

HeartCry

MAGAZINE

MAKING MUCH OF CHRIST

A DISPLAY OF CHRIST IN HIS
ESSENTIAL & MEDIATORIAL GLORY

BY JOHN FLAVEL p. 3

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FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

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BROTHER SAMUEL



Dear Family of God,

At this time of year, when so many are drawn away by holiday distractions, we seek to encourage our own hearts as well as those of our readers to focus upon Christ and His incomparable glory; to turn away from all superficial and temporal attractions, and fix our eyes upon Christ and a glory that not only astonishes, but transforms.

What is this world in comparison to Christ? Its seemingly countless wonders and worth are nothing when weighed in the presence of the One who formed and sustains them. Compared to Christ, even the entire universe is an insignificant nothing, scarcely able to evoke a yawn from those most easily astonished.

Furthermore, what are all the accomplishments of this world in comparison to the smallest act of obedience to Christ? The fulfillment of even the most minute Christian duty is a greater achievement than the climbing of Everest or the winning of the Nobel Prize. Even giving a cup of cold water in His name does not go without divine notice or eternal reward. Let us then, serve the Lord with all our hearts and every fiber of our strength. Why should we spend ourselves for temporal trinkets, when eternal glory is within our grasp? In the words of Elliot, "He is no fool to give up that which he cannot keep, to gain that which he can never lose."

Finally, what are the trophies of this age in comparison to the souls of men? There are many things in this world that can be won by perseverance and sacrifice, but none of them

are eternal. Gold metals and the accolades of men, houses, lands, and riches are quick to rot and rust. Those who seek them are on a fool's errand, but he who wins souls is wise. It has been said that there are only three things eternal - God, the Word of God, and the souls of men. Let us press hard to win them before it is too late. Let us give ourselves for the countless millions who have no Savior and no eternal hope! After two thousand years the harvest is still plentiful and the laborers are still few.

In keeping with our desire to make much of Christ during this holiday season, the feature article in this edition of HeartCry is a letter written by the Puritan John Flavel. It is my all-time favorite writing, and one of the most Christ-exalting works ever forged by the hands of men. It has been and continues to be a tool in God's hands to shape my heart and accelerate my devotion. I pray that you will work through it, and "mine out" its gems.

The remainder of our magazine is replete with director updates, reports from the field, and many other encouraging articles. It is our hope and prayer that they will rekindle your flame and strengthen your resolve to live for the One who gave His life for you.

Your Brother,

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The esteemed puritan John Flavel wrote this article in 1671. It is considered to be one of the most beautiful and powerful works ever written regarding the essential glory of Christ.

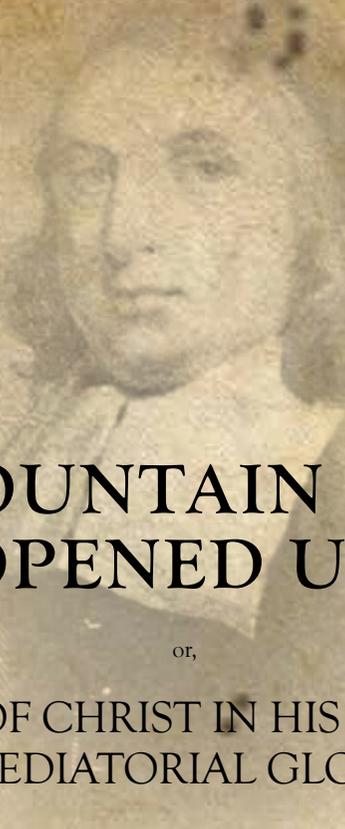
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THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE OPENED UP:

OR,

A DISPLAY OF CHRIST IN HIS ESSENTIAL & MEDIATORIAL GLORY

John Flavel

To his much honoured and beloved kinsman, Mr. John Flavel, of London, Merchant, and his virtuous
Consort, the Author wisheth Grace, Mercy, and Peace.

My dear and honoured friends

If my pen were both able, and at leisure, to get glory in paper, it would be but a paper glory when I had gotten it; but if by displaying the transcendent excellency of Jesus Christ, I may win glory to Him from you, to whom I humbly offer them, or from any other into whose hands providence shall cast them, that will be glory indeed, and an occasion of glorifying God to all eternity.

It is not the design of this letter to compliment, but to benefit you; not to blazen your excellencies, but Christ's; not to acquaint the world how much you have endeared me to yourselves, but to increase and strengthen the endearments between Christ and you, upon your part. I might indeed pay you my acknowledgements for your great kindnesses to me and mine; of which, I assure you, I have, and ever shall have, the most grateful sense: but you and I are theatre enough to one another, and can satisfy ourselves with the enclosed comforts and delights of our mutual love and

friendship. But let me tell you, the whole world is not a theatre large enough to show the glory of Christ upon, or unfold the one half of the unsearchable riches that lie hid in Him. These things will be far better understood, and spoken of in heaven, by the noon-day divinity, in which the immediately illuminated assembly do there preach His praises, than by such a stammering tongue, and scribbling pen as mine, which does but mar them.

Alas! I write His praises but by moon-light; I cannot praise Him so much as by halves. Indeed, no tongue but His own (as Nazianzen said of Basil) is sufficient to undertake that task. What shall I say of Christ? The excelling glory of that object dazzles all apprehension, swallows up all expression. When we have borrowed metaphors from every creature that has any excellency or lovely property in it, till we have stript the whole creation bare of all its ornaments, and clothed Christ with all that glory; when we have even worn out our tongues, in ascribing praises to Him, alas! we have done nothing, when all is done.

The Fountain of Life Opened Up (Continued)

Yes, woe is me! how do I every day behold reasonable souls most unreasonably disaffected to my lovely Lord Jesus! denying love to One, who is able to compel love from the stoniest heart! yea, though they can never make so much of their love (would they set it to sale) as Christ bids for it.

It is horrid and amazing to see how the minds of many are captivated and ensnared by every silly trifle; and how others can indifferently turn them with a kind of spontaneity to this object, or to that (as their fancy strikes) among the whole universe of beings, and scarce ever reluctate, recoil, or nauseate, till they be persuaded to Christ. In their unconverted state, it is as easy to melt the obdurate rocks into sweet syrup, as their hearts into divine love.

How do the great men of the world ambitiously court the honours and pleasures of it? The merchants of the earth trade, and strive for the dear-bought treasures of it; whilst the price of Christ (alas! ever too low) falls every day lower and lower upon the exchange of this world! I speak it as a sad truth, if there were no quicker a trade (as dead as they say it is) for the perishing treasures of the earth, than there is for Christ this day in England, the exchange would quickly be shut up, and all the trading companies dissolved.

Dear Sir, Christ is the peerless pearl hid in the field (Matthew 13:46). Will you be that wise merchant, that resolves to win and compass that treasure, whatever it shall cost you? Ah, Sir, Christ is a commodity that can never be bought too dear.

My dear kinsman, my flesh, and my blood; my soul thirsteth for your salvation, and the salvation of your family. Shall you and I resolve with good Joshua that whatever others do, "we and our families will serve the Lord;" that we will walk as the redeemed by his blood, shewing forth his virtues and praises in the world? that as God has made us one in name, and one in affection, so we may be one in Christ, that it may be said of us, as it was of Austin and Alipous long ago, that they were sanguine Christi conglutinati, glued together by the blood of Christ.

For my own part, I have given in my name to

Him long since; woe to me, if I have not given in my heart also; for, should I deceive myself in so deep a point as that, how would my profession as a Christian, my calling as a minister, yea, these very sermons now in your hands, rise in judgement to condemn me? which God forbid.

And doubtless, Sir, your eyes have seen both the vanity of all creatures, and the necessity and infinite worth of Christ. You cannot forget what a vanity the world appeared to you, when in the year 1668, you were summoned by the messengers of death (as you and all that were about you then apprehended) to shoot the gulf of vast eternity, when a malignant fever and pleurisy (whereof your physician has given an account to the world) did shake the whole frame of the tabernacle wherein your soul through mercy yet dwells; and long may it dwell there, for the service and praise of your great Deliverer. I hope you have not, nor ever will forget how vain the world appeared to your eye, when you looked back (as it were over your shoulder) and saw how it shrunk away from you; nor will you ever forget the awful apprehensions of eternity that then seized your spirit, or the value you then had for Christ; which things, I hope, still do, and ever will remain with you.

And for you, dear cousin, as it becomes a daughter of Sarah, let your soul be adorned with the excellencies of Christ, and beauties of holiness. A King from heaven makes suit for your love; if He espouse your soul now He will fetch it home to Himself at death in His chariot of salvation; and great shall be your joy, when the marriage of the Lamb is come. Look often upon Christ in this glass; He is fairer than the children of men. View Him believingly, and you cannot but like and love Him. "For (as one well saith) love, when it sees, cannot but cast out its spirit and strength upon amiable objects and things lovable. And what fairer things than Christ! O fair sun, and fair moon, and fair stars, and fair flowers, and fair roses, and fair lilies, and fair creatures! but, O ten thousand, thousand times fairer Lord Jesus! Alas, I wronged him in making the comparison this way. O black sun and moon; but O fair Lord Jesus! O black flowers, and black lilies and roses; but O fair fair, ever fair Lord Jesus! O all fair things, black, deformed, and with-

out beauty, when ye are set beside the fairest Lord Jesus! O black heaven, but O fair Christ! O black angels, but O surpassingly fair Lord Jesus.”

I hope you both are agreed with Christ, according to the articles of peace propounded to you in the Gospel; and that you are every day driving on salvation work, between him and you, in your family, and in your closets.

And now, my dear, friends, if these discoveries of Christ, which I humbly offer to your hands, may be any way useful to your

souls, to assist them either in obtaining, or in clearing their interest in him, my heart shall rejoice, even mine; for none under heaven can be more willing, though many are more able, to help you thither, than is...

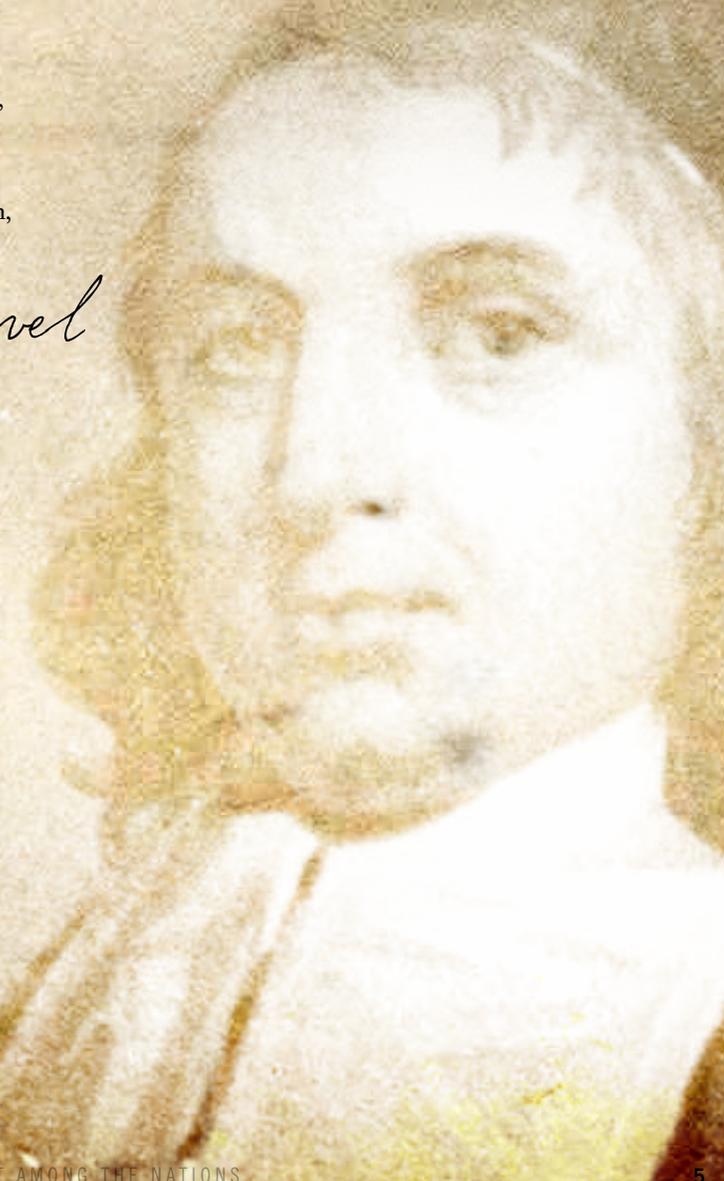
Your affectionate and obliged,

kinsman and servant

From my Study at Dartmouth,

John Flavel

March 14th, 1671.



THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

SERMON 1

1 COR. 2:2

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

The former verse contains an apology for the plain and familiar manner of the apostle's preaching, which was not (as he there tells them) with excellency of speech, or of wisdom; i. e. he studied not to gratify their curiosity with rhetorical strains, or philosophical niceties. In this he gives the reason, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ."

"I determined not to know." The meaning is not, that he simply despised, or condemned all other studies and knowledge; but so far only as they stand in competition with, or opposition to the study and knowledge of Jesus Christ. And it is as if he should say, it is my stated, settled judgement; not a hasty, inconsiderate censure, but the product and issue of my most serious and exquisite enquiries. After I have well weighed the case, turned it round, viewed it exactly on every side, balanced all advantages and disadvantages, pondered all things, that are fit to come into consideration about it; this is the result and final determination, that all other knowledge, how profitable, how pleasant soever, is not worthy to be named in the same day with the knowledge of Jesus Christ. This, therefore, I resolve to make the scope and end of my ministry, and the end regulates the mean; such pedantic toys, and airy notions as injudicious ears affect, would rather obstruct than promote my grand design among you; therefore, wholly waving that way, I applied myself to a plain, popular, unaffected dialect, fitted rather to pierce the heart, and convince the conscience, than to tickle the fancy. This is the scope of the words, in which three things fall under consideration;

First, The subject matter of his doctrine, to wit, Jesus Christ. "I determined to know nothing," i. e. to study nothing myself, to teach nothing to you, but "Jesus Christ." Christ shall be the

centre to which all the lines of my ministry shall be drawn. I have spoken and written of many other subjects in my sermons and epistles, but it is all reductively the preaching and discovery of Jesus Christ: Of all the subjects in the world, this is the sweetest; if there be any thing on this side of heaven, worthy our time and studies, this is it. Thus he magnifies his doctrine, from the excellency of its subject-matter, accounting all other doctrines but airy things, compared with this.

Secondly, We have here that special respect or consideration of Christ, which he singled out from all the rest of the excellent truths of Christ, to spend the main strength of his ministry upon; and that is, Christ as crucified: and the rather, because hereby he would obviate (prevent) the vulgar prejudice raised against him upon the account of his cross; "For Christ crucified was to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness" (I Corinthians 1:23). This also best suited his end, to draw them on to Christ; as Christ above all other subjects, so Christ crucified above all things in Christ. There is, therefore, a great emphasis in this word, "and him crucified."

Thirdly, The manner in which he discoursed this transcendent subject to them, is also remarkable; he not only preached Christ crucified, but he preached him assiduously and plainly. He preached Christ frequently; "And whenever he preached of Christ crucified, he preached him in a crucified style." This is the sum of the words; to let them know that his spirit was intent upon this subject, as if he neither knew, nor cared to speak of any other. All his sermons were so full of Christ, that his hearers might have thought he was acquainted with no other doctrine. Hence observe this proposition:

That there is no doctrine more excellent in itself or more necessary to be preached and studied, than the doctrine of Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

ALL other knowledge, how much soever it be magnified in the world, is, and ought to be esteemed but dross, in comparison of the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:8). "In him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3).

Eudoxus was so affected with the glory of the sun, that he thought he was born only to behold it; much more should a Christian judge himself born only to behold and delight in the glory of the Lord Jesus.

The truth of the above proposition will be made out by a double consideration of the doctrine of Christ.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST ==== *Considered* ====

Let the knowledge of Christ be considered absolutely, and then these lovely properties with which it is naturally clothed, will render it superior to all other sciences and studies.

First: The knowledge of Jesus Christ is the very marrow and kernel of all the Scriptures; the scope and centre of all divine revelations: both Testaments meet in Christ. The ceremonial law is full of Christ, and all the gospel is full of Christ: the blessed lines of both Testaments meet in him; and how they both harmonize, and sweetly centre in Jesus Christ, is the chief scope of that excellent epistle to the Hebrews, to discover; for we may call that epistle the sweet harmony of both Testaments. This argues the unspeakable excellency of this doctrine, the knowledge whereof must needs therefore be a key to unlock the greatest part of the sacred Scriptures. For it is in the understanding of Scripture, much as it is in the knowledge men have in logic and philosophy: if a scholar once come to understand the bottom-principle, upon which, as upon its hinge, the controversy turns, the true knowledge of that principle shall carry him through the whole controversy, and furnish him with a solution to every argument. Even so the right knowledge of Jesus

Christ, like a clue, leads you through the whole labyrinth of the Scriptures.

Secondly, the knowledge of Jesus Christ is a fundamental knowledge; and foundations are most useful, though least seen. The knowledge of Christ is fundamental to all graces, duties, comforts, and happiness.

(1) It is fundamental to all graces. They all begin in knowledge. "The new man is renewed in knowledge" (Colossians 3:10). As the old, so the new creation begins in light; the opening of the eyes is the first work of the Spirit; and as the beginnings of grace, so all the after-improvements thereof depend upon this increasing knowledge. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour" (II Peter 3:18). See how these two, grace and knowledge, keep equal pace in the soul of a Christian in what degree the one increases, the other increases answerably.

(2) The knowledge of Christ is fundamental to all duties; the duties, as well as the graces of all Christians, are all founded in the knowledge of Christ. Must a Christian believe? That he can never do without the knowledge of Christ: faith is so much dependent on his knowledge, that it is denominated by it, "By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many;" (Isaiah 53:11) and hence, seeing and believing are made the same thing (John 6:40). Would a man exercise hope in God? That he can never do without the knowledge of Christ, for he is the author of that hope (I Peter 1:3), he is also its object (Hebrews 6:19), and its ground-work and support (Colossians 1:27). And as you cannot believe or hope, so neither can you pray acceptably without a competent degree of this knowledge. O then, how indispensable is the knowledge of Christ, to all that do address themselves to God in any duty.

(3) It is fundamental to all comforts: All the comforts of believers are streams from this fountain. Jesus Christ is the very object matter of a believer's joy. "Our rejoicing is in "Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:3). Take away the knowledge of Christ, and a Christian is the most sad and melancholy creature in the world. Again, let Christ but manifest himself, and dart the beams of his light into their souls, it will make them kiss the stakes, sing in flames, and shout in the pangs of death, as men that divide the spoil.

(4) This knowledge is fundamental to the eternal happiness of souls: as we can perform no

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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 regions.

Africa by Sean Reece

The following is Sean and Shannon Reeves's account of their last trip to the Lozi tribe of western Zambia. After years of preparation, they are finally working as full-time missionaries among the people they love.



We just returned from a trip to the bush that was the answer to many prayers spanning at least two years. In our five day trip to Dominic's village, Shannon and I were accompanied by three Zambian brothers from Trinity Baptist Church in Livingstone - Evans Mumba and Alfred Sinyangwe, who are deacons at Trinity Baptist, and a young man named Enoch whose father grew up in Mongu, the Lozi capital.

We discovered that Enoch is fluent in Lozi and was a great help as an interpreter while Dominic (our usual interpreter) was away working for our regional chief. Enoch also provided a valuable service by listening to the men who usually interpret for us and evaluating their ability and accuracy. We now know that Dominic is the only one who can correctly interpret our preaching. Brother Enoch also brought his guitar, and the villagers were delighted by his playing and singing. Evans and Alfred preached the gospel beautifully by sharing their testimonies in the village. Evans was saved out of the New Apostle cult, and Alfred was saved out of Catholicism. The people seemed to listen intently as these men described their deliverance from dead works and the new life of grace they now enjoy. My brother Shannon and I preached the same message of salvation by grace through faith and not by works of the law. We consider our task an indescribable privilege, even though it can be rather frustrating, as the following account will illustrate:

While meeting with a small group of men in Makanda village, Shannon read Galatians 2:16, in which Paul emphasizes that we cannot be justified by keeping the law. However, after reading the verse, Shannon asked, "Does anyone know what the word 'justified' means?" Immediately a man raised his hand and answered, "It means to keep God's law." This vividly demonstrates the degree to which the false doctrine of works is entrenched in the Lozi culture.

Sadly, this bondage to the law seems to have continued in some of our Lozi friends whom we had hoped were converted - Vincent, Evan, and Jethro. Some of these men are fairly weak in English, but Enoch was able to quiz them in Lozi concerning their spiritual condition. In all three cases, the men spoke at length about the "churches" they attend, their efforts to do good works, and their search for the truth. However, none of them said anything about Christ. Our hearts were grieved to the point of breaking. Some of these men have heard us preach many times. We are faced with the sad reality that Dominic is still the only true believer that we know in this area.

More than ever, we marvel at the miracle that the Spirit has worked in Dominic, revealing the Gospel to him and opening his heart to receive it. How can the American church speak of conversion as a mere human "decision"? What a foolish notion! The Lozi will never "decide" to follow Jesus. They despise the Gospel, but enthusiastically embrace any works-based religion. We bring them the greatest news humanity has ever heard - a holy God has sacrificed His Son to rescue us from His wrath and reconcile us to Himself - and they mock our good news. We preach a message of salvation by grace through faith, and they defend their law-keeping, questioning us with a sarcastic smirk on their face. The proud heart of sinful man does not want grace or faith; he wants to earn his way to heaven and boast of his goodness.

Oh, when will Christ's sheep hear His voice and flee the thieves that are leading them to destruction? When will the song of the redeemed rise from the banks of the Zambezi, declaring the

praise of Him who called them into His marvelous light? I almost feel physical pain in my gut every time Christ's work on the cross is mocked by proud men who do not feel the weight of their sin against a holy God. I would soon lose hope if my Master had not said, "All authority in heaven and earth is given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations . . ." Please pray that the Light of the world might penetrate the deep spiritual darkness of Western Zambia.

In His kindness, God allowed our trip to end on a high note. In our last teaching session in the village of Salumanu, we taught on Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the tax-collector. Some of the listeners actually seemed to understand. I watched as one man took notes and wrote down every Scripture reference. A few of the listeners even agreed that no one could ever boast before God about their good works. After reading through Romans 3:9-20, one of the villagers commented that he could clearly see the difference between our teaching and the "church" in their village. At the close of the teaching session, a woman and a young man followed us to the truck. The woman complained that we do not teach in their village often enough, and pleaded with us to come more often. The young man asked us, "What do we do if some get converted in our village?" We praise the Lord for such a question! All of us left Salumanu with a sense that the Spirit of God was at work in the village. Please keep Salumanu in your prayers. Please pray for the Lord's provision of resources, His protection over the workers, and perseverance for our families.

Asia by Matt Glass



I give thanks to the Lord for everyone who is praying for us and for the men and women that God has allowed us to serve throughout the world. Please continue to pray that our God might make us worthy of His calling, and fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by His power, so that the Name of our Lord Jesus might be glorified (II Thessalonians 1:11-12). I feel privileged that I get to meet so many different people from diverse backgrounds who now call Jesus Christ their Lord. It is a tiny glimpse of what we will experience before God's throne in eternity (Revelation 7:9-10).

One of the greatest challenges that we face in Asia is to communicate to the indigenous minister the need for constant theological growth and the value of good literature. At the same time, one of the greatest needs among the workers in Asia is sound theological literature in their own language. Driven by their need and/or desire to make a profit, most Christian publishers are reluctant to give translation rights to anyone other than well-known regional publishers who distribute on a massive scale. And since there is such a small demand for theological literature, most of the best Christian works are only found in English and are out of reach of those who need them the most.

In spite of this, God is working to raise up people and ministries who desire to help in literature publication. Recently, Charles Leiter's book "Justification and Regeneration" was printed in Bengali by HeartCry friend Jyoti Chakravarty. Trevor Johnson, another friend of HeartCry, spear-headed the book's translation into Bahasa in Indonesia. Sundar Rao, a missionary whom we support in India, is also in the process of translating it into Telugu. Hopefully, God will use this book to help believers throughout Asia understand these two essential doctrines of the Christian faith. We do not presume upon anything, but only ask that He will enlighten Asian Christian's hearts to more clearly understand what God has done for them. There is also a believer from a Jain background in India who is currently translating Paul Washer's book, "The One True God" into Hindi.

In February, we have scheduled another trip to Southeast Asia. Tim Conway and Charles Leiter will be teaching our mission team "Asih Pamitran" in Indonesia and the workers in the Shalom Mission to Cambodia. Some other key leaders that HeartCry works with in Asia will also be traveling to Indonesia in order to attend the conferences. This means that the teaching done in

one location over a few days will have the potential of impacting believers throughout all of Asia. Praise the Lord! Pray also that God might give Tim and Charles the strength they need for such extensive traveling and teaching. What a privilege it is to wear ourselves out doing the work of the Lord!

Please be in prayer for my family and me. Over the last few months we have been praying about moving to Indonesia. It seems that God has opened an effectual door for us to move within the next year. In our February trip to Indonesia, I am planning to visit the language school that we will attend and to look for potential housing. By moving to Indonesia, I will be able to do my job more effectively for HeartCry, and I will also have the opportunity to better serve our church planting efforts in West Java.



E. Europe by Don Currin

While my wife Cindy and I were in Eastern Europe for five weeks this summer, we were able to interact with most of the missionaries whom HeartCry serves in Romania and Ukraine. The time was both encouraging and enlightening as we were able to communicate with our brothers and sisters on a personal level, and witness the Lord's work in their lives and ministries. Each missionary is uniquely gifted by God, and although they are involved in a variety of ministries, no one's ministry is more important than another.

The Lord continues to provide grace in each of the ministry endeavors of our missionaries, whether it's church planting, preaching at the funeral of a person in their village, counseling university students, or dispensing the gospel in the open air. While some experience repressive verbal attacks by the Orthodox priests in their communities, and others fight the good fight of faith against unbelief and spiritual weariness, all are enduring hardships as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

One of the most encouraging things that we witnessed during our time with our missionaries was the understanding of Scripture that they possessed. I believe that much of their grasp of doctrine could be attributed to the yearly conferences that HeartCry sponsors and the study program that Brother Sorin Prodan requires of them. At the HeartCry Conference in Bran, Romania, our missionaries were given the opportunity to ask questions in response to the rich teaching by Dr. Bruce Ware on Providence. It was quite amazing to hear the depth in the questions they presented to Dr. Ware. Their inquiries and the discussions that followed revealed a sound understanding of biblical truth.

Another highlight of our trip was the hunger and zeal we found among the university students. Brother Alex Palade asked me to address the subject of Relationships while I was in Brasov, and the response was incredibly gratifying. After I spoke for forty-five minutes, the young people asked questions for another hour. The experience was identical in Bucharest as Ruxi Vandici requested that I address a group of students that evening on the same subject. In spite of university exams, approximately sixty students came to hear the message.

Please remember to pray for our brethren in Eastern Europe, that God would enable them to stand strong against the deluge of Satanic devices that the evil one uses to undo their integrity and undermine their homes. Pray for our brethren in Moldova, that Communism would be a catalyst to bring salvation to their people. Most of all, pray that God would protect our brothers and sisters from our western culture that promotes a man-centered gospel, and thrives on padding their statistics through diluted truth and coercion. Oh brothers and sisters, pray that our missionaries would not compromise the truth of the gospel for financial support by letting American preachers sound an uncertain message from their pulpits.

Middle East

by Marc Glass



Please continue to pray for the men and churches that HeartCry is working with in the Middle East. By the time you receive this update, we will have just finished a small teaching conference in Jordan. Barring any providential hindering, I will have taught four lessons from Acts 13:1-4 on the characteristics of an effective missionary church, and Brother Don Currin will have taught four challenging lessons on family life. Please pray that this time of teaching and fellowship will bring forth fruit in the lives of all that are present.

In Israel, Antony, Leonid, and Michael have finished up another evangelistic campaign. Every year, they hold a series of such campaigns with a special focus on proclaiming the Gospel to their Jewish countrymen. The campaign that is held at the beginning of August is the one in which various Christians from all over the globe come to Israel to assist them. Last year, four brothers from Grace Life and I had the privilege of joining a team of people from Canada, Holland, Finland, and even India. Judging from my experience last year and from Antony's report, I know that many people heard the Gospel and/or received Christian literature (tracts, New Testaments, etc.). Please pray that this evangelistic endeavor will bear much fruit.

This year's campaign ended with Antony taking several pastors across the border into Jordan. The following is a brief account of what transpired:

"The Jordanian Muhabarat (Secret Police) caught Antony giving out Bibles in Aqaba. They took him in, and after much prayer by all of us, he came out smiling, and saying that he was able to witness to the top man in the police! This man even asked Antony to pray for him. We thank the Lord for His goodness. Pray for this man and the salvation of his soul."

In Lebanon, Walid and Mohammad are continuing with their evangelistic efforts in the south. Recently, a group of approximately eighty Koreans came to assist them with these efforts (see Mohammad's report). It seems that the Korean Christians canvassed all the neighborhoods in the areas and invited people to a special church service in which Walid and Mohammad preached the Gospel. Through the combined meeting in Tyre and Homos-Syria, approximately 1,000 people (a large number were Muslim) sat under the clear preaching of the Gospel message. While numbers can often times be misleading, it is nevertheless, encouraging to hear that this many people have recently been exposed to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Pray for the Lord to enable Walid and Mohammad to continue loving and serving the people to whom God has called them.

In Egypt, HeartCry has begun supporting an Egyptian church planter who we will refer to as Samuel. While security considerations prevent me from sharing too much about this brother, I will say that I am very excited about working with Samuel. I met him for the first time in Jordan, where he was training for the ministry. The thing that struck me most about Sam was his humility and his teachable spirit. He is a young man with a wife and three small children. Last year, his youngest son grew sick, and the doctors told Sam and his wife that it was caused by a brain tumor. Several months later, after much prayer and anxiety, the doctors told them that there was no tumor. Praise the Lord! Pray for Samuel as he begins to have home Bible studies with the goal of establishing a God-honoring church.

Last of all, I ask that you would remember us in prayer as we seek God's wisdom on how to best partner with churches and individual believers in Turkey, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Tunisia. There are always open doors, but we want to be faithful with what the Lord has given us.

South America by Brad White

In July and August, my wife Cassie and I were in the country of Peru. I was able to spend some very profitable time with our missionaries. During the trip we visited all four of the places where most of our missionaries are working.



We began our trip in the city of Lima where HeartCry works with fifteen missionaries. Our second stop was the city of Chiclayo, where we work with two missionary pastors. Next, we went to the village of San Rafael, in the jungle, where we work with one missionary family. Our last stop was the northern city of Sullana where we work with eight missionary families.

During the trip, I was able to interview each of our missionaries, and I also participated in several pastors' conferences for and with our missionaries. In these conferences we covered doctrines such as justification, regeneration, the sufficiency of Scripture, and the doctrine of God. I was very encouraged to see the hunger of many to learn, to believe, and to practice what the Bible teaches. I was especially encouraged to see how the brothers are eager to plant and nurture healthy, biblical churches.

Two things really stuck out to me on this trip. The first is how God is at work in the little things. When we think of missionary work we often imagine earth-shaking events, and sometimes in God's providence, those kinds of things happen. However, the bulk of the progress that is made in the advance of the Gospel is through the little things. This thought occurred to me as I visited with each of our missionaries, and heard how each of them is involved in small Bible studies or in witnessing to friends and neighbors. If one was to observe the isolated work of one of these missionaries, he or she might conclude that not much progress is being made. However, after having talked with all twenty-six of our missionaries, I was able to see the bigger picture - that little things add up to something very large.

The other thing that stuck out to me on this last trip was the power of the Gospel. It was a great blessing for me to be able to hear first hand the stories of how many of our missionaries had come to Christ and of how others had come to Christ through them. It truly is amazing to see how God has worked through weak men to raise up churches and glorify Himself.

Please continue to pray for our missionaries in Peru. Although much progress has been made, there is still much to do. Although many churches have been planted in Peru, there is a great need for many more. Please pray that our missionaries would have the wisdom to know how best to work toward planting healthy churches. Pray that they would have the strength to persevere, and to continue to be faithful in the little things.

U.S. Office by Nathan Berry

We lift a praise of thanksgiving to the Lord for keeping us, sustaining us, and enabling us to serve in this ministry. We also thank you for your prayers on our behalf, for the ministry, and for the men and women we serve on the field. Your prayers have been felt and answered above and beyond all you could ask or think. In this year of crisis, God has abundantly provided for all of us both physically and spiritually.



We would ask that you might persevere in prayer for us that we might discern the way we should go, and have the faith and courage to follow our Lord no matter the cost. There are many apparently good opportunities for ministry, but not all of them are in accord with God's will; therefore we must have great wisdom. It is always our desire to praise Him, glorify Him, and make His name great among the nations. We are satisfied with Christ.

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THE ONE TRUE GOD



of men. And the light schyneth in derkneiss derkneiss tooken not it. A man was sent fro to whom was loo. this man came

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Sample Page From The New Edition:

LESSON ONE

GOD IS ONE

GOD IS ONE

It is the testimony of the Scriptures that there is only one true God. The belief in one God is often referred to as monism [Greek: *monos* = one + *theos*, god]. The belief in more than one God is called polytheism [Greek: *poly*, many]. The Christian faith is monistic.

1. In Deuteronomy 6:4 is found one of the most important declarations in all the Scriptures. What does this declaration affirm?

Note: There is only one true God. It is important to understand that the word *one* comes from the Hebrew word *ahad*, which often refers to a unity of more than one person. For example, in Genesis 2:24 we read, "...they (i.e. the man and the woman) shall become one flesh," and in Ephesians 3:1, "...the people gathered together as one man." This truth will have great importance in the second part of our study where we will learn that the one true God exists as a Trinity: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2. What do the following Scriptures affirm about the being of God? Are there any other gods apart from the God of the Scriptures?

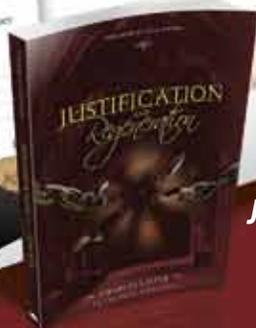
Deuteronomy 6:19

"Paul David Washer's study guide on the doctrine of God, *The One True God*, is the best introductory work known to me. It sets out great truths in clear and balanced form. Human authorities are not quoted but it is evident that the author is familiar with the literature of historic Christianity and accordingly he misses the pitfalls into which others might fall. Young Christians could scarcely spend their time better than working carefully through these pages."

- Iain Murray

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A view from *the* FIELD

Asih Pamitran

Indonesia

This report highlights the work of the missionary team "Asih Pamitran" (Fellowship of Love) in Indonesia. The team is not only seeking to plant churches, but also to aid the poor and persecuted Christians in Indonesia.

A young man named Tatang received Jesus on March 26, 2009. Since then, there have been many changes in his life, and every week he witnesses to everyone about the salvation of Jesus in his life. He also tells everyone about how Jesus healed him from his sickness - he always had bleeding coming out of his nose. When he returned home to his village at the end of the month of June, he told everyone the story about how the Lord Jesus had become his Savior. Since that time he has received terrible threats from the religious leaders in the village. They also frequently send Tatang messages demanding that he return to the mosque, read the Koran, and repeat the Sholat prayers. In the middle of July, Tatang was also ordered to return to his family, and was forbidden to work any longer in our house. Since then, we have had no news from him. Please pray!

Pak Onario, whom we have been praying for, has received Jesus. He is now attending the services of Asih Pamitran every week with his wife and children. God has also added fifteen to twenty new people to our services. Praise God that all is going well!

Even though Tatang and his friend Suhendi are not with us anymore, we have received access to enter their village of Palintang. Erni and Siti have already visited the village twice. They even located Tatang's family and shared with them the truth about the love of the Lord Jesus as Savior.

The goat project in Wanareja is growing well, but we have difficulty visiting the village because of the cost of travel. The village is very far - about seven hours by car. However, in the Bogor villages of Cibedug and Cipanas, the work is going very well, and the goats have multiplied. We are now going to use some of the excess goats to supply the needs of other

Christians in other villages. A believer can support his family by raising goats, because they can sell them at a good price.

In the village of Cipanas, we also have a rabbit project which now has over fifty hybrid rabbits that are owned by Pak Heryandi. He uses them for eating and also for business. It is pretty good because the market for rabbits is very good in the area of Cipanas. Also, through this project, Heryandi can develop a relationship with his neighbors and brothers for the purpose of witnessing about Jesus. Already, two people have looked to Jesus for salvation: Pak Heryandi's older brother, Pak Yanto, and Vinno's cousin, Pak Kris. They will soon begin a two year Bible study at the Tyrannus Bible Institute. There they will learn about theology and how to share the Gospel with the Sunda people.

Finally, the members of the Asih Pamitran team are also continuing their theological education. We currently have members on three different levels in the school: Erni and Siti recently graduated in the month of July, Ajat and Nunu will graduate in July 2010, and Vinno, Pak Yanto, and Pak Kris just began in September 2009. We praise God for this because we are becoming more well-trained in the Gospel.



Sean & Shannon Reece *Lozi Tribe, Zambia*

The following is a brief, yet encouraging update from Sean and Shannon Reece. They and their families are working among the Lozi Tribe of Southwest, Zambia.

Well, God appears to be stirring it up out there in the bush. Here are some highlights:

Dominic told us on this last visit that the preachers and leaders in the New Apostolic Church and the Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) are getting upset with us. They are jealous and afraid that they will begin losing members to our Bible study group.

One man, who is on the work crew that is helping us build our camp is SDA. He told our friend Vincent that he was beginning to realize that the SDA people were ignoring whole passages of Scripture and just pretending that they were not in the Bible.

Sean and I gave Dominic and Vincent copies of "Seeking God" and a booklet on baptism, both of which were written by Jim Elliff. Vincent, who comes from a Catholic background, told me that the chapter on infant baptism was very helpful for him, and that he could now see the truth clearly on the issue. Vincent let the SDA man (mentioned above) borrow the book and read the same chapter. The man came back and told Vincent, "This is a very troublesome book!" But Vincent responded, "No, this is the truth. This is the good way." He reasoned with the man using the Scriptures, and the man was persuaded to see that the Scriptures were indeed true, and that infant baptism does not save anyone. Praise the Lord. The man says he wants to begin coming to the Bible study group.

Also, chief Nduna Ilwendo's son, Elvis, has been working alongside Vincent and us on

our camp site. He recently said to Vincent, "I have been watching those men (Shannon and me) for some time now. I think I want to ask them some questions about the Bible." Vincent told him, "Do not be afraid. Those men would be happy to talk with you." Vincent says that he thinks Elvis will also join the Bible study group.

I am telling you the truth; there are young men everywhere who are curious and eager to hear truth. What is God doing? What if God snatches all of them up for Himself? It would change a whole culture! Pray, pray, pray! They need eyes to see and ears to hear and hearts that are alive and responsive.

Finally, today may be a special day for celebration. The water tanks are up on the shed roofs and they "may" be connected to the house lines today. If that happens it will not affect us at all when the public water is shut off (which happens frequently).



Vladimir Radzihovski

Siberia

Vladimir has planted a small church in the city of Nizhnevartovsk, a small city near the Arctic circle in Siberia, Russia. It is a very difficult place to work, both physically and spiritually. Along with enduring long brutal winters, they face much opposition from the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian government.

I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! May His name be blessed and glorified with you and us in all the earth! We thank our Lord that He keeps us and guides us. We are all alive and healthy, and continue to serve the Lord. I feel a little better, and in the last few months the Lord has almost completely delivered me from the attacks of headaches, which the doctors say were caused by a deficiency of oxygen in the vessels of my brain.

My brother Andrew returned home to Ukraine on July 29. He was here for two months, and helped us in the work of building a house of prayer, and in organizing our work for the production of our bricks. God has blessed us, and a man from Khanthy-Mansiysk (about 650 miles from us) ordered seventy units, valued at \$10 each. Now we hope to make blocks to build a house of prayer and some to sell in order to help buy other materials that will be required for construction.

Thank you all the members of HeartCry for the fact that you are supporting us financially and in prayer. We have received your support each month. Thanks be to God! This gave us the opportunity to buy the necessary materials for the house of prayer so that we are even now in the difficult times able to continue this work. We pray that the Lord will help us until the end of the year to raise the walls of the ground floor. To do this it will be necessary to buy more materials.

On July 26, God blessed our trip to a village on Zaytseva River. We went with a group of ten people in two cars. We met on the streets of the village with people, and talked with them about the Lord and their need to read the Scriptures. We distributed fifteen copies of the Gospel of John, four copies of the New Testament, and three Bibles.

The weather that day was beautiful. After the Sunday meeting in Nizhnevartovsk, we went

home to change for the road. We traveled outside the city until we reached the crossing on the bank of the River Ob. Then, we loaded our cars on a small ferry, and in fifteen minutes we were on the other side. In less than one hour we were in the village on the Zaytseva River. We stopped at a shop where we had the opportunity to distribute a Bible portion and talk to the villagers. Unfortunately, we could hardly find three or four sober persons among the whole town. All the villagers spend the weekend with a bottle and stagger through the streets.

After leaving the village on the Zaytseva River, Brother Igor led the way to another village named Alexandrova. It is located in the Tomsk region, 140 miles beyond the Zaytseva River road on the Taiga. Alexandrova, as we discovered, is the district center. In this village there were also a lot of drunk people. But we saw several groups of young people in a sober state, and so we joined with them in conversation about the Lord, sin, the way of salvation, and the importance of studying the Scriptures. In the literature we distributed, we indicated our postal address and telephone number for those who wished to contact us. For all of us, and especially for the young people, it was a good experience in evangelism. We then returned home on the last ferry, very tired, but full of joy. We continue to pray that the Lord might save many people in this region of Siberia. We pray that these people who live in the darkness of drunkenness, theft, and anger might come to know the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. We also pray that we might live in complete obedience, purity, and faithfulness to God, and that He might always use us for His kingdom.

We thank you and all the brothers and sisters for their prayers and support to us. Please continue to pray for us, most of all that we will be in greater bondage to Jesus Christ, doing His glorious work with faith and love for Him.

Gustavo Requejo

Lima, Peru

Gustavo has pastored the Baptist Church "The Good Shepherd" since 2004. The church has 40 members. Gustavo has no official training, but is being disciplined under the supervision of Martin Zacarias.

Greetings in the Name of our God and Savior Christ the King. To Him be the Glory for ever and ever. Amen.

This month we received many blessings in the church. We believe that God is building up His church by bringing to our fellowship those who should be here, and that He is also purifying His church by removing those who should not. This month a new brother from the northern jungles joined our fellowship, and in two more weeks his wife will be joining him. In this way, God has added another family to be a part of our church.

We have determined that we will not begin any evangelistic activity without first dedicating ourselves to a time of prayer and consecration. We have also determined that we must not only testify to the man on the street, but also to our families and neighbors.

This month, I saw a young man come to Christ after all his arguments were cast down by the Word of God. The Lord so convinced him of his sin, that he had to throw himself upon the infinite and endless grace of God. Please pray for him. His name is Luis, and he has a Christian background. But now he realizes that he has only recently become a true believer. Again, I beg you to please pray for him that the Lord will empower him to bear fruit in his life.

Throughout this time of blessing that we have been experiencing in our church, the man who began the work has opposed us and our emphasis on true conversion. However, in the last few months it seems that God is changing his heart and his mind. Please pray that God will convince him of the truth so that his convictions will not be based on human persuasion, but upon the Word of God. Only God can truly cast down the arguments of man and human pride.

We thank you for your care for us. May God keep you. Amen.

Angel Colmenares

Peru

Brother Angel is a pastor / church planter in Sullana, Peru. Over the last thirty years the Lord has used him to plant hundreds of churches throughout the northern regions of Peru: from the dry coastal regions, across the Andes mountains, and even into the remote jungles.

In the month of September, I was in the Amazonas (a department or state in northern Peru) with many of the pastors among the Aguaruna tribe. I was teaching a module about missions and church planting. I directed them to create a map of the vast region. I also encouraged them to mark each village with a cross that had a church, and to mark each village with a star that had no church. I also encouraged them to pray that they would be able to enter those villages without a church, preach the Gospel to the people, and eventually establish a work. We also spoke at length about the Chapras tribe which is very remote and in desperate need of the Gospel.

The Chapras have a strange custom. When a young man wishes to get married with a young woman from his tribe, he has to exchange his own sister for the woman whom he wants to marry. This is a strange custom from this tribe and reveals how primitive they are. We also discussed the great need of the stone age tribes living on the border between Peru and Brazil. They are nomadic and wander through the jungle naked and ill nourished. I recommended that the brothers enter into these tribes through relationships - acquaintances, friends, and family who have intermarried with them.

When I returned from the jungle, I met with the pastors from the coast for our monthly meeting. In these meetings, we pray and study the Scriptures. We also plan evangelistic campaigns and Bible camps. Finally, we also seek to help pastors who are sick or passing through difficult times.

Along with my church planting activities, I am also ministering in the following areas: I am teaching at the seminary, preaching and teaching at the church where I pastor, and counseling pastors who come to talk to me at home.

Thank you very much for your prayer support and financial offerings. May God keep you and bless you.

Please pray for brother Angel. Although unknown by most of the world, he will no doubt go down in history as one of the choicest servants of God. He has spent his life witnessing to others about the salvation of Christ, and has planted more churches than any person I know in the present or in history. At the moment, he is struggling with diabetes and his health is deteriorating quickly. He has literally poured himself out as drink offering to the Lord and His people. Therefore, I beg that you pray for my deserving fellow servant and friend.

- Paul Washer

ANOTHER CHURCH PLANTED

A WORD FROM CONRAD MBEWE

Pastor Mbeve and the Kabwata Baptist Church in Lusaka have been instrumental in the establishment of the church in Kafue. Here is Pastor Mbeve's account.

When Kennedy Sunkutu and his family arrived in Kafue town in September 2000, he came for the express purpose of planting a church in that town that would be solidly scriptural in all aspects of its life and ministry. Kafue is a “bedroom” town for Lusaka and is only a 45 minute drive south of the capital city. It was once full of economic activity, but due to poor government economic policies, the few major industries that were there had long since died out. Hence, prostitution and drunkenness is rife in the town. The churches in the town were doctrinally weak, and therefore were failing to stem the tide of ungodliness. Therefore, the need for a solid work in the town had been obvious, and for many years we had been praying for God to send us a man to undertake the work. Our prayers were finally answered when Kennedy quit his job, and moved into the town with his family.

We did not know how long it was going to take to see the church on its feet. Kabwata Baptist Church did a blanket visit of the town soon af-

ter Kennedy's arrival, distributing tracts and a letter explaining what the church was all about. Kennedy and his family got straight to work. The church membership was first constituted in February 2005, after five years of outreach work. A year earlier a plot was purchased, and a church hall has since been erected, together with one auxiliary building—though both of them are still incomplete.

The church presently has twenty-seven members. These are organized in various ministries for outreach purposes. The church also runs a pre-school teacher's training college to help give tertiary education to the many young people who leave school, but do not have anywhere to go for further training. This is also yet another evangelistic effort by the church.

This year in July, the first elder, Seke Lupunga, was set apart, and the church became autonomous. After a season of prayer, the church members chose Kennedy Sunkutu to be the pastor of the church, and he was set apart for that work at the end of August—thus bringing to an end the church planting phase of Kafue Reformed Baptist Church. We are grateful to God for the support of HeartCry Missionary Society, who underwrote Kennedy's support from the very first day.



CHURCH PLANTING IS THE PRIMARY MINISTRY OF THE HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY. THEREFORE, IT IS ALWAYS A JOY WHEN ANOTHER CHURCH GROWS TO MATURITY. THE FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN KAFUE THROUGH THE WORK OF HEARTCRY MISSIONARY KENNEDY SUNKUTU AND THE KABWATA BAPTIST CHURCH PASTORED BY CONRAD MBEWE.

A WORD FROM KENNEDY SUNKUTU

The following is Brother Kennedy Sunkutu's report on God's work in Kafue and the church's growth to autonomy.

"Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23

This is a very special report in the life of Kafue Reformed Baptist Church. The week culminated in the ordination service of the first elder of the church, Mr. Seke Lupunga. Mr. Lupunga is among the three men that I have been working with for the past two years. A month ago, the members voted that he be an elder of the church. This also marked the attainment of autonomy for the church from the mother church, Kabwata Baptist Church.

This particular Sunday will remain a memorable Sunday for the church, and particularly for me as the missionary pastor and my family. In September 2000, my family moved into Kafue to start this work, sent and supported by Kabwata Baptist Church. Over the years, this support has been very consistent and a source of encouragement for me and my family. First, let me express my thanks to the elders of KBC for having taken me on as one of their earliest missionaries. I am grateful for your support and confidence in me. Together, the Lord has faithfully brought us this far. I have since learned much in the last eight years; lessons I trust will be very helpful for years to come, as the LORD lends us breath.

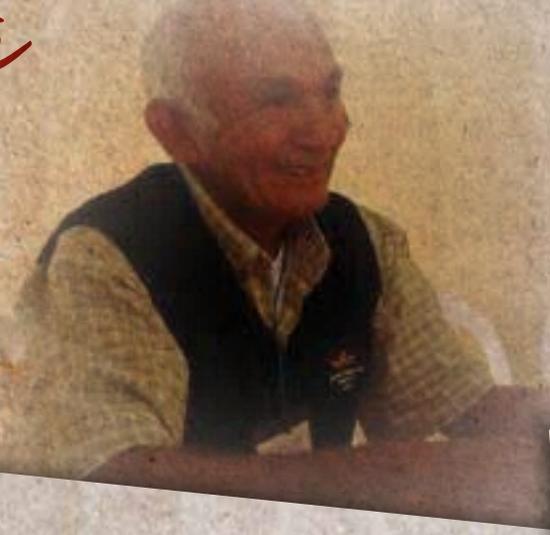
The deacons have also made the work here move forward. At the least, my family has never gone hungry in all these years, hence enabling me to concentrate on the core business of the church. To them I say thank you.

To the Kabwata Baptist Church and the individual members who have shared in the labours of the work here, may I express my gratitude for the manner in which you have sacrificed your resources in support of this work. Now at least we can see the fruit of that support. I shudder to think how it would have been without that support. Kabwata is still supporting other mission fields. I trust the same support and even more will be given to them as well. There is a great deal that church can do to make the lonely work of the mission field a joy and a fruitful labour.

Let me also say thank you to the partners of Kabwata's mission work, particularly those from outside the country. I think particularly of the HeartCry Missionary Society, whose faithful support I have enjoyed these past eight years. To them I say thank you. Your support has kept me (and others) joyfully in the mission field. Together we have tried with our feeble efforts to obey the Great Commission.

To GOD alone be the glory. Continue to pray for us.

Gilberto Nole



Foreword by Brad White

My meetings last month in Sullana with Heart-Cry missionaries Angel Colmenares and Gilberto Nole were a tremendous blessing for me. I was privileged to hear their testimonies and it caused me to reflect on the passage that I have quoted above (right).

After coming to know Christ, Angel went on to take over the leadership of a small group of believers in the city of Sullana. Now, over thirty years later, Angel and his church have been used to plant hundreds of churches throughout northern Peru. I am sure that Missionary William Chambers, who preached the Gospel to Angel, had no idea of the fruit that he would eventually bear.

In 1974, one of the people that came to know Christ through Angel's witness was Gilberto Nole. Much in the same way that Brother Chambers probably did not expect to see so much fruit from his time spent with Angel, I suspect that Angel had no way of knowing what the Lord would do through Gilberto. Yet, God was working. He was slowly, steadily, and in an inconspicuous way, causing His Gospel to "bear fruit and grow."

Before meeting Gilberto, I knew that he worked with an association of forty-four churches. What I did not know was that they all came into ex-

istence either directly or indirectly through his influence. He personally planted ten of them and the rest were second or third generation church plants. When I interviewed Gilberto, he was almost apologetic about the fact that he had not been to seminary. He told me: "Well, I haven't been to seminary or anything, but I've done what I could." I do not think that he realizes that most people who have been to seminary have never even planted one church.

Both in the case of Gilberto and Angel, the Lord has seen fit to use very humble men. Neither of them is impressive in stature or eloquence. Neither of them comes from a wealthy family. Neither of them had the opportunity to attend prestigious schools. Neither of them is currently living above the poverty level by the world's standards (Gilberto shared with me that the town where he lives is supposed to be getting power and running water soon). Yet, the Lord has used each of them in a great way. It was truly humbling and a privilege to meet with these men. The Lord has indeed used "what is weak in the world" to gain glory for Himself!

Brad White, Director for South America

"For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."

I Corinthians 1:26-29 (ESV)

Gilberto's Testimony

I remember that when I was about ten years old, my mother told me that she had heard of a book called the Holy Bible. She had heard that it said that the Day of Judgment was going to be awful. After that, when I was a youth, I always had an interest in finding a copy of the Bible.

After a few years, I became friends with the local priests, and I went on to do secretarial work for them. Once I heard one of the priests mention the Bible. I asked him what he knew about the Bible, and I told him that I had been trying to get a copy. The priest told me that it was not in my best interest to read the Bible, and instead he took me to the bar to drink.

When I was 22 years old my neighbor told me that when he died he had a book that he wanted me to put in his coffin. I asked him what book it was. He told me that it was called The Holy Bible. I told him that I had searched for many years to find such a book. I asked him if I could look at it, and he allowed me to come over to his house to read it. A few days later he showed up at my house with two copies of the Bible. I kept one for myself, and I gave the other one to my father-in-law.

Once I had my own copy of the Bible, I began to read it every day. I became consumed with it, and I even stopped going out with my friends. As I read in the Bible I found the part that my mother had told me about. Yet I was still not a Christian.

Then, one day I came to the city of Sullana on some business. While I was in town I saw a Baptist Church, and I noticed that the door was open. When I went in, I was surprised to find a friend of mine there. He asked me what I was doing, and if I had come to get converted. I thought about it for a little bit and then I said, "Yes, that's exactly what I want to do." So, my friend directed me to talk with the pastor, a young unmarried man named Angel Colmenares.

Angel shared with me the Gospel, and I repented of my sins and believed in Christ. After that, I invited Angel to come to my home to share the Gospel with my family and friends. He did so, and five more people were converted. I also took him to another community nearby where several other people were converted. So, we started mission churches in each place.

In 1974, we planted the church where I am still pastoring. Our church has gone on to plant ten more churches and, including churches that were planted by those churches, there are now a total of forty-four churches in our association. I continue to pastor, and I also serve as an associational missionary within the association of churches.

A VISIT WITH *Samuel*

Written by Pastor Walid

My trip to Egypt began on Monday morning via Middle East Airlines. I arrived in Cairo at ten o'clock, where our man in Egypt, "Samuel," and a taxi driver were waiting for me. After our greeting and prayer to the Lord for a safe trip, we left for a several hour drive from Cairo to Samuel's city. As we drove along the desert highway, we were able to speak for a few hours about life and ministry opportunities in this place that Samuel calls home.

Sam's wife and three children were waiting for us to have lunch with them. They live in a dirty city in which most of the people are poor and the buildings are old government facilities that are very dirty and filled with flies. I had lunch with the family, and talked about how they were doing. I found out that they are living at almost the poverty level, so I took them to the supermarket and bought food and other necessary items for them. After this, I discovered that Sam did not have a place for me to stay, so we went to look for a motel room. Every place we looked was very dirty with no good bathrooms and no air. By the mercies of God, I finally found a place at the end of the day with air and hot water for fifty Egyptian pounds (\$9). I took this place not knowing that next door there was a mosque in which they shout for prayer almost all night during Ramadan. On top of this, the night man rang my room to wake me up for prayer and food at 3:00 AM in the morning! I could not sleep all night on Monday.

Tuesday morning at 9:00 AM, Samuel and I made some necessary errands. Then we had lunch at Sam's place, and afterwards we prayed and asked God about the rest of the day. I preached on Tuesday night at a woman's Bible study, so I prepared that afternoon and then took a taxi to go to church. A taxi only

costs one dollar, yet during Ramadan it is hard to find one. The Tuesday night Bible study went well, but I found that most of the women are not saved; they are just nominal Christians. Going out of the church that night, I found a Muslim woman begging so I started telling her that she does not need money, she needs Jesus. Many of the Christians were afraid because it is against the law to talk to Muslims about Jesus. There is no church that evangelizes in Egypt, as they are all living in fear of what will happen to them. When we went home that night, I asked Sam why people live in fear. He explained to me that the church pastors are corrupt and have a lot of money. They do not want anyone to rock the boat. There is a great problem in Egypt between Muslims and Christians.

I saw a lot of mosques in Sam's city and asked, "Why do poor people pay a lot of money to build so many mosques? If they sell the mosques they can feed all the poor people in town." I was told it was Saudi money that pays for everything so that the people will be Muslim. On top of that, I found out that every man that grows a beard gets 100 Egyptian pounds (\$18), plus every woman that wears the black cover from top to bottom also gets the same amount. At the end of the month, they go to the mosque to collect.

On Wednesday morning, I met with Sam at his place, played with his children a while, and encouraged Sam and his wife to teach the children English. After lunch, we talked about the best location to start the ministry. There will be great difficulty in starting the ministry in this city because the majority of the people are fanatical Muslims. I asked Sam and his wife to pray about this and then come to a decision about where they are going to start.

Samuel is the newest church planter that HeartCry is working with in the Middle East. Although Samuel has spent most of his life in Egypt, Walid first met him in Jordan, where he was training in a Baptist seminary. Samuel, his wife, and their three children have now gone back to Egypt to begin church planting. He is currently visiting three families on a weekly basis, and teaching them the Word of God. The following is Pastor Walid's report from his visit with Samuel and his family.

The only service we could attend on Wednesday was in an Assembly of God church where they have a healing service on Wednesdays. The healing service lasted more than two hours. I was invited to speak on healing, and the church was packed with people coming to see or hear about healing. The Lord spoke through me, for I confessed that I believe in healing and that God healed me from drug addiction. Then, I told them that there is a disease that has crept into the church and that I wanted them to be healed from this disease. The disease is worldliness. I spoke about how many Christians love the world, and they live and look like the world. When my fifteen minutes were over, I sensed that the Lord had given me grace, and that I had gotten their attention. After the service, I have to confess to you that I did not get healed for I was under the weather. Some people told me that the leaders ask people to confess healing even though they have not been healed. After this, I took Sam and his family for pizza. You should have seen the eyes of the kids when they heard about pizza.

Thursday after lunch we went to visit some families to talk about Jesus. We started by visiting a retired pastor who knows a lot about Sam's city and doing ministry in it. We visited the pastor at his house, and for a couple of hours the pastor spoke about the corruption of the church, and the dictators that rule the churches. Next, we visited a family that works in a cemetery as gate keepers. Eight people live there with their wives, and it was a great time of praising the Lord and singing hymns in Arabic. After this, I taught them the story of man, and we agreed with the people that they would meet there every week to study the Word of God. This was the best time that I spent in praise and worship.

On Friday, I spoke in a church to a group of people who call themselves a "soul winning group." I laughed when I heard the name, because they do not evangelize outside of the church building! They asked me to speak about Psalm 73. Many of those attending were corrupt leaders in their churches, so I stood in front of them and confessed that I had an experience that closely resembled the one about which the psalmist was writing. I told them that when I came back to Lebanon to start a ministry, I labored for ten years with little fruit, while many corrupt pastors were fleecing their flocks instead of feeding them. Because of this, I became envious of the wicked. After I finished my sermon, I thought that I should leave in a hurry so that I would not get in trouble.

Saturday morning, Sam, his wife, and I sat and evaluated my trip, asking the Lord to open doors for ministry. For Sam and his wife, it seems that this city, in spite of the fanatical Muslims, will be the place to stay and labor. Please pray for Egypt and the work there.

Your Lebanese Brother,

Pastor Walid



duty, enjoy no comfort, so neither can we be saved without it, "This is life eternal, to know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). And, if it be life eternal to know Christ, then it is eternal damnation to be ignorant of Christ: as Christ is the door that opens heaven, so knowledge is the key that opens Christ. The excellent gifts, and renowned parts of the moral Heathens, though they purchased to them great esteem and honour among men, yet left them in a state of perdition, because of this great defect, they were ignorant of Christ (I Corinthians 1: 21). Thus you see how fundamental the knowledge of Christ is, essentially necessary to all the graces, duties, comforts and happiness of souls.

Thirdly, the knowledge of Christ is profound and large; all other sciences are but shadows; this is a boundless, bottomless ocean; no creature has a line long enough to fathom the depth of it; there is height, length, depth and breadth ascribed to it (Ephesians 3:18), yea, it passeth knowledge. There is "a manifold wisdom of God in Christ" (Ephesians 3:10). It is of many sorts and forms, of many folds and plates: it is indeed simple, pure and unmixed with any thing but itself, yet it is manifold in degrees, kinds and administrations; though something of Christ be unfolded in one age, and something in another, yet eternity itself cannot fully unfold him. I see something, said Luther, which blessed Austin saw not; and those that come after me, will see that which I see not. It is in the studying of Christ, as in the planting of a new discovered country; at first men sit down by the sea-side, upon the skirts and borders of the land; and there they dwell, but by degrees they search farther and farther into the heart of the country. Ah, the best of us are yet but upon the borders of this vast continent!

Fourthly, the study of Jesus Christ is the most noble subject that ever a soul spent itself upon; those that rack and torture their brains upon other studies, like children, weary themselves at a low game; the eagle plays at the sun itself. The angels study this doctrine, and stoop down to look into this deep abyss. What are the truths discovered in Christ, but the very secrets that from eternity lay hid in the bosom of God (Ephesians 3:8, 9)? God's heart is opened to men in Christ (John 1:18). This makes the

gospel such a glorious dispensation, because Christ is so gloriously revealed therein (II Corinthians 3:9), and the studying of Christ in the gospel, stamps such a heavenly glory upon the contemplating soul (II Corinthians 3:18).

Fifthly, it is the most sweet and comfortable knowledge; to be studying Jesus Christ, what is it but to be digging among all the veins and springs of comfort? And the deeper you dig, the more do these springs flow upon you. How are hearts ravished with the discoveries of Christ in the gospel? What ecstasies, meltings, transports, do gracious souls meet there? Doubtless, Philip's ecstasy, "eurekamen Iesoun", "We have found Jesus" (John 1:25) was far beyond that of Archimedes. A believer could sit from morning to night, to hear discourses of Christ; "His mouth is most sweet" (Song 5:16).

THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST ==== *Compared* ====

Let us compare this knowledge with all other knowledge, and thereby the excellency of it will farther appear.

First, all other knowledge is natural, but this wholly supernatural, "No man knoweth the Son, but the Father, neither knoweth any the Father, save the Son, and he to whom soever the Son will reveal him" (Matthew 11:27). The wisest Heathens could never make a discovery of Christ by their deepest searches into nature; the most eagle-eyed philosophers were but children in knowledge, compared with the most illiterate Christians.

Secondly, other knowledge is unattainable by many. All the helps and means in the world would never enable some Christians to attain the learned arts and languages; men of the best wits, and most pregnant parts, are most excellent in these; but here is the mystery and excellency of the knowledge of Christ, that men of most blunt, dull and contemptible parts attain, through the teaching of the Spirit, to this knowledge, in which the more acute and ingenious are utterly blind. "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast

hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes” (Matthew 11:25). “You see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called: but God has chosen the foolish things of the world, to confound the wise” (I Corinthians 1:26, 27).

Thirdly, other knowledge, though you should attain the highest degree of it, would never bring you to heaven, being defective and lame both in the integrity of parts, the principal thing, viz. Christ, being wanting; and in the purity of its nature: for the knowing Heathens grew vain in their imaginations (Romans 1:21), and in the efficacy and influence of it on the heart and life. They held the truth in unrighteousness; their lusts were stronger than their light (Romans 1:18). But this knowledge has potent influences, changing souls, into its own image (II Corinthians 3:18), and so proves a saving knowledge unto men (I Timothy 2:4). And thus I have in a few particulars pointed out the transcendence of the knowledge of Christ.

INFERENCES

The use of all this I shall give you in a few inferences, on which I shall not enlarge, the whole being only preliminary to the doctrine of Christ; only for the present I shall hence infer,

First Inference: The sufficiency of the doctrine of Christ, to make men wise unto salvation. Paul desired to know nothing else; and, indeed, nothing else is of absolute necessity to be known. A little of this knowledge, if saving and effectual upon thy heart, will do thy soul more service, than all the vain speculation and profound parts that others so much glory in. Poor Christian, be not dejected, because thou sees thyself out-stripped and excelled by so many in other parts of knowledge; if thou know Jesus Christ, thou knowest enough to comfort and save thy soul. Many learned philosophers are now in hell, and many illiterate Christians in heaven.

Second Inference: If there be such excellency in the knowledge of Christ, let it humble all, both saints and sinners, that we have no more of

this clear and effectual knowledge in us, notwithstanding the excellent advantages we have had for it. Sinners, concerning you I may sigh and say with the apostle, “Some have not the knowledge of Christ, I speak this to your shame” (I Corinthians 15:34). This, O this is the condemnation. And even for you that are enlightened in this knowledge, how little do you know of Jesus Christ, in comparison of what you might have known of him? What a shame is it, that you should need to be taught the very first truths, “when for the time you might have been teachers of others” (Hebrews 5:12, 13, 14)? “That your ministers cannot speak unto you as spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ” (I Corinthians 3:1, 2). O how much time is spent in other studies, in vain discourses, frivolous pamphlets, worldly employments? How little is the search and study of Jesus Christ.

Third Inference: How sad is their condition that have a knowledge of Christ, and yet as to themselves it had been better they had never had it! Many there be that content themselves with an unpractical, ineffectual, and merely notional knowledge of him; of whom the apostle saith, “It had been better for them not to have known” (II Peter 2:21). It serves only to aggravate sin and misery; for though it be not enough to save them, yet it puts some weak restraints upon sin, which their impetuous lusts breaking down, exposes them thereby to a greater damnation.

Fourth Inference. This may inform us by what rule to judge both ministers and doctrine. Certainly that is the highest commendation of a minister, to be an able minister of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit (II Corinthians 3:6). He is the best artist, that can most lively and powerfully display Jesus Christ before the people, evidently setting him forth as crucified among them; and that is the best sermon, that is most full of Christ, not of art and language. I know that a holy dialect well becometh Christ’s ministers, they should not be rude and careless in language or method; but surely the excellency of a sermon lies not in that, but in the plainest discoveries and liveliest applications of Jesus Christ.

Fifth Inference: Let all that mind the honour of religion, or the peace and comfort of their

own souls, wholly sequester and apply themselves to the study of Jesus Christ, and him crucified. Wherefore spend we ourselves upon other studies, when all excellency, sweetness, and desirableness is concentrated in this one? Jesus Christ is fairer than the children of men, the chiefest among ten thousands, “as the apple-tree among the trees of the wood.” These things which singly ravish and delight the souls of men, are all found conjunctly in Christ. O what a blessed Christ is this whom to know is eternal life. From the knowledge of Jesus Christ do bud forth all the fruits of comfort, and that for all seasons and conditions. Hence in Revelation 22:2, he is called “the tree of life, which bears twelve manner of fruits, and yields its fruit every month; and the very leaves of this tree are for healing.” In Christ souls have: (1) All necessities for food and physic. (2) All varieties of fruits, twelve manner of fruits; a distinct sweetness in this. (3) In him are these fruits at all times, he bears fruit every month; there is precious fruit in Jesus Christ, even in the black month; winter fruits as well as summer fruits. O then study Christ, study to know him more extensively. There be many excellent things in Christ, that the most eagle-eyed believer has not yet seen: Ah! ‘tis pity that anything of Christ should lie hid from his people. Study to know Christ more intensively, to get the experimental taste and lively power of his knowledge upon your hearts and affections: This is the knowledge that carries all the sweetness and comfort in it. Christian, I dare appeal to thy experience, whether the experimental taste of Jesus Christ, in ordinances and duties, has not a higher and sweeter relish than any created enjoyment thou ever tasted in this world? O then separate, devote, and wholly give thyself, thy time, thy strength to this most sweet transcendent study.

Sixth Inference: Let me close the whole with a double caution; one to ourselves, who by our callings and professions are the ministers of Christ; another to those that sit under the doctrine of Christ daily.

To the ministers of Christ: (1) If this doctrine be the most excellent, necessary, fundamental, profound, noble, and comfortable doctrine, let us then take heed lest, while we study to be exact in other things, we be found ignorant in this. Ye know it is ignominious, by the com-

mon suffrage of the civilized world, for any man to be unacquainted with his own calling, or not to attend the proper business of it: it is our calling, as the Bridegroom’s friends, to woo and win souls to Christ, to set him forth to the people as crucified among them (Galatians 3:1), to present him in all his attractive excellencies, that all hearts may be ravished with his beauty, and charmed into his arms by love: we must also be able to defend the truths of Christ against undermining heretics, to instill his knowledge into the ignorant, to answer the cases and scruples of poor doubting Christians. How many intricate knots have we to untie? What pains, what skill is requisite for such as are employed about our work? And shall we spend our precious time in frivolous controversies, philosophical niceties, dry and barren scholastic notions? Shall we study every thing but Christ? Revolve all volumes but the sacred ones? What is observed even of Bellarmine that he turned with loathing from school divinity, because it wanted the sweet juice of piety, may be convicting to many among us, who are often too much in love with worse employment than what he is said to loathe. O let the knowledge of Christ dwell richly in us.

(2) Let us see that our knowledge of Christ be not a powerless, barren, unpractical knowledge: O that, in its passage from our understanding to our lips, it might powerfully melt, sweeten, and ravish our hearts! Remember, brethren, a holy calling never saved any man, without a holy heart; if our tongues only be sanctified, our whole man must be damned. “We and our people must be judged by the same gospel, and stand at the same bar, and be sentenced to the same terms, and dealt with as severely as any other men: We cannot think to be saved by our clergy, or to come off with a legit ut clericus (he reads as a clerk), when there is wanting the credit et vixit ut Christianus (he believes and lives as a Christian); as an eminent divine speaks. O let the keepers of the vineyard look to, and keep their own vineyard: we have a heaven to win or lose, as well as others.

(3) Let us take heed that we withhold not our knowledge of Christ in unrighteousness from the people. O that our lips may disperse knowledge and feed many. Let us take heed of the napkin, remembering the day of account

is at hand. Remember, I beseech you, the relations wherein you stand, and the obligations resulting thence: Remember, the great Shepherd gave himself for, and gave you to the flock; your time, your gifts are not yours, but God's; remember the pinching wants of souls, who are perishing for want of Christ; and if their tongues do not, yet their necessities do bespeak us, as they did Joseph, "Wherefore should we die in thy presence? Give us food, that we may live and not die" (Genesis 47:15). Even the sea monsters draw forth their breasts to their young ones, and shall we be cruel! Cruel to souls! Did Christ not think it too much to sweat blood, yea, to die for them? And shall we think it much to watch, study, preach, pray, and do what we can for their salvation? O let the same mind be in you which was also in Christ!

To the people that sit under the doctrine of Christ daily, and have the light of his knowledge shining round about them:

(1) Take heed ye do not reject and despise this light. This may be done two ways: First, When you despise the means of knowledge by slight and low esteems of it. Surely, if you thus reject knowledge, God will reject you for it (Hosea 4:6). It is a despising of the richest gift that ever Christ gave to the church; and however it be a contempt and slight that begins low, and seems only to vent itself upon the weak parts, in artificial discourses, and untaking tones and gestures of the speakers; yet, believe it, it is a daring sin that flies higher than you are aware, "He that despiseth you, despiseth me; and he that despiseth me, despiseth him that sent me" (Luke 10:16). Secondly, You despise the knowledge of Christ, When you despise the directions and loving constraints of that knowledge; when you refuse to be guided by your knowledge, your light and your lusts contest and struggle within you. O it is sad when your lusts master your light. You sin not as the heathens sin, who know not God; but when you sin, you must slight and put by the notices of your own consciences, and offer violence to your own convictions. And what sad work will this make in your souls? How soon will it lay your consciences waste?

(2) Take heed that you rest not satisfied with that knowledge of Christ you have attained,

but grow on towards perfection. It is the pride and ignorance of many professors, when they have got a few raw and undigested notions, to swell with self-conceit of their excellent attainments. And it is the sin, even of the best of saints, when they see how deep the knowledge of Christ lies, and what pains they must take to dig for it, to throw by the shovel of duty, and cry, "Dig we cannot." To your work, Christians, to your work; let not your candle go out: sequester yourselves to this study, look what intercourses, and correspondence are betwixt the two world; what communion soever God and souls maintain, it is in this way; count all, therefore, but dross in comparison of that excellency which is in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.





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 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.

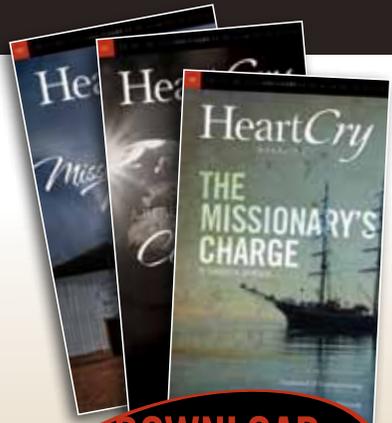


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Free Magazine

The HeartCry Missionary Society publishes a bi-monthly 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 magazine, 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!



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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, sign up for the magazine and email updates, 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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