

HeartCry

MAGAZINE

LESSONS FROM THE WEAK

What can the Church in the West learn
from the indigenous missionary?

Director Updates
FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

A View from the Field
NEWS FROM THE MISSIONARIES

Missionary Spotlight
BROTHER NUNU



Dear Family of God,

We hope and pray that this edition of the HeartCry magazine finds you growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is our personal, biblical, and experimental knowledge of Him that shapes our lives, and compels us to follow Him at all costs. How we need a greater and clearer vision of Christ that we might be transformed! As Leonard Ravenhill would often say, "This world does not need a new definition of Christianity, but a new demonstration of it!"

The goal of this edition of the HeartCry is to demonstrate God's power through human weakness. We live in a day of great ministries, great visions, great plans, great programs, and even greater expenses. Yet how much of this is nothing more than a pathetic substitute for the power of God revealed in the simplicity of the Gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the community and the individual.

When David went forth to slay the mighty Goliath, the "experts at war" tried to dress him in their own armor. They thought his strategy to meet the enemy armed only with the Name of the Lord and a shepherd's sling to be both impractical and naive. They counseled him to take up the very weapons that had brought them to humiliation and defeat. Having tried them on, David could barely walk, much less fight. Thus the Scriptures tell us that David "took them off", gathered five smooth stones from the brook, and faced the mighty giant.¹ The rest is history!

The same demonstration of God's power through weakness is revealed in the account of Gideon's defeat of the Midianites. God found Gideon hiding in a wine press, and addressed him as a "valiant warrior".² After Gideon had gathered an army to face the enemy, God determined to cull their numbers down to merely 300 men. His reason was simple:

"The LORD said to Gideon, 'The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, for Israel would become boastful, saying, 'My own power has delivered me.'""³

These two examples lead us to a painful, but necessary question: Are the churches and ministries in the West too powerful to be used of God? Have we dressed ourselves in so much unbiblical armor and weaponry that we cannot even walk as Christians, let alone fight? If God did allow a great work among us, would we become boastful, and say that our own power had delivered us? Would we be like the Chaldeans who sacrificed to their own nets instead of giving glory to God?⁴

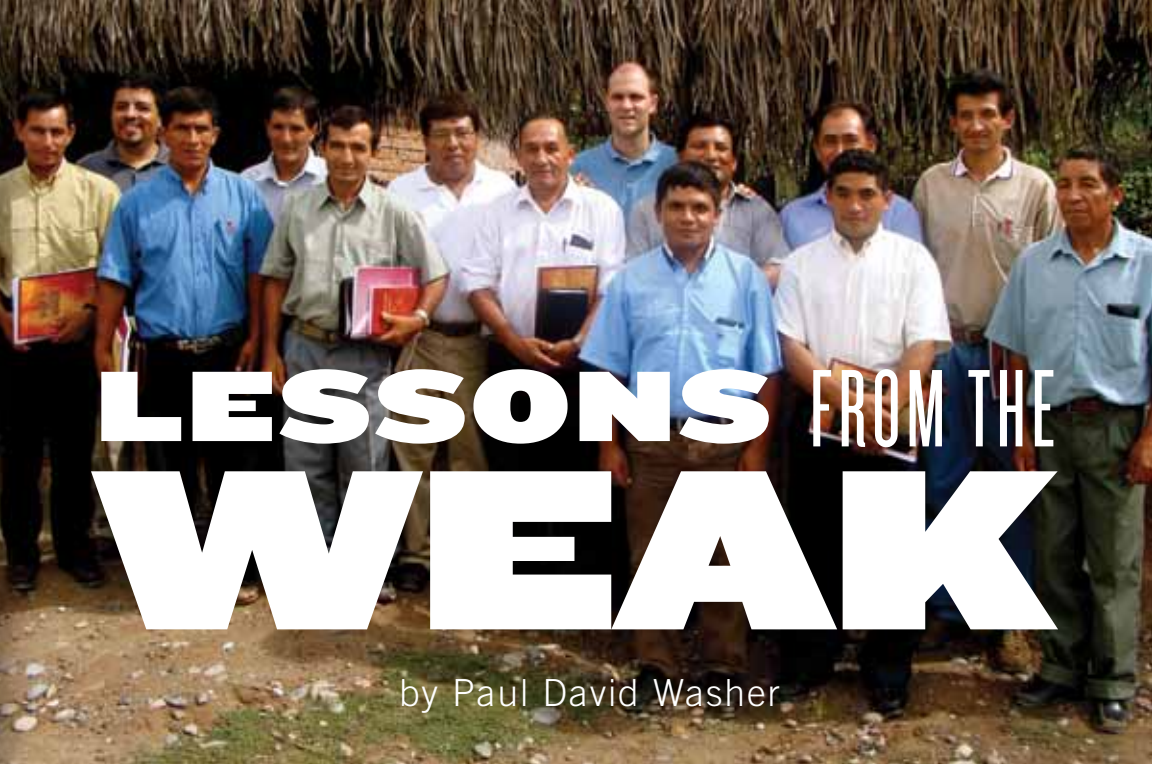
Let us evaluate our activities and methodologies in the light of Scripture. Let us reject the cumbersome armor of business-like methodologies, and take hold of the true weapons of God - preaching, prayer, and sacrificial service. Let us become weak that we might be strong, and blind that we might see.

Your Brother,

¹ 1 Samuel 17:39-40; ² Judges 6:12; ³ Judges 7:2; ⁴ Habakkuk 1:15-16

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LESSONS FROM THE WEAK

by Paul David Washer

“For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.”

I Corinthians 1:26-29 (NASB)

The picture above speaks volumes to me. In fact, it is what the HeartCry Missionary Society is all about. Unknown preachers laboring in obscurity and poverty in some remote part of the world that very few people could even find on a map. What can we learn from them? Take a long hard look at each and every one, study their faces, consider their lives, for such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Weak

The first thing that we learn from these men is that God’s work is perfected in weakness. Look at them! There is not a strong or great one among them. They were never privileged to attend the world’s great universities or seminaries. Their libraries are sparse - a Bible and maybe a concordance. They have no political power. In fact, the government does all within its power to restrain them. Economically, they are destitute. Your child’s monthly allowance

may outweigh their monthly salary. Culturally, they are outcasts. They are despised, mocked, and hounded. They are the scum of the earth, not worthy to be alive. And yet within these earthen vessels is found the glorious treasure of the Gospel, and through their simple preaching is revealed the power of God. God has made them competent, He watches over their steps, and He answers their prayers. This is so ordered that God might get the greater glory for Himself.

Seeing their weakness and God’s power, we must ask, “Have we become too strong to be of use to God?” Here in the West, the circumstances of our lives lead us to independence and develop in us a spirit of self-sufficiency. However, the strength of God always comes in proportion to our weakness, and His help always comes to the degree that we recognize our need.

As creatures, created and sustained by God, we cannot breathe apart from His life, and we cannot turn from the least of our sins apart from His grace. How then can we think that we can “do something for God?” Has our humanistic and self-sufficient culture crept into the Church and deceived us? The Scriptures tell us that God has no need, and therefore is not served by human hands. Thus, we are not called to do “great things” for God, but rather we have been granted the privilege of being instruments of His grace, however, this is only to the degree that we acknowledge our absolute

weakness and total inability!

When will we learn that there has never been a great man or woman of God, but only weak, feeble, sinful men of a great and merciful God. Choose any of the heroes of the faith and flaws will not be hard to find. Noah fell into drunkenness. Abraham lied and put the safety of his wife in jeopardy. Moses struck the rock apart from God's command. David committed adultery, lied, and plotted to take another man's life. The list goes on and on, though it does not have to go far to demonstrate that even those who are greatly used are not great, but God is great and good!

Small

The second thing we learn is that God's work is perfected in smallness. The men in our picture are not men of great stature or presence. They have no special gifts that can be used as a "drawing card". They are not great athletes with muscles to show, or wealthy business men who gave up promising careers to help Jesus. They are nothing more and nothing less than sinners who have been saved by grace. They are little men with little ministries who do little things with their little means. And yet they are the very instruments of God to bring forth His work in the world. For God is faithful to multiply their few loaves and fishes into a meal for a multitude. As one wise preacher once said, "Some of the greatest sermons that have ever been preached have been preached to four people." This is so ordered that God might get the greater glory for Himself.

Are we too large to be used of God? The church in the West often does big things in a big way, but with very small eternal results. We have big preachers and big celebrities within the Church. Evangelists advertise their ministries by publicizing their past results as a guarantee that they can make the same thing happen in every church. But even those who put on the largest campaigns in the world have acknowledged that they would be satisfied if even the smallest fraction of the harvest was genuine. We build big buildings as though the size of a building had the power to increase the size of God's Kingdom. We do big promotions as though God's Kingdom could be advanced through the strategies of Wall Street and Disneyland. We offer big entertainment, and turn the Church into a Six Flags over Jesus!

Obscure

The third thing we learn is that God's work is perfected in obscurity. The world does not even know that the missionaries in our photo exist. Even the vast majority of the Church does not know these men. How could they? They have never preached on television, never written an award winning Christian book, and will never appear at the Dove Awards (God help them if they should). If tomorrow they were martyred for their faith, there would be no headlines, no story, no national day of mourning. They would probably not even receive a proper burial. To the world, they are obscure men, unknown and unimportant, but to God they are His sons. He knows them by name and watches over their every step with the keenest interest, the deepest love, and the greatest of care. He would stop the world for them... He will stop the world for them. This is so ordered that God might get the greater glory for Himself.

Are we willing to work in obscurity our entire lives that the Kingdom of God might prevail and the Name of Christ might be glorified? Notice, that I have added the important clarifying phrase, "Our entire lives." We would all be willing to work in obscurity for a while, even a great while, if we knew that it would eventually lead to exaltation, but that is not the question. Would we be willing to work and die in total obscurity for the cause of Christ?

Christianity in the West has gotten totally out of hand in this matter. Notoriety has become the sign that a man or woman is being used of God or that the hand of God is upon their life. A big church or a well known ministry has become the undisputed evidence that someone is well-known and well-thought of in the courts of God. However, this is totally foreign to Scripture. According to God's Word, the sign of a man of God is not the size of his Church, but the degree of his conformity to the person of Jesus Christ. Heaven does not know men through their ministry advertisements or the latest denominational report, but through their secret praying and their lonesome dwelling in the courts of God.

Despised

The fourth thing that we learn from these men is that God's work is perfected in and through those who are despised. Even among

their own people, these “preachers” are nothing more than insignificant annoyances - an embarrassment to the greater part of civilized people. After all, what do they contribute to society? They do not produce “goods.” They do not farm. They do not teach in the universities. They are not doctors who save lives or scientists who make new discoveries beneficial to society. In fact, street cleaners and garbage collectors make a greater contribution to the world than they do.

However, to God, they are the very salt of the earth. They are the glue that holds everything together. They are the light of the world, a city set on a hill that shines the only true light to those who are in darkness. They do not farm, but they bear fruit. They do not teach in the universities, but they are the wisest among men and bearers of the greatest knowledge the world has ever known. They are not doctors who save lives for a season, but they are fountains through which eternal life is given to all who drink. This is so ordered that God might get the greater glory for Himself.

Offensive

The fifth thing that we learn from these men is that God’s work and His men will be offensive to the world. They will go against its grain and move contrary to its current. They will be like splinters in the hand of a rebellious world, constant reminders that the world is wrong. Because of this, they will be labeled as irrelevant, offensive, and uncivilized.

In one of the sequels to “Rocky”, the fighter’s trainer tells him, “Rock, the worst thing that could ever happen to a fighter has happened to you. You got civilized!” Have we become too civilized to be used of God? We are so careful to be inoffensive. We go out of our way not to appear fanatical. We conform to every aspect of our society in order to “fit in” and “be relevant.” When will we learn that Christians will never be relevant to the world because they are like the world, but because they are completely different than the world?

When will we learn that the true Gospel of Jesus Christ is offensive to a sinful world and that it is that offense that gives it its power. The world boasts in its knowledge, but the Gospel declares its ignorance. The world boasts in its self-sufficiency, but the Gospel declares its

weakness. The world sees itself as righteous, but the Gospel declares it to be depraved, exceedingly wicked, and worthy of all condemnation. When the Gospel we preach is no longer scandalous, when it no longer offends, when it no longer creates enemies, it no longer has the power to save! When the Church’s way of life brings no disdain from a world that hates God, it is no longer relevant!

First Application

There is much that we can learn about the work of God from these men, but there is also much that can and should be applied to our lives. The first application is that we should be careful to recognize the infinite worth of God and to live for His glory. We are called to consider God’s worth above all things and to live for Him with every beat of our heart, every thought of our mind, every measure of our strength, and every fiber of our being.

The men in our picture are quite aware of something we so easily forget - They have nothing in which to glory apart from God. Unlike us, they have no stately homes, no cars, no designer clothes, no jewelry, no titles, degrees or reputations. They are forced to one conclusion - they have nothing but God.

Is it wrong for the Christian to prosper or to seek an education? Is it wrong to seek the growth of our church and ministry? By no means! We should wish that every pastor had a Ph.D. and every church an attendance of 5,000. Nevertheless all must be done biblically and always with the full realization that God is our only glory, our only strength, our only wisdom, and our only hope. If we are able to write a book about what we did to have a great church or ministry, it was probably not a work of God. If when asked of our “success” we can only bow our head and declare the goodness and power of God, then there might be something of God in what has been done.

Second Application

The second application is that we should live for the glory of the Cross. The Apostle Paul wrote, “May it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14). What could motivate the preachers in our picture to defy cultures, governments, armies, and any number of enemies stronger than themselves to do a task that pays

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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

This report focuses on the work among the Lozi, led by HeartCry missionaries Shannon and Sean Reece and their families. They are currently preaching and building their base camp among the Lozi on the plains of west Zambia.



Through the events of the past month, I am reminded of the words penned by William Cowper in his famous hymn, *Our God Moves in a Mysterious Way*: “Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.” We know that God is for us (Psalm 55:22; 56:9), and that He makes our paths straight (Proverbs 3:6). However, it also seems that at times He is against us. As Jeremiah cried out in Lamentations 3:7-9:

“He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; He has made my chains heavy; and though I cry for help He shuts out my prayer; He has blocked my ways with blocks of stones; He has made my paths crooked.”

Does God straighten paths or make them crooked? The answer appears to be both. He both straightens and makes crooked in order to lead us and fulfill His purpose in our lives. As we live in a constant state of change and uncertainty, our confidence is that the Lord is doing a deep work in us, teaching us what it means to truly depend upon Him.

One lesson in dependence occurred when it became obvious that we had grossly miscalculated the amount of grass needed for the roof of our camp pavilion. We needed four times the amount that we had gathered in August, the season for harvesting had long been over, and all the grass in the area was rotten from the rain. However, about four hours away in a village of the Tonga tribe (not Lozi) there was plenty of the grass we needed. We also discovered that they desperately needed money for food and to pay for their children’s yearly school fees. Thus, we both provided what the other needed. They also expressed an interest in Bible studies. In seven trips for grass over a two week period, we were able to preach the Gospel three times.

As this month draws to a close so does our five months of camping at Mutemwa Lodge, but our base camp structure is still not finished. The Lozi Royal Establishment in Mwandia has not given us their final approval to build on the land, nor have they sent one of their members to do the necessary survey. Because of this, we are filled with uncertainty about how to proceed with the building process. Please pray with us for final approval so that we might continue moving forward.

Amidst the chaos of building, there is some consistency in our Bible teaching efforts among the Lozi. Over the past two months, we have been teaching a twelve week “Creation to Christ” series every Sunday afternoon at 2 PM. Attendance averages seven men and women, plus children. We are retelling Old Testament historical narratives and explaining how they prepared for the coming of Christ and His substitutionary death for sinners. We are also confronting unbiblical aspects of traditional Lozi culture.

Another bright spot in this month’s report is Joseph Litumba, who has been hired on as part of our work crew. It is a blessing to help provide for him after his life-threatening battle with tuberculosis. The Lord has answered prayers for healing, and our friend is now feeling very strong. I have known Joseph since 2004, when he served with Dominic as an interpreter. Since his attendance at the Zambian Reformed Conference in Lusaka in September 2008, he has given good evidence of genuine conversion. Joseph is a carpenter by trade, but he believes that God has called him to help spread the true Gospel among his people. Please pray that Christ will raise up leaders for the church that He is building.

Asia by Matt Glass

Please continue to pray for our dear brothers and sisters working in Asia. I know that most of you will never see the tangible results of your prayers, but please continue to pray in faith trusting that our God will hear and answer from heaven. Most of the time, the missionary enterprise is a taxing work with many failures and discouragements, but God sometimes gives us glimpses behind the veil and lets us see how He is working to make a Name for Himself. These glimpses of progress and the strength of the Holy Spirit are what enable God's workers to carry on.



One of the great blessings in which God has allowed us to take part is the teaching and training of indigenous workers. Although the needs are different everywhere in the world, most of the teaching that HeartCry does is supplemental to what the missionaries have already received. Recently, two pastors from the U.S. traveled to Southeast Asia to teach our indigenous partners in Indonesia and Cambodia. Also, literature continues to be translated into various languages. In Indonesian, "Justification and Regeneration" by Charles Leiter is ready to be printed, and Paul Washer's book "The One True God" has been translated through chapter six.

Brother Luckson and his family have moved from Bangladesh back to India. However, he continues to travel back into Bangladesh in order to teach the Meitei evangelists. Sundar, in Hyderabad, continues to see the slow steady growth of a church. Please pray that God might raise up other leaders in his church so that the burdens and joys of ministry can be shared by them. In Bhutan, Willin continues to heal from the surgery she had at the end of last year. She and her husband, Rangam, are still in the process of learning the Drukpa language and things are slowly progressing. They have a number of people coming to a Bible study in their home that is held every week. Sib and Krishna continue to minister to the Bengali people in their native village. Through love and patience, they have seen God working in the hearts of many, even though they must suffer constant rejection and ostracism. In the villages of North India, Raj is seeing more people open their homes to him. He now has a good relationship with many people with whom he regularly shares the Gospel. Pray that God might open their hearts.

In Indonesia, our church planting team Asih Pamitran has seen some changes over the last year. Two evangelists who were formerly a part of the team have been led to do other endeavors. At the same time, God has added four new team members. One brother is planting a church in a village and has seen five people come to faith in Christ. He also ministers to a number of children. Another brother who spent several fruitful years in Sumatra is being sent to another village to labor. There has also been the addition of a husband and wife who have great strengths where the team was formerly lacking. As a result, Asih Pamitran is more well-rounded and multidimensional. Pray for them as they are now in the process of becoming a part of one of the legal denominations in Indonesia. This move will allow them to maintain their autonomy, while providing them with legal protection from the angry Muslim mobs who sometimes burn churches.

E. Europe by Don Currin

The people of Moldova continue to rejoice over last summer's elections that have replaced Europe's last Soviet-style government with a new democratic administration. President Vladimir Voronin and the Communist Party accepted defeat following a national election back in July of last year that has resulted in a sustained democracy for the country.



While we are happy for the people of Moldova over their newly found freedom, we pray that the new Western-influenced leadership will not be a hindrance to the furtherance of the Gospel. While economic affluence and political freedom are sought to improve a nation's living conditions and welfare, they have proven to be detrimental to the advancement of the kingdom of God. Moldova, which is the size of Maryland in the United States, has a population of approximately 4.1 million people. Please pray for the new administration that their resolutions will serve to promote the banner of the Cross.

Although many of our HeartCry brothers and sisters have suffered with severe cases of the flu this winter, their ministries have continued to remain stable. The secular holidays provided many opportunities for our missionaries to present the joyful sound "Jesus Saves" to their communities. Caroling, the distribution of food packages, Gospel literature, and special events have enabled our fellow servants to gather numerous contacts for future outreach.

Brother Sorin Prodan is visiting Brasov, Romania, in order to prayerfully consider where the Lord would have him plant a church. Following much prayer and discussion, Sorin feels that Brasov is where he should begin a new work. A church in Brasov would afford a central location for our thirty-one HeartCry missionaries in Eastern Europe and provide a place for our training conferences. Also, it would give the church the opportunity to evangelize one of the largest universities in Romania, the University of Brasov.

Please pray that our HeartCry men and women in Eastern Europe might be courageous in the face of adversity and persecution. Pray for those who have families that they might increase in their understanding of biblical headship and be diligent in nurturing their children. Also, pray for the prayer life of our missionaries that they will not be victimized by the tyranny of the urgent.

Middle East by Marc Glass



Since the last magazine, Brother Don Currin and I have made a trip to the Middle East to conduct a small teaching conference with our missionaries. We met our Arab and Jewish brothers in Jordan, where we spent two days looking at the Word of God together. Originally, I had planned for Brother Ronald Kalifungwe from Zambia to join us for this teaching time, but due to difficulties obtaining a visa, he was unable to join us.

Brother Don's four lessons were a challenge to the men to faithfully engage God's will for their family life. I spoke twice on a Biblical theology of missions and once on the more practical aspects of missions from Colossians 1:24-29. The most striking aspect of our time together was that men from radically different ethnic and political backgrounds came together in Christian love and fellowship. Not only does the Gospel unite men to God, but it unites men to men as it transcends and abolishes cultural and political divides.

Over the last three months, we have had some setbacks in the work in Lebanon. Brother Walid has ceased working with Mohammad in Tyre, and HeartCry has determined it best to do the same. I do ask that you continue praying for him as he continues the work in Tyre with two other respectable American missionaries. Furthermore, Walid needs prayer now more than ever. Pray that the Lord might both encourage and use him.

In Israel, Antony is spending his time as usual, telling anyone that will listen about the Good News of Jesus Christ. Between now and the last update he has been arrested a second time in Jordan. This time he was able to give the hospitable Secret Policeman an Arabic Bible. The "Voice in the Wilderness" ministry is continuing to conduct its free evangelistic tours, as well as its Friday night evangelism among expatriates in Tel Aviv. I was able to join them back in November. It is always encouraging to see how accepting these people are of the literature that is given.

NEW EDITION
RE-FORMATTED AND SPIRAL BOUND!

THE ONE TRUE GOD



This was the first God, and God was the world. This was in the beginning at God. Alle things weren maad by hym, and withouten him was maad no thing, that thing that was maad. In him was lyf, and the lyf was the of men. And the light schyneth in derkneiss deekneiss tookes not it. A man was sent fro to yehoua. This man came

PAUL DAVID WASHER

THE ONE TRUE GOD



BY
PAUL WASHER

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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 monothism [Greek: monos, one + theos, god]. The belief in more than one God is called polytheism [Greek: poly, many]. The Christian faith is monothistic.

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 *echad*, 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 5:1, "...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 4:39

"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

Features:

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Charles Leiter's
Justification and Regeneration
Now available with
new FAQ Appendix.

A VIEW FROM THE FIELD



Jose Luis Siancas

Sullana, Peru

Jose Luis is the co-pastor of “Jesus es la Puerta” (Jesus is the Door) Baptist Church in Mallaritos, just outside of Sullana. He is also the Director of Studies at the Baptist Seminary in Sullana, and he teaches and leads in the theological education by extension program that operates out of the Seminary.

God bless you beloved co-laborers from HeartCry. As the Apostle Paul prayed for the churches in Asia, so I pray for you. It is a privilege for all of us to love God, walk with God, and serve God. He has been good to us. In this month, we have seen God glorified in many ways. We are small men, but we are in the hands of a great God.

I have been teaching a great deal about the Gospel and man’s depravity. Our church has just finished studying the first three chapters of the book of Romans. I have attempted to explain the darkness of man to them through my preaching and discussion. I want them to come to biblical conclusions.

We have also been doing a great deal of evangelism in the area of Mallaritos. Six young men have been going out and preaching the Gospel in the afternoons because this is the time when people are at home resting from their jobs. When we begin to converse with people about their relationship with God, they think that everything is fine with them. But once we talk about sin and their guilt before God, they begin to see that not everything is right. Some people ask us to come back. Others fear for a moment and then forget the message. It is our prayer that God may have mercy on them.

We recently began what we call “Missionary Saturday”. It consists of preaching the Gos-

pel on the streets throughout the entire day and holding an evangelistic service at night. The first Saturday, we preached in the town of Santa Cruz, and most of the people in the town heard the gospel. We went two by two knocking on doors and preaching the Word. The youth are especially encouraged in having an opportunity to witness.

By God’s grace, we had our first conference for married couples. The program was called, “Just One Flesh”, and we had twenty-three couples and twelve singles in attendance. My father, Pastor Luis Siancas was the conference expositor. We will continue the classes three days each month until October. For the next month, we are expecting more couples. Our purpose is to save and restore marriages through the light of Scriptures.

Finally, I am going to the seminary every Tuesday and Thursday to coordinate the work for this year. In February, I had a meeting with the teachers to discuss different topics related to the seminary. Please pray for us as we continue with the training of God’s servants.

I give thanks to God for my family and the great time that we spend together every Friday. My wife and I are having devotionals together almost every day, and my daughter is growing up to know the truths of God’s Word. Thank you for your prayers and financial support. I pray that God will give me the grace to continue serving Him and you.

Jose Luis Siancas



Dario Sara

Lima, Peru

Dario is pastoring the church "New Life" in the district of Oasis de Villa in the southern area of Lima. The area is very poor. The church has approximately 20 active members.

Beloved Brothers: I greet you in the Name of the one who gave Himself to reconcile us to God. I owe Him eternal gratitude, and I trust that He will continue His work in us until He completes it.

This month has been a special one for our congregation. Although we have yet to see many tangible results from our preaching, we have continued to go out and to evangelize at a new squatter community. We have been going every Sunday evening at 6 p.m. One Sunday we were surprised to find that all of the street lights

were out. All that we could hear was the sound of barking dogs. In spite of this, we began to preach on a street corner with all of our might. To our surprise the people began to come out of their houses. This was great for our church. It greatly encouraged us, and the report about it encouraged those that had not gone with us.

Sincerely,

Dario Sara

Alfonso continued.

We are very encouraged that the Gospel is touching lives. I recently received a call from a man who had heard us preaching the Gospel in the park. I then met him in the park the following week, and he told me that he had begun attending a Bible believing church in his neighborhood of Callao. I shared with him the Gospel, and hope that he will be converted. His neighborhood is far from ours, but we hope to remain in contact. We are praying that God might continue His work in this man's life.

At the Church of the Savior in Barranco, we are continuing with the School of Evangelism. It is open to all the members of our church, as well as to the Christians throughout the area. The class is held once a month and is announced on our website. In addition to this, we are guiding many brothers with various practical teachings on evangelism. We even have a young brother in Christ from the central mountain area of Huanuco who visits our website and is beginning to preach in the buses that run in his city. To God be the glory!

My family is very well and growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Please pray for us, for our brothers who are helping in this ministry, and for the brothers from many countries whom we are encouraging and teaching through the web so that they might evangelize their own cities. Thank you for helping us in so many ways. May God bless you abundantly! May we do everything we do according to His will and for His glory and honor.

In Christ,

Alfonso Nuñez



Walter Isse

Lima, Peru

Walter moved to Peru from Argentina, and is working with Martin Zacarias in the Church of the Savior in evangelism, discipleship, and preaching. He is a great asset to the team and the work that God is accomplishing through them. The following are two very special reports about a young man named Johnny who was saved just days before his death. It should remind us of the closeness of eternity, and of God's power to save.

The First Letter:

Dear brothers in Christ: May the Lord bless your lives and your families. I am writing to tell you about a young man named Johnny who died only a few days ago. I want you to know how he spent his last days on earth.

On Friday night he called our church, and Pastor Martín Zacarias talked with him at length. He was very depressed and asked for someone to visit him at his home. Pastor Martín asked me to go, and I went as quickly as possible. When I arrived, I found a young man who was as thin as a bone, terribly depressed, and confused. He had been attending many different religious groups in the city of Lima and trying to find an answer to his problem, but without any result. A few days before our meeting, he had met a young girl named Irma who attends our church in Barranco. She gave him some tracts, and explained to him the Gospel. She spoke to him directly about his condition before the Lord. Later that day, he discovered our phone number on the tract and made a phone call to the church. That is how God's providence brought him to us.

When I met with Johnny, he explained to me how he was confused because of all the different doctrines he was hearing, especially because our young sister Irma had told him that the group he was attending was not biblical. He became discouraged, and wanted me to explain why she said such a thing.

Instead of arguing with Johnny about his religious affiliation, I began to talk with him about the Gospel. As we studied the Scriptures together, he saw his condition as an unbelieving sinner, separated from the kingdom, and apart from the grace of God. I explained to him what the Bible teaches about the holiness, justice, love, and mercy of God. We also considered

the doctrines of repentance and faith. Then, after thirty-five or forty minutes, I began to pray for the Holy Spirit to bring conviction upon his heart and give him wisdom and knowledge of God's will. After praying only forty-five seconds, I heard a loud noise. When I opened my eyes, Johnny was laid low on his face asking the Lord to forgive him and to grant him repentance and faith. He spent approximately the next thirty minutes confessing his sins, asking the Lord to cleanse him, and crying out for salvation. Afterwards, he stood up and the peace of God filled him with assurance.

By all appearances, Johnny was repentant and believing in Christ, but I knew that we needed to wait upon the Lord and observe his life to see if there was a genuine change. To my delight, he began to call me seven or eight times a day in order to ask me questions about the Bible and about the proper behavior of a believer. He came out of his depression and attempted to eat, but his stomach could not hold down the food and he became very sick. He even began to phone the people he had offended during his few years and apologize for having been so rude, and for showing such malice to them.

In spite of Johnny's improvements, he was in such poor health that his family was forced to take him to the hospital where he suddenly passed away. I felt very sad when I heard about him, yet at the same time my heart was comforted and filled with hope, not only for His soul, but for the grace of God that did not allow me to be negligent in preaching the Gospel to him. I glorify God for Johnny's profession of faith, but ultimately my trust is in the saving power of Christ. He knew Johnny better than I and He is mighty to save the worst sinner and preserve him for His kingdom in Glory. Our assurance is not in human wisdom or physical evidences, but in the work accomplished by

Christ and the certainty of the things to come. Praise be to God!

After Johnny's funeral, a young man named Freddy contacted me. He was a good friend of Johnny and took care of him in his last days. He told me about how different Johnny was after meeting Christ. He testified of the tremendous changes that had taken place in him. He said that he was a completely new and different person, almost unrecognizable. Freddy then told me that he believed himself to be a believer for many years, but after seeing Johnny's life, he understood that he lacked the same saving faith and the fruit that it produces. Freddy is now coming every Monday to study the book of Genesis with our youth. Please pray for him because he needs to know more about God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He needs to know Him and rely upon His perfect work for his life.

I praise God because He is mighty to save. I glorify God because He delights in saving people. May the Lord continue to bring salvation to Freddy and the rest of Johnny's house!

The Second Letter:

Dear brothers in Christ: In my last report, I wrote to you about Johnny and his conversion a few days before his death. My heart was full of joy as I wrote those lines because I could see the power of God to save and His sovereignty in giving repentance and faith through the preaching of the Gospel. Our God is mighty and willing to save. How gracious and merciful is our precious God! How sweet is His Word and how great is His power and majesty! I have preached many times on the power of God to save, but I saw with my own eyes His sovereignty in saving Johnny. He made this sick young man an example of regeneration and the power of true conversion. Every time I think of Johnny, I am reminded of the passage in the book of Revelation that says "And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, 'Write, blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them'" (Revelation 14:13).

Johnny's friend Freddy and I continue to study the Scriptures together every Thursday, going through the nature and attributes of God, the nature and sin of man, the work of Christ, and repentance and faith. Freddy has told me that he is reading the Scriptures as never before with great joy. I do not want to take anything

for granted, but there is evidence of salvation. We are waiting on the Lord, trusting in His faithfulness and ability to save sinners. I am reporting all this to you so that you might pray that the Lord might save Freddy, not only from hell, but also from the power of sin in his life.

I continue to teach verse-by-verse exposition through the book of Hebrews to the youth in our church, and it has been a tremendous blessing for all of us. We are now studying chapter eleven, and learning about the faith of the men who lived before the Cross of Christ. What a great joy to know that every saint throughout history has been saved through faith alone. It is sad that there is so much confusion about this truth. I do not understand how people can think that works rather than faith saved the saints in the Old Testament, or that trusting in their ability rather than relying on God's promises concerning the Messiah saved them. What a great encouragement to see the life of faith in the saints of the Old Testament!

I am thankful to the Lord for this opportunity to teach these great doctrines. We are not worthy of anything, but in His mercy the Lord grants this privilege of teaching His Word to His people. I can say with great confidence and joy in the Lord that our great and glorious God has given me a good group of youth, and they are growing in their knowledge of the Scriptures. I pray that the Lord will continue to give me wisdom and grace to keep sharing with them the amazing truths and promises that are in the Scriptures. I have never seen another group of young people who share their faith with such boldness and confidence in the Lord. What a great joy to see God's work in their hearts!

Please pray for these young people, that the Lord might sustain and preserve His work in them until the coming of Jesus Christ. Also, please pray for my life and for God to enlighten me through His mighty Spirit that my heart might be able to understand His Word and the amazing truth of the Gospel. As John Piper says, "God is the Gospel." This is an amazing truth. May the Son of God receive the full reward for His suffering!

Finally, I am truly thankful to the Lord and for those of you who are working with HeartCry to support missionaries here in Peru and throughout the world. May the Lord's grace abound more and more in your lives. May God be praised and His Name be Glorified!

Walter Isse

I Corinthians 15:58

CHRIST OUR LIFE

Love Never Ends

It happened suddenly – so suddenly that I did not comprehend what was happening until I heard the words from my older brother Leonid’s mouth: “We don’t have mother anymore. She has died.” At that moment, my heart was pierced with the stabbing realization that never again would I see the woman who was an angel of kindness to me; never again would I meet her stern, but loving maternal gaze; never again would I hear her deep, tender voice; never again would I feel the gentle touch of her hand.

Especially heart-breaking after my mother’s death were my father’s sufferings: his sleepless nights, his chain smoking, and his constant repetition of the same cry of grief, “I would give anything to have her back again.” Not long after, my father passed away just as suddenly as my mother. He left me a vivid example of marital love and devotion, of fatherly care and involvement.

With the departure of both parents, I felt a vacuum within me, which led me to search for something to fill it. My parents had dreamed that I would study in the university, and when the time finally arrived, I became a student. Student years are generally considered to be the most entertaining time of one’s life, and I took advantage of every opportunity to find diversion. Like King Solomon, I tried to drown out the voice of loneliness by passing time in student groups, dancing, theater, and countless other activities. But all of it was vanity of vanities and striving after

HeartCry missionary Michael K. pastors a congregation in Kiriat Gat, ministers in a rehabilitation clinic for drug addicts, and trains younger men for the work of the ministry. He is a dear friend of Antony Simon, and frequently helps him and the Voice in the Wilderness outreach team in their evangelistic activities. Below is a brief account of his testimony.

wind. The following questions never left my mind: “Where are my parents? Do they see or hear me? What will happen to me when it is my turn? Why does man live, if all alike die? And what is the meaning of life?”

Looking Death in the Eye

“It’s not so bad – leave in the fall and return in the spring”, I thought as I stepped into the military office. Since I had not studied military science at the university, I was required to serve only a year and a half in the military, instead of two years. I did not realize what I would go through during my term of service and how it would influence the rest of my life. On the train taking us recruits far away from home, whizzing past various villages, we all asked the same question: “Where are we going?” An older, experienced soldier smiled wryly and announced, “Company 20-A to Turkmenistan’s battle district in Afghanistan”.

I was no longer a teenager, as were my young comrades with adrenaline pumping in their blood, drawing them toward adventure. All my life suddenly flashed before my eyes, with the question: “What if I never come back?” Inexorably I yearned to live, to love, and to raise a family. But the train was taking me away into uncertainty. For the first time in my life, filled with despair, I turned to the One in Whom I did not believe, at Whom I had laughed, and against Whom I had blasphemed: “Oh God, if You exist, save me!”



For half a year I studied at the Ashkhabad army school. Those six months of mockery and humiliation, sleepless nights and physical exhaustion, showed me how low a person can go, as well as how one can survive in the most extreme situation. We were prepared for Afghanistan like cattle for slaughter. In class, the commanders impressed upon us that the radio station where we worked was filled with explosives and should not fall into enemy hands. The words kept ringing in my ears: “You are dead men, you are doomed.” I can still remember what one officer said to us: “Enjoy this New Year’s Day celebration, because for many of you it will be your last”.

The day before our deployment to Afghanistan, I had the day off. It was my first time in six months to leave the military base. Before I left, one of my friends, who had been in the service for a long time, suggested, “If you do not want to go to Afghanistan tomorrow, throw away your military ID and report it as lost. During the time it takes to replace it, someone else will be sent instead of you.” In spite of his urging, I thought to myself: “If someone else should die in Afghanistan, how could I live with that?” I did not yet know the One Who loved me so much that gave His life to save me from eternal destruction. My parents’ words came to mind: “Do not do to others anything you would not want them to do to you.” I decided: “I will not take my friend’s advice.” Once again, my whole life flashed before my eyes, and some invisible force made me repeat the words: “God, if You exist, please save me.”

In Afghanistan, I was stationed on the Salang mountain pass, 4500 meters high. This was an important “mountain pass” time in my life as well. In our platoon there was continual drunkenness, smoked charz (an Afghan drug), and the taunting of young soldiers. It

was very difficult to break from this pattern, not to imitate everyone else. Yet even more terrible were the shootings around the garrison. Afghan snipers would fire from their own camp and murder the soldiers in ours. In these harsh conditions, snow avalanches also claimed the lives of many soldiers. At night, hate-filled Afghan soldiers crept into our barracks and slit the throats of our men. In the morning, we would send our friends back to Russia in the “black tulip” – the helicopter that carried away corpses.

He Found Me

Spring is the most beautiful season of the year. Walking down the streets of my hometown, I joyfully anticipated my reunion with my brother and my friends with whom I had developed a close bond and corresponded during my difficult period of military service.

Suddenly, memories overcame me, carrying me back to the moment when I had turned to the Lord and cried, “God, if You exist, please save me.” I wanted to believe that God had heard me, and that it was He who had preserved me alive and well in the midst of snipers, assassins, malaria, and typhus. How I wanted to thank Him as I was strolling again down the streets of my hometown! But the question came to me: “Who do I thank? Is there a God? And if so, which religion holds the truth? Maybe there is no God after all, and this whole story is just a figment of my wild imagination.” My parents had trained me to be principled and honest, and my years of study had turned me into a rational analyst.

My search for God coincided with the migration of my brother and I to Israel. By the time we arrived, I had studied a great deal of literature about Buddhism, Daoism, Con-

fucianism, Judaism, and Kabbalah. But the more I delved into these different religions and beliefs, the more I became entangled in a maze of conflicting doctrines. These religions seemed to me like a good meal of spaghetti because I could never find where they began or ended.

When I arrived in Israel I felt my loneliness more sharply. I was far from my familiar surroundings and friends. I found everything to be completely different. I was in a different country with a different people. I had only the small amount of money that I had received from the Ministry of Absorption of Immigrants. I also had to learn a different language, which had been used by my fathers 2,000 years ago, but was completely foreign to me. At this time I longed for a friend with whom I could share my heart. And once again, just as before, an unknown force made me repeat these words: "God, if You exist, Who are You? Reveal Yourself to me; I want to know the truth about You."

Soon after, I was invited to visit a young couple with whom I studied in Hebrew class. They were Christians, and we began to debate religion. At that point I was a well-read young man, but like most Jews, I was biased against Christianity. Nevertheless, I was attracted to this young couple by the joyous smiles that lit up their faces. I could not resist asking, "What makes you so happy?" Gesturing out the window, they replied, "Can't you see how beautiful it is? On the other side of the Lake of Gennesaret is the city of Capernaum." I asked, "What's so special about Capernaum?" They answered, "You don't know? It's the city where Jesus performed so many miracles!" They decided to enlighten me by giving me a Bible as I was leaving. I was very happy to have this book because I had heard and read a lot about it. But when I tried to read the Bible, I got bogged down in the genealogies, just as I had in the theological maze of different religions.

Once, while conversing with this couple, I examined the prophesies they pointed out to me. At that time I was a cold and rational realist, and had never before faced the supernatural. I literally jumped in surprise, "How could prophets who lived so long before the birth of Jesus Christ describe so explicitly the place of His birth, the time of His coming, His life, death, resurrection, and even His ascension into Heaven?" I suspected ulterior motives, "It looks like these Christians are trying

to lure me into their sect." But when I opened the Old Testament published by rabbis, and started to compare the Old Testament prophecies with the Christian Bible, I encountered another surprise – they coincided exactly with one another.

Still, my stereotypical Jewish nature was at work, "How can I, a Jew, believe in Jesus? What would my Jewish relatives say?" Besides this, I realized that in accepting God into my heart I would need to leave behind the sins in which I had found pleasure and comfort. I understood that I was standing on the threshold of a monumental decision - the acceptance of the Truth that I had so long resisted. My struggle continued for four months, and God showed Himself strong. He found me while I was not seeking Him. It was He Who compelled me to search for the meaning of life, led me through difficult temptations, and brought me to the Promised Land. It was He Who caused my heart to suffer loneliness and walk through this quest.

Through the Prism of Trials

With faith in God, reconciliation and joy flooded my heart, loneliness left me, and meaning filled my life. I gained many friends, whom I now call "brothers". But of utmost importance to me is the fatherhood of God, the friendship of Jesus, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. I had resisted God for so long, but by His grace, I had finally opened the doors of my heart to Him.

After my conversion, a new trial burst into my life - my beloved wife was diagnosed with cancer in its final stage. It was a real shock to me. As this reality sunk into me, I again called upon the One Whom I already knew, in Whom I believed, asking for His support, consolation, and healing for my wife. We spent a year and a half in a desperate struggle, earnest prayers and tears, but all was in vain. I became an eyewitness to the decay of the temple which is called the flesh. Yet we did not lose courage, nor did we despair, because this whole time we were supported by the Word of God and by a multitude of brothers, who united in prayer and shared our struggle. It was our time to go through Gethsemane, and entreat our Heavenly Father that this cup of separation, called death, might pass from us. Yet like Jesus, we always added, "Not my will, but Yours be done."

During this period of illness, my wife Alina experienced many mood swings. On the one

hand, she resigned herself to the probability that death might separate us. As her thoughts progressed further, she foretasted the joy of meeting with her Heavenly Father, firmly trusting in His promises. In the midst of the physical sufferings, God's peace filled her heart. But there were other times when she saw how much I and our two small children needed her, and she fought for life with renewed vigor.

The cancer ran its course. But Alina bravely continued to struggle for life. At this time we were especially close to God, and keenly felt our congregation's support. No matter how bad Alina felt, she always came to church, always smiled at the brothers and sisters, and was always thankful to God, resting her trust in Him.

One day, unexpectedly, we received a call from a sister in the USA. She told us about a clinic in the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma, where cancer patients in the final stages might receive reliable help. We brought this need before the Lord, and started preparing for the trip. Many brothers and sisters, Christian organizations, and congregations made donations toward Alina's treatment. As our trials increased, we felt our spiritual family's loving support all the more deeply. Among all our blessings, a special one for us was a sister named Svetlana who lived in Tulsa. When I asked her to help with translation she happily exclaimed, "It is a great privilege and honor for me to help Jews, who are my family in Christ!"

It took several months to obtain permission for Alina to enter the USA, and by the time she arrived at the clinic, it was too late. The cancer had already metastasized to her lungs, requiring hospitalization. We spent Alina's last ten days together in the hospital – ten days filled with the tragedy of the separation of two loving hearts, united by nine years of marriage, two wonderful children, and most importantly, love and faithfulness to the Lord and to each other.

Svetlana was a great blessing and encouragement to us in the hospital. She was not only our translator, but also a sharer of our suffering, taking it into her heart. She took time off from work and school just to care for us, to pray and cry together with us, observing the whole reality of what was happening. Unbeknownst to us, she also rejoiced in the harmony of Alina's and my marriage relationship, perceiving the warmth of love that Lord had

kindled in our hearts toward one another.

Sveta witnessed the moment when Alina turned to me with her last words: "I long to live and serve God together with you!" That last night Sveta refused to go home. She stayed to assist and support us in those extremely sorrowful hours of our life.

We spent the whole night at the bedside of my dying wife Alina, fervently praying to God for the miracle of healing if that was His will. In early morning we caught a glimmer of hope that if Alina could survive the night, she might be able to overcome the illness, but the doctor said that Alina had no more than an hour to live. I leaned over my wife's bed, sobbing, uttering parting words, and asking forgiveness for my improper actions in different situations of our life. Our pastor Tom called from Israel, and gave me Scripture verses to read to Alina before she left this world. The last verse Alina heard was Revelation 21:4: "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." For my Alina the former things had already passed away. The nurse who was in our room to watch the monitors for signs of approaching death, said through her tears, "At the last words of that verse her blood oxygen level suddenly dropped. With those words you released her."

Epilogue

It was difficult for me to come to terms with my loss, but God gives grace to the afflicted, and He promised that love never ends. My friendship with Sveta grew into a strong, mutual attraction which our age difference and other circumstances could not extinguish. God united us in marriage, giving us to each other and giving our children a loving mother. He gave Sveta the opportunity to love those who so needed it. All of us obtained abundant joy, because God faithfully keeps His promises, always leaving a bright testimony of that love which never ends.

BROTHER NUNU

NUNU IS THE LEADER OF OUR CHURCH PLANTING TEAM “ASIH PAMITRAN” IN THE COUNTRY OF INDONESIA. BECAUSE OF THE DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH HIS MINISTRY, WE ARE RESTRAINED FROM GIVING ANY FURTHER INFORMATION. PLEASE PRAY FOR BROTHER NUNU’S CONTINUED SANCTIFICATION, PROGRESS IN THE MINISTRY, AND DELIVERANCE FROM ALL HIS ENEMIES. WE CONSIDER IT A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO KNOW HIM AND SUPPORT HIS MINISTRY. THE FOLLOWING IS HIS TESTIMONY:

I grew up in a family that was Christian in name alone. As a young boy, I made a profession of faith in Jesus, but was not changed. I was a really bad kid. When I was fourteen years old, I left my parent’s home and lived on the street. I slept in a public transportation car at night and attended school during the day. Because of my rebellion, I went to four different schools in six years in order to graduate high school (it usually takes only three years). I was at the first school for only three months before I was kicked out for stabbing someone in the leg. I was kicked out of the second school because I failed to pass the freshman standard for two consecutive years. In the third school, I was kicked out after four months because I fought everyday. I was finally able to graduate from the fourth high school because it only required the paying of a fee to receive a diploma.

Since I had a high school diploma, I was able to get a job working as a salesman for a cigarette company. I did this for six years. However, I had to work in another city and was only able to visit my hometown of _____ twice a month. Since I was not brave enough to stay at my parent’s house while in _____, I slept at my brother’s. It was there that I met my wife, Lena. She was a pretty Muslim girl who lived two houses down from my brother. Two years later we were married. The following year we had our first son, Vinno. We then moved our home to _____, but I still worked outside the city and only came home twice a month.

One day when I came home, I saw that Lena was praying like a Christian. There was a Bible

in front of her, and she told me that my sister had left the Bible in our home. As time went by, I saw Lena praying, reading the Bible, and doing many Christian things. Then I found out that she had become a Christian! I did not know that the one who had shared the Gospel with Lena was my old Sunday school teacher who used to make me sit on his lap during the lesson because I was such a bad boy. Lena told me that she met the Sunday school teacher at my old church when our son Vinno had become very sick and near to death. A group of Christians prayed for him and God healed him. Because of this, Lena went to the church in order to thank the “Christian God.” She then talked to the Sunday school teacher and he asked, “What church are you from?” She replied, “I am not a Christian, I just came to say thank you to your Lord because he saved my son.” After seeing the power of God and speaking with the teacher, Lena became a believer in Jesus.

Soon after she became a believer, we moved to another city called _____. But before moving, Lena and I were baptized. I did not really know Jesus or understand the significance of baptism, but was only following my wife. I felt ashamed because she demonstrated such obedience to Jesus even though she came from a Muslim background. After we moved to _____, I quit my job and began working in a small factory that made spare parts for cars and motorcycles. It was at this time that an American named Rick Love began visiting our house. He would always read the Bible and pray for us. Then, he would go with us to a restaurant and eat. I did not want him to keep visiting, but I appreciated



his dedication because it took him eight hours to travel from _____ to _____. He came once a month and would sleep on the sofa. One day (after two years of visiting), the American was at our home and he prayed for me. As he was praying, I felt that Jesus spoke to me. It was as if He reached out and embraced me in His arms. Since that time I have really believed in and followed Jesus.

A few months later, I received an offer to work in the Agape quilt ministry. I took the job even though the salary was much smaller (about \$25 monthly). With this group, I learned the difference between people who only profess to know the Lord because they are after money and those who genuinely know the Lord. I worked for Agape from 1990 to 1994, and I learned how to make quilts.

Afterwards, I began making crates for missionaries traveling to Papua and the other islands in Indonesia. That is how I continued to make a living and support my family. While I was making crates, I also continued to make quilts on the side. After I sold my first quilt, I began selling them door-to-door, and the business began to grow. I also began recruiting workers and teaching them to make quilts. I used my business to help teach the workers about the Christian life.

During the end of that year, I became more interested in ministry and felt the desire to be a missionary. I saw American friends who were missionaries and I prayed, “God I want to be like them, but I am not a smart guy. I am just a guy who makes crates.” I felt as if I heard God reply, “You are Nunu, and I am going to use you as Nunu, and not as another person.” A few days after this, I was making crates for a missionary and his family. I told him, “This is going to be my first offering to God. Since you are a missionary, I am going to give this to you for free.” At that point in time, my family did not have very much money to live on and we always barely made ends meet. I did not know even how I was going to take the crates to the port in Jakarta to be shipped. However, before the missionaries left for Papua, they gave

me an envelope. I opened it to find an amount of money twenty times larger than the price of the crate! From that day, I was sure that God wanted me to trust Him and serve the Sunda-nese people as a missionary.

From that time on, I began to go to villages and teach people to make quilts. While the people were making quilts, I would tell them of the Gospel. This is how I began to plant a church. It initially began as a small prayer fellowship for children. The children would take us to meet their parents, and we would share the Gospel with them. Before we began our work, the church we were attending was having some judicial problems because it did not have enough people to be a “legal” church in the eyes of the government. However, the fruit of our ministry helped the church to be officially recognized by the government. It got so big that we had to rent a facility.

After this, I started to plant another church in my house with the quilt workers, people from the hills, and people from my neighborhood. The church kept getting bigger and bigger, and we needed another place to meet. We asked a couple of denominations for a legal covering, and they sent several representatives to find out facts about the ministry, but only the Presbyterian Church allowed us to use their legal covering.

After one year, other people groups started coming to the church. In time, the unreached group I was seeding to evangelize became a small minority within the church, and their numbers slowly decreased. Since we felt such a strong burden for this unreached people group, I decided to plant another church that focused solely on them. Three years ago we started to plant this church among my family and coworkers. Since that time, many of my neighbors have heard the Gospel and God has saved them. More than twenty people have made professions of faith and fifteen have been baptized.

LITTLE MEN

by Paul David Washer

Several years ago, at the annual pastor's conference in Sullana, Peru, I was approached by a ragged, unshaven, unwashed mountain man from the Northern Andes Mountains. To reach the conference, he had traveled for days by foot, and finally in the back of an old cattle truck. At the conference, he slept on a straw mat on a dirty concrete floor, and because of limited facilities (150 pastors sharing one bathroom) he had been unable to bathe or shave. Nevertheless, for him, it was one of the grandest moments in his life, to come to the city and attend a Bible conference where he would learn about doctrine and how to be a better pastor.

The brother approached me in the characteristic manner of the mountain men, his hat was off and held in front of him with both hands, his worn out Bible was tucked securely under his arm and his head was bowed, almost as if to apologize for bothering me. After thanking me for the teaching that day, he asked me if there was any way I could help him obtain a Bible dictionary. He said that his schooling had been very limited, and the only book he had ever owned was his Bible, which I saw was in complete disarray. He made it clear that he did not mean to bother me, and that he would do his best to pay what it cost, but that he needed a dictionary to be a better preacher and pastor. He said there were just some words and names he could not understand, and it made it difficult to teach his people.

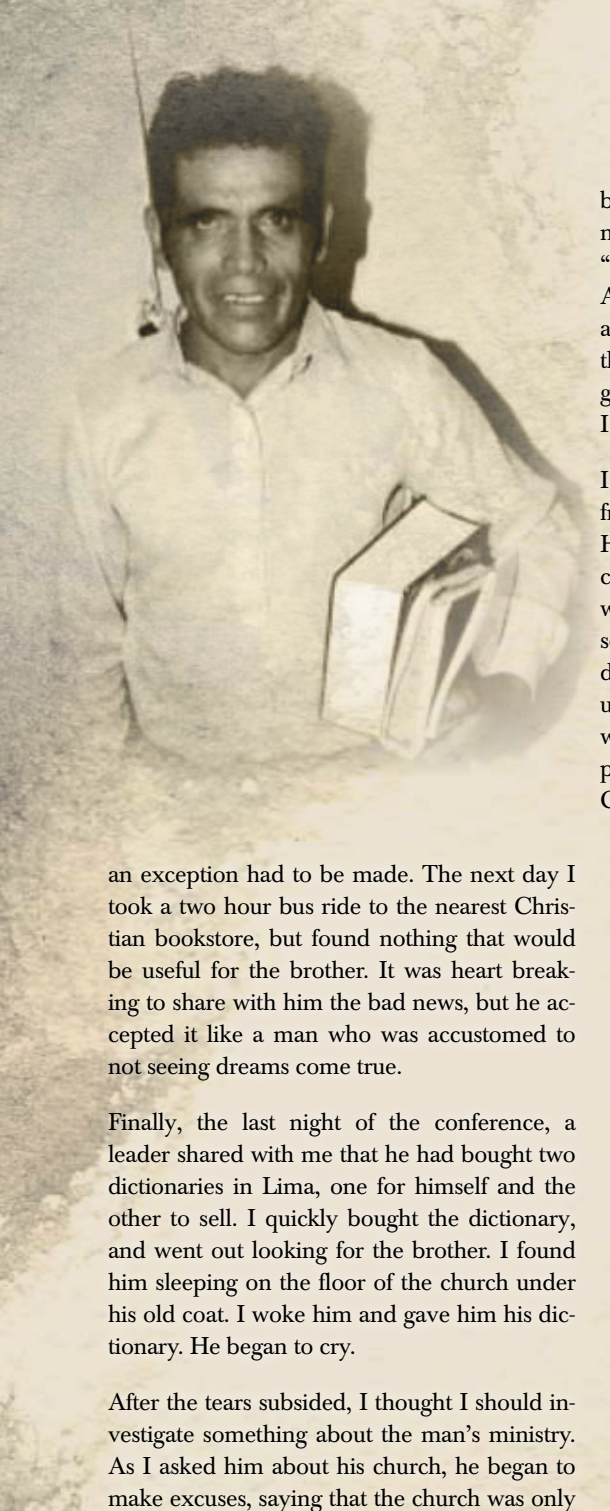
The brother had no sooner made his request when both his face and voice were drowned

out by a sea of other pastors who converged on us with questions and comments and similar requests. I imagine that he had waited the entire conference, maybe the entire year for the moment to ask me for a simple dictionary, and yet as I was pulled off by the countless other men, he realized that his petition would go unanswered, at least for another year.

A year passed, and the brother made the same long journey down from the mountains to attend the annual Bible conference. On the first day of the conference, I was escaping to my quarters after a long day of teaching when I noticed a lone figure following from behind.

As our eyes met, the man quickly took off his hat and lowered his head as if he were a child waiting to be scolded for doing something he should not have done. I searched my memory trying to remember this one face among so many, but then, with his one question, it all came back to me as though it had been only the day before. He asked, "Brother Paul, did you bring any dictionaries this year?" Then he continued with the same argument that he had used the year before (as though he needed to justify his petition): "I am not a man of much schooling, and there are some words I cannot understand. I want to be a better preacher of the Gospel, and a better pastor to our congregation."

I had not brought any dictionaries to the conference because there were so many pastors, and in reality everyone of them has the need, but as I spoke with the brother I realized that



an exception had to be made. The next day I took a two hour bus ride to the nearest Christian bookstore, but found nothing that would be useful for the brother. It was heart breaking to share with him the bad news, but he accepted it like a man who was accustomed to not seeing dreams come true.

Finally, the last night of the conference, a leader shared with me that he had bought two dictionaries in Lima, one for himself and the other to sell. I quickly bought the dictionary, and went out looking for the brother. I found him sleeping on the floor of the church under his old coat. I woke him and gave him his dictionary. He began to cry.

After the tears subsided, I thought I should investigate something about the man's ministry. As I asked him about his church, he began to make excuses, saying that the church was only three years old, that it was in a very remote place, that the people were very poor, and that they were persecuted by the people of the town. I began to think that I could have given the dictionary to a more worthy missionary until finally I cornered him and asked, "Brother how many people have you baptized?" "How many faithful members do you have in your congregation after three years?" He responded apologetically and a bit embarrassed, "Brother Paul, we now have 80 adults faithfully attending, but we do have many children." It was not the answer I had expected. I congratulated the

brother for his work, which seemed to give him more confidence to speak, and so he continued, "We are poor and many people are against us. As you can see I don't have much schooling, and it is hard for me to understand things. But the Lord is very wise and strong. He is very good to me because He knows we are poor and I never had much schooling."

I had to excuse myself from the room to keep from crying. He was a ragged, dirty, little man. His hair was uncombed, he was unshaven. His clothes were old and ragged. The sandals he wore had been cut out of an old truck tire that someone had thrown away. He was poor and did not have much schooling, but he had been used of God to do an extraordinary work, a work that "greater men" have never accomplished. He is one of the reasons why Heart-Cry exists!

"Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!"

Romans 11:33

"God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God."

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

nothing and is respected by only a few? It could only be the glorious Cross of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In that old rugged Cross is our only hope of salvation. It is there that Christ carried our iniquities, and was crushed under the wrath of Almighty God. It was there that He hung in our place, and drank down the divine punishment due us, so that the justice of God might be satisfied, the wrath of God appeased, and sinners might be reconciled to the One whom they had offended. "Christ died for our sins." Do we need a greater motivation than this? Could a greater motivation ever be found? Of course not! This one thing should be the governing force in all that we are and do.

Christ died for us, and we who have been ransomed should live for His glory. As the Apostle Paul writes, "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (I Corinthians 10:30), and again, "He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf" (II Corinthians 5:15). We have not been ransomed by futile and worldly things like gold and silver, and therefore we should not live for them. But we have been ransomed by the blood of a spotless Lamb, even the Son of God. Therefore, love Him, serve Him, and live for Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength!

Third Application

The third application is that we should live for the work of the Kingdom. What a great and indescribable privilege is ours. We have been made ambassadors of Christ, we have been called to enter into His labors, and gather a harvest where we have not sown. Will we despise our calling and take our hand from the plow? Will we deny the One who bought us and live for ourselves? May it never be! How many live without any purpose? How many more live their life for a purpose that is not worthy of a man? How many Christians live their lives for a purpose that is not worthy of a child of God?

We are not called to amass wealth or fame. We are not called to seek comfort and security. It

is not appropriate that we spend our days in front of a television watching other people live fictitious lives. It is not appropriate for us to be consumed by hobbies or to lust for more and more entertainment. We are the most privileged people on the face of the earth! We are sons of the living God, ambassadors for Christ. We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation. We have been called out of darkness into God's marvellous light. We have been given the indescribable privilege of proclaiming the excellencies of God, of His Christ, and of His Gospel. Will we trade such glory for the mundane, tragic, and even pathetic life of this world? The men in our picture have not renounced their calling even in the face of severe trials and difficulties that are all but unknown to us. Therefore, we are without excuse. Let us join them in their labors. Let us work until Jesus comes, and then we will be gathered home.

Not all Christians are called to be missionaries on the foreign field, but all are called to either go and preach, or stay and support prayerfully and financially. You and I are either called to go down into the well, or we are called to hold the rope for those who have gone down. These men in our picture have gone down into the well, and they ask for so little that they might accomplish their monumental task. It is almost unbelievable that an indigenous missionary oftentimes requires less than one hundred dollars a month to live and minister in places where foreign missionaries do not even have access. We have so much and do so little, but we could do so much with very little if we would only see our lives as an important part of the Great Commission. Can you think of anything more important than the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations, to the people groups that have never heard? You can think of nothing more important, because there simply is nothing more important. All other tasks of this life seem to fade to nothing in light of this great thing which we are called to do.

Fourth Application

The fourth application is that we should live for eternity. Our life is like a vapor, and our days are fleeting. The day of our birth marks the day we begin to die. This world and all

its glory is passing away. Jesus declared to us, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and yet lose his soul and what will a man give in exchange for his soul" (Matthew 16:26). Therefore, is it wise to invest all our talent, energy, and resources on that which will not remain? Are we so foolish that we would live for a fallen, broken world that is passing away and not for the eternal glories that are promised? There are countless Christians down through the centuries of the Church who have turned their backs on this world, and looked forward to the coming of Emmanuel's land. They have lost everything and suffered the greatest of hardships because they believed that God's Word is true. Will you stand with them on that day? Will you feel comfortable in their presence? More importantly, will you stand before God on that day? Will you feel comfortable in His presence?

Oh dear friends, the privilege is ours. Let us give ourselves to the work of God, let us set our eyes on the harvest fields. Let us work while there is still light for the night is coming when no man will work.

Fifth Application

The fifth application is that we should live for that "Great Day" when all men shall stand before God. The true Church of Jesus Christ abounds with scholars, warriors, martyrs, and faithful workers: men and women who have both lived and died that the Great Commission might be completed and the Glory of God might fill the earth. Where will you and I stand among this sanctified group?

Do not be deceived, the true church is not as unsanctified as you might think. We look around at the so-called "church" in the West and see many who are no different than the unbelieving world. We compare ourselves to them, and think that as Christians go we are doing all right. Beware! The field is sown with tares. Many of the names that can be found on the membership roles of most churches cannot be found in the Book of Life. The church in the West is filled with a countless multitude who are kept, not by the power of God, but by a preacher's personality and talents, or by a countless number of activities - everything from day care to seminars on financial growth. They do not know God, they do not love the

Gospel, they are under a curse!

The members of the true church of Jesus Christ are not sinless, but they are "being" sanctified. They have been made alive through the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. They have been converted by heart-rendering repentance and desperate faith in Christ. They have become "new creatures." God has taken from them their hearts of stone and replaced them with hearts of living flesh that willingly respond to His stimuli. They are no longer "bent" towards the things of this world, but are given to the things of God. The Word is not only sweet, but necessary to them. They abide in the Word and are truly Christ's disciples. The Holy Spirit is Lord over them and leads them as "sons of God." They are sensitive to His joy and are fully aware when they have grieved Him. They know what it is to forsake the world and walk in paths of righteousness. They have known both the "prompting" and loving discipline of the Father when they have strayed. They are concerned about the work of God in the world and give themselves to it with an honest devotion. They love the brethren, and they honor those given to God's service. They have a deep respect for the martyrs. They weep over those persecuted for Christ's sake. They count it a privilege to sacrificially support those who have gone forth into the world to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the true Church.

In this great gathering of the sanctified, where do you stand? Can your name be found among them? Are you a mere "professor of Christ" or a "disciple of Christ?" Would you be ashamed to stand among this group on Judgment Day? Will you hear, "Come! Enter into the joy of your Master," or "Depart from Me! I never knew you!"

Your brother,

Paul David Washer



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.

Come Over & Help Us

As a Christian, you have been called to participate fully and sacrificially in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) in either going to the unreached or supporting those who go. However, it may not be God's will for you to do so through this ministry. Please seek the Lord in prayer and in the study of the Scriptures before sending financial support. Please do not send financial support to this ministry if you are not being faithful in giving to your local church.

What We Do

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

Literature Distribution

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

Ministry Tools

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

Church Planting

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

Bible Conferences

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



Stay Connected

Free Magazine

The HeartCry Missionary Society publishes a 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 2010. 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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