

HeartCry

MAGAZINE

SPECIAL EDITION

MISSION & METHODOLOGY

2008

IN THIS ISSUE

Our Mission Statement

THE PURPOSE THAT DRIVES US

Our Theology

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR METHODOLOGY

Our Missionaries

REMEMBER THEM IN PRAYER

...AND MUCH MORE



HeartCry

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

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 in digenous 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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That God’s name be great
among the nations...
Malachi 1:11

That the Lamb receive the full
reward for His suffering.
Revelation 7:9-11

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Welcome

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

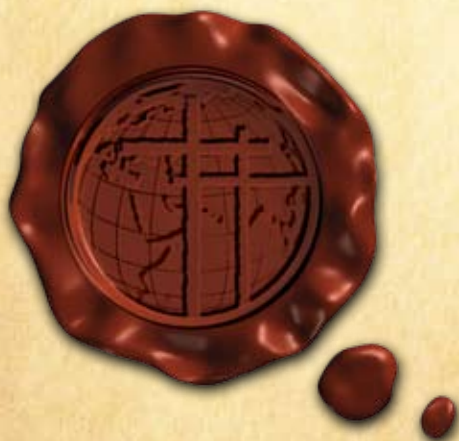
It is our privilege to greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel (II Timothy 1:10). The purpose of this "Special Edition" is to clearly communicate the mission statement, ministries, doctrine, and principles of the HeartCry Missionary Society. In the following pages, we have included those things which should be of greatest interest to the fellowship of believers who form part of this ministry through their prayers and giving, and to those who may be inquiring.

From the very outset, we hope to make it clear that we are a ministry of a local church - a simple fellowship of believers gathered together with a common interest and calling to labor in the Great Commission. We have no purpose for self-promotion and have no ambition except that of obeying the Lord's will. Although we have experienced a good measure of God's blessing in our endeavors, we are not indispensable to the growth of His kingdom. If we were to perish tomorrow, it would not in any way hinder the mighty advance of His will, nor diminish the increase of His harvest. We exist and bear fruit only because of God's gracious purpose (John 15:16). He is not served by human hands, as though He needed anything (Acts 17:25). He will make His Name great among the nations (Malachi 1:11) with or without us.

Although we have this sure confidence in the Lord's character and decree, we are not unaware of the times, nor are we without passion. At the dawn of this new millennium, we stand at the threshold of countless opportunities to witness the revelation of God's glory among the nations. To tarry is to miss out on the greatest open door the Church has ever known. It is not a time for small visions, narrow minds, and tight spirits, but a time for boldness, courage, and dependence upon the faithful promises of God. It is a time for taking up crosses, counting things lost, and following the Master.

For all these reasons and more, the HeartCry Missionary Society is trusting God for His all-sufficient grace that we might be of some useful service to the Master in this greatest of all endeavors. May we be found faithful until the Lord's standard is raised on every continent, in every nation, and among every people. May God's good providence fulfill His every promise to gather a people for His Son and to make His Name great among the nations!

In His Name,





[mish-uh] n.

1. a group or committee of persons sent to a foreign country to conduct negotiations, establish relations, provide scientific and technical assistance, or the like.

2. the business with which such a group is charged.

OUR MISSION

“‘For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My Name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My Name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My Name will be great among the nations,’ says the Lord of hosts.”

Malachi 1:11

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

Revelation 7:9-10



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.

The Christian who is truly passionate about the glory of God and confident in His sovereignty will not be unmoved by the billions of people in the world who have yet to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If we are truly Christlike, the lost multitude of humanity will move us to compassion (Matthew 9:36), even to great sorrow and unceasing grief (Romans 9:2). The sincerity of our Christian confession should be questioned if we are not willing to do all within our means to make Christ known among the nations and to endure all things for the sake of God's elect (II Timothy 2:10).

As Christians, we are called, commissioned, and commanded to lay down our lives so that the Gospel might be preached to every creature under heaven. Second only to loving God, this is to be our magnificent obsession. There is no nobler task for which we may give our lives than promoting the glory of God in the redemption of men through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If the Christian is truly obedient to the Great Commission, he will either give his life to go down into the well or to hold the rope for those who go down. Either way, the same radical commitment is required.

While we recognize that the needs of mankind are many and his sufferings are diverse, we believe that they all spring from a common origin - the radical depravity of his heart, his enmity toward God, and his rejection of truth. Therefore, we believe that the greatest benefit to mankind can be accomplished through the preaching of the Gospel and the establishment of local churches that proclaim the full counsel of God's Word and minister according to its commands, precepts, and wisdom. Such a work cannot be accomplished through the arm of the flesh, but only through the supernatural providence of God and the means which He has ordained: biblical preaching, intercessory prayer, sacrificial service, unconditional love, and true Christlikeness.



1. the field of study and analysis that treats of God and of God's attributes and relations to the universe; study of divine things or religious truth; divinity.

[hee-ol-uh-jee] n.

OUR THEOLOGY

The great end of any missionary society or fellowship should not be the sending forth of missionaries, but the sending forth of God's truth through missionaries. It is unwise and even perilous to make missions or evangelism a rallying point for believers or congregations of diverse or undefined doctrinal viewpoints. Truth and the desire to make it known among the nations must be the uniting force.

Since missions is primarily a task of communicating God's truth to the nations, biblical doctrine is primary. Any missionary society or agency that does not concern itself with biblical doctrine or generalizes its doctrinal statement in order to maintain fellowship with the greatest number of professing Christians (i.e., supporters) has lost its very purpose and possibly its very soul.



THE SCRIPTURES. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.

GOD. There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself all perfections, and being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience.

THE TRINITY. God is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

PROVIDENCE. God, from eternity, decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and all events; yet not in any way as to be the author or approver of sin nor to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures.

ELECTION. Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life—not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ—in consequence of which choice they are called, justified, and glorified.

THE FALL OF MAN. God originally created man in His own image, and free from sin; but, through the temptation of Satan, man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity [i.e. descendants] inherit a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors.

THE MEDIATOR. Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law, suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, rose again on the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He lives forever to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest, and King of the church, and Sovereign of the Universe.

REGENERATION. Regeneration is a change of heart, wrought by the Holy Spirit, who makes alive those who are dead in trespasses and sins, enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the Word of God, and renewing their whole nature, so that they love and practice holiness. It is a work of God's free and special grace alone.

REPENTANCE. Repentance is an evangelical grace, wherein the Holy Spirit makes a person aware of the manifold evil of his sin, so that he humbles himself with godly sorrow, detesting sin, and abhorring [i.e., hating] self, with a purpose and endeavor to walk before God so as to please Him in all things.

FAITH. Saving faith is the belief, on God's authority, of whatsoever is revealed in His Word concerning Christ; accepting and resting upon Him alone for justification and eternal life. It is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, and is accompanied by all other saving grace, and leads to a life of holiness.

JUSTIFICATION. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sinners who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made. It is given not for any-



thing wrought in them or done by them, but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith.

SANCTIFICATION. Those who have been regenerated are also sanctified by God's Word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of Divine strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in cordial [i.e., willing] obedience to all Christ's commands.

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS. Those whom God has accepted in the Beloved, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

THE CHURCH. The Lord Jesus is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. According to His commandment, Christians are to associate themselves into particular societies or churches; and to each of these churches He has given needful authority for administering the order, discipline and worship which He has appointed. The regular officers of a church are Bishops (or Elders) and Deacons.

BAPTISM. Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he is immersed in water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of his giving himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life.

THE LORD'S SUPPER. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with bread and wine, and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death, to confirm the faith of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge, and renewal of their communion with Him, and of their church fellowship.

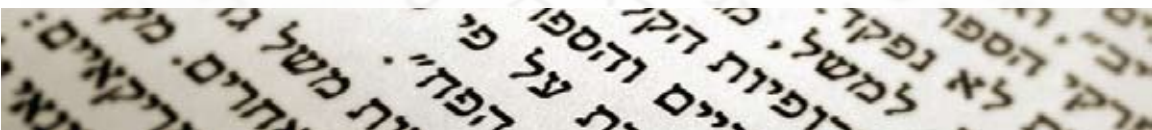
THE LORD'S DAY. The New Testament Church gives the example of assembling on the Lord's Day (i.e. Sunday) for the reading and teaching of the Word of God, worship, prayer, and mutual encouragement – stimulating one another to love and good deeds. It is fitting to view the Lord's day as a celebration of Christ's resurrection and the redemption of His people.

THE RESURRECTION. The bodies of men after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God - the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked, to be reserved under darkness to judgment. At the last day, the bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised.

THE JUDGMENT. God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when every one shall receive according to his deeds: the wicked shall go into everlasting punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life.

** Acknowledgements: The HeartCry Missionary Society's doctrinal confession is taken in part from the Abstract of Principles set down by James Pettigru Boyce, the principle founder of Southern Seminary (1859), the first Chairman of its Faculty (1859-1887), its first President (1888), and its most distinguished professor of Systematic Theology.*

Other Essential Convictions



1. Missions is an Impossibility apart from the Power of God. All men of every culture are born radically depraved, at enmity with God, and restraining the truth. The conversion of a man and the advancement of missions are an absolute impossibility apart from the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit in regeneration. Modern church growth strategies and many new mission methodologies often overlook this essential truth.

2. A True Gospel must be Proclaimed. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1:16) and the preaching of the Gospel is the great “means” and “methodology” of missions. The Gospel is, first and foremost, God in Christ reconciling the world to Himself (II Corinthians 5:19). It answers the eternal question of how a just God can rightly justify wicked men (Romans 3:26). It points to Christ alone, who bore the sins of His people upon the cross, was forsaken of God, and crushed under the full force of His just wrath against sin. The Good News of the Gospel is that through Christ’s death, the justice of God was satisfied, and salvation was won for a great multitude of people. This is evidenced by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead - “He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification” (Romans 4:25).

3. The Gospel Transcends Culture. The greatest need of all men of every culture is the clear proclamation of the Gospel. Men are saved through the Gospel and continue in sanctification through continued growth in the full counsel of God’s Word. Although differences in culture are to be considered, it is more important for the missionary to be biblically sensitive than culturally sensitive. A missionary was once asked how he preached the Gospel to a certain remote tribe. He declared, “I do not preach the Gospel to a remote tribe. I preach the Gospel to men!”

4. Incarnational Missions is Essential. Although there may be some effective non-personal means of communicating the Gospel, there is no substitute for one man living among a people, teaching the Gospel to them, and living out his faith before them. God sent his own Son, and He became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1,14; 3:16).

5. Superficial Evangelism is one of the Great Obstacles to Missions. Non-theological preaching, entertaining skits, and Gospel films are no substitute for the biblical exposition of the Gospel. Inviting men to raise their hands and pray a prayer is no substitute for the biblical call to repentance, faith, and personal discipleship. Biblical assurance of salvation does not flow from a past decision or a prayer, but from the examination of one’s enduring lifestyle in the light of Scripture.

6. Church Planting is the Primary Work of Missions. There are many gifts and callings in the body of Christ, but all of them are to work together on the mission field with the primary goal of planting a biblical church. It is one thing to do mass evangelism and to boast of the numbers of decisions; it is quite another to establish a biblical church.

7. True Missions is Costly. Amy Carmichael explained that missions is no more and no less than an opportunity to die. We live in a fallen world that is at enmity with God and opposes His truth; therefore, missions and suffering go hand in hand. Any advancement of the kingdom of Christ into the dominion of the devil will be met with warfare. There are many countries and people groups where martyrdom cannot be avoided.

Pray for South America



Martin Zacarias

Director for South America, Barranco



Rogelio Acea

Peru



Javier Carhuapoma

Sullana



Angel Colmenares

Sullana



Daniel Colmenares

Sullana



Joel & Dana Gamonal

District of Manchay



Carlos Garcia Galvez

Sullana



Victor Malpartida

Santa Margarita & Luis Felipe



Arturo Marin

San Rafael Village, San Martin



Gilberto Valdez Nole

Northern Peru



Gloria Martinez

Piura, Northern Peru



Juan Pablo Osorio

Villa el Salvador, Lima



Ana Maria Perez

Word of Life Ministries



Miguel Sanabria

Lima



Thomas Urbina

Lima



Ernesto Zacarias

Lima & Villa el Salvador

Dario Sara
Barranco

Miguel Sanazar
Barranco

Gustavo Requejo
Barranco

NOT PICTURED
Segundo Gonzales
Barranco

Pray for the Middle East



Walid Batar

Lebanon



Leonid Banchik

Israel



Michael Karpovetzki

Israel



Antony Simon

Israel



Bilong

Tawong, Arunachal Pradesh



Noulini Chanu

India



Alen Chiru

Imphal, Manipur



James Dhale

Grace Himalayan Mission, India



H. Jacob

Andaman & Nicobar Islands



Jackson

Boghdogra, West Bengal



Dr. Joseph Kennedy

Grace Himalayan Mission, India



Dharmen Kutum

Uko-Sopori, Assam



Levi

Siliguri, West Bengal



Mungthuk

Myanmar



Willinliv Newmai

Bhutan



M. Lovingson

Maram Tribe, India



Mary

Myanmar



Probir Meitei

Bangladesh



Halla Dhir Milli

Arunachal Pradesh



Ritesh Ranah

Nepal



Sib

Midnapore, West Bengal



Krishna Shankars

Midnapore, West Bengal



Bathsheba Simeon

India



Dilip Kumar Singh

Bangladesh



Thanmoung

Myanmar

The Great Commission is not an option to be considered, but a command to be obeyed.

- J. Hudson Taylor

I have but one candle of life to burn and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light.

- John K. Falconer

If God calls you to be a missionary, don't stoop to be a king.

- Jordan Groom

In the vast plain to the north I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been.

- Robert Moffatt

Give me a hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a bit whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth.

- John Wesley

God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him.

- J. Hudson Taylor

Untold millions are still untold.

- Unknown



PRAY

FOR HeartCry

MISSIONARIES

AROUND THE

WORLD

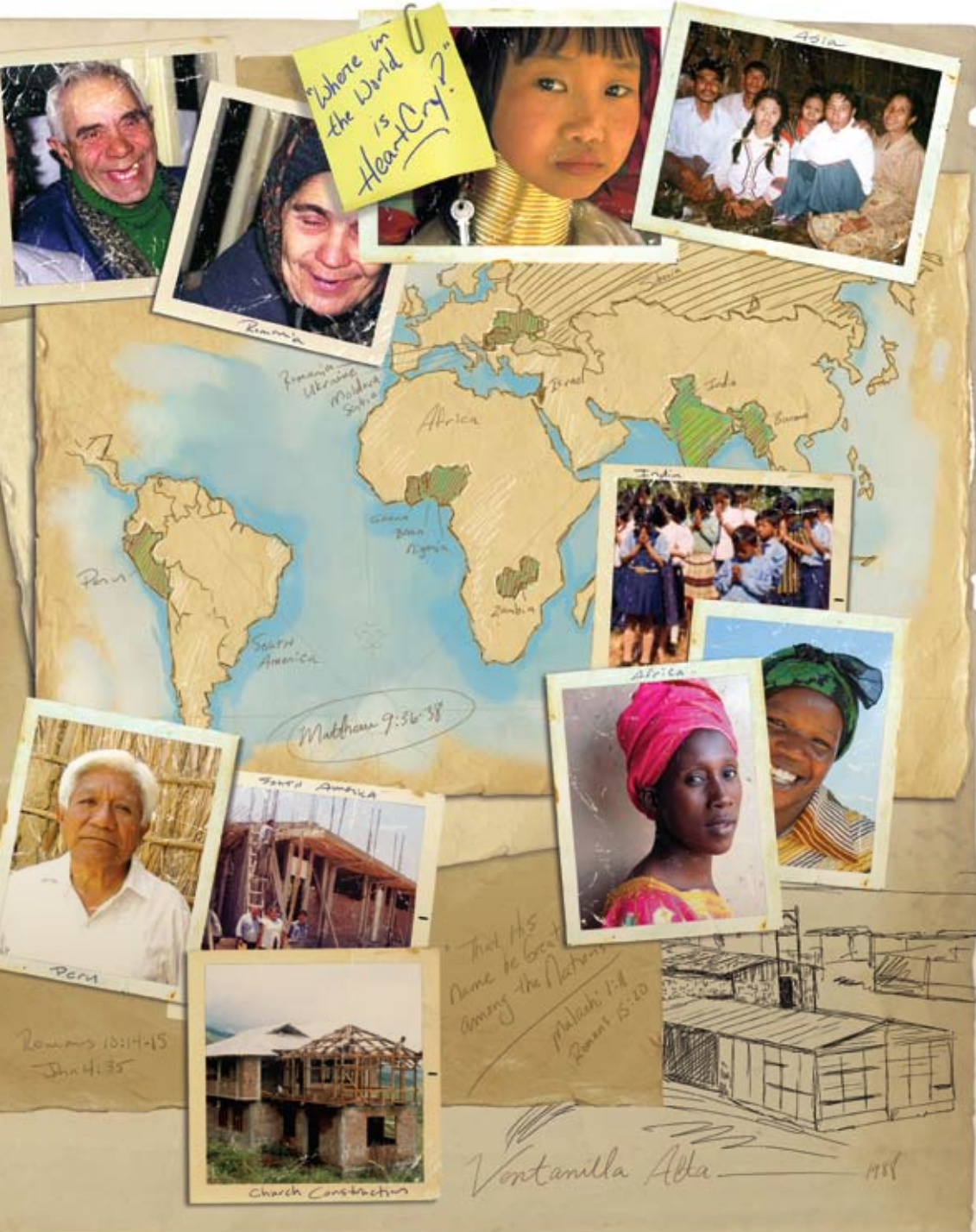


A shipment of Bibles being readied for shipment to the mountain peoples of northern Peru & the churches along the Amazon River

Above all things we desire your prayers on behalf of this ministry that the Lord has given us. Prayer is not “a work” of missions, but “the work” of missions. We would greatly appreciate your prayers on behalf of those of us who have been called to this ministry and on behalf of those who are ministering as indigenous missionaries throughout the world.

How to Pray for Missions

1. That there might be peace throughout the world so that the Gospel might be preached in every nation (I Timothy 2:1-4), and that doors might be opened to the Gospel throughout the world (Colossians 4:3).
2. That God might send forth laborers to every nation of the earth (Matthew 9:37-38).



3. That God might grant grace to each missionary so that they walk in holiness, love, wisdom, and power, and they preach the Gospel correctly (Colossians 4:1-4).
4. That the knowledge of God might cover every land like the waters that cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9)..
5. That God might convert men by His sovereign power and for His own glory (Ezekiel 36:22-28).
6. That all men of every nation might joyfully submit to the sovereign will of God (Matthew 6:10).
7. That God's Name might be great, or "be hallowed" among the nations (Malachi 1:11; Matthew 6:9). That all men of every nation might esteem the worth of God above all things.

Pray for Eastern Europe



Sorin Prodan
HeartCry Director for Eastern Europe



Marian Bicajan
Romania



Cosmin Ciui
Rimnicu Sarat



Tanya Ciobanu
Moldova



Olga & Gelu Ciorna
Moldova



Anatol Dunas
Moldova



Nicolae Dunas
Moldova



Sandu Deac
Cernauti, Ukraine



Draganesti Team
Danu Opris, Florina Cazan, Raul Costea



Stefan Gae
Romania



Ion Gireada
Tereblegea & Bahronesti



Ilie Glusceac
Rosa Stinca & Cernauti



Sorin Iordan
Minister to Gypsies (Romania)



Moises Marin
Romania



Tonica Mihai
Various Gypsy Villages (Romania)



Zoran Milovanovici
Deliblato (Serbia)



Marian Nae
Glina & Bobesti (Romania)



Alex Palade
Campus Ministries (Romania)



Vladimir Radzihovski
Nizhnyavartovsk (Siberia)



Vitali Rusnak
Ukraine



Stoienesti Team
Cristi Simion, George Serban



Igor & Mariana Seremet
Aneii Noi (Moldova)

Pray for Africa



German Banda

Petauke



Lovemore Banda

Petauke



Curtis Chirwa

Chililabombwe



The Lozi People

Zambia



Jonathan Mwalima

Petauke



Emmanuel Sakala

Chililabombwe



Kennedy Sunkutu

Zambia



Lichawa Thole

Matero

Eastern Europe (Continued)



Florin Stan

Dimbovita (Romania)



Natasha Terenti

Moldova



Marian Toma

Tunari, Dimieni & Tamas (Romania)



Marius Toma

Colentina (Romania)



Ion Tomeci

Timisoara (Romania)



Vitalie Tufar

Moldova



Marian Vale

Frunzanești (Romania)



Ruxandra Vandici

Bucarest (Romania)



Nicolae Vulpe

Dimbovita (Romania)



Indigenous MISSIONS

By Paul David Washer

Although HeartCry recognizes the great importance of sending missionaries from the West to the 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 indigenous congregations, elders, and missionaries of integrity and faith in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant churches among their own peoples.

Fulfilling the Great Commission

How do we fulfill the Great Commission? There are two distinct mission strategies that we must consider. They are very different, but not in opposition. We need not think that we must use one to the exclusion of the other. Both are viable in their own right and should be employed to fulfill the Great Commission. These two mission strategies are:

A Cross-Cultural Mission Strategy - This is the traditional strategy for doing missions, whereby missionaries are sent to a nation, people

group, or culture outside their own. Example: A North American missionary agency sending and supporting a North American missionary to Eastern Europe.

An Indigenous Mission Strategy - This strategy does not send missionaries from one nation, people group, or culture to another, but works through missionaries that are native to the country in which they are ministering. Example: A North American missionary agency providing the support for a Romanian missionary to work in Romania among his own people.



Cross-Cultural Missions

The Church has a long and glorious history of cross-cultural missions. The apostle Paul was a cross-cultural missionary in that he went outside his own people, the Jews, and outside his own country, Israel, and preached the Gospel to the Gentiles. William Carey and Amy Carmichael in India, Hudson Taylor in China, and David Livingstone in Africa are all examples of cross-cultural missionaries.

It is not difficult to see that cross-cultural mission work is indispensable to the Great Commission. How can a people group who is entirely without the Gospel come to a saving knowledge of Christ unless missionaries from another culture are sent to them? The apostle Paul writes in Romans 10:14-15:

"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!'" (NASB)

Cross-cultural missions are biblical, historical, and necessary wherever there exists a people group completely devoid of the Gospel message or where the Church is still struggling to take root in a culture or people group. In many areas of the world today, there are entire people groups that have no knowledge of Christ. For them to be reached, Christians must leave their own peoples and lands and go to them, bearing the Good News.

Indigenous Missions

After two thousand years of missionary activity, over half the world has still not heard the Gospel. The traditional mission method of only training and financing North American and Western European missionaries is not sufficient in itself to reach the world. There are simply not enough missionaries or available economic resources from the West to reach all the nations of the world! A solution to this problem is to support indigenous or native missionaries to work within their own countries and people groups.



Indigenous Missions

Continued...

As a result of two millennia of cross-cultural missionary work, there are untold millions of Christians throughout the world. Dedicated to God, knowledgeable of the Scriptures, and with a burning zeal for the lost, they often suffer great hardship, risking life and personal welfare to preach the Gospel to their own people. The indigenous or native missionary strategy recognizes the worth and usefulness of this great body of native believers and seeks to provide the training and financial support necessary for them to reach their own people.

How It All Began

Several years ago while I was serving as a missionary in Peru, I was an eyewitness of the great advancement of the Gospel through many indigenous workers in spite of their severe poverty. I began to pray and search the Scriptures regarding my proper response to such choice servants and their need. In III John 1:5-8, I found a compelling teaching:

“Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers; and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth” (NASB)

As I read through this passage, I began to ask myself how its admonition should be applied.

Should North Americans send only North American missionaries on their way in a manner worthy of God? Was it biblical for North Americans and Western European Christians to help indigenous missionaries outside of their own countries and cultures? Should the abundance in the West be used to help indigenous missionaries in less prosperous countries and people groups?

Opposition and Answers

As I began to discuss this idea with other North American missionaries, I met with some opposition. I often heard that if indigenous missionaries were given economic support from the West, they would become dependent, or it would spoil them, or they would become lazy. I was also given many examples of western missionaries who had supported indigenous missionaries with little or no success.

As I carefully considered the objections and the examples of failure, I began to see serious flaws in the arguments that had been given to me. First, I never heard a North American missionary tell a church to withhold support from him because he was afraid that too much support might make him dependent, spoiled, or lazy. Secondly, there are many missionaries from North America and Western Europe who are extremely ineffective, apathetic, and who do not even believe in the authority of Scripture. Should we stop sending missionaries to the foreign field simply because some are unworthy? Thirdly, the countless stories of failed attempts placed the blame solely

The Indigenous Missionary Advantage

In the following paragraphs, we will consider a few of the most important advantages of sending and supporting indigenous or native missionaries to reach their own people. Before we do, we want to iterate that the indigenous missionary strategy does not eliminate the need for cross-cultural missionaries. This is not an either/or, but a both/and situation. We are not arguing for a moratorium on North American and Western European missionaries, but fully recognize the need for thousands more on the

field! We are simply seeking to prove that the indigenous missionary strategy is an equally viable missionary method.

1. Human Resources It is a fact that, before going to war, military strategists consider the size of their population as opposed to that of their enemy. This simply means that the amount of human resources available to carry out a task is extremely important. The world is a very large place with more than six bil-



upon the indigenous missionaries, but failed to see the other obvious reasons for failure:

1. Those who were supported did not measure up to the qualifications of a minister given to us in the third chapter of First Timothy. They should have never been supported in the first place. The foreign missionary who supported them was as much at fault as the unqualified national. For this reason, the Scriptures warn us not to lay our hands too hastily upon anyone (I Timothy 5:22).
2. Those who were supported did not demonstrate the validity of their calling. They were not men who were diligent to present themselves approved to God as workmen who do not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of Truth (II Timothy 2:15). They were not working in the harvest prior to a promise of support. They were hirelings who were unwilling to work in the harvest unless they had the promise of support.
3. The indigenous missionary was often hired by the foreign missionary to act as a servant to do his will. I have seen indigenous missionaries who were called by God to preach the Gospel reduced down to nothing more than a house boy hired to wash the foreign missionary's car, clean the missionary compound, and take the missionary's wife shopping at the market.
4. The foreign missionaries who supposedly attempted to support indigenous missionaries neglected to involve the local church. The

foreign missionary alone does not have the right to call out, approve, or send out missionaries. This is the work of the local church and its elders. I found it interesting that the local church was never really involved in most of these cases that failed.

As I studied the failed attempts to support indigenous missionaries, I began to see that the blame lay primarily at the feet of those foreign missionaries and foreign missionary agencies that approved them. The failure was not the result of supporting indigenous missionaries, but the result of violating countless biblical principles and the masked prejudice of some foreign missionaries who treated the indigenous missionaries as inferior. As I considered the Scriptures, I began to see how churches in the more developed nations might support indigenous missionaries outside the West.

Indigenous Missions and the Local Church

As I considered the support of indigenous missionaries, the one truth that kept coming to the forefront was this: The indigenous local church and its elders must be the key players in the work. It is not wise to support indigenous missionaries in a country, people group, or geographical area unless God opens the door to work through indigenous pastors, local churches, and/or a fellowship of churches that have an established and enduring reputation (national or even international reputation).

The HeartCry work in Zambia is an excellent example of this principle. Conrad Mbewe of

lion people. If every Christian in America was a foreign missionary, there would still not be enough missionaries to preach the Gospel to all peoples. If we continue to depend only on missionaries from the West, much of the world will never hear the Gospel.

2. Financial Resources It costs a great deal of money to send and support North American and Western European missionaries. Many missionary families require \$3000 to \$4000 a month to work in a foreign land where the av-

erage salary is often less than \$200 a month. In contrast, the indigenous or native missionary is able to live on the same salary as his fellow countrymen. This adds up to a tremendous increase in economic power. For what it costs to support one North American missionary with a monthly support of \$4000, it is possible to support 20 indigenous missionaries!

3. Language and Culture Any cross-cultural missionary will testify that language and

Indigenous Missions

Continued...

Zambia is a highly respected pastor whose reputation extends far beyond his own country. He and his church are responsible for training the missionary candidates, ordaining them, sending them forth, and holding them accountable on the field. The demands they place upon their missionaries and the degree of accountability to which they hold them far exceeds most, if not all, other missionary-sending agencies. They have the expertise to train missionaries, the endurance to work beside them in the field, and the wisdom and bold-

ness to hold them accountable. What they lack are the financial resources that can be found in the West. The HeartCry Missionary Society works with men like Pastor Mbewe to provide what is lacking so that the Great Commission might be fulfilled.

The need to work through local indigenous churches and their elders cannot be exaggerated. Many pastors and other concerned Christians from the West sometimes visit third world countries and see the economic poverty

HeartCry BEGINS

Having worked through the arguments against supporting indigenous missionaries, the conviction continued to grow that a society should be formed for their benefit. But how could such a society be financed? It seemed good that we should not raise money or ask another to meet our needs. If God was truly the Author of this radical approach to missions, then He would be its Sustainer. We felt that we could bring the greatest glory to God by trusting in Him alone.

We would set out by faith and support a few Peruvian church planters. If God provided for their needs, then we would continue to expand according to the doors He opened for us and the resources that He provided.

It was not long after that the door opened up for us to do the same in other countries. From such small and feeble beginnings, God has enabled us to support national missionaries, distribute Scripture and Christian literature, and provide tools for evangelism in South America, Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. All this has been done not according to our faith, but beyond our faith, and even in spite of our frequent unbelief. If anything worthy has been accomplished in this ministry, it is the result of the absolute sovereignty of God and His will-

The Indigenous Missionary Advantage... *Continued*

culture are two of the greatest obstacles to the work. It often takes a cross-cultural missionary his first term (4-5 years) just to learn the language and adjust to the culture. Five years and a quarter of a million dollars are spent on the mission field to learn the language, adjust to the culture, and do a minimum of ministry. In contrast, the indigenous or native missionary has no need to learn the language or adjust to the culture that he has known since birth. From his very first day on the mission field, the

indigenous missionary can concentrate on his two priorities - evangelizing the lost and planting churches.

4. Identification There is much anti-American and anti-European bias in many of the least evangelized countries of the world. In many people groups, it is virtually impossible for a western missionary to preach the Gospel because he is rejected for his nationality long before he has the opportunity to communicate

of the churches and their ministers. They return to their home churches in the West and enthusiastically raise money to support the indigenous missionaries they have known for only a few days. Sometimes it works out and the Kingdom of God is advanced, but more often, the whole enterprise ends in discouragement. A few months of correspondence begins to reveal the true character of the missionary. He is not as qualified, not as dedicated, and not as selfless as first supposed. Support from the West has not corrupted this indigenous mis-

ingness to use the lowliest and weakest in order to confound the wisdom of the wise and embarrass the strength of the strong.

It is our strong desire to see the Gospel preached to all nations. We believe that it is God's will for us to trust Him as never before, to call upon Him in prayer as never before, and to expect great things from Him as never before. It is our hope and prayer that God might raise up an army of indigenous missionaries to carry the light of the Gospel into the darkest and most forgotten places on earth. We trust in His absolute sovereignty, and we rest in the certainty that He will call forth a people for His Son - a people chosen before the foundation of the world!

sionary, but it has simply revealed that he was not qualified to begin with. The pastor from the West was wrong in recommending a man that he had known for only a few days and that he could not hold accountable on the field.


We often fail to realize that missions must be guided by the principles found in God's Word and not by enthusiasm, sentimentalism, or romanticism. Men and women should be supported only after careful and prolonged scrutiny. They must have a solid testimony and a strong reputation among the churches and elders who know them best. We must never forget that a foreigner is easy to deceive. Throughout America's history, we find unscrupulous people who have made fortunes by deceiving the immigrants who came here from other countries. It is a simple truth that anyone



his message! In contrast, the indigenous missionary has little problem with such bias because he is of the same flesh and blood as those to whom he preaches. When he is rejected, it is not for the sake of his flag, but for the sake of his Gospel. Another problem that missionaries from the West often face is their inability or unwillingness to live on the same level as those to whom they minister. Western missionaries often live in homes that seem like mansions to the native; they drive expensive cars, while the native takes a bus; and they send their children

to private school, while the native sends his to public school. In contrast, the indigenous missionary's support is adjusted according to the average salary of his own country. He lives in the same neighborhood, takes the same bus, and his children attend the same school.

5. No Difficult Transitions For the cross-cultural missionary, church planting is often not as difficult as the later transitional period when the missionary bids farewell and the



Indigenous Missions

Frequently Asked Questions

is more susceptible to deception when coming to a land where the language and culture are not their own. Well-meaning Christians are often the most susceptible to such deception. For these reasons and many more, the support of indigenous missionaries must involve indigenous churches and elders with long-standing and worthy reputations. It is easy for a Peruvian candidate to deceive a North American Christian for a few days, but it is nearly impossible for him to deceive a biblical and Spirit-filled group of Peruvian pastors who have scrutinized his life in the light of the Scriptures for an extended period of time.

Frequently Asked Questions

We have seen the advantages of sending and supporting indigenous or native missionaries. In the following, we will consider a few frequently asked questions:

1. Are cross-cultural missionaries still needed on the mission field? Of course, they are! The indigenous missionary strategy does not eliminate the need for cross-cultural missionaries. This is not an either/or, but a both/and situation. We are not arguing for a moratorium on North American and Western European missionaries, but fully recognize the need for thousands more on the field! We are simply seeking to prove that the indigenous missionary strategy is an equally viable, and in some cases, more effective missionary method.

2. Will you spoil the native missionary by supporting him with American money?

The first thing we need to understand is that there is no such thing as American money. It is all God's money. If we are prosperous in America, it is so that we might wisely use what God has given us for the advancement of His Kingdom. Secondly, the support given to the indigenous missionaries is adjusted according to the average income of the population. If the average income in a country is \$150 a month, then that is the support given. The support that is received provides no luxuries, but gives enough economic freedom so that the missionary might work full-time in the ministry. Thirdly, we do not hire men so that they might work in the mission field, but we support men who have already given themselves to the work and would continue whether they received outside help or not. Fourthly, we find this objection about spoiling native missionaries with a \$100 a month salary amusing in light of the fact that some missionary board and denomination executives in the United States make over \$100,000 in annual salary.

3. Why don't the churches in these countries support their own missionaries?

This is a good question. The ultimate goal is always that the churches in a given country send and support their own missionaries, but many countries have been devastated by famine, war, and years of political corruption. The Christians in these countries often suffer un-

The Indigenous Missionary Advantage... *Continued*

church comes under national leadership. The church often suffers a great deal during this transitional period, loses members, and is greatly discouraged. Having experienced the prestige of a western missionary as pastor, the church is often no longer willing to accept one of its own. This is not a problem when the church is planted by an indigenous missionary and is under his leadership from beginning to end.

6. Focus It seems that many North American and Western European mission agencies have lost their focus. The Great Commission is first and foremost about preaching the Gospel, saving souls, discipling believers, and planting churches. Many western agencies seem to have an exorbitant number of missionaries working as administrators and "facilitators", and few ministering as preachers and church planters.



believable poverty and sacrifice to preach the Gospel and plant churches. The support from the outside simply helps them with this task. At this moment, in countless countries around the world, there are a multitude of men and women who work 16-hour days to feed their families with less than \$100 a month. When they are not working, they are preaching the Gospel and planting churches. The outside support simply enables them to invest those 16 hours in the Lord's work instead of in a factory!

4. How can a native missionary be as qualified as the American missionaries with a university or seminary education?

That depends on what you consider the qualifications to be. Do you measure a man of God by a diploma from a university, or by biblical knowledge, godliness, the Spirit's power, and zeal? In my ten years as a missionary in Peru, I met indigenous missionaries of whom the world is not worthy. These are men who would stand for hours and preach while being mocked and beaten and having goat urine poured on their heads. They would preach until their persecutors grew tired, sat down, and listened! I know men who look like toothless, sandal-footed beggars, and yet they have started ten or fifteen churches. One of the greatest examples of the truly qualified missionary is Angel Colmenares of Peru. He is an indigenous missionary who has been used of God in a movement that has left hundreds of churches in its wake. Several years ago I asked a friend to accompany Angel and me to a Bible conference among the mountain people of the Northern Andes. He accepted even though he was scheduled to travel to Brazil to attend a conference advertised as "the greatest gathering of missionary minds and strategists in the history of South America." Before the Bible conference, my friend and I accompanied Angel as he walked through a garbage dump looking for a discarded car battery that he hoped he could use to power his microphone for open air preaching. As we walked through the garbage, my friend looked at me and said, "I was scheduled to go to the greatest gathering of missionary minds and strategists in the history of South America, but here I am walking around in this garbage with you and this little beggar of a man who has started more churches than all those mission experts put together!"

Governing Principles

The most important principles that govern HeartCry's relationship with the indigenous churches and missionaries we sponsor are set forth in the following statements:

✚ HeartCry will not work independently of the indigenous churches on the mission field or their leadership, but will work in partnership with them. It is not HeartCry's purpose to support its own "HeartCry missionaries" throughout the world, but to assist indigenous churches in sending forth their own missionaries and planting new churches.

✚ HeartCry will join with the indigenous churches and their leadership in the selection of the missionaries. Our main concerns in the selection of missionaries are doctrine, godliness, calling, and zeal.

✚ HeartCry will provide indigenous churches with the funds necessary to support individual missionaries for a predetermined period of time. After such a time, the missionary's life and work will be reevaluated. Support may be continued, increased, or decreased according to the need.

✚ HeartCry will work with indigenous churches and their elders to determine the monthly support for each missionary. The amount of support will be based upon the average income in each country.

✚ Accountability will be the number one priority after a missionary is commissioned. HeartCry will work in cooperation with the sending church and its elders to oversee the missionary on the field.

✚ HeartCry will seek to contribute to the continued theological and ministerial training of the missionaries it sponsors. This will be accomplished through such things as Bible conferences, literature distribution, and theological training by extension.





Missionary TRAINING

As Christians living in the West, we have an almost unlimited access to the Scriptures, we may study in the Bible institute or seminary of our choice, and we are privileged to have most of the great books of Christianity translated into our own language. This has been God's blessing upon the West, and there is no need for us to apologize for our abundance. It is only required of us that we be good stewards in using our resources for the advancement of our own faith and in making the same resources available to our brothers and sisters in the rest of the world.


The HeartCry Missionary Society works with indigenous missionaries whom God has raised up for Himself in some of the most remote places on the earth. Although they are often without much formal training, God has taught them and made them competent. There is a sense in which we would do well to sit at their feet and learn, but there is another sense in which their lives and ministries would prosper even more if they had at least some of the resources that abound among us. It is, therefore, HeartCry's goal to provide whatever training and resources necessary to advance the Gospel through these indigenous missionaries around the world.

Before we continue, we must acknowledge that much damage is being done to the work

of God on the "foreign field" by some of the teachings which are exported by Western Christianity. The superficial evangelism and church growth strategies that have done so much damage to the cause of Christ in the West are having a greater and greater influence upon Christ's ministers in the Third World. In some cases, the very columns of the Christian ministry - expository preaching, intercessory prayer, sacrificial service, and personal evangelism - have been given a back seat to seeker-friendly strategies and state-of-the-art media presentations.

It is HeartCry's goal to encourage indigneous pastors and missionaries to continue striving to know God and submit their lives and ministries to the dictates of His Word. To put it bluntly, our passion is to demonstrate to God's men that God's Word is all-sufficient for all things in life and ministry. It is "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (II Timothy 3:16-17 - NASB).

In striving towards our goal of building up the indigenous church and its ministers, we have adopted the following means: Bible Conferences, Bible and literature distribution, and theological training by extension.



Missionary Training

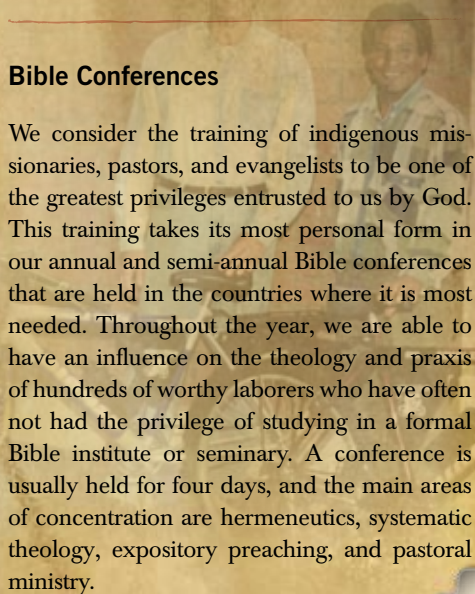
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Literature Distribution

Many indigenous missionaries and pastors in the foreign field have been limited by their own poverty from having an adequate library to use as a resource in studying the Scriptures. There are ministers on the foreign field who have served for years and have been used of God to plant several congregations, and yet they have never even owned a concordance or Bible dictionary. How much more prosperous would their ministries have been if they had been privileged to have even the most basic tools for Bible study?

It is for this reason that HeartCry seeks to provide individual books and pastoral libraries to indigenous missionaries and pastors in the foreign field. A pastoral library may include a Study Bible, an exhaustive concordance, a Bible dictionary, a one-volume commentary on the Bible, and a systematic theology. The cost of a pastoral library is usually little more than \$150 to \$200 (U.S.) and yet the fruit of such a gift cannot be measured. It is humbling to see indigenous workers who have labored for years literally weeping with joy upon receiving an exhaustive concordance and a Bible dictionary. For many, it is the answer to years of prayer.



Bible Conferences

We consider the training of indigenous missionaries, pastors, and evangelists to be one of the greatest privileges entrusted to us by God. This training takes its most personal form in our annual and semi-annual Bible conferences that are held in the countries where it is most needed. Throughout the year, we are able to have an influence on the theology and praxis of hundreds of worthy laborers who have often not had the privilege of studying in a formal Bible institute or seminary. A conference is usually held for four days, and the main areas of concentration are hermeneutics, systematic theology, expository preaching, and pastoral ministry.

At the moment, we have been blessed with a wide group of pastors, teachers, and evangelists from the United States from which we make up our conference teams. They are men who have given themselves to know God and His Word. The conference speakers see this work as a privilege and either pay their own way or are sponsored by their home church. Such dedication on their part allows us to continue directing the greater part of the donations entrusted to us to the needs of the indigenous missionary.

The HeartCry conferences function as a double blessing in that those who teach often return to the United States as blessed and encouraged as the indigenous missionaries who have been taught. The Gospel ministry in the United States can often be a source of discouragement for the faithful pastor who sees little hunger for the Word among his congregants. It is so very encouraging for him to teach the Word to a hundred or more laborers who sit on the edge of their seats to hear every word and who soak up truth with overwhelming gratitude and joy.

Theological Training by Extension

This is a new ministry for the HeartCry Missionary Society, and we are still in the initial stages of planning. There are many men and women who live outside the West who will never be able to attend a Bible college or seminary. Many of them have already been in the ministry for years and have planted several churches, but their ministries could be enhanced and their churches further strengthened if they had more training in certain crucial areas of theology and ministry.

At the moment, we are seeking the Lord's guidance regarding the development of teaching material and the structure of the training.



Support Ministry

The work of indigenous missionaries is often limited by the lack of proper tools for ministry. HeartCry seeks to provide these necessary tools so that the missionaries may fulfill the work to which the Lord has called them. In the past, HeartCry has provided for such needs as (1) boats and motors on the Amazon; (2) transportation in the form of automobiles, horses, and bicycles; (3) media equipment such as sound systems, projectors, and evangelistic films; (4) computers; and (5) clothing. Although we always seek to be cautious in designating funds to anything other than “incarnational missions”, we recognize this ministry to be nearly indispensable to the work of God, especially in some of the more remote parts of the Third World.

Chapel Construction

Many churches on the foreign field are limited in their ministry by not having an adequate meeting place, or the cost of renting prevents them from obtaining the necessary capital to purchase their own land and begin construction. HeartCry seeks to assist such churches by providing the funds necessary for the purchase of property and the building of a permanent structure sufficient for meetings. Land purchases and construction costs usually range from \$1000 in rural areas to \$50,000 in highly populated, urban areas. To date, the largest donation given by HeartCry to an indigenous church is \$60,000. This amount was given over a period of time to the Iglesia del Salvador (Church of the Savior) in Barranco, one of the least evangelized areas of Lima, Peru.

Bible Distribution

Our Bible distribution is limited almost entirely to believers. Many Christians in the foreign field do not own a Bible. We have known of congregations with only one Bible, where the pastor was required to ask permission from

the church in order to carry the Bible with him during missionary journeys to other villages. Our strategy for Bible distribution is as follows: (1) We purchase Bibles in bulk rate in order to lower the cost. (2) We purchase Bibles inside the country of distribution in order to avoid problems with shipping and customs. (3) We purchase hardback Bibles with pages that are glued and sewn together. Paper back Bibles with glued pages are cheaper, but will not last. (4) Our Bibles contain both the Old and New Testaments, and a concordance, the only study tool that many believers will ever own. (5) We sell our Bibles at a discount rate rather than giving them away for free. We take great pains to insure that no genuine believer leaves without a Bible, but we do require that something of value be given. We have given Scripture in return for chickens, fish, coffee beans, etc. By purchasing the Bible instead of receiving it as charity, the believer's personal dignity and sense of responsibility remain intact. The believer's offering is used to purchase more Bibles for other believers.

Faith comes by hearing, and
hearing by the word of Christ.
Romans 10:17



Our Church & Elders

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, Alabama. 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 Jeff Noblit, Phil Baggett, Andy Bolding, Steve Bradley, Donnie Dulaney, Jim Fowler, Alvin Lynch, Bill Newman, Michael Statom, and David Wigginton. The church may be contacted at 256-381-7495. The following is a brief list of some of the distinctives toward which our church and its elders are striving:

✚ God Centeredness - "Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy Him forever" (Larger Catechism). We have been created and redeemed by God and for God, therefore, our chief desire is to know Him, and promote His glory in every circumstance of life and among all the peoples of the earth.

✚ Expository Bible Preaching - The Scriptures must be carefully exegeted and powerfully proclaimed. The preacher must strive to be biblical, didactic, and prophetic. The pulpit is indispensable to the church's growth in knowledge, holiness, love, and devotion. It cannot and should not be replaced or diminished.

✚ Biblical Worship - The music department strives to lead the church family to glorify God and to edify one another through singing and musical instruments, ministering with spiritual passion and doctrinal integrity, while maintaining high standards of musical excellence. The worship is to reinforce the faith through song, and to express congregational praise and worship to Christ, our Audience.



✚ Shepherding - The elders, staff, and small group leaders are passionate about and devoted to being on guard for "all" the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made them overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28).

✚ Congregational Government - A New Testament church is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers. Church government is congregational in context and, therefore, the final word in matters pertaining to the congregation must come from the congregation itself (Matthew 18:15-17; Acts 6:2-5; I Corinthians 5:4-5; II Corinthians 2:6).

✚ Elder Led - The church has a body of elders/pastors who teach and shepherd the flock. In accordance with Hebrews 13:17, they keep watch over the congregation as men who must give an account to God. According to the same text, the congregation is to obey them and submit to their authority so that their work will be a joy and not a burden. The elders must meet the qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7, and they exercise authority over the church only to the degree that they teach and lead according to the Scriptures.

✚ Deacon Served - According to the teachings of Jesus, the life of every Christian is to be marked by service (Mark 9:35). However, the New Testament also speaks of the specific office of deacon. The word deacon (gk: diákonos) denotes a helper or servant who serves (gk: diakonéo). Before a man may be appointed as deacon, he must be tested for the qualifications found in I Timothy 3:8-13. The tasks of a dea-

con are primarily that of meeting the physical and material needs of individual believers and the congregation as a whole. If the deacon serves faithfully, he “obtains for himself a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus” (I Timothy 3:13).

☪ Compassionate Church Discipline - Although church discipline is a foundational doctrine in Baptist history, it is now almost non-existent among “contemporary” Baptists. This forgotten and often misunderstood Bible doctrine is still practiced at First Baptist. We believe that if we truly seek to honor God and if we truly care for the well-being of His people, we will obey Christ’s commands to practice church discipline. When practiced biblically and compassionately, it is a powerful tool to restore the fallen and to preserve Christ’s honor in the church and the unbelieving world.

☪ Biblical Evangelism - It is the duty of every believer to evangelize the lost. We adamantly stand against hyper-calvinism on the one hand and easy-believism on the other. We are committed to preach the Gospel to every creature, and to implore men to repent and believe. At the same time, we recognize that neither repentance nor faith can be produced by manipulating the emotion or coercing the will. They are the result of the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit.

☪ Biblical Conversion and Assurance - A biblical understanding of regeneration and conversion is absolutely essential to the Christian faith. We believe that salvation is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:5), that it is enduring (Philippians 1:6), and that it is evidenced by the bearing of fruit (Matthew 7:16-20). The man who walks in a continual state of carnality with no divine discipline can have no assurance of sonship (Hebrews 12:8) no matter how adamantly he professes his allegiance to Christ.

☪ Discipleship - The purpose of First Baptist Church is to glorify God by obediently making and equipping disciples of Christ in the Shoals and throughout the world, by the power of the Spirit. The primary means employed to disciple believers are expository preaching, small group interaction and accountability, and personal one-on-one discipleship.

☪ The Local Congregation - We believe that meaningful and enduring fellowship in a local congregation is absolutely essential to the Christian’s life and ministry. Media ministries can never take the place of the local church and its ministers. We are commanded not only to congregate, but to do so for the purpose of encouraging one another and stimulating one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24-25).


☪ Every-Member Ministry - Every Christian in the local congregation without exception has been given spiritual gifts which they are commanded to employ for the edification of the entire congregation. The administration of such gifts by every member is necessary for the proper growth and ministry of the church.


☪ Small Groups - One of the outlets for every-member ministry is our small group ministry. Such fellowships are employed to evangelize the lost, equip the saved, and minister to the individual needs in the body. Christianity is not a spectator sport.

☪ Parent-Led Children Ministry - Parents are primarily responsible for the discipleship and discipline of their children. The church should not usurp the authority of godly parents, nor assume the responsibilities of parents who are lax in their duties. The church should give itself to teaching the biblical principles of parenthood and to holding parents accountable to carry them out in the context of their families.

☪ Biblical Youth Ministry - Our youth ministry is not designed around the presumed unique needs or desires of young people, but is centered around God’s will for young people as revealed in His Word. Our goal is to strengthen parents in their God-called responsibility to “bring up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). The so-called “generation gap” and the “adolescent years” are a result of sin and should not be encouraged by the church or youth ministries. Our youth ministry is not centered on music, drama, comedy, or other entertainments, but on the faithful preaching of God’s Word. While other activities may be allowed, they must never take the place of or de-emphasize the preaching of the Word.

Our Church & Elders

 **Biblical Courtship** - We believe that dating as it is practiced in our contemporary culture is an unbiblical practice that has led to untold misery among the people of God. Although the Scriptures do not specifically address courtship in every aspect, they do give us countless sound principles by which our young men and women may guide their relationships with the opposite sex and discover God's will for marriage.

 **Personalized World Missions** - The Great Commission is a great command. Personal involvement in world missions is not a suggestion or an option, but is demanded of every true believer. The entire local church family should be personally and strategically involved in world missions, mobilizing laborers, prayer, and finances to the end of glorifying God among all peoples. We are either called to go down into the well (be a missionary) or to hold the rope for those who are going down (support missionaries). Either way our dedication must be costly and enduring.

Come Over & 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?

As a Christian, you have been called to participate fully and sacrificially in the Great Commis-

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Kevin Hite

Systems Administrator



Sean Reece

Coordinator for Africa



Jake Stutzman

Creative Director



Paul David Washer

Director

sion (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.



Acts 16:9

"Taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration of this generous gift; for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."

II Corinthians 8:20-21

A Word to the Inquirer

"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest."

John 4:35

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.

Foundational Principles

✚ Every need of this ministry will be obtained through prayer. We may share our missionary vision with others and even make known to them the specific tasks which the Lord has laid on our heart to do, but we may not raise support through prodding or manipulating our brothers and sisters in Christ. If this ministry is of the Lord, then He will be our Patron. If He is with us, He will direct His people to give and we will prosper. If He is not with us, we will not and should not succeed.

✚ We intend to never enlarge our field of labor by contracting debts. This is contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the New Testament. In secret prayer, God helping us, we will carry the needs of this ministry to the Lord and act according to the direction that He gives.

✚ We will not compete with other biblical mission agencies, but will use the resources that God has given to us to work in partnership with them. If the Lord directs, we will sacrifice

our own goals and resources that other mission works may be helped and the Kingdom of God increased.

✚ In meeting any need, those of us who are supported financially by this ministry will be the first to sacrifice all things necessary for the advancement of His Kingdom.

✚ The staff that is employed full-time in this ministry is worthy of their labor. They should be afforded that which is required to live with dignity and to demonstrate that the Lord is gracious to supply the needs of His servants. To neglect their welfare would give excuse for the ungodly to bring unjust accusations against the Lord that He is either uncaring or unable to meet the needs of His servants. Those whom this ministry supports shall not be given so much as to waste the Lord's resources, acquire luxury, or live above those who so graciously give to the Lord's work. To seek wealth and luxury in the ministry is to deny the call.

✚ We will not measure the success of this ministry by the amount of money given, Bibles distributed, or national missionaries supported, but by the Lord's blessing on the work.

✚ Our Goal is not to enlarge ourselves, or to become a key figure in the Great Commission, but to be faithful and obedient stewards by the grace that is given to us. Our only vision is the crucified, risen, and exalted Christ.

Sharing the Vision

After much deliberation and prayer, we have determined that while it is not in keeping with the Scriptures to solicit funds, it is neither proper to hide the needs of others from our supporters. Therefore, it is within God's will for us to share our missionary vision and specific work with other Christians, make known the valid needs which we receive from the mission field around the world, and publish reports of God's faithful dealings with us. This may be accomplished through the following means:

✚ Our Bi-monthly Magazine. The main purpose of the HeartCry magazine is to inform our supporters regarding the direction of our mission work, our stewardship, and the things that have been accomplished through their giving. We also seek to provide articles, reports, and

testimonies from the field that will encourage the readers in their walk with God and in the work of the Great Commission.

✚ Our Website. The HeartCry website has much the same purpose as our magazine, but with more detailed information and the greater flexibility of the internet. One area of special importance will be a page entitled “Opportunities for Giving” where supporters will be able to review a list of valid needs sent to us from missionaries all over the globe.

✚ Visiting Churches upon Request. We will not solicit churches or individuals for donations under any circumstance, but we will visit churches and other Christian gatherings (mission conferences, etc.) upon their request. Our presentation to any church or conference will always be in conformity to the requests of the leadership. Most often we are asked to make an oral presentation, with or without media, and to set up an information table. In our presentation, we will share our purpose, convictions, methodology, and present work, but we will never solicit funds.

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

General Fund

The General Fund is the backbone of the HeartCry Missionary Society and is our top prayer priority. Apart from these needs being met, HeartCry cannot function. All donations given to the General Fund go to the following:

✚ Missionary Support: The HeartCry Missionary Society supports missionary families on four continents: Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America. This is our primary ministry and the highest percentage of all giving goes

to this ministry. The great majority of our missionaries are church planters with families. We have made a commitment to provide for their support, and they depend upon us monthly.

✚ U.S. Staff Support: Although HeartCry has expanded greatly over the past few years, we have sought to keep our U.S. staff to a minimum. We currently employ three full-time staff persons: Paul Washer, Jon Green, and Amanda Glass. Dr. Nathan Berry is currently working at HeartCry as a full-time volunteer.

✚ Administration: It is our desire to glorify God by keeping all administrative costs to a bare minimum. All our office space, along with all utilities, are provided free of charge by the First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals.

Designated Giving

After much deliberation and prayer, we have determined that while it is not in keeping with the Scriptures to prod or manipulate our brothers for funds, it is neither proper to hide the valid needs of others from sincere inquirers. For this reason, we have included a page on our website entitled “Opportunities for Giving” where supporters might review a list of needs sent to us from missionaries all over the globe. The needs have been validated by our field directors and all donations given toward any selected need will go directly to it. These needs will vary greatly:

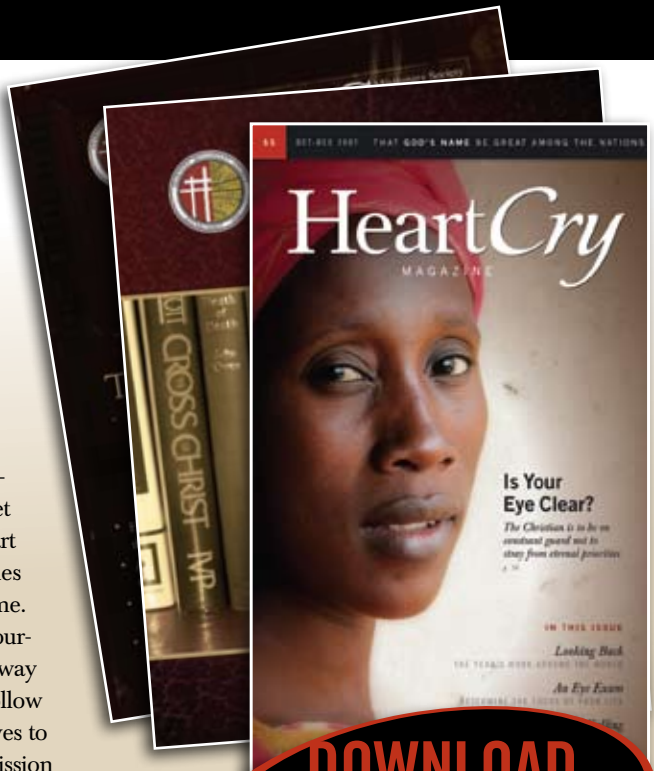
Accountability

The HeartCry Missionary Society is under the authority and supervision of the First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals (1915 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661, Tel. 256-381-7495), and is accountable to them in all areas of life, ministry, and Christian profession. The HeartCry Missionary Society provides a biannual financial report. All donations are tax deductible and are verifiable by receipts sent from HeartCry to each supporter.

Stay Connected

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!



DOWNLOAD
Past & Current Issues
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Visit Our Website

We have recently redesigned and redeveloped the website for 2008. New features include more intuitive Resources section, allowing users to download sermons (by Paul Washer and others), articles, online books, and watch videos. It also features an ever-growing Recommended Resources section and a thumbnail based HeartCry Magazine Archive going all the way back to Volume 1.

We are committed to offering fresh content on a regular basis by way of news updates, missionary stories, and photos from recent trips. We are also featuring a more extensive F.A.Q. section. Feel free to submit new questions.

As always, you can find information about our ministry and methodology, a statement of our theology, and essential convictions about the Gospel and Missions. You also have the ability to feedback, contact us, and even Donate online.

Media Outreach

The purposes of our publication and website are summarized below:

The Glory of God The chief end of all men and their endeavors is the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31).

Stewardship among God's People Many churches and individuals have given generously so that this ministry might exist and minister among the nations. It touches us as stewards of God to give a faithful report.

Thanksgiving It is our desire to publish the gracious work of God in meeting all our needs so that Christians might offer thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness and lovingkindness toward us.

Encouragement It is our desire to publish God's faithfulness to us so that Christians might be encouraged to trust Him in prayer.

We will make known His gracious answers to our feeble prayers so that His people might be strengthened to believe that He is both willing and able to do them good.

World Missions Awareness We desire to make known the world's great need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to motivate Christians to give their lives to the work of the harvest. We also seek to demonstrate that the Great Commission is not a losing battle, but that great victories are being won and the Gospel is spreading to every nation, tribe, people, and language.

Prayer We desire to encourage God's people to pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He might send forth laborers into His harvest, and that all the earth might be filled with the Glory of God.

HeartCry Web Network

Do you have a Website? A blog? or some sort of presence on the world wide web? Do you also possess a passion for sharing Jesus Christ to a lost world? In other words, are you a Web Missionary? Then we want to connect with you.

We at HeartCry are building a team of Web Missionaries that are committed to the spreading of truth on the internet, in the same way that our

missionaries spread truth on the field. We are committed to providing resources for you to use to spread the message of Jesus Christ. Content such as Audio players, Video players, Graphics, etc. will be provided as they are created. Audio and video content will be fed from our servers, so you will not incur any costs.

TO SIGN UP, GO TO: www.heartcrymissionary.com/network

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: 1915 Avalon Avenue
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

Telephone (256) 381-7510

Website www.heartcrymissionary.com

Email info@heartcrymissionary.com

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