

*That His Name Be Great
among the Nations...*

HeartCry

Missionary Society

Missionary Society

*That the Lamb Receive the Full
Reward of His Sufferings...*

WORTHY IS THE LAMB



Volume 46: November 2005 - December 2005

OUR PURPOSE

"For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My Name will be great among the nations..."

- Malachi 1:11

The chief end of all mission work is the Glory of God. Our greatest concern is that His Name be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun (Malachi 1:11). We find our great purpose and constant motivation not in man or his needs, but in God, His commitment to His own glory, and our God-given desire to see Him glorified in every nation, tribe, people, and language.

OUR MINISTRY

Although HeartCry recognizes the great importance of sending missionaries from the West to the un-evangelized peoples throughout the world, we work in partnership with indigenous missionaries to plant churches among their own peoples.

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: Paul Washer
Graphic Design: Jonathan Green
Copy Editors: Rita Douglas
 Amanda Glass
 Charo Washer

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CONTACT US

(618) 564-2770
info@heartcrymissionary.com
www.heartcrymissionary.com



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Our Families

by HeartCry Staff

The holiday season is upon us once again. It is always a joy and a privilege for us to present photos of our families and to share something of God's faithfulness throughout the past year. We hope and pray that you and your family have a blessed holiday season.

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Worthy is the Lamb

by Paul Washer

"All hail the power of Jesus Name, let angels prostrate fall." For the missionary, there is no greater joy than meditating upon the biblical promise that one day a people from every tribe, language, people, and nation will be gathered before the throne crying, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain."

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by Paul Washer

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THE EDITOR'S DESK NEW DIRECTIONS

Paul David Washer

I hope that this edition of the HeartCry magazine finds you growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of our U.S. staff and our missionaries around the globe, I can say that we are continuing in the grace of God. He is faithful and His lovingkindness endures forever.

In this edition, you will notice that there have been some major changes in our layout. These are just a small reflection of some of the major changes that are occurring at the mission. As we draw near to the end of the year, we have an expectation of God leading us in new directions. We are not exactly sure where we are headed, but we are confident - not in our ability to hear God, but in God's ability to speak to His people.

We have grown at a consistent pace over the last several years, and we have tried to be responsive to every worthy need that has come across our path. Now there is a need to stand back and look at where we are and where we are going - a biblical reevaluation is at hand. What we need from you are your prayers. Our goal is obedience. It is our desire to do the things that Christ has commanded us to do and to do them well.

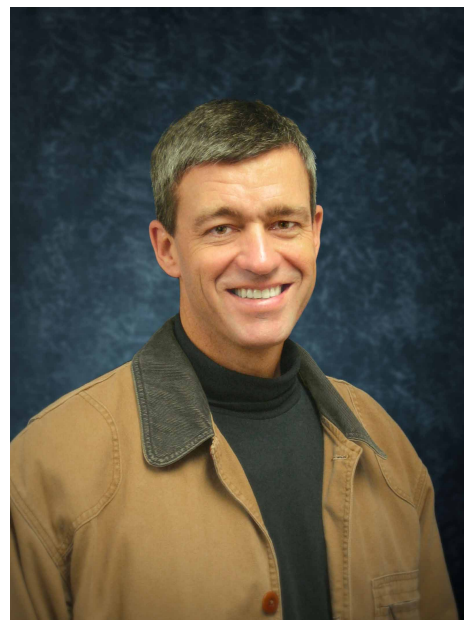
WHERE WE ARE

At the present time, HeartCry has an average of 85 missionary families on the field, in 17 countries, and on four continents. We have spread out farther than we could have ever imagined. We have seen the hand of God and witnessed His help in every step of

the way.

New churches have been planted on all four continents, and there are testimonies of conversions from every country where we work. All this is very exciting, but at the same time, our growth has created cause for concern. Over the last several years we have endeavored to do the following: First, we have sought to put as many missionaries on the field as possible in as many places as possible. Secondly, as I have already mentioned, we have sought to be responsive to every worthy need that has crossed our path. Thirdly, we have sought to do all of this with as little overhead as possible. The four of us who make up the U.S. staff all work together in a 16 ft. x 18 ft. office which our church allows us to use rent free.

One may read the above paragraph and think it quite noble, and I guess that in some respects it is. However, there are some real dangers in our apparent nobility: First, it is not enough to put competent missionaries on the field. There is also a need to be involved in their ministries in a personal way and to continue educating them so that the churches that they plant might be as biblical as possible. Secondly, to seek to meet every valid need makes one reactive instead of proactive. There are an almost infinite number of worthy needs on the mission field. If we react to meet each one, we will stray from the specific path which the Lord has laid out for us. Thirdly, we will continue to do all things with as little overhead as possible. This is the one thing we will never seek to change. The Great Commission has no need of el-



egance or luxury. For all practical purposes, a secondhand metal desk is more efficient than a new one made of finer stuff.

OUR FOCUS

While it is true that all mission societies are formed to advance the Great Commission throughout the world, a greater refinement of focus is needed to be truly effective. There are many ways to advance the kingdom, and mission agencies can be formed for many different purposes. The key is to move from the general to the specific: How has God called us and equipped us specifically? In the following, I have mentioned some of the future areas of focus for the HeartCry Missionary Society.

CHURCH PLANTING

Church planting has been our goal from the very beginning, but in the future we hope to be even more strict in our adherence to the goal. The greatest service we can do to advance the Gospel is the planting of biblical churches that are organized and function according to the commands and principles clearly set forth in the New Testament.

We have reached a point where many of the missionaries we support have planted a church and are now serving more as pastors than missionaries. It is time to let the

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FROM THE HEARTCRY

THE WASHER FAMILY

It is a great joy to greet you once again in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I look forward to this edition of HeartCry more than any other because our spouses and children are found on these pages with us. I stand amazed at the grace of God when I see the wife and children that the Lord has given me. His mercy and goodness endure forever.

My wife Charo is growing in the Lord and is a constant help to me and the ministry that the Lord has given us both. She is now becoming quite the sought after conference speaker, and I can only stand in awe at the grace of God in her life. I hope that the Lord will keep on using her more and more so that she can do all the traveling and I can stay at home with the boys.

Our oldest son Ian seems to grow an inch every day. He is only four years old, but by next Christmas, he will be wearing my clothes and probably my shoes (look at the size of his feet in the picture). His excitement and wonder at all things is contagious. He has started pre-homeschool with dad and it is the high point of his day. I am especially looking forward to this Christmas and the excitement it will bring.

Our youngest son Evan is our other joy. How different he is from his older brother. He runs through the house like a lightning bolt



and loves to scare his mom and dad with his grizzly bear growl. At two years old, he is already an accomplished wrestler. Although Evan is half the size of his older brother, he has learned to make him laugh so hard that he cannot defend himself. When dad comes home from work or travel, all order goes out the window and championship wrestling begins. My cultured wife has yet to learn the way of the hillbilly!

In all my dreams, I never imagined that having a home and family could be so wonderful. No matter how far away I must travel, I always look to home and count the days until I will return. It makes me think of Christ's pilgrimage on this earth. He left the Father's

side and walked upon the earth as an alien and a stranger. Did He count the days until all His terrible battles were behind Him and He was headed home?

I pray that this holiday season brings with it many fond and enduring memories. I pray that you will not be distracted by the nonsense and vanities of this age. I pray that you will love your spouse and children truly and passionately. I pray that you will turn your eyes toward heaven and adore the One who bought you.

Paul, Charo, Ian, and Evan
The Washer Family

THE ROTTMANN FAMILY

"In quietness and trust is your strength, but you were not willing..."

Isaiah 30:15-16 NASB

A few months ago, I was going through some difficult times. When I read the above verse on a card left over from the HeartCry Conference, I knew that it was a Word from the Lord for the moment and for the year. The world looks at this past year and declares, "These are uncertain times," but for believers they are not. Whether it be disease, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, death, disability, or whatever else, it is purposed by God and "in quietness and trust is our strength."

It has been a blessed year, and a year of changes. Elizabeth is now five and Natalie will be two the day after Christmas. They continue to grow and are a wonderful blessing in our life. Heather is also doing wonderfully. She continues to teach part time, care for our daughters, take care of our home, and do more than I could ever imagine. Even this morning, God showed me how blessed I am to have the wife He has given me. Beginning in August, Heather began teaching Elizabeth at home. This was a big change, but it has become a wonderful blessing for our family. I was in Zambia on the first day of homeschool. When I spoke with Heather on the phone, she said that both she and Elizabeth were

frustrated and crying by the end of the day. Because of this "rough start," we made school a matter of focused prayer, and God granted grace. The difficulty has now become a joy and Elizabeth loves school. She especially enjoys math (like her mom) and learning to read. Natalie also enjoys homeschooling. She sits with her mom and sissy coloring just like one of the big girls. Though we have only just begun, homeschooling has been a wonderful choice for us.

In August, Paul and I traveled to Zambia. Paul preached and I interviewed men. For me, the trip was a life changer. Originally, I was not supposed to travel, but God led Paul to ask me to accompany him. I am eternally

FAMILY

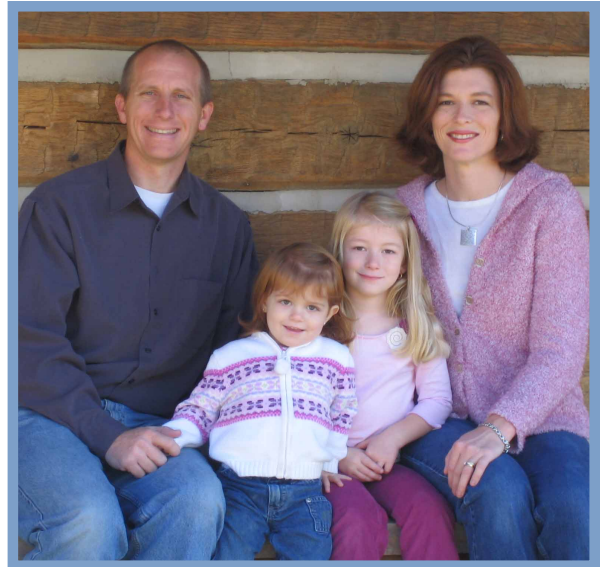
thankful. God taught me more in those 15 days than I had learned in the last few years. He showed me that some "good" things had become idols in my life. He showed me sin in several areas of my life and graciously granted me repentance. I believe that I will always look back on my time in Zambia as a precious time of learning from God. The very day we returned from Zambia, our wives left for a women's conference in Georgia. The conference was just as refreshing and eye opening for Heather as my trip to Zambia had been for me. All the glory goes to God. He orchestrates every event and guides every molecule. I praise Him for His providence.

It is now fall and the holidays are approaching quickly. Recently, it was confirmed that our daughter Natalie was suffering from an enlarged heart and anemia. She was so anemic that her body was not producing any red blood cells. Because of this, her heart was working twice as hard and had become enlarged. Initially, there were concerns that her illness might be much worse. We are thankful that it was not the case. Our doctor sent her to St. Louis where she received an Iron Infusion (iron is injected intravenously), and within a day she was like a different child.

We are so thankful to God for His hand upon this matter and we are also thankful to all those who prayed. Your prayers were not only answered, but they were a tremendous encouragement to us. The hospital did blood work yesterday and unless something comes back unsuspected, Natalie will only need to take iron supplements to treat the anemia.

As I close, I want to encourage you. 2005 may have been a wonderful year for you, or it may have been very difficult with trials abounding. What will come this next year? We never know, but one thing is for sure, "In quietness and in trust is your strength." The question is - "Are you willing?"

Darian, Heather, Elizabeth, and Natalie Rottmann



THE GREEN FAMILY

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior.

The Lord has been most gracious to our family at home and here at HeartCry. It is always our joy to be a recipient of God's grace and truth, but with such joy comes also a sadness because of our ever-present weakness and failure: First, to give God the Glory for our victories; secondly, to be broken over sin leading to a greater depth of desperation for the salvation of the lost; and thirdly, to be moved to a greater understanding and dependence upon God in prayer.

This year, Gabriela and I celebrated Jazmine's first birthday and our first year as a family. We look forward to a Christmas spent with Jazmine, and hope to have my dad visit with us over the holiday.

Family life has brought with it many inevitable changes that we have welcomed with joy and much prayer. The many changes take some time getting used to and require more organization than we are accustomed to.

In His abundant grace, the Lord has greatly blessed our family with a renewed vigor and vitality to seek Him, to reckon ourselves dead to the things of this world, and to live for Him alone. Praise God! Although not everything that God is doing in our lives is easy, we have comfort in knowing that He is Good, does all things for His glory, and will work out all things for our good. As the world changes so much around us, the unbeliever's

reaction is fear and uncertainty, but for the Christian, change should be the pattern of our lives. The only thing I fear more than change is "no change." May God continue to conform us to the image of Christ by His Spirit of power. Please pray that we might continue to grow in the knowledge of the riches of God in Christ, through the Holy Spirit, and to the praise of His Glory.

Jon, Gabriela and Jazmine
The Green Family

THE GLASS FAMILY

Matt and I were married on March 12 of this year, and I moved here to Metropolis after the wedding. At that time, we were planning to live here for only six months. Matt had been accepted to Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, and we intended to move there this fall. Our plans were to go to the mission field after he completed his seminary degree. In April, things changed when God used a sermon on the gospel to renew the urgency of our calling to missions. Simultaneously, but separately, we both felt like we were not supposed to go off to school at all.

Even though Metropolis sometimes seems like the furthest possible place from the foreign mission field, God has us here for a specific purpose. We must constantly remember that our "wisdom" is nothing like God's wisdom, and the plans that we have for ourselves are in no way as good or as great as the plans that God has for us. Even though we both have college degrees, I am

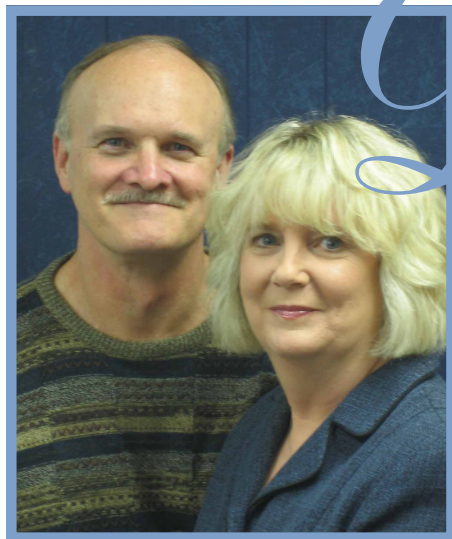
working as a secretary here at HeartCry, and Matthew is working as a church janitor. This does not look "wise" to the world, but it pleases God perfectly. He is preparing us even now for our future. More importantly, He is conforming us to the likeness of His Son, Jesus Christ.

God opened the door for me to work at HeartCry in May of this year. I had been waiting on a particular job offer for several weeks, but received notice one Wednesday morning that I had not been selected. That same evening at church, Brother Paul approached Matt and me to ask if I would consider working with HeartCry. God's timing is perfect! It has been a pleasure to speak with many of you on the phone and to meet others of you at the conference. I look forward to serving you, our mission-



aries, and the other HeartCry staff members for as long as God sees fit. We pray His blessings for you this holiday season!

Amanda and Matthew Glass



THE DOUGLAS FAMILY

May you have a blessed Holiday Season filled with the love and peace that only come from the God of Love and the Prince of Peace. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give unto you. . . Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful" (John 14:27).

This has been a year of great joy and great sorrow for Britt and me. There was joy in the marriage of our son Christopher to Crystal Hosick in a lovely wedding at St. Andrew's Park on Panama City Beach, but there was also great sorrow in the loss of the one who would have been our first grandchild. In October, our son Timothy and his wife Angie lost the baby she was carrying. It is amazing how the loss of one so tiny and unborn has filled our waiting hearts with such sadness.

I was blessed this year to meet HeartCry missionary Sorin Prodan. Brother Sorin spent some time here at HeartCry's office and I had the pleasure of getting acquainted with him. What touched my heart most was his prayer life. He spent hours walking in the field by our church with his head bowed in prayer. How we all need this same devotion! This year's HeartCry Conference was a great blessing. It was a joy to study the attributes of God and to fellowship with other brothers and sisters in Christ with the same passion. I look forward to next year's conference. Once again, I wish you love and peace during this holiday season and in the coming new year.

Rita and Britt Douglas

THE RUSSELL FAMILY

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age."

Galatians 1:3 - NIV

Kay and I rejoice with you at this special time of the year because of the grace and peace of God that has been lavished upon us and the eternal life that is ours through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Our lives have been enriched and our spirits encouraged by each and every one of you who make up the HeartCry family. May God glorify Himself through us all as we serve Him together.

Pastor Jack Russell and Kay



THAT HIS NAME BE GREAT AMONG THE NATIONS

HEARTCRY NEWS

The Things You Make Possible



The ordination of new missionaries by Pastor James Dhale

TWO NEW MISSIONARIES

HeartCry supports several missionaries from the Grace Himalayan Mission located in Imphal City, India. Because of security issues and the political instability in this region of the world, our missionaries may be withdrawn from their specific fields for a period of time. Because of this, the number of men that we support in this area may vary. HeartCry recently began supporting Halathor Mili, who is now ministering among the Mising Tribe. Their territorial boundaries are disputed by both India and China. We have also begun sponsoring Mika Yinyo, who is working to establish a church among the Tibetans.

ANSWERED PRAYER IN ROMANIA

Missionary Toma Marius reports that his church was given approval by the government for the construction of their church building. Praise the Lord! They have been praying for the approval for three years.

SORIN PRODAN TO STUDY AT SOUTHERN

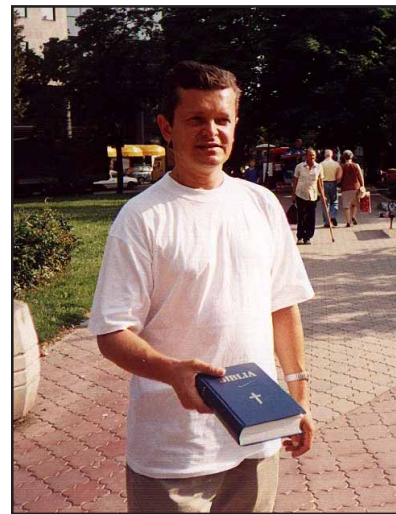
In January 2006, HeartCry's Eastern European director Sorin Prodan will enter the Masters program at Southern Seminary. Due to a new off-campus program, Sorin will be able to complete most of his hours on-line from Romania.

NEW CHURCH PLANTED

HeartCry missionary Miguel Sanabria reports that a new church has been planted in Coracora-Ayacucho in the central Andes Mountains of Peru. The Andean community is located near Lake Parinacochas and the volcano Sarasara. The area is several hours from the capital city of Lima. The new church plant just finished a week long series of meetings that went beyond the believers' expectations. An average of 75 men and women attended nightly and 53 villagers made professions of faith. Five laymen are currently watching over the new congregation. Sanabria, who is currently pastoring a church plant in Lima hopes to send a brother from his congregation to oversee the work. He sends greetings and thanks to those who support his ministry through the HeartCry Missionary Society. Although Sanabria is stretched to the limits with the needs of his congregation in Lima, he says the Great Commission demands that he look beyond his borders to places like Coracora-Ayacucho.

CHURCH CONSTRUCTION IN EASTERN EUROPE

Construction has begun on two church buildings in Eastern Europe. Zoran Milovanovici, a HeartCry missionary in Serbia, reported that construction began there at the end of the summer. However, after only two days of construction, the town's people began to oppose and persecute. They have protested, threatened the members, and even slandered the church members before the local authorities. Milovanovici reported that such persecution provides a good opportunity to share the Gospel. Missionary Anatol Dunas reported that he and the members of his congregation have begun construction on a new meeting place in Moldova. So far there has been no opposition.



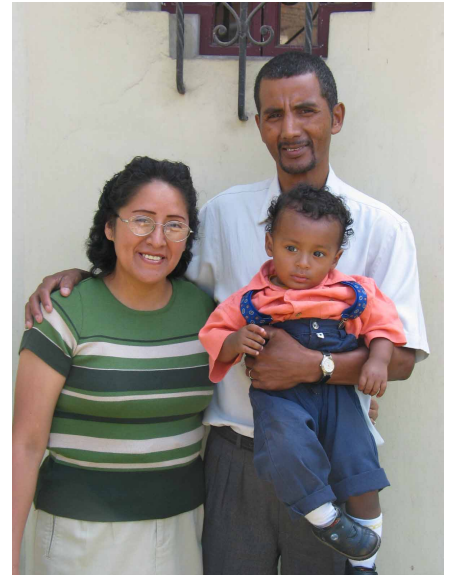
Zoran Milovanovici, HeartCry missionary in Serbia

EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS IN ISRAEL

During August, the team from Israel had their first-ever ten-day evangelistic campaign. They stuck leaflets in mail-boxes, sang in the streets, handed out literature, and spoke with passersby. Antony Simon wrote: "On one occasion we had an encounter with the police that turned into an opportunity to witness. The policeman thought that it was illegal to preach the Gospel in the streets, but when he found out that he was wrong, he left without saying good-bye. Another time, while singing our hearts out, some policemen stood beside us and defended us from those who tried to disturb us. It was ironic that while some religious Jews standing around us were arguing against us, some nonreligious Jews were arguing with them and defending us. All this while we were singing praises to our God in the center of Jerusalem!" The church is hoping to make this a yearly endeavor.

OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS

HeartCry missionary Francisco Ataupilco had been suffering for years with his vocal cords. He has worked in several missions where he both led the singing and preached the Word. Last year, a tumor was discovered in his throat that had to be removed. Although the operation cost less than \$1000 in a government hospital, it was far beyond the means of a church planter in Peru. Thanks to your giving, HeartCry was able to provide the funds for Ataupilco's operation and the tumor was successfully removed. Ataupilco, communicating through e-mail, writes that he feels better than he has for some time. Although he cannot talk for the moment and will not be able to preach for several weeks, he praises God that the tumor was removed without any further complications. He thanks each and every HeartCry supporter and asks that all remember him in their prayers.



GYPSY MEETINGS IN ROMANIA

Moises Marin is HeartCry's Director over our Gypsy missionaries. He reports that for eight continuous days in the month of August, they held evangelistic meetings at 15 different mission points near the capital city of Bucharest. All of the HeartCry missionaries, as well as other Gypsy missionaries throughout Romania, were brought in to do door-to-door evangelism and street preaching during the day, and to preach evangelistic meetings in the evenings. A total of 3000 people were privileged to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and there were many professions of faith. The phrase "professions of faith" is used because only time and biblical instruction will tell how many of those who professed were truly born from above.



CONSTRUCTION IN NIGERIA

Dauda Freeman is a HeartCry church planter in Plateau State Nigeria. He reports that the work is going well. He sends thanks to all our supporters for the financial support given for the building of a meeting place. He writes, "Your giving to us shows the concern and love that you have for the Gospel and the advancement of the kingdom of God. I promise that we will use this gift properly and graciously, without any personal interest. The construction is already in progress, the main structure has been erected, and the members are content. They daily express their thanks to the Lord for you and the gift that you have given." Brother Freeman reports that the members of the congregation are openly witnessing about their faith in spite of a strong Muslim presence, and that new converts are being added to the church.

WORTHY IS THE LAMB!



NONE FOUND WORTHY!

I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it;

Revelation 5:1-4

The apostle John sees a throne and One sitting upon the throne with a book in His right hand. Notice how little John says about the One seated. There is a purpose in his silence. How can God be described without somehow diminishing His glory and bring dishonor to His Name? The mind of man cannot comprehend Him and the language of men cannot communicate even the little that men may comprehend.

The things written in these few verses and those that follow seem to indicate that the book or scroll that John sees contained the revelation of God's purpose and plan for all history - past, present, and future. The scroll is written on the inside and out, indicating that it is both voluminous and complete; every detail of history is found in the scroll. It is in God's possession, indicating that He is the author of it. He holds the scroll in His right hand, which throughout Scripture communicates both authority and power. Those things written in the scroll are magnificent certainties of His providence. They will be fulfilled to the letter - every jot and tittle from alpha to omega. The power and wisdom of God is certainly revealed here. Every aspect of human endeavor, from the greatest historical event to the most minute movement of an infant's finger, is foreknown and ordained by God. This in itself is enough to move us to reverence and worship!

John's thoughts are soon interrupted by the loud voice of a strong angel asking a question that would soon bring John to tears, "Who is worthy to open the book?" The voice is great so that it might reach the ears of every created being in heaven, on earth, and under the earth -

"Who is worthy, who is qualified, who is able to make known the purpose and plans of God and to carry them out with absolute perfection?"

The mere fact that the great angel asks the question and yet does not respond to the call demonstrates that not even the mightiest and most holy of God's created beings is worthy to take the task at hand. All history turns upon one single need - redemption; and one single event whereby payment for sin is made and justice is satisfied - the cross. What creature in heaven or on earth is worthy and able to live a perfect life in the flesh of fallen humanity; to take sin

upon himself and yet not sin; to bear the wrath of God and survive; and to make payment for the sins of many with a life of infinite value? The totality of God's creation must bow low and acknowledge that there is no one found in its realm. The greatest angels in heaven declare, "Look not to us!" The most eminent kings, the most consecrated priests, the wisest prophets and sages on earth rend their garments and cry, "Look not to us!" The mighty dead, whose deeds are recorded in the annals of history, cry out from under the earth, "Look not to us!" What creature in heaven, earth, or hell would dare approach the throne of God and take anything from His hand?

On seeing no response from the greatest and most holy of creatures, the apostle John wept greatly. The word translated "weep" comes from the Greek word *klaio* which communicates pain and grief; to weep as one who weeps for the dead. John literally "burst into tears". The scroll held the keys to man's redemption and yet not one among God's creatures is found worthy to open or execute it. Simon Kistemaker writes, "God's curse would continue to rest on sinful humanity, creation would not be set free from the bondage of decay (Romans 8:21), and suffering would last interminably" (NTC, Revelation, p.204). John burst into tears!

THE LAMB IS WORTHY!

And one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Revelation 5:5-7

Before the prophet's heart and hope are lost beyond recovery, his weeping is detained by one of the elders who is privy to a knowledge that will soon turn John's sorrow into joy. The elder directs John to turn his eyes toward the Lamb. The elder's command to "Behold" is a wonderful transition and a command to be obeyed by all men in every circumstance. There is no hope to be found in the mightiest and noblest of created beings, but one glance of the Lamb who was slain can restore hope's demolished ruins.

The elder describes the glorified Christ as "the Lion." Jacob referred to Judah as a lion's whelp and prophesied that out of him would come the Messiah to whom the obedience of the nations would be given (Genesis 49:9-10). Albert Barnes writes, "The lion is the king of beasts, the monarch of the forest, and thus becomes the emblem of one of kingly authority and of power" (BN, Revelation, p.123). Such a designation communicates not only authority and power, but ferocity and danger. The Christ of Scripture is not the tame and domesticated Christ of contemporary American Christianity. John makes no attempt to declaw Him.

The second designation used by the elder to describe the glorified Christ is, "Root of David." He is portrayed as a David-like warrior of God who has overcome all obstacles and conquered every enemy. The prophet Isaiah referred to the Messiah as the stem or root of Jesse (11:1, 10) and Jeremiah referred to Him as the righteous branch of David (33:15). Both indicate that the Messiah would

be of David's kingly line. He would be David-like, and yet so much greater than David that David would call Him Lord (Matthew 22:45). Again we see the frailty of humanity, and the greatness of the Christ. David's line was all but lost. It was like a fallen tree with only a lifeless trunk remaining, but the Messiah came forth like a green stem bearing great fruit.

The elder points John to the lionhearted Son of David and declares but one thing, "He has overcome." The God-man Messiah has won the right to take the book from the right hand of God because through the cross, He fought a battle of titanic proportions and came out the Victor. He offered Himself to God as an atoning sacrifice and put away the sins of His people once and for all. In turn, He triumphed over death and the devil who had the power over it (Hebrews 2:14). Charles Spurgeon writes:

"Our champion is worthy. What battles He had fought! What feats of prowess He had performed! He had overthrown sin; He had met face to face the Prince of darkness, and had overcome Him in the wilderness; ay, He had conquered death, had bearded that lion in his den; had entered the dungeon of the sepulchre, and had torn its bars away. Thus He was worthy, in the sense of valor, on retuning from the far country to be owned as the Father's glorious Son, heaven's hero, and so to take the book and loose the seals thereof" (MTP, Vol.35, p.388).

The reference to Jesus Christ as "a Lamb standing, as if slain" is powerful. Simon Kistemaker writes, "[It] signifies a body that had been cut to pieces but now was healed and able to stand. The marks of His wounds are still visible, as they were when Thomas was told to look at Jesus' hands and touch the scar in His side" (NTC, Revelation, p.206). The picture is not one of a dying lamb barely able to stand, but of a mighty champion, who, though bearing the terrible scars of battle, stands in the fullness of divine strength.

The Lamb stands in the midst or center of the throne. He bears the marks of a tremendous battle with death, and yet stands triumphant. The threefold use of seven communicates completeness and perfection. The Lamb's seven horns represent His absolute power and sovereignty. All authority has been given to Him in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). The seven eyes communicate that He sees all and possesses a perfect and immediate knowledge of all things. Nothing escapes Him (I Corinthians 4:5). The seven eyes are identified as the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. Again, the number seven refers to the completeness or fullness of the Spirit. The Lamb is present in body on the throne of God. He has sent the Spirit (in all His fullness) to the very ends of the earth to observe all things and operate in all things according to His will. This same Spirit has been sent by the Lamb to gather a people from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and to empower them to serve Him.

THE WORSHIP OF THE LAMB

When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to

take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 5:8-14

What the mightiest creature in heaven and on earth would not dare attempt, the Lamb accomplishes. He not only takes the scroll, but God gives it. God the Father entrusts the entire course of history to the Son, the great Messiah, our Savior.

The Lamb's taking of the book is immediately followed by an eruption of worship. It comes from four sources which run together and form one mighty river of praise - the four living creatures, the elders, the angels, and the rest of creation. The four living creatures are mighty and mysterious angelic creatures whose close proximity to the throne communicates both their holiness and their power. The elders most likely represent, or are actual representatives of the redeemed. In 4:4, the elders are described as "clothed in white garments, and [having] golden crowns on their heads." In 3:5, white garments are promised to believers who overcome, and in 7:14 these garment are made white in the blood of the Lamb. The elders wear golden crowns on their heads as a sign of their authority. Such crowns and authority are promised to believers throughout the book of Revelation (3:21; 5:10; 20:4, 6; 22:5), but are never promised to angels. The angels, who also render worship to the Lamb, were created to minister to God (Psalm 104:4; Hebrews 1:7) and to serve His people (Hebrews 1:7, 14). They are willing and joyful spectators of the grace given to the redeemed (I Peter 1:12). They worship the Lamb for the great things He has done for men. The final group mentioned includes the rest of creation. No creature is left out of this chorus of praise directed toward the Lamb. It seems best not to limit this group to only intelligent creatures. Since all creation has been subjected to futility as a result of the fall, and all creation is awaiting its liberation (Romans 8:19-22), it seems logical that "every created thing" refers to the whole of creation - animate and inanimate, intelligent and instinctive. Every created thing in heaven, on the earth, and under the earth will somehow serve to worship the Lamb - the birds of the air, the beast of the field, and the monsters of the deep will break forth in worship. One cannot help but think of the many passages in the Old Testament Scriptures that speak of God receiving praise from all things - stars, trees, mountains, animals, etc.

The worship given to the Lamb is described as a "new song," and, therefore, it could not have been sung until He had finished His redemptive work. According to this song, the Lamb is worthy to

take the scroll because He was slain and purchased men for God with His blood. Albert Barnes writes,

"By His coming and death He had acquired a right to approach where no other one could approach, and to do what no other one could do" (BN, Revelation, p.127).

Although the Lamb is worthy on all accounts and for an infinite number of reasons, it is His being slain for the redemption of His people that here constitutes Him being worthy to take the scroll from the very hand of God.

Before we advance, it is important to note to whom payment was made that men might be purchased for God. There are those who erroneously believe that Christ gave His life as a ransom to Satan who held God's people captive; such a thought is not only unbiblical, but also borders on blasphemy. The Scriptures clearly teach that Christ gave His life to pay the penalty for His people's sin and to satisfy the justice of God. It is primarily from the just condemnation of the Law that God's people have been redeemed. The result of that redemption is liberation from the power of the devil.

The greatest problem in all of Scripture is how can a just God forgive sinful men, or "how can God be both just and the justifier of the wicked?" God cannot act in a way that contradicts who He is. He must act in a way that is consistent with all His attributes. As the just "Judge of all the earth," He must act according to the strictest rules of justice. He must acquit the innocent and condemn the guilty. If He simply pardons the guilty and does not punish every infraction of the Law and every act of disobedience, then He Himself is no longer just or good. How, therefore, can God be just and at the same time, show mercy to those worthy of condemnation? The only way was for Christ to offer Himself as a *propitiation* for the sins of His people, a sacrifice that would put away sin, satisfy divine justice, appease the wrath of God, and open the way for divine mercy to be shown to the guilty.

The logic behind the suffering and death of the Lamb is evident: Man has sinned and the wages of sin is death. God is just and therefore the demands of His Law must be satisfied before the guilty can be pardoned. The people of God are saved because the Lamb bore the guilt of their sin and was crushed under the wrath of divine judgment. He hung in their place, carried their sin, and suffered divine wrath against it. The benefits received from the Lamb's redeeming work are outlined in verse 10:

"You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

There are three specific privileges described in this phrase: First, the redeemed have been made citizens of Christ's Kingdom. If the character of a kingdom is determined by the character of its king, it is an indescribable privilege to simply be allowed to dwell within the realm of Emmanuel's land. Secondly, the redeemed have been made priests and have been granted the exceedingly great

privilege of ministering before God and in His name. Thirdly, the redeemed have been granted authority to reign as kings upon the earth. The meek shall not only inherit the earth, but they shall also rule over it. Matthew Henry writes,

"Every ransomed slave is not immediately preferred to honor; he thinks it a great favor to be restored to liberty. But when the elect of God were made slaves by sin and Satan, in every nation of the world, Christ not only purchased their liberty for them, but the highest honor and preferment" (MHC, Vol.6, p.1142).

Around the throne, the four living beings, and the elders are seen what John describes as myriads of myriads of angels or "ten thousands of ten thousands." John is not attempting to give us an exact number, but rather he is seeking to describe a vast multitude of

celestial creatures that cannot possibly be counted except by the One who created them. This heavenly choir is as innumerable as the stars of the heavens. It was created to bless the Lamb and declare His worth:

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

Though the angels have no need of redemption, it does not mean that they are disinterested. They long to look into the things God has done for His redeemed people and worship Him for them (I Peter 1:12). They are intensely interested in the redemption of God's people, for by it they are brought to a greater understanding of God, His mercy, and His grace (Ephesians 2:7; 3:10). We must always keep in mind that the suffering of the Lamb is not only

the means by which sinful men are redeemed, but it is also the greatest revelation of God to His creation.

The angels declare in their worship of the Lamb that He is worthy to receive "power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." This majestic statement should be understood in this way: The Lamb is worthy of every title of authority, honor, and blessing that has been and will be conferred upon Him by the Father. There have been many down through the ages who have scoffed at the Lamb, refused to give Him glory, and even vainly designed to take His glory from Him, but the redeemed are elated at the exaltation of the Lamb.

Following the songs sung by the four living beings, the elders, and innumerable angels, another song is heard. It springs forth from every other creature in heaven, on earth, and even under the earth. Simon Kistemaker writes,

"All intelligent beings in God's created universe sing His praises: the saints and angels in heaven, the birds in the sky, God's people on earth, and all living beings on land and in the sea. The overwhelming chorus of all these voices, in praise to God and to the Lamb, defies human imagination. God is the king of



creation who delegated the work of creation and redemption to His Son. As God receives tribute from His creatures, so does the Lamb, for He has completed the tasks that God assigned to Him" (NTC, Revelation, p.212).

The worship ends with a blessing pronounced upon Him who sits on the throne and the Lamb:

"To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

This blessing demonstrates that the Son's work of redemption was in perfect harmony with the Father from the very beginning. For God so loved that He sent, and the Son so loved that He obeyed. The redemption of God's people is an exquisite work of deity for which the redeemed prostrate themselves, the angels shout, all creation sings, and the four living creatures give their absolute affirmation, "Amen!" All heaven cries forth, "Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory" (Psalm 115:1).

THE LAMB'S REWARD

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." And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen." Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Revelation 7:9-14

Who is this multitude that worships God and the Lamb? They are the full number of the redeemed taken from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue. They are all the followers of Christ down through the ages and until the end of the world who have suffered the tribulation and trials of this fallen world. Albert Barnes writes:

"The eye is directed to an innumerable host, gathered from all ages, all times, and all people, triumphant in glory... [It is] the whole assembled host of the redeemed in heaven, gathered there as victors, with palm-branches, the symbols of triumph, in their hands. The object of the vision is to cheer those who are desponding in times of religious declension and in seasons of persecution, and when the number of true Christians seems to be small, with the assurance that an immense

host shall be redeemed from our world, and be gathered triumphant before the throne" (BN, Revelation, p.182).

Their number is beyond a man's power of computation, and yet God and the Lamb knows each one by name. This is a picture of that great day for which every Christian longs. A day when every one of the redeemed will stand before God and the Lamb and offer a perfect sacrifice of praise. This is the Lamb's full reward.

In Psalm 2:8, God promised to give the nations to the Messiah as an inheritance:

"Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession."

In Revelation 7:9, the promise is fulfilled. The obedience of the nations is now given to Lamb. All the saints throughout history and from every part of the world sing in one accord. The curse of Babel has been reversed, and the nations cry out with one voice in perfect harmony.

"Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

The saints are dressed in robes that have been made white in the blood of the Lamb. They are not here pleading for their own salvation or that God Himself might always be secure on the throne, but rather they are ascribing salvation to God as His exclusive work. As the prophet Jonah declared, "Salvation is of the Lord!" (Jonah 2:9). Again, Albert Barnes writes:

"This will undoubtedly be the song of the released for ever, and all who reach the heavenly world will feel that they owe their deliverance from eternal death, and their admission to glory, wholly to Him... The fair meaning is, that whatever is included in the word salvation will be due to God alone—the deliverance from sin, danger, and death; the triumph over every foe; the resurrection from the grave; the rescue from eternal burnings; the admission to a holy heaven—victory in all that that word implies will be due to God" (BN, Revelation, p.184).

These passages of Scripture that we have considered in this article depict that which is the great hope and longing of all who have ever looked upon the fields white unto harvest. The laborers are few and scattered, and the work seems to move at an intolerably slow pace. Nevertheless, we have the great assurance from God's Word that a multitude that cannot be counted will be gathered in and that the Lamb who was slain will have the full reward of His suffering.

May God grant both you and me the grace to give ourselves to this greatest of all endeavors -

WORTHY IS THE LAMB!



HeartCry Missionary Society Presents
A BIBLICAL STUDY OF THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

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In Harm's Way for Christ

by Rogelio and Rut Acea

I greet you in the blessed name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I desire the richest blessing for your church, ministry, and family. There are not many new things to share, but not because we have left off spreading the Gospel. Regardless of the times and the adverse circumstances, we are always ready to preach the message of salvation. Our church is located in one of the most dangerous areas of Lima. The police have labeled it a "high risk" zone because of the delinquency and drug traffic.

After each Sunday service, we go out into the streets to witness for Christ. One Sunday in April, two of our church members were assaulted and physically hurt. We praise God that the delinquents ran away when they saw the rest of us coming to our brothers' aid. The next week, in the middle of the service, a man ran into our small auditorium. He was high on drugs, badly beaten, and bleeding all over. He pleaded for our protection because a band of men were out in the street waiting to do him more damage. This caused alarm among those who were attending the service.

Regardless of all the danger and chaos, nothing of what we have seen has terrified us or been an obstacle to us remaining firm in the task that the Lord Himself has given us - to carry the message of salvation to every creature. We give thanks to God for the privilege of using us regardless of the circumstances. Glory to God!

I also want to inform all of you that we are continuing each Tuesday and Thursday

with our Prenatal Center, where we give frightened women an alternative to abortion. We thank God because the entire community is receiving great benefit from this ministry and we are able to share the Gospel with more and more people. We witness to every woman who comes to visit us for care and some have been converted. In May, we were able to help a forsaken woman find lodging in a Christian shelter for needy mothers.

We are also working with the children in our neighborhood through our Bible clubs that we hold every Saturday. Two days a week, we visit those who have visited our church and church members who have grown cold. We also continue to work with the people in our area who have drug and alcohol problems. This last month, we helped two drug addicts enroll in the Christian rehab program at Centro Nacer where I worked for many years.

We ask for your prayers so that God might guide us and strengthen us each day. It is our desire to remain firm in the faith. Thank you for the prayers you have already prayed for us and the support that you give us. God bless you.

A Trophy of Grace

by Paul Washer

I was a farm boy from Southern Illinois and Rogelio Acea was a rebel against Fidel Castro and his communist regime in Cuba. We met in a drug rehab center a short distance outside of Lima, Peru. I had come to Peru as a young missionary and Rogelio had arrived in Peru as a prisoner and refugee from Cuba. I was learning to be a missionary and Cuba was coming off of crack cocaine. We became the best of friends.

When I first met Rogelio (affectionately known as Cuba), his speech was almost unintelligible and he could barely read. He was skin and bones, a human being ravished by sin and the toils of a life without hope. As the weeks passed, Rogelio was wonderfully regenerated by the Holy Spirit and everything began to change. The first thing that drew me to Rogelio was his humility. He saw his salvation in a way that all of us should. It was as though the Lord was walking through a garbage dump looking for something to restore and pulled Rogelio out from the bottom of the pile. As the months and years



passed, I had the privilege of discipling Rogelio and he became a cherished friend.

I remember when Rogelio met his future wife Rut. She was a beautiful woman who had never married. She had always believed that God had a very special man for her. When Rut met Rogelio she knew he was the man, but Rogelio walked around in total disbelief that God would give someone like him a wife as godly and pure as Rut. Again, he saw himself as one who had been raised up from the dung heap.

After several years of walking with the Lord and ministering to drug addicts, Rogelio began to sense God's call to be a pastor. He went to some of the most respected pastors and missionaries in Lima for advice. He was sure that they would all tell him that God would never call him to be a pastor because he was too slow, too ignorant, unable to speak clearly, etc. He was shocked, and even afraid, when every pastor and missionary rejoiced at the news and affirmed his calling. In all my years in the ministry, I have never seen a man more respectful for the pastorate or more fearful in taking the mantle upon himself. It is the honor of honors in Rogelio's mind. Rogelio is my friend. He is a true trophy of grace. He is a minister of the very grace that he has come to know.



Cristina Churata leading the women's conference in Sullana, Peru. This church was planted by Florencio and Cristina. They are supported through your giving to HeartCry.

Godly Families

by Florencio and Cristina Churata

Please receive our greeting in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God for His care and protection in our lives, and especially because He has counted us as faithful, putting us in the ministry here in Sullana, Peru.

In the past months, we have been working to strengthen the families in our church. It is for this reason that we held two very special conferences for our church members and our unbelieving neighbors – a family conference and a women's retreat. During the first conference, an entire family confessed Christ and has been congregating faithfully in our church ever since. Another very special thing happened in the conference which demonstrates the power of God in working with the hardest heart. There is a woman in our neighborhood named Mari, and she had a reputation for mocking anyone who claimed to be an Evangelical Christian. She always spoke terribly about the believers in our neighborhood, and she especially attacked her own husband who attended a Pentecostal church and her brother-in-law who is a member of our church. Because of this woman's reputation, it was a great surprise for me that she came to the first day of our conference after someone had invited her. At the end of the first meeting, I spoke with her and was surprised when she said, "Pastor, the message from God's Word was very interesting. I will attend every session so that I might hear

more." I could not believe my eyes when the next day she arrived at the conference with her husband and all her children. After the message, her husband told me with tears in eyes, "I came to the meeting tonight because my wife asked me to accompany her. I was greatly surprised because she has never wanted anything to do with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am filled with joy because she has a great desire to hear the Word of God." The following day, we were all even more surprised to see this same woman, who had been such an enemy of the Gospel, coming early to help the sisters of the church to clean the auditorium and arrange everything for the meetings. This woman is just one more living proof that there is no heart too hard for God. Please pray for Mari!

The second conference we held was for the women of our church and the unbelieving women in our neighborhood. My wife and the sisters in our church worked very hard so that the event might glorify God, edify families, and reach the lost. They worked a total of five months in preparation for the event. They even prepared handmade gifts for each of the 320 women who attended. God's hand of providence was evident everywhere. He even moved a wealthy woman from Lima, who is a believer, to donate clothes for all the women who attended. My wife was overjoyed with all that God did in providing for every need of the event. The women who attended were greatly edified and many families were strengthened in the Lord.

You Meant Evil, God Meant Good

by Sorin Prodan

The following report from Sorin Prodan is another demonstration of the faithfulness of God. Some students from the Orthodox seminary in the Romanian city of Pucioasa attempted to stop an evangelistic meeting in the city's cultural center. The meetings were sponsored by the only Baptist Church in Pucioasa, pastored by HeartCry missionaries Nicolae Vulpe and Florin Stan.

In the city of Pucioasa there is an Orthodox and a Catholic church. Most of the people declare that they are Orthodox believers, but in reality they have little devotion to their religion and no saving faith in Christ. They have only their religious traditions. Our work in Pucioasa began six years ago.

The church has never experienced any opposition from the local authorities. For five years, we struggled as a small mission in the center of the city. Finally, last year we obtained the necessary legal papers, and by God's grace, we bought a property and built a chapel. The church now has 25 members and a strong mission team. Their vision is to reach out to the townspeople and build a strong church that will plant other churches in the area. There are other cities surrounding Pucioasa, such as Fieni, Moreni, and Sinaia. By God's grace they will be touched by the believers from Pucioasa.

This year, the congregation participated in some evangelistic events which have brought new believers into the church. During the month of April the church rented the city's cultural house and performed an evangelistic drama about the Gospel and the consequences of faith and unbelief. For two nights the drama was performed on the stage of the main hall. The second night the hall was full of unbelievers. Many of the people who had come the first night returned the second night with their friends.

The church members who worked

so hard in evangelism and the actual performance were very much encouraged to see the many people who had responded to their invitations. After the drama, the Gospel was preached and the people were exhorted to trust in Christ alone.

During the second night's performance, something very unexpected happened. The following is the testimony from Nicu Vulpe, HeartCry missionary and pastor of Bethany Baptist Church:

"The drama was a great challenge for the people. The message focused upon the urgency of making peace with God by trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior. The performance was scheduled just before the traditional Easter Celebration for

effects.

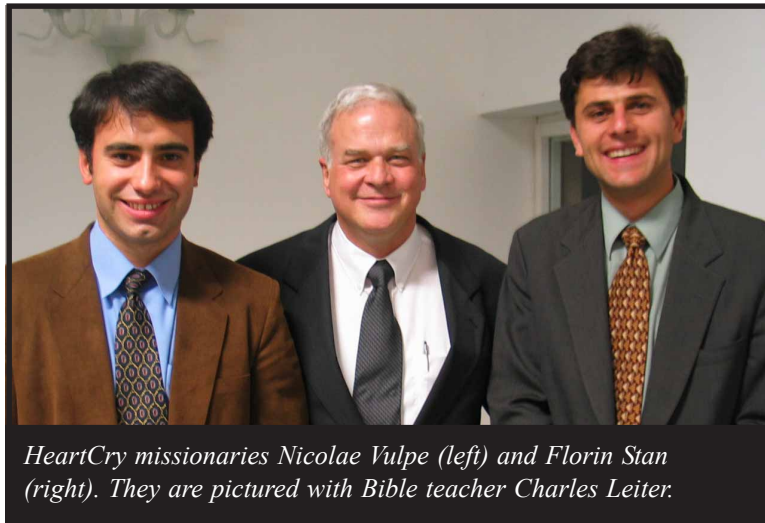
As the young men raged on the platform, HeartCry missionary Florin Stan

went on stage and explained to the audience that the young priests were not part of the performance, but had come as aggressors to disturb the show. Florin also told the crowd that it was a group of priests who mocked Jesus on Golgotha. Finally, Florin respectfully asked the young priests to sit down or leave the hall.

As we tried to continue with the drama, the Orthodox seminary students became even more aggressive and threatened some

of the young people in the play. We discovered later that these were some of the same students who had threatened our team with aggression two days before when we were handing out invitations in the city. They were also the ones responsible for tearing down our posters for the drama. After the first evening of the play was over, they even waited in the streets and took the invitations away from the invited guests who were leaving the cultural house.

During the show of aggression on the second night, someone called the police. As the police entered the building, one of the priests began to cry out that we were charlatans who had left the true religion and were inducing the people to believe lies. They even cursed us before the police and the people who were seated in



HeartCry missionaries Nicolae Vulpe (left) and Florin Stan (right). They are pictured with Bible teacher Charles Leiter.

the Orthodox Church and the very weekend of the traditional celebration for the Catholic Church.

During the second night's performance, a group of seven young men clothed in the traditional clothing of the Orthodox priests came up on the stage and began to sing a traditional Orthodox liturgy. The spectators were not surprised at first because they thought that the group of young priests was part of the drama.

When the young priests saw that the performance was continuing in spite of their interruptions, they became aggressive. They began to hit the speakers and pull the plugs on our sound system. We lost the sound and the show was stopped. As though this did not satisfy them, they continued to kick our speakers and equipment that we were using for the special





Some of the Orthodox seminary students who sought to put an end to the Baptists' evangelistic efforts. What they meant for evil, God meant for good.

the audience. When police asked them who had sent them and by whose authority they were doing these things, they said that the archbishop had sent them. This was later discovered to be a lie. No one (but the devil) had sent them to disturb the show.

Finally, the Director of the House of Culture intervened and rebuked the seminary students. She even expressed her regret that she belonged to a denomination that would promote such aggression. She called the archbishop and discovered that he did not send the students to do such things.

We did not ask for any satisfaction from the Romanian Law, because we considered such actions to be from the devil. Hate is from the devil and these men proved that they were full of hate for us and the people. In a country where ignorance of the Gospel is so widespread and prejudices are so many, they have found a good field to manifest their hatred.

We thank God who has used this experience to change the thinking and heart

of the people. A number of people repented of their sins and came to the Lord. The young people who acted in that drama were touched by the strong message that was communicated. A man named Marian from the city of Fieni and an engineer from the city of Pucioasa showed evidence of having been converted. A young lady who had departed from the Lord came back to the way and a few others declared that they wanted to follow the Lord. Many others were confronted with the claims of the Gospel and the serious reality of eternity.

The Director was so impressed that we did not take any legal action that she asked me to meet with her and explain to her the message of the Gospel. We pray that God will change her heart. Because of the evil that was attempted against us, we have an open door to use the city's Cultural Center whenever we need it. Even the policemen and the mayor of the city heard the Gospel because we were required to give an account to them re-

garding the conflict. In all ways we were blessed and God was glorified."

Your brother, Nicu Vulpe

This is just one of the examples of how the Orthodox Church reacts when we try to evangelize people. In many places in Romania, they have destroyed our churches and even burned them to the ground. The Romanian authorities often times tolerate this form of vandalism because the Orthodox priests have the power to influence elections. The true Church is always under persecution. Sometimes the persecution is more aggressive, and other times it comes in forms like we have described. Regardless of the aggression, God always saves His people.

Please pray for these young seminary students who are so deceived. Pray for the people who heard the Gospel and pray for the local authorities, who this time, supported the Baptist Church. Pray for HeartCry missionaries Nicu Vulpe and Florin Stan and the church in Pucioasa.



Lord's In the Israeli Army

by Antony Simon

Shalom from Jerusalem! Greetings to all! I have just returned from the army. Having reached the ripe old age of forty, this was supposed to be the year of my retirement, but my commanding officer asked me to stay on as a volunteer. He told me that I was the only one that he had or would ask to continue. This is the same officer who once told me that he would become a Christian only if I could promise that it would keep him from growing old. I told him that Christianity offered something better - Eternal Life.

After much thought and prayer, I decided to sign on for another tour. It is a big commitment, especially if one is directing a mission full time, but I believe that it gives a good testimony to my fellow Israelis - even though some think that I am mad.

During this round of maneuvers, we trained with the infantry. It was a very intensive training course, but it was also a blessing. Besides the running and rolling, crawling and shooting, camping outside in the cold desert and sleeping with scorpions, I had many opportunities to witness. In fact, I spent most of my spare time talking about the Gospel and answering people's questions. I have known many of my fellow reserve soldiers for years, and after a few days of training, I was glad that I had continued in the army. One Russian immigrant, who is training to be an officer, came up to me and told me about his brother who is a drug addict. After commenting that his family had lost all hope for him, he remarked, "I do not believe in Jesus, but we are willing to try anything." He asked me if I knew anyone

who could help and then he asked me to pray because he thought that I was near to God. I gave him my number and told him to call me anytime. A few days later, while we were still on maneuvers, he informed me that his family had placed his brother into a program run by believers. Please pray that this family will all come to the faith.

My time on maneuvers went by quickly with many opportunities to share my faith. One of the reasons there was such an interest among the reserves was because many Israelis have read the fictitious novel called "The DaVinci Code." Like so many other people in this world, the soldiers often confuse fiction with reality. I am amazed that so many people believe that the book is based on actual facts.

One fellow soldier who asked many questions is the CEO of one of the largest companies in Israel. He told me that he travels to Thailand once a year to spend time with prostitutes. He also said that his wife was in agreement with his behavior and that there was nothing wrong with what he was doing. He tried to justify his actions while at the same time he sought my counsel. I asked him what he would do if his wife did the same thing and he immediately responded that he would kill her. Then I asked him if he would be happy if his daughter became a prostitute. His answer was a definite, "no." I then told him that if an action was wrong for his wife and daughter, it was also wrong for him. Knowing that I had refuted his justification, he then began to tell me that he was a good man who did many good things. He thought, as most people do, that his good works canceled out the wrong in his life. His problem, like most other people, is that he believes in a "god" who is nothing more than a weak spectator and has no power to reward or punish. A "god" made after his own image with the same relative morality. At the end of our conversation, the man remarked that he hoped that I would turn back to Judaism. He did not like my response, but I told him that I hoped that he would turn back to the true God. I told him that his "god" was pleasure, because, as the Scriptures declare, he was a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God. I warned him that if he continued in his own way, he would be cast into hell. They were not very easy words to say or receive, but they are true.

I saw another man whose mother is a believer. I have tried to witness to him for



years. Many times we have talked about God and the Bible, but he never repents. He told me that he was a Hedonist who believed that pleasure was the ultimate good. While we were talking, I was banging some tent pegs with a sledgehammer. I told him that I was now converted to Hedonism and would like to bang him on the head with the sledgehammer. According to the tenants of Hedonism, it would not be wrong because I would get pleasure from the action and nothing is wrong if it gives pleasure. He got my point. On the last day, as we were leaving and handing back all our equipment, I bumped into him again and we began to talk. I asked him to tell me something about his god. He said that he did believe there was a God, but he did not believe that God had given any special revelation about himself. This is very convenient for those who desire to live according to their own fallen will.

I have discovered that men are not often very logical in their thoughts. As the Scriptures declare, men prefer to believe and live a lie. Their god is a product of their own desires. They close the window to the truth. They strive to force out any and every glimpse of truth in order to justify their own sinful desires and behavior. Please pray for my friend and the many other contacts I have made in the army. I will be called to maneuvers again at the end of June.

The work of the mission is going well. We have had some great visits with inquirers and good responses. We went to one apartment complex and the man who we met at the entrance was dressed like a religious Jew. Since they are usually extremely antagonistic to the Gospel and work to prevent us from witnessing to others, we did not answer his questions regarding our purpose.

When we reached the door of the person who had asked us for a visit, we discovered (to our surprise) that it was the same man! He asked us for the New Testament and since that time we have met with him many times. He now tells us that Jesus is Messiah, and that the New Testament is God's Word and equal to the Old Testament. Please, pray for this man that the Lord will open his heart to receive Yeshua (Jesus) as his Lord and Saviour. He still has many questions and we are trying to help him find the answers.

Many people have received us with joy and invited us to talk with them. Our new tract, "Who is the Most famous Jew?" is being used by the Lord. We have printed 60,000 and go out several times a week to distribute them. We have a group coming soon to help with distribution. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact us. We also plan to start a work in a new city very soon. Pray for us as we begin placing these tracts in the mailboxes.

We have recently moved our office to a central location that is much cheaper and more convenient for us to meet together for visitation. The owners of the place are believers. This is a great answer

to prayer.

We recently held an evangelistic concert which was attended by over 55 people, the majority of whom were unbelievers. Most of the attendees learned about the concert through our weekly evangelistic tours which are also going very well. We have also had opportunities to take special groups around Jerusalem (some Russian Rock groups). On all these tours, we presented the gospel and distributed Bibles.

Our co-workers Joaquim and Rosania have returned to Brazil in order to raise support so that they can continue their ministry in Israel. They have been a blessing to us and are greatly loved by the congregation. They will be gone for one year. Lord willing, they will be able to return to the work.

We truly thank all of you for your prayers, love, and support. It offers us encouragement and gives us strength. Thank you.

ASIA / AFRICA SPOTLIGHT ISRAEL



Laboring in the Harvest

by Slava Spataru

Greetings to you from Jerusalem! Thank you for all your prayers and support. I cannot express how very thankful to God I am for you.

The Lord continues to bless us with lost people who visit our tour. It is a wonderful opportunity to preach the Gospel to so many people at the same time. The last few Fridays, we had more than 50 people who heard the Gospel. Some of them were tourists, but others were Israelis. Since it is difficult to speak to each one separately, we ask for their addresses and visit them in their homes. On our first

visit, we offer them a free Bible and Christian literature. We devote three evenings a week for this purpose. Although we visit countless homes without seeing much response, God is faithful to work in the lives of some and they come to our meetings. Praise God! Please pray for this work.

During our evangelistic tours, we are confronted with many questions and often the people are very antagonistic. "Why did God allow the Holocaust?" "Where was God when they slaughtered all my family?" "If we are His people, why didn't God protect us?" Others respond to our message with accusations against God. Many say that they are not sinners and others even accuse God of having sinned against them. One lady signed up for our tour without realizing that we were Christians. She was very indignant and sought to leave immediately. I pleaded with her to stay for a while and just listen. She stayed with us long enough to hear the Gospel. What was her response to the message? I do not know, but I pray that she, as well as all the others, might come to know our Savior. We believe that God's Word will not return void. May His mercy and grace be revealed in us!

It is very sad, but there are many pseudo-Christian congregations in Israel that deny the divinity of Jesus Christ. One of them is located in Maale-Adumim. The Lord opened the door for me to witness to one of the families that have been deceived by this heresy – a single mother named Irina and her sons. They are from Ukraine, and before coming under the influence of this heretical congregation, they believed in Christ's deity. The mother Irina listens very attentively, but her sons are very closed to the truth. Irina now visits our congregation regularly, but she does so secretly in fear of the other congregation and her hard-hearted sons. It is a well known fact that this heretical congregation uses its wealth to draw people into its group and keep them there. They have fifty immigrant families in their congregation.

Recently, some of my friends from Romania came to Israel and spent ten days with us. They ministered in the congregation in Kiriat-Gat and were a great blessing to all of us. May the Lord bless you! Thank you again for your love and financial support.



PAUL WASHER'S PREACHING MINISTRY

In the last few months, I have preached in Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Michigan. Each and every engagement has been an indescribable privilege. I often wonder at the grace of God that would lift a man like me from the dung heap to stand in front of His people to preach the unsearchable riches of His grace. Who is sufficient for these things! I truly believe that I am the greatest living proof of the following Scripture:

"... God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are..."

I Corinthians 1:27-28

This year's HeartCry conference was, as always, a tremendous blessing for me. Three days and eleven sermons on the attributes of God with brothers and sisters in Christ whose only motive was to know Him and esteem Him above all things! It was as close to heaven as an earthbound believer can get. The last night of the meetings concluded with an unusual visitation of God's presence which left many of the 300 in attendance prostrate on the ground. Although I preached three times in the conference, it was a joy to sit down and

hear from many of the men who have been my mentors. We have received many emails from those in attendance who write that their eyes were opened as never before to the need of being both God centered and God besought!

In the third week of September, I traveled to Decatur, Alabama to preach a series of meetings at Central Baptist Church. It is always a pleasure to spend time with pastor Rob Jackson, his wife Tonya, and his beautiful daughter Abigail. I have known Rob for several years and God always uses him to sharpen me in areas where I most quickly grow dull. The believers at Central Baptist are going through a difficult transition, but God is faithfully leading them and has given them a heart to follow. He loves them and intends to perfect in them the work He started. In several of the meetings, God seemed to be present and He blessed us with an unusual sense of His fear.

At the end of September, I preached at Hardin Baptist Church in Hardin, Kentucky. I was invited to speak at their Life-Change Conference and the topic assigned me was "Life Change in the Heart." I preached on the power of regeneration from Ezekiel 36. I sensed God's help even though I did not witness any unusual move among the people. I believe that one of the greatest needs today in the Baptist church, and the Evangelical church at large, is the preaching of the doctrine of regeneration. In our day, the Gospel has been reduced down to nothing more than a few spiritual laws or five things God wants man to know. If anyone says "yes" to a few questions and repeats a prayer at the end, they are declared "born again." The church and many of her preachers seem to have forgotten that regeneration is a supernatural work of God equal to the creation of the universe and the resurrection of Christ from the dead. When God regenerates a man, his dead heart of stone is removed and replaced with a new heart which is both sensitive and responsive to the things of God. The result is a new creature, raised to walk in newness of life, and bearing the fruit of righteousness for the glory of God.

The second week in October found me at Grace Chapel in Detroit, Michigan. I was asked to share about the HeartCry Missionary Society and then I preached once again on the doctrine of regeneration. It is always a joy for me to preach at Grace Chapel. They have been a great blessing to our mission society and to missionaries around the globe.

The third week of October, I preached a series of meetings at Hardmoney Baptist Church in Boaz, Kentucky. The pastor is Faris Sahawneh from Jordan. I have known him for years and am always encouraged and challenged by his life. One of the most notable and encouraging things for me during the conference was that God seemed to do a very gracious work in the lives of two young children. They were both "good" children by the standards of men, but the Holy Spirit accomplished such a work in their hearts that their rather "common sins" seemed to them as heinous as murder. One child had the assurance of salvation and cried out for greater holiness. The other cried out for salvation and was not disappointed.

My last meeting before writing this article was a youth conference at Woodland Baptist Church in Jackson, Tennessee. The topic was "The Attributes of God." I am always excited when youth are able to turn away from all the carnal distractions and entertainment found in most youth groups in order that they might seek the Lord.

God seemed to move in the heart of youth and adult alike. There was a genuine sense of the holiness of God and the fear of the Lord. I especially enjoyed the personal conversations I had with many of the youth. These are indeed difficult days in America for any youth who desires to live for Christ and walk in holiness.

In November, I will be traveling to Peachtree Baptist Church in Senoia, Georgia, and then I will return to Kentucky for Hardin Baptist's Annual College Retreat. Pastors Ricky Cunningham and Trad York have been mightily used of God in the lives of many college students. It is always a privilege to participate in this conference. I will finish out the year at the First Baptist Church of Clinton, Kentucky. I am look forward to reuniting with my old friend, Pastor Howard Kitter.

Please pray for me as I seek to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ to both church and world. All is vain unless the Word is preached and God grants the increase. We are helpless in ourselves to advance the Kingdom or to bring one soul into it. Therefore, our hope is in God and the power of His Gospel.

Please pray for my wife Charo and my two boys, Ian (4 yrs) and Evan (2 yrs). It is not easy to travel when these three treasures are left behind. Also, please pray for Charo's teaching ministry. Twice in the last two months, I have stayed at home with the boys and she has traveled to Georgia and Alabama to speak in women's conferences. Her testimony has been greatly used of God to bring lost church members into the Kingdom. I tell her that it is my hope that God might increase her usefulness and expand her ministry so that she is the one who boards the plane and I am the one who stays at home with the boys.

CONVICTIONS

- * *God has ordained preaching as the means of converting sinners and edifying saints.* The kingdom of Christ does not advance through corporate strategies, seeker-friendly methodologies, or Christian entertainment.
- * *Preaching is to be expository.* The people of God are "being destroyed for a lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). It is not enough for men to share from their hearts, teach through their experiences, or excite with quaint stories, flowery illustrations, and clever cliches. We need biblical doctrine, brought forth with passion, and applied to men's hearts by the Holy Spirit.
- * *There is a need of true Gospel preaching that confronts men with their radical depravity and hostility toward God;* that sets forth Christ as the One who bore the guilt of His people and was crushed under God's wrath; that proclaims Christ's resurrection and the hope of eternal life; that calls men to repentance and faith; that warns professors to prove the genuineness of their calling and election through their growth in personal godliness and their practice of piety (II Peter 1:10).
- * *There is a need for revival and reform.* All true revival is founded upon the truth of God's Word. True preaching does not "fire up" the flesh, but reforms the mind, revives the soul, and brings the will into subjection to the Lordship of Christ. Revival is like conversion: if it is true, its fruit will last. It is wrong to refer to a series of planned meetings as a revival. A revival is a sovereign visitation by God that cannot be scheduled or orchestrated by men. Although movements of prayer have often preceded true revivals, these movements were not the cause of revival, but rather the first fruits of it. Revival should never be attributed to the piety of any man or group of men, but solely to the grace of a sovereign God.
- * *Conversion is not a mere human decision, but a supernatural work of God whereby the very nature of a man is changed - he becomes a new creature.* A radically depraved sinner who is hostile to the person and will of God cannot be manipulated into such an experience through carefully orchestrated "altar calls" or witnessing techniques designed to lead men to "make a decision". True Gospel preaching does not seek to lead men through a series of hoops to heaven; it does not call men to repeat a prayer or to ask Jesus to come in. Rather, it sets forth the saving work of Christ and pleads with men to repent and believe.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs
ITINERARY				
6	7	8	9	10
2005				
13	14	15	16	17
NOVEMBER 27-30				
First Baptist Church of Clinton Clinton, Kentucky Pastor Howard Kitter (270) 653-4303 email- fbc@mygalaxyexpress.com				
2006				
JANUARY 11-15				
New Life Baptist Church Harvest, Alabama Pastor Andy Wisner (256) 864-0949				
JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 1				
Charity Baptist Church Carlinville, Illinois Pastor Justin Kinder (217) 854-8763 cbccarlinville@hotmail.com				
FEBRUARY 6				
Caldwell Lyon Baptist Association Southside Baptist Church Princeton, Kentucky Pastor Rick Reeder clbaptist@bellsouth.net (270) 365-9960				
FEBRUARY 16				
Missouri Baptist University Saint Louis, Missouri Chapel - 11:00 AM Campus Pastor Freddie J. Hampton (314) 744-5314 HamptFJ@mobap.edu				
FEBRUARY 17-19				
Lakeroad Chapel Kirksville, MO Pastor Charles Leiter (660) 665-7609				
MARCH 7				
Southern Baptist Founders Conference Midwest 2006 "Pursuing Godliness" First Baptist Church St. Peters, Missouri Conference Chairman: Curtis McClain (636) 936-0858 mcclain@mobap.edu				
MARCH 8-12				
Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church World Impact Conference Shelbyville, Tennessee Pastor Jonathan Sims				
27	28	29	30	31
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

churches take over the full-time care of their pastors. When this occurs, we are not thinking about replacing our missionaries with more missionaries, but we are thinking about working in fewer areas with fewer missionaries so that we might invest more of our time, training, and resources with greater focus and impact. Instead of planting as many churches as possible, we want to plant churches and help them individually to develop and multiply into other biblical churches of like faith. This kind of church planting takes time and requires a more focused approach.

THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

The effects of liberalism have been more far-reaching than anyone could have ever imagined. Even in our conservative churches in America, there are problems: Expository preaching has been traded in for multimedia events, story telling, and a Christianized psychology. True worship has been renounced for entertainment. Biblical evangelism and discipleship are considered outdated and church growth marketing techniques have been put in their place. The Gospel has been reduced to a few spiritual laws or four things God wants a man to know. The call to repentance and faith has been replaced by the superstitious repeating of a prayer. The biblical view of regeneration and sanctification has been forgotten and carnal men are assured of their salvation. Church discipline for the restoration of the erring believer is unheard of, or misunderstood and maligned. Sunday school has taken the place of family devotions, and the Sunday school teacher and youth leader have taken the place of the godly father. These maladies have not been confined to our borders, but have spread abroad to every place where the American church has had an influence.

In spite of the darkness now reaped from years of liberalism and theological apathy, there is a small but genuine reformation occurring throughout the United States - a re-

turning to the "old paths" and a rediscovery of the "old preachers" who walked in them - Martyn Lloyd Jones, James Boyce, J.C. Ryle, Charles Spurgeon, Alexander MacClaren, Jonathan Edwards, George Whitfield, John and Charles Wesley, the English Puritans like Owen, Favel, Goodwin, Boston, Sibbes, and the early Baptists like Andrew Fuller and John Bunyan.

It is our desire to do more than start churches. We desire a theological reformation of churches, a pressing on to biblical standards both here and abroad. We desire that Christ be highly esteemed among His people and that He be honored by the purity and devotion of His bride.

Such a great task will require focus. We must restrain from the desire to plant many churches, and discipline ourselves to work with fewer churches until they are mature enough to duplicate. This will not happen overnight, but will require years of hard work.

BIBLES AND LITERATURE

One of the greatest needs on the mission field is the Word of God and biblical literature. At the present, we support so many missionaries that there are no funds left to help them purchase the necessary study tools or gradually build a sound theological library. Like many ministers in the United States, many indigenous missionaries have grown up on a diet of contemporary books that provide little or no spiritual nutrition for the reader. Our goal is to make the best and most enduring books throughout Christian history available to as many believers as possible throughout the world!

FINANCES

After rereading the life and works of George Muller and after reading and listening to other scholarly discourses on his life, we have concluded that not only did we go beyond Muller in not making our needs known, but we were many times unbiblical. We will still hold to the principle that every need of this ministry will be obtained through

prayer, and we **will not** raise support through asking for donations, prodding, or manipulating our brothers and sisters in Christ. If this ministry is of the Lord, then He will be our Patron. If He is with us, He will direct His people to give and we will prosper. If He is not with us, we will not and should not succeed. On the other hand, **we may** share our missionary vision and specific work with other Christians, make known the valid needs which we receive from the mission field around the world, and publish reports of God's faithful dealings with us. This will be accomplished through our bimonthly magazine, our website, visiting churches upon their request, and answering personal inquiries.

In the past, we have refused to answer personal inquiries from churches and individuals regarding the needs of HeartCry and our missionaries throughout the world. This was done in an attempt to trust only in the Lord and to avoid the temptation to seek the help of men. Although our conviction was admirable, it was not necessarily biblical, and it frustrated the attempts of many people to be involved in the work of missions. After great consideration, the searching of Scripture, and prayer, we have determined to answer all genuine inquiries from Christians who desire to give in a more informed way to HeartCry.

YOUR PRAYERS & INPUT

It has been said and we agree that prayer is not "a" work of missions, but "the" work of missions. At this time of transition, we desperately covet your prayers and your wisdom. We recognize that there are many of you who care deeply for HeartCry and pray for us continually. You are welcome to write us at the following email address:

info@heartcrymissionary.com



AFRICA ZAMBIA HEARTCRY JOURNAL

In the month of August, Darian Rottmann and I traveled to the country of Zambia to review the work, interview the Zambian missionaries supported by HeartCry, and teach in the yearly Reformed Baptist Missions Conference. The work is led by pastor Conrad Mbewe (*bottom left*) and the elders of the Kabwata Reformed Baptist Church in the capital city of Lusaka.

We spent nearly forty hours in airports and airplanes before arriving in Lusaka. Most of Darian's clothes were stolen from his bags in Johannesburg, South Africa. God spared my clothes - maybe because I was scheduled to preach several times a day.

The missions conference (*top*) was the best I have ever had the privilege to participate in. There were more than five hundred Africans gathered together from all over the continent - Zambia, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, and the Congo. I count it a great privilege to have preached to so many nations and on the platform with men for whom I am not worthy to carry their sandals. I was especially blessed by the ministry of Pastor Mbewe (known as the African Spurgeon) and Ronald Kawafungue, a man

small in stature, but mighty in spirit and intellect. There seemed to be a very special sense of God's presence and blessing upon the meetings.

The work in Zambia is an unusual balance of high theology and missionary zeal, of organization and the Spirit's leading. I learned more than I taught. I returned to the States convinced that Zambia is our strongest work.

Prior to the conference, Pastor Mbewe, Darian, and I visited every missionary supported by HeartCry - Wilson Kamanga, Lichawa Thole, Lovemore Banda, Emmanuel Shakala, and Kennedy Sunkutu (*pictured bottom right with me*). We crossed the entire country from the city of Livingstone in the south to Zambia's northern border with the Congo. Along the way we met many interesting brothers and saw many sights. In the picture below (*second from left*), Darian and Pastor Mbewe are standing in front of one of the countless ant hills scattered throughout the Zambian plain.

God is doing a mighty work in Zambia. I thank you for your support of this ministry. It is your prayers and generosity that make it possible.

- Paul Washer



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WHAT PART OF "GO" DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND?

WE ARE EITHER CALLED TO GO DOWN INTO THE WELL OR TO HOLD THE ROPE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE GONE DOWN. EITHER WAY, THE SCARS ON OUR HANDS WILL BE THE EVIDENCE OF OUR OBEDIENCE. WHERE ARE OUR SCARS? HAVE WE SURRENDERED OUR LIFE TO GO OR TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO GO? WHAT HAS THE GREAT COMMISSION COST US?



YOU CAN PUT A MISSIONARY ON THE FIELD

All Christians are concerned about missions and desire to support the missionaries who have given their lives for the sake of the Gospel. However, most Christians never become personally involved in any international mission endeavor. Many are discouraged because the closest they come to the mission field is putting money in an envelope or an offering plate. Most never imagine that they could support a full-time missionary on their own and become personally involved in their ministry.

Through the HeartCry Missionary Society, you can support an indigenous missionary to work full-time in the ministry for as little as \$150 a month. You can support a missionary as a family project, involving your children, or you and your friends can support a missionary together to share the blessing and the cost. You can also support a missionary through your church family. Contact us and we can prayerfully workout all the details. We know of countless qualified indigenous missionaries who are worthy of support. God can use you to be a blessing in their lives and to bless you in return. Though you may not be called to go, you can be an instrument of sending a missionary and interceding for them in prayer.



Each individual, group, or church who chooses to sponsor a specific indigenous missionary will receive:

- * A photograph of the missionary and his or her family.
- * Their personal testimony of conversion and calling.
- * Quarterly updates and prayer requests.
- * Personal correspondence.
- * Depending on the country selected, the supporter may visit the missionary on the field.

We look forward to hearing from you and count it a privilege to help you participate in the greatest of all endeavors - the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the very ends of the earth.

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