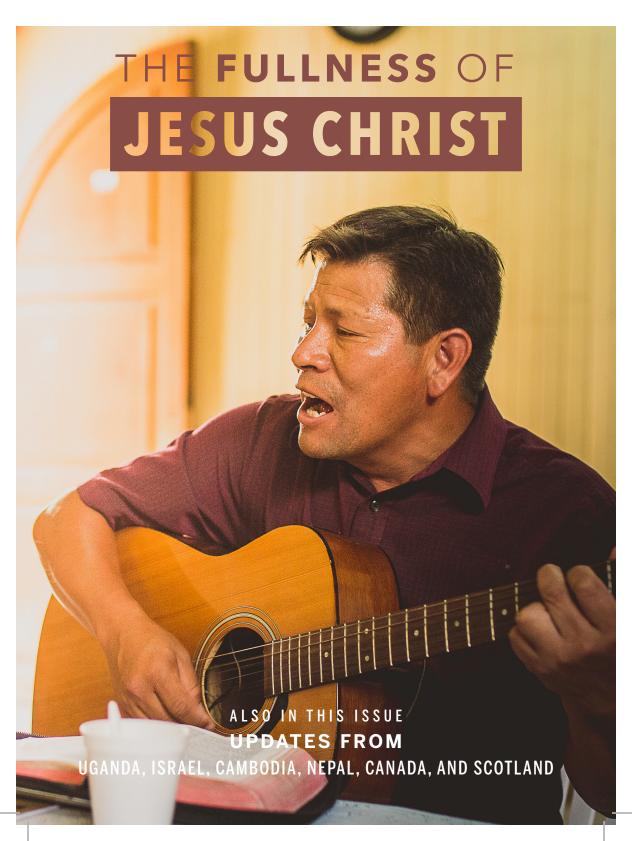
Heart Cry MAGAZINE



GOSPEL URGENCY

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, the adjective "urgent" applies to a task or action of such importance that its completion demands immediate attention. Thus, the urgency of a matter compels a person to give it his full attention and strength. In other words, urgency functions like a whip that drives a horse to run or like a treasure that pushes a man to leave all else to possess it.

It is easy to see how the word "urgent" relates to the Great Commission. First, it is urgent because it is commanded by the Lord of Glory. Did He not say, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15)? Second, the Great Commission is urgent because God is glorified through it. How can we rest when there are countless multitudes on this planet who do not worship the one true God or give Him glory? Should we not labor with the greatest urgency until the banner of Jesus Christ flies over every square inch of this earth (Habakkuk 2:14)? Third, the Great Commission is urgent because of humanity's great need. More than seven thousand people groups on this planet are unreached. In the 10/40 Window alone, more than three billion people are unreached; yet only

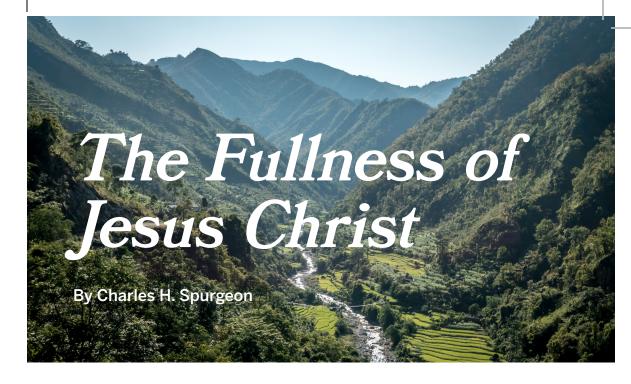
0.1% of church funds are allocated each year to reach them. More than 110 million people, representing more than 1,500 languages, are still waiting for even a portion of the Scriptures to be translated into their language. Fourthly, the Great Commission is urgent because the gospel is the only message through which sinful humanity can be saved. And yet, as the Apostle Paul asked in Romans 10:14-15: "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?"

Regardless of the time or setting, I find myself saying over and over to multitudes of sincere believers, "What part of 'go' do you not understand?" Although not all are required to go, all are required to participate wisely and sacrificially in the Great Commission. William Carey once told a group of pastors, "I will go down into the mine of India, but who among you will hold the rope?" Each of us is called with equal stewardship to either go down into the mission field or to hold the rope for those who do! Either way, there will be scars on our hands. Where are your scars?

The Fullness of Jesus Christ 3 A View from the Field Missionary Spotlight | Uganda | 8 | Israel | 12 | Cambodia | 14 | Nepal | 18 | Canada | 26 | Rejoice! | 32 | Scotland | 30

"They who had no news of Him shall see, and they who have not heard shall understand." - Romans 15:21

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he fullness which dwells in our Lord we may rest assured is sufficient for the conquest of the world. It is not enough for you or for me that only we should be wholly consecrated to Christ; our desire is that the whole world should be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. Never can we be satisfied while there remains one sinner unsaved, one idol upon its pedestal, or one single error to darken the minds of men. For Christ we do not desire our nation alone or only the civilized nations, but we claim for Him the darkest dens of cannibalism and the vilest haunts of piracy. The pennon of the cross shall wave where now black flags poison the breeze; it shall be lifted high where today Hindu gods set up their ensigns; for the Lord God omnipotent shall reign from shore to shore! We have in Christ Jesus all the might which is needed for subduing the nations, for all power is given unto Him in heaven and on earth.

I fear we have, dear brethren, too often been considering the amount of money and the number of men which would be needed; indeed, I remember a remarkable paper being read explaining to us how much expenditure it would require to evangelize the world, a calculation which I regarded as vanity of vanities and nothing more; indeed, if mountains of money were put before us, it might just as well be shoveled into the infernal deep for all the good it could do if regarded as at all essential. Our treasury needs more golden treasure, and—thank God—we have it! Depend upon it, when the Church is fit to be trusted with money, she will have it.

But brethren, for the conquest of the world, the strength lies in the man Christ Jesus; and since in Him all fullness dwells, we have all the necessary power at our disposal.

We are never to say, "Those thieves and criminals are too depraved to be converted," for in our Lord there is the fullness of power to convert the most abandoned. We are not to say, "That alley in the darkest part of the city will never be cleansed from its abominations," for Jesus could cleanse Sodom itself. We are never to leave a tribe of savages unevangelized because

wield them, the might which ensures victory!

The next encouraging fact is that the fullness is in Jesus now. "It pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell" (Colossians 1:19). The glory of the past exercises a depressing influence upon many Christians. "We have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us the wondrous things



they are too degraded, nor are we to quail before an uneducated and subtle nation because it is too skeptical. All power for all cases is in Jesus; He is the armory of the house of David; in Him we shall find a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men. Let us go to the armory, and we shall receive the invincible weapons of our Holy War, yes, and the strength with which to

which Thou didst in their day and in the old time before them" (Psalm 44:1), but we dolefully complain that the golden age of Christianity is over, its heroic times are a matter of history. Indeed, this feeling is transformed into fact, for scarcely any existing church realizes that it can do what its first promoters did. All appear to be quite

sure that these are bad times and but little is to be done in them. The old reproach has ceased because the old ardor which provoked it has cooled down. So far so bad.

I see grave cause for sorrow in all of this. A people are in an evil case when all their heroism is historical. We read the biographies of former worthies with great wonder and respect, but we do not attempt to follow in their steps with equal stride. Why not?

It has pleased the Father that in Jesus all fullness should dwell, a fullness for Paul, a fullness for Luther, a fullness for Whitefield, and—blessed be God—a fullness for me and for you!

All that Jesus has given forth has not exhausted Him. Christianity has not lost its pristine strength; we have lost our faith, and there's the calamity! Oh, ignoble sons of glorious sires, you have degenerated, but not your Master; and, even in your degeneracy, if you would cast yourselves upon your unchanging God, you would rise to more than the strength of your sires and do yet greater things than they! The fullness of Jesus is not changed; why then are our works so feebly done? Is Pentecost to be merely a historic tradition? Are the days of the Reformation to be memories only? I see no reason why

we should not have a greater Pentecost than Peter saw, and a Reformation deeper in its foundations and truer in its upbuildings than all the reforms which Luther or Calvin achieved. We have the same Christ, remember that! The times are altered, but Jesus is the Eternal, and time touches Him not. "But we are not such men as they." What, then, cannot God make us such? Are we weaker than they? The fitter to be instruments for the mighty God! Out with the cowardice which thinks the past is never to be outdone! Is not the Lord of Hosts with us? Is anything too hard for Him? We must labor to eclipse the past as the sunlight eclipses the brightness of the stars.

Now of the things which we have

spoken, this is the sum. We have a fullness in Christ as believers; therefore, we ought to believe in great things. Do not sit down, as some do in the little meeting house where a hundred brethren meet, and expect the Lord to send a convert once in twelve months; and then, when He does send him, worry him by the month for fear he should not be one of the right sort; and then, when he comes in at last, be satisfied in having picked up one solitary soul after twelve months' ministry. Oh, brethren, we have a greater God than this would imply! The little, narrow thoughts which Christians have had as to the success of the gospel cannot have come from a great God, can they? The day was when the very idea of sending the gospel to the heathen was regarded by our orthodox brethren as a piece of Don Quixotism, not to be attempted. God grant these dear brethren new hearts and right spirits; at present their hearts are too

small to bring Him much glory. May they get larger hearts, hearts something like their Lord's; and may they have grace given them to estimate the precious blood at a higher rate, for our Lord did not die to buy a few hundreds of souls or to redeem to Himself a handful of people; He shed His blood for a number which no man can number, and His elect shall excel in multitude even the sands which belt the sea.

Let us have great faith in what God intends to do. Believing these great things, let us expect them.

Be on the lookout for spiritual miracles. Expect to see hundreds converted. Wonder, when you hear a gospel sermon, that the Holy Spirit does not save three thousand by it. "Ah," says one, "I should be very much astonished if He did." I know you would, and that is why we do not see it. When we are as we should be, we shall see greater things than these.

There is no weakness with God. That limping sinew is in Jacob's thigh, not in the angel's. That palsied arm is man's, not God's; no sinew of His arm can decay. Sirs, think you that He who smote the fields of Egypt with plagues is not Lord over idols and King over heathens? Think you that He who divided the Red Sea cannot lead His people like a flock through the wilderness and bring them into the promised possession? Think you that He cannot

bring up His church out of her bondage and set her feet in a large room? The Lord of hosts is with us; therefore, let us expect things. Expecting great things, let us attempt great things. Let us each set about doing something for Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us try what can be done. Let us not, if we are Sunday school teachers, be satisfied with going through the day's lesson and feeling, "There, that will do." Aim at the immediate conversion of every child in the class. Do not let us say as we go round with the tracts this afternoon, "We will leave them and not say a word." Aim at getting a word with every person you meet with about Jesus Christ. As for myself, the preacher, let me come here to preach to you, not with the hope that perhaps here and there one will find a Savior, but with an earnest cry to heaven that He will comprehend in the lines of His electing and redeeming love the whole mass of you!

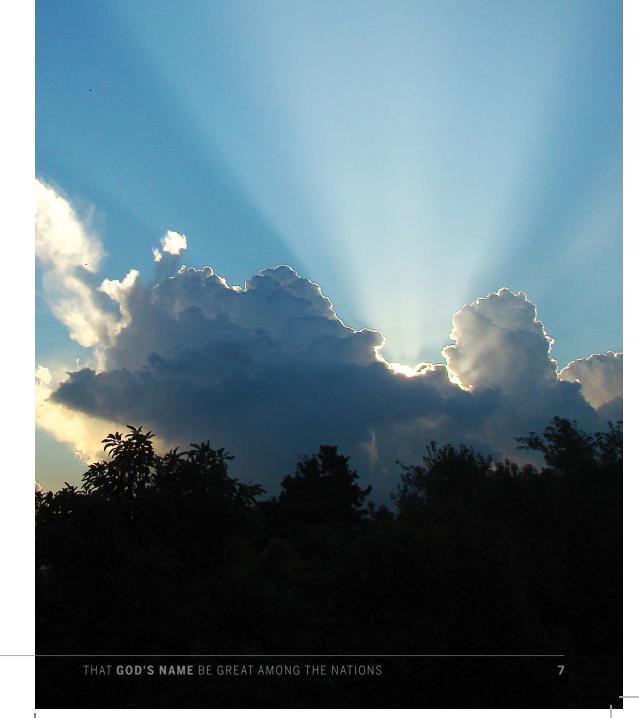
Last of all, let us not talk about this, but let us set about it. Shall we never have in our midst men who will go among the heathen to preach Jesus Christ? Young men and young women, will you not consecrate yourselves to the Lord and go into exile for His sake? Will you not consecrate yourselves to be whole burnt offerings unto Christ, for Him to live, for Him to die? Oh, soldiers of the cross, will you loiter in the march? The enemy still holds citadels which belong to Christ, and you by a desperate push may seize them! Swift as eagles and strong as lions, press onward and win the victory. Why do you hesitate? The powers of evil linger not; the hosts of hell are raging; they call up all their strength

against the Lord of Hosts. Will you stand back? Have you no courage? Has the Spirit of God departed from you? Oh, let it not be so! May God launch us upon the enemy like thunderbolts from His own omnipotent hand, and yet may it be seen throughout the world that there are men who have received of the fullness of the Crucified One, who therefore can

give it forth to others and point them to Him in whom the Father is wellpleased that all fullness shall dwell!

Taken from Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit (Vol.20, pp. 232–240); arranged, abridged, and minimally edited for grammar by Forrest Hite.

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By Bill Issa - Kampala, Uganda

One of the most challenging parts of planting a church is developing leaders. Evangelism, preaching, organizing meetings—these can be relatively easy compared to teaching, training, and discipling men, and then discerning and nurturing their gifting and calling. Bill Issa in Kampala, Uganda, is busy doing just that. I have had the pleasure of meeting with his men more than once. One extremely helpful tool in leadership training is the pastoral internship at Kabwata Baptist Church (Pastor Conrad Mbewe) in Zambia. One of Bill's deacons completed that internship last year, and another man from Kampala is currently an intern. In this article, Bill gives us the amazing back-story of these two men.

n 2014, after the Lord opened our eyes to the truth of Scripture, we made ourselves busy to reform our Pentecostal church (Reconciliation Outreach Ministries) to conform with the truth of Scripture. A young man who had just joined our church, Emmanuel "Emma" Mukisa, was serving as the leader of the Scripture

Union in a nearby school. Emma was left tongue-tied by the doctrines of grace that he had been exposed to in our new Reformed Baptist Church; he invited me to go and preach the same truth at a Scripture Union function.

After failing to get an emcee for the event, Emma was forced to request a proud, talented, and irreligious young man named Marvin to help him with that task. This is what Marvin himself wrote in his testimony of conversion that we sent to Kabwata Baptist Church with his intern application:

"My journey to salvation dates back to the days nearing my completion of high school in 2014. I was asked to serve as a master of ceremony for the Scripture Union club, a Christian club that I never attended. However because the club did not have anyone to represent it on this occasion, and because it was an opportunity to stand out and be recognized, I offered to do it. Not because I was a Christian, but because it appealed to my pride."

I knew Marvin's reputation as a proud young man, as I used to teach at that same school. In fact, I had been chased from that very school because of my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and almost everyone in the school—students, teachers, administrators—despised me so much because of Christ. Although Marvin joined the school after I had been dismissed, he also developed a strong hatred against me like others, without any reason. Then the time came for Marvin to invite the one he hated to come and preach. This is what he says about that day:

"Now the turning point came after listening to the singers and preachers who encouraged students to accept Christ in order to have improved and comfortable lives. It was now time to listen to the last preacher of the day; my mind was already set to hear more of the same, thinking that all Christian preachers speak the same things. To my surprise, the last preacher corrected

everything the previous speakers had said, and all that he spoke was way different from the previous messages. In fact, it was shockingly different from anything that I had ever heard called the gospel!

"I must admit that one of the reasons I gave time to listen to this particular preacher was the fact that he was a man that I despised a lot. Though I never had personal dealings with him, he was previously a teacher at this very school and had been given a number of nicknames from his former students. This was my opportunity to see the man that everyone mocked.

I do not recall the details of his sermon, but it was definitely not the prosperity preaching that I was used to. I did not receive the message as saving truth that day, but his words continued to trouble my mind for a couple of months afterward, and I hoped that one day I would meet him again so I could ask him many questions.

"On one of the days, as I prepared for my final high school exams, I left school a bit early and headed home. On reaching home, I decided to have an evening walk; to my surprise, I met Pastor Bill also having an evening walk. As we passed each other, I recognized him, but he did not know me.

He told me that he was a new resident in the area so he was walking around to get used to the new place. Thank God for bringing us together!

"In our conversation that followed, I accused him of dividing the Christian faith by preaching contrary to the common contemporary preaching. I am grateful to the Lord that He used this very encounter to open me to the truth through a clear presentation of His Word, and I am glad that the Lord used His servant to teach me patiently these treasures. This encounter lasted for about three hours; afterwards, Pastor Bill invited me to church on Sunday. I failed to honor that invitation for about a month, but later complied. Since then, I am grateful that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord has taught me a lot about His love for all His saints and,





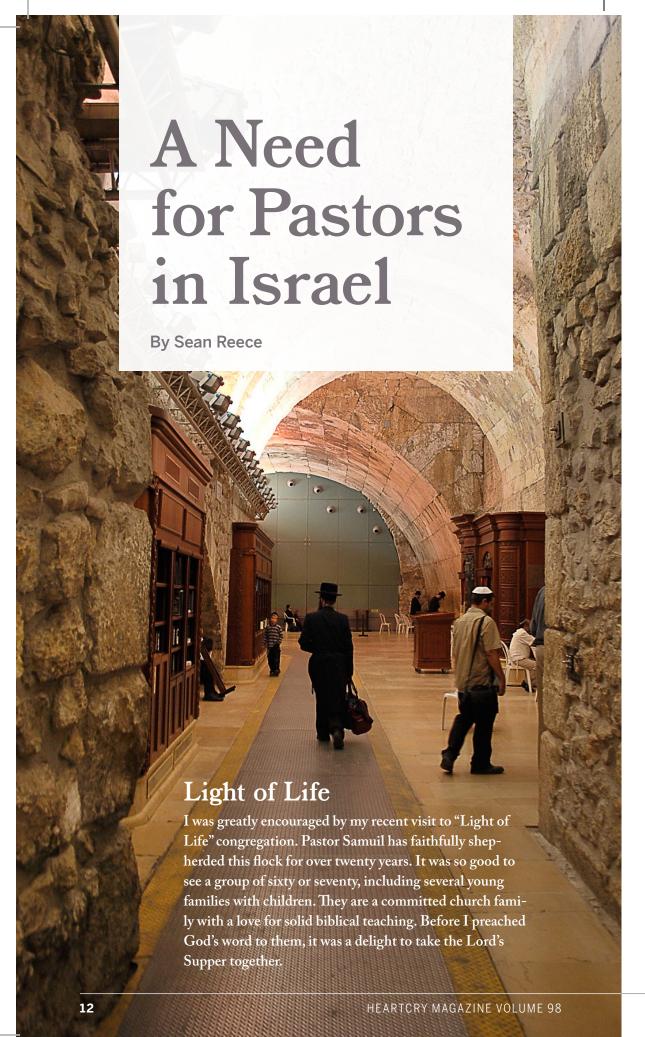


above all, that His saving grace is not based upon anything in me but only upon the redemptive work of Christ Jesus. I am also thankful to the Lord for everyone He uses to faithfully preach His Word."

Marvin has been wonderfully transformed by the Lord and is now serving his Redeemer as one of our deacons. He recently returned from Kabwata Baptist Church (Lusaka, Zambia), where he spent twelve full months being sharpened by our beloved brothers there. Shortly after his return, I gave my evening service pulpit for Marvin to share the Word with us and...wow, wow, wow! It was amazing what I heard coming from him! The message, the boldness, the zeal—everything was good! Our Zambian brothers did a great job indeed. Glory to the Lord. Throughout his sermon, his testimony kept running in my mind. I felt both joy and fear inside me because of what Christ can do when His Word is faithfully preached.

One final amazing part of this story—Emma, whom the Lord used to invite me to preach and Marvin to emcee his Scripture Union function, has now replaced Marvin at KBC's 2019 Pastoral Internship Program in Zambia! Marvin returned to Uganda on December 30th, 2018, and Emma left Uganda on January 2, 2019. Is this not amazing, friends!

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Samuil has entered his seventies, and his health is not what it once was. As he contemplates retirement, he is making an intentional effort to prepare the next generation of leaders for the church. Samuil is blessed with a strong handful of men into whom he is pouring his doctrine and pastoral experience. One of these men is a former professional soccer player, now a coach, whose love of the game is now being overshadowed by his love for Christ's church. This man's son, currently finishing up his military service, is also very active in working with the young people in the church.

Please pray for Samuil and these men as he seeks to implement II Timothy 2:2 and train elders into whose hands he can commit this precious congregation.

Tel Aviv

Equally encouraging was my visit to a church pastored by "Tim J." in the Tel Aviv area. Tim has a fascinating back-story. He was an American missionary in Iran during the Islamic Revolution and managed to safely exit the country. As his ministry in Iran developed, it had become largely focused on Iranian Jews. There was quite a large population of Jews in Iran at the time. In fact, our dear friend David

actually grew up in Iran.

Tim's ministry to Jews eventually led his family to settle in Israel after leaving Iran. In time, David's church (Grace and Truth Congregation) sent Tim as a church planter. Like Samuil, Tim's congregation now has around sixty people, with a healthy mix of ages. And, like Samuil, Tim is giving a great deal of thought to the future. He is not quite Samuil's age, but he would certainly love to see the church handed off to a younger, Hebrew-speaking, Israeli pastor.



The Need for Well-Trained Young Men

Some in Israel are seeing an openness to the gospel among young people, military and university age, that has not been seen in older generations. In the years to come, this younger generation of believers will need pastors for their churches. These future pastors need training and tools for ministry. This highlights, yet again, the crying need for excellent books in modern Hebrew to help pastors better understand and teach the Bible.

Please pray for Pastor David Z. and HaGefen Publishing as they strive to translate and print these much-needed Hebrew resources. Visit HaGefen's website www.ha-gefen.org.il/en to learn more about their vital publishing ministry.

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Pastor Kien Proom and his wife Sopee are serving Christ in Cambodia. HeartCry is thankful to God for the mercies He has shown to Kien and Sopee and the newly planted church, which we highlighted in the last magazine issue. We are glad to be able to give you another update on the work God is doing in this fishing village.

he previous month has brought many blessings to us in this area of Cambodia. I have been so encouraged by the powerful assurance in Romans 8:26-34 that the blood of Christ saves us! No matter what happens, Jesus and the Holy Spirit intercede to the Father for us!

Our little village here is called Moat Klah, which in English means, "The Mouth of the Tiger." It is interesting to think that now that we have a church here, God's Word is in the mouth of the tiger! About two months ago, intense monsoon storms came through the lake and damaged our church building in several areas. We continued to meet, but now we

are praising God for His provision to us through HeartCry. HeartCry gave us the funds to make the repairs that were needed. Ten new big plastic barrels were purchased to strengthen the flotation of our church and replace the old, rusted iron ones, and the damaged metal siding was also replaced. Now the wind and the rain cannot come into our church. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for working through HeartCry to help us in this remote village of Moat Klah!

As if this were not enough joy for us all in one month, we are also praising God with great pleasure over more of His provision to us! Yay Goong, whom we call "the Evangelist Grandma," has such a heart to go and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with people in villages that have never heard before. She is always faithful to tell others about Jesus and to give them excellent gospel tracts that we supply her. After each trip, she comes back to tell me about the latest new believers in these villages so that we can pray for every one of them.

About two months ago, her boat was severely damaged; repairing it would have been almost as expensive as getting a different boat that was not so

old and worn out. This month, Heart-Cry blessed us with the funds for our "Evangelist Grandma" to purchase a another used boat, which we were able to secure for a meager price. Her new boat is worth a lot more than what we paid for it. Another blessing! A good used boat at a great price!

I am a little embarrassed to say that I was starting to become anxious because we were almost out of Bibles in our church.

New believers have been added to God's church lately, and I was tempted to hold on to the last few Bibles—I was afraid of running out! But God knew everything that was in my mind, and He answered me with an entire case of Bibles that was brought to us! God is so merciful to His church!



Something different that I received this month was a punch in the eye! A woman in our church named Mrs. Li became a believer not long ago. Her husband and her son are not happy with her now that she follows Jesus. My wife and some other women from our church planned to go with me to share the gospel in some villages about two hours from here by boat. Mrs. Li wanted to go to learn how to share the gospel. Her husband came as we were preparing to go and was very angry with us. I tried to talk to him and reason with him, but suddenly he attacked me and hit me in my eye.

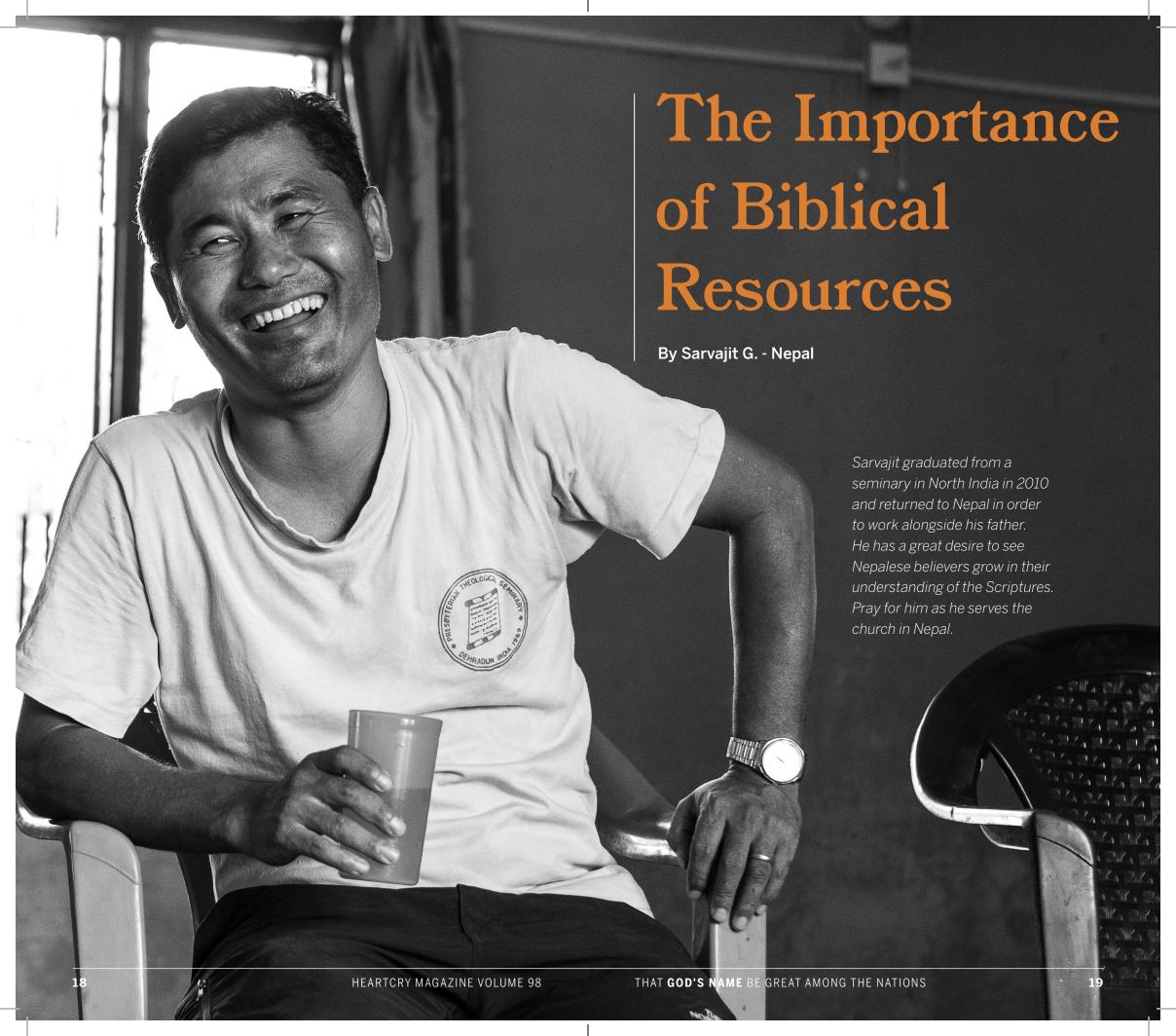
I wanted to punch him back because I used to be quite violent in the past before God saved me and changed my heart. Many people saw this incident; for a while, I was concerned that the men would think that I acted in weakness by not fighting back. Even though I was tempted to respond in violence, God gave me the strength to respond with restraint. Quickly, I thought of Jesus dying on the cross, having to endure all God's anger against sin, including my sin. And then I remembered, "It is finished!"

For those of us who share the gospel of Jesus, no matter how much people persecute us, remember that God knows. So stay active in the faith, and go on with what God has entrusted us to do! May the Lord Jesus be with you all.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for God to increase my humility and to help me not to be angry when trials come.
- Please pray for God to raise up a man in my village who can read well to partner with me in sharing the gospel.
- Please pray for help for me to spend more time praying and reading the Word. I plan to spend an hour praying and reading two chapters every morning. I want to get up at 3:00 AM, before the boat starts moving around from the wake of the boats of the fishermen driving by fast. The loud noise and the motion disturb me while I am trying to study. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to help me to get up early and to focus on God's Word.







reetings in Christ our Lord!
We are so thankful to the
Lord for your continued
prayers for the gospel work in Nepal.
Your support has been a tremendous
blessing for many brothers and sisters
here. One of the blessings in the life
of the Nepalese people is your help in
translating and printing solid books.

As you know, we have limited access to solid biblical books in our own Nepali language, so any books that are translated are extremely useful in this needy land.

I can testify that these books have blessed the lives of many people.
Through them, the people are slowly understanding what a biblical church looks like.

The pastors we are training are also being challenged and encouraged by these books, and God has used them in the lives of many families. Praise God for the authors, publishers, financial supporters, translators, printers, and prayer partners.

Recently, we completed the translation and printing of *Church Membership* and *Church Discipline* by Jonathan Leeman. We were able to print a thousand copies of each, giving a couple of hundred to like-minded churches in Kathmandu.



In our fellowship, Grace Church Butwal, we have been studying the church membership book every week after our weekly meeting. This book has been helping our local church members understand their responsibility, accountability, and the serious nature of the church. To be honest, I myself have been challenged and have come to understand deeper truths

while receiving practical help concerning the local church. I pray that as we move forward in this study, the Lord will help us put each of these truths into practice.

Please continue to pray that God would use these solid tools in our local church. Once again, I would like to thank the HeartCry supporters for your continued prayer and support of the gospel work in Nepal.

We have several projects that we wish to complete in the near future. We have a book on conversion, which is in proofreading stage. After this, we are looking forward to translating Paul Washer's series of books on the gospel. Please pray for these projects!

gospel work in Nepal. Thank you!

May He receive all the glory in this

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Testimony of Conversion

I came to know the Lord in 2005. Before that, I was a supporter of the communist groups in Peru. For many years I denied our Lord Jesus Christ and was a blasphemer, living as wickedly as possible. However, after a particular period of sin in my life, there came to my heart such an affliction that it could not be expressed with words. It was an affliction that pre-

vented me from having any peace, and I even came to the point of wanting to do harm to my body.

I did not understand it at the time, but now I see that it was the Lord beginning to deal with me in His mercy. Unsuccessfully, I made every attempt to figure out why it was that I felt the way I did, to find out from where this affliction was coming. Eventually, having no other alternative, I remembered

an invitation that a co-worker had extended to me three months earlier to attend a church service. It was amazing that she even had the courage to invite me, because I had previously mocked her for her faith. It had been several months since I was asked to go, but now I could not get the idea out of my head.

So, I went to the church one Sunday in September of 2005. As I heard the Word of God preached, I was

inexplicably and miraculously relieved of all my affliction. I could not explain what was happening to me, but I did know that simply hearing the Word of God brought peace to my heart. I began to go to church every Sunday, longing to hear the Bible taught again. For three months I continued going to the church. I understood little of what I heard; I only knew that I felt peace, and so I went. This lasted until one Sunday in December during a simple sermon when I heard the preacher speak of the condemnation of sinners. His words had such an impact on me that I kept thinking about it all week.

At some point during that week, the veil was removed from my eyes; I saw the reality of my sin. I began to weep and ask for forgiveness before the Lord for all the sins that I had committed in my life.

I saw that the only solution for my sin was Christ. That same day, I went to look for the pastor to tell him that I was now trusting in Christ.

Call to Ministry

Throughout the years since my conversion, the Lord has led me through difficult paths, but each of them has been for my edification. From the very beginning, the Lord put a desire in my heart to share and teach the Word of

God. I saw so much false teaching all around me, and I wanted to understand and teach the biblical doctrine of salvation in Christ. There was still so much about the Christian life that I did not understand; a few months after my conversion, I began to ask the pastor some of these questions. He told me that my questions made him uncomfortable; as a result, he kindly asked me to leave the church. It was a very difficult blow for me as a new Christian.

From that moment on, the Lord has placed in my heart the desire to teach pastors, like the one who had just asked me to leave his church. The Lord gave me a desire to learn in order to be able to help those pastors that could not attend seminary. I wanted to see them further develop in the ministry that the Lord had given them. The Lord has led me, and He has given me the opportunity to further prepare myself for ministry. I have been able to serve in several churches and have also taught in the theological seminary in Lima (CTB). The Lord has now given me the opportunity to pastor the church in San Martin de Porres, and I pray that He might be glorified through my efforts.

Recent Update

One of the greatest privileges the Lord has given us as believers is to share His Word and especially to do so with people who do not know the gospel. However, it is very sad when I discover that fellowships that are supposedly Christian do not preach Christ and that those who attend do not know the gospel.

This month I received an invitation

to preach the Word in a congregation that teaches what is known as the "prosperity gospel," which really should not be called a "gospel" at all. At first, I was going to decline the invitation. But the more I thought about it, the more my heart was moved with a burden to go. Perhaps there were some people there that the Lord would save and that were waiting for someone to come and preach the gospel to them. I continued praying for a couple days more; when the church contacted me again, I accepted their invitation.



It was wonderful to see the hand of the Lord move on that morning. He brought two men to repentance. They were broken over their sin and were weeping, but they also looked to Christ and believed that there is salvation for them in Him.

how it represents the gospel. We are praying that the Lord would continue to open these kinds of opportunities

I do not know if there were any other

people who were affected by the gos-

Word of God never returns empty!

I have another opportunity to

same denomination this week. They

asked me to come and speak on the

topic of marriage. It is a wonderful

opportunity to speak to them about

God's design in marriage and about

preach in a different church of the

pel that morning; all I know is that the

for us to share His Word with those who are not yet believers.

I have also been able to witness the Lord's hand at work through the house meetings we have in different parts of the city. Not only do the meetings serve as an encouragement for the brothers and sisters of the church, but it has also been an opportunity to share the gospel with different visitors. I have been able to see people confronted with the Word of God, and some have come to a true understanding of the gospel! I have witnessed the radical change that the gospel has produced in their lives.

One of the people who was recently converted in the context of these meetings is a lady who was part of the Jehovah's Witnesses. From the time she was a little girl, she had been taught in that context; but by the grace of God, some of the sisters from our church were able to meet her and speak with her about the gospel when a group had gone out to share the gospel in the streets. They invited her to come to the home group, and she

When she visited the group, we were studying the book of Ruth. We talked about how Boaz is a type of Christ, who desired our redemption and became our Redeemer.

It was in that study. as we looked at the way in which Christ accomplished our redemption, that this woman began to cry in view of the sacrifice Christ made in His great love for us—His great love for her!

Since that time, she is showing great growth and interest in knowing more of Christ. She has begun to pray for her family, since all of them are still part of the Jehovah's Witness cult. We know that God is good, and we trust that He will help us get the gospel to her family also. We are continuing to pray that the Lord would be glorified as He saves more people through the evangelism in the streets and through these home groups.



nce again, I would like to thank all who pray and support the work here in New Brunswick, Canada, which is very liberal and tolerant towards sin. We are truly blessed by God through your prayers and giving. I would like to give a brief overview of God's work here over the past thirteen years, specifically looking at evangelism (engaging people boldly and compassionately with the gospel of Jesus Christ) and some of the genuine conversions we have seen. There have been multiple conversions since the plant began. Some of these brothers and sisters have already gone on to be with the Lord. Please keep in mind, the town where we live has just a little over 750 people. There

are two neighboring towns on each side with similar populations. These are logging communities.

I will begin with a man named Winston, who was put in the hospital last week after suffering a stroke. His wife is a believer. He dropped her off and picked her up from the church, but he himself never attended. Many pastors over the years have been intimidated to talk to him on account of his directness. I went to see him in the hospital and asked him if he knew the Lord. He could not talk, but he harshly shook his head "no!" I asked him if he wanted to know the Lord, and again he strongly indicated "no"! I got down and whispered in his ear that he should want to know the Lord, for he will be

standing before him in a few days to give an account for his life. I shared the gospel with him a few times very plainly.

His countenance changed from being brave to having godly sorrow, which led to his repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. He died in peace three days later. I have had several of those types of experiences over the years.

In November 2013, a young lady named Melita (now my daughter-inlaw) was on her way to another church before deciding to stop at our church that Sunday. She came under strong conviction of the Holy Spirit that morning and realized that she was a false convert. She was gloriously converted. As a result of her conversion, four months later, her brother was also born again. Their uncle Dave, when he saw the change in their lives, realized he too was lost. He came to Christ in June of 2014 on a Friday, and his wife Rhonda was converted the next day. They had been attending our services for about four weeks when this took place. Dave's son and his daughter Cassidy came to Christ within a few

weeks after that. As a result of this, Melita's grandfather Winston was also awakened. Then her mother Angela was converted the next fall, followed by Angela's father Glenny. Then Cassidy had a strong witness to her other grandfather. I too went to him several times. He was a very hard man, but after sharing the gospel with him for several months, he too was converted. He has since gone to be with the Lord. Finally, in the last year, Melita's father Ritchie has also been truly converted. I will baptize him and others very soon.

At least seven of those converted in this family were previously convinced they were heaven-bound, when in fact they were lost!

Praise be to God!

Last summer, my wife Lisa and I went to a local restaurant, and I witnessed to a man named Peter for over an hour. I saw him a week later and reminded him of our former conversation. I prayed urgently for him for a week. The next Sunday he showed up to the church service. Five weeks later, he was gloriously converted; like the others, he continues to walk with Christ and to declare boldly what Christ has done for him.

A few years ago, I witnessed to a lady named Liane, along with her two children, Brett and Jonah. Along with another brother, I continued to speak truth to her; after a year and a half, she repented of her sin and believed on Christ. She has faithfully been devoted

to Him since.

Another time, I stopped and talked to a lady named Patricia. I meant only to ask her about her brother, but I could tell something was wrong. I asked her if she knew what Christ had done for her and shared the gospel. She was broken. A few weeks later she responded to the gospel and has been faithfully following Christ ever since!

I witnessed to Mitchell regularly and prayed for him for ten years until at last he was converted on a Sunday two years ago when Mack Tomlinson was preaching at our church. His wife Anita was converted a few months before. They are both walking faithfully and serving Christ. By grace, Mitchell's father and mother were both converted through this ministry over ten years ago!

Another guy, who professed to be born again, was helping me put up sheetrock in our newer facility. After hearing Paul Washer's "Shocking Youth Message" three times in a row, at about 2:00 AM, he looked at me and said he was lost. He was gloriously converted. Several years ago, a young woman named Beth started coming to the church. At the end of a church service, she cried out that she wanted to be saved. I immediately started discipling her and her live-in boyfriend, who was the father of their two children. After about five months, he was also converted! She had no further union with him until after his conversion, after which they were married. They are both faithful followers of Christ and are training and instructing their children (now four of them!) in the ways of the Lord.

These are people for whom we



prayed daily, to whom we witnessed repeatedly, begging them to repent and to be reconciled to God through Christ. Many times we labored with tears. We keep the language very plain and direct and repeatedly visit them. There are several other examples as well for which time does not allow.

I have been training Rob Greenwood, who we are hoping will plant a church in Miramichi City soon, Lord willing. We go to several people each week, pray for them, and constantly plead with them to repent and believe the gospel. We go until they are either converted or tell us not to come back. Once again, thanks for letting us be a part of HeartCry; your prayers and financial support have been real Godsends to us here!

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Andy Prime:

Recently, my daily Bible reading took me to John 6. I was struck again by the fact that the chapter begins with large crowds exceeding five thousand people following Jesus, but ends with many turning away from Him. Jesus is left with His twelve disciples. It turns out that scores of folks loved following Jesus because of the po-



tential for healing and for full bellies, but many found Jesus' teaching hard and offensive. This hard teaching caused them to walk away from the gospel: the truth that to receive eternal life one must "feed on Jesus' flesh and drink His blood." Many in this chapter come for free healthcare and a free meal but leave when the gospel is proclaimed. To use Jesus' phrase, they lap up food that perishes, but they turn their noses up at the food that endures to eternal life. So, from that, let me offer some things you can pray for us at Gracemount Community Church:

- Our Priorities: In a community like ours, it can be tempting to seek to meet people's present perishable needs: food, shelter, friendship, community, access to services, help into employment, etc. Pray that our priority would always be to present the imperishable food of the gospel as people's greatest need.

- Our Perseverance: Pray that we would keep plodding on, even when scores of people seem to come for a time and then walk away from Jesus when the teaching of the Bible gets hard. It can be hard to keep going.
- Our Confidence: Pray that our confidence in sharing the gospel would be in our heavenly Father giving people to His Son and in Jesus losing none of those whom the Father gives Him.
- Our Members: Pray that the members of GCC, when tempted to follow the crowds walking away from Jesus, would have an attitude like the disciples to say, "Lord, to whom else would we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Pete Stewart:

It has been a busy of time in Barlanark with many joys and many trials coming from our Lord's sovereign hand. We hope this will give a helpful update for you and will inform your prayers for the months ahead. We are grateful for your partnership in the gospel!

The Lord continues to add to His church here with two new families joining us in membership and another three people to be baptized: a local lad who professed faith when we were youth workers but who has now returned to the Lord and His church; a teenager from a church family who has grown significantly in his year at the church; and another teenager whose family has been with us since last year and has now been granted permanent asylum from Nigeria. Praise God that He continues to build His church here! Pray that the members of our church would together reach out to Barlanark and see more local, indigenous people saved!



Pete Bell is finally starting to make some progress in terms of his health. He has been given a sleep apnea machine; it is starting to help with his fatigue, though his headaches are still severe. My wife Lindsey gave birth to our first daughter (fourth child) at the end of July—what a blessing! Pray that our eyes will be fixed on Jesus and that, individually and as families, we will be growing in Him.

Rejoice!

By Paul Washer

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again
I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle
spirit be known to all men. The
Lord is near." (Philippians 4:4-5)

n hearing or reading such a command—and it is a command—we often want to point out to God (as if He were unaware) that there is a time for everything under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1). There is so much terror and uncertainty around us; surely, this is not the time to rejoice! "The present circumstances do not dictate that we rejoice or have joy," we may declare. It is as if we want to protect our right to be sad, miserable, and distressed. We pronounce all joy in the midst of pain and uncertainty to be superficial and unrealistic; however, such thinking does not come from the mind of Christ! True joy in the midst of dreadful circumstances is never superficial, because joy is never a variable of circumstance but is always completely independent of it. Joy and rejoicing come from faith, which does not depend on things seen (Hebrews 11:1), like circumstances; rather, faith depends on the unseen person and promises of God.

The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Philippians (sometimes called "The Epistle of Joy") while he was in prison for preaching the gospel. The recipients of the letter (the church at Philippi) were suffering from persecution. Yet the word "joy" and "rejoice" are found more times in this epistle (seven and nine times re-



spectively) than any other! Let us look at some of the things the Apostle Paul has to say about joy during trials:

"...always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all..." (1:4)

"What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice." (1:18)

"Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith..." (1:25)

"But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me." (2:17-18)

"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord." (3:1)

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" (4:4)

"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly..." (4:10)

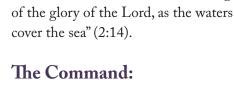
If we were to look for an Old Testament equivalent to the book of Philippians, it would probably be the book of Habakkuk. Habakkuk was a little-known prophet who, as a contemporary of Jeremiah, probably saw the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 597 BC. In the first two chapters of his oracle, Habakkuk argues with God about a couple ageold questions: "Why do bad things happen to good people?" and "God, why don't you do something?" Like most of us, Habakkuk was perplexed about the wickedness, strife, and bad circumstances. He found it hard to believe, much less rejoice in a God who seemed to do so little to correct such things. As an answer to Habakkuk's complaints, God gave three things: a truth, a promise, and a command.

The Truth:

The Lord is God; He is sovereign and reigns over all things. "But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him" (2:20).

The Promise:

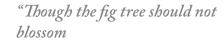
The painful circumstances will not last forever but shall one day vanish in the light of the glory of God. "For the



God's people are to fix their eyes and trust in the person and promises of God, which supersede all circumstances. "But the righteous will live by his faith" (2:4).

It is amazing how knowledge of a truth, faith in a promise, and obedience to a command literally transformed the

sad and bewildered prophet. His bool ends with this great declaration of faith in God:



And there be no fruit on the vines,

Though the yield of the olive should fail

And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold

And there be no cattle in the stalls,

Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation." (3:17-18)

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"The world lives in a time of crisis. Christians alone are in a position to rescue the perishing. We dare not settle down to try to live as if things were normal."

– A. W. Tozer

"If by excessive labor, we die before reaching the average age of man, worn out in the Master's service, then glory be to God, we shall have so much less of earth and so much more of Heaven!"

– C. H. Spurgeon

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