

HeartCry

MAGAZINE

GOD'S EXTRAORDINARY PROVISION

READ HOW GOD CHOSE THE VERY LAST DAY OF
2010 TO MEET ALL OF HEARTCRY'S NEEDS
ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY!

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

An Account of God's Past Faithfulness
BY PAUL WASHER

Out of Africa
BY SEAN REECE

Indigenous Worship
PAK NUNU



Dear Brothers & Sisters,

It is my sincere hope that this letter finds you “in Christ” and clothed in His perfect righteousness; that you are growing in grace and coming to comprehend something of the breadth, length, height, and depth of His love (Ephesians 3:18-19). I thank God every time I think of you, and often pray for the following things on your behalf:

- That you might grow in your knowledge of God, making great progress in your sanctification, and being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- That every person that is dear to you, especially every family member, might come to know Christ and be granted eternal life.
- That God might prosper you in all things according to His will.
- That one day you might stand before Christ with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

You will never know until you reach the far shores of heaven just how precious you are to us, and how much we appreciate your participation with us in the Gospel. This ministry is as much yours as ours because of your prayers and generous support. We are indebted to you, and count your place beside us in every act of providence and every victory won.

In this edition of HeartCry, we have the privilege of sharing with you the extraordinary provision that God worked on behalf of this ministry. At the end of the year, with less than one day remaining, He provided for all that was lacking in our financial resources. No one except the staff and board of HeartCry knew the dire straits that we were in, and yet God moved the hearts of many of His children to

help us. Motivated by this great deliverance, we also decided to publish some of our past journal entries that equally demonstrate God’s gracious providence. The purpose is not to glory in our weak faith, but to boast in the great faithfulness of our God. We hope that what you read will be a great encouragement to you. The God you serve can be trusted in all things and in every circumstance. Our great regret in heaven will be that we did not trust Him more and ask more of Him in prayer!

Also included in this edition of HeartCry, are the “Director Updates” and “Reports from the Field”. They provide an insightful glance into all that God is accomplishing through the indigenous missionaries around the world. We have also included a special report regarding the Reece brothers’ work among the Lozi Tribe of western Zambia, and an update regarding God’s providential work in the country of Turkey. In the midst of persecution and even martyrdom, Christ’s kingdom is advancing.

As you read, please remember that your part in the Great Commission is as important as any other. We may not all be called to be missionaries on the foreign field, but we are all called to serve in the harvest with equal zeal and sacrifice. We are either called to go down into the well, or to hold the rope for those who go down!

Your brother,

Paul Washer

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GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN TURKEY

BY MARC GLASS

In April of 2007, three Christians were martyred in the city of Malatya in central Turkey. Of these men, Necati Aydin, 36, and Ugur Yuksel, 32, were Turkish converts from Islam. The third man, Tilmann Geske, 46, was a German citizen. The three men are the first martyrs of modern day Turkey. What was unknown at the time, however, is that their deaths will possibly help to save the lives of the several thousand Christians that make up the fledgling Turkish Church. Let me explain.

Several years prior to the death of these men, the Turkish government declared that there were three threats to the Turkish state: The Hezbollah militia groups, Kurdish rebels, and Evangelical Christians. While Turkey is a secular state made up of several competing political parties with opposing ideologies, it's nationalism takes on a strong religious tone - to be Turkish is to be Muslim. This is the reason why Evangelicals pose such a threat.

Following the death of the three Christians, Germany firmly insisted that either Turkish authorities thoroughly investigate the matter or they promptly would. This investigation, then, uncovered a chain of connections that resulted in a national election on September 12, 2010 to permanently alter the Turkish Constitution. The referendum passed.

As authorities investigated the five young Turks that committed the murder of the three Christians, they uncovered links between all five men and the Turkish military. The first major discovery unveiled the fact that several high ranking military officials had authorized the killing of the three Christians. Because these men were active military officers, however, under former Turkish law, they could not

be touched by the police. The military was, essentially, above the law.

As authorities conducted the investigation, they uncovered a much larger scheme: Operation Cage. In what sounds like something from a Hollywood script, the Turkish military was planning an extensive coup of the Turkish government. Their plan was to "cage" the government in by staging killings throughout the country of people from all the religious, sectarian, and ethnic groups. When the country went into turmoil and unrest, the military would have then stepped in to "save" the country from the government that was to be blamed for the killings. To the outside world, the military would have been the hero against a vicious government. Yet the military would have used its new position of power to carry out further cleansing of the "threats" to the Turkish state, which would have likely ended in the death of a large number of the 3,000 Turkish evangelical Christians.

However, in part due to the death of the three Christians in Malatya, the coup was discovered and revealed to the Turkish population, at large. Furthermore, the September 12 referendum to change the Turkish constitution will eventually, among several other things, bring the military under direct government control, open military officials up to censure by Turkish law, and give a great deal of religious freedom, not only to Christians, but to Muslims, as well. The passing of the September 12 referendum was a day of great victory for Turkish believers. Pray that our Turkish brothers and sisters will seize this victory for the sake of godliness and the advancement of the Kingdom.

GOD'S EXTRAORDINARY PROVISION

The following letter relates the extraordinary manner in which the Lord provided for all our needs on the very last day of 2010. It is a testimony to the faithfulness and graciousness of God toward His people. We hope that it will encourage you to believe God, hold tenaciously to His promises, and devote yourselves to prayer.

I hope and pray that this brief letter and year-end report finds you growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray that the Lord's salvation might be the outstanding characteristic of your life, family, and church. In this fleeting vapor that is our life, all that truly matters is our knowledge of Christ, our faith in Christ, and our conformity to Christ.

It is a great joy for me to write to you and to thank you for your prayers and financial support. Although our country continues to stagger under economic uncertainty, we rejoice to report to you that God has met all our needs according to His riches in glory. Through your generosity, we continue to advance into some of the most unreached regions of the world. As always, our great desire is to preach the Gospel and to plant churches in those places where the Gospel is unknown - where men, women, and children grope in the darkness of this fallen world. May the words of the Apostle Paul echo through our hearts and minds:

"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for 'WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.' How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless

they are sent? Just as it is written, 'HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!'" (Romans 10:12-15)

As each year passes by and this life of ours draws ever closer to its end, we must be driven to live our days for the glory of God and the countless multitudes who have never heard. Other than knowing and loving God, what can compare to this Great Commission that has been given to us? Why would we use this life to gather trinkets that will burn up in the judgment like hay, wood, and straw? Why not make a life out of the few days that have been given us? Why not redirect and refocus all our talents, energy, and resources so that the Gospel might be preached to every person within our generation. We must remember that this is our time, our watch, and our responsibility. Let us therefore work out our salvation with fear and trembling as faithful stewards of the greatest treasure ever given to men - the glorious Gospel of our blessed Lord.

Before I burst at the seams, I must tell you of the great deliverance which the Lord has worked for HeartCry. As you probably know, it is a HeartCry policy not to make any pleas to God's people regarding financial need, but rather to direct our pleas to God alone. Our goal is to never prod or manipulate our brothers and sisters in Christ, but to wait upon God in prayer. He is our patron. If we are in His will, He will provide all that is necessary for the accomplishment of His will.

On the morning of December 31, on the last day of the year, HeartCry had a deficit of approximately \$150,000. It is not that we were in debt, but that we had simply spent \$150,000 more in 2010 than we had received in dona-

BY PAUL WASHER

tions. Furthermore, we had nearly forty more indigenous missionaries who were about to be appointed with the added expense that accompanies such an advance.

Since HeartCry receives approximately \$4,000 a day in donations, the averages did not look too favorable that we would end the year in balance. However, our God is not confined to averages! By the end of the day, HeartCry received nearly \$320,000 in donations! In the days that followed, nearly \$50,000 more came in that was postmarked before the end of the year!

Needless to say, we are all still in shock over God's abundant provision. Even though we had prayed and hoped, both our petitions and faith were feeble. All that has been accomplished for the mission work is the result of God's faithfulness and power to move His people to give, even though they had no knowledge of our need. We have seen many deliverances of this sort in the last twenty years and yet none of them have been of such a magnitude and with such impeccable timing. The fact that God waited until the last day of the year to deliver us was not only to test our faith, but to show that He does not need even a full day to meet the needs of an entire year.

Please understand that none of us at HeartCry pretend to have the gift of faith or even to have an extraordinary faith above our brothers. Our faith is weak and our works without merit. When all is said and done we are truly unprofitable servants. However, God delights in vindicating even the smallest confidence of His children, and in demonstrating the greatness of His faithfulness—in spite of the weakness of His people!

We begin the new year with an abundant sup-

ply, but the Word of God and the need of the world demands that we not hold it back for comfort's sake. We must advance this year like never before. We must believe God in a greater way and take greater risks. We must once again advance beyond our resources even if it means ending this year like the last – cast upon God as our only hope!

Please pray for us at HeartCry. We need more Christ-likeness, godliness, holiness and wisdom. We need greater knowledge of the Word and greater fillings of the Holy Spirit. The task before us is too great even for the strongest of saints. How then will men as weak as we ever prevail? It is only by the grace of God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. In hope against hope we must believe, so that all the nations might hear the Gospel. Please pray that we might not become weak in faith even though we have no power in ourselves, but that we might be strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He is able also to perform (Romans 4:17-21).

May this new year bring a greater manifestation of the salvation of God in your lives, families, and churches. May you prosper in all things according to His will.

Your brother,

Paul David Washer

AN ACCOUNT OF GOD'S PAST FAITHFULNESS

November 16, 2003

For the first time in my twenty-year pilgrimage with Christ, I sense the freedom to write about God's dealings with me. As a new Christian, I was greatly impressed by the Autobiography of George Muller, and sought to imitate his life. Three specific times I failed the standard he set forth and I was severely rebuked by the Lord. For the last ten years, ever since HeartCry has begun to support national missionaries, we have lived by faith alone. In this time, the mission has grown from one to over 87 missionary families in 15 countries, on four continents. Also, we have two fellow workers laboring with me in the United States – Darian Rottmann and Jon Green.

The last few months have been the leanest of our ministry. Since June we have lived every day from hand to mouth. Several times, Darian, Jon, and I have not received our salaries. In spite of such hardship, all the men and women in the field have received their support without exception and we in the United States have never lacked food or sufficient funds to pay our bills. Praise God for His faithfulness.

I now sit here in my office at 9AM and begin to write the account of our struggles and the faithfulness of God. It is mid-month and none of our workers have been paid. Darian, Jon, and I have passed another week without receiving our salaries. \$700 came in this week-end. Also, I received \$150 for preaching a conference in Lexington, Kentucky. I will preach to a mission of Mexican immigrants this afternoon. I usually receive \$50 from them. I am encouraged this morning by a promise in II Kings 7:1-2 and 7:15-20.

November 21, 2003

On Wednesday, the 19th, \$3317.00 was deposited. After paying certain bills that were due,

we remained with \$2638.00. On Thursday we received \$1247. Today, we received \$350 in the mail, \$1300 that came through an anonymous donor who left the money in my old truck, and \$100 was given by a staff worker. This leaves us with a total of \$5635.00. We will not pay the U.S. staff this week, since not a single missionary on the field has yet been paid this month. Never has there been such a lack in the mission.

November 24, 2003

When I came into the office this morning, Darian informed me that there were certain expenses totaling \$1994.75 that were paid last week, but had not yet been recorded. Therefore, we begin the day with \$3640.25 instead of \$5635.

This was a great discouragement, but we have regained our composure and look to God once again. This is a Gideon's call. His army was too large. All human possibility had to be destroyed so that the victory would be ascribed to God alone. In the same way God has taken away from us even the little strength we thought we had. We have nothing to hope in but Him. We have seven days before the end of the month, and not a single missionary has been paid. Mission giving usually goes down in December because of the Christmas holidays. We have no reason at all to hope in the flesh. God alone can save us. On Saturday, the 22nd, \$524 came through the mail. I also found a check for \$50 in my Spanish Bible that came from preaching in the Mexican Mission in Mayfield, Kentucky three weeks ago. Self-pity, resentment, and grumbling are all crouching at the door and their desire is to have us. I pray that God might give us all grace to overcome. I am looking forward to deliverance. We will call a prayer meeting in a few minutes.

The following journal entries were first published in the HeartCry magazine early in 2004. It was the first time that God had given us such freedom. Our purpose was to demonstrate that the God of George Muller is still very much alive and willing to sustain not only the Mullers of His kingdom, but also lesser instruments such as ourselves. Afterwards, many brothers and sisters shared with us that it was a tremendous encouragement to them. We thought it appropriate to reprint these pages at this time in hope that you might be encouraged to believe the Lord to meet all your needs according to His riches in Glory.

BY PAUL WASHER

We drew great strength from our morning prayers, but gathered together at lunch for the same. By His good Spirit, we were encouraged to trust in the Lord. I felt peace that this would not be our end, but that God would be our helper in the final hour. Our greatest desire is for God to make a name for Himself through our total inability.

At 4:15 PM, I went to the mailbox and was excited to find it full of envelopes. I soon discovered that only one was for HeartCry. It was from a donor whom I did not recognize. I opened the envelope expecting a donation of \$25 or \$30 dollars. To my surprise and great joy, it was a check for \$3000! I let out an audible shout for joy while still in the churchyard. I met with Darian and Jon for prayers of thanksgiving to our God who has helped us this day. The first thing tomorrow morning we will set about paying the missionaries from Peru. It matters little to us that we still lack funds to pay the missionaries in the other 14 countries. God has helped us today and given us hope to trust in Him! I look forward to tomorrow – its trials will be opportunities to hope in God.

November 25, 2003

We deposited \$6857 dollars in our account today, which gave us a total of \$7497.18. We wired the support to the missionaries in Peru, paid our phone bills and have a remainder of \$180. Even though, we do not have the necessary funds to finish out the month, we saw the need to take on three more missionaries in Peru and help some of our veteran missionaries with their very special needs. Much time has passed since we last took on new missionaries in Peru, but in our hour of greatest need, God leads us to believe Him for more missionaries. God always seems to ask more from us when we have less to give, so that His

great supply and lovingkindness might be revealed. Twice, today, we have met for prayer. We are waiting for the mail, which usually arrives around 3:30 PM. At the moment, we have \$180 and six days remaining to provide the support for the rest of our missionaries in 14 different countries.

I just retrieved the mail from the mailbox. There was not one letter for HeartCry. We must continue to wait for God's deliverance. We will pray when Darian returns from sending the money to Peru. I have nothing, but His presence. It is enough!

November 26, 2003

Today, the HeartCry staff is going to celebrate Thanksgiving together, and we have much to be thankful for. This morning, Darian, Jon, and I gathered for prayer. It was one of the best times of prayer that we have ever had. I felt led that God would send someone to us before the mail arrived who would give a gift to the mission. At midday, a brother from Kentucky came to the office and gave us \$15. It was a great confirmation to all of us that God had heard our prayers and that He was with us. At 1:30 PM, we met again for a time of prayer. I felt a great impression that God was asking someone somewhere to do something, and whether out of fear or from a lack of faith, they were struggling with submitting to the Lord. After a time of prayer, my burden was lifted.

At 2:45 PM, Darian brought me the mail. Praise the Lord! We received an additional \$1395.92. This was enough to pay the missionaries in Siberia, Ukraine, and India. After wiring the money, we will finish the day with \$40.44. There are four days left in the month of November.

The staff will miss another paycheck this week, but we have food and our bills are paid. Like the oil in the widow's jar, God has stretched our resources, and kept the destroyer at bay. We will meet again for prayer at 3 PM. Tonight we will meet for prayer with all our families. The Kozlers are coming in from Detroit and will pray with us. They are always a great encouragement.

Darian just came in and asked if we could send \$30 extra dollars to the missionary in Siberia. This will help him buy more firewood to keep his family warm. I agreed. We now have \$10.44 in our account. Praise the Lord. What a privilege He has granted us!

November 28, 2003

Yesterday was Thanksgiving and the mail was not delivered. Today I knew that we would receive two days worth of mail and support. I was hoping that there would be more support because of this. We received \$175.00. We now have 185.44 in hand. We need sixty times this amount just to pay our men in the field for this month. We have two more days. We must take guard against doubt, despair, and self-pity. Tomorrow is another day. We look to God for deliverance.

November 29, 2003

\$220 arrived in the mail today. We now have a total of \$405.44. Tomorrow is Sunday and there will be no mail. Monday is the 1st of December. Most of the missionaries have not been paid and the staff was only paid twice during the entire month. We are in dire straits. We have made our need known to no one. We wait upon the Lord. Our greatest interest is His Glory! I cannot see how our fall would bring encouragement to the saints, but I do see how it would justify the carnal. They will say that we were foolish and proud to have believed that a ministry could prosper without making its needs known to anyone but God. Many young believers have been encouraged to trust God because of His dealings with us. It would have been better to have never started, than to be the cause of their unbelief - "Oh God, we deserve to fail, but please do not let us fail! Your glory is at stake! Oh God! Please get a Name for Yourself from this old worn out rag!"

November 30, 2003

I preached at the Mexican mission this morn-

ing, but once again, they forgot to give the promised support for gas money. I was informed this evening that someone gave \$150 in cash to the mission in the morning service. We now have \$555.44. Tomorrow is the 1st of December and we have yet to pay most of the men for November. This has happened only a few times in the history of our mission, and never when the amount needed was so great. I can hardly bear to ask the staff to go another week without their salaries. I know that they will do it willingly, even joyfully. We are in the greatest need since our beginning. We will wait upon the Lord and see what tomorrow will bring. We have no reason to hope in the flesh. If help comes, it will come from the Lord.

I spoke with my pastor today. He knows of all our troubles and would cut off his right arm to help us. He knows that the Lord has pressed upon us the prohibition to not make our needs known to even our church. I know that every person in our church would come to our aid if they knew there was such a problem. I even know of several people throughout the country who would gladly meet our every need with one donation. But the purpose of our mission is to depend upon the Lord alone. He is our Patron. If He wants this mission to continue, He is faithful and able to let His people know. If He does not help us then we should not be helped. Although we recognize that God has had His hand upon us, we know that He does not need us. If the HeartCry Missionary Society perished tomorrow, it would not hinder God's great work on the earth.

December 1, 2003

When I arrived at this office this morning, Darian told me that someone had given \$100 in the Sunday evening offering. This was encouraging news. We now have \$655.44. I was thinking again about how the mission where I preach on Sundays has failed to provide the promised gas money for the last three weeks. They are wonderful believers and would do all in their power to help me. It seems the Lord has made them forget. He is drying up every well dug by human hands that He alone might be our only fountain. I feel like Hagar. She and her boy were sent away because he was not the child of the covenant. When the water that she was carrying was gone, she laid her boy under a bush and sat a bow shot away because she could not bear to watch him die. I do not

feel God's presence. I feel like I have been sent out into the desert as one who is not a child of the promise. All our resources are spent. I want to lay the mission down and run away, for I cannot bear to see it die. Satan tempts me to anger and grumbling, but who am I to speak a word against the Lord? I have not been worthy of even the least of all the mercies He has shown me throughout the years. Even if He slays me, even if He abandons me to hell, even then He would be worthy of praise. He has already done for me more than I could ever deserve in a thousand lifetimes of service. I will trust in Him regardless of the outcome. I know these things: God is good, wise, and powerful. Our circumstances are not the result of some defect in God. This trial is ordained with perfect wisdom, by an absolutely sovereign God, who has promised to do us good for the sake of Christ. He works all things together for our good. Even this! The story of Hagar and Ishmael ends in a great salvation wrought by God. If He opened a fountain in the desert for an idolatrous pagan, whose child would grow to be a persecutor of God's people, will He not help us, His children? Although there are many daily tasks to be accomplished today, the priority of our hearts will be to pray and wait upon the Lord.

I went to the mailbox this afternoon and found envelopes containing \$287.00. This brings our total to \$942.44. With this money, we will pay Serbia (\$350 + \$15 wire fee) and Paraguay (\$200). We will also pay \$375.01 worth of bills that are due. That leaves us with \$2.43 and four countries left to be paid totaling \$10,155. We must wait upon the Lord another day. The one thought that most takes away my peace and demonstrates my lack of faith is that even if we pay all the missionaries for November, we will be behind on December's support before we even begin. We always try to send extra support for the holidays. We truly need a miracle.

December 2, 2003

Today was a good day. Our families came to the church to take pictures for the December issue of the HeartCry Magazine. We were filled with joy to watch our children play and to play with them. How the Lord has blessed us! I went to the mailbox today and found envelopes containing \$612. This gave us a total of \$614.43. I had hoped to send support to more men today, but it was not God's will. We met this afternoon to pray and to discuss what the Lord would have us to do. We know that

we are to always trust him, but we must not be passive. Since Jon is not a U.S. citizen, he must continue to be supported by the mission. Darian and I have the possibility of looking for work elsewhere. We determined to wait until the end of the week. If the funds do not come in to pay our salaries, we will begin to look for work. In spite of our trial, the Lord continues to bless us with great joy. We are truly happy in the Lord! We decided that we would count it a privilege to accept even the most menial employment for His Name sake.

Jon was the last to pray. At the end of his prayer, he asked the Lord to open Gabi's womb that she might conceive. He no sooner closed his prayer with Amen, than Gabi came into the room with tears in her eyes and announced that she was pregnant. What a tremendous blessing!

The news could not have come at a better time for two reasons. First, it showed us that God answers prayer. Secondly, Jon's financial resources are almost depleted and yet his financial needs will be greater than before. What an opportunity for God to get a name for Himself!

December 3, 2003

This morning Charo called about the medical bills for the birth of our son Evan. To our astonishment, they were all paid by someone who wished to remain anonymous. We had told no one of our bills. We do not have the faintest idea who God used to bless us. It is an encouragement for us at the mission. God is able to tell others of our needs.

Today was filled with busy work. A dear brother from Missouri built a new "super" computer for Jon, and he spent much of the day getting it ready for use. I inherited his old computer, which is now running well after being reformatted. It was simply not large enough to do all that was required for the magazine.

I went to the mailbox today and was blessed by the Lord's kindness to His people. The donations totaled \$2,542.00, and so we now have \$3106.43 for the missionaries. One dear family, that has supported us for years with \$1000 a month, sent us \$2000 for November and December. This is not the first time that the Lord has directed them to give when it was most needed. Another blessing came from the Mexican mission that has not given me any gas money (for preaching) for the last three

weeks. They sent me \$150, which was given to the mission.

It is 5PM and Darian just left to make a deposit and mail support to the missionaries. We are able by God's good grace to mail support to Benin, Ghana, and Nigeria. Praise the Lord. We are left with \$356.43. Praise the Lord!

I received a letter today from Ernesto Zacarias. He sent photos of the construction of our new church in Villa El Salvador. It was truly a blessing to see all the people gathered inside the new building. A few months ago, we gave our last \$1000 so that the construction could continue. It might have seemed foolish to many, but seeing the people gathered in that simple building in order to hear the Gospel is reward enough.

December 5, 2003

We were greatly blessed today. The Lord provided \$2770 through the mail, and someone gave Jon \$20, which He gave to the mission. This gave us a total of \$3146.43. After making the deposit, Darian was able to send the support to Zambia. We close the day with \$1781.43. We lack nearly \$4700 to pay the missionaries in Romania. We look to the Lord!

Darian, Jon, and I will not be paid again this week, but the Lord has seen our need. A dear family in the church sent groceries to the office today and gave us each a gift card to Walmart to buy more groceries. In the end, we will have more supplies in our homes than if we had been paid our salaries! God has never given any reason for us to doubt His character or His promises: "I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread" (Psalm 37:25). What grace! He declares the wicked to be righteous by the blood of His dear Son, He prepares good deeds for them by His sovereign will, He empowers them by His Spirit, and then He rewards them for what they have done as if they had done it. What grace! What grace! What marvelous grace! In such grace, we will wait upon Him. I would rather be a beggar in the courts of God, than sit in the seats of the mighty in the greatest halls of this present age. I would be the weakest of all His children, that I might see greater portions of His grace. I would be the most incompetent, that I might see greater measures of His strength. I would be the most helpless,

that His strong arm might carry me. I would be the most destitute that His right hand might feed me.

At noon, Darian paid \$33.98 worth of bills. He also discovered that a check for \$150 that we received yesterday was not signed and must be sent back. This leaves us with a total of \$1597.45. I went to the mailbox this afternoon. There were donations totaling \$891. This gives us a total of \$2488.45. We lack nearly \$4,000 to pay the brothers in November. Help must come soon! I have peace.

December 8, 2003

\$655 came in over the weekend and \$1585 came in the mail today. After paying bills of \$39.26, we have \$3131 in cash and \$1558.19 in the bank.

December 9, 2003

Only two checks came in today - one for \$50 and the other for \$4000. Darian deposited \$7181 today. Praise God! This gives us a total of \$8739.19. After paying Romania and several bills that were due, we are left with \$644.25. The support for November has been paid. Praise God.

December 10, 2003

We received a total of \$3074.08 today. \$1800 was designated, so only \$1274.06 can be used for missionary support.

December 11, 2003

We paid \$124.61 in due bills, but received \$1462.63 in the mail. We made a deposit of \$4536.71, giving us a total of \$5056.75.

December 12, 2003

Today \$745 was divided up among the staff to pay due bills. No donations came in today, but we were also notified that we had \$1000 more in the bank than what we expected. We end the day with \$5294.80.

December 15, 2003

\$340 came in over the weekend and I received \$250 for preaching two services in New Hampshire. This morning, Darian made a deposit of \$590 giving us a total of \$5884.80. With this money, we were able to pay the missionaries in Peru, buy the necessary office supplies, and pay due bills.

The Lord provided \$4005.65 in the afternoon mail. \$1000 was designated, but the rest can be used for missionary support.

December 16, 2003

\$1904.22 came in today through the mail and Darian made a deposit of \$5909.87. Today we paid for the printing of our magazine as well as the missionaries in the following countries: Moldova, Paraguay, Siberia, Ukraine, Israel, Zambia, and India. We have \$315.50 in the bank.

December 18, 2003

\$325 came in yesterday through the mail and \$358 came in today. Today \$1210 was divided up among the staff according to need to pay due bills. This will have to be reimbursed to our church before any funds for the missionaries can be sent out. We now have \$315.50 in the bank and \$683 on hand for a total of \$998.50. We are \$211.50 short of paying Monday's debt, and short \$10,745 to pay the missionaries' salaries.

December 19, 2003

\$300 came in today through the mail. We made a deposit of \$983, giving us a total of \$1298.50 in the bank. We were able to reimburse the church \$1210. We are left with \$88.50 in the bank. In the afternoon, an anonymous donor sent \$180 to my mother's house and I gave the money to the mission.

Darian and I are traveling to Memphis this afternoon to pick up my cousin who is coming in to hunt for a few days. He was to fly into Paducah, but the airport was closed for repairs. We had to travel 3 and 1/2 hours one way. The Lord impressed upon us both that He had a purpose in the long drive. When we arrived at the airport we met my cousin and four other people who were stranded. We offered to take them all back to Paducah. On the way, I was able to share the Gospel for over an hour with everyone in the car. They were all very receptive. They also paid for our gas, and unknown to us, left us \$40, which we gave to the mission. Praise God. We now have \$88.50 in the bank and \$220 cash on hand.

December 21, 2003

There was \$1,200 worth of donations in Saturday's mail. \$450 was found slipped under the door of our office. We now have \$88.50 in the bank and \$1870 in cash on hand.

We have been praying for a gun for Mario Salinas, who is a Heart-Cry missionary in the jungles of Condorcanqui in Peru. He will use the gun to provide meat for his family. Today, a dear brother sent us \$200 for the gun. Praise God!

December 22, 2003

\$1525 came in the mail today. We now have \$88.50 in the bank and \$3595.00 in cash on hand.

December 23, 2003

Today, we made a deposit of \$3595 and paid our missionaries in Serbia, Benin, Ghana, and Nigeria. We have a total of \$1318.50 in the bank. We lack paying the Romanians. Yesterday, an additional \$101 was sent to my house, \$1236 came in the mail, and one sister gave us \$100 at our Christmas service for a total of \$2755.50.

December 28, 2003

From the 23rd through the 27th, \$13,311.74 came in giving us a total of \$16,067.24. After paying the missionaries yet to be paid and the staff's salaries for last week, we will close out the month with \$6037.24. Praise be unto God! No missionary has missed a salary and the staff has had no need that God did not meet!



OUT OF AFRICA

Sean and Shannon Reece and their families are working as missionaries among the Lozi tribe. The Lozi are an isolated people group living along the Zambezi River in Western Province of Zambia.

Greetings from Zambia in the name of Jesus, our Wonderful Counselor. Let me apologize in advance for the length of this update, though when you read it, I'm confident you will not regret the time spent. Many of you have read update after update full of trials and disappointments, and have prayed for the day when I could write an update like this one. I have more exciting and encouraging news to tell than I have shared in months, maybe since our arrival in Zambia almost two years ago. I hope you can discern the hand of Providence.

Enoch Joins the Team

I am thrilled to announce that our friend Enoch has officially been recognized as a HeartCry missionary, and will be joining the Lozi Team full-time beginning March 1. Those who have visited us this past year have seen Enoch's gifting, and his role as God's gift to us and the perishing Lozi. In November, we heard that a church dear to us had contacted HeartCry and offered to support Enoch financially. Just last month, the elders of Trinity Baptist Church here in Livingstone agreed that Enoch should be devoted to the work full-time. His assistance accelerates our teaching ministry tremendously.

Seeking the Lord

Shortly after Enoch's addition to the team was official, he, Shannon, and I took a short trip to the bush camp, primarily to be alone with the Lord and seek His will for the Lozi work. As I alluded to in my last update, we are sensing that God may be drastically changing the course that we were pursuing. But we need confirmation - from His Spirit within us, from His Word, from His church, and from circumstances. We spent many hours in prayer and the Word, as well as discussing fresh ideas

and possible options for the work. During our short stay, two significant events occurred, perhaps signaling God's new direction.

First, Shannon and Enoch made a trip to preach in Salamanu village. This village is an hour's walk south of us, and we visited it a few times 18 months ago with Dominic. After one visit where we were begged for things like shoes and cement, and another visit that was canceled because most of the village was drunk, we then got busy with building the bush camp and taught in villages closer to camp. Despite our long absence, Shannon and Enoch were warmly received. The people quickly gathered and stayed to listen to the Gospel even when it started raining (they produced an umbrella for Shannon and Enoch). Shannon strongly emphasized that we were not coming to bring them "stuff" like shoes and cement, but we came to give them the Gospel. The village took the rebuke well and begged the guys to come back.

Second, their reception at Salamanu was sharply contrasted with my reception at Vincent's village the next day. When Enoch and I arrived with Vincent, all of the women went on with their chores, completely ignoring us. Five small children gathered on a mat, facing away from me, and Enoch and Vincent kept chastising the women until three of them finally joined us. Not exactly a warm reception, and this behavior has been duplicated many times in the villages of the Ilwendo area.

A Macedonian Call

We returned from that short trip with about 10 days before our last scheduled team from the States arrived. During that time, I received a surprising call. In my personal devotions, I had just read what I felt was a promise from God, Psalm 32:8 - "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." I shared that promise with my family, and a few hours later my phone rang. It was an unknown num-



ber, which I normally don't answer, but I answered this one and a voice said, "Hello Mr. Reece, this is Gift from Imbwae village". . .

Gift's Story

Now I must back up and tell you the story of Gift, a story I never shared in my updates. In May-June 2008, a year before our move, Shannon and I made a three week trip to Africa with two friends, Rod and Terry, and our South African friends, Jan and Henry. We arrived at Imbwae village late one afternoon and set up camp near the river. The next morning we were tired from traveling, and anxious to spend some time in personal devotions before teaching in the village. As I set off to find a quiet spot for some prayer and Bible reading, I heard someone shouting far in the distance. Just then, a pair of ibis flew over the camp and landed in a dead tree nearby. I walked toward them, trying to capture their obnoxious call on video. As I videoed the birds, I heard the shouting coming closer. Somehow I knew two things - There was something strange about the shouting, and it was coming toward our camp.

Soon a man appeared, coming across the field toward our camp. Inwardly irritated, I moved to intercept him, so at least the others could enjoy their quiet-time with the Lord. Rod saw what was happening and came out to join me. The man introduced himself as Gift, and as he talked it was obvious something was wrong. He was happy and excited one moment, then confused and downcast the next moment. He said he was sick with demons, and asked us to pray for him. To my shame, I prayed a nice Baptist prayer for the man and invited him to our Bible-study in the village, then tried to salvage what was left of my quiet-time.

Gift brought his wife to the morning Bible-study, where he proceeded to regularly inter-

rupt us with his "insights." He did not return to the afternoon Bible-study, and again, to my shame, I was relieved. That night, Jan showed the Jesus Film and Rod preached a gospel message. Gift was there. He approached Rod and pleaded with him, "Please, pray for me. I have demons." Rod came to me, Shannon, and Jan as we were loading film equipment in the back of the truck. "What are we going to do?" He asked. Shannon said, "Jesus is our only hope." Then Jan said, "Yes! Let's go!" We took Gift aside, and he knelt in the sand as we gathered around to pray for him. After some prayer, Gift said that he had five demons and began to name them. Before he could finish, Jan stepped forward with great boldness and said, "In the name of Jesus, we command you to leave." I asked Gift if he wanted those spirits anymore, and he cried "No, I want Jesus! I want Jesus!" We prayed with him and counseled him for a bit longer. It was all so quiet, so "easy" - I wondered if anything really happened, or if the demons were just playing with us.

The next morning at sunrise, Gift and his brother were at our camp, both of them grinning from ear to ear. Gift was completely normal - none of the confusion from the day before. He sat down at our campfire to eat breakfast with us and told us the whole story. When he was born, the "ancestor spirits" chose him to be the next witch doctor. But as a boy in school, Gift excelled as the brightest student. He rejected his "calling" as a witch doctor, and went off to the big city of Lusaka and soon landed a good government job with the Immigration Department. But the Lozi know that to reject the "calling" of the ancestors is certain death. After a couple of years in Immigration, the demons began to drive Gift crazy. He was fired from his job and the family brought him back to the village. For the next 14 years, Gift sank into deeper and deeper madness. In the five years prior to his salvation, Gift was totally irrational. The night before our arrival, Gift

had been running through the village naked, and his family often had to tie him up. In those five years, he barely slept more than an hour each night, and hardly ever ate an entire meal.

On the night of our arrival, Gift says that God told him in a dream that some white missionaries had come to help him. He set out in the middle of the night to find us, and when I met him the next morning, he had been searching for us for hours. He said that he did not know where to find us, but when he heard the ibis calling (the ones I was videoing) God told him to follow the birds. They led him straight to our camp. I cringed as Gift told us that after my prayer and our morning Bible-study he felt much better, but when he went home “the demons beat me again.” He was not at our afternoon study because the demons were tormenting him. But, after we prayed for him that night, he knew the demons were gone. He went home and asked his shocked wife for a full bowl of food, ate it, then laid down and slept eight hours for the first time in five years. After telling us his story, Gift sang a song about how Jesus forgave Matthew, the tax collector who cheated others, and Peter, who denied him, and now Jesus had forgiven him (he calls it his “Repentance Song”). We saw joy, peace, confession of sin, and deep gratitude for grace. But still I was skeptical, and so I said nothing in my update.

The Confirmation

After our arrival in Zambia, we saw Gift’s brother, Kenneth, on our first Kuta trip. It was exactly a year since our visit to Gift’s village, and Kenneth said he was still doing fine. Now, almost three years later, Gift phoned me to tell us that he is doing great, his family is great, and he asked if we could come visit him and bring him some literature. When I asked what literature he wanted, he said anything that would strengthen him. I explained that we couldn’t come to his village across the river until April or May, but that we would be at our camp in a few days and would bring him some literature if he could cross the river. He immediately promised to come see us.

I was filled with joy and hesitation as we met Gift at the ferry and took him back to our camp. Had God truly delivered and transformed him? The things we heard for the next

two hours went far beyond our wildest hopes and dreams. He had walked three hours from his home to the ferry and would have walked another hour to our camp just to see us. He had heard that we were in Zambia, and even that we had passed near his village to pick up Chief Imbwae on our first Kuta trip. He waited and waited, hoping we would come see him. Finally he asked himself, “Do you want to be like the nine lepers who did not return to thank Jesus for healing them?” That’s when he contacted Dom and asked for my phone number.

When we pulled out a Lozi Bible and a stack of small books (Spurgeon “All of Grace”, Piper “50 Reasons” and “Seeing & Savoring”, Jim Eliff “Wasted Faith,” “Going Under,” “Pursuing God”, and Paul Washer “One True God”) Gift was shocked. “Are these free?” He asked. Then he said with a huge smile, “THIS is a real treasure! If someone gives you money, it can disappear, but the teaching in these books will last forever.” We discovered that he had only hoped to receive some more study outlines, not books. From his little book-bag, he carefully pulled out the notes from our Bible-study lessons that we had given him three years ago, the morning after his deliverance. I had completely forgotten about that, but he had preserved them all this time in a plastic sleeve, and demonstrated in our conversation that he had read them many times.

We asked if the demons bothered him any more after that night three years ago. He said no, then added, “I’m no longer afraid of demons. I think they are starting to be afraid of me.” He joked that the devil was not happy with him and had tried hard to discourage him.

Would you believe that within two years of his deliverance, Gift was the most successful farmer in his area? His family never knows hunger now, and he actually produces enough surplus to sell maize to the government food program. Government agriculture officials actually came to his farm last year because it was such an outstanding example of conservation farming. Out of the entire Sesheke district, Gift was chosen this year to go to Malawi and Zimbabwe for further training in conservation farming. Then farmers in the district will come to him or he will go to them to train them. Everyone in his family and village are amazed. No one escapes the “ancestors” punishment. Gift should be dead. No one has ever recov-



ered from 14 years of madness to become such an incredibly successful farmer. Some are even asking what higher purpose might be in store for Gift. I did not sense any pride in Gift for his farming accomplishments, only a deep sense of wonder that God would bless him so much.

I asked Gift if he thought maybe he was supposed to teach more than just farming. He knew exactly what I meant, and said, “It’s not easy for me to walk up to someone and ‘preach’ the gospel. Maybe they will think I am sick again. I see that I must learn now. I am in school, but maybe I will graduate soon.” Shannon and I almost fell out of our chairs in shock at some of the things he said. He has a beautiful grasp of God’s sovereignty in his life. He sees now why God allowed the demons to drive him mad, and why he lost his good Immigration job and came back to the village, because, “I could’ve gained the whole world and lost my soul.”

Gift asked us profound questions, expressing theological concepts that we could not believe were coming from a Lozi man in the village. “If Christ took our wrath on the cross (his exact words!), then why does the Bible still speak of a judgment to come?” “If Christ abolished the Law on the cross (again, his exact words!), then why do some ‘churches’ still follow the Old Testament food regulations?” Gift is clearly highly intelligent, and has been contemplating deep things. Can you imagine the consequences of placing in his hands a book like Spurgeon’s “All of Grace”?

The question of food laws came because he has been meeting with the Seventh Day Adventists. He told us that he used to be New Apostle, but the ‘preachers’ are busy drinking beer and going to the witch doctor. Only two “churches” in his area forbid such behavior - S.D.A. and Jehovah’s Witnesses. It broke my heart to hear that Gift has three options for “church” - a false

religion that condones drunkenness and witchcraft, or two false religions that at least forbid these activities.

If God allows, Gift will soon have a fourth option. His village is at least three hours from our camp and four hours from Livingstone, but we would be absolute fools not to disciple this man. Now here’s what really hurts. We could have been answering his questions for two years, but our time and effort was consumed with establishing our bush camp. Yeah, I know, God’s providence . . . But it really causes one to wonder - does God really want the next two years consumed with building our homes in the bush? Should Gift, Mweemba, and others on the east side of the river wait two more years before we can seriously attempt planting churches in their villages? I’m having a hard time seeing that as His will.

Salamanu Requests a Church

Our meeting with Gift was not the only exciting development on this trip to the bush. We spent three and one half days doing a shortened, intense run through the Lozi children’s catechism in Salamanu - morning and afternoon sessions each day. By the third day, we counted almost 70 children and perhaps 20 men and women attending. Of course the children loved it, and the village could not get enough of Enoch’s original Lozi songs. But what surprised us most were the men. Although it was a program primarily for children, and often taught by women, the men in Salamanu defied their culture and came to every session. They even brought notebooks and pens and took notes! One young man brought out a stereo, powered by solar panel & battery, and recorded Enoch’s songs and some of the lessons!

After one session, while we were still working with the kids, the men of the village called

Enoch and Vincent over. They said to Enoch, "Please, you must try to start a church in our village. Don't worry that you must go back to Livingstone and cannot always be here. If you will teach us, we will continue meeting." Remember that promise from God - "I will teach you in the way you should go"?

We could not help contrasting Salamanu with Ilwendo. During the catechism lessons in Ilwendo in August, almost none of the men came (except our workers). Some in Ilwendo have asked us when we will build a church building, but none have asked us to come teach them (except Vincent and Robert). There is an

interest, almost a pleading, in Salamanu that we have never seen in Ilwendo.

I know this has been a very long update, so please don't miss that all of this - the call and meeting with Gift, the plea for starting a church in Salamanu, and the sharp contrast with Ilwendo - all of this came in one month, in two short trips to the bush - One of them specifically to seek God's face about His will for the work. And it all comes after 18 months of God resisting our building efforts and eight months of discouragement and uncertainty, questioning if God even wanted us here.



Clarifying the Vision

I think God's will for the future of the Lozi work is quickly coming into sharper focus, but we still seek the counsel and confirmation of fellow Christians whom we respect. Next week Pastor Conrad Mbewe comes down from Lusaka to visit us. He wants to go to the bush with us and see the work firsthand. He is a man of big dreams and practical wisdom, and we are excited at how he may help us see the bigger picture.

Six days after Brother Conrad's visit, my brother Shannon and I and our families will fly back to the U.S. to meet with our brothers at HeartCry. We trust that they can help sift through our observations and those of Brother Conrad and the elders of Trinity Baptist, and we can return to Zambia with a clear vision to pursue in all the strength that God supplies.



INDIGENOUS WORSHIP

This interview was conducted on May 14th, 2010, by telephone. It was transcribed and translated by Trevor Johnson.

Question: What are your general thoughts about worship?

Well, where do I begin? The basic principles of worship do not change cross-culturally: All Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world, in one sense, worship the same way, because there are basic elements of worship that we all practice – universal principles based on the Bible that are found wherever there are true Christians.

The most important of these universal principles is that we bask in the presence of God and enjoy Him and do all we do to glorify Him. Worship, therefore, is centered upon the glory of God.

Although the elements of worship are the same for all Christians, the way/style of worship may vary within bounds and we should not mix up these basic principles, these universal principles, with a permissible variety of styles that we see within different tribes and language-groups.

Our worship in West Java consists of beginning with a request to God to come and be present among us. We pray for God to forgive us our sins and to focus our minds on Him alone, away from all the distractions of the world. We also ask God to direct our prayer so that we would only pray for and do His will alone. We do not want to pray for our own wills to be done, because we must humble ourselves under Him and cheerfully accept all that He sends our way.

Afterwards, we often have people give testimonies, sing songs, utter words of thanks, and give us words from Scripture that they feel particularly impressed to bless us with. We also pray for the sick and we end this time with more

structured prayer after everyone has prayed or testified as they have felt led. I laugh because sometimes this time of testimony is as long as the sermon because many desire to speak about how God has healed them or blessed them or caused their family members to believe. Also, it is a time when the believers can tearfully explain about their latest experience of persecution. Sometimes this is a time in which we cry together. I have cried, too, and I am not a woman.



After this, we read the Scripture. We always include the Psalms in every worship service, and also usually the New Testament, though we do not follow a strict liturgy. Then we preach based upon a portion of Scripture and then pray for God's blessing on all we have done. We worship sitting in a circle on a mat as is normal for the Sunda people to do. We always eat together afterwards and usually people stay all day at our house on Sundays.

[Note: Worship is done illegally in Nunu's garage. They are still an unregistered body (though in a friendly neighborhood). After the service, the church body stays and fellowships at Nunu's house. Ibu Lena, Nunu's wife, and also evangelists Siti and Erni prepare the meal every Sunday].

Pak Nunu is the leader of Asih Pamitran, a church planting team HeartCry partners with in Indonesia. He has been planting churches among his own people for almost twenty years. Over the years, the Lord has taught him a great deal about applying the commands and principles of Scripture in a way that is culturally meaningful to his people.

BY PAK NANU

Question: What do you believe about ways of worship and liturgies?

I have seen both traditional Presbyterian services and also Pentecostal and Charismatic services, and I think there are good and bad things about each.

The strict, traditional liturgy of the Presbyterians in Indonesia gives a good structure and a standard way of worship. But it chokes the life out of many churches and the people begin merely to follow the liturgy, almost in an automatic way as if asleep. It becomes merely ceremony. They are going through the motions (sit here, stand here, say this here). It often does not enter the heart. Plus, this way of worship neither fits with Scripture totally, nor is it a good cultural fit as we try to reach the Sundanese people. Sunda people do not feel close to God in this way.

On the other hand, the Pentecostals and Charismatics are freer and more flexible, and this is a good thing, within bounds. Emotions are allowed, and indeed, true worship truly does make one feel deep emotions. True worship moves one powerfully. Many times Sunda people weep and cannot hold it back when they experience true worship for the first time. I have had tough guys weep when they heard me pray to God in the Sunda language, because they thought that they had to approach God only in the Arabic language using a set form and prayer. "You can pray to God in Sundanese?" They ask. "Ya, of course, God doesn't merely know Arabic," I reply. "He is God of the Sundanese too." At the annual Sundanese retreat, many have gotten up in joy and have begun to weep and spontaneously dance at hearing the Gospel for the first time. I cannot fault them.

However, it appears that for many of the Charismatics, emotion is the main thing. Also, many think that speaking in tongues is neces-

sary as a proof that one is saved. This is false.

I want to say that emotion or lack of emotion is not a proof of true worship; only whether or not a church is following the Bible. Go ahead and cry or not cry if you want. These things are not ultimate proofs.



Question: What do you believe about music?

I have seen churches that use no music at all in worship. It seems as if their worship is incomplete. The Bible seems to command us to sing joyfully and make songs to the Lord. How can our worship be complete without joyous singing to God, since the Bible commands such things and has many examples of such things?

Music is one important tool that God gives to us by which we can help focus our thoughts and emotions on Him. Every tongue and tribe possesses their own style of music, however, it is a shame when every tongue and tribe does not have songs to our God in their own tongue. Part of our job as we spread the Gospel is to try

to glorify God through songs within every culture, and find musical forms that enter deeply into the hearts of the listeners so that they can understand, accept and glorify God as their own God. We must always try to use a people-group's "heart-language" in worship.

In many traditional churches in Indonesia, the people sing songs with European instrumentation and the songs themselves are translated from Dutch or English songs. This often cannot enter deeply into people's hearts, but, instead, proves to the people that Christianity is "Agama Bule" (whitey's religion) and not our own. But the Lord can be glorified with the gamelan and suling (Indonesian instruments), too. So we try to play Sundanese music and use Sundanese postures of prayer in our meetings. Also, we wear Sundanese clothes. We know that God is our God, too, and not merely the God of the Bule (white man).

In the cities, because of globalization, many Western songs have already become the heart-language of some city people. If those churches like Western songs, then go for it. But for the poor in the villages in which we focus, these songs are foreign to them. So we glorify God through Sundanese song, in a format by which the villagers can hear, accept, understand the Gospel, and be moved by its beauty. Understanding is only one part of it. We want people to be attracted and moved by the Gospel.

Question: What do you believe about the Health and Wealth Gospel?

The Health and Wealth Gospel contains a small grain of truth, and that is all.

When a person becomes a Christian, indeed, they are blessed. And if their way of life and their personality changes for the better, then, many times, the new believer can move forward in life. For instance, they improve their business principles and use their money more wisely.

However, the Injil Kemakmuran or Prosperity Gospel is not biblical. Many Charismatics pray for berkat (blessing) and they primarily think of berkat as being a material blessing. They are focused on earthly things and only hope for earthly berkat. They have redefined the

word berkat to be primarily a worldly blessing! Many who follow the Injil Kemakmuran (Prosperity Gospel) believe that if they are healthy then God loves them and if they fall sick, then it is due to sin. If someone is sick, they say, "Ada dosa, ada dosa" (there is sin, there is sin). But Rasul Paulus (The Apostle Paul) says that God afflicted him even though he asked three times to be well. And God gave Paul this thorn as a blessing. Sickness makes us closer to God. Sickness makes us remember God. Sickness makes us depend upon God all the more. And besides, many of our new believers get persecuted once they believe. How does the Prosperity Gospel treat persecution?

Question: What do you believe about Easy-Believism:

Huh? I don't really know what that is...?

But yes, indeed, if we truly desire salvation and truly pray for it, then our God is a gracious God who is pleased to receive sinners. So, I guess it easy to believe, in one sense, because God quickly forgives our sins. He does not act begrudgingly towards us, nor does He make us wait. He is pleased to receive us and heaven rejoices over all who repent.

[Note: Brother Nunu is unaware of easy believism because it is almost non-existent in a climate of persecution. In Indonesia, churches are burned and believers can be beaten and disowned by their families. Most of the missionaries working on Nunu's team have suffered such persecution].

Question: In conclusion, what is the most important aspect of worship?

I just want to repeat that God's presence and His glory are the main things in worship. Sorry, I am not an educated man and I wish I could say something smarter.

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 Marc Glass

Through both difficult trials and steady victories, we are seeing the Lord providentially work things for the good of His people and the advancement of the Kingdom. As I write this update, the Reece families are overjoyed at the progress they are beginning to see in the Lozi work in the Western Province of Zambia. Not only have they witnessed open doors into the work with the Lozi, but they also have a clearer vision in the work as a whole. I will save the details for Sean's report (See page 21), but suffice it to say, after the Reeces' visit to the U.S. in a few weeks for Michael's (Sean and Joyce's son) wedding, they will return to the work with renewed vigor and vision. Praise the Lord for what He's doing.



Continuing on a positive note, Pastor Conrad Mbewe wrote to me a few weeks ago to inform HeartCry about a door the Lord has opened for Kabwata Baptist Church to work with church planters in South Africa. This is an answer to many years of prayer, as Kabwata has prayed that a reformed Baptist work would one day start among the black South Africans. Pray that the Lord would give Pastor Conrad and the leaders at Kabwata great wisdom in starting this work and working through any issues that may arise.

Lastly, pray for Naphtally who is working in Kenya. Naphtally has been going through a difficult trial over the past few months and he needs much prayer to persevere through it. Pray that his oppressors would be silenced and that the Lord would be glorified through this situation.

Asia by Matt Glass

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. They are indeed a fragrant aroma, a sacrifice acceptable to God, and God's means to empower, sustain, and supply His fellow laborers for Gospel ministry (Philippians 4:18). I consider it a privilege to serve our missionaries in Asia, and I feel a sense of blessing when I hear about what God is doing through them. The Lord is continuing the work that He has started, and I am confident that He will complete and multiply it.



As many of you know, the Lord has opened up a door for us to be more involved with Gospel workers in North India and Nepal. As you read this magazine, Brother Paul and I will be visiting missionaries in Lucknow, India, and in the Palpa district of Nepal. Between these two places there are about thirty missionaries who we will possibly begin supporting. Also, I will be visiting seven more missionaries who are working as a team in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, India. As we visit these missionaries please pray that God would help us see what He is doing in these places. It is easy to see only with physical eyes, as Israel did when they chose Saul to be their king. But our great need is to see with spiritual eyes so that we can discern men and women after God's own heart.

Pray also for my family and me. We are in the process of moving to Southeast Asia in order to work alongside a church planting team that HeartCry supports. There are a lot of things to take care of before we leave - applying for visas and language school, shipping crates, arranging hous-

ing, budget, etc. - and we need the Lord's help in all the little details. Most of all, pray for my wife and children. This move will be a great change that will require a big adjustment. More than ever, we are all feeling our weakness and insufficiency. We are a needy family, but thankfully we have a God who is able to meet all of our needs - physical, emotional, spiritual - according to His riches in glory.

E. Europe by Don Currin

The good hand of providence has been evident in the lives and ministries of our brothers and sisters in Eastern Europe. Charles Spurgeon was right when he said, "The keys of Providence swing at the girdle of Christ." When we say that He does all things well, we really mean it, because we continue to witness a glorious tapestry of His sovereign design that has Romans 8:28 written all over it.



For example, our brother, Jon Gireada, in Tereblecia, Ukraine, told me back in December that he had attempted to organize evangelistic events to reach his community for Christ with little results. Over the past year, he had rented the community center in the village for two different evangelistic meetings. One time he invited a gifted minister to preach the Gospel. On another occasion, he had a brother to come and share his extraordinary testimony of conversion. Jon felt that because so few unbelievers attended the events that the amount of money and time that was spent was almost a complete waste.

In the meantime, the Lord was providentially at work. Some of the Orthodox people began coming to Jon to ask him to help with their weddings, wakes, funerals, and prayer for special events. They said they would no longer go to the Orthodox priest because he always charged them a great deal of money.

Brother Gireada saw this as an opportunity for the Gospel, and began to approach the poor Orthodox villagers and tell them that he would serve them without charge. As a result, providence opened an effectual door to Jon, and he was provided the opportunity to preach the Gospel to hundreds of unbelievers at weddings and funerals.

Please continue to pray for the new church plant in Brasov, Romania. Sorin Prodan reports that they have twenty who are now a part of the church. He is presently looking for another place to meet as they are outgrowing his apartment. Also, pray for the Prodans as Sorin's wife, Trish, is expecting their first baby.

On behalf of all our brothers and sisters in Eastern Europe I want to express appreciation to everyone who has invested in their lives and ministries. They have often shared with me that they are strengthened by knowing that you pray for them and their families.

Middle East by Marc Glass

The events in the Middle East over the past month are a cause for both joy and concern. Up to this point, we have witnessed the toppling of the Tunisian and Egyptian governments, with social unrest and rioting spreading like wildfire. It is unclear if the younger generation of Arabs knows what they want in a government, but they have certainly communicated to the world with great clarity what they do not want. Please pray that governments would be established under which the Lord's church would flourish: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone."



A VIEW FROM THE FIELD



Luis Ramirez

Tokyo, Japan

The following reports are an open window through which we may view the reality of missionary life on the field. We encourage you to read through them prayerfully.

"I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the Gospel"

Philippians 1:12

Luis has been serving the Lord in Japan since 2004. He is a native of Lima, Peru, and was once a member of the Church of the Savior in Barranco. He met his wife Nicola in Japan and they were married in 2005. They are primarily laboring among the large Latin American community in Tokyo.

Our Lord Jesus gave us another year to sacrifice our lives with joy for His name and His glory. God is the one holding us here and filling us with His beauty. We thank our Father because in the darkest times, and when the trials of missionary work were heaviest, He mercifully showed us that we do not need anything else but Him. We praise Him because He deserves it, and there is nothing apart from His indescribable power and grace.

It is difficult to realize that in Japan almost nobody knows who Jesus is. It is sad that all the Spanish immigrants who work in the factories here are being molded by this system. Spanish immigrants come to Japan thinking that the financial stability and money will fill them and make them happy. But the god called, "Money" is destroying them without mercy. Factories exploit the health and time of the immigrants, offering them more money if they work more. It is like a drug dealer who knows the addiction that the buyer has. The addiction in this case is the love for money. But God is using all this suffering and frustration to bring Spanish speaking people to Him.

Recently, three ladies came asking for help and expressing their desire to know God. Since then, they have been attending the ladies' Bible studies and we are praying that God will lead their hearts to repentance and faith.

Please pray for Alicia Tanaka and her two children. She has shared with us that God has shown her the greatness of her sin and that she has repented and believed. Pray that she will come to a strong assurance of faith. Also please pray for her husband. He is not a believer, but has now decided not to work on Sunday in order to come to church.

Please pray for Marianella. She is a Peruvian who attended a church in Peru for five years. She told me that her Christian life was just rebellion and pain. So I challenged her to test the evidence of her conversion in the light of the Bible. She was angry at first, but began reading the passages of Scripture that I gave her. She now has a sense of the love of God and a new joy.

Michiko has been attending our Japanese Bible study for one year, and now she has told everybody that Jesus spoke to her heart, that she believes that He is God, and that she wants to know Him more. She has started coming to the services with her children. Please pray that God will protect her and cause to grow the seeds of the Gospel that have been sown within her. We know that the spiritual opposition here is strong and furious. Only 0.3% of the Japanese population is truly Christian.

Sundar Rao

Hyderabad, India

After graduating from Grace Bible College, Sundar primarily worked as a church planter in Gujarat, India. After planting a church, in 2004 he moved back to his native state, Andhra Pradesh. Since moving, God has graciously allowed him to plant another church.

This new year God has given me new thoughts for my life and ministry. His word teaches me that, “My command is this that you love each other even as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command” (John 15:12-14). So this year I promised to my heavenly Father that I will do my best and love the people for His kingdom.

We thank God for using us in His mission work, and our work is taking shape. The Lord has used us in sharing the Gospel in more places and with more people. As you know, I am planting a church in a suburb of Hyderabad, the capital city of Andhra Pradesh. It is a city with nine million inhabitants.

In the month of December, God enabled me to lead a sister to Christ and baptize her. Her name is Kalpana, and she is from a strong Hindu family. Her husband came to the Lord first, and now she has surrendered her life to Christ. God has brought a great change in them. She is the first one from her family to come to the



Lord. Please pray for her that she may stand and be a strong witness for Christ among her family members.

My friend Sunny wanted to do something for God among the Marati people, so we have begun training the Marati church planters and evangelists who have never had formal training. We brought them to Hyderabad for two weeks and taught them various basic doctrines from the Bible. Please pray for this training ministry.

Finally, I want to thank God for HeartCry and the support we are getting for our family needs. I appreciate all the donors who are upholding the HeartCry mission workers through prayer and finances.



Ivan Tassara

Sullana, Peru

Ivan is serving as a professor at the Missionary Baptist Theological Seminary in Sullana, Peru. He also serves in the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) Program. Finally, he also serves in a pastoral capacity at La Iglesia Bautista El Divino Redentor in Sullana.

In the last few months, I have been traveling in the northern Andes and teaching the rural pastors in the “Faithful Men” mobile Bible institute. First, I traveled to the city of Morropon, in the district of Piura, where I taught Hermeneutics. From there, I traveled to Paimas, in the mountains of Piura, where I taught on the Doctrine of Jesus Christ and the Doctrine of Angels. I believe that God was glorified in the conference, and we all received great benefit. I pray each day that the Lord might continue teaching me about His truths, so that I may be a blessing to others.

In the seminary in Sullana, I am teaching Homiletics and the Introduction to Greek. We are using the classic Greek grammar written by J. Gresham Machen. During one of the classes, I preach in order to help the students get strong in their devotional lives. We believe that the most important thing in the life of a servant of our God is his devotional life. Please pray that the Lord will continue to strengthen me so that He may be glorified.



Javier Carhuapoma

Paita, Peru

Javier is the pastor of the Maranatha Baptist Church in Paita, Peru. He also teaches at the Missionary Baptist Theological Seminary in Sullana and helps train pastors in the mountains and jungles.

I give thanks to God that He allowed us to serve Him alongside brother Ivan Tassara in the training of laborers in Paimas. It was a great blessing for me to preach to the many pastors and laymen from the surrounding churches. Most of these churches were planted through the ministry of HeartCry missionary Gilberto Nole.

I also praise God that He allowed me to visit the new work in Bermeja, in the jungles of Cajamarca. I rejoice to report to you that by God’s grace the brothers are persevering. Our Brother Santos stayed with them an entire month to teach them the Word, and now they are very encouraged. When I visited the work, I took clothes for the children and the poorest families. I thank God that He gave me the opportunity to preach the Gospel in the town’s community

center, where many people from all ages were gathered. I also give thanks to God because three more men have joined the church. There are now a total of thirteen adults who are gathering there.

We are praying that God might raise up a pastor for this new work. I have told the seminary students about this need, and there is a young man who is willing to go. His pastor agrees with the calling, and God willing, we will send him during vacation time at the seminary. Please pray for the work. There is a great need for laborers, and the people are very receptive to hearing God’s word. The church has three services each week, and the people are already giving their tithes and offerings.

About HeartCry

Our Statement of Purpose

The chief end of all mission work is the Glory of God. Our greatest concern is that His Name be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun (Malachi 1:11), and that the Lamb who was slain might receive the full reward for His sufferings (Revelation 7:9-10). We find our great purpose and motivation not in man or his needs, but in God, His commitment to His own glory, and our God-given desire to see Him worshipped in every nation, tribe, people, and language. We find our great confidence not in the Church's ability to fulfill the Great Commission, but in God's unlimited and unhindered power to accomplish all He has decreed.

Our Church

The HeartCry Missionary Society is a ministry under the accountability and supervision of several local New Testament churches and 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 quarterly 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.



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Past & Current Issues
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Website features include a “View from the Field” and an 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.

Email Updates

Be sure to receive the latest news and updates from HeartCry Missionary Society by signing up online for the monthly email update. Each issue includes mission reports, latest resources, and preaching engagements by Paul Washer and other HeartCry staff. You may unsubscribe from this list at any time.

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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