theologically rich resources for the Russian-speaking world.

EUROPE

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

BY DON CURRIN

From January 13 through February 3, Don and Cindy Currin had the privilege of representing HeartCry across Western Europe. They visited and interviewed many of our HeartCry missionaries, spoke in various conferences,

and became acquainted with a new church plant in Switzerland. Although the weather was very cold, the fellowship and hunger for truth from the saints more than motivated them during their travel. The following is Don's account.

NORWAY

Our first stop was Stavenger, Norway, for the *Back to the Word Conference* sponsored by Bjorn Storm Johansen and Kilden Baptist Church. Bjorn is a warm-hearted Norwegian brother who has a passion to see the biblical Gospel recovered in Norway.

This year, the keynote speaker was Dr. James White, who covered various issues relating to the inerrancy of Scripture. My wife Cindy spoke on Biblical Womanhood to

the women, while I spoke on Biblical Manhood to the brothers. The feedback from the conference was very encouraging.

Interestingly, almost all the invitations for speaking that we receive from Europe are for messages on Biblical Manhood/Womanhood, Marriage/Family, or the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. These topics seem to be at the forefront of the greatest needs list on this continent.

SWITZERLAND

On January 10, we flew to Zurich, Switzerland, for a four-day conference in a house church in Bewangen. The small faith family of Grace Fellowship is made up of eight Christians who meet in the home of Christian and Rebekka Brandli. Marcello Bonagura shepherds this body of believers, whose lives are characterized by reality and integrity. Their love for the Savior is unwavering as they care for one another and treasure the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother Marcello shared his perspective on our visit in a recent email that was sent to his prayer supporters:

"The time we had with Don and Cindy Currin was such a blessing to all of us. God used every single time of preaching we had to renew our minds through His Word and teach us His ways. We are very grateful for all the precious things that we learned, such as how to raise children in a godly way, what it means to be a godly woman, and how men can deal with sexual immorality. In the past, we had some issues with legalism in our church, so it was important for us to be reminded that everything we do has to be Gospel-driven. It is all about Christ."

SWEDEN

HeartCry missionary Daniel Noren picked us up at the airport in Gothenburg. From there,

we were brought to his apartment, where we had the blessing of living with the Norens for a few days.

Their love for Jesus and the people of Sweden was very evident as they conveyed their burden for the people with such endearing affection.

Cindy and I spoke in a conference that Daniel had promoted on the subject of biblical manhood and womanhood. The response was nothing short of incredible. To begin with, the attendance exceeded all expectations, as there were in excess of ninety people at the event. Knowing that Cindy would be teaching the ladies in some of the sessions, a few women who were “pastors” or church leaders came to the conference. Amazingly, the ladies were open to receive the teaching on the “Woman’s Role in the Church.” Here are Daniel Noren’s thoughts on the conference:

“The highlight of this month was when we had Don and Cindy do a conference for us on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood. It was something that really needed to be heard in this egalitarian country. The feedback was better than we expected. People were so thankful, and many said that they had never heard anything like this before. We have preached and taught about the subject in sermons and Bible studies, but never in a concentrated form like this. This gave us some good momentum in the church plant, and tonight I spoke to a man that came to the conference who was inquiring about church membership.”

FINLAND

Brother Kyle McCartan and his wife Sara are our HeartCry partners in Esse, Pedersöre, Finland. Kyle pastors the Agape International Church, where he faithfully expounds the Word to a group of devoted believers.

Cindy and I enjoyed our time with the McCartans and the Agape church family during the days of January 19-22. Once again, the opportunity was provided to share with the congregation on the importance of being Gospel-driven in humility and prayer.

ENGLAND

The final leg of our trip took us to Manchester, England, where Kevin Williams pastors Grace Fellowship of Manchester. This was the second time that we have had the opportunity to be with Kevin, his wife Zoe, and their family. We interviewed the Williams and conducted another conference for the church.

As previously when we were with the Grace Fellowship faith family, we were tremendously encouraged. The church in the past year has almost doubled in size. Their love for Christ and truth is amazing. They are serious Christians, and they aggressively engage the culture with the Gospel in street evangelism. In a church that is made up of more than a dozen ethnic groups, the bond of redeeming

love is very evident in the way that they care for each other.

As alluded to in the previous paragraphs, there is a great need for both biblical teaching on the home and what God expects believers to be as biblical men and women. While there is a deficiency of biblical teaching on these critical subjects in Europe, there is also a crucial need for instruction on moral purity. If A.W. Tozer is right when he says that nothing changes the moral climate of a culture any more than genuine revival, then this is the urgent need in Europe, because the cultural decadence across the continent is nearly unbelievable. ■

REPORT FROM 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 for Heart Cry Netherlands, he is a teacher in his local Baptist church in Alblasserdam, and he is an itinerant preacher throughout the Netherlands.

First, I would like to wish you and all those that are dear and beloved to you God's richest blessings. Let us be and stay faithful to the calling with which the Lord has called us. The Lord will bless us in most amazing ways if we will but be faithful to our work. In light of this, I was once again moved by the following well-known story about Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

Spurgeon was to speak in St. Paul's Cathedral. Since he had never preached in that church, he decided to ask the parish clerk if he could test the acoustics that week. With quite a loud voice, Spurgeon called out the well-known words from I Timothy 1:15, "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Spurgeon then repeated the words a little more quietly, because the clerk thought he was speaking too loudly; but when he did so, it was then not loud enough. The clerk motioned that it should be right in between the two, so Spurgeon repeated for the third time the words that declare so clearly the goal of Christ's coming. Afterwards, Spurgeon thanked the clerk and left. Years later, Spurgeon was called to a man's deathbed, and in their conversation it became clear that the man was a believer. When Spurgeon asked him how he was converted, the man told him that a voice from heaven had spoken to him. He shared how years ago he was repair-

ing the roof of St. Paul's Cathedral and that suddenly a voice had called out, "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." He said, "I heard this voice three times, and it never let me go."

Recently, we looked back and considered all that happened during 2014. God alone knows how many times I was privileged to share the Gospel during all kinds of meetings. This has amazed us. The Lord opened so many doors and brought about many invitations for speaking engagements. It was a tremendous blessing to be able to teach Bible studies not only on the whole epistle to the Romans, but also on the whole book of Ephesians. There was great interest, and the Lord really used the evenings and the studies to equip the saints (Ephesians 4:12). We have noticed that there is a great desire for structural and systematic Bible exposition. Brothers and sisters from all kinds of churches and denominations were present. The Word of the Lord was opened, and it empowered us. All of the Bible studies have been recorded on video, so that now more people can follow the study via the internet than were present during the meetings. We praise the Lord for this! At the end of January, I'll be starting a new series in the book of Hebrews. The studies will be held in our hometown and are linked with our own Baptist congregation. It is a blessing to know that there is a group of young brothers and sisters who are willing to organize these evenings. Please remember these studies in your prayers.

Additionally, we are thankful for several brothers and sisters who were baptized after sharing their testimony of faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. I also was privileged to join in matrimony a brother and sister. During the wedding ceremony, I spoke on I John 4:16: "We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love

abides in God, and God abides in him." It was an unforgettable day.

Moreover, in 2014 I was closely involved with the planting of Reformed Baptist Church in Urk. Right now, the congregation has been established for a few months, and there is a core group that visits the meetings weekly. We are deeply grateful for this development.

In December of 2014, I started to take a course in homiletics. After my conversion, the Lord immediately called me to preach the Gospel and to equip the saints for works of service. I am self-taught, and through much personal study I have gained knowledge of the Word. The Lord has blessed and used that. However, I now desire to be taught more specifically in regards to preaching. The course is reasonably short and, therefore, very manageable to me.

Everything that I have described thus far is only a sampling of the ministry that we were involved with in 2014. We are extremely grateful that the Lord continued to show Himself to be faithful and worthy of our trust. As a family, we lacked nothing. There was enough money to pay our monthly fixed expenses. The necessary renovation of our home (for work/study) was quite the financial step, but the funds have come in. We are also grateful in regards to the spiritual development of our children. I get to preach the Gospel in many places, and thanks be to God, not without fruit. But often I am asked, "How are your children doing spiritually?" They are my first responsibility. In that respect too, 2014 was a special year. The Lord is at work in our eldest son Levi, as well as in our second son Boaz. In April of last year, Boaz asked me to kneel down with him, as he wanted to give his heart to the Lord. That was a wonderful moment for me. And during one of the meetings where I spoke, Levi very deliberately surrendered his heart and life to the Lord. He told us about it later. As parents, we know we need much grace, wisdom, and patience to guide our children in their continued walk with the Lord. This requires considerable time and energy. It also makes us realize how small we are and how amazingly the Lord works. Our family needs constant prayer. When I am on the road preach-

ing, the enemy often tries to bring unrest to our family in different ways. We desperately covet your prayers for the protection of our marriage and family.

Continuing to watch over my calendar is a very important concern in 2015. There are so many requests and invitations that sometimes it becomes too much. This includes not only invitations to speak, but also requests for pastoral counseling. The needs and the brokenness are very great. It is fundamentally important to be tuned to God's will. What does He want us to do? Where does He want us to work? It is our prayer to remain sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in the midst of all the work that comes our way.

In closing, we would like to encourage you with the following Scriptures:

"Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, 'Alas my master! What shall we do?'" So he answered, 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.' Then Elisha prayed and said, 'O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' And the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." (II Kings 6:15-17)

Elisha's attendant was upset, which was understandable, considering the surrounding armies. He cried out in distress, "What shall we do?" If we, in like manner, let ourselves be led by what we see, fear and trembling can grip our hearts. Similarly, I thought of the twelve spies who explored the land of Canaan. Each of them saw the same thing, but they drew differing conclusions. Ten of them looked at the circumstances (visible), while only two of them looked to the God (invisible, but no less true) who had made promises. Joshua and Caleb believed that if God had promised them that land, then they would certainly enter it. The question is, "To what are we looking, and in what or whom do we put our trust?"

Even across the oceans, we know ourselves to be closely united to you in our Lord and Savior. ■



The Theological Training Program by Extension is an online program that was launched nine years ago in Eastern Europe. Initially a small-scale endeavor, it quickly proved to be an effective means of training pastors in Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine.

ROMANIA

THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

PROGRAM BY EXTENSION BY SORIN PRODAN

Each year, HeartCry provides fifty-five students with some of the best resources that have been translated into the native languages of Eastern Europe: Romanian, Moldovan, and Ukrainian. Each student is required to carefully read approximately 150 pages every month, make notes in the book or underline, make an outline of the reading, and par-

ticipate in a forum discussion online.

Each year, the students must read and dialogue about five key works: one each of doctrine, ethics, history, ministry, and the devotional life. By now, each student has carefully studied more than fifty prominent works. Among the historic theologians and the contemporary authors that we have studied are: Martyn Lloyd-Jones,

Sorin Prodan discussing the principles of the training with ten students from Cernauti, Ukraine.





Sorin sharing a word of encouragement with the Moldavian students.

Richard Baxter, John Owen, Jonathan Edwards, A.W. Tozer, C.H. Spurgeon, John MacArthur, Wayne Grudem, John Piper, Ravi Zacharias, D.A. Carson, Paul Washer, and Charles Leiter. Every year, there is also at least one biography included in the study program. We have studied such men as Martin Luther, Henry Martyn, Leonard Ravenhill, A.W. Tozer, David Brainerd, George Muller, Robert Murray M'Cheyne, and Haralan Popov. A number of specific studies have also exposed the students to church history (Earle Cairns), nouthetic counseling (Jay Adams), systematic theology (Wayne Grudem), cults (Walter Martyn), and biblical theology (Martyn Lloyd-Jones). Special attention has also been given to understanding the religious context of Eastern Europe, where we proclaim the Gospel and plant churches. For this purpose, we have studied the systematic theology of the Eastern Orthodox Church and a few books that give an Evangelical perspective on the dogma of the Eastern Church (Robert Letham). Other areas of study have been the history of the Reformation, its impact in Eastern Europe, and the Puritans.

After almost one decade of training, all the students confess that our training strategy is one of the most effective forms of study. We target the best resources that exist at the moment and teach the men to read

them in the most effective manner possible. At times, we also meet personally and discuss the works that are being read. We debate constructively over some of the key doctrines and make corrections where we realize that we are not being biblical. I can see the great progress that each student has made through exposure to these prominent writers and their works. There is a solid knowledge that has been developed over all these years for which we are in debt to God and the men of history that He has raised up.

This is the ninth year of our training program, and we are currently reading through John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* and Augustine's *Confessions*. The biography for this year is *Tortured for Christ*, which is an account of the life of Richard Wurmbrand.

We are deeply thankful for the supporters of HeartCry for providing the funds so that these valuable resources can be distributed to the pastors and missionaries from Romania, Ukraine, and Moldova.

Your Brother,
Sorin Prodan
Eastern European Director

MIDDLE EAST

UPDATE FROM ISRAEL BY LEONID B.

Leonid has planted a small church among the Russian Jews in a 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 reaches out through his evangelistic tour ministry and performs evangelical concerts in cities throughout Israel. He also writes articles on Israel that are published in various Christian magazines. He has 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 he has suffered much for the sake of Christ. Pray for him as he ministers throughout Israel.

Dear brothers and sisters! Greetings to you from Israel!

The beginning of the new year presented us with both joyful and sad events. The mother of our translator and musician in our church passed away due to a serious illness. But, by God's grace, our translator Lisa successfully passed her examinations to become a professional guide, which will enable us to expand our evangelistic tours into all parts of Israel.

During my last tour, we met a couple named Roman and Oksana from Lugansk, East Ukraine. Families that were wealthy in Ukraine are now living as refugees in Israel because of the war. This couple has found a temporary haven with relatives in Israel, but soon they will return to Ukraine to try to begin a new life in another city. They were discouraged because of all that has happened. They had prepared notes to put into a slot in the Western Wailing Wall. In these notes, they asked God to help them. When I became aware of what they had written, I opened the Bible and read:

"Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." (Psalm 54:23)

I explained to Roman and Oksana that they have no need to put notes in the Wailing Wall. Rather, they must believe that Jesus Christ is God and deliver over all of their cares to Him. I prayed for their return to Ukraine and also for the end of the fratricidal war. I ask you to pray that they would believe in Jesus and devote their lives to following Him. ■



Thanks to you who support the ministry of HeartCry, we were able to purchase two hundred solar-powered audio Bibles to be carried into Iraq. These Bibles are being sent to a relief team of Americans and Middle Easterners who are cur-

ARABIC AUDIO BIBLES FOR IRAQ

BY JOSH COBLE

rently in northern Iraq conducting medical work; distributing food, blankets, and heaters; and sharing the Gospel through preaching and Bible distribution. Many refugees have already received Arabic New Testaments, but others are illiterate and in need of these audio Bibles.



In January of 2015, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimated that there were at least 3.3 million internally displaced people in Iraq. But in the midst of such turmoil and suffering, we can still praise God for His wisdom and grace, for we know that He works all things together for the good of those who love Him (and also those who will someday come to love Him)!

Operation World estimates that there are only around 50,000 Evangelical Christians in Iraq (less than 0.2% of the population). Obviously, the extremely hostile environment makes it difficult to reach people with the Gospel. However, because of the conflict, those who once were totally beyond the reach of the Gospel are now within reach!

One Middle Eastern doctor said that she had been praying for open doors for the Gospel in Iraq for many years. Now, finally, her prayers are being answered. Many Muslims living in this area are scared, hurt, confused, and in need of help. What a privilege to be able to show with sacrificial love and service that we serve the One True and Living God!

Please pray:

- (1) For the safety of the workers in this extremely dangerous environment.
- (2) That the Bibles would make it through customs with no problems.

- (3) That the Bibles would reach people whom God has prepared to hear and believe.
- (4) For the Word to advance mightily and spread throughout the land.
- (5) For continued and greater open doors for the Gospel in the Middle East.
- (6) For the conversion of the authorities in power: "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:1-4).
- (7) For more Gospel-centered and biblical laborers in the Middle East: "Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you; and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one" (II Thessalonians 3:1-3). ■



LATINAMERICA

UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES TO PROCLAIM CHRIST

BY WALTER ISSE

Walter moved to Peru from Argentina and is currently serving as a leader in the Church of the Savior in Barranco, Lima. He has also helped translate material from Paul Washer's study manuals and various Puritan authors.

It has been a year of enormous challenges and great difficulty. Sadly, I must confess that in many ways I have made mistakes, in many ways I have failed, and in many ways I have sinned. But I also recognize with joy that the grace and mercy of God have been abundant, and His providence and faithfulness have been infinite and unmatched. He helped us throughout the past year, and I trust that this year, like every other year, not one of His marvelous promises will fall to the ground; rather, all of them will continue to be a powerful support for our faith and a guide and strength in our daily walk.

During this past month, there has been no lack of opportunities for ministry, service, and evangelism. However, there is one opportunity in particular that I would like to explain in detail, because it was not only significant for me, but it was also a clear example of the desire of God that “all men be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

At the beginning of the month, I received an invitation to take part in a series of conferences on climate change and renewable energies called COP20. I was invited in order to translate for the event because there would be representatives from many different countries. To my surprise, these representatives were members of political organizations that were meeting with the purpose

of establishing agreements and planning goals to generate greater awareness about the world climate. Though politics in itself is not part of my personal interests or burdens, it is however my burden and my desire to proclaim Christ and announce the Gospel to every man. It was for this reason that I gladly accepted the invitation to attend and take part in the conference.

As I arrived early in the morning, I saw that the event was organized by a very well-known politician and several people who carry out important responsibilities within the government of Peru. There were also many representatives of different world organizations. Quickly, my interest was to get to know these people with the purpose of sharing Christ with them, and by God's grace, I was able to do this with several of them. During the day, I was able to meet an ex-president of Peru and a current minister and ex-congressman of Mexico. I gave each of them tracts and shared the Gospel with them. I had dinner with the Mexican minister and was able to explain to him the Gospel in greater detail and speak to him about the person of Christ and His finished work. During that day, I was given marvelous opportunities to proclaim Christ and to make Him known in the midst of people with a great deal of power and in an environment that is generally characterized by corruption and deceit.

While I considered this opportunity that the Lord gave me, I meditated on the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 2:1-4:

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and

thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

When the word "evangelism" comes to our minds, we generally think first about very poor people in marginalized places, far off and remote. Without a doubt, the Lord has sent us to go into those places with the purpose of taking the Good News to them. However, we rarely think of people like kings and those who are in leadership and government. It almost never occurs to us that God would want those people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

In the original context of the letter that Paul is writing to Timothy, he was referring to perverse and wicked governors like Nero, who persecuted and killed Christians, even crucifying them and blaming them for the atrocities that were committed in the Roman Empire. In response, the apostle admonishes his beloved disciple that God wants His people to pray for those that are in power, for those that govern us, and that it is

a good and acceptable thing before God our Savior, since it is within His will. As I stood before all of those politicians and world representatives, I stopped seeing them only as politicians; I began to see them as those that are in need of the grace of God, as objects of divine mercy, and as part of the mission field. I saw them as those creatures to which the Lord has sent us to preach the Gospel (Mark 16:15).

The following day, the Lord gave me the opportunity to preach in a community on the outskirts of Lima. It was a very poor place with great needs. Again, I was shown that our beloved God has His people spread throughout all the world and that He desires to save men regardless of class, social condition, or race. It reminded me of Revelation 7:9-10:

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" ■

FROM SHIPWRECK TO SALVATION

BY JAVIER CARHUAPOMA

Javier is the pastor of the Baptist Church of Maranatha in Paita, Peru. He is also one of HeartCry's most beloved and trusted leaders in South America. In the following report, he shares with us about the grace of God in the salvation of a fisherman. He explains to us how the Lord rescued this man from a tragic shipwreck in order to ultimately save him eternally in Christ Jesus. Please pray for the conversion of this man's family and for his continued growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Houctong is a new brother that came to know the Lord just a few weeks ago. He was invited to come to our church by one of the brothers from our congregation, whose name is Salomon. After he had attended several of the services in our church, he told me that after hearing the preaching of the Word, it was clear that the Lord had changed his life. For many years this man worked as a fisherman. He told me the following:

“Pastor, I traveled around the world in a fishing boat with a Spanish company. That boat suffered a shipwreck, and everyone on the boat died, except for one other Peruvian man and me. I now believe that it was because God was determined to save me from my sins, and I thank my God for rescuing me. The other Spanish workers insulted us, asking us why it was that we Peruvians survived and not the

other Spaniards. But now I understand that it was only by the grace of God that we survived.”

A few months ago, brother Houctong asked me to come and teach in his home. I went, along with a couple of other families from the church, and we had a service with his wife and one of his daughters. I ask you to pray for the salvation of Houctong’s entire family. ■

WHAT AVENGING OF WRONG!

BY ESTEBAN TOLOZA

In July 2014, HeartCry began supporting missionary Esteban Toloza. Several years ago, together with HeartCry missionary Nicolás Serrano, Esteban helped plant Family of Grace Church in Rosario, Argentina, where they now co-pastor the growing congregation. In addition to this, the Lord has opened the door for Nicolás and Esteban to train and assist pastors of new church plants throughout Argentina.

To start, I want to thank you for taking the time to read this report. And I thank you even more for taking the time to pray for us! I hope that as you read this summary of the things that have taken place this past month you will be encouraged to pray for the Lord’s cause in Rosario.

This month we saw once again the power of the glorious Gospel that has been entrusted to us! Let me tell you about some of the testimonies that magnify the power of our God!

One of the testimonies has to do with a woman named Sonia, who has been attending our church for several months. She came to us from an extreme charismatic group because she had seen our teaching on our website. Shortly after she began attending the services, she began to be discipled by my wife Maqui, and during that time, she was converted and

professed faith in Christ as a new creation.

As is normal, the discipleship process continued with the purpose of leading her to a biblical assurance of salvation and, eventually, toward baptism and membership. During one of the times when she was meeting with my wife, Sonia confessed that in past years she had repeatedly stolen money from her current job. She also said that she had mentioned her crimes to her former church leaders and that they had told her that “she was already forgiven.” They told her that she did not need to go and confess her crime before her bosses since they were governed by Satan, and she did not need to go and “bow before the devil.”

In contrast to this unbiblical opinion, my wife and I explained to Sonia that restitution is a biblical responsibility and that, even though

her sins are forgiven, she must still go and face the consequences of her sin. What we were asking of her was not easy, as she is a single woman with two teenage children, and she earns minimum wage. To go and confess that she had stolen from her employer would expose her to immediate dismissal from her job and could possibly lead to time in jail.

In spite of the possible consequences, it was a joy to see how Sonia received the Word of God and was willing to obey without concern for what might happen. On the first day of the work week (we had spoken with her on Saturday), she told her boss that she needed to speak with her, and they met halfway through the week. She told her boss that Christ had saved her, and she confessed her crime in detail.

Now, this is the miracle! When we had met Sonia, she was exceedingly fearful of people, very easily embarrassed, and incapable of confronting someone with anything controversial. But now, after the Gospel entered her life, she sat before her boss and confessed both Christ and her sin! Is there any explanation for this other than that the Gospel truly does transform people? Still, the miracle does not end there! After Sonia had confessed her wrong to her boss, her boss forgave her of all her debt! And not only that, but she also allowed Sonia to explain the Gospel to her!

This is only one of the testimonies of the grace of God this month. Throughout the month, several people have come to our church, and it seems that the Lord is working in some of them, including a couple that moved to the city of Rosario from a different state, just to be in the church. I hope, Lord willing, to be able to tell you more details in coming months.

As I tell you in almost every report, all of this puts a great responsibility upon our shoulders. The Lord is responding to our prayers. He is gathering His children and is placing many of them under our oversight. Who is sufficient for these things? Please, pray for us.

- 1) Pray that the Lord would send more laborers into the harvest. We need more brothers and sisters who are mature and capable of working with us in the work of the ministry.
- 2) Pray for Nicolás and me and for our families. Pray that we would be kept near to Christ in the midst of the trials and temptations that the ministry presents and that we would be faithful in the work that has been entrusted to us.
- 3) Pray for Family of Grace Church's ministry through the internet.

TAKING THAT WHICH IS HIS

BY NICOLAS SERRANO

Nicolás works with Esteban Toloza as one of the two founding pastors of Iglesia Familia de la Gracia (Family of Grace Church) in Rosario, Argentina. The church was planted in 2010.

In the life of the church, there are a lot of different things taking place. God continues to add to our flock, and the church is growing

in Christ-likeness, but there does still remain opposition in many different ways. But, of all the things that are happening, I want to share with you the testimony of Matias, who was baptized this month.

Matias came to us about six months ago. He initially visited with his best friend, who happens to be my cousin Gustavo and who was bap-



Family of Grace Church elders, Esteban Toloza (left) and Nicolás Serrano (right)

tized two months ago. From the time Matias began coming to our church, he was very reserved, observing but not understanding much. Some of the young men assumed the responsibility of surrounding him with love and telling him about the Gospel in different ways. In order to be part of the “pack,” Matias began to identify himself with the Christian culture, but without having experienced regeneration. At the same time, he began to get angry with the brothers of the church who continued to talk to him about the Gospel, thinking that since he could not understand what they were discussing, there was no reason to continue talking about it. He thought the exhortations to repentance were discriminating and aggressive.

When he could bear it no longer, he confronted one of the brothers in order to even out the score. However, in the end, he only received yet another exhortation to repent. But this time, the call was effectual. Matias was struck with a two-edged sword, and he returned to his house in a state of anguish and misery. He felt sad and burdened, but he thought to himself, “If I go to sleep, then this anguish that I feel will pass.” However, when he awoke, the anguish was still clinging to him, and it was even stronger than before.

He was unable to bear his state any longer. He began to see his own self-deception, that he could not reform himself, but must come dirty and vile to Christ for salvation. He fell on his knees for two hours and pled with the Lord to save him. Finally, the

Savior heard from heaven and took the prize that He purchased on the cross with His blood long ago!

This young man had no Evangelical background, had never thought about the value and beauty of God in Christ, and had lived in the current of this world. Yet he came to count all as loss for the sake of knowing the Gospel of Christ. He had lived most of his young life closed up in his room, in the darkness of depression and in the idleness and addiction of video games. But now he walks the streets proclaiming to others that there is a treasure worth more than everything else combined – the Lord Jesus Christ.

Those among us who thought that Matias would never last long in the church were astounded and gave glory to God as Matias confessed his sins and his new love for Jesus at his baptism. What explanation is there for such a transformation other than that God, full of power and mercy, performed a miracle in this young man? In addition to this, Matias’s girlfriend Micaela has also professed faith in Christ, and both have decided to break off their relationship in order to seek the will of God with regard to their future.

Pray for Matias and Micaela and for their sanctification. Also please pray for us, that we might be true servants to them in Christ. Please do not stop pleading together with us for more laborers that are fit for every good work. How badly we need them in the midst of these fields filled with the harvest and with obstacles! ■

MINISTRY TOOLS

FOR SOUTH AMERICA

TRANSPORTATION FOR JAVIER CARHUAPOMA



In order to enable Javier Carhuapoma to travel through the mountains to visit other HeartCry missionaries and church plants, HeartCry has provided him with an SUV. This vehicle will be able to endure the rugged terrain of the north-

ern Andes, where the pavement quickly runs out, leaving rutted out dirt roads winding around steep cliffs and inclines.

Also, beginning this year, Javier, along with HeartCry missionary Jose Luis Siancas, will be overseeing a Bible Institute for pastors in the mountains of Pacaipampa and Morropon. The institute will be held in one of the villages in each of those regions, and the pastors will receive intensive teaching from morning until evening for five days. The vehicle that was provided for Javier by those who support HeartCry will prove to be a very useful tool in traveling to those small towns.

PROJECTOR AND COMPUTER

FOR JOSE LUIS SIANCAS



In addition to pastoring the church in Sullana, Peru, HeartCry missionary Jose Luis also devotes much of his effort toward the training of pastors and teachers in

other parts of northern Peru. He is one of the main teachers of the Bible Institute (mentioned above) for pastors in the mountain regions of Morropon and Pacaipampa, where there are approximately fifty-five pastors who are studying to better understand and teach the Scriptures.

In order to help toward that end, HeartCry has provided Jose Luis with a computer and projector to use in the local church and in the training of pastors in the mountains. These tools will facilitate the preparation and presentation of the material that the pastors will be covering in their courses.

Please pray that the Lord would grant Jose Luis and the other pastors increasing wisdom and effectiveness as they seek to minister to these

pastors in order that their churches would be edified and equipped to faithfully adorn the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

PROJECTOR FOR THE WORK OF TRAINING MEN IN NORTHERN PERU



Although the church in Nueva Esperanza where HeartCry missionary Ivan Tassara is pastoring is just over two years old, the Lord has already done a special work there, bringing many people to Himself. He has also granted a unique measure of grace in the maturity and life of the congregation. By God's grace, a group of men in Ivan's church have been raised up with a desire to diligently search and faithfully teach the Scriptures. Ivan is

now discipling several of the men in the church as they meet once a week to study systematically though the doctrines of the Scriptures.

In addition to the training courses that Ivan is carrying out with the men in the local church, he is another of the main teachers for the Bible Institute in the northern mountain regions.

In order to help with the teaching in both of these settings, HeartCry has provided Ivan with a projector. Please pray that the Lord would prosper Ivan's efforts and raise up many faithful men for the work of the ministry, for the strengthening of the believers, and for the glory and reputation of Christ in Peru. ■



GO ONLINE!

CHECK OUT THE PHOTOS:
CHURCH CONSTRUCTION
in Rosario, Argentina

By God's grace, HeartCry was able to provide the Family of Grace Church in Rosario, Argentina, with some much-needed improvements to their meeting location. Several years ago, Nicolás and Esteban, who pastor the church and are supported by HeartCry, moved the church to this location – an old car garage in a central part of the city of Rosario. Through your giving, HeartCry was able to help them make improvements to the floor and to the entrance of the church building. They were also able to install new lights and paint the inside. To see before-and-after photos of the work that was done, please go to the link provided.



PHOTO LINK:
bit.ly/hc82-03



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

- A. W. Tozer

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

- C. H. Spurgeon



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