

HeartCry

MAGAZINE



THE LOZI

Answering the Call

*Shannon Reece & The
Lozi Tribe of Zambia p. 6*

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OUR ONLY HOPE, THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST



HeartCry

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Dear Family of God,

We hope and pray that this edition of HeartCry finds you rejoicing in the goodness of your God. He is good and His mercies endure forever.

As the pages of this year's calendar quickly turn, we are reminded that we have but one short life to live upon this earth. At the same time, we look out upon the field and see that the time of harvest is upon us. The harvest is greater than ever, but the workers are still few. We have no choice but to meet the need head on by giving ourselves to the work and by praying that the Lord will add to the number of those willing to go.

God has truly blessed our age with an open door to the world. There has never been such a time in all of Christian history. Will we take advantage of the opportunities set before us or will we be distracted by the almost infinite number of vanities which clamor for our undivided attention? We would do well to follow the words of the writer of Hebrews who admonishes us:

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and

let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:1-2

As you may have noticed, this edition of HeartCry contains the same layout as our previous publications, but is a bit more concise. We have made these changes so that we might send out the magazine with greater frequency. Instead of a three-month wait between each edition, the magazine will be distributed bimonthly (once every two months). This will allow us to keep you more up to date with the work on the field without adding to the burden of the cost.

Please pray for us as we continue to follow the Lord in weakness and trembling. In ourselves, we are nothing. Yet He is the Great God, the God of gods and the Lord of lords. To Him be all honor and glory forever and ever. Amen!

In Christ,

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The Church needs men who will stand before the opposing masses with nothing to help them or defend them except the Gospel and the God who has promised to work through it... Then we shall see the power of God manifested in the genuine conversion of the greatest sinners.

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MAGAZINE

The HeartCry Magazine is offered free of charge to all supporters and inquirers.

WEBSITE

www.heartcrymissionary.com

GIVING

All donations sent to the HeartCry Missionary Society will generate a tax-deductible receipt.

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HeartCry is a bi-monthly publication of the HeartCry Missionary Society, under the authority of the Elders and Congregation of the Grace Life Church of the Shoals, 1915 Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661



Miguel Salazar Ruiz

Lima, Peru

Miguel is pastoring a new work that was planted by the Iglesia Bautista "Filadelfia" in one of the poor neighborhoods of southern Lima. The work began in 2006, but is yet to be firmly established. It is a worthy work, but will require much sacrifice and prayer before it becomes a mature church.

Our beloved brothers in Christ Jesus,

I hope you are doing well. We send our blessings from here, knowing that God is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think.

My family and I are encountering various trials and struggles, but we rely upon God's promises in His Word. We can see how God provides a way of escape at the appointed time and according to His perfect Will.

Brothers, God is blessing us. I want to tell you something about my family: I have two children - one is five years old and the other is two. My wife and I are learning a great deal from them - especially when they are rebellious. Every day, we are learning to love them, discipline them, teach them God's Word, and pray for them.

My wife is excited about learning to submit to God's will for her life, and to live in submission to the authority that God has established - her husband. She and other missionary wives are learning these truths through a Bible study with Maria Esther Zacarías, the wife of HeartCry director Martín Zacarías. I can see increasing progress in her spiritual life because she is studying the Bible and memorizing verses. I am very thankful to God for this.

I am also happy to write you that we are learning to enjoy our time of family devotion. We each share what we have understood from our lesson and then we memorize verses. My children and I are studying the book of Proverbs each day. My wife and I are doing a chapter by chapter study of the book of Romans. It is a blessing because we are learning how great and amazing our God truly is. It is a great joy to know that He

has predestined us to become conformed to the image of His Son Jesus Christ.

With each day that passes, I am more and more amazed at the things that God is working in me and the things that He is able to do with such a useless and limited man as me. He has considered us faithful, putting us into service, so that we might announce the great Gospel to all and preach the holy truths found in His Word!

I praise God that He has given me the privilege of studying with the other HeartCry missionaries. God has used brother Martín Zacarías in a tremendous way as our teacher. I had the opportunity to study in a seminary for three years, but all we learned was methods and strategies for ministry. After attending the HeartCry Conferences and the teaching of Director Martín Zacarías, I realized that my life and ministry were not according to true doctrine. Now, I am seeking to be diligent in doing all things in a correct way before God, relying on His promises and knowing He does His work His way. I used to do God's work in my own strength, but I am learning to rely on Him who holds all things together. We are currently studying the 1689 London Confession and learning how to testify and preach according to God's Word.

We have thirty children attending our Sunday School, and we are teaching them about the miracles of Jesus. They were surprised to learn that the purpose of the miracles was not primarily to heal the body, but to save the sinner's soul and transform him into a new creature. The children are not only learning, but they are also sharing their knowledge with their parents. There was a mother who did not want her children to come to our church, but now she is

Continued on bottom of next 2 pages...



Miguel Sanabria

Lima, Peru

Miguel began the Baptist Church "Vida Nueva" (New Life) in 2004 in Santa Teresita, Lima, Peru. The area was populated in the eighties by war refugees fleeing from the mountains of Huanuco and Ayacucho. Miguel and the church are also working in the town of Tarko (pop.1000), in the province of Parinacochas, in the department of Ayacucho.

I am aware that the Lord has given me this ministry and will hold me responsible for it. Now that I am learning more and more about the importance of preaching sound doctrine, the believers in our church are pressing on in a greater way towards the prize of the supreme calling that is in Jesus Christ. They are showing a greater and greater hunger and thirst for the Word of God.

Through the HeartCry conferences and the teaching of HeartCry director Martin Zacarías, my sermons are becoming more and more expository and the Scriptures are playing a greater and greater role in all our services. At the same time, we continue to visit the homes of the brethren in order to encourage them and bring them consolation through the Scriptures. We are also visiting the lost and teaching them the Word of God. I am currently visiting a man named Felix Cubas. He has an interest in the Gospel, and we are praying for his salvation and that of his household. He is a chef in one of the restaurants in Lima.

Miguel Salazar Ruiz Continued...

bringing them herself. My wife and I have had the opportunity to talk to her about her spiritual condition and her relationship with God. We are praying for her.

Also in our congregation, we have four elderly persons who are deaf and illiterate, but love God and are faithful to Him. Please pray for them. Brother Facundo Matos Leon is 98 years old. He can read, but needs a Bible written in large print. Bernabe Valle Carhuaricra is 87 years old. She is illiterate and cannot hear very

I am continuing with the discipleship of our leaders and members. At this moment, there are twelve faithful brothers who are studying with me. We now have eighteen baptized members, and two new people who are attending regularly. Please pray for them. Their names are Marco Antonio Báez and Katty Yauri. Pray also that God might confirm the salvation of Veronica Salazar, Carlos Salazar, and Maria Salazar.

My greatest desire is to remain faithful to sound doctrine and the True Gospel. I want to be used of God to further His Kingdom. At the moment, we are also doing missionary work in the village of Tarco. It is located in the province of Ayacucho in the Andes Mountains. Please pray for the work, and pray that God might send someone to labor among the brethren as a pastor. Please pray that God might give me the wisdom to press onward with the work, and that He might open new doors for the preaching of His Gospel.

well. Octavia Salvador Cartolin is 50 years old. She is illiterate too, but she can understand God's Word when it is preached. Crisencia Perez Flores is 60 years old. She is illiterate, but is a very faithful woman. We also have some young people who are coming to our services on Sunday. I am currently teaching through the Doctrine of Man, the fall and its consequences. On Thursday evenings, I am teaching through the book of Romans. I can see that the young men are very interested.

The following highlights are taken from the many field reports we receive each month. They provide a small glimpse of the daily activities of our missionaries on the field. They also afford us the opportunity to pray specifically for those who labor in some of the most remote parts of the world.



Arturo Marin

Lima, Peru

Arturo has established a church in the village of San Rafael in the jungles of San Martin. He has also established a Christian school in the church, and is highly respected as a regional leader over all the pastors in the area.

Receive greetings and many blessing in your home and ministry.

On April 26, we had a reunion of pastors and leaders from the ten churches of Viavo. At that time, we discovered that there was some division in the three churches in San Ramon, so the pastors decided that I should visit them.

On May 4, I traveled to San Ramon and preached on the unity of the Holy Spirit from the forth chapter of Ephesians. After the service, we brought the leaders together and God repaired the division. Since then, we have had reports of peace.

In our reunion of pastors on April 26, we also agreed to help support two new works in the villages of Los Angeles and Valle Grande in the valley of Saposo. The churches have decided to give 100 soles (\$35 US) a month for construction costs. These works are very far in the jungle and require hours of traveling even by car. We also agreed to open the Biblical Institute of Faithful Men in my home church in San Rafael. We currently have seventeen students. By the grace of God, other men will soon come. Please pray for all that we desire to do in the Lord. Thank you for your prayers and your support. May God greatly bless you.

Finally, I want to share with you some prayer requests:

- I want to be more pure and holy every day.
- I want to love my wife more every day.
- We want to train up our children according to God's will.
- I want to keep practicing the requirements of a pastor as found in I Timothy 3
- My wife and I want to be a testimony in our neighborhood.

I want to thank you for being my friends and for your financial support. We are being blessed and our commitment is to keep praying for your lives and ministries. My family and I love you a lot.

Blessings to you,
Miguel, Fidelia, Anthony, Heidi Luz

Hebrews 10.39



THE LOZI

Answering the Call

By Shannon Reece

Shannon Reece has recently moved from Hannibal, Missouri, to Muscle Shoals. He and his brother Sean and their families are called to church planting among the Lozi of Zambia. Read the touching account of Shannon's call.

My name is Shannon Reece. I have just moved to Muscle Shoals, AL, with my wife, Stephanie, our thirteen-year-old son, Nathan, and our eight-year-old daughter, Morgan. This is the story of what God has done in our lives and our connection with HeartCry and the Lozi work. I long to go to Zambia, live among the Lozi, and teach them the Gospel of hope in our great Savior Jesus Christ. The Lord has done a great work of grace in our family to bring us all to a point of readiness.

I must make it clear from the beginning that I have no illusions of my ability to accomplish great things for the kingdom or to endure long-term hardships, discouragement, or suffering. This is not a self-deprecating statement. I really want to be like the Apostle Paul and put no confidence in the flesh but in God who is mighty to save.

I have seen many beautiful things in my lifetime. One of the most powerful experiences that I ever had with the Lord was when I visited Victoria Falls at flood stage, and it was the highest it had been in twenty-four years. The roar and rumble of the falls were deafening. The ground literally shook under my feet and up into my chest. When I leaned over the rocks and looked down into the falls, it was as though I had leaned my head out of the window of my car driving down the highway at sixty miles per hour in a rainstorm! What power! Yet, in that moment, God revealed to me that this was just the tiniest taste of His power and majesty. Oh, how I worshiped the Lord that day! I will never forget it. I have pleaded with the Lord many times in prayer since that

day to make me thrilled to be anonymous and small, looking on from the back of the crowd, if only to see the beauty of His glory in Zambia. I believe with all my heart that the grace of the Lord Jesus is enough. He will do what must be done.

In preparation for writing this article, I thought it wise to go back through my journals and read some of the events and Scriptures that were most meaningful in my life over the past seven years - milestones or spiritual markers as Henry Blackaby calls them. The Lord had the Israelites stack stones when they crossed over the Jordan as a memorial to cause them to remember the mighty hand of the Lord. One of my favorite verses is Isaiah 64:4, which says, "From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him." Oh, how the Lord has acted on my behalf over the past seven years!

I first heard of Paul Washer through a good friend of mine, Terry Hammock, shortly after my wife and I moved back to Hannibal from Denver, Colorado. I heard Paul preach the first time at Grace Covenant Baptist Church. Over the next few years, I attended various conferences where Paul preached. Gradually I learned of Paul's earlier years as a missionary in Peru and the start of HeartCry Missionary Society. Back then, some of us men would pass around the HeartCry magazines and discuss various articles. We were inspired by the examples of God's mighty work among "nobodies" (in the world's eyes) in far off places. We were convicted by the testimonies of God's grace in the lives of George Muller and Charles Spurgeon, and how the experiences of these men had so greatly affected the convictions and methodology at HeartCry.

In May 2004, seven men from Calvary Baptist Church accompanied three South African brothers to the Western Province of Zambia and to the village of Ilwendo along the banks of the Zambezi River. Little did we know that we would be riding the coattails of what God had begun there years earlier. What a thrilling ride it was. We asked God again and again to show us His glory, and at every turn it seemed He was very pleased to oblige. I fell in love with the people there.

When we returned in 2005, it was like coming home. This time our pastor, Jeff Anderson, joined us. It was extra special for me personally because both my brothers, David and Sean, were among the team members. Sean and I had been talking throughout the year and he wanted to join us to see what all the fuss was about. God enabled us to preach the Gospel not only in Ilwendo, but also in two other villages: Makanda, (a six-hour hike west from Ilwendo), and Ngweze, (another six-hour hike beyond Makanda toward the country of Angola). The spiritual need was too big and we were way out of our league! We needed some wise, godly counsel from a missionary organization that had a proven track record of Christ-centered work among the tribal peoples. We immediately thought of HeartCry because they supported many church planting pastors in other parts of Zambia through Kabwata Baptist Church in the capital city of Lusaka. We thought that maybe they could get us connected with one of their indigenous pastors who could provide some guidance. In the fall of 2005, Paul Washer came to preach at Cornerstone Church in Hannibal, and he was gracious enough to meet with Terry Hammock and me one evening over dinner.

Then in May 2006, Sean, Terry, and I were among the group to visit Zambia again. This time we headed to the other side of the Zambezi River to the village of Nawinda to preach, teach, and encourage our friend Mwemba. By this time, HeartCry had contacted Pastor Conrad Mbewe of Kabwata Baptist Church in Lusaka. They, in turn, connected us with Pastor Michael Bwembya, the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, in Livingstone, Zambia. Pastor Michael agreed to accompany us into the bush in order to meet our friend Dominic and to provide us with some insight into the Lozi culture and mission work.

In the summer of that same year, Paul Washer traveled to Lusaka for the Reformed Confer-



ence at Kabwata Baptist Church. He asked me and Terry to meet him there, rendezvous with Pastor Michael in Livingstone, and then take him out into the Western Province to see the Lozi work for himself. To me it felt like being in the “situation room” at the Pentagon as we prayed and strategized in a little cane-walled, thatch-covered hut by the river. It was an eye-opening experience for all of us. God had worked in spite of many innocent mistakes made in ignorance. The work was genuine and absolutely overwhelming. One night, in the village, Paul said to me, “If you do not come here, these people are going to die and go to hell. Short-term trips alone are not working. Dominic needs consistent help. Someone needs to teach these people the Gospel.” He also observed that in all his years of travel in mission work he had never seen a place or a people as destitute as the Lozi. Paul kept asking me, “If you do not care for these people, who will?” The Lozi were truly sheep without a shepherd. This is sadly illustrated in the words of a man named Joseph from the village of Ilwendo. He exclaimed: “I am lost. I have no place to go.”

Paul’s statements pricked my heart. These were not just general observations. They confirmed years of Scripture study, personal prayer, and circumstances that had been pointing more and more clearly to Zambia. One evening he said to me, “Shannon, I watched you with the Lozi people today. You have a way with them. Are you sure that you are not called to come and live here?” He also said to me, “This place is worth your life. You could spend your whole life here and it would not be wasted.”

God had been working in my heart for quite some time to shape my theology and my experience of Him in order to prepare me for this. I had an experience between 2002 and 2003 with the Lord that I cannot fully describe. It was shortly after my wife and I moved back to Missouri. If it were not for some clear evidences of true conversion in my younger years, I would say that I had just been soundly converted. This experience was not only profound, but has continued to this day. I do not



know what to call it except an awakening in my heart to the deeper truths of God. He laid hold of me with great conviction and showed me that my life was all duty, but no delight. I was bored with church. I was bored with reading the Bible. I knew it was not right. I was disillusioned by the vanity of comfortably numb, middle-class America that I saw around me both inside and outside the church. I felt restless. I did not want to waste my life. I wanted it to count for something eternal. I could not read passages like Proverbs 24:10-12 without weeping:

"If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling towards slaughter. If you say, 'Behold we did not know this,' does not He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who keeps watch over your soul know it and will He not repay each man according to his works?"

At the time, I was all over the board. In those days, I read the Knowledge of the Holy and the Pursuit of God by A.W. Tozer, and Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper. However, it was in listening to sermons by Paul Washer and studying Desiring God by John Piper with a godly mentor that God really began to rescue me from a man-centered theology. I began to see the truth that everything flows out of God's exuberance over His own glory in the face of His dear Son Jesus Christ. Before, God was a means to an end. I loved God for His gifts more than His glory. I could not sing, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace." Those words stuck in my throat. The things of earth did not seem strangely dim. They seemed bright, flashy, and exciting. I may have criticized the "American Dream," but I was still in love with my own plan for my life. Therefore, God began to strip me of

idolatry and selfishness. As Tozer described it, it was like pulling a tooth from my mouth, roots and all. What a painful ordeal. Yet, the effect was sweet joy. As Augustine said, "How sweet all at once it was for me to be rid of those fruitless joys which I had once feared to lose! ...You drove them from me, you who are the true, the sovereign joy. You drove them from me and took their place, you who are sweeter than all pleasure." I was finally honest with the Lord, and I asked Him one day in a desperate time of prayer, "God, what is so big about you anyway? I just don't see it." Oh how He loves to answer that question for desperate people! Over those next few years He exploded my puny view of Him. He gave me a new appetite. I was gloriously ruined!

Meanwhile there was a relationship developing with Engineering Ministries International, and Stephanie and I thought we might be headed to Guatemala in the fall of 2003 to join the EMI staff there. However, God had other plans. He pressed down on Calvary Baptist with a new conviction for missions, and through a series of events, He led me to be the pastor for missions in the spring of 2005. God was also changing Stephanie's heart. She was willing, but certainly not joyful, about the prospect of being a missionary. Furthermore, she was drawn to the Latin culture and not at all to the African culture. Yet, after God's directive for Zambia became clearer to me, Paul Washer helped with some counsel, "Shannon, your wife's timetable is God's timetable for you. When God makes her ready, then you will know it's time." Praise God He is so patient and faithful with us all.

For me this whole pursuit must be more about the glory of God than about the Lozi people. I certainly see their need, and my heart is moved to help. However, if compassion is all I feel for them, then I might as well go to work for the Peace Corps. I have carried around a burden for them for years. I have labored in prayer for them for hours alone and with other brothers and sisters. But more than anything else I long for the Lord's glory to spread up and down the banks of the Zambezi. I long for God to raise up worshipers for Himself among the Lozi. Therefore, any love that I have for them must flow out of my love for Christ Himself and the zeal He has for His own glory.

One evening last May 2007, Sean and I knelt in the soccer field in Ngweze with three Lozi



men, each from different villages. The feeling was like standing on the threshold of a doorway, witnessing something historical. God seemed to be bringing these men together, along with eleven others, to study the Scriptures together, pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance, and to encourage one another in the faith. I longed to remain there with them; to walk along the way daily with each of them, teaching as we go, the way Jesus did with His disciples; play soccer with them, thatch roofs with them, plant maize crops, herd the cattle, and so on. To live life among them and pour my life into them.

Our goal for the Lozi people is that they might be transformed by the power of God through His Gospel. Once the Gospel begins to take root, we desire to teach the attributes of God, the sufficiency of Scripture for everyday life, and the power of a Spirit-filled life. Finally, we hope to work with fellow believers as the Lord leads to introduce appropriate methods for

sustainable community development. We long to see the power of the Gospel transform lives in such a way that entire villages are changed, godly life-styles are reflected, and believers become living testimonies to other surrounding villages. As George Muller looked to the Lord to provide for the physical needs of the orphans, we will pray that the Lozi will look to the Lord as their benevolent Father. We desire that the beauty of their Lozi culture might be preserved, but we also pray that its essence might be transformed by the glory of God. In the end, the burden of trying to figure out what to do is not ours to bear. We are in Christ, and Christ is in us. We know that God our Father will be faithful to show us what He is doing so that we might marvel at Him. This gives me great confidence -

"For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing. And greater works than these will He show Him, so that you may marvel!" (John 5:20).

An IMPOSSIBLE yet POWERFUL Gospel

By Paul David Washer

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek”

Romans 1:16

An Impossible Gospel

The Apostle Paul’s flesh had every reason to be ashamed of the Gospel he preached because it contradicted absolutely everything that was held to be true and sacred among his contemporaries. Yet there is still another reason for fleshly shame: The Gospel is an absolutely impossible, unbelievable message; a ludicrous word to the wise of the world.

As Christians, we sometimes fail to realize how utterly astounding it is when anyone truly believes our message. In a sense, the Gospel is so farfetched that its spread throughout the Roman Empire is proof of its supernatural nature. What could ever bring a Gentile, completely unaware of Old Testament Scriptures and rooted in either Greek philosophy or pagan superstitions, to believe such a message about a man named Jesus?

✎ He was born under questionable circumstances to a poor family in one of the most despised regions of the Roman Empire; and yet, the Gospel claims that he was the eternal Son of God who had been conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a Jewish virgin.

✎ He was a carpenter by trade and an itinerant religious teacher with no official training; and yet, the Gospel claims that he surpassed the combined wisdom of every Greek philosopher and Roman sage of antiquity.

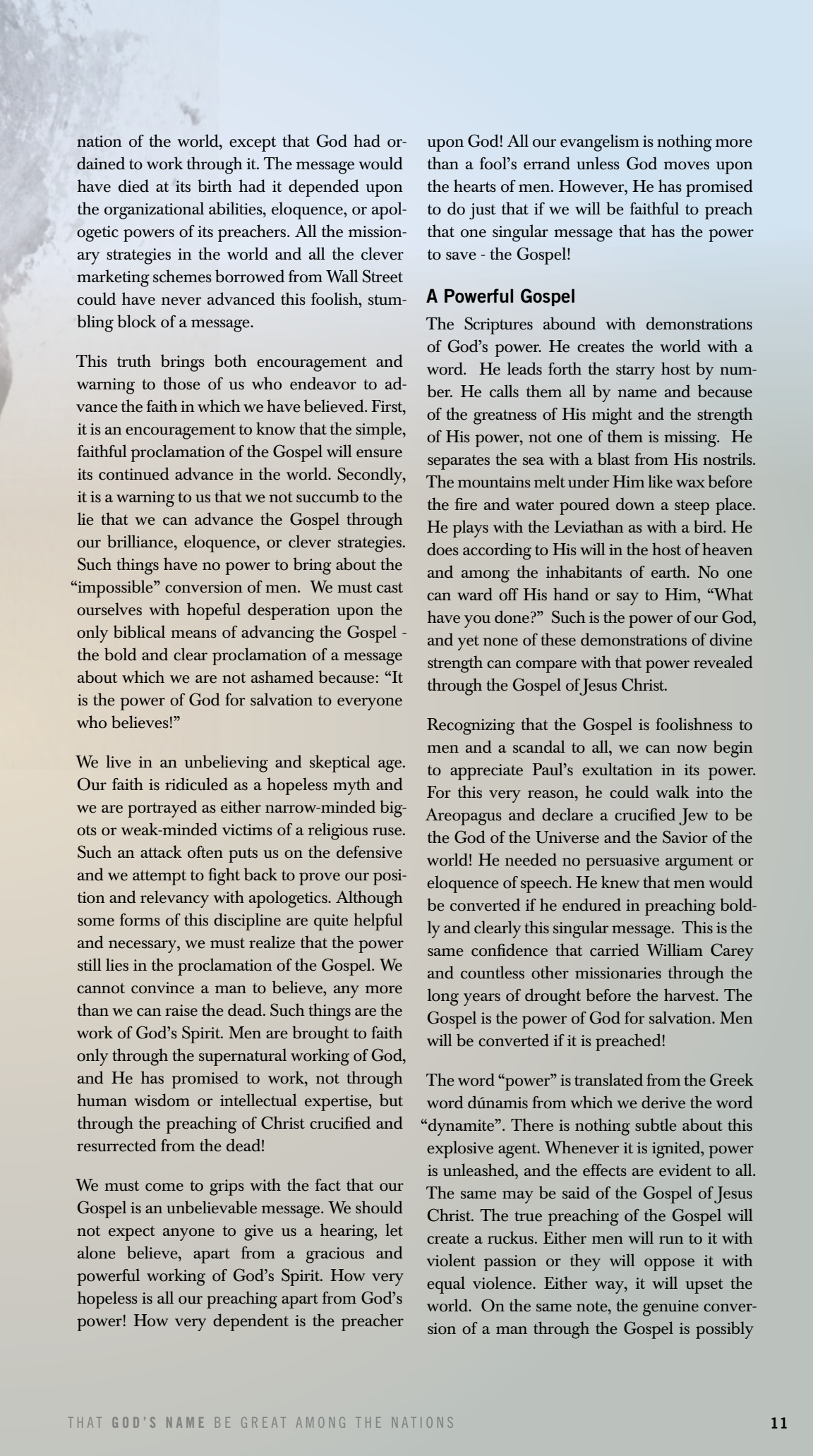
✎ He was poor and had no place to lay his head; and yet, the Gospel claims that for three years he fed thousands by a word, healed every manner of illness among men, and even raised the dead.

✎ He was crucified outside of Jerusalem as a blasphemer and an enemy of the state; and yet, the Gospel claims that his death was the pivotal event in all of human history and the only means of salvation from sin and reconciliation to God.

✎ He was placed in a borrowed tomb; and yet, the Gospel claims that on the third day he rose from the dead and presented himself to many of his followers. Forty days later, he ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

✎ Thus, the Gospel claims that a poor Jewish carpenter, who was rejected as a lunatic and a blasphemer by his own people and crucified by the state, is now the Savior of the World, the Lord of lords and the King of kings. At his name, every knee, including Caesar’s, will bow.

Who could have ever believed such a message except by the power of God? There is no other explanation. The Gospel would have never made its way out of Jerusalem, let alone, beyond the Roman Empire and into every



nation of the world, except that God had ordained to work through it. The message would have died at its birth had it depended upon the organizational abilities, eloquence, or apologetic powers of its preachers. All the missionary strategies in the world and all the clever marketing schemes borrowed from Wall Street could have never advanced this foolish, stumbling block of a message.

This truth brings both encouragement and warning to those of us who endeavor to advance the faith in which we have believed. First, it is an encouragement to know that the simple, faithful proclamation of the Gospel will ensure its continued advance in the world. Secondly, it is a warning to us that we not succumb to the lie that we can advance the Gospel through our brilliance, eloquence, or clever strategies. Such things have no power to bring about the “impossible” conversion of men. We must cast ourselves with hopeful desperation upon the only biblical means of advancing the Gospel - the bold and clear proclamation of a message about which we are not ashamed because: “It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes!”

We live in an unbelieving and skeptical age. Our faith is ridiculed as a hopeless myth and we are portrayed as either narrow-minded bigots or weak-minded victims of a religious ruse. Such an attack often puts us on the defensive and we attempt to fight back to prove our position and relevancy with apologetics. Although some forms of this discipline are quite helpful and necessary, we must realize that the power still lies in the proclamation of the Gospel. We cannot convince a man to believe, any more than we can raise the dead. Such things are the work of God’s Spirit. Men are brought to faith only through the supernatural working of God, and He has promised to work, not through human wisdom or intellectual expertise, but through the preaching of Christ crucified and resurrected from the dead!

We must come to grips with the fact that our Gospel is an unbelievable message. We should not expect anyone to give us a hearing, let alone believe, apart from a gracious and powerful working of God’s Spirit. How very hopeless is all our preaching apart from God’s power! How very dependent is the preacher

upon God! All our evangelism is nothing more than a fool’s errand unless God moves upon the hearts of men. However, He has promised to do just that if we will be faithful to preach that one singular message that has the power to save - the Gospel!

A Powerful Gospel

The Scriptures abound with demonstrations of God’s power. He creates the world with a word. He leads forth the starry host by number. He calls them all by name and because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, not one of them is missing. He separates the sea with a blast from His nostrils. The mountains melt under Him like wax before the fire and water poured down a steep place. He plays with the Leviathan as with a bird. He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth. No one can ward off His hand or say to Him, “What have you done?” Such is the power of our God, and yet none of these demonstrations of divine strength can compare with that power revealed through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Recognizing that the Gospel is foolishness to men and a scandal to all, we can now begin to appreciate Paul’s exultation in its power. For this very reason, he could walk into the Areopagus and declare a crucified Jew to be the God of the Universe and the Savior of the world! He needed no persuasive argument or eloquence of speech. He knew that men would be converted if he endured in preaching boldly and clearly this singular message. This is the same confidence that carried William Carey and countless other missionaries through the long years of drought before the harvest. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation. Men will be converted if it is preached!

The word “power” is translated from the Greek word *dúnamis* from which we derive the word “dynamite”. There is nothing subtle about this explosive agent. Whenever it is ignited, power is unleashed, and the effects are evident to all. The same may be said of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The true preaching of the Gospel will create a ruckus. Either men will run to it with violent passion or they will oppose it with equal violence. Either way, it will upset the world. On the same note, the genuine conversion of a man through the Gospel is possibly

the greatest of all demonstrations of the power of God. It would be more likely for a man to have dynamite explode in his lap and notice no effect of its power, than for him to be saved by the Gospel and not be radically changed.

Concerning the power of the Gospel, it is helpful to ask ourselves two questions. The first is, “Do we recognize the great power required in the saving of men?” Salvation is not a light work, but an impossibility for all “but God.” This is due to man’s fallen state and moral corruption. The Scriptures teach that the image of God in man has been seriously disfigured and moral corruption has polluted his entire being. As such, man has declared war on God and does everything in his power to block out His truth. The Scriptures teach that man cannot come to God, because he will not come to God, and he will not come to God because his heart is evil. Jesus taught this truth in John 3:19-20:

“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”

The walls of depravity around the heart of a man are much stronger and thicker than those that surrounded Jericho. If men cannot bring down the walls of a city with a shout, they cannot bring down the depravity of their own hearts. It must be the power of God. For this reason, it is often said that the power of God

manifested in the salvation of one man far exceeds the power of God manifested in the creation of the universe. God created the world ex nihilo or out of nothing. However, when God saves a man, He does an exceedingly more difficult thing. It is far easier to create the “good” out of nothing, than it is to recreate the “good” out of fallen mass of corruption.

We cannot truly appreciate the power of the Gospel in the salvation of man until we comprehend something of the fallenness and moral corruption of man. The greater we view man’s depravity, the greater we see the power of the Gospel in salvation. We also become acutely aware that the methodologies and marketing strategies, props and gimmicks on display in much of contemporary Evangelicalism is vanity. If men are to be saved, they are to be saved by the supernatural power of God through the preaching of the Gospel!

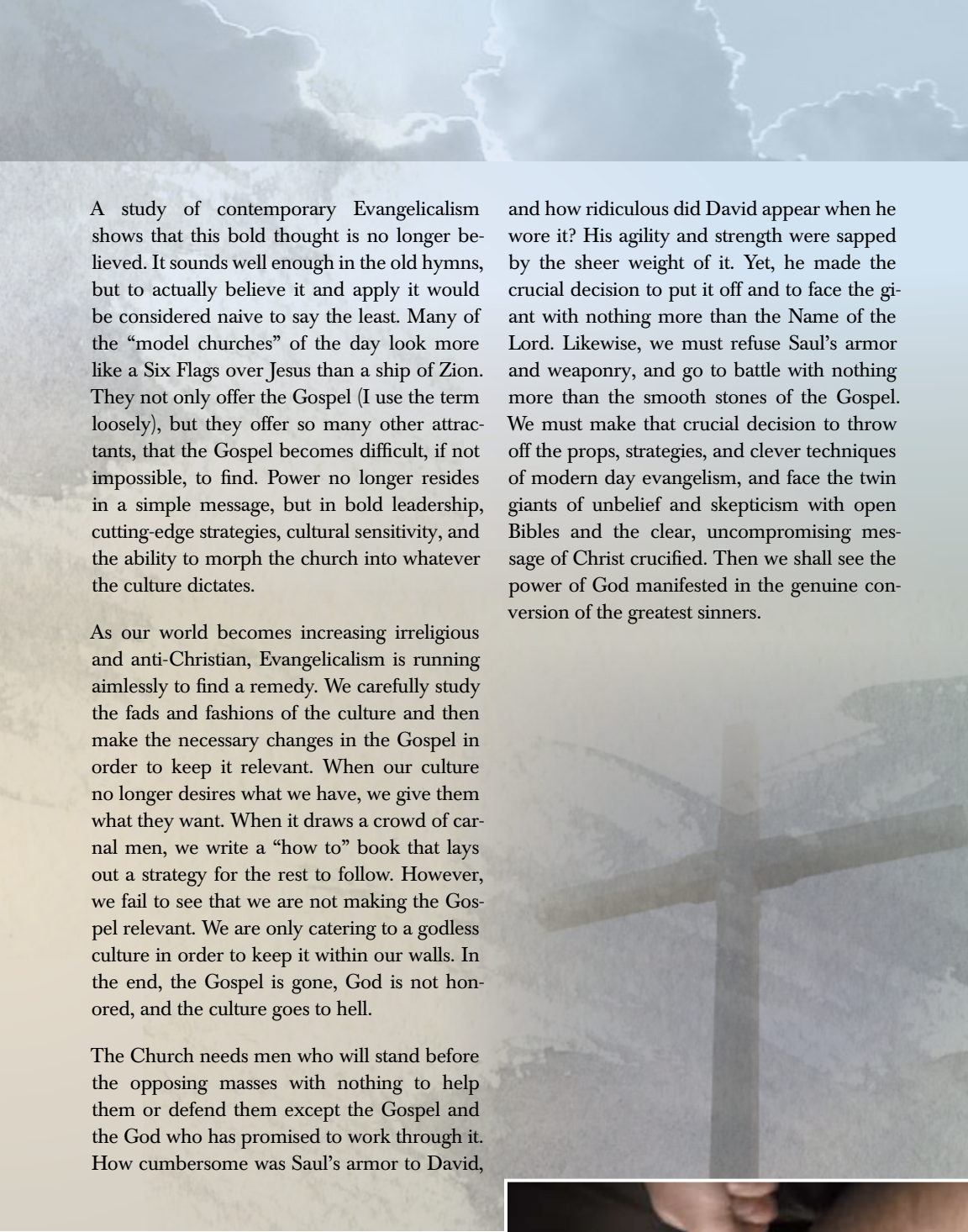
The second question is, “Do we recognize that the power to save is found uniquely in the Gospel?” The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God for salvation. It is not just the core, or a part, but the whole. For it to have great affect upon men, it only needs to be proclaimed. It does not require a revision to make it relevant, an adaptation to make it understood, or a defense to validate it. If we stand up and proclaim it, it will take care of itself. One preacher who has thrown away all his weaponry, but the proclamation of the Gospel, the work of intercession, and the labor of sacrificial love will do more for the world than all the schemes of strategists and innovators combined.

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-



A study of contemporary Evangelicalism shows that this bold thought is no longer believed. It sounds well enough in the old hymns, but to actually believe it and apply it would be considered naive to say the least. Many of the “model churches” of the day look more like a Six Flags over Jesus than a ship of Zion. They not only offer the Gospel (I use the term loosely), but they offer so many other attractions, that the Gospel becomes difficult, if not impossible, to find. Power no longer resides in a simple message, but in bold leadership, cutting-edge strategies, cultural sensitivity, and the ability to morph the church into whatever the culture dictates.

As our world becomes increasing irreligious and anti-Christian, Evangelicalism is running aimlessly to find a remedy. We carefully study the fads and fashions of the culture and then make the necessary changes in the Gospel in order to keep it relevant. When our culture no longer desires what we have, we give them what they want. When it draws a crowd of carnal men, we write a “how to” book that lays out a strategy for the rest to follow. However, we fail to see that we are not making the Gospel relevant. We are only catering to a godless culture in order to keep it within our walls. In the end, the Gospel is gone, God is not honored, and the culture goes to hell.

The Church needs men who will stand before the opposing masses with nothing to help them or defend them except the Gospel and the God who has promised to work through it. How cumbersome was Saul’s armor to David,

and how ridiculous did David appear when he wore it? His agility and strength were sapped by the sheer weight of it. Yet, he made the crucial decision to put it off and to face the giant with nothing more than the Name of the Lord. Likewise, we must refuse Saul’s armor and weaponry, and go to battle with nothing more than the smooth stones of the Gospel. We must make that crucial decision to throw off the props, strategies, and clever techniques of modern day evangelism, and face the twin giants of unbelief and skepticism with open Bibles and the clear, uncompromising message of Christ crucified. Then we shall see the power of God manifested in the genuine conversion of the greatest sinners.

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.



About HeartCry

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 Grace Life Church of the 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.



Our Mission

The goal of our ministry is to glorify God through the preaching of the Gospel and the establishment of biblical churches throughout the world.

Reasons

- A biblical church is the will of God. The establishment of local churches was the goal of the apostolic ministry (Ephesians 3:10-11, 21; 4:11-13).
- A biblical church is the result or “mature fruit” of a genuine work of God. Therefore, the goal of planting a biblical church will be the means of guiding and validating all our missionary efforts.
- A biblical church is the “pillar and support” of the truth. Therefore, it is the great and enduring bulwark against error (I Timothy 3:15). The church is the “salt of the earth,” and the only entity that can preserve a nation or people from self-deceit and self-destruction.
- A biblical church is the only means of creating a self-sustaining, ever-multiplying mission effort.

Nature of the New Testament Church

- It is local and visible.
- It is spiritual and organic. It is more an organism than an organization, institution, or mechanism.
- It is autonomous - the fellowship is self-governing and self-supporting.
- It is collective or communal. Its members are interdependent, ministering to one another according to their callings and giftings.
- It is doctrinally or theologically driven (vs. pragmatism and cultural sensitivity).
- It is missionary - the fellowship is directly involved in the establishment of new churches of like faith and practice.
- Its chief end and motivation is the glory of God in Christ.

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.



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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.

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.

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.

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:

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Telephone (256) 381-7510

Website www.heartcrymissionary.com

Email info@heartcrymissionary.com

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