# Heart Cry MAGAZINE

A RENEWED COMMITMENT

TO A Great

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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

The Gospel to Every Creature p. 4

A Sound Word MAKING MUCH OF SIN

Missionary Spotlight
SISTER ERNIK.

A Word to the Young REMEMBER YOUR CREATOR



# Dear Family of God,

It is our great privilege to greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that His peace be with you and that His strength be yours.

You are a great blessing to us, and we are indebted to your kindness. This ministry is a reflection of your dedication to God, your love for His people, and your commitment to the Great Commission. Rejoice and be glad! God is using you to bless His people throughout the world!

Here at HeartCry, we are simply witnessing the continuation of what God began many years ago. We stand in constant amazement at His faithfulness to His promises and His tender mercies toward His ever-frail and ever-failing children.

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever." I Chronicles 16:34

Although the storms are raging all around us, the greatness and goodness of our God gives us the confidence to not only carry on, but to endeavor to do more. Life is so short and we are given so many opportunities to believe our God. Therefore, we must press on to expect

greater and greater things from the One who has always been able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we have ever been able to ask or think. As one dear brother is so fond of saying, "God delights in vindicating the confidence of His children."

This particular edition of HeartCry contains articles, director updates, reports from the field, and testimonies from our missionaries. We pray that each page will both encourage and strengthen you in the Lord during these difficult times. To borrow a phrase from Charles Dickens, "These are the worst of times; these are the best of times." The darker the world, the greater God's light. The more difficult the circumstance, the greater the opportunity to believe our God. Therefore, hold fast to what you have attained and do not hesitate to lay hold of all the promises of God. He is faithful!

Keep your eyes fixed upon the compass of God's Word and surround yourself with likeminded believers that you might run with endurance the race that is set before you.

Your Brother,

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# FACES IN THE WINDOWS

By Ken Askew

Ken Askew is a dear friend of HeartCry who traveled last year with Paul Washer and several other brothers to the jungles of Departamento Amazonas in the country of Peru. He wrote the following account from his experience.

Tears welled up in my eyes as I looked up and saw the faces in the windows. Never before had I witnessed such a desire to hear the preaching of God's Word. The tiny framed church was

full—maybe 80 people. At least fifty other people were standing outside listening to the loudspeaker. Faces crowded the open windows with the night sky as a backdrop.

Earlier in the day, not speaking any Spanish, I had not understood the conversation behind me as we crossed the mountain in the back of a pickup truck. But a friend interpreted and whispered in my ear, "The men traveling with us are also Christians."

Just before the first evening's service, I could hear the whine of another truck as it began its descent into the jungle. Then the dim headlights began to flicker in the night. Were these people friend or foe? Locals perhaps? As they pulled into the compound I was dumbfounded. I turned to the young man next to me and asked him to count as I tried to take a picture under the night sky. Twenty more worshipers got out of the tiny truck. Overwhelmed, I walked to the edge of the compound and cried out, "Oh God, how can this be? How can it be that I am here among people of such faith?" I did not understand, but I entered the small church with a spirit of thanksgiving and praise.

It must have been ninety degrees inside the church. The daytime temperature had exceeded one hundred degrees and the humidity was extreme. The smell of the earthen floor, the rough sawn boards on the walls, the hint of wood smoke from the cooking fires, and the makeshift lighting created a distinctly un-American experience in the crowded church. Yet worship flowed freely and with great joy.

The room was silent except for the preaching and the whir of the gasoline generator; every eye and ear was tuned to the message from the pulpit. Mothers gently rocked their

babies on the makeshift pews. As one by one the little ones fell asleep from utter exhaustion, their mothers lined them up on the cool earth outside the church (on the same cool earth where we would kill a tarantula the next evening). Each was wrapped in an alpaca blanket and slept under the watchful eye of a caretaker.

My heart was taken captive by those little ones. Who would teach them <u>about</u>

Christ? In this part of South America, children either get tough or die. I wondered what lay ahead for them? The thoughts haunt me still. And who would teach them about eternal things - the things of God? The answer was before me: Those mothers and fathers who, with great effort and much hardship had made the trip deep into the jungle to worship with us, would have to teach them. The people in their local churches would have to teach them... those faces in the windows.

This is why indigenous missions is so important. Please pray that God might be glorified as HeartCry endeavors to support indigenous missions throughout the world.

Your brother, Ken Askew



"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

"The Gospel to Every Creature" has such a powerful and purposeful ring to it. There is no greater goal for the Christian life than to give it all for the sake of the Gospel - to order one's life so that the Good News of Jesus Christ might be preached to every person in our generation. We can be assured that men have lived and died for lesser things! Therefore, let us not waste our lives on anything less than the high calling of God in Christ and the diffusion of the Gospel throughout the world.

## **Serving Our Generation**

While preaching to the Jews of Antioch in Pisidia, the Apostle Paul gave to King David one of the greatest compliments that can be given to any man. He declared:

"For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep..."
Acts 13:36

In spite of all his flaws and failures, it is the testimony of Scripture that King David served the purpose of God in his generation. If this can be said of an Old Testament saint, how much more should it be said of us who bear the name of Christ and have a more complete understanding of His Gospel? We have been

bought by the blood of the Lamb; therefore, we should no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose again on our behalf (II Corinthians 5:15). We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for goods works; therefore, we should strive to walk in them and not grow weary (Ephesians 2:10). We have been transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved Son (Colossians 1:13); therefore, the cry of our hearts and the labor of our lives should be:

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Matthew 6:10

Although our generation is only one among many, it is still our generation, and the one for which we are responsible. We have not been called by God to turn back the shadows on the steps and repair the past, nor are we called to rush into the future and arrange what should be. However, we are called to advance the purpose of God in this present generation; to be stewards of God in this one moment in human history; to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every man, woman, and child under heaven. Only then may we join the Apostle Paul in his triumphant declaration in the face of death:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."

II Timothy 4:7-8

Whether we desire it or not, all of us will have some degree of influence on our generation, and all of us will stand before God and give an account of himself. Therefore, we who know better ought to seek to influence our generation according to the will and purpose of God, and thus secure for ourselves the joy of an untroubled conscience on the day of our death. To live well is to die well.

# Our Influence Through the Gospel

Unless you are living in a cave or some remote island of the sea, you know that the world is passing through something of an upheaval. In the United States we are witnessing historic changes in our government, economy, and foundational beliefs. Many of the political, economic, and religious convictions upon which this country was built are being set aside without a second thought. All the while, the church appears to have little political or economic power to stand against this rapid deformity and eventual collapse of the nation.

This truth should not lead us to despair, but to cling more fervently to the Gospel and its proclamation to our generation. New administrations can wipe out forty years of conservative political victories with a single swipe of a pen. However, the combined armies of those administrations cannot undo what God has wrought in the heart of a single individual. This is not a time to retreat, but to abandon all the unbiblical methodologies and maneuverings that so weaken and hinder the modern church, and return to the truth of an unedited and unpolished Gospel. It is the preaching of the Gospel and the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of individuals that ultimately subdues the wickedness of a pagan culture and transforms it into a city of God!

### I am Resolved...

In September of this year, I will be two years from fifty. I am not an old man, but neither am I young. To put it bluntly, I am nearer to the grave than I am to the cradle. This reality does not burden me or cause me to despair, but rather it kindles a sense of urgency in my

heart. I want to be more like Christ, and I want to be a more faithful and efficient servant. I regret my many failures in the past, but I cannot turn back the clock, and I cannot fix what has already been done. However, I can push forward into the future, and strive with greater force to lay hold of the very thing for which God has laid hold of all of us - conformity to Christ, the proclamation of the Gospel to every creature, the transformation of individuals and cultures through the power of the Cross.

I hope and pray that you will join me in the renewal of a commitment to be an obedient servant of God and to lay down our lives for His purposes in our generation. Let us...

... count everything as rubbish that we might gain Christ (Philippians 3:8).

... forget what lies behind and press on toward the prize of the upward call of God in Christ (Philippians 3:13-14).

... lay aside every weight and sin and run with endurance the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1).

... go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15).

Such a commitment is certainly worth making and renewing. Such a life is certainly worth living!

#### Edwards' Resolutions

I will end this brief exhortation for renewal with a few helpful resolutions taken from the Seventy Resolutions written by Jonathan Edwards. He penned them between the years 1722-1723, when he was only nineteen years of age:

"Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat Him by His grace to enable me to keep these Resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to His will, for Christ's sake."

- Resolved, that I will do whatever I think to be most to God's glory, and my own eternal good, throughout my entire life...
- Resolved, to do whatever I think to be my duty, especially for the good and advantage of mankind in general, regardless of whatever difficulties I encounter.
- Resolved, never to do any manner of thing, whether in soul or body, but what tends to the glory of God.

- Resolved, never to lose one moment of time; but improve it the most profitable way I possibly can.
- Resolved, to live with all my might, while I do live.
- Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life.
- Resolved, to endeavor to my utmost to act as I think I would do, if I had already seen the happiness of heaven, and the torments of hell.
- Resolved, to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness, in the other world, as I possibly can, with all the power, might, vigor, and vehemence, yea violence, I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert, in any way that can be thought of.

## A WORD TO THE YOUNG

# REMEMBER YOUR CREATOR...

Time does not seem like such a precious commodity when you think you have a great deal of it. What you do with your time is not a great concern when you forget that it belongs to Another and that He will hold you accountable for every second that He has entrusted to you. Poor stewardship of time is a great malady found among young and old alike, but it is especially common among the youth. First, the young often presume that they have time without end, and forget that they are mortal like the rest. Secondly, as the young grow towards adulthood, they often become increasingly enamored with their new found freedoms. They forget that they are still subject to God's rule and will be held accountable on that Great Day. Such presumptions lead to many sins, and ultimately result in a "wasted life."

We do not know how much time we have been given by our Creator, but through the Scriptures we are informed that even the longest life is nothing more than a passing shadow or "a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). Our death as well as our judgment has been divinely appointed (Hebrews 9:27). How then shall we live? In his letter to the church at Ephesus, the Apostle Paul gives us the following instruction:

"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is..."

Ephesians 5:15-17

If you are a young man or woman, I beg you to be extremely careful with regard to how you live your life. As a Christian in a fallen world, you stand as a soldier in the midst of an endless minefield of evil. One wrong step can lead to your destruction and the destruction of your companions. Therefore, you must be absorbed in the study of God's Word so that you might grow in wisdom and be able to discern His will in all things. You must devote yourself to the things of God and not waste the few days that have been given to you on trivial pursuits.

In the following are set forth a few helpful hints to direct you on your way to a fruitful life as a true servant of Jesus Christ.

First Hint: Consider Christlike character to be of utmost importance. Character is everything. The fruitfulness of your work in the kingdom will be determined by what you are. Seek after conformity to Christ and discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.

Second Hint: Devote yourself to the study of God's Word. The fool gains whatever little knowledge he possesses though personal experience, but the godly man learns from every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). Thus a godly and wise youth avoids the painful pitfalls of the fool who would rather "live and learn" than "learn from God and live". The one virtue which most marks the truly useful servant of God is his or her knowledge of the Scriptures. A young man or woman would do well to follow Robert Murray McCheyne's Daily Bible Reading Calendar which can be

- Resolved, to strive to my utmost every week to be brought higher in religion, and to a higher exercise of grace, than I was the week before.
- Resolved, constantly, with the utmost diligence, and the strictest scrutiny, to be looking into the state of my soul, that I may know whether I have truly an interest in Christ or no.
- Resolved, never to give over, nor in the least to slacken my fight with my corruptions, however unsuccessful I may be.
- On the supposition, that there could be only one person in the world, at any one time, who was a complete Christian in every respect, always reflecting Christianity in its true luster, and always appearing excellent and lovely, no matter what aspect of life or character was placed under scrutiny: Resolved, to act just as I would do, if I strove with all my might to be that one, who should live in my time.

# IN THE DAYS OF YOUR YOUTH.

ECCLESIASTES 12:1

downloaded from the internet.

Third Hint: Devote yourself to prayer. This is not a mere suggested step to greater piety, but a direct command taken from Scripture (Colossians 4:2). We are to pray at all times and not lose heart (Luke 18:1). Prayer is a multi-faceted discipline that cannot be confined to petitions and entreaties, but also includes thanksgiving, praise, and communion with God. How can a young man or woman learn to pray? By studying the inspired prayers of Scripture and by praying, praying, praying.

Fourth Hint: Fellowship with the godly. Three aspects must be mentioned here. The first is separation from evil influences. The second is fellowship with those who inspire and encourage you to greater Christlikeness. The third is opening your life to the companionship and instruction of older men and women. He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools (other youths) will suffer harm (Proverbs 13:20).

Fifth Hint: Flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness. The same Scriptures which command us to stand firm against the devil (Ephesians 6:11), also command us to flee from youthful lusts (II Timothy 2:22). This tells us that the temptation of sexual immorality is overpowering and we must avoid it at all cost. If you do not fear this sin you will fall. It is not a question of "if" but "when." Avoid internet use without accountability and unchaperoned fellowship with the opposite sex.

Sixth Hint: Avoid trivial pursuits. You are a child

of God, destined for glory, and called to do great things in His Name. Do not waste your life on hobbies, sports, and other recreational pursuits. Do not throw away the precious moments of your life on entertainment, movies, and video games. Though some of these things can properly have a "small place" in the Christian's life, we must be careful not to give undue attention to temporal and fruitless activities. Do not waste your life. Employ the time of your youth in developing the character and skills necessary to be a useful servant of God.

Seventh Hint: Fan to a flame the gift of God which is in you (II Timothy 1:6). Seek to discover your gifts and learn to minister to others according to the grace of God that has been given to you. The Scriptures contain a long list of youths who were mightily used of God - Samuel, David, Jeremiah, Esther, Timothy... You should do everything in your power to join their ranks as early as possible. Learn the Scriptures. Be diligent to present yourself approved of God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, who accurately handles the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15).

# DIRECTOR UPDATES

In the following, the HeartCry regional directors provide you with a general and current overview of the progress of the Gospel in their respective region.

Africa by Sean Reece

The church-planting work in Africa remains a constant source of excitement for HeartCry as God continues expanding our work beyond the borders of Zambia. Through our partnership with Kabwata Baptist Church and Brother Conrad Mbewe, HeartCry is now serving two brothers in Kenya: Sam Oluoch in Kisumu and Naphtali Ogallo



in Eldoret. These pastors have labored for years to establish biblical churches in Kenya, and it is our joy to come alongside and help. Naphtally recently baptized three new converts, and Sam also baptized three, including his own daughter.

Our faithful Zambian brothers continue steadfastly in the work of evangelism, preaching, church oversight, and leadership training. Brother German's church in eastern Zambia has particular cause for rejoicing in that they have baptized twelve new believers in the past year. This is quite a work of grace in a church that averages forty in attendance.

On a personal note, Shannon and I travelled to Africa for most of January to submit immigration papers, secure housing in Livingstone, purchase camping gear, and visit our friend Dominic among the Lozi. The Lord worked so quickly on our behalf that we were able to come home four days early. Our immigration paperwork was accepted despite some missing documents which we were never told were required, and a duplex rental house came open just as we needed it.

In addition to these blessings, our South African friends helped us to choose and purchase the necessary gear for living in the bush. As an added bonus, we also had the pleasure of testing our Toyota Land Cruisers, learning the limits of both vehicles and drivers. The highlight of our trip was the surprise that Dominic's Bible study group among the Lozi had grown from fifteen to twenty and that they are meeting three times a week. Their hunger for biblical teaching is an example of what we have witnessed on every trip.

After learning that our immigration papers were approved within two weeks of submitting them, preparations for moving to Africa accelerated rapidly. On the 6th of April, our shipping container was loaded with our household goods and Bible study resources for the Zambian pastors. On the 12th of April, our two families boarded a plane for South Africa via London. It was the culmination of two years of prayer, planning, and preparation.

Asia by Matt Glass

The mission in Asia continues to progress. We are working on several fronts in the east, south, and southeast of the continent, and it seems like the Lord is opening new doors every week. Pray that we will have discernment.



When I consider the men and women working in this part of the world the one thing that stands out the most is their faithfulness to the Lord and to what He has called them to do. Most of the work they do is not the exciting stories we read about in missionary biographies, but the mundane day to day activities of ministry.

The Lord has been adding to the small fellowship among the Drukpa people in Bhutan which was started by sister Willinliu. Since the day we first heard of the work, we have been praying that the Lord might do two things: First, provide Willinliu with a husband; and second, provide biblical male leadership for the church. It is therefore, with great joy that we announce to you that the Lord has answered both petitions. On the 19th of March, Willinliu was married to a man who has been working for the last eight years in the ministry in Delhi, India. He has a strong desire to be the leader of this young church and he shares his wife's desire to reach the Drukpa people with the Gospel of Christ. We will give you more information on him in the future.

Although evangelism is still the priority in Bangladesh, much of the present work is centered around the believers' growth and maturity. Along with the regular meetings, brother Luckson has been conducting Bible classes three times a week. Also, in October of this year, Brother Jim Elliff will be traveling with us to teach the men. Please continue to pray for these dear brothers, particularly that God would raise up a leader to take Luckson's place. His visa terminates at the end of the year and he has been praying about moving to another location in Asia where there are no churches among the Meitei Hindus.

# Australia by Holden Barry

Thank you for your prayers in regard to our literature distribution ministry and future church planting ministry in Australia and the surrounding areas (Oceania). The Lord is expanding our overall vision

for service in this area and we eagerly wait upon Him to continue opening doors. At the present time we are distributing literature and audio resources through our partnership with like-minded brothers and sisters in South Australia. They have a great passion to see their continent transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Over the last several months, our co-workers in Australia have been seeking the Lord about planting a church, and now they feel confident to move forward. HeartCry plans to work along-side them to support and serve them in whatever way the Lord sees fit. We hope to see biblical churches planted throughout Australia and the surrounding area. We trust that the Lord will do far beyond our faith, by His grace and for His glory.

At this moment, Dr. Berry and I are meeting with the church planting team in South Australia. Our goal is to become better acquainted and to discuss the future church plant. We are excited about the possibility of not only distributing resources, but also planting churches where there are none. Please pray for this work, that the Lord might empower and equip His children for what He has called them to do.

# E. Ewrope by Don Currin

Our brothers and sisters in Eastern Europe continue steadfast in their commitment to live and proclaim Christ. In the midst of unstable economic conditions, religious and domestic opposition, and the

daily trials that accompany their Gospel ministries, they stay the course and trust in Him who is our very present help in time of trouble.

The social and economic dilemma of Eastern Europe has not improved since our last update. News analysts predict a complete economic collapse in the not so distant future. A new report claims that 50 million children in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union live in poverty, and that more than 160 million people — a full 40 percent of the region's population — live in poverty.

However, even in the face of what appears to be an insurmountable privation, grace is abounding in greater measures. God has chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom. Therefore, the present economic crisis makes the Gospel more effectual. Privation of worldly goods moves people to think often, and deeply, about eternity.

We continue to be encouraged and challenged by the reports that we receive from our missionaries. One brother is presently involved in establishing four churches in and around the city of Pitulicea in Romania. Please pray for our brethren and their families as they endure hardship as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. Also, pray that they will find their greatest joy in the One who delights in sending good providences.

# Middle East by Marc Glass

The last few months have been both exciting and fearful. Over the last year, it has become clear that Lebanon is the key to our church planting efforts in the Muslim world. Because of this, we are working to establish a "base of operations" in the area. It is not our goal to



merely support as many missionaries as possible, but to concentrate on one country until we are certain our footing is strong enough to move forward into others.

In addition to Lebanon, the Lord is now opening opportunities to work with indigenous pastors outside of Lebanon. In December, I met an Egyptian pastor named Samuel who is currently studying at the Baptist Seminary in Amman, Jordan. Samuel is a very humble brother whose love and zeal for the Lord is evident within the first few minutes of meeting him. Once he finishes seminary, he plans to return to Egypt and begin church planting. Pray for us as we discern the Lord's will in working with this dear brother.

In January, a highly respected Turkish pastor visited us at the home office. The meeting was the first step in partnering with his church in Izmir. The congregation has existed for approximately eight years and has seen nearly seventy Muslims make professions of faith in Jesus Christ. The goal of the church is to eventually plant churches throughout all of Turkey. Two years ago, they sent out their first church planter to Malatya, in the eastern part of Turkey. Unfortunately, he and two other missionaries were martyred. Please pray for us as we seek to discern how we can best come alongside this work.

In Lebanon, the Lord continues to bless the efforts to establish a local congregation in the south. In February, we began supporting Mohammad S. to work alongside our team leader Walid. Mohammad is a former Muslim who is now serving the Lord and the church in Tyre. He is a workhorse who spends a large portion of his time ministering to and evangelizing the local Muslims. There are approximately forty-five Palestinian Muslims who are now attending the Tyre Baptist Church. Most of these Muslims are coming from a local refugee camp where Walid and Mohammad are ministering. Though this work has gone without opposition for the last two months, they are now facing opposition from the local Muslim religious leaders. Pray that God might help them and continue to give them favor in the hearts of the refugees.

The ministry in the Middle East is exciting because God is opening up doors without any effort on our part. However, this excitement is mixed with reservation because we seek to be focused and methodical in our efforts to establish a central starting point in Lebanon. Please pray that God might give us discernment in knowing which opportunities we should pursue and which we should humbly decline.

# U.S. Office by Paul Washer

The Lord continues to demonstrate His faithfulness in the face of our weakness and wavering. We will never outgrow our need of Him. He is the one who upholds us through the most difficult times. His constant regard for our well-being and His preservation of this



ministry is not a reward for our virtue or merit, but a demonstration of His unconditional love and covenant faithfulness. For this reason, we can stand before the world and declare with Joshua that not one of the good promises which the LORD has made to us has failed; all have come to pass (Joshua 21:45).

Please continue in your prayers for us, that we might be faithful servants of God in our care for the missionaries and in our administration of the gifts you have given to this ministry.

"We also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

II Corinthians 5:9-10

# A view from the FIELD



# Sam Oluoch Kisumnu, Kenya

HeartCry is now serving alongside two brothers in Kenya: Sam Oluoch in Kisumu and Naphtali Ogallo in Eldoret. These pastors have labored for years to establish biblical churches in Kenya. The following is a report from Sam.

Once again as we reflect on the goodness of the Lord to us, our hearts are full with excitement over His dealing with us here at the 'Grace Baptist Church' in Kisumnu, Kenya.

I recently traveled to our capital city of Nairobi to join with pastor Naphtali in constituting 'Injili Bible church' in Eldoret. The church has grown to seventeen members. It was also our privilege to set apart two elders - Joseph and Sukesh.

At the service, an attentive crowd listened as I preached from Acts 11:19-30. The theme was the characteristics of a strong church - It must be Bible centered, pastoral, evangelistic, and persevere with a godly testimony before unbelievers. The day ended with great joy. On the following Sunday I spent the Lord's Day with brethren in Nairobi.

On the Sunday following my return to my church in Kisumu, the Lord granted us another wonderful day in His house. Three people were baptized and added to our numbers: Nila (my daughter), Carol, and Benjamin. After baptism, everyone joined together for a lovely fellowship meal that the sisters in the church had prepared. We then joined together in observing the Lord's Table and officially gave the right hand of fellowship to the three who were baptized. Their addition now brings our membership number to thirty-one. Since its beginning, the church has experienced slow but steady growth. Sadly we have suffered with the excommunication of two members - one was a church deacon.

After the celebration of the Lord's Table, the church met again to choose two new leaders

to work with me - Paul O. and Osborn O. were unanimously chosen to the office of elder and deacon respectively. Brother Paul has been working as the church evangelist for the last two years and has demonstrated his gifts and dedication in the service of the Kingdom. Brother Osborn works for the museum in Kenya and leads all our Sunday school activities in the church.

Do pray for these men. Our last leadership team of three men crumbled after only five years of service. The enemy attacked and they were no longer above reproach. Having their reputations marred, their conscience could not allow them to serve and they stepped down. I am encouraged that only one of the three had to be excommunicated and continues in sin until now. The other two are seriously working to overcome the weakness that brought them down. It is also a great encouragement to see that God has raised up Brother Paul and Brother Osborn to make up for what was lacking in our ministry.

God has been gracious to allow us to continue our ministry at Maseno University. Elder Paul, Brother Ezra, and I have made two visits to the campus in the last few weeks. Both times, we have had lively discussions with many students. Pray for the students' souls. We were very excited that five students came to our special baptism service. My daughter Nila also invited her school friends to witness her baptism. They are not believers, but came with presents for her. This put her mother and me to shame. We realized too late that we ought to have bought something for her in celebration of such a special event.



# Walter Isse

Lima, Perú

Walter has moved to Peru from Argentina and is working with Martin Zacarias in the Church of the Savior (Evangelism, Discipleship, and Preaching) and in the Bible Institute. He is also translating material from Paul Washer's study manuals and various Puritan authors for the Institute.

The members at the Church of the Savior in Barranco are growing, not only in numbers, but also in their knowledge of the amazing truths of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Please pray for God to minister to my heart every day in His presence. I continue serving my Lord by ministering to the young people on Saturday evenings. It is a great blessing in my life. Lately, I have been preaching expository messages through the book of James. We have been studying through this incredible book for two and a half months. It has been a tremendous blessing and encouragement to my life.

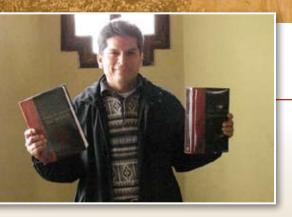
I glorify God for His amazing work among these young people. When we finish, we are going to study through the book of Hebrews. Please pray that God will give me wisdom from above to glorify Him and to minister to my brothers and sisters. I long to strengthen their hands in the Lord.

God is doing something really great in this country and we are seeing His hand in everything. We are praying for God's strength, and seeking to rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance in everything. The youth are really encouraged and every Friday we go to the central park in Miraflores to preach the Gospel. Pray for them

to keep walking in our Lord's steps, living a holy life, and being an example of God's grace. We are seeing God's sovereign work of salvation as people come to Jesus with conviction of sin, true repentance, faith, and the bearing of fruit for the glory of God.

I am now spending many hours studying God's Word. His Word reveals the glorious Gospel of "Christ in us." These three words compelled me to fall upon my knees and glorify God for His love toward us. Please pray for me because I do not want to know these truths only with my mind, but I want to also embrace them with my heart. I want to see more of God's glory and be transformed by His presence so that I can testify about His Name with power. I know I am a young man and I do not want to waste my life preaching something other than the true Gospel. Pray that God might strengthen my life more and more through His Word and the Holy Spirit.

May the Son Of God receive the reward for His suffering. May our Lord and Savior bless your lives and your families. May God be Praised and His Name be Glorified.



Brothers, I first want to inform you that we have bought the video projector with the money that was given to us from HeartCry. In this last missionary journey to the Aguarunas, it was a great blessing. We were able to show films every night. This drew many people to our meetings and enabled us to preach to a much larger number of unbelievers. Many people made professions of faith through the preaching, but we must wait and see if they are truly converted.

We also delivered the John MacArthur Study Bibles to the pastors. I believe that they will be a great blessing for them. It is the only study tool that most of them have ever owned. I pray that through these Bibles, God might accomplish His work in the churches and the individual Christians.

# Thomas Urbina

Condorcanqui, Perú

Thomas pastors the Baptist Church of Progress in Lima, Peru. In addition to pastoring, Thomas also helps with the oversight and accountability of HeartCry's works among the Aguaruna Tribe in the northern jungles of Condorcanqui.

We have begun a new year of study in our mobile institute among the Aguarunas. We are working hard to teach the basic doctrines of the Christian faith to the pastors and leaders. We are also training teachers for the children's Sunday School classes. We are covering such things as: How to prepare a Bible lesson, how to use visual aids, and how to help the children memorize the Scriptures.

Finally, I want to share with you that there are reports that the brothers from the Datementza community have started another work in a community called Wawahs. I have not yet visited the work, but have heard good reports about it. Please pray with us that this new work will grow.

# MAKING MUCH OF By Paul Washer

The center of the Gospel is the death of Christ. Christ died for sin. Therefore, there can be no Gospel proclamation apart from a biblical treatment of sin. This includes explaining the heinous nature of it and exposing men as sinners.

I am aware that the subject of sin is somewhat out of vogue even in some Evangelical circles; nevertheless, any honest consideration of Scripture as it relates to contemporary culture will demonstrate that there is still a need to "make much of sin."

The need for speaking clearly about sin is acute since we live in a generation born in sin and captivated by it.<sup>1</sup> We are a people that drinks down iniquity like water,<sup>2</sup> and cannot discern our fallen condition anymore than a fish can know that it is wet. Because of this, we must endeavor to rediscover a biblical view of sin and the sinfulness of man. Our understanding of God and the Gospel depends upon it.

As stewards of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we do no service to men by making light of sin, skirting around the issue, or avoiding it altogether. Men only have one problem - They are under the wrath of God because of their sin.3 To deny this is to deny one of the most foundational doctrines of Christianity. It is not unloving to tell men that they are sinners, but it is the grossest form of immorality not to tell them! In fact, God declares that their blood will be on our hands if we do not warn them of their sin and the coming judgment.4 To seek to preach the Gospel without making sin an issue is like trying to heal the brokenness of a people superficially, saying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace.5

The book of Romans is the closest thing we have to a systematic theology in the Scriptures. In this letter, the Apostle Paul is setting forth his doctrine before the church in Rome. He seeks to prepare them for his upcoming visit,

and hopes that they will join with him in his missionary endeavors in Spain.<sup>6</sup> It is extremely important to note that the first three chapters of this letter, with the exception of a brief introduction, is dedicated to hamartology<sup>7</sup> – the doctrine of sin. For three chapters, the apostle labors with all his intellect and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit with one great purpose – to prove the sinfulness of man and to condemn the entire world!

I have often heard Christians declare that God has not given us a ministry of condemnation and death, but of righteousness, reconciliation and life.<sup>8</sup> This is very true, but this does not mean that we are not to speak much about sin, or use the Scriptures to bring men under the conviction of the Holy Spirit regarding their sin. It is true that there is now no condemnation "in Christ Jesus", but there is nothing but condemnation apart from Him.<sup>10</sup>

The Scriptures tell us that the Law was not given as a means of salvation, but as an instrument for exposing both the vileness of sin that sin would be utterly sinful,11 and the sinfulness of man - that all the world might become accountable to God.<sup>12</sup> This ministry of the Law should continue to be an essential part of our Gospel proclamation. The "old" preachers called it the breaking up of fallow ground,13 turning over rocks, and pulling back curtains. They saw the need to hold men up to the mirror of God's Law so that they might see their destitute condition and cry out for mercy. Of course, this is not to be done with a spirit of pride or arrogance, and we are not to handle people roughly. God has not called us to be a belligerent or offensive people, even though the truth we preach with all humility may be quite offensive.

The ministry of the Apostle Paul did not have condemnation as it goal, but there is a very real sense in which he labored to condemn men in the hope that they might recognize their utter moral ruin, and turn to Christ in repentance and faith. In the book of Romans, Paul first sets out to prove the moral corruption of the entire world, its hostility toward God, and its absolute refusal to submit to the truth it knows. Hen he turns his attention to the Jew, and proves that although uniquely blessed through the gift of special revelation, he is as guilty before God as the Gentile. Finally, he concludes his argument by presenting some of the most direct and offensive accusations found in Scripture against man. What is his purpose? He tells us in his closing arguments:

"That every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God."

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Like Jeremiah before him, Paul was called not only to "build and to plant", but also to "pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow". He was, in his own words, "destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God". Under the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and through the Scriptures, Paul endeavored to end the hope of the pagan moralist, the religious Jew, and everyone in between. He wrote and preached to close the mouths of men so that they would never again boast in self-righteousness or make excuses for sin. He cut them off from every other hope so that they might turn to Christ alone.

Was the Apostle Paul merely an angry and bitter man with an axe to grind against humanity? No! He loved humanity to such an extent that his life was poured out like a drink offering on behalf of the Gentiles<sup>20</sup>, and he even wished himself accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of his fellow Jew<sup>21</sup>. Paul preached against sin for the same reason that the physician works to diagnose his patient's illness and is willing to tell him even the worst of news. It is a labor of love for the salvation of the hearer. Any other response by doctor or preacher would be loveless and immoral.

It may be appropriate at this moment to ask ourselves if our Gospel preaching has such a purpose. Do we love enough to teach truth, expose sin, and confront our hearers? Do we possess a biblical compassion that tells men the truth in hope that their hearts might be broken under the weight of their sin and they might

look to Christ alone? Are we willing to risk being misunderstood and maligned in order that truth might be told and men might be saved?

There seems to be a growing conviction even among Evangelicals that contemporary western man is already so psychologically fractured and burdened with guilt that we dare not press him further lest we crush him. Such a view fails to realize that there is a tremendous difference between a psychological fracture and biblical repentance leading to life. Modern man has become the feeble character that he is because he is self-absorbed and living in rebellion against God. He is loaded down with guilt because he is guilty. He needs God's Word to expose his sin, and bring him to repentance. Only then will there be a biblical brokenness that leads to life.

God's dealings with the nation of Israel provide us with wonderful examples of this truth. Through the prophet Isaiah, He describes Israel's condition:

"The whole head is sick and the whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is nothing sound in it. Only bruises, welts and raw wounds, not pressed out or bandaged, nor softened with oil." 22

The nation of Israel was as fractured and frail as one could ever imagine, yet God dealt with them for their own good by pointing out their rebellion and calling them to repentance. He used many "hard words" against them<sup>23</sup>, but each was necessary to expose their sin, and turn them from it.<sup>24</sup>

Identifying a malady and explaining the seriousness of it is always the first step to a cure. A man who has no knowledge of his cancer will not seek the aid of medicine, and a man will not flee from a burning house unless he knows of a fire. To the same degree, a man will not seek salvation until he knows that he is thoroughly lost, and he will not flee to Christ until he knows that there is no other means of salvation. Men must be told of their sin before they will acknowledge it; they must be informed of the danger of it before they will flee from it; and they must be convinced that salvation is found in Christ alone before they will leave behind all their self-righteous hopes and run to Him.

Making much of sin is no longer a consider-

ation for most of the Evangelical community. There even seems to be a conscious effort to discourage such preaching as negative and destructive. We seem to balk at exposing the sinner's sin, and yet this is a primary ministry of the Holy Spirit:

"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged." 25

According to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit has been sent into the world to convict men of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Bringing sin to light and pressing the sinner to repentance is one of His primary ministries. Should not we as ministers of the Gospel have the same goal? Should not our preaching reflect the same work? Is it possible to evangelize in the power of the Holy Spirit, while refusing to work with the Spirit in this essential ministry? Although the Holy Spirit is not dependent upon human instruments, God has ordained that men come to conviction of sin, repentance, and saving faith through preaching.26 Yet how can the Spirit use our preaching if we are not willing expose sin or call men to repentance? The Scriptures teach us that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God<sup>27</sup>, but if God's ministers only reluctantly use the sword in convicting men of sin, will it not quench both the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit? We must not be afraid to follow the Spirit's example in dealing with sinners. If He deems it necessary to convict men of sin, we must join Him in this work. Those preachers and churches that have found a "better way," have no grounds for hoping that the Spirit of God is working among them to bring men to Christ.28

Before we conclude, it is important to make one final note. The greatest reason for making much of sin is that it exalts the Gospel. The beauty of the stars cannot be seen in the midday sky because they are eclipsed by the light of the sun. However, when the sun is set and the sky becomes black as pitch, the stars are seen in the full force of their splendor. So it is with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Its true beauty can only be seen in the backdrop of man's sin. The darker man appears, the brighter the Gospel.

It seems that men never even notice the beauty of Christ or consider His worth until they see the heinous nature of their sin and themselves as absolutely destitute of merit. There are countless testimonies of Christians down through the ages who never once esteemed Christ until the day the Holy Spirit came and convicted them of sin, and righteousness, and judgment. It was only after they were engulfed in the unrelenting darkness of their own sin, that Christ appeared like the morning star and became precious to them.

It is striking that when true believers in Jesus Christ hear a sermon regarding man's depravity, they walk out of the church bursting with joy and filled with a new zeal to follow Christ. It is not because they take sin lightly or find some satisfaction in their former sinful state. Rather, they are filled with joy unspeakable, because in the greater darkness they saw more of Christ! How we rob men of a greater vision of God, because we will not give them a lower vision of themselves.

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6 Romans 15:23-24
7 Hamartology is derived from the Greek words hamartía meaning sin and lógos meaning word or discourse. Hamartology is literally a discourse on sin.
8 This statement is based upon II Corinthians 3:7-9 and II Corinthians 5:17.
9 Romans 8:1
10 Romans 5:18
11 Romans 7:13
12 Romans 3:19
13 Jeremiah 4:3; Hosea 10:12
14 Romans 1:18-32
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18 Jeremiah 1:10 19 II Corinthians 10:5 20 Philippians 2:17 21 Romans 9:3 22 Isaiah 1:5-6 23 Isaiah 1:4 24 Isaiah 1:18-19

25 John 16:8-11 26 I Corinthians 1:27 27 Ephesians 6:17

28 I owe this insight to pastor Jeff Noblit of Grace Life Church of Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

## 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. Our church is Grace Life Church of the Shoals (1915 East Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL, 35661). It is a Church following historic Baptist principles, and is passionate about the restoration of Gospel preaching, the doctrine of conversion, and the scriptural truths that ought to govern the local church.

# Come Over & Help Us

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.

## What We Do

We work with godly men and women of integrity and faith in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant churches among their own peoples. Our primary ministries are:

#### Literature Distribution

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

## Ministry Tools

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

## **Church Planting**

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

## **Bible Conferences**

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

# Stay Connected

## Free Magazine

The HeartCry Missionary Society publishes a bimonthly magazine free of charge to all who request it via phone or email. 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 into the well, or hold the rope for those who go down!





## Visit Our Website

We have recently redesigned the website for 2009. New features include a "View from the Field" and a more intuitive Resources section: sermon downloads from Paul Washer and others, articles, online books, and videos. It also features an ever-growing Recommended Resources section and a 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 and videos from recent trips. As always, those interested can learn about our ministry, methodology, theology, and essential convictions about the Gospel and Missions. Finally, there is also the opportunity to contact us, send us feedback, and even donate online.

### **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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