



THE IOOTH EDITION

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

ONE HUNDRED THANK-YOU NOTES, ARTICLES FROM THE FIELD, A GODLY WOMAN

GREETINGS

Welcome to the 100th Edition of the *HeartCry Magazine!* It is hard to believe that we have published a hundred issues, dating back to the 1st Edition way back in September of 1997. We wanted to do something different to mark the occasion and have been preparing this particular magazine for some time. We're very excited to be able to deliver this Special Edition to you! In the pages that follow, you will find:

1) The Hundredth Edition:

An article from Paul Washer reflecting on the history of HeartCry and the *HeartCry Magazine*.

2) One Hundred Thank-You Notes:

Thank-you notes from one hundred men and women across the world, primarily HeartCry-supported missionaries (unless otherwise noted), who have been impacted by your financial and prayerful support of their ministry.

3) Articles from the Field:

A new take on an old idea. Our magazines typically consist of two types of articles: 1) those of a theological, missiological, or devotional nature, typically written by a member of HeartCry's staff; and 2) mission updates from HeartCry missionaries serving on the field. We wanted to merge those ideas in this edition and publish theological and devotional articles written by men serving on the mission field. In this magazine, you will find articles written by men currently ministering in Europe, South America, Asia, and Africa.

4) The Godly Woman:

A callback to some of our earliest magazine editions, where we occasionally included articles written specifically for ladies on topics of godliness and devotion to Christ.

This has been a strange and difficult year, but we hope that this magazine will serve as an encouragement to you that God is still moving and working even amidst our perception of chaos. The Great Commission has not been put on hold, nor has our calling to fulfill it! We remain ever in need of your prayers and ever grateful for them. May the Lord bless you richly!

In Christ, Forrest Hite (Editor)

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

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his is the 100th edition of the *HeartCry Magazine*... the 100th edition... the 100th edition... As I ponder this truth over and over again, it does not make it any easier to believe. Nearly three decades have passed in what seems to be only a few days. The life of man is truly a vapor, and we only have the briefest time to serve the Lord before our race is over.

Through the years, there have been so many battles, so many deliverances, and so many reasons to give praise to the God of grace. From the beginning to the present, every good that can be found in this ministry and in the pages of this magazine has been the result of the faithfulness and graciousness of God. There are no great men of God—only little, impotent, and failing men of a great and merciful God! There is only one Hero in the story of HeartCry and the history of the Church, and that Hero is Jesus Christ!

As I write this brief word, I think back to the first HeartCry newsletter that was sent to

supporters so many years ago. It was typed by hand and the photographs were taped to the page. Then black and white copies were made on the church copier, stapled together by hand, and sent to a handful of gracious and faithful supporters. As time passed, the photography and the printing quality continued to improve, so that this hundredth edition is very different from the first! Nevertheless, the purpose of our magazine remains the same.

From the very beginning, the three-fold purpose of the *HeartCry Magazine* has been a mirror reflection of the main purposes of the HeartCry Missionary Society. The first great purpose is **the glory of God**. In the Old Testament are found two promises that have often been quoted in the HeartCry magazine:

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." — *Habakkuk 2:14*

"For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be



offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations,' says the LORD of hosts."—*Malachi* 1:11

These verses provide a great directive and hope to all those who give themselves to God's cause and the missionary endeavor. They provide a great directive in that they call us to focus upon the greatest of all goals-that God's Name be hallowed (*i.e.* esteemed and revered) throughout the globe. Although the missionary's passion must include the salvation of the lost and the edification of the Church, there is an even higher goal—the revelation of the glory of God. These verses also provide us with great hope and assurance in that they are not conditional. Although they will be fulfilled in part through the church and its missionaries, they are dependent upon the omnipotence and omniscience of God who never fails. It has been our great longing and the great purpose of this magazine to communicate this great truth to the Church throughout the world—to direct God's people to do all for His glory and to assure them that His glory will one day fill the earth!

The second great purpose of the HeartCry Missionary Society and our magazine is **the edification of the Church**. God's eternal plan is to create a people for His own glory, conformed to His own image, and given to His Son. In Romans 8:29, Paul writes, "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren." The Scriptures also tell us that Christ Himself "loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless" (Ephesians 5:25-27). God has only one organization on this earth, and it is not so much an organization as it is a living organism. It is the Church, the body of Christ and the temple of God made with living stone. It has been the purpose of this magazine to communicate this great truth to our readers and to promote their love for and increase their commitment to the local and global Church.

The third and final purpose of the HeartCry Missionary Society and our magazine is **the advancement of the Great Commission**—the evangelization and discipleship of every nation and tribe and tongue and people. Dear reader, there are over three billion souls that are currently out of reach of the gospel. How can we not be moved, not only to tears but also to action?

Too many Christians lament that there is so little purpose or passion in their lives; all the while, they fail to see that we are in the midst of the battle of the ages. The kingdom of God is advancing, and the devil and his hordes are doing all within their power to kill, steal, and destroy. This is not a time for timidity, hesitancy, distractions, or frivolity. We need to be those who "seek for glory and honor and immortality" (Romans 2:7). There are athletes who train their entire lives and submit to the severest discipline in order to win a reward that quickly tarnishes. There are soldiers who run headlong into the most desperate battles and lay down their lives for the preservation of king and country; yet the greatest king is mortal and corruptible, and the most honorable country can quickly degenerate into a people unworthy of such a sacrifice. In contrast, the Christian is promised an eternal and incorruptible crown that waits at the end of the race. The Christian fights for an ever-righteous King and a holy and immutable kingdom that

this magazine to communicate this great truth to our readers and to promote their passion and commitment to the Great Commission and the gathering of souls.

The glory of God, the edification of the Church, and the advancement of the Great Commission have been the great purposes of the HeartCry Missionary Society and the *HeartCry Magazine*, and by the grace of God we recommit ourselves to purpose and passion for the decades to come. This magazine is not meant to exalt our ministry or to raise funds, but to exalt God, to call His Church to purity and participation in the great war for the souls of men, and to raise up laborers who will put their hands to the plow and not



will never end. The Christian fights not for the temporary liberation of a people, but for the eternal salvation of souls. Finally, the Christian fights knowing that the final outcome will be victorious! The Scriptures promise, "All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You" (Psalm 22:27). And again:

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." — *Revelation 7:9-10*

It has been our longing and the purpose for

look back. To paraphrase the words of Charles Dickens, "These are the worst of times, these are the best of times" (A Tale of Two Cities). In the midst of a first-century darkness, we have an opportunity to live and serve like first-century Christians. Our life is fleeting and will quickly pass. Therefore, let us be like David, who "served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers" (Acts 13:36). Let us be like the Apostle Paul, who at the time of his death declared, "The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith" (II Timothy 4:6-7). And most importantly, let us be found "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).





















"This year marks twenty years of our partnership with HeartCry Missionary Society in the work of missions. In these twenty years together, we have seen some thirty solid churches planted in Zambia and across Africa. I have no hesitation in saying that without your prayer and financial support most of this would have been impossible. Thank you!"



German Banda ΖΑΜΒΙΑ

"Truly, your support has helped us to keep on preaching the gospel to our churches and outside in the community, because of the consistency of receiving our salaries. I personally wish to thank HeartCry and those churches praying for us missionaries."



Poniso Kuyumbana ΖΑΜΒΙΑ

"Dear Brethren, we are not even able to verbalise our gratitude for the support that we have received for the planting of biblical churches in the Western Province in Zambia, namely in Senanga and in Sesheke. For a long time, the starting of biblical churches was not easy, because of lack of support like we receive from you. And this is just a beginning, as sixteen districts in our province are still yet to be reached! Praise God!"



"HeartCry has been a truly faithful partner to Choma Central Baptist Church. Your prayers and financial support have helped us meet the needs of evangelism and gospel outreach in the community of Choma. Thank you for your faithfulness, and may God richly bless the HeartCry family!"



"I would like to thank the Lord for my job as the Kabwata Baptist Church Missions Coordinator as of May 2019; it is the passion of my soul! Settling into my job has been made much easier by prompt action from all our supporters through HeartCry. My

everlasting gratitude for the monthly funds for salary and office operations as well as for the laptop from HeartCry which came promptly and with more than 75% of the cost covered. I am aware that this same kind of support goes to many; my prayer is that grace abounds to you all from our God, that He would multiply His mercies through you."



Sakala

"Ministry life can be so demanding resourcewise and stressful when feeling lonely and alone. But the Commissioner of our work, the Lord God, is so wise and gracious in providing us with supporters as His means of sustaining mission work and missionaries! At this point, I just want to express my sincere gratitude to HeartCry and its partners for being God's instruments for reaching out to needy missionaries such as myself. Your faithful support financially and prayerfully has kept me motivated and focused, knowing that my physical needs are well attended. There was a time I would wonder if my stipend would

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come due to financial challenges from my sending church, but since HeartCry came on board, we have been fully engaged in the work with no worries. You may be far away from us, but God hears your prayers on our behalf, and your support is affecting lives down here! Thank you!"





"One of the most encouraging things in ministry is to know that God, in His providence, has purposed to work through the prayers of His people. Thank you for praying! We are thankful for your prayers for the conversion of souls. During our last theology bootcamp in 2019, three young men professed faith in Christ; many more are leaving the prosperity theology for biblical truth. Praise God!"



MONAMETSI BAHUDI BOTSWANA

"We are grateful to the mercies of God for the gospel partnerships we have! Since being ordained as a missionary-pastor, the grace of God has been evident in very specific areas. Jim Elliot captured our gratitude to God for our HeartCry partnerships when he said, 'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.'We are grateful to God who has moved the hearts of His people to partner with us in prayer and to aid us in furthering His gospel."



"Dear brethren, sometimes words cannot fully express the amount of gratitude we have to you, our supporters, in aiding the work of missions here in Zimbabwe. May the Lord continue blessing you for your endeavors for the expansion of His Kingdom and the

glory of His name! Soli deo gloria! For a long time, we have prayed to start the work of a biblical church in Zimbabwe. We have seen the faithfulness of the Lord in answering this prayer, and we continue to pray for His sustenance! Praise Him!"



"Our community was not exposed to the gospel; but through your support, there is now a church that preaches the true gospel. Through your help, we have managed to take in young men and mentor them up close. Through your answered prayers, we have counseled and married one couple at church who are now faithfully serving at church. Thank you a million times."

TSHOLOFELO Kukuni SOUTH AFRICA

"With gratitude, my family and Hope Bible Church count ourselves extremely privileged to be among those generously supported to do the work of the Lord in Bloemfontein, South Africa, one of the hardest places in the nation to live. It was through your support that the Lord used Pastor Richard Raven to plant this church in 2011, the first and only Evangelical-Reformed Baptist Church in a city with a population of 556,000 people. Through your financial support, this little congregation legally constituted as a church in February 2020. Grace and peace to you!"



"I write this letter to express my appreciation for your generous support for our purpose and mission as a church plant - to reflect God's character as revealed in His Word and to see God's glory be made manifest through the salvation of lost sinners through the

proclamation of the gospel and the formation of a healthy local church. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel, which provides us with the privilege to minister in hard places, where there would otherwise be no real gospel witness. Your financial support has enabled us to plant a church in a poor community where domestic violence, gangs, prostitution, drugs, and human trafficking are the order of the day. The Lord has opened many doors for us so that we are able to speak to entire gangs about the hope that is found in Christ. God has added to our church men who were once gang leaders and drug dealers and has used our ministry to rescue some girls out of prostitution. Like the Apostle Paul when he commended the churches in Macedonia, allow me also to once again thank you for 'taking part in the relief of the saints' (II Corinthians 8:4) in Bellville South, Cape Town, South Africa."



SAM OLUOCH Kenya

"Having had this burden of spreading the true gospel in our hearts for so long, I can't believe my eyes seeing reformed ministries under the stewardship of our local brethren beginning to spread around the country. The burden of raising financial support and prayer partners for mission work is so real that one cannot just brush it aside. More than this, getting men with whose hearts yours throbs together for missions is equally not easy. The Lord has been pleased to raise both for us in the ministry of HeartCry as we put our hands on the plough. What a blessing, brethren, you have been to us, body and soul! May the Lord continue to bless you that you be a channel of His blessing to many to all ends of the earth!"



NAPHTALLY OGALLO Kenya

"Grace Baptist Church - Eldoret remains forever grateful for the financial support HeartCry provided toward the construction of its church building. Over twelve years, the church met in its pastor's rented house and then in a marquee, with many challenges. The church now has a functioning building, which has greatly changed the dynamics on the ground, with people seeing us as belonging and permanent."



"Sincerely speaking and the Lord being my witness, no human language has words that I can use to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for always praying for us and giving to HeartCry on our behalf! Your support has done much to help us spread the gospel of Christ in Uganda. My wife Priscilla, our six children, and the whole family at Reconciliation Baptist Church together say thank you so much May the Lord bless you, your families, your churches and ministries, your businesses, and whatever you are doing and planning to do for His glory!"





"I am a fisherman. What does a fisherman do when the fish in the lake seem to be all gone and we don't catch many for six months? The monthly support from HeartCry makes our family have hope, so we can keep working to share the gospel and teach God's Word in these floating villages. You who give to HeartCry help us in Cambodia so much every single day. Thank you!"



SAM M. CAMBODIA

"Thank you so much for your love and financial support. It has been helpful for me to press on in the harvest field. Without your support, it would be difficult for me to focus on the ministry that God has called me to do. May God bless you and continue to use you to be a channel of blessing to many other gospel workers!"



"I had to sell my biggest rice field last month to get money to repair my house because I was afraid that it would fall down on my family. This month, we received our first monthly financial support from HeartCry. Jesus heard our prayers! Thank you, Lord Jesus!"



"Thank you so much for your love, prayers, and monthly support extended to us through Shalom Mission Cambodia. Your support has been helpful to us here. May God bless you, protect you, and grant you grace!"



"My family and I are very thankful to the Lord for calling me to full-time ministry of the gospel and very grateful for how He has led me to partner with HeartCry through Shalom Mission Cambodia. Thank you all for your faithful support for our ministry. May God richly bless you, protect you, and grant

you grace in your service for Him! I pray that God will continue to use HeartCry to be a channel of blessings to many other pastors for His glory."



"Thank you so much for your faithful support of our ministry. In spite of many challenges, I still stand firm to proclaim the gospel here. Your prayers and support have kept me persevering and moving forward. May God bless you more!"

CHANTHEA CAMBODIA

"I am very thankful to the Lord for you all. Thank you for your prayers and financial support. It has been such a great help for me and our family. Through your support, we can fully focus on what God has called me to do. May our good God bless you abundantly and continue to use you to be a channel of blessings to many other gospel ministers and pastors."



"Before HeartCry started helping us, my family had many days where we did not have enough food, only some rice and salt. Now we have enough food and also gasoline for the moto to go and share the gospel in other villages. You who give to HeartCry are the ones who help us to be the hands and feet of Christ in this area."



BUNROD P. CAMBODIA

"Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. This has helped me so much in my ministry of the gospel. Also, I thank you for your support for our training so far. It has helped me a lot in my knowledge of the Bible, which gives me the confidence to proclaim God's Word to our people and shepherd the flock that God has entrusted to me. May God richly bless you and continue to use you mightily!"



SOTHON P. CAMBODIA

"Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support through Shalom Mission Cambodia. Through your partnership, we can move forward with the ministry that God has called us to do. Also, thank you for your financial support for me and my family for many years. It has been such a great help for us as we serve the Lord here in Cambodia. It is my prayer that God will continue to bless HeartCry to be a channel of blessings to many other leaders and pastors. May God richly bless you for His glory!"



CHHINHO S. CAMBODIA

"I would like to thank you for the partnership we have enjoyed over the past several years, which has enabled me to have more time to build up God's Kingdom in Cambodia. HeartCry has made a tremendous and wonderful contribution through financial support and leadership training, increasing our ability to plant churches in the Kingdom of Cambodia and equip leaders in the Word of God for their personal life and ministry. There are many things that I want to say about your generosity, but recently what has really touched my heart so much was when we faced a family crisis through our son's sickness. HeartCry was the first to respond with help. We live by faith in a country where we cannot save money and don't have any insurance. The only thing we can do is trust in the Lord to provide in time of need. As we sent out the letter for prayers, Brother Jamey was the first to reply, and we were able to pursue the next step for my son's treatment. We thank the Lord that through HeartCry we experienced love and care, not just for our ministry but even for our deepest personal needs. On behalf of my family, I would like to express deep gratitude for your partnership and support. My team and I will continue to spread the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to more people in Cambodia and to equip ourselves with His Word so that we can be the salt and light to the world. Thank you! May God continue to bless you for your contribution to the work of God's Kingdom."



"I would like to express my heartfelt thankfulness to you (HeartCry) for your financial support for our frontline missionaries who have been reaching unreached people groups with the gospel. In addition, your big contribution for Chin Standard Bible publication is meaningful and effective. That Bible is read by many Chin people. With your financial support, we can accomplish more in Myanmar. Hallelujah."



"With monthly financial support from HeartCry Missionary Society, my family is now not under high financial pressure like in the past. This helps release me partly from work to take care of my responsibility of pastoral care and gives me more time to dedicate to outreach activities to the lost in the community. We're so thankful for that!"



CHIG. VIETNAM

"We used to be in debt every single time our daughter's school tuition was due, but now we're delivered from that by the monthly financial support from HeartCry! We pray that friends and supporters will continue to stand with this ministry in prayer and in financial support so that many churches around the globe will be helped."



"One of our normal expenses comes from taking care of a group of homeless people, mostly widows, and this sometimes puts our family in awkward situations due to lack of money. It has been the funds provided by HeartCry that have helped us to care for these needy people!"



DANH K. VIETNAM

"Farming to earn a living for our family is hard work for my wife and me here in the countryside, and we'd been in want of money for many years. We're now so thankful to the Lord for monthly financial support, which helps meet more than half of what we need. We will never take this for granted."



GIANG T. VIETNAM

"People in our area are mostly poor and lacking material needs; having something for them from time to time when I visit them has been our longtime prayer, and God has answered it with monthly financial support from HeartCry Missionary Society. May God continue to bless this ministry as they bless His people here in Vietnam."

FRANCISCO N. **TIMOR-LESTE**

"In August 2018, God allowed me to plant a Baptist church in Dili; when we began the church, we struggled to find a place to live. But we praise the Lord because God used HeartCry to provide rent so that we could use our home not only for our family but also for Sunday worship and weekly church meetings, as a place where church members could stay while studying in Dili, and as a home where those who come to serve on shorts visits can stay. We're thankful for the monthly support from HeartCry, which is a great blessing for our family; we're thankful to HeartCry for the motorcycle which enables me to travel to the mountains and preach the gospel; and we're thankful for the recent seminar sponsored by HeartCry in Indonesia with Dr. Bruce Ware."



"We give thanks not only for the funds given by the Lord Jesus through HeartCry for our family, but also for specific assistance from HeartCry to help with the cost of mission trips to Timor-Leste and Bali. In addition to helping with travel expenses, we are also able to help rent a mission house in Cilacap, where the Lord Jesus has entrusted us to pioneer a student fellowship. Evangelism and student discipleship services are greatly helped by the mission house so that it can become a center for the spread of the gospel and discipleship at one of the largest academies on the southern side of Java."



"I want to give thanks to HeartCry for always supporting me through prayer and funding as long as I've been in the Korowai Batu evangelistic post in Mabuwage. HeartCry also consistently provides funding for medicine through Paul Snider, so that fewer people now get sick and die. Thank you for also helping with our living space as well as providing materials that have helped me to learn and grow."



"We are grateful for the financial support from HeartCry, because some of the funds received are used for evangelistic services, both for transportation and to help people who are being evangelized. Funding from HeartCry also allows us to meet the daily needs of our family and pays the tuition fees for my master's degree in theology, for which this year I will begin writing my thesis."

TIRTAYASA SURNA A Film INDONESIA

"We are grateful for God's care through the funds from HeartCry every month to aid us as we pioneer a Baptist church in Gianyar and also for other assistance that's been provided, like the camera that HeartCry helped us purchase. We are able to use filmmaking to make short documentary films as a platform or entrance to preach the gospel and build relationships with the people in Bali."



"I would like to especially thank the HeartCry donors for their love for me in the gospel. For

example, I prayed in 2018 to be able to take a one-month sabbatical in 2019. God used the generosity of HeartCry donors to answer this prayer! This not only allowed me to experience God's faithfulness and great love, but also allowed me to experience brotherly love once again. I have never met you, and we live in a different country and culture; nevertheless, because of this gospel, I can actually experience this love. God inspires them to love me through the gospel and also allows me to experience love through the gospel. It's all because of the gospel!"





"I take this opportunity to thank you for supporting me in the ministry. Because of your continual and regular support, I have been able to focus on my studies and sermon preparation. I fundamentally believe that preaching is to be at the center of the church. Your support helps me to do the Lord's work without becoming anxious about my needs and the needs of my family. Thank you once again for your faithfulness in supporting people like us."



"The urgent need in India is to see biblically qualified men trained to plant healthy, biblical churches. Over the last year, I've been privileged to work with several men who, with the help of God, will go out and plant such churches throughout India. We've spent much time studying systematic theology, pastoral

theology, and personal spiritual disciplines. I'm very encouraged by their growth. My being able to invest in these men would not be possible apart from God sustaining us through your prayers and support. My church in India, my family, and I all thank you."



"I want to say a big 'THANK YOU' to the HeartCry team and all the generous supporters for being such a blessing to me. Almost a year ago, I came back to my city, Hyderabad, hoping to plant a church but not knowing how the Lord would supply my needs. Amazingly, in God's providence, through the support and prayers of many of you, I was able to plant a church this year in my city and in my local language. It was possible because of these gospel partnerships for which I am grateful to God our Savior!



Thank you!"

Sarvajit G. Nepal

"First of all, I would like to give thanks to the almighty God that He has given me the opportunity to serve His people. I would also like to give thanks to you, my brothers and sisters, for your continued support for the gospel work in Nepal. The financial support for the various conferences and the solid biblical books translated into Nepali have been tremendous blessings to the Nepali churches. The training for the pastors has been of great help to our local churches. The solid materials help us to know the gospel deeper and have been directing men and women in a right biblical way. Your financial support for Nepali missionaries allows us to focus on our fulltime ministry. God bless you all!"



"I am very much thankful to all of HeartCry's supporters for your sincere prayers and support. By God's providence through you, I was able to be trained in seminary. Now, your support has been a tremendous help for me to provide for my family, which has allowed me to fully focus on shepherding souls and dedicating my life to serve Christ and His Church. Thanks be to the Lord for His providence through the hands of His people! I always thank God in prayer for His goodness through you all. The sound teaching that you bring to us has brought me into a deeper understanding of the gospel and has motivated me to love the Lord and serve Him."



"Thank you very much for your ongoing support for our pastoral assistant at Kathmandu Community Church. God has brought HeartCry to us to meet this pressing need. It would not have been possible without your support. Thank you!"



"Thank you so much for your ongoing support and prayers for me in my internship! Thank you for joining hands to expand the Kingdom of God in Nepal. I had a desire to serve God full-time at the local church, but it was a challenge financially. God has answered my prayer through you. Without your support I couldn't do it, so again, thank you!"





GENNADY Russia

"HeartCry has been a faithful ministry partner in our region for many years. It is so encouraging to know that there are people on the other side of the world praying for your ministry. Every visit of brothers from HeartCry is like a breath of fresh air."



Alexander Belarus

"Help from HeartCry came to our family when we were absolutely at the end of our rope, both spiritually and materially. We see it as God's answer to our many prayers. Thank you for holding up our arms in this spiritual battle."



ANATOLY Belarus

"As a pastor in a small town, I appreciate HeartCry's regard for small and unimpressive places and ministries. I believe this reflects the heart of Christ, who wants to gather his scattered sheep from all kinds of places: from cities, farms, woods, and mountains. The more urbanized our world becomes, the easier it is to forget the names of churches and pastors known only in heaven. Thank you for not letting this happen!"



ARMENIA "For two years now, I have taught the members of my church with the books by Paul Washer that HeartCry helped translate into Armenian. These books help our church members to understand the wisdom and denthe of the Word of Cod L see the church

depths of the Word of God. I see the church growing – the church members are growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Miraculously, newly converted people are being added to the church!"



"The books by Paul Washer have revealed to me the power of the gospel, and I am grateful for that. By reading Brother Washer's works, I entered the living waters of the gospel. Even my sermons in the church that I pastor have changed. Now I see true fruit in the church – lives changed, hearts filled with faith and joy!"





"Dear partners in the gospel, we would need countless pages to attempt to express our gratefulness for the abundance of your generosity and your faithful prayers for the work that has been done for more than two decades in Eastern Europe. To date, due to the grace of God expressed through your gifts and your prayers, tens of churches have been planted in countries like Romania, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, and Kosovo; and many other churches have been influenced in their endeavour to proclaim the gospel. I am grateful on behalf of all the missionaries supported through HeartCry Missionary Society. But above all, we are continually amazed how God saves people through the proclamation of His gospel! Your prayers and financial support truly do make a real difference!"



Costei Ghioanca Romania

"Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I want to express our deep gratitude and appreciation, on behalf of myself and Adonai Church, for supporting us in ministry with such love and perseverance. A Christ-centered church has been established in Bucharest, the capital city of Romania, through God's grace and your loving prayers and financial gifts. Your support enables me to be involved in preparing sermons, personal evangelism, counseling church members, and many other areas so vital in pastoral ministry. God bless you all!"



STAN Romania

FLORIN

"Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I want to express my thankfulness for the financial support that you provide to us with great generosity each month. Without this support, I would have been forced to work another job to support my family; consequently, I would not have time for the mission work, and the ministry in all its forms would have suffered greatly. Having my needs covered, I am able to focus one-hundred percent on ministry. We are fully aware that the church in Fieni would not have been where it is now if HeartCry had not helped so much. God's Kingdom

continues to expand here in Dambovita County, Romania! May our God bless and reward all the believers and churches who have given generously to the Lord's work!"



"I would like to thank the HeartCry supporters for your generosity and faithful prayerful and financial support of our campus ministry in Bucharest, Romania! I am deeply grateful to the Lord and to each one of you for your sacrificial giving for the spread of the gospel among college students in our area. I am also very thankful as part of the support has helped with my medical expenses for a chronic illness I am fighting. May the Lord abundantly bless and reward each one of you!"



"I am deeply grateful to the Lord for the HeartCry supporters, for your faithful prayers and financial support. This year our campus ministry in Bucharest, Romania, was blessed with another missionary. God answered our long-term prayers for a male missionary dedicated to sharing the gospel among the college students in our area. Thank you very much for your prayers, and may God bless you!"



"Dear brothers and sisters who support HeartCry, I want to thank you on behalf of my family for supporting us. In December 2019, we finalized the adoption of three precious children. God has answered our specific prayer regarding having children; in all of this, your

financial support was precious to us. Although this may be a more personal item to mention, we know that the gospel spreads through various means, including this adoption. Thank you!"



IGOR Seremet Moldova

"Dear supporters of HeartCry Missionary Society, it's been sixteen years since HeartCry began to support us in ministry. On behalf of my family, I want to thank you for your faithful support in prayer as well as financially. Due to economic crises, many have had to emigrate from Moldova since its independence in 1991, but your support has allowed us to stay and serve. We have gone through many financial struggles, but God has provided for us to continue our ministry. Since we began to receive support from HeartCry, we have planted seven churches, while also training leaders for the churches that were left behind by pastors who emigrated. Currently, I am involved with helping twenty-five churches in our area, mentoring the pastors and the missionaries, while my wife Mariana mentors their wives. We are deeply thankful that your support has helped us to remain in the Republic of Moldova and fulfill our calling for so many years to our nation."



νίται π RUSNAC UKRAINE

"I want to thank my God for His grace and your prayers, as well as your financial support, so that the gospel is spread in our country of Ukraine, where we face a very hostile Orthodox context. Many have been saved as a result of gospel preaching. Some have been tested in their faith, but this has caused our church to grow closer together. We want to thank you for continuing to support us through HeartCry. Your support covers the

needs that concern our family and ministry, and it gives me the total freedom to preach the gospel."



"God bless you, brothers and sisters! Thank you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ for your financial support and for praying for us. Because of your support, thousands of people can hear the preaching of the gospel every year in the three Romanian population centers in Ukraine: Chernivtsi, Transcarpatia, and Odessa. Without your support, I couldn't spread the gospel to so many people every year or see dozens truly repenting before God. We will always be thankful to God and to you that you remain faithful in sustaining God's ministry of proclaiming the gospel in Ukraine."

Mediterranean Europe



"The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ continues to spread in Barcelona and throughout Spain. We are very grateful for the work of God, who continues to change hearts and bring them to the feet of Christ. And this is happening with your support, brothers and sisters! We thank you for your commitment to the Lord when you faithfully and mercifully offer your support for our ministry in Barcelona."



"I would like to thank you all, brothers and sisters who support my ministry, and to say how important you are in my life. God has used you for our financial support, through which you have been a fundamental part of the effectiveness of the Great Commission. We worship God for His wisdom in making people faithful by encouraging us to continue serving Him and His beloved Church."



RUBEN Videira **SPAIN**

"I serve in Spain, a nation that for centuries murdered, incarcerated, tortured, and exiled believers only to suppress the truth of the gospel. In light of this dark legacy, it truly is a God-given privilege to train pastors to spread the light of Christ in this very same country. This grace that has been entrusted to me and other faithful men is possible because of your sacrificial support. You are not supporting an individual but a cause-to bring reformation to Spain. For this reason, as a Spaniard serving Christ and His Church, I wish to express my most profound gratitude for your love for Him and for a country that desperately needs Him."



HEBER Torres **SPAIN**

"Dear brethren in Christ, we are so thankful for your prayers, contributions, and commitment to the advancement of the gospel in Spain. As a family, we are blessed and amazed by all that you do out of a deep love for Christ. You are such a help to us but also an encouragement and an example for our family to follow. We are well aware of the seriousness of our calling, and thus we feel like little people following a path of giants. Despite the trials and challenges we

face, God is infinitely bigger than any of our skills or efforts. We rely upon the power of the gospel, and we trust His purposes are always the wisest. It is a privilege to work for the King, and we are deeply grateful for the sacrificial giving of many brethren, enabling us to be here. For this reason, we want to be faithful and diligent in the task that has been entrusted to us. May the Lord have mercy on His people, and may He be honored in our midst!"



"Dear brothers in Christ, being part of HeartCry's family is a great honor and privilege for me. HeartCry's biblical policy of church planting and its commitment to the classical Evangelical reformed faith make it one of the greatest gifts of God to contemporary Christianity and the world. Many thanks from my heart and from the people I'm serving in preaching the gospel."



"Dear Brothers and Sisters, we thank you very much for your support in our ministry in Kosovo. Your support has been a great blessing to us and we will always be grateful for it. Because of your support, we have been able to work full-time in the church; we thank you very much for making our work easier and most importantly for contributing to God's plan for the church and the people here. Your love, prayers, and support have encouraged us to work harder every day for people who are lost in sin, to encourage those who are with Him, and to stand stronger every day. God bless you and your loved ones! Thank you!"





"Our gracious Lord used your kind support to plant a church in Frankfurt that has now been in existence for three years. Already, this has forever changed the course of numerous lives for the glory of God. Eternity will show what a significant role you've played in the establishment of God's kingdom in Germany. The Lord will certainly reward it abundantly. You have our deepest gratitude and appreciation."



NATHANAEL ARMISEN GERMANY

"For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God' (I Thessalonians 3:9). Trusting and depending fully on the sovereign grace and providence of God for all good things, blessings, and spiritual fruits is my great comfort and only strength. Yet it may not prevent me from acknowledging and being grateful for the wonderful and different means that God in His wisdom has used and brought together to fulfill His decrees. That is why I, with all my heart, thank you who support prayerfully and financially the work here in Germany; and I thank God for you. Through the support of HeartCry, we have been able to establish one of the very few (woefully) biblically ordered local churches in central Germany and to see men and women from many cultures and backgrounds come together under the true gospel. Where the gospel in Germany is exchanged increasingly

for a moral and social inspiration, we are so thankful to be able to preach Christ from the pulpit and on the streets - teaching men who eventually can be sent out to serve; calling sinners to repentance; and proclaiming the glory of Christ, who died and rose again, conquering death and sin and promising life eternal! The work and ministry of a Christcentered, biblically based local church would not be possible in this manner without your support. I thank God for you!"



JACOUES Brunt **NETHERLANDS**

"The Netherlands and Belgium have become mission points. As a family, we are extremely grateful for the support of HeartCry. Partly because of this, we can do our work in both the Netherlands and Belgium. We are particularly active in giving Bible education. Our ministry can be summarized with the words from Ephesians 4:12: 'equipping the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.""



"Allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude for all your support and prayers! It is a great privilege from God to be able in this way to work full-time serving in His Word, translating biblical materials into Swedish, including books such as The Gospel's Power and Message. Translation is a work that can produce a great yield, and these translations are reaching out to a Swedish-speaking world and people, both in Sweden and Finland, who are perishing from a lack of clear, biblical teaching."



MCCARTAN FINLAND

"Beloved friends, thank you, thank you so very much for all of your prayers, love, and sacrificial giving on our behalf. Together, we stand united in our commitment to continue to shine the light of the glorious gospel into an ever darkening world. Know that your efforts – like those of Aaron and Hur as they upheld the hands of Moses while the Israelites battled the Amalekites - have powerful and far-reaching results. Together, with the blessing of God, the repercussions of our prayers and actions go far beyond the here and now. The ripples of our workings are felt from cities to towns and villages to the backwaters and hollows of Finland. Our victories won are not just for today or tomorrow, nor this year, nor next; they are generational, from father to son and from mother to daughter, down through ages, ever growing, ever widening, spreading and filling the whole earth and changing this nation! Thank you, for without your help and prayers, our efforts would quickly become tired and worn. But beloved, we are strong, even in our oh-so-apparent weakness, because you are strong and you stand steadfastly with us. Thank you for your strength. I thank God for you."



Daniel Norén SWEDEN

"Thank you so much for your prayers. Words cannot express what they have meant to us. Truly, the Lord has heard, as two of the people you have been praying for have recently responded to the gospel call! It has been amazing to see how the Lord has brought them to Himself. Our God is mighty to humble and save those who once mocked Him. To Him be the glory alone!"



"It would do justice to express my heartfelt thanks, on behalf of all at 20schemes, for the constant prayer and the financial support of our ministry here in Scotland. We feel so privileged and blessed to be doing ministry with you all. When we started this ministry six years ago, no churches were being planted in housing schemes; today, we have ten sites in various stages of development across four cities. The financial support of Heartcry has led to the planting of two churches (one in Glasgow and the other in Edinburgh), with a third one launching this year. All three locations are seeing conversions and have baptized new believers. I don't have exact numbers, but I can tell you that not a month goes by in the ministry where we don't hear of somebody being saved in one of our communities. We never tire of hearing of the miracle of salvation! Your financial support enables us to minister in these neglected areas. Thank you."



"Five years ago, we longed for a gospel church to be used of the Lord in our community, but that was all it was - a longing. Now, five years on, through the generous support of HeartCry we have had the opportunity to plant a healthy gospel church; the Lord has blessed the work bountifully! We have seen local people hear the gospel and then be saved, baptized, and added to the church. In the last year, we have seen the Lord continue to answer prayer and start to provide opportunities for us to replicate the work in other needy parts of our city and to train men for leadership. We are in awe of what God has done and continues to do and are deeply thankful for how He has used His people, through HeartCry, so clearly in it all. All glory be to Christ!"



ANCE **ROBERTS* CZECH REPUBLIC**

"We are very grateful for those who have supported our ministry through HeartCry. We had the privilege of having Brother Paul a couple years ago to preach a conference for us on the gospel. It is not an exaggeration to say that it was a turning point in our ministry. That conference was a culmination of many things the Lord had been doing over the course of several years. Since then, there has been an explosion of growth in our local church ministry, Bible institute, and even our publishing ministry. People were saved as a result of the conference and have since been baptized and become members of our church."



Ariel **AROCHA** CARIBBEAN

"Because of the support I receive, I can devote considerable time to the work of pastoral ministry and the study of the Scriptures. In our Caribbean context, without this financial help, it would be nearly impossible for me to support my family and at the same time carry out the work of the ministry to the degree that I am now. Last year, we witnessed answers to prayer in the conversion and baptism of eight new believers and in a new church-planting opportunity the Lord has opened to us. Thank you for your help, which has brought a lot of peace to my heart!"



ARICARI

"I am thankful to the Lord because He is opening up more doors along the Napo River in the Amazon region. In many of those places, the gospel has still not been proclaimed. Because of HeartCry's support, we can travel there and continue training the leaders of the churches that do exist. Our prayer is that these faithful leaders would continue taking the glorious gospel of our Lord to those places where His Name has not yet been preached and that churches would be planted in the many fields white unto harvest. To God be the glory!"



"Praise be to God for the generous offering that I receive from HeartCry, through which the Lord continues providing for the needs of our family. Praise be to God for the way that He has answered the prayers of those who intercede for the work here in Oxapampa, Peru. Through your prayers, the Lord has granted greater grace for the advancement of the work of missions here. Praise be to God for the support we have received for the purchase of a motorcycle in order to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to more than thirty small towns in the mountains around Oxapampa, which would have otherwise not been possible. Praise be to God for the provision of books and resources that enable me to continue growing in my understanding toward a greater comprehension of biblical truth. Through these biblical resources, God, in His sovereignty, has used HeartCry to help me become better prepared in the study of the Scriptures and in the work of missions."



JOEL Gamonal PERU

"In addition to my pastoral responsibilities and the preaching that I do in the local church, I have also had many opportunities to preach at funerals. In a Roman Catholic country like Peru, religious tradition is very evident when it comes to death; in the providence of the Lord, I have been able to bring the comfort of the Lord to many families and to proclaim the glorious gospel and hope of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to many neighbors and friends. Praise be to God, beloved brothers and sisters, because you are all a part of this missionary work that God has entrusted to me. Thank you for sustaining me through your prayers."



GLORIA Nunura Peru

"I am happy to have been blessed through you all and to be able to continue taking the gospel to the lost in Sullana. May our all-powerful God continue guiding and blessing your lives, which have been such a great blessing to me and to many people."



MARIN Peru

Arturo

"Thanks be to God for the prayers and support of our brothers and sisters through HeartCry! Because of your financial support, I have been able to proclaim the gospel and pastor a local church in the town of San Rafael; I have also been able to travel and preach the gospel in the surrounding towns. This financial support is vital for our family, since we live in a town that is considered to be very poor in Peru, even though the cost of living here is elevated. May God greatly bless you."



"I want to give thanks to God for answering my prayers and providing me with a fourwheel-drive truck. For more than three years, I had driven my car up and down the mountain roads to evangelize in the small Quechua towns. But especially the last couple of years, my car was getting worse and was often breaking down. I began asking the Lord for this need. I give thanks to Him for using HeartCry to provide!"



"I want to express gratitude to the Lord for greatly using HeartCry to give financial support to missions. Through this support, it has been possible for me to travel to places in the jungle, such as Uracusa, Cenepa, Candungos, and Atahualpa Loreto. On several occasions, HeartCry has purchased Bibles to give to the brothers and sisters there who do not have one as well as study Bibles and Bible dictionaries for the pastors. This has been a great contribution to the churches and pastors of Peru's jungles. I have been able to work with the pastors to learn how to study and preach a text of Scripture. I ask you to pray that our God would greatly bless the training of workers in the jungle."



"Because of your support, I've been able to study at a seminary; this has been a great challenge and blessing. It has helped with my own personal growth in understanding, and I have been able to use what I've learned in my preparation of sermons. I have also had the opportunity to teach at a local seminary here

in Peru. I give thanks to God for the different opportunities He gives to serve, and I'm grateful to HeartCry for the monthly support I receive and for the scholarship you've given to me to study in seminary, which has in turn helped me to serve others who are preparing for ministry."





"Here at HaGefen Publishing in Israel, we are thankful for the support that we have been receiving from HeartCry. Through your support, God has enabled us to continue to build a solid and reformed foundation for the church in Israel. One such example is the recent book that we published in Hebrew by Dr. Julius Kim, Preaching the Whole Counsel of God, which is the first book on preaching in Modern Hebrew."



"Dear brothers and sisters, we are so grateful for your financial support for the work of the gospel in Alexandria, Egypt. My wife and I have seen the Lord's hand moving everything miraculously to prepare for the ministry of His glorious gospel in this land, and He has given me grace in the eyes of leaders here. We have a group of believers from different backgrounds whom I am teaching and discipling from the Word of God about the gospel of our Lord Jesus and about how to be a healthy church built on the Scriptures alone. We are thankful for your support! Because of it, we have been

able to settle into our rented apartment in Alexandria, and all our needs have been provided in God's providence through your help."



"We are thankful for the financial support and prayers of HeartCry for our family and ministry. With the support of HeartCry, we were able to train twenty house church pastors on how to lead and plant healthy churches that preach the Bible. We have also translated biblical resources for the growth of the emerging church in our Muslim nation; these are the only solid biblical resources available in the national language of the country."



STEPHEN P. **ARABIAN PENINSULA**

"Dear HeartCry supporters, on behalf of my family, we are so thankful to you for your partnership with us. It is through your generosity that we get to live and minister in the Arabian Peninsula, sharing the gospel with Arab students as well students who come from hard-to-reach places around the world! Over the last five years, we had been praying for strategic access into a specific university for wealthy students that is heavily guarded. In God's wisdom and grace, a 16-year-old Nigerian girl from that university visited our church and immediately connected with my wife. Over the next few months, as they read through the Bible and conversed together, this young girl came to saving faith! Now, through the Holy Spirit's work in her life, she is becoming a bold evangelist on her campus. She recently began meeting with her Palestinian classmate to study the Bible."



Hovnan[†] MIDDLE EAST

"The books by Paul Washer that HeartCry helped translate are my handbooks today. These books helped me a great deal to educate myself and are useful in ministry. Many times I have preached to Syrian, Iranian, and Arab Christian refugees. All of them are tired and loaded with griefs. I have been able to help them only with the dearest name of Jesus Christ and the truth of the power of His cross and salvation. The name of Jesus Christ is the most desired name for them. I am very grateful for these biblical resources you have provided me. Thank God for blessing us with His glorious gospel and with books like these that shed light on it!"





CHRIS SIPPLEY CANADA

"We are grateful to God for your generous financial support and for keeping us in prayer. Over the past several years, we have sought to reach out to our community with the gospel; by God's grace, there have been several professions of faith as well as baptisms each year. As our church plant now approaches its fifth anniversary, we praise God for enabling the church to purchase the building it has been meeting in for the past three years! Your partnership has been a significant contributing factor in all of this. We cannot thank you enough!"



"I would like to thank you, all the donors who enable us to continue ministry here on the east coast of Canada to make disciples as Jesus commanded. What a privilege to be a worker in His Kingdom! The harvest is truly plentiful, the fields are ripe, and Christ promised that we will catch men! The financial support we receive through HeartCry enables us to minister; without it, we would not be able to make ends meet. Thank you!"



"We are a small but growing congregation, and with that growth comes greater and greater needs. As we have grown, we have been seeking to build a home of permanence for our meeting place. One afternoon, I received a call from a fellow pastor who told me of a man who supports HeartCry; knowing we were at work in his own country, he sent us a large sum of money to continue that work! We are grateful and thankful for you all and for your continued support for the advancement of the Kingdom of God."



"We are truly grateful to HeartCry for sponsoring this great project to translate Paul Washer's books into Armenian. Many of the books translated into Armenian from English are from authors that are theologically unsound at best and heretical at worst. There aren't many theologically rich books in Armenian; therefore, having such resources is truly helpful!"



UNITED STATES

"Over the past seven years in my work with HeartCry in Latin America, I have seen the Lord strengthen local churches; raise up new pastors; open up brand new doors for ministry in remote jungles or mountains and spiritually desolate urban centers; and draw many people to Himself. We are so thankful for those He has led to faithfully pray for and give toward the work of missions through HeartCry. Thank you!"



"After the Apostle Paul describes all of the external hardships he has experienced in his letter to the Corinthians, he speaks of the internal 'daily pressure on [him] of concern for all the churches.' As a coordinator of multiple countries around the world, I too understand the pressure and concern for the church abroad. That is why it is such a great comfort to know that the HeartCry supporters are behind us - in prayer not only for the staff but also for these indigenous churches. Thank you. You enable us to give our lives for the edification of the Bride of Christ around the world."



JAMEY T.[‡] **UNITED STATES**

"The HeartCry staff and I greatly value the blessings that HeartCry receives through your prayers and financial support. Your service and sacrifice has benefited the churches around the world and is 'a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.' Brothers and sisters, thank you; we trust that 'God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.""



JACLYNE GOORSKEY[‡] **UNITED STATES**

"Multiple times every week, I go to the post office and collect the various letters, notes, and donations that were sent to HeartCry. Once I get back, I start to open the envelopes. On the surface, this may seem like a mundane job; but it is truly a privilege to see firsthand the reality of God hearing our prayers and kindly providing 'far more abundantly than all that we could ask or think' for the needs of His people through your giving. It is truly special to see that. I appreciate the little notes of encouragement, when you let us know that you're praying for the missionaries and the staff, and seeing your sacrificial giving. Words fail to express how utterly grateful we are for your partnership, but still I want you to know how appreciative I am. My prayer for you all is that you would continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and increase in your love for our God. Blessings to you all!"



"Dear HeartCry donors, thanks to your prayers and financial gifts, my family's needs are provided while I enjoy the privileged position of watching the gospel and biblical churches advance across Africa and the Middle East. Through your generosity in the past year or so, we have been able to add nine new supported missionaries in Africa and three in the Middle East."



"As someone who has personally seen countless donations, encouraging notes, and requests for prayer calendars come across my desk and my computer screen, I have a deep personal appreciation for every one of you who has given to support this ministry or has prayed on our behalf. As someone who has also gotten to see firsthand a number of missionaries ministering in their own local contexts, I have a deep personal admiration for those who are laying down their lives for the sake of the gospel every single day. The men and women in this office are nothing special (God delights to use the weak!); but we truly are privileged to serve as the connection between these two groups of people that God is using to spread His Word across every tribe, people, language, and nation. That's truly lovely! Thank you for faithfully serving our Lord; may His name be magnified!"



UNITED STATES

Kevin

"It's hard to believe I've been with HeartCry for thirteen years now – I'm not sure where the time has gone! I do know that I have been amazed on a daily basis by the kind faithfulness of God to sustain us and by the selfless service of His ministers of the gospel around the world. Week in and week out, I am humbled to think of those God has raised up to support this ministry, both financially and through prayer. God has truly used you! The words seem small and insufficient in light of my deep gratitude, but *thank you*, HeartCry family. Thank you for your faithful, even sacrificial gifts, and especially for your earnest prayers."



PAUL WASHER[‡] United States

"Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, words cannot express the appreciation that I have for all your kindness to this ministry. Here at HeartCry, we are aware that we are only stewards of your sacrificial giving and your constant prayers. By the grace of God, we will strive to be servants who are approved of God and to do all within our capacity to advance the gospel in our generation."

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**HeartCry Partner:* A church leader whose ministry is supported indirectly by HeartCry on a regular basis.

† HeartCry Contact: A contact with no formal affiliation with HeartCry, but whose ministry has benefited from donor support through translation projects, internship programs, etc.

‡ HeartCry Staff Member: A paid member of HeartCry's staff who works at the home office in Virginia.



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNELS!



youtube.com/heartcrymissionary

This is our main channel, where we publish additions to the Paul Washer sermon archive weekly as well as regular mission updates and theological forum videos.



youtube.com/hcfilms

This channel's purpose is to communicate the stories of the wonderful works God is doing around the world through the use of film. We have posted four missions documentaries so far, with four more scheduled to be released by the end of the year.



youtube.com/heartcrycurriculum

This channel was created as a repository for brand-new teaching series from Paul Washer in a classroom-style setting. Currently, Paul is more than forty lessons into a Proverbs series taught with children and teenagers in mind, and there are others in the works.





THE PRIORITY OF **GOSPEL PREACHING** IN MISSIONS

MARTIN RIZLEY Málaga, Spain

he challenge of setting priorities on the mission field is nothing new. In the book of Acts, we see that the apostles were pressured to devote an inordinate amount of time to certain earthly matters that were in danger of drawing them away from the one thing needful to execute faithfully their apostolic ministry. Consequently, they directed the Jerusalem church to find seven men "full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom" who could assume the responsibility of tending to these earthly matters, so that they could devote themselves to prayer and to the Word of God (Acts 6:1-6).

The apostles realized that, for a man whom God has called to the ministry of the Word, nothing can be allowed to interfere with the faithful execution of that divine calling. Moreover, to "minister the Word" means, above all, to preach the gospel of Christ. This is clear from the commission Christ gave to His disciples prior to His ascension. Their calling was to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

This leads us to ask some very crucial questions about the task of gospel preaching.

I. WHAT IS GOSPEL PREACHING?

The very word "gospel" takes the Christian message completely out of the realm of human philosophies, self-help programs, and mystical religions with their baffling array of rules

to keep, rituals to perform, and mantras to chant. The word "gospel" in biblical Greek (euangelion) means "good news," so the gospel can be defined as the declaration of the good news concerning what God has done for lost sinners through Jesus Christ. Preaching the gospel, then, means lifting up the person and work of Jesus Christ before men, declaring His divine glory as the incarnate Son of God and the only Mediator between God and men. It means proclaiming the perfect work of redemption that Christ has accomplished by His sinless life, atoning death, and triumphant resurrection. It means announcing His ascension to heaven as well as His enthronement at the right hand of the Father as the Lord of glory who directs the course of history, gives life to the dead, and determines the final destiny of every man. It means telling that He will come again at the end of history as the world's righteous Judge and that all who have ever lived will be called to stand before Him to be judged in accordance with their deeds. The reality of this final judgment must also be told as a part of the message we are called to proclaim.

Those whom God has used mightily throughout history to evangelize the lost have understood that the very essence of gospel preaching is just this-to lift up Christ's person and saving work before men. To the believers in Colossae, the Apostle Paul described his preaching ministry in these very terms: "HIM we preach, warning and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ" (Colossians 1:28). To the Galatians (3:1), Paul describes his ministry among them as a "placarding" of Christ before their eyes: "You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified." The Greek word translated "portrayed" was used in the first century for the display of royal edicts and public notices, which were placarded in a conspicuous place where all might read what was written. This tells us that the goal of

gospel preaching is to set forth in a public and vivid manner the reality of Christ's work on behalf of sinners, so that men might be called to repentance and faith in Him.

So indispensable to a true presentation of the gospel is the proclamation of the Cross that Paul resolved never to preach in a way that did not draw men's attention to Christ and the Cross. To the Corinthians, he said, "For I determined to know nothing among you except JESUS CHRIST, and HIM CRUCIFIED" (I Corinthians 2:2).

This being the case, we can say that where the work of Christ on the cross is unknown, the gospel has yet to be proclaimed. Remove the Cross, and all that is left of Christianity is a moralistic message of "do-goodism." That is clear from what one poor woman told me who had sat for years under liberal preachers. She said, "I believe in the simple gospel—love God, and love your neighbor." But that is not the simple gospel-that is, in fact, the preaching of the law! It is precisely because we have not loved God and neighbor as we ought that we need to hear the good news of One who has perfectly fulfilled God's law on our behalf and who has borne in His own body the penalty of our sin, so that His perfect righteousness might be imputed freely to those who believe.

II. WHY IS GOSPEL PREACHING NECESSARY?

It is necessary because there is no other means by which sinners can come into a vital, living, and true relationship with God as their

reconciled Heavenly Father except through hearing and believing the glad tidings of salvation in Christ. As Paul told the Romans, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). Moreover, Paul believed that this work of gospel proclamation could only be carried out by human messengers who take God's good news to their fellow human beings. God has not assigned the task of gospel preaching to the angels. That is why Cornelius had to send for Peter to hear the gospel preached, even though an angel appeared to him (Acts 10). It is why the Apostle Paul saw gospel preaching as a task that can only be carried out as men are sent to perform it. There is a divine order to the way in which God's Kingdom advances. Sending leads to preaching, which leads to hearing, which leads to believing (Romans 10:14-15).

As believers, we must not be deceived by the falsehood that there are many paths to a right relationship with God. If that were so, then how is it that Paul can describe all those outside of the community of faith as "without hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12)? Clearly, there is no spiritual life to be found outside of or apart from Christ, because nowhere else do men find the righteousness of God-that perfect righteousness that we need to be justified before God, to stand before God on the day of judgment, and to enjoy life in God's glorious presence for all eternity. That is why the preaching of the gospel is essential: so that men may, through faith in Christ alone, be clothed with the very righteousness of God (Romans 5:21).

Moreover, men must be commanded to believe in Christ, for though faith is a divine gift bestowed by sovereign grace alone, human beings are still responsible to repent of their unbelief by embracing Christ as the only one who can save them from the guilt and penalty of sin. Thus, the command to repent and believe the gospel must be partnered with the announcement of Christ's finished work of redemption (Matthew 1:15, Acts 16:31, 17:30).

III. HOW IS THE WORK OF GOSPEL PREACHING TO BE PERFORMED?

We have already pointed out that God has not assigned the task of gospel preaching to the angels, but to human beings. We must ask more narrowly, though, to whom has God committed this task?

In one sense, all believers have a part in this ministry of gospel proclamation. The Apostle Peter tells his readers that they have been saved with this end in view, "to proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (I Peter 2:9). After persecution scattered members of the Jerusalem church throughout the lands of Judea and Samaria, the number of Christians continued to grow due to the efforts of those believers to make the gospel known to those around them. We read in the book of Acts that "those who were scattered went on their way preaching the message of good news" (Acts 4:4). All believers, therefore, are called to participate in this great task of making disciples by proclaiming the gospel to friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers, etc.

At the same time, however, we must acknowledge that God calls and equips some men to preach the gospel publicly as evangelists, pastors, and teachers; this public ministry of gospel preaching must be recognized and honored by all, since those engaged in this work are called to it by God and are given as gifts by God to the Church (Ephesians 4:11). Moreover, such men will be judged more strictly than other believers according to how they carry out their work (James 3:1). So how is this ministry of gospel preaching to be carried out?

A. It must be performed diligently. Gospel ministers must see themselves as workmen in the house of God who have been commissioned to perform a work of construction, using the very best of materials with zeal, dedication, and skill—knowing that the quality of their work will be tested by God (I Corinthians 3:10-15). A sense of urgency must accom-



pany this work, owing to the uncertainties of this present life and the revealed certainties of the life to come—especially the sobering reality of final judgment.

B. It must be performed intelligently. Along with diligence, the work of gospel preaching must be performed intelligently. The Apostle Paul considered zeal an admirable trait, but he recognized that his fellow Jews who rejected Jesus as the Messiah were not lacking in zeal; their problem was ignorance. Paul laments zeal without knowledge, therefore, because instead of moving people to trust in Christ, ignorant zeal moves men to reject Christ and rely on their own works for salvation.

It is for this reason that those who preach the gospel must devote time to study, to arrive at an ever deeper and richer understanding of God's truth. Paul told Timothy, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). Accuracy in applying the Word requires study; therefore, it comes as no surprise that, despite his many years of studying the Scriptures, Paul wanted to have his books and parchments with him so that he could continue to study even in prison, in order to continue growing in knowledge (II Timothy 4:13). **C. It must be performed faithfully.** We are not at liberty to alter God's message in any way by emphasizing only certain truths at the expense of others. The whole counsel of God must be proclaimed (Acts 20:27), including those aspects of truth that many in our day might consider "hard" to accept, such as the call to radical repentance and self-denial, the mortification of sin, and the reality of final judgment.

Faithfulness in gospel proclamation begins with faithfulness in our walk with God. We must sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts (I Peter 3:15), for only then will we be able to proclaim the gospel powerfully from a consecrated life with the unction of the Holy Spirit.

D. It must be performed lovingly. Gospel proclamation must be a labor of love, flowing out of a heartfelt love for God and for our fellow men. Our affection for those to whom we preach must be real. In this, as in all matters, God loves a cheerful giver. Gospel ministers must be willing to give not only the gospel but also themselves to their hearers (I Thessalonians 2:8). God is not pleased with grudging labor, for grudging labor quickly turns into shoddy, half-hearted labor. That is why Paul

exhorts elders to do their work from a heart of love, "not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness" (I Peter 5:2). The work of gospel proclamation must flow from a heart that is continually renewed by the Spirit of God and filled with a sense of wonder and awe at the enormity of God's love for sinners in Christ.

E. It must be performed confidently. The preaching of the gospel ought to come as

that God's spiritual kingdom will only be extended as God Himself causes it to go forward. In His infinite wisdom, God has directed His people to pray for this advancement, so that when the outpoured blessing comes in response to prayer, God will receive all glory and praise for the souls that are saved and the lives that are transformed.

We are to pray not only for the lost but also for those whom God sends into His harvest fields to labor. We are to pray to the Lord of



a confident expression of faith and hope in the promises of God. We must believe in the power of the Word to change lives. This is the only thing that will enable gospel ministers to go on preaching perseveringly in season and out of season—confidence, rooted in the promises of the New Covenant, that God will bless their efforts and (by working in human hearts) cause men to be born again by the Spirit through the preached Word of God (II Corinthians 3:4-6).

F. It must be performed prayerfully. God has ordained prayer as one of the chief means through which His purposes are advanced in the earthly sphere. That is why Christ taught His disciples to pray daily, "Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9-10). Such petitions stem from the acknowledgment the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest. Why? Because, as Jesus said, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37-38). There is much grain to be gathered into God's barns. A vast number of lost sheep are to be found in every tribe, tongue, and nation on earth—persons destined to be gathered at last into the Shepherd's fold. The work of gathering requires workers, which is why the Church must plead with God to raise up workers and to supply them with all the grace they need to carry out their blessed task faithfully.

May God help us to be faithful in praying to these ends with an attitude of entire submissiveness to the Lord of the harvest and with a willingness to go wherever He may send us.

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heartcrymissionary.com/testimony/martin-rizley

A Church that Advances the Kingdom

Jose Luis Siancas Mallaritos, Peru

s I studied Acts 13:1-12, the Lord taught me through His Word concerning what it looks like to be a church that advances His Kingdom. "Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of

the Jews; and they also had John as their helper. When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus, who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, and said, 'You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time.' And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon

him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord."

In my country, Peru, different hospitals are ranked by categories depending on what services they offer. For example, Category II-1 includes hospitals and clinics that offer only general services. Category II-2 corresponds to hospitals that offer certain specialized fields. Category II-E refers to hospitals that have all the general fields and specialized fields, while also having the ability to handle very complicated cases.

I. It had God-centered men as its leaders.

The church in Antioch had within its structure godly men who exercised the proclamation of the Word and the gift of teaching. This group of men was recognized as leaders by the local church, and they were men who feared God.

The first man named in the passage is Barnabas, whose name means, "Son of Encouragement." He was the one to introduce Paul to the believing Jews that would have otherwise not accepted him because of their fear of persecution.



My desire for our church is that we be a Category II-E congregation—a church that is thoroughly equipped in all fields of ministry for the promotion of the Kingdom of God. As I meditated on this passage in Acts, I found that the church in Antioch was among this category of churches for the following reasons.

Next, a few other brothers are mentioned about whom little is known. Nevertheless, they were leaders in the church in Antioch. The mention of Manaen especially catches my attention. He had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, whose family was exceedingly vicious. For example, Herod the Great ordered the execution of one of his wives and three of his sons. God saved Manaen by His grace from such an ungodly context and then led him to become a leader in the church.

Another person mentioned among the leadership in Antioch is Saul (the Apostle Paul). Only the grace of God can change a man who had previously been breathing out threats against believers and then lead him to serve those same believers as a teacher. All of these men in leadership are men who were saved by the grace of God and who held God's Name in high regard.

It is also important to notice that the church in Antioch was led by multiple men. It was not led only by one man; rather, Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, and Saul all served together as teachers and prophets. The Scriptures teach that a strong church is one that has a plurality of pastor-teachers who edify the people of God. Though a church might not have more than one man in leadership at the moment, all churches should be working toward training and forming other men for ministry, men who live in the fear of the Lord.

II. It had a God-centered ministry.

The ministry of every Christian must always point to God. Only then will it be effective in building up the redeemed. Luke writes that these men were "ministering to the Lord and fasting." They were men who were given, in the first place, to God.

Perhaps you are wondering whether there are any ministries that are not God-centered. The answer is "yes!" There are many ministries that focus merely on the felt needs of people. A lot of times, these ministries also subtly flirt with the wisdom of this world. Others are more blatant in their conviction that they are edifying the church as long as they make people feel good about themselves. This is to put man in the place of preeminence, rather than God. It is to elevate a castle of cards, a building on sand; it will soon fall apart.

The church that advances the Kingdom of God is the one that is first of all given to the Lord, His Word, and prayer.

Later in Paul's life, he would write to Timothy, "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word..." (II Timothy 4:1-2). The preaching of the Word should be done in the understanding that we are first of all preaching *before* the Lord and, therefore, *for* the Lord.

The church is always going to need men who first of all give themselves to the Lord. May God help us in that, so that there would be men like this in Latin America, the United States, Europe, and the rest of the world men who even before giving themselves to the church and missions are committed to giving themselves *to God*.

III. It was submitted to the will of the Holy Spirit.

The church in Antioch was led by the Holy Spirit: "[T]he Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." If a church is going to advance the Kingdom of God, it must live in submission to the voice of the Holy Spirit through the Scriptures.

Missions and the extension of God's Kingdom begin in a sovereign manner. It is not merely the church seeking out missionaries; it is God calling out His workers. In Saul's conversion, God told Ananias, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel" (Acts 9:15). Jesus told us that we are to "beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:38).

Paul and Barnabas were busy serving the

church in Antioch with their gifts; nevertheless, the Holy Spirit set them apart for missionary labor. I firmly believe that, when it comes to those appointed to a particular ministry, God uses those who are already committed to Him and His work. I agree with John MacArthur when he says, "He is not likely to take idle Christians down from the shelf, dust them off, and entrust them with important work."

When the Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Saul to go on their missionary journey, the church in Antioch was submissive to His voice. Importantly, though, the two men who were called were also submissive: "When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews..." The work of missions begins with the call of God and the desire to see the glory of God dispersed among the nations. In order to see the glory of God in the nations, the gospel must be preached. The driving force behind missions is not men; it is God's desire that the whole earth be filled with His glory! We have been given the charge to "make disciples of all the nations."

IV. It was willing to encounter resistance in the presentation of the gospel.

When the Church advances in the proclamation of the gospel of God, it will always face resistance. The kingdom of darkness will always resist the advancement of the Kingdom of Light. In their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas struggled against Elymas the magician as they sought to proclaim the truth of Christ to the proconsul, Sergius Paulus.

The advancement of God's Kingdom against all opposition is all that matters. Wanting to help someone with their social needs is not bad; but that is not missions. Missions is the preaching of the gospel as it is repeatedly and aggressively resisted, even to the point of the

messengers being put to death.

Often in our day, the way we do missions is so concerned with being nice that we sacrifice the message of the gospel at the altar of wanting to please men. James was not beheaded for saying, "This is the year of your blessing!" Peter was not crucified for saying, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life!" Stephen was not stoned because he said, "I declare to you prosperity and health for your life!" Jesus was not sacrificed on the cross because he said, "Discover the champion that is within you!"

Instead, all of these died presenting just one message: the gospel of Christ Jesus. Christ Himself is the stumbling stone. The Jews had problems with the Son of God, and they stumbled because they could not believe His gospel. The critical problem in churches today consists in this, in attempting to preach without offending. There seems to be a desire for the crown without the cross. There is an obsession with romantic ideas—but without radical sacrifice.

The church that extends the Kingdom of God has in its path much opposition because of the Word. But, as Jesus said, our confidence is that "the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

V. It reached souls in its missionary endeavors.

Finally, the church that advances the Kingdom of God will one day see the fruit of their sowing. Verse 12 says, "Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord."

Further down the road, we read about the following journeys of Paul and Barnabas; we are told that all who were appointed to eternal life believed. Preaching the gospel faithfully will always bring in those whom God has chosen for salvation! The churches that are most devoted to evangelism will have greater opportunities to see the miracle of salvation.



Of course, there is not always a direct correlation in terms of numbers; but God will always be faithful to add to His Church those who have been ordained to eternal life.

Conclusion

As pastors and missionaries, we must always work toward having a church like the one in Antioch. A church that is submitted to the will of God is a tremendous tool in His hands for the purposes of His Kingdom. God uses churches that know His will, embrace His truth, love the Scriptures, and put His Word into practice. The churches that are greatest in number are not always the churches that are doing the will of God. Rather, the church that knows the will of God is the church that has a missionary heart to reach the world for Christ.

Although we must recognize that raising up an Antioch-like church is the work of God, it is no less true that it is our responsibility to strive diligently after it! Pastors must be continually working toward training mature men who are filled with the Holy Spirit so that they might labor with them in the work of the ministry. We must spend time considering whether or not we as churches really are working toward the advancement of the Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth. Oh, that God would give us more churches that are committed to this great cause! May He raise up churches led by mature men, churches that are submitted to the will of God, and churches that are centered on the glory of God!

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heartcrymissionary.com/testimony/jose-luis-siancas

STAY NOUR DOST



meet Indians on a regular basis who want to move to America. They want out of South Asia. They want out of poverty. They want out of the dirt. They want out of their problems. But I think even more than wanting *out of* something, they want *into* something. They want *into* ease, rest, riches, security, and comfort. When I tell them that I did the reverse and moved from America to India with my wife and daughters, that we live here and want to stay here, they turn their head in a confused manner—they cannot seem to wrap their minds around it. Why on earth would someone do that?

We know the answer, and we tell them the answer. But we need to keep telling ourselves the answer as well. We are forgetful. We lose sight. "Why did we move here? Why did I bring my family? Why keep going? We've served almost six years—that's a good stent, right? Why not move back now? The kids are growing up. My wife has real health problems. The terrible pollution is speeding up the dying process for all of us. I could go back and pastor a church. My wife could take the kids to the library regularly. We could have a backyard. We could breathe fresh air again. We could have ease... comfort... rest..."

Left to ourselves, we really are not very different from our unsaved Indian friends. But, thank God, we are not left to ourselves! God does not leave us alone to coddle our Western flesh. He persistently reminds us through His saints, His Word, and His Spirit that in this life "we have no lasting city" and that "we seek the city that is to come" (Hebrews 13:14).

In light of this, I would ask you, reader, to

pray that we continue to see with spiritual eyes. Pray that we continue to walk in light of eternity. God is not worshiped greatly in India as He deserves. So many are going to eternal damnation. This should cause us to pause. This is a reality—Indians really are never-dying souls. Can we not spend a few short years and sacrifice a few passing breaths for God's glory and our neighbor's eternal good?

Shame on us if we are not willing to suffer a little for Christ's church when Christ suffered so much for us. He came not from America but from Heaven and took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh (Romans 8:3). He suffered outside the gate in order to save us through His own bloody death (Hebrews 13:12). We have done nothing; He has done everything! Let us follow Him outside of the camp! Let us leave behind the love of this world and the desire for ease! Let us be increasingly willing to bear the reproach that He endured! Oh, may we know Him and the power of His resurrection—may we share in His sufferings and become like Him in His death! Please pray for our hearts, that we may press on to know Christ and become ever more like Him.

I do not believe every Christian needs to move to India as a missionary (though we are always looking for a few good men!). And I think there are good and godly reasons for missionaries to leave the field. We may have to leave one day—for visa reasons or failing health. Or maybe we will be more useful somewhere else. I do not think pastors in America with backyards are living lives of ease. *I know the toil so many of you endure*!

But we know ourselves. We know where Christ has called us at this time, and He has not released us from our post. We must keep marching. There are lost souls who need to hear the gospel, there are interns to train in theology and pastoral ministry, and there is a local church to strengthen. There are young men and women for us to disciple, and



there are churches to be planted in this dark, dark land. At this time, with God's help and through your prayers, we press on.

I want you to press on too. If you are a pastor, teacher, or missionary and if a local church has affirmed your character and gift, I want to encourage you to stay at your post! Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ. For Christ's glory and the eternal good of those under your care, march on.

If you are a wife, husband, father, mother, or single saint, you too are called to engage in the war. Each of us may differ in weapon and post, but all of us should carry our arms and run to the battle. You may be able to open your Bible, open your mouth, open your home, open your schedule, open your life, open your wallet, or fall on your knees. But whatever you do, do in light of eternity for God's glory and man's eternal good. *Don't coast in this life. Press on*, *dear friend*.

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WALKING WITH GOD

Kwenda Kwenda Zambia

ARTICLES FROM THE FIELD

"Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him." – Genesis 5:24

noch was taken by God because he walked with God. This is a simple yet fully packed statement that captured my attention and got me thinking. You would expect it to say Enoch was taken because he was blaspheming God. This is what you see in many passages of Scripture: people's lives were cut short because they did evil (consider Sodom and Gomorrah, Eli's sons, and Pharaoh). However, it was different with Enoch. Even though Enoch did not die, this event tells us that death is nothing to fear for the Christian. We fear death because this world seems to be so sweet. This life is enticing to us. To think of not existing in this world and of leaving the food, the fashion, the laughing, and our loved ones—this is something we cannot imagine! Who will look after my children? Who will look after my husband or wife? This is how we think—we look at things from a human point of view. But God looks at eternity, and He knows that heaven is the best place for His children.

The best place we can be is in heaven with God.

God loved Enoch, and He loved the friendship and fellowship He had with Enoch. No wonder He took him! I am not suggesting that long life is bad but that it is better to be in God's presence than to be filled with worldly activities. Can you imagine being in God's presence? No hunger. No crying. No fighting or quarreling. No evil. Only praising God and experiencing trueness of joy! No wonder Paul said in Philippians 1:23, "My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better." Being in God's presence is not just limited to being in heaven. We can be on earth and still have a foretaste of heaven. To do this we need to walk with God-as Enoch did. We must have close fellowship with Him on a daily basis. The challenge for you and for me is to know how to walk with God. How do we do this? How do we walk with God? Allow me to suggest three ways.

Know Jesus. Knowing Jesus should never end at an intellectual level. Every man must desire to know Jesus in a real way. You and I must long to have a deep and substantive relationship with Christ, to truly know Him. Jesus is the Mediator between God and man. If we come to the Father, it must be through Christ. Understand that, without Christ, you and I are spiritually empty. We are spiritually cut off from the Father. Nor can knowing Jesus end at knowing Him in a saving way-we must also know Him in a sanctifying way. The Apostle John, the disciple who was closest to Jesus, wrote about these truths in John 17:3: "And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." In another passage, he says that "our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" (I John 1:3). We can look also at the words of the Apostle Paul to see the need of knowing Jesus at a personal level. Paul craved for a deeper and closer walk with Christ that would eventually see his life transformed: "that I may



know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death" (Philipians 3:10). Walking with God requires us to know Jesus. The more we know Christ, the sweeter our fellowship will be, and the more we will sense the presence of God in our lives.

Read the Scriptures and pray. Walking with God also involves reading the Bible and everyday prayer. Relationships require interaction; therefore, a relationship with God requires interaction with God. This happens through reading and meditation of Scripture and consistent prayer. To visualize what it means to walk with God, as Enoch did, picture yourself on a journey with Christ. This pilgrimage is not comparable to merely sitting in a bus or an airplane. Rather, it is the journey of life!

We are traveling with Christ in our marriages, in our family life, at work, at church, and everywhere else. Christ is there to give us the counsel we need for everything we experience as we head toward our destination.

Can you imagine not talking to Him or Him not talking to us as we journey along? Through prayer, we talk to Him; through Scripture, He talks to us. Do you know what that is called? Fellowship. True, meaningful, deep fellowship. This is how we walk with God. This is how we can experience the presence of God. We do not have to wait for heaven. We can have a foretaste of heaven when these things are applied. Oh, that God may help us to desire to walk with Him more!

Avail yourself of church meetings. God uses the means of grace to help us draw closer to Him. In faithfully attending church meetings, you have the opportunity to walk with God as you fellowship with other saints. They may be God's mouthpiece to your life. The Bible studies, preaching, and prayers can strengthen your walk with God. There are times when the congregational singing is so glorious that you almost feel like heaven has come down! All of this is part of walking with God. Make church meetings a priority. They will strengthen your walk with God.

There are perhaps many other things which you could do. But my point is that these three exercises will help you have a genuinely satisfying spiritual life. Walk with God, and you will know the presence of God in a much bigger way. Enoch was taken by God to be in the presence of God because he walked with God. So if we are going to have a fulfilling relationship with God, then we must learn the art of walking with Him.

Consider what the Bible says about Noah. In the midst of an evil world, Noah found grace in God's sight and was spared, together with his family. Immediately after that, God's Word says in Genesis 6:9, "Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God." Noah's success in building the ark was not because he was intelligent. It was because he walked with God—he spent time with God!

Dear Christian, walk with God. Walk with Him in your devotions. Let Him speak to you as you read His Word. Walk with Him as you work. Walk with Him in your marriage. Walk with Him at all times. Walk with Him, dear one. Walk with God. Joy awaits all those who walk with Him.

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HEARTCRY MAGAZINE VOLUME 100



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The Godly

WORLD MISSIONS

After a season of seeking assurance of salvation, Cindy was born again while attending Bible school in the fall of 1975. Immediately, her life began to change as she experienced a desire to bring people to Christ. As a Christian, she has possessed the conviction that her highest calling is to be a godly wife and mother. She has served her family with unwavering devotion by accompanying her husband Don (who volunteers as a missions coordinator for HeartCry) in his itinerant ministry while also teaching at ladies' conferences and educating her children.

hen we hear the word "missionary" we often think of men who have served the Lord in foreign lands. While we are thankful for those men who have courageously sacrificed to take the gospel around the globe, I am equally grateful for all the devoted women who have given their lives in the same pursuit. The gospel has been advanced, the Church strengthened, the needy helped, and the world blessed by scores of godly ladies who have served alongside their husbands or as single women in a variety of ways. Many of them laid aside comfort, wealth, and personal ambitions for the surpassing goal of seeing God glorified in the proclamation of the gospel.

Although male and female missionaries may have the same objectives in mind, they have different roles in fulfilling those purposes, so let us examine the biblical role of women in missions. What responsibilities should a woman assume on the foreign field? In order to answer that question, it is necessary that we first consider what the Scriptures teach about the role of women in the church. After all, biblical mission work should always be an extension of the local church.

Many do not seem to realize what a vitally important issue this is. There is a widespread movement aimed at erasing all gender distinctives. Therefore, it is imperative that we understand the gender-specific roles for ministry as presented in God's Word. When we speak of worldwide missions, it is paramount that we realize that God's plan for His Church is the same in the heartland of America, in a rural village in Romania, and in the jungles of Papua.

The Bible tells us God created the first man and woman equal in their standing before Him as bearers of His likeness; yet they were different. The woman had her own unique biology and psychology. Genesis 2:18 reads, "And the Lord God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him [or who corresponds to him]." The woman



was created to be a helper to her husband in a way that would complement him. While God created the male and female equal in worth, He also created and gifted them to fill distinct roles in the home as well as the church.

Women are no less important than men in the plan of God for reaching the world with the gospel; we simply have a different part to play than our male counterparts.

There are several passages of Scripture that unmistakably reserve some teaching and governing roles in the church for men. I Timothy 2:12-14 instructs us, "I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived fell into transgression." The context for this teaching was the assembled church.

Immediately following this passage, we find the requirements for elders, plainly restricting the office to men. Women are not allowed to teach men or to have governing authority over the church. Some believe this was a temporary command, given exclusively to the church at Ephesus. However, there is nothing in the text to substantiate that opinion. By basing his argument on the order of creation and the way in which Adam and Eve sinned, it is obvious this command applies to all churches in every culture for all time.

It is also noteworthy that Jesus personally chose, appointed, and trained all-male leadership for His Church. The twelve apostles were Christ's official ambassadors, His authoritative representatives—and every one of them was a man.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, we only see men teaching and governing over the people of God. We do not have one example from Genesis to Revelation of a woman publicly teaching an assembled group of God's people or serving as a pastor or elder over a congregation. That is not discrimination. That is simply divine design!

When there is an assembled group of Christians, whether at home or on the foreign field, women should not teach men nor exercise governing authority over them. But, there is so much more that women can and should be doing! When the focus is on the few restrictions placed on women in ministry, it is easy to overlook all the wonderful opportunities there are to serve.

Women played a significant role in the ministry of Christ, and they have continued to make a great impact on the world. There are numerous stories of courageous women who carried the gospel to other lands. One such missionary to the Philippines was Joanne Shetler. She tells of her interaction with a man in the village who had adopted her into his family, and was reading pages of the New Testament as she translated them. She writes:

"I continued translating in Timothy with my 'daddy.' And we came to the verse where Paul says to Timothy, 'I don't allow women to teach men.'... That afternoon after we'd finished work, he said to me, 'Now what is it that we're going to study on Sunday?' I thought he was just curious... So I told him. Sunday morning came, and before I could stand up to start, he stood up and said, My daughter here knows more about this than I do, but we found in the Bible that women aren't supposed to teach men. So, I guess I have to be the one.' And that was the end of my career and the beginning of their teaching."

This true account is a beautiful picture of the proper response of both the man and the woman as they saw this principle from Scripture. Joanne's "daddy" did not make excuses for his inadequacy, and she did not demand that she be allowed to continue to teach simply because she was more learned than he. They both individually bowed to the authority of Scripture, and it was a key turning point in the establishing of a congregation with male leadership naturally taking place.

After Jim Elliot and four of his colleagues were martyred in Ecuador in 1956, his widow, Elisabeth, realized she was the only missionary left who could speak the language of the Auca Indians. Rather than violate God's Word, she shared the sermon with one of the Auca men each week, and he preached it to the church until there were male leaders. Mrs. Elliot said she was aware that she could teach better than any of the native men, but that was not her role to fill. She understood that just because a woman is a gifted public speaker does not mean she is qualified to pastor a church.

A few years ago, my husband and I conducted a Biblical Manhood and Biblical Womanhood Conference in Sweden, one of the most feministic countries in the world. After teaching on the woman's role in the church, I was approached by a beautiful young lady who was serving as a pastor in the area. She shared reasons why she felt it was appropriate for women to pastor, but none of her arguments were biblically based. She said there were no men to assume the pastorate of this fairly large church. While that is a sad dilemma, it is never right to disobey the explicit teachings of Scripture simply because we see a need. Frustration with men failing to fulfill their leadership responsibilities can tempt women to go beyond their biblical roles. But when a woman assumes a man's role because men have neglected it, the problem is simply compounded.

Furthermore, just as need never necessitates a call of God, neither does giftedness. There are two single ladies serving with HeartCry in Romania who know the Bible as well as the male missionaries with whom they labor. They conduct evangelistic Bible lessons and Bible studies for young women who have come to Christ and are also involved in many other evangelistic and discipleship endeavors. These brilliant young women are not only theologically minded but also excellent translators; and they both have a solid walk with God. In spite of all these amazing gifts, they are very conscientious of never usurping male leadership as they serve.

So, what is a woman to do? Every child of God has been blessed with at least one spiritual gift and ought to be using their gifts to serve Him and His people. In addition to that, we are called to pray. We should be asking the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers, interceding for those who are serving around the world. Everyone is responsible to read, study, memorize, and meditate on the Scriptures. We should be able to defend our beliefs and consistently exercise the privilege of evangelizing. According to the second chapter of Titus, all older believing women should be teaching, equipping, discipling, and/or mentoring younger women in the faith. And most of us can invest something financially toward missions.

Those of us who are married must not neglect our primary responsibility to care for our husbands. And those with children in the home have another preeminent ministry in caring for, disciplining, and training them. This does not mean that you cannot be involved in other ministries when your children are young. However, the mothers of small children have an obligation not to neglect the crucial ministry they have within their own families.



There are countless opportunities available, and many faithful women serve on the mission field in varying ways while refraining from leading in the church. Ladies can publicly share a testimony of God's working in their lives or the life of someone else. They may sing or play a musical instrument in the church. Women can serve as church secretaries and treasurers. They can write books or Sunday school curriculums. Women can teach domestic skills to other women, show hospitality, and provide counsel. Some can teach children or ladies. Others can serve as doctors or nurses in remote places that desperately need medical care. And there are a multitude of other mercy ministries that are such a blessing to the poor, sick, widows, orphans, and single mothers. The list is practically endless.

Gladys Aylward, missionary to China, founded an inn to provide hospitality for travelers. She and her coworker, Jeannie Lawson, would share the gospel with those who lodged there. Gladys took in orphans and adopted several of them. In 1938, when the Japanese invaded the region, she led more than one hundred orphans to safety over the treacherous mountain terrain even though she was herself wounded. She personally cared for them, and many were converted to Christianity.

Amy Carmichael founded an orphanage in southern India and rescued children from forced prostitution in the Hindu temples.

Ann Judson (wife of Adoniram Judson, the first American missionary) helped translate the Bible into Burmese and also opened a school for girls. Conrad Mbewe's wife, Felistas, and a group of women from their church currently minister to prostitutes in Lusaka, Zambia. They take diapers, toiletries, and other needed items to them. The gospel is shared as they try to get them off the streets, and then they seek to teach those who come to Christ an honorable trade.

There is much kingdom work for Christian women to do. And a good deal of it can be done better by women, because of the way God has designed them as helpers and nurturers.

The ladies in the first churches did not pastor, but they were actively involved in serving the Christian community as well as evangelizing the lost. Their efforts played an indispensable role in the Lord's work through His Church. They advanced the gospel and cared for God's people without violating His divine pattern of male leadership in churches.

The Apostle Paul mentioned a number of these women in his letter to the saints in Rome. He first commended Phoebe in Romans 16:1, calling her a servant of the church in Cenchrea. There is some indication that Phoebe may have been a woman of means who used her wealth to help many Christians, including Paul.

The second woman he referred to was Priscilla, calling both her and her husband Aquila his fellow workers in Christ. It seems that Aquila and Priscilla were an evangelistic team, dedicated to the spread of the gospel. Some have attempted to use Priscilla as a justification for women serving as pastors or elders because in Acts 18 we find her and her husband explaining the Word of God to Apollos. But this was not done in the context of the church. The Scripture says they took him aside; this instruction in all likelihood was done in the privacy of their home. There were other women the apostle praised because of their hard work for the sake of the gospel. Suffice it to say that the principle of male headship does not in any way diminish the significance and necessity of the active role of women in the Lord's work. Women throughout the ages have served as bold evangelists, faithful prayer warriors, compassionate ministers of mercy, loving caregivers, influential teachers of women and children, and devoted lovers of Christ.

The word "missionary" usually generates thoughts of someone who has answered the call to go to a foreign land in order to propagate the gospel. And while that is a correct understanding of the word, it is not the only meaning. We need to be careful that in using the word this way we do not see mission work as only for those who travel far away from their homeland. Every Christian is to be involved in God's purposes in the world. Charles Spurgeon said, "Every Christian is a missionary or an imposter." You may not be led to open an orphanage in India like Amy Carmichael, serve as a doctor in Africa like Helen Roseveare, or teach in a primitive tribe in South America like Elisabeth Elliot. But you are called to pray for those who carry out these and many other responsibilities in distant lands. You are also charged to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to those around you.

What a glorious privilege we have been given! We do not have to have a sensational conversion testimony like Saul of Tarsus in order to share it with others. We do not have to be married to a Hudson Taylor to serve in ministry. We do not even need a seminary degree to be able to teach. Like the woman at the well in John 4, we simply need to go and tell others what great things the Lord has done for us and is able to do for them. May He be pleased to use each of His daughters to bring much glory to His name as we make His name great whether at home or abroad!

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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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