

# TRUE CHURCH

Striving not to build "great" churches but "true" churches

For Pastors & Church Leaders

May 3-6, 2007

First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals, AL

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WORSHIP IN SONG: Tom Clay

Conference Cost: \$65

**Information & Registration:** 

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He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." EZEKIEL 37:3

Dear Fellow Church Leader,

It seems the church has been taken over by an alien. This enemy has commandeered the church to fulfill his own desires!

Who is this invading enemy? It is man! And he has brought into the church his lust for worldly satisfaction and pleasure. The church has become man-centered instead of God-centered, and the focus is on felt needs instead of God's glory. These problems are not peripheral things. I'm convinced that the very heart and nature of the church and the Gospel are at stake. The great need of the hour is revival and reform that produces true churches where God is the center, the glory of God is the focus, and the Bible is the authoritative and sufficient manual.

At our first *True Church Conference*, we will dive deep into the glorious and mysterious doctrine of conversion. We will feast on the passionate expository preaching of God's Word. Also, attention will be given to the application of doctrine into the life of the local church—its theology and methodology.

The evangelical church has lost its theological moorings. I, for one, will not take this attack lying down! We must join together with the countless men of God down through the ages who loved the Church and stood against the always encroaching man-centered doctrines which seek to turn the bride of Christ into a center for entertaining carnal men. As Charles Haddon Spurgeon once declared:

"The devil has seldom done a cleverer thing than hinting to the Church that part of their mission is to provide entertainment for the people, with a view to winning them... providing amusement for the people is nowhere spoken of in the Scriptures as a function of the Church...The need is biblical doctrine, so understood and felt that it sets men aflame."

Ultimately all that matters is the glory of God (Psalm 57:5). And God has ordained that He will receive most glory through His bride, the church (Ephesians 3:21). Restoring sound doctrine concerning the nature of conversion is foundational to being a church that brings God the glory He deserves!

Striving with you to build "true" churches for His glory and our good!

Jeff Publis

Jeff Noblit, Senior Pastor-Teacher First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals, AL

# HeartCry

That the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea... (Habakkuk 2:14)



## The HeartCry Missionary Society

The HeartCry Missionary Society is a non-profit organization functioning under the authority of the First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Although we recognize the great importance of sending missionaries from the West to unevangelized peoples throughout the world, we believe that we are led of the Lord to support indigenous or native missionaries so that they might evangelize their own peoples. We seek to work with godly men and women of integrity and faith in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant churches among their own peoples.

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"My dear Christian, do not look at the Great Commission as a burden, but as a joyous privilege."

## FROM OUR DESK

Welcome to the Spring edition of the HeartCry Magazine. We pray that you are growing in the grace and knowledge of God our Father and Jesus Christ our hope. It is our great privilege to serve you through the publication of this magazine and to rejoice with you in all that God is accomplishing throughout the world. If we had only the secular media to guide us, we would think that Christianity was nothing more than a small sectarian group of rural Americans in the south. The truth is, the doctrines of Christ have gone out into all the world and are held by men and women of almost every nation on earth. In Christ's kingdom are found peoples from every continent, color, social class, and economic status. His Church is the only place on earth where there is no longer any distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all (Colossians 3:11). We are not as we are often painted to be by those who purposely misunderstand us and malign us. The Apostle Peter writes:

"You are A CHOSEN RACE, a royal PRIESTHOOD, a HOLY NATION, a PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light - I Peter 2:9

As the people of God, we ought to take great joy and have great confidence in what He has accomplished in the last two millennia. Nevertheless, we should also be looking forward with anticipation and devotion to what is yet to be done. The fields are still white unto harvest, the laborers are still few, and a voice still calls from the throne:

"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

After all these years, I know that I must sound like a broken record, but I cannot stop speaking about what I know to be true - we are living in the greatest moment of Christian history since the day of Pentecost. Never have there been so many doors opened for the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and never have there been so many means at our disposal. Air travel makes it possible for us to send gifted Bible teachers around the world to train indigenous pastors and missionaries. Advances in other technologies allow us to record the preaching of some of God's most faithful and biblical expositors and send their message around the globe. Even the internet allows us the means to network with Christians on every continent, to discover their needs, share information, and encourage them in their walk with Christ.

All these things are wonderful tools for spreading the Gospel and must be used by us to their full extent. Nevertheless, these things in themselves are no replacement for flesh and blood missionaries. The door is open as never before and the need for missionaries has never been greater. Although we work primarily with indigenous missionaries, we also recognize the continuing great need for cross-

cultural missionaries who will leave their homes and their people to live and minister among a people that is not their own and often quite different from themselves.

Here at HeartCry, we are praying that God might raise up a new generation of men and women who discern the times and hear the calling to lay down their lives for the cause of Christ. Most who receive this publication are from the United States, Canada, or England. If you are reading these lines, and your heart burns within you, then give yourself to prayer in this matter. God has called you to participate in the Great Commission and to labor so that the Gospel might be preached to every creature under heaven. The only question is, "To what have you been called?" I have often said that missions is a rather simple endeavor. We are either called to go down into the well (ie. be a missionary) or to hold the rope for those who are going down (i.e. support missionaries). Regardless of which side of the rope we are on, our dedication must be the same, and the rope will be cut deep into our hands. The scars or cost we have paid is the measure of our commitment.

My dear Christian, do not look at the Great Commission as a burden, but as a joyous privilege. There is a joy which cannot be contained in the greatest heart when Christ is preached to those who have never heard, and there is a joy which cannot be contained even in heaven when:

- ... the lowest member of the lowest caste system in India turns to Christ,
- ... when the despised Gypsy prostitute becomes a new creature,
- ... when the demon-possessed witch doctor is freed from bondage,
- ... when the blasphemer, and persecutor, and violent aggressor is shown mercy (I Timothy 1:13).

This edition of HeartCry is designed to be a reminder that there is a task still left to be done, and a work that is bigger than the sum of all of us. Let us turn our eyes away from earthly distractions, lay temporal vanities aside, and give ourselves to the work. For the fields are still "white unto harvest" and a voice still calls, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

Your Brother.

Paul David Washer

## HEARTCRY STATUS REPORT



By God's grace, and through your faithful prayers and generous giving, HeartCry is working in fifteen countries on four continents around the world. It is our passion to go much farther than where we are. For we long to see the day when a banner for Christ is raised in every nation and people group on the earth. The following is a brief status report and summary of our vision for each major area where we work.

#### United States Office

The last two months have flown by at the U.S. office. Paul Washer is busy working on the organization of HeartCry. The goal is greater and greater efficiency with higher and higher degrees of accountability. Conformity to Scripture and integrity is more important than growth! In January, the Washers discovered that Charo is having a little girl! Dr. Nathan Berry has been busy working on policies and procedures and the introduction of a new accounting package. He still has an eye on developing medical missions in the third world, but is patiently waiting upon the Lord until more foundational elements in the mission are strengthened. He is delighted that his mother and father have finally made the move from Missouri to Muscle Shoals. The grandparents will be a great asset to the rest of the family. On the 13th of January, Matt and Amanda Glass received the wonderful news of a baby on the way (their first). It looks like HeartCry is going to be crawling with kids! Although fighting bouts with morning sickness, Amanda still keeps the office from falling apart. Matt has been busy organizing the work in Asia and improving communications between us. He is also reorganizing all our statistical information and preparing for his and Dr. Berry's trip to Asia in March. They will be working with our co-laborers - the Grace Himalayan Mission in Imphal City, India, and visiting our works in India, China, Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. As we prepare this edition, Chad Haygood is in Peru. He will hold one training conference in Lima and another in the seminary in Sullana. He will then travel to the jungles of San Martin to visit the works of Arturo Marin, and then on to the northern jungles of Candorcanqui to visit Mario Salinas who is working among the Aguaruna and Huambisa tribes. Lastly, he will also spend a few days in the central Andes to observe the progress of the church plant among the Jaqaru peoples.

#### Jon and Gabriela Green

On the 10th of January, Jon, Gabriela, and Jazmine Green returned to their homeland in England. The purpose of their trip was to renew their passports and visas so that they might return as soon as possible to our U.S. office. We depend upon Jon's work and do not see how we could go on without him, but we have given the whole thing over to the Lord. There is a real chance that Jon may not be granted the necessary visas or that it will take much longer than we anticipated to get the necessary approval. We covet your prayers in this matter. We are hoping that they might return to us by the month of May. While in England, Jon is still able to work for HeartCry via the internet. The work which Jon is unable to do "long distance" has been taken over by Scott Campbell. He is a graphic artist and a faithful member of First Baptist. Please pray that God might grant him the necessary wisdom to fulfill this ministry.

#### PREACHING MINISTRY

Since the beginning of the new year, Paul has been office bound. His primary responsibilities have been that of writing this edition of HeartCry, and preparing for the upcoming year. He has been working with Chad Haygood on





Matt and Amanda Glass



Jazmine, Jon, and Gabriela Green

### HEARTCRY STATUS REPORT

an extension program to provide theological education for missionaries. In February, Paul will continue at the

office and speak only once for the Navigators at the University of Alabama. In March, he will preach in churches in Alabama and Virginia, and in April he will travel with a team to Eastern Europe.

#### Eastern Europe

On his return from Eastern Europe, director Sorin Prodan reports that our church planting teams are working with "much unity and progress." In 2005, we decided against the traditional approach of sending out one missionary or missionary family to work alone in favor of the more biblical model of sending out teams to work together and support one another under the difficult trials of church planting. We hope to have all our Eastern European missionaries working in teams by the end of this year. Brother Sorin writes the following report.



Sorin Prodan

Dear Brother Paul,

I hope this letter finds you well. I bless the Lord for the time I spent in Eastern Europe. I visited all the countries and all the missionaries where we work. We had three conferences and many evangelistic events. The Training Program is progressing very well. We are about to finish the first semester. I have received the term papers and checked the discussion forums. It is evident that the missionaries are growing in their knowledge of God and His Word through this environment of study and dialog.

Through the approval of the new missionaries, we have formed three more church planting teams (two in Romania and one in Ukraine). We are very close to our goal of having all our missionaries working in teams and the teams networking together for even greater encouragement and support. It is making a huge difference in the work! It was a joy to bring all the teams together for a special two-day conference in the mountains. We prayed together, evaluated the work in 06 and planned the work in 07. It seemed that "great grace" was upon us all. I was blessed by the increasing efficiency of the teams and their ability to mobilize in their respective mission fields. The greatest joy for me was to see that the teams have begun to help each other. They are meeting together every three months to pray for one another and to discuss their problems, needs, and victories. Each meeting takes place in a different city where one of our missionaries works. During the meeting, the visiting missionaries also help the sponsoring missionary to evangelize the lost in his area. This means that four times a year all the teams are united together under the same roof and work together to spread the Gospel. We hope to expand this same vision to the other countries in Eastern Europe and among our Gypsy ministry.

Dear brother, my people have been blessed immensely by the HeartCry ministry. I know very well that behind the blessings we now experience, there were so many prayers and struggles that you had to suffer through. The Lord has used HeartCry in such an important time of change for my country and the countries in Eastern Europe. I wish I could show you all the things that are being accomplished, but there is only time and paper enough to share but a few. The full fruit you will not see until glory.

From Eastern Europe, Sorin Prodan

## 4th Annual HeartCry Conference 2006

Lord teach us to pray:

Kug dom

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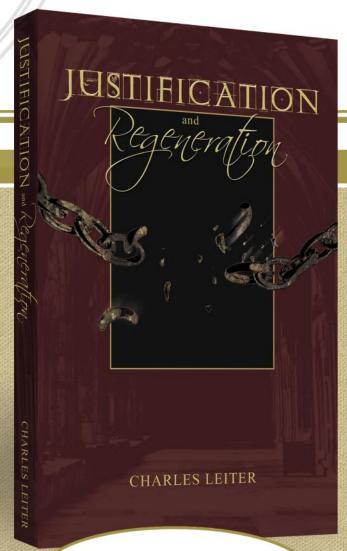
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## **COMING SOON!**

by: Charles Leiter

Vhat does the Bible mean when it says that Christians have "died to sin"? How is it possible for a just God to "justify the ungodly" without becoming "unjust" Himself? What is regeneration? What is justification? Why do all men desperately need to be justified? If I have died to sin, why am I still affected by it? As a Christian, am I the "new man" or the "old man"-or both? What does the Bible mean when it says that Christians have "died to the Law"? Are Christians still slaves to sin?

The answers to these and many other L questions become clear once we gain a Biblical understanding of justification and regeneration. These two great miracles lie at the very heart of the gospel, yet even among genuine Christians they are surrounded by confusion and ignorance. This book attempts to set forth in clear Biblical light the nature and characteristics of justification and regeneration that God may be glorified and His children brought to know more fully the liberty that is theirs in Christ.



Contact HeartCry for more information!

"All proceeds will go to missions"

## The Missionaries' Charge

by Rev. Charles Spurgeon. (The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol. 7, p. 281-288).

#### A SERMON DELIVERED ON SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 21ST, 1861, AT THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, NEWINGTON

"And JESUS came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth, go ye, therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" - Matthew 28:18-19

WHILE I was meditating in private upon this text I felt myself carried away by its power. I was quite unable calmly to consider its terms, or to investigate its argument. The command with which the text concludes repeated itself again, and again, and again in my ears, till I found it impossible to study, for my thoughts were running hither and thither, asking a thousand questions, all of them intended to help me in answering for myself the solemn enquiry, "How am I to go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost?" The practical lesson seemed to me to overwhelm in my mind the argument of which that lesson is but a conclusion, "Go ye and teach all nations." My ears seemed to hear it as if Christ were then speaking it to me. I could realize his presence by my side. I thought I could see him lift his pierced hand, and hear him speak, as he was wont to speak, with authority, blended with meekness, "Go ye and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the All-glorious God." Oh! I would that the Church could hear the Savior addressing these words to her now, for the words of Christ are living words, not having power in them yesterday alone, but today also. The injunctions of the Savior are perpetual in their obligation, they were not binding upon apostles merely, but upon us also, and upon every Christian does this yoke fall, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." We are not exempt today from the service of the first followers of the Lamb, our marching orders are the same as theirs, and our Captain requires from us obedience as prompt and perfect as from them. Oh that his message may not fall upon deaf ears, or be heard by stolid souls!

Brethren, the heathen are perishing; shall we let them perish? His name is blasphemed, shall we be quiet and still? The honor of Christ is cast into the dust, and his foes revile his person and resist his throne, shall we his soldiers suffer this, and not find our hands feeling for the hilt of our sword, the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God? Our Lord delayeth his coming; shall we begin to sleep, or to eat, or to be drunken? Shall we not rather gird up the loins of our mind, and cry unto him, "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly?" The scoffing skeptics of these last days have said that the anticipated conquest of the world for Christ is but a dream, or an ambitious thought, which crossed our leader's mind, but which never is to be accomplished. It is asserted by some that the superstitions of the heathen are too strong to be battered down by our teachings, and that the strongholds

of Satan are utterly impregnable against our attacks. Shall it be so? Shall we be content foolishly to sit still? Nay, rather let us work out the problem, let us prove the promise of God to be true; let us prove the words of Jesus to be words of soberness; let us show the efficacy of his blood and the invincibility of his Spirit, by going in the spirit of faith, teaching all nations, and winning them to the obedience of Christ our Lord.

I do not know how to begin to preach this morning, but still it seems to me, standing here, as if I heard that voice saying, "Go thou, therefore, and teach all nations;" and my soul sometimes pants and longs for the liberty to preach Christ where he was never preached before; not to build upon another man's foundation, but to go to some untrodden land, some waste where the foot of Christ's minister was never seen, that there "the solitary place might be glad for us, and the wilderness rejoice and blossom as the rose." I have made it a solemn question whether I might not testify in China or India the grace of Jesus, and in the sight of God I have answered it. I solemnly feel that my position in England will not permit my leaving the sphere in which I now am, or else tomorrow I would offer myself as a missionary. Oh, do none of you hear the call this morning? You that are free from so great a work as that which is cast upon me - you that have talents as yet undevoted to any special end, and powers of being as yet unconsecrated to any given purpose, and unconfined to any one sphere; do you not hear my Master saying in tones of plaintive sorrow, blended with an authority which is not to be denied, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost?" Oh that there were might in some human lip to move the thousands of our Israel to advance at once, unanimously and irresistibly to the world's conquest, like one tremendous tide rising from the depths of the ocean, to sweep over the sands, the barren sands which are now given up to desolation and death? Oh that once again the voice of thunder could be heard, and the lightning spirit could penetrate each heart, that as one man the entire Church might take the marching orders of her Lord, and go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of Israel's God! O Lord, if we fail to speak, fail not thou to speak; and if we know not how to bear thy burden, or express thine awful thoughts, yet speak thou with that all-constraining silent voice which well-trained ears can hear, and make thy servants obedient to thee now, for Christ's sake!

> "Awake, thou Spirit, who of old Didst fire the watchman of the Church's youth, Who faced the foe, unshrinking, bold Who witness'd day and night the eternal truth Whose voices through the world are ringing still, And bringing hosts to know and do thy will! Oh that thy fire were kindled soon, That swift from land to land its flame might leap!

Lord, give us but this priceless boon
Of faithful servants, fit for thee to reap
The harvest of the soul; look down and view
How great the harvest, yet the laborers few.
Oh haste to help ere we are lost!
Send forth evangelists, in spirit strong,
Arm'd with thy Word, a dauntless host,
Bold to attack the rule of ancient wrong
And let them all the earth for thee reclaim,
To be thy kingdom, and to know thy name."

This morning we shall first dwell a little while upon the command, and then secondly, we shall enlarge upon the argument. There is an argument, as you will perceive, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations."

First, my brethren, and very briefly indeed a few things about the COMMAND. And we must remark, first what a singularly loving one it is. Imagine Mahomet (i.e. the prophet Mohamed) on his dying bed saying to his disciples, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth;" what would be his command? "Go ye, therefore, with sharp scimitars, and propound faith in the prophet, or death as the dread alternative; avenge me of the men who threw stones at the prophet, make their houses a dunghill, and cut them in pieces for vengeance is mine, and God's prophet must be avenged of his enemies." But Christ, though far more despised and persecuted of men, and having a real power which that pretended prophet never had, says to his disciples, as he is about to ascend to heaven, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth; go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." It is the voice of love, not of wrath. "Go and teach them the power of my blood to cleanse, the willingness of my arms to embrace, the yearning of my heart to save! Go and teach them. Teach them no more to despise me, no more to think my Father an angry and implacable Deity. Teach them to bow the knee, and kiss the Son, and find peace for all their troubles, and a balm for all their woes in me. Go ye; speak as I have spoken; weep as I have wept; invite as I have invited; exhort, entreat, beseech and pray, as I have done before you. Tell them to come unto me, if they be weary and heavy laden, and I will give them rest; and say unto them, 'I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, but had rather that he should turn unto me and live." What a generous and gracious command is that of the text, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Note, too, how exceedingly plain is the command, "Go ye, teach all nations." The Romish Church has misunderstood this. She says, "Go ye, mystify all nations; sound in their ears a language once living, but now dead; take to them the Latin tongue, and let that be sounded with all the harmony of sweet music, and they will be converted; erect the sumptuous altar; clothe the priest in mystic garments; celebrate mysterious rites; and make the heathen wonder; dazzle them with splendor; amaze them with mystery." But, "Nay," says Christ, "nay, go ye and teach." Why, it is the mother's work with her child; it is the tutor's work with the boy and with the girl - "go ye, and teach." How simple! Illustrate; explain, expound; tell; inform; narrate. Take from them the darkness of ignorance, reveal to them the light of revelation. Teach! Be content to sit down, and tell them the very plainest and most common things. It is not your eloquence that shall convert

them; it is not your gaudy language or your polished periods that shall sway their intellects. Go and teach them. Teach them! Why, my hearer, I say again, this is a word which has to do with the rudiments of knowledge. We do not preach to children; we teach them; and we are not so much to preach to nations, that word seems too big and great for the uncivilized and childish people; go ye, and teach them first the very simplicities of the cross of Christ.

And note how he puts it next? Who are to be taught, "Go ye and teach all nations." The Greek has his philosophers, teach him, he is but a child; he is a fool, though he thinketh himself to be wise. There be polite nations which have a literature of their own, far larger and more extensive than the literature of the Christian: teach them nevertheless, they are to be taught and unless they are willing to take the learner's place, and to become as little children, they can in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven. Do not debate and argue with them; put not yourself with them upon their level as a combatant concerning certain dogmas; insist upon it that I have sent you - sent you to teach the most erudite and profoundly learned; and when you shall claim it, I am with you always to back your claim, and men shall be willing to sit at your feet to be taught the name of Jesus. I do not know whether all our missionaries have caught the idea of Christ - "Go ye and teach all nations," but many of them have, and these have been honored with many conversions. The more fully they have been simple teachers, not philosophers of the Western philosophy, not eager disputants concerning some English dogma, I say the more plainly they have gone forth as teachers sent from God to teach the world, the more successful have they been. "Go ye, therefore, and teach." Some may think, perhaps, there is less difficulty in teaching the learned than in teaching the uncivilized and barbarous. There is the same duty to the one as to the other: "Go and teach." "But they brandish the tomahawk." Teach them, and lie down and sleep in their hut, and they shall marvel at your fearlessness and spare your life. "But they feed on the blood of their fellows, they make a bloody feast about the cauldron in which a man's body is the horrible viand." Teach them and they shall empty their war-kettle, and they shall bury their swords, and bow before you, and acknowledge King Jesus. "But they are brutalised, they have scarce a language - a few clicking sounds make up all that they can say." Teach them, and they shall speak the language of Canaan, and sing the songs of heaven. The fact has been proved, brethren, that there are no nations incapable of being taught, nay, that there are no nations incapable afterwards of teaching others. The African slave has perished under the lash, rather than dishonor his Master. The Esquimaux has climbed his barren steeps, and borne his toil, while he has recollected the burden which Jesus bore. The Hindoo has patiently submitted to the loss of all things, because he loved Christ better than all. Feeble Malagasay women have been prepared to suffer and to die, and have taken joyfully suffering for Christ's sake. There has been heroism in every land for Christ; men of every color and of every race have died for him; upon his altar has been found the blood of all kindreds that be upon the face of the earth. Oh! tell me not they cannot be taught. Sirs, they can be taught to die for Christ; and this is more than some of you have learned. They can rehearse the very highest lesson of the Christian religion - that self sacrifice which knows not itself but gives up all for him. At this day there are Karen missionaries preaching among the Karens with as fervid an eloquence as ever was known by Whitfield. There are Chinese teaching in Borneo, Sumatra, and Australia, with as much earnestness as Morison or Milne first taught in China. There are

AND LABOUR FOR THE LORD future facts, when Christ said, "Go ye, .H.SPURCEON teach all nations." STER ROW CE 3º nations, immersing them

Hindoo evangelists who are not ashamed to have given up the Brahminical thread, and

to eat with the Pariah, and to preach with him the riches of Christ. There have been men found of every class and kind, not only able to be taught, but able to become teachers themselves, and the most mighty teachers too, of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Well was that command warranted by

But, brethren, the text says, "baptizing them." They are to be taught, and afterwards they are to be baptized. I know not why it is that we yield to the superstitions of our Christian brethren, so much as to use the word baptize at all. It is not an English, but a Greek word. It has but one meaning, and cannot bear another. Throughout all the classics, without exception, it is not possible to translate it correctly, except with the idea of immersion; and believing this, and knowing this, if the translation is not complete, we will complete it this morning. "Go ye, therefore, and teach all

in the name of the Father, and

of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Now, I think that our Missionary Society, while it may take precedence in matters of time - for it was the first that was ever commenced with the exception of the Moravians - ought also to take precedence in matters of purity, because we can carry out this text in every country, teaching first and baptizing afterwards. We do not understand the philosophy of baptizing, and afterwards teaching. We hold that we must teach first, and then, when men are disciples, we are to baptize them. Not the nations; the Greek does not bear that interpretation, but those who have been disciples we are to baptize into the Sacred Name. We think that our brethren do serious damage to the Gospel by baptizing children. We do not think their error a little one. We know it does not touch a vital point; but we do believe that infant baptism is the prop and pillar of Popery, and it being removed, Popery and Puseyism become at once impossible. You have taken away all idea of a national godliness and a national religion, when you have cut away all liberty to administer Christian ordinances to unconverted persons. We cannot see any evil which would follow, if our brethren would renounce their mistake; but we can see abundant mischief which their mistake has caused. and in all kindness, but with all fidelity, we again enter our solemn protest against their giving baptism to any but disciples, to any but those who are the followers of the Lamb. Throw down her hedges? Give her supper and her baptism to those that are not Christ's people? Break down her walls? Remove her barricades? God forbid! Except a man be renewed in heart, we dare not allow him to participate in the ordinances which belong to Christ's Church. Oh! It is a disastrous thing to call unconverted children Christians, or to do anything which may weaken their apprehension of the great fact, that until they be converted they have no part or lot in this matter. Brethren, if you differ from me on this point, bear with me, for my conscience will not let me conceal this solemn truth. To you who agree with me I say, while our other friends can do in some things more than we can, - and we rejoice in their efforts, and would heartily bless God that they have shown more activity than ourselves, - yet we ought to be ashamed of ourselves if we are a whit behind. We are a body of Christians who can fairly and purely teach and baptize; we can obey this command of Christ abroad, as well as at home, without running counter to our practice in one place by our practice in the other; we ought to be first and foremost, and if we be not, shame shall cover us for our unfaithfulness. "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

I have endeavored to be brief, but I find I have been long, and therefore pass at once to the argument with which the text commences. The ARGUMENT is this: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth, go ye, therefore, and teach all nations." Three things here. Christ had suffered, bled and died; he had now risen from the dead. As the effect of his finished work, he had as mediator received all power in heaven and in earth. There is no allusion here to his inherent power that is not given to him: that is his native right; he has, as God, all power in heaven and in earth. The text relates to him as mediator. As mediator he had not this power once; he was weak, he was despised, he was forsaken even of his God. But now, having finished the work which was given him to do, his Father honors him. He is about to lift him to his right hand, and gives him, as the result of resurrection, all power in heaven and in earth. Three things, then. First, this is the picture of the Church's history, and therefore she should teach all nations. Secondly, this is the Church's right. Thirdly, it is the Church's might; and for all these reasons she ought to teach all nations.

First, this is the Church's picture. Christ suffers, bleeds, dies. Do you give up his cause? Do you look upon it as forlorn and desolate? He is nailed to the tree; the world abhors him, fools gaze, and sinners laugh. Do you lay down your weapons and say, it is idle to defend such a man as this? It is all over now, he bows his head upon the cross. "It is finished," saith he; and do your unbelieving hearts say, "Ay, indeed, it is finished; his career is over, his hopes are blighted, his prospects withered?" Ah! Little do you know that his shame was the mother of his future glory; that the stooping was the rising, that the crown of thorns was in fact the fruitful root out of which sprang the eternal crown of glory. He is put into the grave: do you say that there is the grave of all your faith could believe, or your hope could suggest? He rises, brethren, and his resurrection takes effect and

fruit from the fact that he died and was buried. Do you not see the picture? We have been sending out heralds of the cross these eighteen hundred years; they have landed upon many a shore to die. Fever has taken off its hundreds, cruel men have slain their scores, from the first day until now, the record of the mission is written in blood. Somewhere or other there always must be martyrs for Christ. It seems as if the Church never could plough a wave without a spray of gore. She is still in Madagascar persecuted, afflicted, tormented, still are her ministers hunted about like partridges upon the mountains, and her blood is dying the shambles of her slayers. Do you give up all hope? Shall we, as we look upon the tombs of our missionaries, say that Christ's cause is dead? Brethren, as you turn over the long roll, and read the names of one after

another who sleep in Jesus, shall you say, "Let us close the doors of the mission-house; let us cease our contributions, it is clear the case is hopeless, and the cause can never have success?" Nay, rather, the Church must suffer that she may reign, she must die that she may live, she must be stained with blood, that she may be robed in purple, she must go down into the earth, and seem to be buried and forgotten, that the earth may help the woman, that she may be delivered of the man child. Courage! courage! The past is hopeful, because to the eye it seemeth hopeless, the cause is glorious, because it has been put to shame. Now, now let us gather the fruits of the bloody sowing: let us now reap the harvest of the deep ploughing of agony and suffering which our ancestors have endured.

I think that no true-hearted Christian will ever give up any enterprise which God has laid upon him, because he fears its ultimate success. "Difficult," said Napoleon, "is not a French word." "Doubtful," is not a Christian word. We are sure to succeed; the gospel must conquer. It is possible for heaven and earth to pass away, but it is not possible for God's Word to fail, and therefore it is utterly impossible that any nation, or kindred, or tongue should to the end stand out against the attacks of love, against the invasion of the armies of King Jesus.

Thus, then, you see, a fair argument can be built upon the text. Inasmuch as Christ is to his people a picture of what they are to be, inasmuch as by his suffering all power was given to him in heaven and in earth, so after the sufferings of the Church, the wounds of her martyrs, and the deaths of her confessors, power shall be given to her in heaven and in earth, and she shall reign with Christ over the nations gloriously.

We now take a second view of the argument. This is the Church's right. All power is given to Christ in heaven and in earth. What then? Why this? Kings and princes, potentates and power, are ye aware that your thrones have been given away? Do ye know it, ye crowned heads, that your crowns have been given - given away from you to one who claims to be King of kings and Lord of lords? Do ye pass degrees forbidding the gospel to be preached? We laugh at you! Ye have no power to prevent it, for all power is given unto Christ in heaven and in earth. Do ye say that the missionary has no right upon

your shore? The virgin daughter of Zion shaketh her head at you, and laugheth you to scorn. She has right anywhere and everywhere; she has rights in heaven without limit, and rights in earth without bound, for all power is given to her head in heaven and in earth, and she therefore has a patent, a claim which is not to be disputed, to take to herself all countries and all kingdoms, because the power above is given unto Christ. What is that man doing on yonder shore? He has landed on an island in the South Seas; he is an intruder, banish him at once! Sirs, mind what you do, for surely ye fight against God. But the man is sent away, he comes back again or if not he, another. A severer edict is passed this time, "Let us slay him, that the inheritance may still be ours." But another comes, and another, and another. Why do you stand up and take counsel

together against the Lord, and against his anointed? These men are not intruders, they are ambassadors come to make peace, nay, more. They are delegates from heaven, come to learn the rightful heritage of King Jesus. Ye, in putting them away as intruders, have denied the rights of Christ, but to deny is one thing, and to disprove another. He hath still a right to you, and therefore hath the missionary still a right to come whithersoever he will, preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ. Once or twice in my life I have met with some miserable little ministers, who, when I have gone into a village to preach, have questioned my right to preach in the village, because I ought to have asked them first, or to have consulted them. And can Christian men look on a district as their own dominion, and reckon God's servant as a poacher on their estates, or a brigand in their territories? Is there any place on this earth that belongs to any man so that he can shut out God's ministers? We once for all put our foot upon any claim so ridiculous. Wherever there is found a man, there is the minister free to preach. The whole world is our parish, we know of no fetter upon our feet, and no gag upon our lips. Though kings should pass laws, the servants of Christ can bear the penalty, but they cannot disobey their Master, though the Emperor should say the gospel should not be preached by any unauthorized denomination in France, as I have

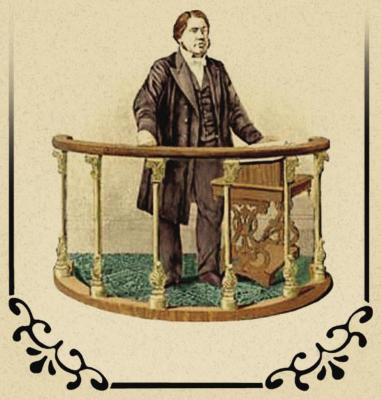


heard he has said of late, we care not for him. What cares the Church for a thousand Emperors? Their resolutions are mockery, their laws waste-paper, the Church never was yet vassal to the state, or servile slave to municipalities and powers, and she neither can nor will be. At all the laws of states, she laughs, and utterly defies them, if they come in the way of the law of Christ which says, "Teach the gospel to every creature." Brethren, I say, the Church has a right anywhere and everywhere - a right, not because she is tolerated; the word is insult, not because the law permits, the law permitting or not permitting, tolerated or untolerated, everywhere beneath the arch of God's heaven, God's servants have a right to preach. Oh that they would claim the right, and in every place teach and preach Jesus Christ continually!

But now, lastly, it seems to me that the argument of the text contains the Church's might. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth; go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Ye have power to teach, fear not. Let this be your encouragement; you must succeed, you shall prevail. There never lived another man save Christ, who could say, "All power is given me on earth." Canute puts his throne by the side of the sea, but the waves wet his person, and prove to his flattering courtiers that he is but a man. What power have kings over the lightning, of the rushing winds? Can they control the tides, or bid the moon stand still? Power is not given unto man, even upon earth. Much less could any man say, all power in heaven belonged to him. This is a singular expression; one which only could be used by Christ, and if any other should attempt to use it, it were an imposition, and a blasphemy, but the Lord Jesus Christ can say today, as he said then, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Let us think, then, all power is given to Christ in providence. Over common daily events he has supreme authority. You have launched upon the sea, upon a mission voyage; he rules the waves, and wings the winds; fear not, for tempest is his trembling slave. You have come near the shore, but there are hidden reefs and sunken rocks. Fear not, for all power is given to him in the lowest deep to guide you safely, and to bring you to your desired haven. A band of men meet you upon the shore, brandishing their weapons. You are unarmed, you have nothing but the Word. You shall now prove that "more is he that is with you than all they that be with them." Go, in this your might. All power is given to Christ - power over the wills of men, as well as over the waves of the sea. But political occurrences prevent your landing on a certain country, through treaties, or a want of treaties, there is no room for the missionary in such-andsuch an empire, pray, and the gates shall be opened; plead, and the bars of brass shall be cut in twain. Christ has power over politics. He can make wars, and create peace, with a view to the propagation of his Word. He can change the hearts of princes, and preside in the counsels of senates, he can cause nations that have long been shut up, to be opened to the truth. And, indeed, what a wonderful proof we have had of late, that all power belongs unto Christ, for human skill has been yoked to the chariot of the gospel. How wondrously, my brethren, have the inventions of man of late years progressed! How could we have preached the gospel to all nations - how could we have even known that America existed, if it had not been that the Lord put it into the mind of Columbus to discover the New World! And how wearisome our life, if with the ordinary slow navigation of the ancient times we had to journey among all nations! But now we are carried across the waves so rapidly that distance is annihi-

lated, and time forgotten. Truly God has opened up the world, and brought it to our threshold, if he has not made a smaller world, at least he has made it more convenient and nearer to our hand. And then see how countries, which once could not be reached, have been opened to us. The Celestial King of China, the rebel prince, invites us to come and preach. He does not merely permit - he invites, he builds places of worship, he is prepared, he says, that his brethren should come and teach him, and teach all his subjects, for they are imperfectly taught in the things of God. And the Imperial Sovereign of China, too, though he does not invite, permits the missionaries to go among his millions. There is perfect liberty for us to preach to four hundred millions of persons who before had never seen the light of Calvary. And there is India, too, given up to our dominion, and the old Company, which always impeded us, rolled up in its shroud and laid in its grave. And there are other lands and other places which once seemed to be environed by impassable mountains, into which we have now a road. Oh, for the will to dash through that road riding upon the white horses of salvation! Oh, for the heart, the spirit, and the soul to avail ourselves of the golden opportunity, and to preach Christ where he has never been preached before! All power, then, we can clearly see, over everything in this world has been given to Christ, and has been used for the propagation of his truth.

But, brethren, let us recollect that power is given to Christ in heaven as well as on earth. All angels bow before him, and the cherubim and seraphim are ready to obey his high behests (i.e. commands). Power is given to him over the plenitude of the Holy Spirit; he can pour out the mysterious energy in such abundance that nations can be born in a day. He can clothe his ministers with salvation, and make his priests shout aloud for joy. He has power to intercede with God, and he shall presently send out men to preach, presently give the people the mind to hear, and give the hearers the will to obey. We have in the midst of us to-day our Leader. He is not gone from us. If his flesh and blood be absent yet in body as well as spirit he still lives, adorned with the dew and beauty of his youth. As for the



"But if there be any who are willing to give all for Christ, let us who are compelled to stay at home do our best to help them. Let us see to it that they lack nothing, for we cannot send them out without purse or scrip. Let us fill the purse of the men whose hearts God has filled, and take care of them temporally, leaving it for God to preserve them spiritually."

Mahomedan, his leader has long ago rotted in his coffin; but ours lives, and because he lives, his truth and his cause live also. We have with us today a Leader whose power is not diminished, whose influence in the highest heavens has suffered no impairing. He is universal Lord. Oh, let our efforts be worthy of the power which he has promised, let our zeal be in some respect akin to his zeal, and let our energy prove that the energy divine has not been withdrawn.

I wish that I could preach this morning, but the more earnestly I feel, the more scant are my words with which to express my emotions. I have prayed to God, and it is a prayer I shall repeat till I die - I have prayed that out of this Church there may go many missionaries. I will never be content with a congregation, or with a Church, or even with ministers, many of whom have already gone out of our midst. We must have missionaries from this Church. God's people everywhere will I trust aid me in training young soldiers for my Master's army. God will send the men, and faith will find the means, and we will ourselves send out our own men to proclaim the name of Jesus. Brethren, it is a singular thing, there are some young men who get the idea into their minds that they would like to go into foreign lands, but these are frequently the most unfit men, and have not the power and ability. Now, I would that the divine call would come to some gifted men. You who have, perhaps, some wealth of your own, what could be a better object in life than to devote yourself and your substance to the Redeemer's cause? You young men, who have brilliant prospects before you, but who as yet have not the anxieties of a family to maintain, why, would it not be noble thing to surrender your brilliant prospects, that you may become a humble preacher of Christ? The greater the sacrifice, the more honor to yourself and the more acceptable to him. I have questioned my own conscience, and I do not think I could be in the path of duty if I should go abroad to preach the Word, leaving this field of labor; but I think many of my brethren now laboring at home might with the greatest advantage surrender their charges, and leave a land where they would scarce be missed, to go where their presence would be as valuable as the presence of a thousand such as they are here. And oh! I long that we may see young men out of the universities, and students in our grammar schools - that we may see our physicians, advocates, tradesmen, and educated mechanics, when God has touched their hearts, giving up all they have, that they may teach and preach Christ. We want Vanderkists; we want Judsons and Brainerds over again. It will never do to send out to the heathen men who are of no use at home. We cannot send men of third and tenth class abilities; we must send the highest, and best. The bravest men must lead the van. O God, anoint thy servants, we beseech thee; put the fire into their hearts that never can be quenched; make it so hot within their bones that they must die or preach, that they must be down with broken hearts, or else be free to preach where Christ was never heard. Brethren, envy any one among you - I say again with truth, I envy you - if it shall be your lot to go to China, the country so lately opened to us. I would gladly change places with you. I would renounce the partial case of a settlement in this country, and renounce the responsibilities of so large a congregation as this with pleasure, if I might have your honors. I think sometimes that missionaries in the field - if it be right to compare great things with such small ones - might say to you, as our English king did to his soldiers at the battle of Agincourt, changing the word for a moment -

"Ministers in England, now a bed, Might think themselves accurs'd they were not here, And hold their manhood's cheap while any speak Who fought with us upon this glorious day."

Have we none out of our sixteen hundred members - have we none out of this congregation of six thousand - who can say, "Here am I, send me?" Jesus! is there not one? Must heathens perish? Must the gods of the heathen hold their thrones? Must thy kingdom fail? Are there none to own thee, none to maintain thy righteous cause? If there be none, let us weep, each one of us, because such a calamity has fallen on us. But if there be any who are willing to give all for Christ, let us who are compelled to stay at home do our best to help them. Let us see to it that they lack nothing, for we cannot send them out without purse or scrip. Let us fill the purse of the men whose hearts God has filled, and take care of them temporally, leaving it for God to preserve them spiritually.

May the Lord, the Divine Master add his blessing to the feeble words that I have uttered, and let me not conclude till I have said, I must teach you too, and this is the teaching of God - "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Trust him with your soul, and he will save you. For "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned."

C.H. Spurgeon

## Want Ads

Missionary: EDUCATION CREDENTIALS UNIMPORTANT; must have a deep sense of God's calling; an awareness of total inability; a passion for the glory of God; an unrelenting burden for souls; a thorough knowledge of God's Word; given to prayer; a high view of the church...

At the present, there is a great door opened for the mission field around the world. Although there are many who have obeyed the call, the door is wide enough for countless more. The need is great, but so are the qualifications. It is not enough to "want" to be a missionary, but we must "prepare ourselves" for the task. The following is a list of qualifications which seem most important to us:

#### MUST HAVE A DEEP SENSE OF GOD'S CALL

Missions is difficult and "success" is not often apparent. It takes more than results to keep a missionary on the field. William Carey is well-known as the father of modern missions because of the way he was mightily used of God in India. But less well-known is the fact that he labored on that dark continent for seven years before anyone came to Christ. Young people who are excited about the mission field should take this as a warning. A two week mission trip to a foreign land can be exciting, even exotic, but it is quite another thing to labor alone in a foreign land and to be dedicated to the often mundane labor that is required to bear true and enduring fruit. Only a deep sense of God's calling can hold your hand to the plow.

#### MUST BE CONVINCED OF INABILITY

In your own strength, you can be a soldier fighting a war on foreign land and even work in the Peace Corps among the most destitute, but you CANNOT be a missionary. Richard Baxter writes, "Our whole work must be carried on under a deep sense of our own insufficiency, and of our entire dependence on Christ. We must go for light, and life, and strength to Him who sends us on the work." Such dependence is required because of the magnitude of the task. Again Baxter writes, "We are seeking to uphold the world, to save it from the curse of God, to perfect the creation, to attain the ends of Christ's death, to save ourselves and others from damnation, to overcome the devil, and demolish his kingdom, to set up the kingdom of Christ, and to attain and help others to the kingdom of glory" For such things one needs more than human strength!

#### MUST HAVE A PASSION FOR GOD'S GLORY

The mission field needs men and women who have a passion for the Glory of God. We have attended many missions conferences around the world. In most of them, the needs of man are set forth as the primary reason for doing missions, and the glory of God is not even mentioned. We often ask missionary candidates if they have ever passed a night praying because of their great burden for the lost. Most answer in the affirmative. We then ask them if they have ever passed a similar night burdened without sleep because there are places on the earth where God is not esteemed and worshipped as God. Most do not even understand the question.

My dear Christian, although the lostness of men should drive us to the mission field, it should not be our primary motivation any more than loving our neighbor should be a higher commandment than that of loving God. Those most effective and enduring on the mission field are those who are there first and foremost for the glory and good pleasure of God. When every other motivation or reason for staying has failed them, they remain because above all things they are there for God!

#### **MUST HAVE A BURDEN FOR SOULS**

We must realize that those who truly seek the glory of God will also seek the welfare of the fallen men for whom God gave His Son. It is impossible to obey the first great command while being disobedient to the second. How can we love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, if we do not love our neighbor as ourself? To the same degree it is nothing more than superficial theological drivel to boast about doing missions for the glory of God if we do not have the greatest concern in our hearts for the welfare of the lost men and women who are created in the image of God and yet rush headlong into hell. Let our hearts resonate with the words of the Apostle Paul, "I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh..." (Romans 9:1-3).

#### MUST BE THEOLOGICALLY MINDED

Missions is primarily a theological endeavor. It is not about sending missionaries, but about sending truth through missionaries. What does it matter if we have countless workers all over the world if they do not see their primary task as preaching the Gospel and establishing biblical churches? The needs of man are almost infinitely diverse, but they all stem from sin, alienation from God, and an ignorance of biblical truth. The greatest service we can do for mankind is to send them ambassadors of Christ with a true Gospel, a sound understanding of conversion, and a biblical view of the Church and the Christian life. The tools of a missionary are few, but powerful - the proclamation of truth, intercessory prayer, and sacrificial love. Give yourself to these things and become schooled in them before you entertain thoughts of serving on the mission field.

#### **MUST BE BIBLICALLY SENSITIVE**

We realize that the rage in contemporary evangelism and missions is about cultural sensitivity, and finding new ways to preach the "old gospel". Many "experts" would have us to believe that no one (from the most primitive tribe to the most technologically advanced society) is able to understand the Gospel unless we first repackage it to fit their particular need. Have we forgotten that the Bible itself testifies that no man can understand the Gospel apart from the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit? Here at HeartCry, we believe that the global missionary enterprise would be better off if we were more concerned with expository preaching and the Spirit's empowering, and less preoccupied with repackaging the Gospel to make it less offensive or "easier" to understand. We also believe that the kingdom would be better served if we were less concerned with cultural sensitivity and more concerned with sensitivity to the Scriptures.

#### **MUST PREACH A TRUE GOSPEL**

We need missionaries who understand the Gospel and give it the preeminent place in their proclamation. The true Gospel is more than a few spiritual laws or "Five Things God Wants You to Know". It is the account of the Son of God who willingly left the glory of heaven, was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin, and was born the God-Man Jesus of Nazareth. It relates how He walked on this earth in perfect obedience to the Law of God, and in the fullness of time was rejected by men and crucified. It explains how that on the cross, He bore man's sin, suffered God's wrath, and died in man's place. It heralds His resurrection on the third day as God's public declaration that He has accepted His Son's death as a sacrifice for sin. It boldly announces that the penalty for man's disobedience has been paid, the demands of justice satisfied, and the wrath of God appeared. It points men to the Son of God now seated at the right hand of the Father, representing His people and making requests to God on their behalf. It exhorts, even begs men, to repent of their hostility and rebellion against God and to throw themselves upon Christ by faith. It assures them that they will be fully pardoned, declared righteous, and reconciled to God.

Again, it is the primary task of the missionary to know this Gospel and to proclaim it with all sincerity and clarity. Of all the endeavors to which a missionary may give himself, there is none greater than to seek to understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to search out its infinite glory, and to preach it with clarity, boldness, and love. *God in Christ reconciling the world to Himself*. It is a glory too deep for our intellect, too wide for our hearts, and beyond the power of any language to describe, and yet within so great a mystery is found the salvation of God.

#### **MUST "DO" BIBLICAL EVANGELISM**

Like missions, evangelism is primarily a theological endeavor. It is the struggle of the missionary to sound the depths of God's truth and to then proclaim it to carnal men who are at enmity against God and unable (because they are unwilling) to obey His truth. When we look at evangelism from this point of view, we understand that it is a most impossible task. There is no hope of success unless we devote ourselves to preach the one message which God Himself declares to be the power of God to salvation - the Gospel. The evangelist is given a most honored place in the economy of God. It is his noble task to bear the good news to all creatures. He is a scribe called upon to exegete or explain the way of salvation to men.

The true evangelist has a passion for souls, and he understands the depth of a man's need. He fears God and loves men too much to conceal even the most offensive truths from them. He knows that if men are to be saved, he must show them hard things that many will say are too difficult to endure. He preaches the Gospel with passion and tears, but he refuses to stoop to carnal manipulation. He begs men to be saved, but he will not lower the bar so that his Gospel might be accepted by the greater number. He knows he has the authority to tell men how to be saved, but only the Spirit of God has the authority to tell them they are. He admonishes those who have professed faith in Christ to bring forth fruit worthy of repentance, to examine themselves to see if they are in the faith, and thus, to make their calling and election sure.

#### **MUST PLANT CHURCHES**

Decisions at mass evangelism crusades and even individual baptisms are not the ultimate or most trustworthy signs of a successful work on the mission field, but rather the planting of a biblical local church. The word "church" is often used today in a very superficial manner to describe anything from a group of recent converts gathered around a missionary to an informal "get-together" of believers at a favorite restaurant. We believe that a New Testament church is much more than the sum of all these things. It is an organized and autonomous gathering of believers who have committed themselves to God and to one another in fellowship, under the leadership of pastors (elders), the service of deacons, and according to the dictates of Scripture

This is our ultimate goal on the mission field - to work as co-laborers with God for the formation of healthy (*i.e.* biblical) churches that labor to be a witness in their communities and to expand the kingdom to places and peoples yet unreached. If a missionary spends his entire life and plants only one biblical church among one people group, he has not wasted his life! He has glorified God and given the world an immeasurable gift!

#### IN CONCLUSION

Do you desire to be a missionary? Do you sense God's call? Are you burdened for His glory and the souls of men? This is good, but it is not enough! You must now give yourself to the tedious endeavor of preparation:

Submit to Godly Leadership: "You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (I Peter 5:5).

Associate with the Wise: "He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm" (Proverbs 13:20).

#### Study to Show Yourself Approved:

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

#### Become an Intercessor:

"I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one" (Ezekiel 22:30).

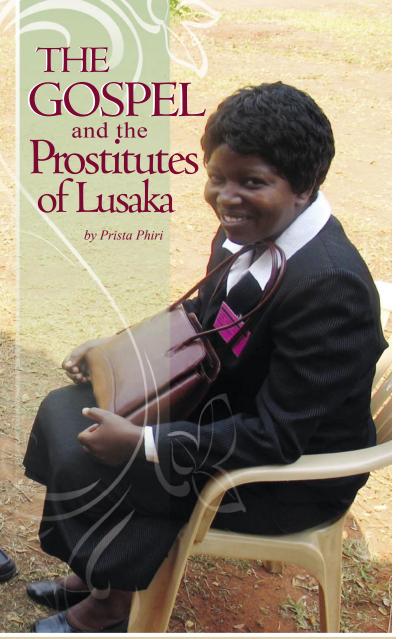
#### Be Faithful to Serve in Your Local Church:

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master'" (Matthew 25:21).

Prepare Yourself for a Life of Sacrifice: Understand that missions is nothing more and nothing less than an opportunity to die (Amy Carmichael). Being a missionary is much different from a "mission trip" or attending a missions conference. It is a hard work which demands enduring sacrifice and promises few temporal rewards.

Do you "still" desire to be a missionary? You desire a good thing!

<sup>1</sup>The Reformed Pastor, p. 122. <sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 112.



As we have often stated, we count it a great privilege to work with Conrad Mbewe and the other elders of Kabwata Baptist Church. The following is an account of a new ministry that has been initiated at their church by sister Prista Phiri (above) and the other women of Kabwata.

#### Introduction

The prison outreach has continued and includes the provision of basic food requirements and toiletries for the ladies. Praise the Lord that some have professed faith, and please pray that these professions might truly be genuine. Also, praise the Lord for our outreach work to prostitutes that started in July. About twenty women have been taught the Gospel, and about twelve of these have begun attending church regularly. Praise the Lord that some have professed faith and want to be baptized. These women are also being helped to find lawful and ethical means of generating regular income. This requires money, so pray for the availability of finances. Pray for this work to bear fruit. The devil's territory is being invaded, so we need your prayers.

#### It All Began with Expository Preaching

One Sunday evening in June 2006, Pastor Conrad Mbewe, who had just commenced a series of sermons on "Biblical Motives for Evangelism and Missions", preached a sermon from Matthew 28: 19. He said that the church needs to go out and make disciples. He stated that the "going out" involved leaving our comfort zone and preaching the gospel to sinners wherever they may be found. He mostly emphasized the aspect of "going out". In his examples of some sinners that needed to be found and preached to he mentioned drunkards and prostitutes. Pastor Mbewe then made some assertions concerning the love of Jesus Christ for sinners; how that He ate with them and engaged in heavenly conversation with them.

#### Our Response to the Message

One cold night, in response to the message, my husband and I went into the streets where the prostitutes are found. The moment we stopped the car, some of them drew near. We introduced ourselves to them as people from the church that wanted to have a conversation with them. We drew their attention to the fact that the kind of activity they were engaged in would cost them their lives. This was a known fact to them in view of HIV/AIDS. We asked whether they were happy with what they were doing and whether they could do the same things at over 40 years of age. These ladies who were under the influence of some drugs said that they were not happy and that it would be difficult to do what they were doing at the mentioned age. However, they told us that they engaged in such activities to earn some money to look after their children and themselves. Others were orphans and wanted to look after themselves. They said if they found something better to do, they would be willing to stop.

We challenged them to get into the vehicle (a mini bus) if they were not happy with their activities. All of them went away except one lady who got in and we drove away with her. We preached the Gospel to her and left her by her home. She promised to come to church on Sunday.

Overwhelmed by this, I shared this touching experience with a cell group in our residential area and we prayed together. Pastor Mbewe was in attendance. He later shared this with other church members, including his wife. When I met Mrs. Mbewe I could see that she was touched by this experience and wanted to go out in the street to meet the prostitutes and preach the Gospel. We arranged a date.

On the agreed date, in the evening, Mrs. Felistas Mbewe, Mrs. Monde Mulunga, my husband, and I went to the street. Some of the prostitutes recognized the vehicle and came toward us. Mrs. Mbewe and Mrs. Mulunga talked to some ladies who appeared intoxicated with drugs. My husband and I went down the street and talked to another group of the prostitutes. Eventually we took some of these women to a lodge where we gave them food, and they shared with us their experiences in the street. It was very, very sad to hear. We preached the Gospel to them, and some resolved not to go back to the streets. They were amazed that in such cold weather we had followed them up. Furthermore, they were surprised that we could engage in conversation with them. Their view was that society hates them and has nothing to do with them.

We arranged to leave the ladies in their various homes at the end of our meeting, and we promised to arrange transport for those who wanted to come to church. On Sunday morning, as promised, we arranged to meet the ladies at some point and picked them up for church. At the end of the church service, Mrs. Mbewe hosted the women for lunch. We had another opportunity of conversing with

them. Again, we heard them talk about their street experiences, some of them in tears. It was extremely touching. We shared the Word of God with them and arranged transport to take them back home. We agreed to meet them a few days later at one home in a township where some of them lived. When we arrived at the appointed date, we found that they had also asked some of their friends to come and hear us. We preached the Gospel to them, and the following Sunday even more prostitutes attended church. We were overwhelmed by the numbers.

#### Further Meetings

On a certain day, we arranged to meet the prostitutes at Pastor Mbewe's residence. On that day a number of them came. We heard some further testimonies from them and preached the Gospel. We agreed to hold regular meetings with them on Saturday at a home in a certain township (Chawama). Since then, we have been studying the Word of God with them, and eight of them have seriously resolved never to go back to the street and are showing some fruits of repentance. The church has given about 20 Bibles to them. Some individuals in the church have been helping with transport to and from church on Sundays. About K570,000 (about \$150) has been spent on public transport (buses and taxis), apart from personal vehicles being used. Last Saturday, Mrs. Mbewe opened up another meeting point for Bible studies for these women in another township (The Garden Compound). Already, about five of these women have professed faith and are helping to bring their friends to these meetings.

This new ministry to street prostitutes has been very touching. We appreciate the grace of God toward us more as we hear the experiences of these ladies. We pray that the Lord may convince as many brethren as possible to come out of their comfort zone and preach the Gospel to sinners wherever they may be found. Our minds have been renewed concerning Gospel preaching. We pray that we may not grow weary in this work of love.

#### Support to the Prostitutes

When some of the prostitutes made the decision to come off the streets, their immediate concern was house rent. A couple from our church donated K570,000 (about \$150) for house rent for four prostitutes. In addition, a number of church members donated foodstuff. There is also the need to help these prostitutes find some decent and sustainable means of livelihood. To this end, a couple in the church donated K2,400,000 (about \$620) and some other individual gave K80,000 (about \$20). Therefore, a total sum of K2,480,000 (about \$640) was raised.

Upon receiving the money, we put these women into three groups, according to their locality, and shared with them some ideas of "Income Generating Activities". After they decided on some particular activities, we shared the money among each group. The groups were formed because of the limited resources. Our desire for them was for each one to have initial capital to generate income.

Throughout this endeavor, we keep reminding the ladies of the truth about putting their trust in God. However, we are conscious of the fact that they need some help. We pray that the Lord may make a way for them. With the little support given to them it has been encouraging to see some of them applying themselves fully to the work. A number of people in the church have shown concern for these prostitutes, but we need to work in a more structured and coordinated way.



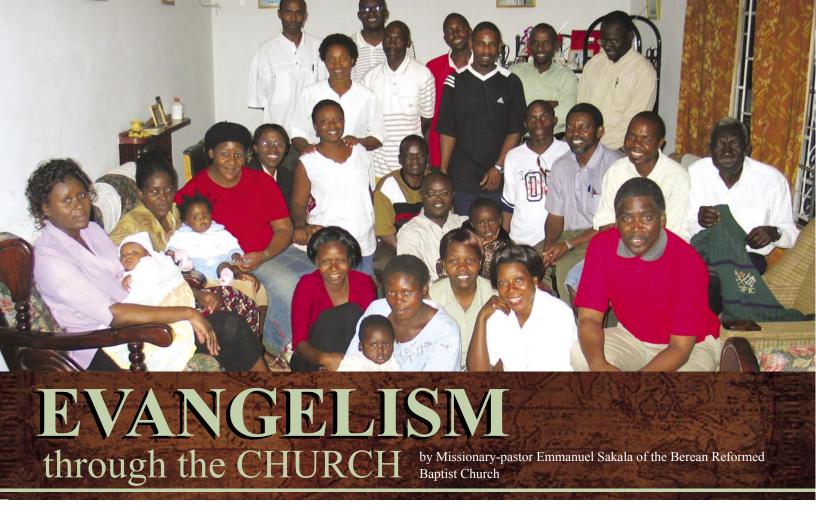
#### A Sad State of Affairs

A number of the prostitutes with whom we are working have already been quite sick. One of them requested our assistance for an HIV/AIDS test. Mrs. Mbewe attended her, and she was found to be positive. She has since commenced treatment, and there is a great need to help her with her nutrition since the treatment is very strong. There is also another who is already on treatment for HIV/AIDS. This is a very sad state of affairs. Apparently, the danger of HIV/AIDS is quite common among all those involved in prostitution.

#### In Summary

This new ministry to street prostitutes has been very touching. We appreciate the grace of God toward us more as we hear the experiences of these ladies. We pray that the Lord may convince as many brethren as possible to come out of their comfort zone and preach the Gospel to sinners wherever they may be found. Our minds have been renewed concerning Gospel preaching. We pray that we may not grow weary in this work of love. The response by the prostitutes to the Gospel message has been overwhelming. The prostitutes with which we made initial contact have begun to share with their friends the change that has taken place in their lives. They in turn have begun to attend our Saturday Bible studies. Thus, we have been preaching to a widening circle of prostitutes. Undoubtedly, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."

Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him; and you, seeing this, did not even feel remorse afterward so as to believe him." Matthew 21:31-32



We count it as one of our greatest honors to work with the indigenous missionary movement in Zambia, South Africa. In this work we have found an unusual melding of sound theology and a passion for souls. The following report from pastor Sakala is an excellent example of the reports we frequently receive from the field. It also reflects HeartCry's passion to win souls though the establishment of biblical local churches. As the Scriptures declare, "...to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:21).

We are glad to report that our church has continued to show tremendous and remarkable signs of growth and stability in this short period of the two years and eight months of our existence. We attribute this more to the prayers and support received thus far from both outside and within our country. In this regard, we acknowledge the financial help from HeartCry in the USA whose support is channeled to us through Kabwata Baptist Church. We are very grateful for these finances which have helped to keep the Lord's work going. We are also thankful for the Chingola Central Baptist Church which provides spiritual oversight and manpower for the development of the various ministries of our young church. We thus take this opportunity to thank all our partners in this work and also ask them to join us in thanking our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for giving us the grace and mercy that has enabled us to grow both spiritually and numerically.

#### Our Evangelistic Programs

Our church has continued to use various strategies in evangelism to reach out to the populace of our small town. In this same period under review, we managed to go through all the houses in the Kamenza Mine Township and the Government's low income township. We managed to reach every house in these townships except where we did not find anyone at home. In addition to our door-to-door evangelism, we have also continued to hold tea parties and do street evangelism in designated areas. We can now testify that these various efforts exerted in evangelism have actually yielded much in terms of an increase in the number of people that have responded and are now attending our church every Sunday. On Sundays, we are now reaching fifty (50) in attendance. One of the notable fruit worth mentioning is an upswing in the number of elderly people who are responding to our invitations and are thus becoming regular attendees. This development has also led the church to cater to them through the translating of the Lord's Day messages into the tribal tongue which they still speak.

#### *Testimonies*

In the following account we now give a report on some of the people who have responded to our evangelist campaigns:

Andrew Mwanba is a 28-year-old man whom we came across in our street evangelism. He also happens to be an old acquaintance of Pastor Sakala from during the time before his pastorate when he did secular work with the mines. Andrew is currently working as a warehouse man for a contractor in the copper mines. He came from

the Assemblies of God Church, however, he has so far proved to be teachable and very zealous for true doctrine. As such, he has managed to adjust very well in the church. He joined our church at a time when we were looking for someone who could help us in translating our preaching from English to the Bemba language during our Sunday services. He is very conversant in both languages, and he also has abilities in preaching. He has actually turned out to be a gift of God to us! He has become Pastor Sakala's preaching interpreter and coworker! Through this arrangement, the church is now able to minister to both the English and Bemba speakers who come to church every Sunday, and therefore the tribal language is no longer a hindrance to the preaching of the Gospel.

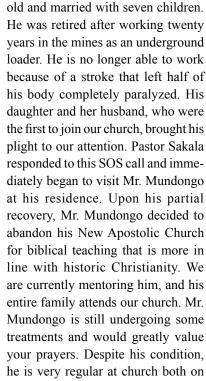
Please do pray for Andrew as he has plans of going into full time pastoral work in the future. Our church has recognized and welcomed Andrew's plans as the providence of God in that we have intentions of starting a vernacular church (i.e. a church in the tribal language) in town. Andrew seems to be the right person, and the church is thinking of separating him for this work. Andrew is married to Royda and they have three children - two boys and a girl.

Edward Luyako is currently the second oldest person in church at 56 years of age. Mr. Luyako came to our church through an invitation extended to him by the Mundongos family. He is married with six children and also has grandchildren. He is a retired miner even though recently he was recalled back to work on a contract. Mr. Luyako is coming from the New Apostolic

Church where he had risen as a leader. He voluntarily abandoned his church and opted to follow us because of what he had seen with our doctrine and preaching. On the Sunday that he came to church, our pastor happened to be sharing on the subject of the "Prodigal Son" based on Luke 15: 20-21. This sermon was used of God to convince and convict Mr. Luyako of his sin. In his testimony afterwards, he claimed that the Lord convinced him that he was just a religious fellow who went to church, and that he was without salvation until the day he heard a proper Gospel from our pulpit. He testifies:

"All along I was just a church-goer. I was actively involved in the running of my former church both as a member and a leader. I exerted myself in all the programs of the church and was elevated to the position of a shepherd. In this new position, I was set aside to go into rural areas and establish new churches which I successfully accomplished. But despite exerting myself for God, I still felt empty and very ignorant of the Scriptures. I felt this deficiency over a long time. And of course, as time went on, I lost all passion and interest for church and its religious duties. I do remember praying to God many times asking for light to be shone in my life, but I was a lost man in the church. It was not until I came across Pastor Sakala that I felt God had answered my prayers at last. I was invited to attend church and warmly responded. Pastor Sakala's sermons on the prodigal son and a sermon done by elder Ray Munsaka (from Chingola Central Baptist Church) made me come to understand what it means to be born again. I can now testify that I have come to embrace Jesus in my life. This is the Jesus I had never known at the time of my wanderings with the New Apostolic Church."

Mr. Mundongo was also a former member of the New Apostolic Church where he was an elder for many years. He is 48 years





Sundays and during the week.

Jenny Bwalya is a widow in her late forties with six children and several grandchildren. She came to church through the preaching of Pastor Sakala at the funeral home of one of our church members in the township. Ms. Bwalya has since become a regular attendee at church and has managed to bring to church two of her young brothers who are both in their late thirties. Recently, she took our pastor and his wife to the home of her elderly parents so that he might preach the Gospel to them. Please pray for the conversion of this elderly couple as they are staunch Catholics and are hoping in their good works to save. There are plans to visit them again. Please pray with us as we continue to visit them with the Gospel of Christ. The following is Ms. Bwalya's brief testimony:

"I used to attend a Pentecostal church, but I was never serious. A time came when I even completely left the church. My husband had died through sickness and I was left in a helpless estate with six children to look after. Soon after my husband's death, I also lost two of my children - one after the other. This completely devastated me. I became bitter against God, and I abandoned any form of relationship with Him. Henceforth, I chose to live a sinful and immoral life in order to earn money for the upkeep of my children. Thus my life degenerated. I lived a life of sexual immorality until I discovered that I was infected with the dreaded HIV infection. It was not until Pastor Sakala preached at the funeral of my neighbor's father that I became conscious of my sinful life. The message awakened me to inquire after Jesus Christ. After the funeral, my neighbor Charity took me to the home of Brother Andrew Mwamba (our church interpreter). He preached the Gospel to me, and I was converted. This led me to join the Baptist church immediately, and I have since become a regular attendee. The messages that have been preached to me so far have helped me to begin to understand the love of God for me, and I am praying that one day I will understand it fully."

Please pray for Ms. Bwalya as she is struggling to break off her relationship with a married man who is the father of one of her children (less than two years old). She also needs help to find an appropriate job. In this way, she will be able to live independent of the sinful people who seek to manipulate and control her life. Please pray for her complete restoration and sanctification. The names of her two brothers who have also become regular at church are Lawrence and John. Please pray for them also.

#### Baptism Candidates

Two of our regular attendees - Mwangala Walubita and Regina Makasa - were finally baptized. The baptism took place at Chingola Central Baptist Church. As for Mwangala, he has finally found a temporary job. He is currently our church librarian, and he is also being trained to be a song leader on Sundays. In the upcoming months, another baptism class is scheduled with eight candidates so far enlisted. These are Ms. Hilda Bwalya, her daughter Gwen Katambala, Brenda Bwalya (young sister to Ms. Bwalya), Mrs. Ruth Mbale, Violet, Mrs. Janet Walubita, Ms. Charity Chulu, and Ms. Joyce Mumbi. Please pray for these who are eager to begin their baptism class, and also pray for Brother Richard Manga who will be their teacher.

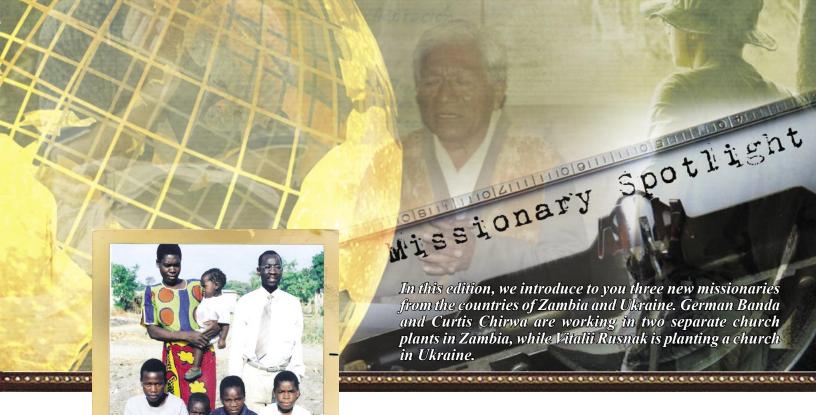
#### Women's Ministry Report

Our ladies fellowship is comprised of fifteen ladies at the moment. We usually hold two meetings every month. The objective of this ministry is to encourage fellowship, visitations, and follow-ups among the ladies of the church. The topics we teach range from doctrinal, evangelistic, social, and contemporary issues. We also spend time together in prayer for one another and our church. Recently, we began a project of helping the poor, single women in our church to start businesses of their own that would empower them financially and socially. So far we have managed to fund about seven women. These women are now working at the local township market while others are in the business of buying and reselling food stuffs. Please pray for them as this is the only source of income for them and their families. Please remember that many of these women in our church are among the most vulnerable, and it is difficult for them to survive the harsh economical climate of our country at the moment.

Another project started by our women's ministry has to do with supporting those of our members who have failed to finish school. We noticed that these were finding it difficult to read the Bible in English or to understand the preaching which was being done in English. We also discovered that a number of the women never finished school due to a lack of financial support. So far we have identified six women who need to finish school. Our women's ministry will continue to pay for them until they reach the final grade. Please pray for this project to succeed as there are indeed many more in the church who need assistance. Apart from these projects, our women's ministry is also involved in the evangelistic efforts of the church. So far this year, we have held two successful meetings. The first one was an evangelistic tea where we had twenty-two visitors. Our sister Mrs. Franciscar Ngoma, from our mother church in Chingola, came to share the Gospel with the women. The second meeting was a joint ladies meeting with the women of Chingola Central Baptist Church. The meeting took place at the home of one of our sisters, and the attendance was overwhelming. Our sister Mrs. Mary Mugala, from our Chingola Church shared the Gospel. Please continue to pray for us and our ladies fellowship to grow and have a spiritual impact among the many women of our town.

## Items for Prayer

- 1. Please pray for us as we begin our new evangelistic campaigns. These will be in the most densely populated areas of our townships. Our intention is to use these campaigns as a means of establishing a local church in the tribal vernacular.
- 2. Pray for Brother Andrew Mwamba and the following brothers from our Chingola Church who have been set aside to spearhead the establishment of the new church plant. These are: Evaristo Chishala, Felix Sikaonga, and Gershom Mwelwa.
- 3. Pray for the Baptism Class which is about to begin. We have eight converts who have so far registered.
- 4. Pray for the youth fellowship which has eight members. For the time being, they are only managing to meet twice during the month on Sunday afternoons.
- 5. Pray with us as we patiently wait for finances to be found to enable us to purchase a building for our church meetings. The building we are looking at is still on offer for sale.



## GERMAN BANDA

rman Banda & Family

My name is German Banda, and I was born on the 7th of December, 1971. I am married to a wonderful woman named Getrude with whom I have three children, Zingani (10 yrs), Francis (4 yrs), and Taonga (1 yr). I completed Grade 12 at the Petauke Secondary school in 1996, and later completed a three year course in Automotive Engineering at Evelyn Hone College in Lusaka.

#### Life Before Conversion

I was brought up in a Christian home where my parents took me to church every Sunday. I always believed that church-going was good for me, but I never realized the true importance of Christ and Christianity. All I knew was that everyone went to church on Sunday as an important tradition. As I grew older I became involved in many wicked practices which I did not realize were sinful because I was in darkness. I had heard of Jesus, God, angels, prophets, and pastors, but I did not know Jesus or have any real knowledge of God.

#### My Conversion

In 1998, I heard the Gospel preached at a funeral by Pastor Maxwell Nkhata. He preached from John 1:12-13 on the theme: "Who is a Child of God?" From his preaching I concluded that I was not a child of God in spite of being a regular church-goer. I later followed the pastor to his home in order to inquire how I might become a child of God. He told me to repent of my sins and believe in Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. He read to me from Romans 3:23 and I John 2:9. From the Scriptures, I was then convinced that I was a sinner and needed to pay for my sins. Fortunately, he told me that

Christ's death on the cross saved me from eternal condemnation. On that day, the 28th of April, 1998, I repented of my sins and believed in Jesus Christ as my Savior. From that time, my life has changed all because of the grace of God. I now love the Lord and am able to worship Him. After completing the classes for Christian baptism, I was baptized by immersion.

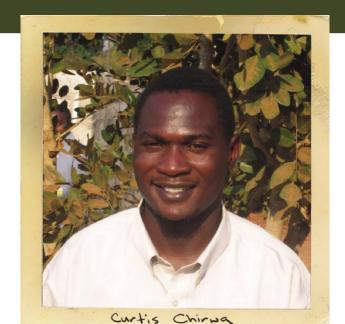
#### My Calling into Service

It is a great mystery of God when a person desires to serve Him, because according to the Scriptures, no one can desire to serve the Lord if God has not placed that desire in him. Therefore, I recognize that my calling was decreed by the Lord Himself in eternity and that it is by God's grace that the Holy Spirit gave me a gift to preach the Gospel to the lost. Like Timothy, I sensed the call to serve the Lord with all my life when I was still young in the faith. God used the following two passages to convinced me that I was called to ministry:

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" - Isaiah 6:8

"Then the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for Your servant is listening.'" - I Samuel 3:10

The apostle Paul explains in I Corinthians 12 that people are called to different ministries as the Holy Spirit enables them. In the Old Testament people would sometimes hear God's audible voice, but now He speaks to us through the inspired Scriptures. Therefore the Scriptures were enough to convince me that I had been called. I will never use a different method to prove that God has truly called me except through the Scripture - the Old Testament and New Testament.



## CURTIS CHIRWA

My name is Curtis Chirwa and the following is a testimony of God's gracious work in my life and ministry.

#### Life before Conversion

My life before conversion is not a pleasant thing to hear about. The fact that I was lost in sin meant that I was involved in many forms of mischief. I spent much time chasing after sin and playing soccer even on Sundays. I never gave a second thought to what Christians were up to. In December 1991, I was invited to a youth meeting at Faith Baptist Church, but the only thing I remember is that I went there and returned home the same. I did not change, and so I returned to my old style of living. My friend who had invited me kept after me, and I began to think that attending his church was a big mistake! He would not leave me alone! He made many appointments with me, but I turned them all down. Finally, one day I promised to attend the church because I had reached the point were I was beginning to see my need.

#### My Conversion

I finally went for a Sunday service in January of 1992. The message was preached and I felt caught in my sins. I knew that something should be done immediately. I felt very bad for many things preached that day for they exposed the deeds of my life. After the service I could do nothing but remain behind. The Scriptures were shown to me and they clearly indicated how lost I was, and that I could not save myself no matter how much good I might attempt. My condition was hopeless and only Jesus could regenerate my soul. On that day in January, the Lord opened my spiritual eyes and saved me from my sins - thus I was converted.

#### My New Life in Christ

Life after conversion became very exciting and challenging at the same time. I began to attend church service regularly. I had new friends and a new outlook on life. The desire to learn about Jesus was growing and many of my questions were being answered. Later the same year, I followed the Lord Jesus Christ in baptism as an act of

## Missionary Spotlight

obedience. I became a member of Faith Baptist of Roan Township in Luanshya. I was very happy to join the family of believers.

One day when the pastor was looking for a Sunday school teacher, I volunteered. I was trained in that field and served there for many years, and at the same time I was very active in the youth ministry. The Lord enlarged His grace to me and I came to love lost souls, hence we evangelized Roan Township and my experience of sharing the Bible with my friends and strangers grew. I also evangelized my family, though they were very resentful of the truth I preached. I remember sharing the Bible with my friend, who was eventually converted and also answered the call to the ministry. He is now a pastor. Another time, I visited my aunt in Mufulira and found that two of my cousins whom I had been evangelizing were also soundly converted. They stand as a living testimony to date. These are some of the examples of the things which the Lord has been able to do through me outside of the pulpit.

## My Calling into the Ministry

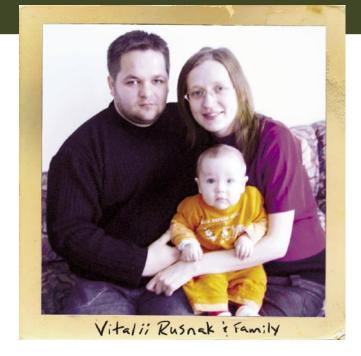
From the time I was converted I wanted to know more about God. The desire grew, and hence my involvement in church activities. By the time I was completing my twelfth grade, the desire to work for God in the ministry was set in me. Because of my calling, I had no desire for a career in the secular world. I spoke to my parents with regard to my desire for ministry work, and later to my pastor who encouraged me to pursue the interest. Such counsel brought a deeper conviction in my heart that God had really called me into ministry.

Upon completing high school in 1996 I enrolled in the Baptist Bible College in Luanshya. As a confirmation of my calling, while at college, I was asked to work together with a missionary pastor in a new church plant called the Baptist Temple of Mikomfwa in Luanshya. I served there as a student pastor from 1997-2001. After graduation from college, I was called to serve as a church planter at Calvary Baptist Church of Matero in Lusaka. All these works of providence confirm my call to the ministry.

#### My Doctrinal Position

If I were to subscribe to any Baptist confession, it would be the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith which was the favorite of Charles Spurgeon. I especially appreciate its view on the Holy Scriptures, the sovereignty of God, the grace of God in salvation, and its position on the nature and function of the church. I hope by God's grace to continue to grow in the knowledge of these matters and all others concerning the Scriptures and the will of God. To this end, I seek your prayers.

### Missionary Spotlight



## VITALII RUSNAK

My name is Vitalii Rusnak, and I am married to a wonderful woman named Elena. We have one daughter whose name is Naomi Anna. I was born in the village of Dranita, in a large family of Baptists - six boys and one girl. My father is a pastor in the same village, and two of my brothers are pastors in the Cernauti area.

#### My Conversion

Although I was raised in a Baptist family, my way of living was far from God. Being obliged by my parents to attend church regularly, I knew a lot about God, but I never knew Him personally. In 1994, our village church was visited by a group of Romanians from the University of Oradea. On July 30th, while I was listening to their testimonies and sermons, I was called to follow Christ. At the beginning, it was very hard because of my unbelieving friends. Spending too much time with them, I was attracted by their deeds even though I knew they were not pleasing to God. It was a difficult period for me because I was leading a double life.

When I was 14 years old, I left my unbelieving friends behind. I began to study the Scriptures, and God began to show me His great love. I attended our small youth group and studied the Scriptures. I can say that it was at this time that I began to meet the Lord, not just to gain information, but to know Him. In 1997, I was baptized, and from that moment on, I felt strongly that God had called me into the ministry. For three years I studied the Scriptures and preached the Word in the church, but I had many unclear issues in my mind. I felt that I was unprepared to preach and was very discouraged. I needed somebody to encourage me and to teach me.

#### My Preparation

In 1997-1998, a missionary family from Romania visited our church. I could see by the way they explained the Word that they were far more prepared than I. Seeing my interest, they offered to support me at a Bible college in Romania. For one year, they taught me the Bible and helped me prepare for my entrance exam into the Christian university "Emmanuel" in the Romanian city of Oradea. In 1999, the Lord gave me the opportunity to study at the university. For

five years I lived in Romania, far from home and in a culture that was not my own, but it was there that I began to better understand what God wanted from me. My teachers and pastors taught me that sacrifice was necessary for success in the ministry. Even today, those godly men still influence my life.

In 2004, I graduated from the university and was invited to teach hermeneutics and New Testament at the Biblical Institute "Timothy" in the Ukranian city of Cernauti. It was there that I met Elena, a music teacher, and was married. Elena is from a large family in Cernauti, and graduated from the college of music with a double major in theory and conducting. In 2006, God blessed us with a little girl, Naomi Anna. We now live at the edge of the city in a rented apartment. At the moment, I am also involved in editing the national Baptist magazine called "The Messenger", and writing articles on the Christian faith for the "Bucovina's Dawn" (the most read Romanian newspaper in Ukraine). I also preach (usually twice a week) in the Romanian speaking churches throughout Ukraine, and work alongside brother Ion Gireada in the church plants in Tereblecia and Bahrinesti.

#### My Vision

The Lord called me to preach, provided me with the opportunity of studying under godly men, and gave me a wife who supports and encourages me in the ministry. My vision in this new year is to plant a Romanian Baptist church in Cernauti. There are about 12,000 Romanians in this city, and it is surrounded by many Romanian villages. Yet the evangelical work is almost non-existent. For more than a year, I have felt the desire to plant a church in the downtown area of Cernauti. At the moment, I am looking for people whom God might send to help me in this project. I know that God can open up the door and provide the means to plant this church. There are several strategies that we hope will be fruitful: (1) We can reach out through the large university population. (2) We can focus on school district number 29 which caters to Romanian speaking children in the city. Through the children we can reach the parents. (3) We can minister to the surrounding Romanian speaking villages. I know that God will give us the wisdom to do the right thing, but I also believe that the most important thing is to form a good team of individuals who are willing to give their lives to plant a church. I am excited that the young people from the "Rosa" Baptist Church are already willing to help us. Until God brings everything together, my wife and I will continue to pray for the unbelievers in Cernauti.

#### My Doctrine

I believe in a God who reveals Himself in the Scripture. I believe that the Bible is the supreme source of knowing Him. I believe that the Bible is the infallible Word of God and that it is the only norm for the believer and the church's faith. In the Bible, God reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a Trinitarian God, eternally three and eternally one. I believe that sin came into the world because of the first man's disobedience, and that each man is born in sin and in need of salvation. I believe that only God's grace makes possible the salvation of men. I believe that repentance and faith in the Lord's sacrifice are necessary for salvation. I believe that a man must be born again, and that it is the work of the Holy Spirit. I believe in the certainty of salvation, and that it is God who continues to work in the believer's life, giving him power for doing good deeds (bearing fruit) and living a holy life.



halom and greetings to all. We have just finished our second Gospel campaign, and so far it has been a great success. We have seen the hand of the Lord working through His providence and in the many opportunities we have encountered.

It is through God's providence that I have finally been able to extend my passport. The local office tried to send me to the central office (which would have meant more waiting and even more red tape), but I was persistent, and in the end they gave me a one-year extension. They were supposed to give me five years, but they want to do everything in their power to keep me from spreading the Gospel. God knows! Please continue to pray.

Lately, we have been singing and preaching in the streets, and were even granted the privilege of visiting an Israeli refugee camp! They invited us in and took us from tent to tent. These people had escaped from the rockets in the north and were living in temporary tent-like shelters. We had a great response and many opportunities to witness. We even met some local believers who were greatly encouraged by our ministry among them. One man said to us that he had not smiled for a long time, and a little girl came up to us and whispered: "I also believe in Yeshua".

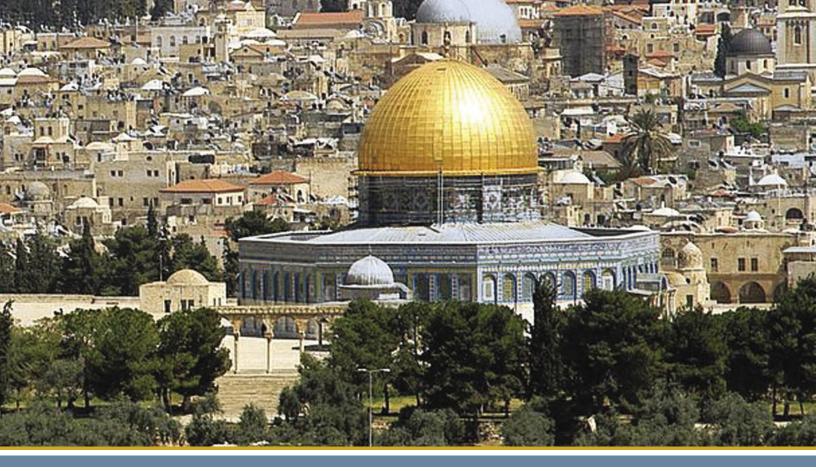
We also visited some hospitals and sang to both children and adults. We met many who were wounded in Lebanon. I spoke with one man in particular who was hit by a missile and was critically wounded. We were able to give him some literature, and he also took my phone number. He promised that he would call me, and that when he was able, he would come to Jerusalem to meet with me. Afterwards, we visited a rehab center, and there were many others who had been injured in terrorist attacks and victims of other crimes. One girl told us that her father had shot her, and afterwards also killed her mother. I told her about the One who truly loves us!

After leaving the hospital, we journeyed north, stopping to speak to the soldiers we encountered on the way. Many were returning home from the battlefield. It was a long trip, because we tried to spend time with every person we met along the road. We had the special blessing of fellowship with other Jewish believers in Afula and Nazareth. They were as much an encouragement to us as we hope to have been to them.

We finally arrived at the "Good Fence" - the border gate between Lebanon and Israel through which Israel received and treated sick Lebanese and sent aid into Lebanon. The Gate was closed, but the occupants of the area took us to a village where the soldiers were stationed. When we arrived, we met many of soldiers of the Israeli Special Forces who had been in combat. We sang scriptural songs to them and shared our testimonies. They seemed very happy to see us. They received us well and made us feel very welcome. Some had lost friends in Lebanon and had seen many wounded. We were able to give them literature, and they gave us T-shirts from their unit!

We praise God that we were able to speak to the soldiers about the true Gospel, and they were very grateful that believers from different countries had come to Israel to encourage them. They even sang with us and for us. I told one soldier that I would have been willing to defend the country if I had still been enlisted, but he responded, "What you are doing is also important."

Leaving the soldiers, we visited a nearby tank unit. They received us gladly, and we even got a private tour of their tanks - one of which had been hit by an anti-tank missile. By God's providence, the missile hit the back of the tank and the entire crew was saved. By the same providence, we were able to share our testimonies with four groups of soldiers and sing to them about a good and miraculous God. The response was truly amazing. We thank God for all the



opportunities and doors He opened to us. We left encouraged that we could so freely share His wonderful Hope. Please pray for all those who heard the Word and who received the books and literature.

During the campaign, we put leaflets in the mailboxes of a small town south of Jerusalem, and afterwards we went to a supermarket for lunch. By God's grace, we ended up singing songs to the staff and the customers, and handing out literature. In the end, a woman who may have been the manager asked if we would be interested in coming to sing on a special evening they were planning. I told her that we were believers in the Messiah, Yeshua (Jesus), and she said that it did not matter. During the entire campaign, we saw God's hand through many events like this.

If we look, we can all see the Lord is always working in our lives and providing opportunities to witness. Two events happened to me recently that demonstrate this point. I went to the airport to pick up a member of our congregation. I pulled into the parking lot where the first twenty minutes are free. As I was walking toward the entrance of the airport, someone from security stopped me and asked me where I was going. I replied, "I am here for private reasons." He then called his fellow security officers, and they called the police. The policeman was very polite and told me that according to security protocol, if someone does not state their exact reason for being at the airport, they are under suspicion. After they let me go, I found the person I was to pick up, and we made our way to the car. Because of the delay with the police, I was two minutes over the twenty-minute limit and had to pay. I put my money in the machine, but it would not take it. Because of this, I had to pay the attendant who was an Ethiopian immigrant. When she handed me my change, I gave her some literature on the Gospel, which she happily received. At that moment, I understood that if I had not been detained by security,

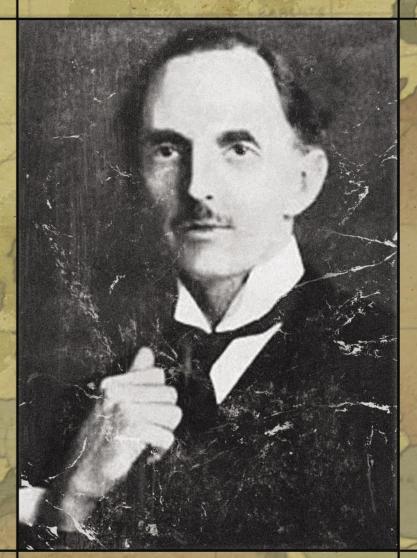
I would not have met this woman or given her Gospel literature.

A few days later, I was delayed again because someone left something in my van, and I had to go back to their house. On the way home, I decided to buy some ice cream. As I was returning to my car, someone called out to me. It was a person with whom I had shared the Gospel many years ago. He was in a cult. I invited him to come to our meetings, and he said he would attend. We must all realize that we truly have a living God who is active in all His children's lives through His providence.

Thank You, and May the Lord Bless You, Antony Simon

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The Jewish people that they might find true atonement in the Messiah.
- Our regular trips to Jordan on Sundays and Mondays.
- The updating of our evangelistic website.
- Our evangelism and visitation work.
- Our new evangelistic tours in English.
- Our tours to the desert.



## C.T. STUDD

"A Soldier of the Cross to Three Continents"

by Mack Tomlinson

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

This statement became the driving force in the life of C. T. Studd of 19th century England. Charles Studd was nurtured in the lap of luxury among British higher society, but in his early twenties he forsook it for the foreign mission field, ultimately becoming one of the most exemplary missionaries in evangelical history.

By the time of his 16th birthday, C.T. had become an expert cricket player. By the time he was converted in 1878 at the age of 18, he had a Cambridge career in cricket and had already become the most famous cricket player in Britain. But the fame and notoriety did not satisfy, and C. T. was stirred to seek something higher, something more eternal, as he had seen his own father do at the end of his life.

It was during this time that he came across a tract written by a professing atheist which read as follows:

"If I firmly believed, as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of religion in this life influences the eternal destiny of others, then religion would mean everything to me. I would cast away earthly enjoyments as dross, earthly cares as folly, and earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity. Religion would be my first waking thought and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness. I would labor in its cause alone. I would take thought for the morrow of eternity alone. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a life of suffering. Earthly consequences would never stay my hand nor seal my lips. Earth, its joys and its griefs, would occupy no moments of my thoughts. I would strive to look upon eternity alone and on the immortal souls around me, soon to be everlastingly happy or everlastingly miserable. I would go forth to the world and preach in season and out of season, and my text would be, "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?"

Upon reading these words, C. T. suddenly saw that this was the truly consistent Christian life. He determined from that time on that his life would be consistent and fixed with one purpose in view—being obedient to God's will. He soon set himself to seek the empowering of the Holy Spirit and before long, was visited with an outpowering of the Spirit with power and much assurance.

Within a few months, C.T. had a very definite burden and leading to make himself available for work in China. When he made this direction known, he began to receive strong opposition from family, friends, and even other Christians. But he came to the point, by God's grace, that he never looked back. His guiding principle he stated in simple words: "How could I spend the best years of my life living for the honors of this world, when thousands of souls are perishing every day?" C. T. soon wrote to his mother: "Mother dear, I do pray God to show you that it is such a privilege to give up a child to be used of God in saving poor sinners who have never even heard of the name of Jesus." Immediately he met with Hudson Taylor, who was home from China to meet

with and enlist any Christian workers who felt called to go to China. It wasn't long before Studd was accepted by Taylor as a member of the China Inland Mission, along with six other young men: M. Beauchamp, A. T. Pohill-Turner, D. E. Hoste, C. H. Pohill-Turner, W.W. Cassels, and Stanley P. Smith. These seven made up The Cambridge Seven, and they set sail for China in February of 1885.

Studd ultimately had three different missionary careers, first in China, then India, and finally in Africa. But China was the first place of service for this amazing man. A fuller account of Studd's life and work can be read in Norman Grubb's biography, entitled C.T. Studd: Cricketer and Pioneer. It was while in China at the age of 25 that C. T.'s full future inheritance was to come to him according to his father's will. Studd decided, through much prayer and searching the Scriptures, that it was his Heavenly Father's will for him to give it away. As far as C. T. could judge, his inheritance would be approximately £29,000. Before knowing what the exact full amount would be, on a memorable day, January 13, 1887, he gave away £25,000 in one day, mailing four checks of £5000 each, and five checks of £1000 each. Those included in his support were the ministries of D. L. Moody and George Muller, to whom he sent £5,000 each. In addition, he sent £5,000 to be used for the poor of London, another £5,000 to Booth Tucker for the Salvation Army in India, and several £1000 gifts to various Christian workers in Ireland and England.

> When C. T. later found out the exact inheritance, he sent several thousand more pounds to the China Inland Mission, leaving him with another £3400 in his own possession. It was like giving away millions in inheritance by today's standards. Three years after arriving in China, C. T. married a young Irish missionary from Ulster, Priscilla Livingston Stewart. Just before the wedding, he presented his new bride-to-be with the remaining money. Not to be outdone, Priscilla said, "Charlie, what did the Lord tell the rich young ruler to do?" "Sell all." "Well, then, we will start clear with the Lord at our wedding." And they gave the rest of the money away for the Lord's work. The theme of their wedding was, "United to Fight for Jesus." One of the main works the Studds did in China was the opening of an Opium Refuge for those suffering wretchedly from the drug. Addicts would stay about a month and go away cured. They saw a number of individuals come to know the Lord Jesus in that difficult ministry, with a total of 800 people coming through the work over a seven-year period. After being in China for 10 years, the

Studds returned to England in 1894. C.T. had almost died the previous year, and it became obvious this return was the Lord's will. As their furlough unfolded, D. L. Moody invited Studd to come to the U. S. to have a tour of speaking in American universities, which he did with much divine blessing attending that time of several months. Then in 1900, the Studds answered God's call to go to India.





C.T.'s father had expressed on his death bed that he hoped some-how his son would one day go to India. From 1900 until 1906, C. T. pastored the Union Church in Ootacamund, South India. A remark was made about this church during that time which best describes what the atmosphere must have been like: "That church is a place to be avoided unless a man means to get converted!" There were consistent and at times remarkable conversions, including military officers and individuals in places of high honor. When the time came in 1906 for them to leave India, all four of the Studd's daughters had become believers and wanted to be baptized in India before leaving. C. T. baptized the girls himself in a tank fitted into a freshly dug pit. Among those present for the service were an old missionary and his wife who deeply loved the girls, a Baptist missionary and his wife, as well as Miss Amy Carmichael.

In 1906, the Studds returned to England, with C. T. now at the age of fifty and facing health challenges. It had been 18 years since their marriage and mutual utter surrender to God's purpose. But the greatest venture of all was yet still to come, the greatest work of his life - the interior of Africa. C. T. had no money, and facing some health issues, how could he face tropical Africa? Before long, his doctor declined giving his permission for Africa. Then his own mission committee rejected his request. His answer before long to the committee was: "Gentlemen, God has called me to go, and I will go." God's will and Studd's determination won in the end, as C. T. labored in the heart of Africa

for the next twenty years, establishing the Africa Interior Mission, which later became the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade (WEC). C. T. sailed for Africa on December 15, 1910. He wrote on his first day in the Belgian Congo: "I know I am God's; I know I only want His glory and the salvation of others and I know He knows it. I never was better nor stronger for years and years, but best of all, I know God is with us. He talks to me and His blessed Word means more than ever before, and makes me burn to dare and do for Him." It was in Africa that God became even more a God of wonders to C. T. There were powerful outpourings of the Spirit in the years while he was there, with revival and awakening spreading to many mission stations. In a letter written home not long before his death, he gave a last backward look at his life from his perspective: "As I believe I am now nearing my departure from this world, I have but a few things to rejoice in:

--that God called me to China and I went in spite of opposition from all my loved ones.

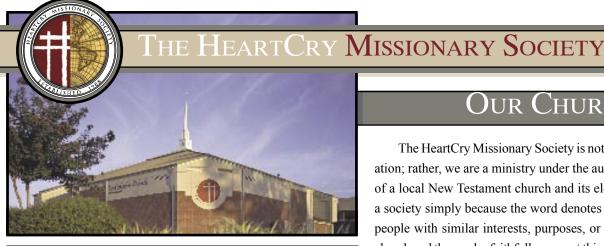
--that I joyfully acted as Christ told that rich young ruler to act.

-- that, at the call of God, I deliberately, when alone on the Bibby liner in 1910, gave up my life for this work in Africa, which was to be henceforth not for the Sudan only, but for the whole unevangelized world.

--my only joys therefore are that when God has given me a work to do, I have not refused it."

C. T. bore much fruit in Africa, even while enduring weakness, sickness, and suffering several heart attacks. It was on July 16th, 1931, around 10:30 a.m. that C.T. Studd died in the heart of Africa, and was buried there. His last spoken words were, "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" His evident, God-given strengths as a missionary were as follows: courage in any emergency, determination never to sound the retreat, his conviction that he was in God's will, real faith that God would see him through any situation, his contempt for the arm of the flesh, and his willingness to risk all for Christ. As his own son-in-law and biographer, Norman Grubb said, "His life will be an eternal rebuke to easy-going Christianity."





### OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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), and that the Lamb who was slain might receive the full reward for His sufferings (Revelation 7:9-10). We find our great purpose and motivation not in man or his needs, but in God, His commitment to His own glory, and our God-given desire to see Him worshipped in every nation, tribe, people, and language. We find our great confidence not in the Church's ability to fulfill the Great Commission, but in God's unlimited and unhindered power to accomplish all He has decreed.

#### Our Church

The HeartCry Missionary Society is not a para-church organization; rather, we are a ministry under the authority and supervision of a local New Testament church and its elders. We call ourselves a society simply because the word denotes a proper association of people with similar interests, purposes, or passions. Those of our church and those who faithfully support this ministry have one abiding purpose: That God's Name be great among the nations through the redemption of men and the building up of Christ's bride.

Our church is the First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals (1915 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661). It is a Southern Baptist Church concerned with the restoration of the true Gospel and the biblical principles that ought to govern the local church. The elders serving at First Baptist Muscle Shoals are Phil Baggett, Andy Bolding, Steve Bradley, Donnie Dulaney, Jim Fowler, Alvin Lynch, Bill Newman, Jeff Noblit, Michael Statom, and David Wigginton.

#### What We Do

Although we recognize the great importance of sending missionaries from the West to unevangelized peoples throughout the world, we believe that we are led of the Lord to support indigenous or native missionaries so that they might evangelize their own peoples. We work with godly men and women of integrity and faith in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant churches among their own peoples. Our primary ministries are:

Church Planting: This is our primary ministry. Nothing can do more to advance the Kingdom and nothing is more difficult than planting biblical churches throughout the world. We also support works on university campuses in Eastern Europe, but always in connection with the local church.

Bible Conferences: Missions is not about sending missionaries, but about sending truth through missionaries. One of the greatest needs on the contemporary mission field is theological training and instruction in expository preaching. Our Bible conferences focus mainly upon the true Gospel, expository preaching, true conversion and assurance, and the biblical church.

Literature Distribution: One of the great needs among indigenous missionaries and pastors is solid Christian literature. Besides the basic study tools, it is our desire to provide works from such sources as the Puritans, the preachers of the Great Awakening, Spurgeon, Martyn Lloyd Jones, etc.

Ministry Tools: With prayer and discretion, we provide any number of resources necessary for the indigenous missionary to advance the work: boats, cars, pack mules, generators, computers, construction, etc.

### THE HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY



#### Free Magazine

The HeartCry Missionary Society publishes a quarterly magazine free of charge to all who request it. The primary purpose of our magazine is to share something of the great work that God is doing in the world through indigenous missions. In our publication, we share more than mission statistics, but provide personal testimonies and reports from the field that let the reader see something of the heart of the missionaries and the struggles they endure for the sake of the Name. We do all this with the goal of encouraging believers in the West to turn away from the vanities of this world, follow hard after Christ, and give themselves to the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the world. Remember: We are called to either go down in the well, or hold the rope for those who go down!

#### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

You can find out all about the HeartCry Missionary Society on the worldwide web at: www.heartcrymissionary.com. Our website is designed to communicate our mission statement,

history, a description of our ministry and methodology, a statement of our theology, and our essential convictions about the Gospel and Missions. It also includes news and event updates, an archive of past issues of the HeartCry Magazine, and downloads of sermons from Paul Washer and other preachers. Finally, there is also a page that enables you to communicate your thoughts to us and even donate online. If you have enjoyed our HeartCry magazine, we are sure that you will be blessed by our website.



## COME OVER... AND HELP US

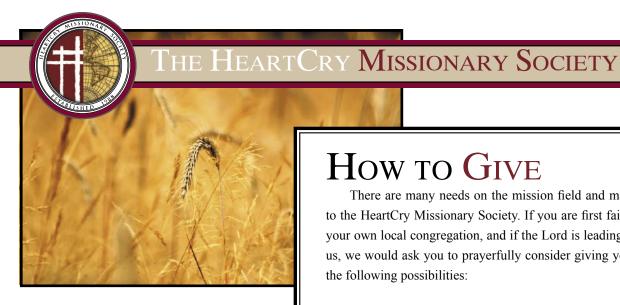
The harvest is truly plentiful and the laborers are few. At this moment, there are countless works throughout the world that could be expanded if only Christians would turn from the vanities of this world and give themselves to the will of God in making the Gospel known to every man, woman, and child under heaven. The Great Commission can be divided into two distinct, but interrelated ministries. You are either called to go down into the well (i.e. go as a missionary) or hold the rope for those who go down (i.e. support missionaries). Either way, there will be scars on your hands. Those who do not go are called to support those who do with the same dedication and sacrifice. Where are your scars? What has it cost you to fulfill the Great Commission?

#### ACTS 16:9

As a Christian, you have been called to participate fully and sacrificially in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) in either going to the unreached or supporting those who go. However, it may not be God's will for you to do so



through this ministry. Please seek the Lord in prayer and in the study of the Scriptures before sending financial support. Please do not send financial support to this ministry if you are not being faithful in giving to your local church.



## How to Give

There are many needs on the mission field and many ways to give to the HeartCry Missionary Society. If you are first faithful in giving to your own local congregation, and if the Lord is leading you to join with us, we would ask you to prayerfully consider giving your gift to one of the following possibilities:

#### General Fund:

This is the backbone of HeartCry. It provides for the support of the indigenous missionaries, the U.S. staff, and the general operational expenses of our mission.

#### \* Pastoral Library Fund:

This fund is used to provide basic theological libraries to indigenous missionaries. The libraries usually include a Study Bible, concordance, Bible dictionary, Systematic Theology, and one volume commentary.

#### \* Special Needs:

For many years, supporters of this ministry have asked us to make known to them any special needs that might arise on the mission field. In order to avoid any possibility of prodding or manipulating our fellow believers, we have been very reluctant in the past to share these needs even when asked. Through much prayer, and the wise counsel of our board and longtime supporters, we have decided to share, with great discretion, certain valid needs that are communicated to us from the mission field. In the near future, these needs will be presented on our web page www.heartcrymissionary.com under the menu title: "Opportunities for Giving".

#### Where to Give

All checks should be made payable to the HeartCry Missionary Society and sent to The HeartCry Missionary Society, 1915 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661. Giving is also possible on our website: www.heartcrymissionary.com.

All donations are tax deductible.

#### Contact Us

We would count it a privilege to hear from you and answer any questions you might have regarding our ministry. Please do not hesitate to contact us by any of the following means:

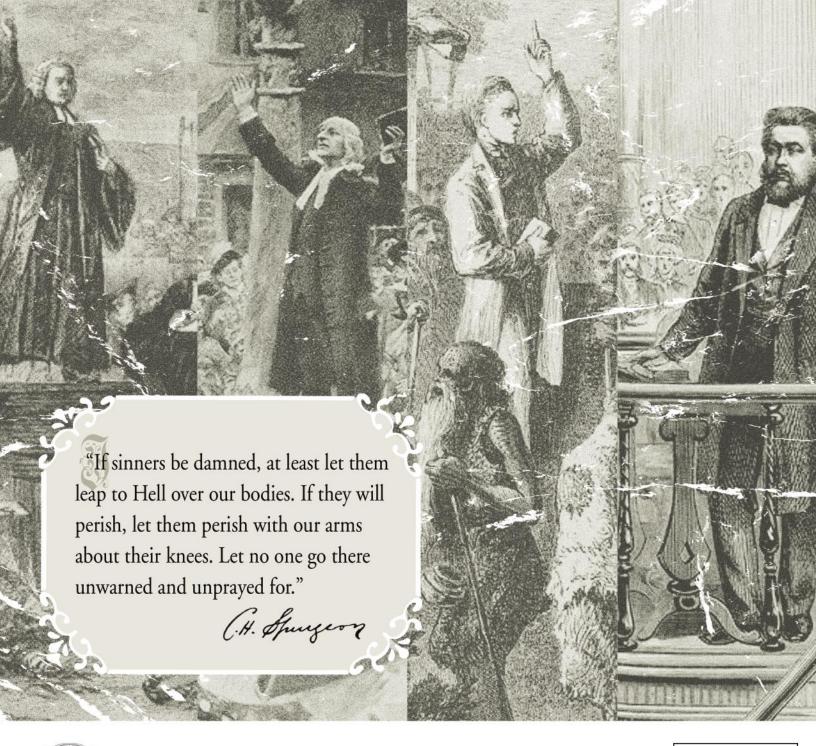
#### Address:

HeartCry Missionary Society 1915 East Avalon Avenue Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

TELEPHONE: (256) 381-7510

WEBSITE: www.heartcrymissionary.com

EMAIL: info@heartcrymissionary.com





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