

FALL 2022

# HeartCry

MAGAZINE

DEFEND  

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THE TRUTH  
KRAKÓW • POLAND



Dear Reader,



**ORIGINALLY OWNED**  
BY HEARTCRY MISSIONARY  
ADAM WĘGRZYK, THIS 19TH  
CENTURY BIBLE WAS GIVEN  
AS A GIFT TO A DEAR LADY  
IN HIS CHURCH WHO WAS IN  
NEED OF THE SCRIPTURES.  
YOU CAN SEE BY THE  
MARKINGS AND BOOKMARKS  
HOW IT HAS BEEN  
CHERISHED THROUGHOUT  
THE YEARS.

I hope and pray that this edition of HeartCry finds you growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, “who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (II Timothy 1:10). This has been a turbulent year for many across the globe. The population has reached beyond eight billion; there are wars and rumors of wars, pestilence, and hunger. In the West, many who once professed faith in Christ have now bent the knee to a culture that has lost its heart, mind, and soul. Borrowing from Dickens’s work *The Tale of Two Cities*, we are right to say that it is the worst of times, it is the best of times. The darkness of the Roman Empire provided the first century Christians with the perfect context to appear as lights in the world as they held fast to the word of life (Philippians 2:15-16). Following their example, we must not circle the wagons or hide our light under a bushel, but we must go forth believing that Christ is sovereign over the nations and the gospel is the power of God for salvation. Rise up! There are nations to be won!

Your Brother,

Paul Washer



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# NEW CHURCH BUILDING PURCHASED IN VENEZUELA



**FOR MANY YEARS** the people of Pastor Plinio's church in Venezuela met for worship in a small, old house. But in the course of the pandemic, the congregation began rapidly growing as many people, thirsting for the truth of the gospel, sought out a biblical church to congregate. The main room began overflowing with people and it was necessary to broadcast to a television in an adjacent room. Soon the congregation had outgrown even this space; people were sitting on chairs and boxes outside, peering through windows or standing in the parking lot to hear the Word of God from a distance.

This past year HeartCry was blessed with the opportunity to purchase a new building for this church in Venezuela. In addition to providing for the growing congregation, this building will also host training for pastors, prayer meetings, and counseling sessions. In the words of Pastor Plinio Orozco: "This is more than a building, it is a demonstration of the Lord's goodness to His church. He has

granted us this new place to reach the lost, a place to continue to build up His people."



CHURCH MEMBERS STRUGGLE TO LISTEN THROUGH THE ALLEY WINDOWS OF THE OLD CHURCH BUILDING.

## TWELVE BAPTISMS IN CANADA



**THIS SEPTEMBER IN CANADA**, pastor Dave Storey and Miramichi Valley Baptist Church celebrated the baptisms of twelve new brothers and sisters. These baptisms are tangible symbols of the believer's eternal and inseparable union with Jesus Christ, who is victorious over sin and death.

## BOOKS FOR ZAMBIAN PASTORS



**IN PARTNERSHIP** with Love Packages, HeartCry sent a container of theological books to Africa Christian University and Central Africa Bible University. Because the church in Africa is widely afflicted by the prosperity gospel and other heresies, sound theological books are a vital resource for combatting falsehood and proclaiming the truth of Christ. These resources will equip pastors to grow in the knowledge of God and lead their congregations into maturity in Christ.

## UPDATE FROM ZIZIN



**THE WORK IN ZIZIN, ROMANIA** continues to grow each week. The exterior of the church building is nearing completion as the days grow colder and the group meetings grow larger. The construction process has given ample opportunity for evangelism

to workers, material suppliers, town officials, and Zizin residents. Please pray the new building will be available for meeting before heavy snow, and that many other souls would be drawn in from beyond to witness what is happening in this small village.





*After graduating from Bible School in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, David and his wife Myra were called to France. David is currently pastoring a new church plant in Paris. His desire is to see native French pastors raised up and sent out for the establishment of biblical churches throughout the country.*

Last April we had the privilege of celebrating our sixth annual conference in Paris. It is our twelfth year as missionaries here and our tenth since planting Bonne Nouvelle Church in the hard French soil. From early on we strove not only to prosper our local congregation, but also to contribute to the edification of other churches. We have always thought that our resources as a small church were beneath the demands for organizing such events as pastor's conferences, but three reasons have motivated us to press on. First, we believe cooperation between churches is a biblical way to promote the Gospel, with great precedent in church history. Second, there is a unique need to be met in French churches. Third, we believe the Lord has entrusted us with great opportunities to contribute to this need.

### BIBLICAL AND HISTORIC PRECEDENT FOR CONFERENCES

AS A CONFESSIONAL Reformed Baptist church, we assert the autonomy of each local congregation governed under the authority of Scriptures. At the same time, according to Scripture and our Reformed-Puritan-Baptist heritage, we recognize that the cooperation of likeminded churches may be powerfully used by God for the preservation of sound doctrine and the advancement of His kingdom. From the council of Jerusalem through the early patristics' synods and the reformers co-belligerences, to the puritan assemblies of Westminster, Savoy, and London—throughout church history, numerous collaborative

conferences composed by representatives of various churches have taken place. From these meetings were born resolute doctrinal stances, sound treatises, creeds, confessions of faith, literary enterprises, and great missionary movements.

### A PARTICULAR DEMAND IN FRENCH CHURCHES

THE ADVANTAGES OF being an indigenous church planter are undeniable. I wish I had understood the French language and worldview faster, and learned how to lead conversations towards the gospel more efficiently. At the same time, cross-cultural missionaries also have a uniquely privileged position. Because they are less exposed to the pressures of a particular society, they may keep an understanding of church, preaching, and evangelism that in many ways are less compromised by the culture they inhabit. With respect to French culture, if we were to pinpoint one particular need to be met among French protestants, it would be the restoration of the bold proclamation of the gospel as it once was modeled by the French fathers of the Reformation.

French culture is one of the strongest embodiments of postmodern and post-Christian worldviews. Under constant pressure to be culturally relevant, even faithful churches struggle to contextualize themselves properly, to find the balance between assimilating within their culture while boldly proclaiming the counter-cultural truths of the gospel. Many others express a lack of trust in the efficacy of Scripture alone to accomplish God's work, and they adopt dangerous and irrational flex-



ibilities in their theology in order to appeal to men. The average French Christian also struggles to believe that biblical principles must rule over every aspect of one's life. Our conferences therefore aim to renew our confidence in the sufficiency of Scripture to save the lost, to display God's supremacy above all else, and to edify His Church by magnifying the glory of Christ.

## GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE

AWARE OF THIS NEED IN FRANCE and biblically motivated to edify other churches, there was also a third key element that prompted us to organize these conferences. God quickly granted us the privilege of establishing partnerships with preachers that have a reputation of faithful service to Christ's church, particularly through the bold proclamation of the gospel. As we ourselves had been blessed early on by the encouragement from visiting preachers like Paul Washer, Don Currin, and Conrad Mbeve, we felt burdened to share their wisdom with other churches.

More recently, Christ's grace allowed us to add to our long-term partnership with Heart-Cry Missionary Society, as we are now also sponsored by other organizations like Defesa do Evangelho Missionary Society (Brazil) and Ligonier Ministries. These have helped us to minister beyond our local church's resources, not only by providing speakers but also supplying thousands of biblical books to distribute to our attendees.

## OUR CONFERENCE'S UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION

IT IS QUITE IMPRESSIVE how God uses these partnerships for our conferences, through our theological agreements and the bold preaching of the speakers. This defines our unique identity and contribution among other reformed conferences in the French-speaking world. We seek to offer a more conservative and historical influence of our Reformed heritage, resolving to be less emphatic about cultural relevance so

that we might better emphasize the sufficiency of Scriptures. Our conferences serve as a platform both for the biblical proclamation of the gospel to the lost, and for the modeling of bold and faithful preaching to believers and pastors.

## LATEST CONFERENCE APRIL 2022

IN THE FIRST FOUR CONFERENCES we hosted, the number of our attendees slowly grew from about 40 to 120. In the last two conferences, God allowed us to host approximately five-hundred people, which is especially exceptional for France. It was beautiful to see our church of about sixty members putting forth their best efforts to host the event. People came from not only different cities in France, but also from other countries around Europe.

This year, though brother Paul Washer was sadly absent for medical reasons, we were deeply blessed by the preaching of Dr. Sinclair Ferguson, Dr. Burk Parsons, Paulo Junior, David Vaughn, and Vincent Lemieux. Even more striking was the number of church leaders that were present in our pre-conference event, through which we sought to bring a more substantial effect upon local churches. This time about seventy church leaders participated.

Our title for this conference was "Do Not Fear: The Peace That Surpasses All Knowledge." This theme proved especially powerful given the long period of confinement during covid which brought a heavy weight upon French people, both believers and unbelievers. Rates of depression, which were already high, sky-rocketed in this country that is a world leader in the use of psychotropics. Many believers had their confidence and faith shaken. During our conference the messages were centered on the gospel's provision of a peace that surpasses all causes for fear—whether loneliness, tragedy, death, apostasy, persecution, weakness, or even the wrath of God. In the face of these we anchor our wavering faith upon the steadfastness of the Rock of Ages, the Victorious Christ.



DAVID ROMER SPEAKS DURING THE CONFERENCE EARLIER THIS YEAR IN THE BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS.





## Recent Updates From Cambodia

Written by Timothy Jotham

**H**eartCry coordinator Hunter Gately and I recently traveled to Cambodia to visit our HeartCry partner, Pastor Chhinho and the church planting ministry, “Shalom Mission.” The ministry is intent on reaching the peoples of Cambodia with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Chhinho is also the pastor for the Shalom Church, in Russey Keo, a district of Phnom Penh (pop. 2.282 million). During this trip, we also traveled to the provinces of Monduliri and Kampong Thom, where we participated in two pastor’s conferences on the Person and Work of Christ. When we were not preaching, we were visiting the many works that are associated with Shalom Mission and supported by your giving to HeartCry.

### PASTOR’S CONFERENCES IN MONDULKIRI AND KAMPONG THOM

**THE FIRST CONFERENCE** in Monduliri Province had twenty participants. Most were pastors, but there were also several sisters who evangelize and teach women and children. We were encouraged by the attendees’ eagerness to learn more about Christ and communicate the truth of God’s Word to those they are serving. One young man stood out to us in particular. Though he has a limited education, it was apparent by his knowledge of the Bible and the depth of his questions that he was devoted to the study of the Scriptures. It is a tremendous blessing to see that God is still calling men into the ministry, especially in light of the fact that there are such few laborers in Cambodia.

The second conference in Kampong Thom Province was hosted in the new chapel built within the orphanage “One in Love” which is supported by HeartCry. The attending pastors possessed varying levels of understanding but all of them demonstrated a sincere hunger to know more. Although most lack education and resources, none lack a desire to grow in knowledge and conformity to Christ. During a question-and-answer session, one



man who aspires to the ministry asked why he suddenly began to love the Bible and why he often weeps while reading it. In response, we directed him to open his Bible to Ezekiel 36:26: *“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”*

While he was reading this text, it was obvious that the verses resonated deeply with his heart. When he finished, he shouted with a loud voice, “Hallelujah!”

## THE BUNONG OUTREACH

**DURING OUR VISIT**, we traveled with Pastor Chhinho and the laborers of Shalom Mission to visit the Bunong people group in the Mondulkiri province. The mission’s church planters and evangelists are currently concentrating on five rural villages. They usually visit the villages at midday in order to share the gospel with the farmers as they return home for lunch.

At the present, there are very few who have become followers of Christ. However, in one of the villages, we had the privilege to meet a young lady who was recently converted. She has tasted the sweetness of the gospel and is now burdened for others to turn to Christ. She is one of the few believers in the region and she expressed to us her desire that her family and the others in the village would embrace Christ, that a church would be planted so that they can all worship the Lord together in spirit and truth. She urged us to pray for her to have a better understanding of God’s word and to be better equipped to effectively communicate the gospel.

Next door to this young lady’s house lives an elderly man and his wife. The people refer to him as “the unbelieving evangelist” because, although he is intrigued by the claims of Christ, he is animistic and afraid that if he becomes a Christian the evil spirits will attack and kill him. He lives within the conflict of desiring Christ and eternal life, yet dreading death if the claims of the gospel are untrue. He is “faithful” to share the gospel with

**THE “UNBELIEVING EVANGELIST”** SITS WITH HIS WIFE IN A VILLAGE NEAR BUNONG. HIS WIFE WEARS A NECKLACE OF BEADS TO KEEP AWAY EVIL SPIRITS.





others, but only because he wants to see what will happen to them if they follow Christ — “Will they die or will they prosper?” It is heart wrenching that, instead of resting in Christ

## It is difficult for a materialistic man from the West to understand how entrenched in superstition these animists are, or to what degree they live in bondage of the fear of death and evil spirits.

and trusting in God’s word, he is waiting for firsthand evidence to see with his own eyes what will happen to someone who becomes a disciple of Christ. It will be an eternal tragedy if he exerts such time and energy to convince others of Christ, while remaining dead in sin and in danger of God’s wrath on the Day of Judgment.

It is difficult for a materialistic man from the West to understand how entrenched in superstition these animists are, or to what degree they live in bondage of the fear of death and evil spirits. It is so ingrained in the culture that the greatest test of faith for the new convert is to throw away or burn the amulets and other objects they once used to protect themselves from demonic forces. The unbelieving evangelist told us of a local schoolteacher, who, like him, is caught between these two opposing sides of spiritual warfare. She is intrigued by the gospel and greatly desires salvation through Christ, yet she continues to wear her amulet to ward off evil spirits. She has not learned to cast off her burden and taken up her cross to follow Jesus.

Though many continue to reject the gospel and live in fear, God continues His work, and people are being saved. One leader of another nearby village was recently converted. After hearing the gospel of

Christ, he responded by burning his idols and amulets, and now opens his house for a place of worship each Sunday. In his main room, several villagers gather regularly to

listen to the teaching of the Word of God. We joined them one Sunday and found the group attentive to Pastor Chhinho’s preaching. Though this may seem like a small thing to some, it is a great encouragement for Chhinho and the other HeartCry missionaries. Now pastor Chhinho makes the six-

hour trip to the village twice a month, while the other HeartCry missionaries visit weekly. The band of missionaries remain faithful to travel and preach, but discouragement is a constant battle because the gospel message is frequently met with suspicion and skepticism. But even though it is a constant battle, they know that seeds are being sown, and some are already sprouting among the Bunong people.

## THE ORPHANAGE

AS MENTIONED ABOVE, the second conference that was held in the Kampong Thom Province was hosted in the orphanage “One in Love.” In January of 2022, HeartCry began supporting this work and has also provided the funds for the new chapel where the Bible conference was held. The work was started years ago by Dara and his wife Savun. In addition to caring for twenty-five children, Dara also serves as the pastor of the local church in the Stoung community. He has a tremendous heart for sharing the gospel and training pastors. In the proximity of the orphanage there are several groups meeting for fellowship but they are without qualified pastors. It is a sobering reminder of Christ’s words: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into

his harvest field” (Matthew 9:37-38).

## THE BOAT CHURCH

BEFORE WE LEFT CAMBODIA we made one last visit to the “Boat Church” to see the construction of their new church building which was made possible by your giving to HeartCry. It is called the “boat church” because it primarily consists of fishermen and their families that lived on boats and floating barges on Tonle Sap Lake. The church facility was also constructed upon a platform that floated upon barrels. As the church grew, barrels had to be added so that the church would not sink. Eventually, HeartCry purchased a barge that was placed under the building to add greater stability. However, when the government took away all fishing rights from the people, they were forced to move off the lake. Today they live inland in huts elevated on tall poles to keep them above the flood plain during the rainy seasons. HeartCry is thankful to God for establishing and preserving this church through its many trials. We are also thankful that, through your

prayers and giving, HeartCry was also able to help this church to relocate.

## FINAL WORD

IT IS ALWAYS ENCOURAGING to witness the earnestness of the local pastors in Cambodia as they seek to edify the small and struggling churches and reach the lost with the glorious gospel of grace. However, the pastors have a great need and desire to be further trained. Christians throughout Cambodia desperately need God to call pastors to the field of ministry who are fully equipped and qualified. We urge you to join us in prayer that many men will be called forth and sent out into the harvest and that the saints in Cambodia might grow in maturity until the house of God is a glory in the land.



*Timothy began working for HeartCry in 2015 and assists with the work in Asia. He is married, has eight children, three sons-in-law, one daughter-in-law, and four grandchildren.*



DARA AND SAVUN POSE WITH THE ORPHANS, SMILING AND WAVING.



FEATURED COUNTRY

# POLAND

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BY TOMASZ KRAZEK

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BY ADAM WĘGRZYK



# In The CLAWS

## OF DEAD RELIGION

Written by Tomasz Krazek

Poland is a beautiful country with a rich history and culture. It is the ninth most populous country in Europe and is becoming one of the most important European nations in politics and economics. But what about its spiritual state and its need for gospel-centered churches and ministries?

According to a recent survey, Poland is one of the most religious countries in Europe and among the most Roman Catholic nations in the world. Out of Poland's 38 million people, 88.9% are religious and 88.8% identify as Christian. But the statistics are misleading. Nearly 98% of those identifying as Christian are Roman Catholic and hold to a works-based salvation. Even among the 80,000 Protestants (0.2%), many are liberal, ecumenical, or adhere to the prosperity gospel. The percentage of conservative and reformed Christians who hold to the inerrancy of Scripture and a biblical view of the gospel is infinitesimal.

Most of the Christianity in Poland has little to do with what is revealed in the Bible. Roman Catholicism dominates, deceiving people with a false picture of God and a gospel based on human merit. Worship of the one true God, our Creator, is replaced with the veneration of His creatures—Mary the mother of Christ, the saints, and even the pope. In the year 1717, Mary was crowned Queen of Poland by an official act of Polish parliament. Pope John Paul II often spoke of her as the greatest ally of the Church and the nation, the one from whom Polish people should seek support through prayer. One of the most frequently visited Marian shrines in Europe is the shrine of Jasna Góra, located in the city of Częstochowa, less than one hundred miles from Kraków. This spiritual darkness has been further accentuated by the Roman Catholic priesthood, which has gained infamy for its political, financial, and sexual

corruption. Like the false teachers of the New Testament, many of these men are “ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ” (Jude 4); “evil men and impostors who proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived” (II Timothy 3:13).

The state of Protestantism is also distressing, both statistically and spiritually. The majority of Protestant denominations and churches are theologically liberal or propagating a gospel of health and wealth. They either never preach the true gospel, or they dilute it with culturally acceptable messages, devoid of Christ's power to save. Furthermore, most are involved in the ecumenical movement, pursuing relationships with the Roman Catholic Church, even sharing pulpits. Though no one but God can know for certain, it is estimated that there are only about 20,000-40,000 gospel-believing people in the country of 38 million. That equals 0.05% to 0.10% of the population. This places Poland among the neediest nations in the world for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dead religion has its claws locked around Poland. But our Lord promised to build His church, and there is no opposition strong enough to stand against His promises—not even Hell itself. Jesus Christ is “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.” (Eph. 1:21) When the gospel is proclaimed faithfully and unashamedly, it pierces hearts and rescues people from spiritual death, shining in their hearts the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

*Tomasz Krazek is the most recent missionary in Poland supported by HeartCry. He currently ministers in the Capital city of Warsaw with his wife Iwonka.*

**95%**  
CATHOLIC

**0.3%**  
PROTESTANT

COUNTIES (POWIATY) WHERE THE PROTESTANT POPULATION IS AT LEAST 300 PERSONS.

THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATES THE STATE OF THE PROTESTANT CHURCH IN POLAND. MORE THAN 80% OF PROTESTANTS CONSIST OF LUTHERAN, PENTECOSTAL, OR SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCHES.

COMPARE:

POPULATION: **38,511,800****116,935**

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

TO

**5,343**

BAPTISTS





# DEFEND THE TRUTH

KRAKÓW • POLAND

The story of Poland is,  
like the other countries  
of Central and Eastern  
Europe,

A STORY OF  
OPPRESSION.

A NEW DOCUMENTARY SHORT BY HEARTCRY FILMS  
WATCH ON [HEARTCRYFILMS.COM](http://HEARTCRYFILMS.COM)



For years Poland was ravished  
by the dictates of communism—which meant  
**MARTIAL LAW**,  
severe food rationing,  
CENSORSHIP of FREE SPEECH and THOUGHT,  
and above all the  
**SUPPRESSION**  
of BELIEF IN GOD.


And yet, Poland had been one of the most  
devotedly Roman Catholic nations  
**IN THE WORLD.**

And because of even this

BARREN faith in God,  
the Catholic Church was the  
**FIERCEST RESISTANCE**  
to the communist powers.

Eventually, in the 1990's,  
COMMUNISM WAS **OVERTHROWN.**




A man in a dark coat and trousers is walking from left to right across the frame. He is carrying a small, light-colored folder or book. The background features a large, arched entrance to a restaurant at night. The entrance has a glass door with a sign that reads "RESTAURACJA" and a decorative lantern hanging above it. The architecture is classical, with large stone columns and arches. The lighting is warm and focused on the entrance area.

BUT THE  
TRUE GOSPEL,  
the gospel of SALVATION  
by FAITH ALONE  
in CHRIST ALONE,  
has not found a place  
OF PROMINENCE  
in the hearts and  
minds of the  
Polish people.

BETWEEN on the  
one hand the communist's  
OPPRESSION of TRUTH,  
and on the other hand the  
CORRUPTED GOSPEL  
of the Roman Catholic faith,  
the TRUE GOSPEL  
of CHRIST  
is still SUPPRESSED  
by deaf ears  
and darkened hearts.

...THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL IN POLAND  
IS ONLY  
JUST BEGINNING.






There is a  
**DESPERATE SCARCITY**  
of men **QUALIFIED**  
to serve the church  
**IN POLAND**  
as **ELDERS**  
AND **DEACONS**.

...Few men  
understand the **REQUIREMENTS**  
of **Biblical leadership**,  
even fewer are willing  
to answer the call  
to **SACRIFICIAL**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**  
and the **UNCOMPROMISING**  
service to the **TRUTH**  
of **CHRIST**.

As the **ONLY PASTOR** and  
**teaching elder**  
at his church in **Kraków**,  
Adam Węgrzyk bears a great burden  
in his **SERVICE** to his  
**CONGREGATION**.





For the past fifteen years  
Adam worked full time  
as a POLICE OFFICER in Kraków,  
and for the past five years  
he struggled to fulfill his callings of  
police officer,  
PASTOR,  
father,  
and HUSBAND.

Though his wife suffered  
from serious health conditions  
that required his care,  
and though he is  
WHOLLY COMMITTED  
to fulfilling his calling as HUSBAND  
AND FATHER,  
Adam decided to retire early  
from his career in law enforcement,  
SACRIFICING HIS SALARY,  
DEVOTING HIMSELF wholly to his ministry,  
AND TRUSTING THE LORD  
for His provision.





Since then,  
HeartCry has been  
blessed with the opportunity to  
support Adam in his MINISTRY EFFORTS,  
enabling him now to  
COMMIT HIMSELF FULLY to both  
the SERVICE OF HIS CHURCH  
and the CARE OF HIS FAMILY.

Today, pastors like Adam,  
as tirelessly as they work  
and as FAITHFULLY as they SACRIFICE  
in the service of GOD'S TRUTH,  
nevertheless cannot  
do the work alone.

Pray for God's mercy to raise men qualified  
and willing to answer the call to leadership,  
to become devoted HUSBANDS and FATHERS,  
who zealously strive for holiness  
and courageously

**DEFEND  
THE TRUTH.**



#### WATCH **ONLINE**

Watch the new  
documentary online  
at [HeartCryFilms.com](http://HeartCryFilms.com)  
or by scanning the  
QR Code on the right.







# The Church In Kraków

Written by Adam Węgrzyk

**T**he statistics accumulated by most mission experts place Poland among the most unreached countries in the world.

Yet by God's grace there are people in this country who still experience the beauty of His salvation. When this happens, the question immediately arises—what should they do next? The Word of God makes it clear to them that they must become part of a local and visible church, but in a country that abounds with Roman Catholic cathedrals, or cults such as the Jehovah's Witnesses, there are few biblical alternatives. If a Christian happens to live near one of the few sound evangelical churches, they will almost inevitably join it. If not, they might remain unchurched for years, or otherwise be forced to join churches that are doctrinally weak and

spiritually immature.

With few options at hand, many new converts are driven to the internet in hope of finding a solution. In fact for many believers the internet is a great blessing because in the midst of the superficial and heretical they can find biblical sermons by Polish-speaking preachers. Because most Polish people do not speak English (especially among the older generations), they are wholly dependent on the Polish-speaking preachers on the internet. And since there are few sound expository preachers in Poland, these Christians are severely limited in their options. These facts demonstrate the severity of the situation in Poland and underscore the desperate need for sound Polish-speaking churches that are founded upon the Scriptures.

In the fall of 2017, my wife Elisa and I were

encouraged by a few godly pastors from the United States to take a step of faith and move our family to Kraków. Because Kraków is the second largest city in Poland, one might think that its large population would yield an abundance of sound gospel-preaching churches, but that is not the case. When our church was planted in 2018, we heard many testimonies of people who traveled from long distances to join us. Before my wife and I moved to Kraków, we had to drive two hours every Sunday with our little boy in order to minister in the church. It was difficult, but the Lord encouraged us to continue. Finally, after a few months we were able to clearly discern that Kraków was God's will for us. This was confirmed by the fact that an increasing number of people joined our congregation and were growing in maturity. Although I continued

my job at the police force, and was only able to minister part time, the move to Kraków enabled us to invest ourselves much more deeply in the church.

**MANY OF THE MEMBERS** of our church are believers who were once part of the liberal Baptist denomination or the prosperity churches that taught heretical beliefs and practices. Knowing the Word of God, these believers were aware of the problems and suffered greatly, but because they were not able to find a biblical church they continued attending. In time, they found the sermons that were published by our church on the internet. After listening, they visited us and eventually joined our congregation. Many now testify that they had been waiting for a biblical church to be started in Kraków for many years and are very



thankful to the Lord for listening to their prayers. The story of these believers is particularly encouraging as it reveals their exceptional patience and trust in the Lord.

Before they joined our church two of our members, Marian and Halina, met in their homes regularly for years. They studied the Bible together privately to encourage one another, because the church they attended did not preach the truth of God's Word. They also prayed to the Lord for their pastor, whose eyes were blind to the problems of their church. They faithfully pleaded with the Lord to open the eyes of their brothers and sisters in faith, so that they would desire to conform to the Word of God. Shortly before these faithful believers found and joined our church, they were commanded by their pastor to stop their Bible study and prayer meetings that they held in their houses. The pastor argued that these meetings were destructive to his church and brought division among the people. After Marian explained the need for such meetings, the pastor got angry and shouted at him. This led the small group of believers to leave the church and trust the Lord to provide them with another local church that simply but faithfully preached the Bible. After this great trial, they found and joined our church. When Marian came to us for the first time, he was cautious and suspicious. He explained later that he had not seen a biblical church in Kraków for decades, that he was trying to be careful not to be deceived again by false doctrines or unbiblical practices. Today Marian is fully engaged in our church, showing love to all the other members. Although he is eighty years old—our oldest member—he invites the brethren for trips to the mountains, shares healthy homemade gifts of food, and

continually prays for each of us.

Halina is a sweet older sister, full of love and wisdom. She serves as the administrator of our church library and always reminds me how thankful she is to God for our church. Her husband is not saved, and has been testing her faith for many years. He constantly tries to discourage her so that she will turn away from the Lord. He wants to prove to her that she cannot be a consistently godly Christian who hates sin and loves the Lord. In response Halina simply thanks her husband for being an instrument in the process of her sanctification. She also prays persistently with tears for his salvation. We are thankful to the Lord for these humble and faithful members of our church.

Another notable saint in our church is named Roma. She was saved out of Roman

Catholicism four years ago and joined a Pentecostal church in Kraków. By God's providence, she later met Marian and Halina who, like Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus, explained to her "the way of God more accurately" (Acts 18:26). Roma was very glad to participate in the house meetings with Marian and Halina, to study the Bible and pray. When Marian and Halina joined our congregation, Roma followed. Today Roma glorifies the Lord by playing the guitar during our church worship on Sundays. She also shares her apartment for the women's meetings, where they talk, read the Bible, and pray. Recently we discovered that Halina and Roma were coming to the church on Sunday much earlier than others to pray in secret for the Lord to bless the church service and the preaching of the Word of God. This

was especially encouraging!

Another source of encouragement are the younger members of our congregation. One of these, Angelika, moved to Kraków to join us because she had not been able to find a sound church in her hometown. She knew it was far more important to find a church that is close to the Bible, rather than a church that is close to her house. Since Angelika came to our church, we have been blessed even more; she has grown in the Lord and faithfully works to publish our sermon recordings on the internet. We are thankful for her diligent work in that ministry.

Another notable young member of our church is Justyna, who moved to Kraków several years ago to study and work, and three years ago joined our church. Justyna has a wonderful gift of seeing the needs of others



**FROM LEFT:** ROMA, HALINA, AND MARIAN SIT TOGETHER IN ADAM'S HOUSE DURING A MIDWEEK GATHERING.



before they become evident. When my wife was pregnant, or when we hosted preachers from different countries, Justyna voluntarily prepared food for us. She is a very valuable member of our church.

Iza has been a member of our church from the start. Before that, she had been in a liberal Baptist church in Kraków. We appreciate Iza for her love for the brethren and desire to help with different needs. We have seen her grow in her service to the church and she has been a blessing to us all. Marek also came with his family from liberal Baptist circles where there were many unbiblical practices and the Word of God was not faithfully preached. After every attempt at reformation failed, Marek and his wife came to our church and have been

cism face a great many challenges. A convert's own family might ostracize them, alienate them, or even disown them if they join a biblical church. Two such examples are Ania and Basia.

Even before Ania was saved, she left the Roman Catholic church and by God's providence began to attend our fellowship. After she was saved and joined our church, her immediate and extended family never accepted her decision. In spite of this, Ania has been a wonderful member of our church and is responsible for accounting and finances. She is very faithful in this ministry and we greatly appreciate her for her love and service.

Basia is a lovely sister in Christ. Like most of us, she left the Catholic church after she was saved. Because she could not find any biblical church, she began to listen to sermons on the internet. This is how she found our church about three years ago. Basia loves the Word of God dearly. She listens to our sermons diligently and meditates on them throughout the entire week. She also enjoys sharing what the Lord teaches

her through His Word. Basia's great desire is to see her daughter Magda saved. Magda has attended our Sunday services for two years, and since the very first day our church has been praying for her salvation.

Andrzej and Gosia visited us for the first time about three years ago. They had been in different prosperity churches in Kraków, but when they could no longer stand the abuses and unbiblical practices, they began to look for a local church that simply preached and practiced the Scriptures. Like many others, they found us on the internet through the sermons that we published on our website. Since they first arrived, they have been of a great help and support to the entire fellowship. Andrzej & Gosia have cared for their bedridden parents for many years and this seems to have instilled in them a high level of self-discipline, organization, and mutual cooperation. They gladly use these same skills in the life of our

**JUSTYNA PRAYS** DURING SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP. THERE ARE MANY YOUNG WOMEN AT THE CHURCH IN KRAKÓW WHO GREATLY DESIRE TO BE MARRIED, BUT IN POLAND THERE IS A FAMINE OF GODLY MEN. PRAY THAT THE LORD WOULD RAISE MEN TO BECOME FAITHFUL HUSBANDS AND FATHERS, WHO SERVE THEIR CHURCH AND LEAD THEIR FAMILIES IN THE FEAR AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD.

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In Poland, leaving the Catholic church is considered **religious treason** because Catholicism has been practiced and passed down from **generation to generation**.

faithful and active since the beginning. They have also been an example of encouragement and patience in the midst of the chronic illnesses they suffer. They have been a tremendous help to us since we moved to Kraków. Their daughter Estera was baptized this year!

In addition to our members in Kraków, there are also many believers who regularly travel from great distances to attend our Sunday services. We hope that they may one day be able to move to Kraków so they can fully participate in the life of our church. We also have Christians who have come to us directly from the Catholic church after God saved them. Almost always in such cases the families of converts show great animosity toward them. In Poland, leaving the Catholic church is considered religious treason because Catholicism has been practiced and passed down from generation to generation. Because of this, the people who leave Roman Catholi-





ANIA EMBRACES BASIA'S DAUGHTER MAGDA BEFORE THE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES BEGINS.



MEREK AND FAMILY



IZA



ESTERA AND ANGELIKA



BASIA AND HER DAUGHTER MAGDA







**ANDRZEJ & GOSIA** LAUGH TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH IN KRAKÓW DURING MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP.



**ADAM & HIS WIFE ELISA** POSE WITH THEIR THREE CHILDREN: KHLÖE, KASPIAN, AND TRISTAN.

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church, and we are greatly helped by them. They have two older children who attend our church from time to time but are not believers.

We recognize that as a small church in a large city we have many ministry needs. Most of the members in our church are women, whose faithful work and service we greatly appreciate. However, we hope and pray for men to join our church and lead in different ministries, especially as elders and deacons. After almost five years of serving as the only pastor, the congregation and I realize that additional elders or deacons would be a tremendous blessing to the life of our community. We have been praying faithfully to the Lord to raise godly, biblically qualified pastors and deacons in our church so we can better serve one another in love and care for our mutual needs.

In spite of our great needs, the Lord has faithfully sustained this church and proved many times that the Word of God is powerful to nurture and guide us through any situation or challenge. We are so thankful to the Lord for his faithfulness. He has been shaping this church from the very beginning until now. We have had many difficult times but also plenty of wonderful and encouraging blessings. We are a small young church in the midst of large religious cathedrals and other religious organizations in Kraków. Nevertheless our desire is to honor the Lord and give Him glory in everything we do. His infallible Word is our all-sufficient guide and hope. We also desire to be a local church in which every believer can mature and grow in the Lord. To accomplish this, we realize that we desperately need the prayers of other believers so we can stand firm as we proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in this city. Please pray that the Lord might prosper us, and especially that he might raise up godly, biblically qualified elders and deacons to help shepherd His flock.



*Adam ministers a small but growing congregation in Kraków, Poland. He is married to his wife, Elisa, and has three children: Kaspian, Tristan, and Khloe.*



YOUNG CAMBODIAN MEN PRAY  
DURING A TRAINING CONFERENCE  
EARLIER THIS YEAR.

# A SUMMARY OF THE Great Commission

Written by **Paul Washer**



# “GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS.”

**T**he five recorded declarations of the Great Commission that are found in the Gospels and the book of Acts provide us with a wealth of information to help us grow in our definition and understanding of a missionary and his primary duties. To facilitate our understanding of this information, we will consider five specific areas that are drawn from the above texts.

## AUTHORIZATION

**THE GREAT COMMISSION** is Christ's Commission whereby He authorizes His church to go forth and make disciples of all nations. This truth is evident in all five commissions in that it is Christ Himself who is commanding and sending. However, in the commissions recorded in Matthew and John, the fact that Christ is the authority behind the Great Commission is most clearly revealed. Immediately preceding the commission in Matthew 28:19-20, Christ declared, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth,"<sup>1</sup> and it is by this authority that He sends forth His church to the nations. In the commission recorded in John 20:21, Jesus declared, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." Christ was God's chosen, anointed, and authorized Servant, sent to preach the gospel<sup>2</sup> and to give His life as a ransom for many.<sup>3</sup> In a strikingly similar fashion, Christ now authorizes and

sends forth His church to preach the gospel and proclaim His ransom.

The Great Commission is given to the entire church. There are those who are called to proclaim the gospel and minister to their own people, and there are others who are called to go out and proclaim the gospel to the nations where it is yet unknown. Nevertheless, whether at home or abroad, those who are biblically and faithfully laboring to advance the kingdom are doing so in the authority of the One who has been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

## SPHERE OF MINISTRY

**FOUR OF THE FIVE** Great Commission passages refer to the church's and missionary's sphere of ministry. In Matthew and Luke, we learn that we are to go to "all nations." Mark sees the Great Commission as encompassing "all the world" and "all creation." Finally, the book of Acts sends us even to "the remotest part of the earth."

From these texts, it is clear that the gospel and the Great Commission is a global endeavor from which neither a single individual nor people group is to be excluded. This is verified in the book of Revelation, where the Apostle John is given a glimpse of the future and is privileged to see:

"A great multitude which no one could

"GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE."

-MATTHEW 28:19-20

"GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL CREATION."

-MARK 16:15

"THEN HE OPENED THEIR MINDS TO UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURES, AND HE SAID TO THEM, THUS IT IS WRITTEN, THAT THE CHRIST WOULD SUFFER AND RISE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD THE THIRD DAY, AND THAT REPENTANCE FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS WOULD BE PROCLAIMED IN HIS NAME TO ALL THE NATIONS, BEGINNING FROM JERUSALEM. YOU ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS."

-LUKE 24:45-48

"PEACE BE WITH YOU; AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, I ALSO SEND YOU."

-JOHN 20:21

"BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU; AND YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES BOTH IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND EVEN TO THE REMOTEST PART OF THE EARTH."

-ACTS 1:8

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.'"<sup>4</sup>

If this heavenly vision is to be fulfilled—and it will—then the church cannot stay in one place, but must go into every corner of the earth and labor diligently until all have heard, and until those who do repent and believe have become mature disciples. This is the task of the entire church and each individual Christian according to his or her gifting and calling. Some are called to labor at home and to send off and support those who go. Others are called to go into even the most remote parts of the earth to preach the gospel where it has never been preached, or to strengthen the church where it has yet to reach maturity.

Regarding the missionary's sphere of ministry, we must take great caution and avoid making hard and fast distinctions. In Luke the early disciples were sent to all nations, "beginning from Jerusalem."<sup>5</sup> In Acts they were sent out to be witnesses "both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."<sup>6</sup> Those in Samaria were no lesser missionaries than those who went to the remotest parts of the earth. Thus, we cannot judge the degree to which one is a mission-

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 28:18

<sup>2</sup> Luke 4:17-19

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45

<sup>4</sup> Revelation 7:9-10

<sup>5</sup> Luke 24:45-48





**KABWATA BAPTIST CHURCH IN ZAMBIA** ORDAINS MEN TO SERVE AS CHURCH PLANTERS. KNEELING ON THE RIGHT IS HEARTCRY MISSIONARY JOE SHOKO, WHO MINISTERS IN ZIMBABWE. MR. GEORGE SITALI PRAYS FOR THEM.

ary by how far they venture from their home, or by how needy the people may be to whom they are ministering. Although the church and her missionaries should constantly be seeking to reach the unreached in the remotest parts of the earth, we should be careful to also esteem the missionary who labors nearer home.

## MESSAGE

THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRETY of the New Testament, the great and primary message of the Great Commission is the gospel of Jesus Christ. This truth is powerfully and succinctly demonstrated in the twelve words of Mark's commission, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."<sup>7</sup> Luke declares the very same truth, but in greater detail, giving us the content of the gospel:

*"Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of*

*sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations."*

If there is one truth that stands out about the missionary, it is that he or she is a gospel-bearer. The missionary's business is to know the gospel and to be able to boldly proclaim it and to carefully make even its most intricate and profound truths known to the most unlearned of men, women, and children. There can be no room in the missionary contingent for any novice with regard to the doctrines of the gospel for he will bring judgment upon himself and death to the people to whom he is sent. The Scriptures are clear that those who preach an unbiblical gospel bring condemnation upon themselves,<sup>8</sup> and like the Pharisees of old, they "shut off the kingdom of heaven from people."<sup>9</sup>

Along with the proclamation of the gospel message, the missionary must also be qualified to teach all that Christ has commanded,<sup>10</sup> which includes all that was written in the law and the prophets before Him, and the

inspired instruction of the Apostles whom He commissioned to write after Him.<sup>11</sup> Therefore, we may rightly say that the missionary is not only a herald of the gospel, but also a scribe of all that is written. The missionary is not an inventor of new truths, nor is he an editor of old ones. He has not been called to contrive a message, but to faithfully proclaim and teach the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of the living God.<sup>12</sup> And in all his preaching and teaching of the Word, the gospel of Jesus Christ must be central—always center-stage!

## PURPOSE

IN THE FIVE COMMISSIONS from the Gospels and the book of Acts we discover that the one great purpose of all missionary labor is the making of disciples. This is a fact that simply cannot be exaggerated. With regard to ministry, the missionary is a disciple-maker! In fact, the making of disciples is the standard by which the effectiveness of all our missionary activity should be judged. Regardless of the missionary's intentions, passions, extraordinary labor and sacrifice, he must constantly ask himself, "Is my life and ministry resulting in the increased strengthening of genuine disciples of Jesus Christ?"

It is important in this age of superficiality to realize that the making of disciples is more than hands raised at an evangelistic crusade or an increase in yearly baptisms. Truly biblical disciple-making results in persons who have been made alive by the Spirit,<sup>13</sup> who trust exclusively in the person and work of Christ,<sup>14</sup> who are growing in the knowledge of the Scripture,<sup>15</sup> who are being conformed to the likeness of God,<sup>16</sup> and who are active members of a biblical local church.<sup>17</sup> Again, this is the standard for every person who sets foot on the mission field, from the preacher to the mission administrator. "Are true disciples of Christ being made?"

Having said all this, we must use a great deal of wisdom and caution whenever we set out to judge the effectiveness of our own work or that of another. The essential questions are: First, is the goal of our ministry biblical? Second, are we using biblical means to reach that goal? Third, are we laboring with the faithfulness, hard work, and perseverance that are required of a servant of Christ?

We must understand that the sovereignty of God and our particular field of labor will often determine the results of our labor. Some missionaries labor for years sowing seed that does not bear fruit until a later generation. Others enter into their labor and reap a harvest. Those who judge a missionary's labor by mere numbers

<sup>6</sup> Acts 1:8

<sup>7</sup> Mark 16:15

<sup>8</sup> Galatians 1:8-9; James 3:1

<sup>9</sup> Matthew 23:13

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 28:20

<sup>11</sup> II Timothy 3:16-17 – "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." Romans 15:4 – "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

<sup>12</sup> II Timothy 3:15-17; II Timothy 4:1-2; II Corinthians 1:17; 2:1-2

<sup>13</sup> John 3:3, 5; Ephesians 2:4-5

<sup>14</sup> Acts 4:12; Galatians 6:14

<sup>15</sup> I Peter 2:2

<sup>16</sup> Romans 8:28-29; Ephesians 4:22-24

<sup>17</sup> Hebrew 10:23-25





HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SORIN  
PRODAN SHARES THE GOSPEL  
WITH TWO LOCAL YOUTHS IN THE  
CENTER PARK IN DOWNTOWN  
BRASOV, ROMANIA.

are, more often than not, weighing with a false scale and looking through a skewed lens.

## RANGE OF ACTIVITIES

IN THE TEXTS of the Great Commission, we discover four major missionary activities. Although the work of missions is not necessarily limited to these, it should be carefully and respectfully noted that they *are* the activities set forth in the Great Commission itself, and therefore, should be considered among the greatest priorities. Put another way, if these four activities become secondary or subservient to other activities, then something is terribly wrong.

The first missionary activity set before us either directly or indirectly in each of the Great Commissions is that of “going.” In the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, we are directed “to go” into all the nations,<sup>18</sup> into all the world, and even to all creation.<sup>19</sup> In the Gospel of John, we are not directed “to go,” but the idea is clearly understood by the fact that we are “sent.”<sup>20</sup> In the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, neither “going” nor “sending” is mentioned, but we are commanded to be witnesses and proclaim the gospel from ground zero in Jerusalem to the remotest part of the earth.<sup>21</sup> Even though the preeminent command of the Great Commission is the “making disciples” of all nations, the task cannot be accomplished apart from “going” to all nations!

The most cursory glance at the Great Commission proves that we cannot reach the world by merely sitting at home or blossoming where we have been planted. Someone must send and someone must go! Although great advances in technology enable us to communicate with the world via radio, television, and the Internet, we cannot fulfill the Great Commission “online.” These things are all extremely useful tools, but will never substitute for the flesh and blood missionary. Until a mature church and a strong gospel witness exist among every nation, tribe, people, and tongue, there will be the need for followers of Christ to traverse land and sea to do the work of a missionary.

The second missionary activity that is set before us is that of being a herald or witness of the person and work of Jesus Christ. According to Mark’s commission, the

missionary goes out into the world with a specific purpose—to preach the gospel!<sup>22</sup> The word “preach” is here translated from the Greek work *kerrúso*, which means to be a herald or to proclaim as a herald. The word communicates something of authority and majesty. To know the gospel and to make it known must be the missionary’s magnificent obsession and his preeminent task.

In Luke’s twin accounts of the Great Commission,<sup>23</sup> the missionary herald is called a “witness,” from the Greek word *mártus*, which in the judicial realm referred to a witness of an event or occasion. To be one of the twelve Apostles, one had to be a *mártus* or eyewitness of the resurrected Christ.<sup>24</sup> In a similar fashion, to be a missionary, one must be a witness, not only of the doctrine of the gospel, but also of its power and reality! The missionary is sent out to proclaim or herald, not something that He has merely heard, but something that he has experienced and has transformed his life. Like the psalmist and the Apostle Paul, the missionary should be able to declare with absolute certainty, “I believed, therefore, I spoke.”<sup>25</sup>

The third missionary activity that is given priority in the Great Commission is the ordinance of baptism.<sup>26</sup> Although this ordinance does not save, it represents an important aspect of preaching and discipleship. The missionary is not sent out to form a secret society made up of unrelated individual disciples, but to form a confessing

<sup>18</sup> Matthew 28:19

<sup>21</sup> Luke 24:47-48; Acts 1:8

<sup>24</sup> Acts 1:21-22

<sup>19</sup> Mark 16:15

<sup>22</sup> Mark 16:15

<sup>25</sup> Psalm 116:10; II Corinthians 4:13

<sup>20</sup> John 20:21

<sup>23</sup> Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8

<sup>26</sup> Matthew 28:19



*ekklēsia*<sup>27</sup> or church of believers whose lives are interwoven in Christ and whose love for one another is an undisputable testimony of the power of the gospel. Though it is quite biblical to say that the goal of the Great Commission is the making of disciples, it is even more precise to say that the goal is the making of disciples who publicly profess faith in Christ and join together in a united and visible local fellowship.<sup>28</sup>

The importance of the above truths simply cannot be overstated or overemphasized. The missionary's work is not done when a few or many disciples are scattered throughout a particular land or people group. The missionary's work is not done when there are a few or many immature fellowships that have been planted. The missionary's work is done when there are mature, vibrant, and autonomous churches that are led by elder-qualified men, served by biblical deacons, active in making disciples, administering the ordinances, practicing church discipline, and sending forth missionaries of their own!

The fourth missionary activity drawn from the Commissions is, "to teach."<sup>29</sup> The word is translated from the Greek verb *didásko*, which may also be translated, "to instruct." The Son of God who came to offer His life for the redemption of His people spent the greater part of His ministry teaching, and He expected His disciples to do the same. He gave "teaching" a foundational role in the Great Commission,<sup>30</sup> and He promised that those who faithfully taught the full counsel of God's Word would be called great in the kingdom of heaven.<sup>31</sup>

It only requires a cursory overview of the Old and New Testaments to discover that "teaching" the revelation of God's will through the Scriptures is paramount. Moses taught the people of Israel the statutes and judgments just as the Lord his God had commanded him.<sup>32</sup> The father of every household in Israel was commanded to diligently teach these same statutes to their children.<sup>33</sup> Ezra the scribe was honored because he "had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel."<sup>34</sup> Levi was set forth as an example to all priests because of his



**HEARTCRY MISSIONARY CHHINHO S. TEACHES THE BIBLE IN A SMALL CAMBODIAN VILLAGE.** THE YOUNG WOMAN NEAREST HIM IS EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD, THE ONLY BELIEVER IN THE VILLAGE. SHE ASKED FOR PRAYER THAT SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO MORE PROFICIENTLY STUDY THE BIBLE AND MORE EFFECTIVELY PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL.

faithfulness in teaching the Law of the Lord:

*"True instruction was in his mouth and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity. For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts."*<sup>35</sup>

In the Gospels, Jesus taught that His disciples were to be like scribes who were able to teach the truths of the gospel from the sacred Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments.<sup>36</sup> In His post resurrection appearance to Peter, He said three times, "Feed my sheep." He was not referring to physical food, but to the spiritual food brought forth from the gospel and the Scriptures.<sup>37</sup>

Teaching is central to the Great Commis-

sion. Christianity is more than a Story to be herald, but it is also a religion that deals with the highest matters of absolute truth revealed through the inspired and inerrant propositions of the Scriptures. These truths must be studied, comprehended, and taught with the utmost care and precision so that the Story itself can be correctly understood and applied.

The fifth and last missionary activity that we must mention before closing is prayer. Prayer is not mentioned in the five Great Commissions of the Gospels and Acts. However, in the Sermon on the Mount Christ taught us that prayer was absolutely essential to advancing the kingdom. In Matthew 6:9-10, Jesus instructed His

<sup>27</sup> The word *ekklēsia* is translated, "church" in the New Testament. It is formed from the prefix *ek* (out of) and the verb *kaléo* (to call). The church is made up of those who have been "called out" of this world and "called to" the worship and service of God, not only as individual believers, but also as a collective body, fellowship, or community.

<sup>28</sup> This description of "disciples who publicly profess faith in Christ and join together in a united and visible local fellowship" is biblically accurate. Christians must be ready to publicly profess faith in Christ in the face of great hardship and even in the face of physical persecution and death (Matthew 10:33; Luke 12:9; II Timothy 2:12-13; Revelation 2:13; 3:8). At the same time, great wisdom is required. Though at times suffering and martyrdom cannot be avoided, they are not the goal and should not be pursued. The wise individual Christian and church will walk in a balance of zeal and wisdom; ready to die and yet avoiding unnecessary conflict. As Christ told His disciples, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves." (Matthew 10:16)

<sup>29</sup> Matthew 28:20

<sup>33</sup> Deuteronomy 6:7

<sup>30</sup> Matthew 28:20

<sup>34</sup> Ezra 7:10

<sup>31</sup> Matthew 5:19

<sup>35</sup> Malachi 2:6-7

<sup>32</sup> Deuteronomy 4:5

<sup>36</sup> Matthew 13:52 - "Therefore





HEARTCRY MISSIONARY ION TOMECI PRAYS WITH FELLOW CHURCH MEMBERS DURING THE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT PROVIDENCE CHURCH IN ROMANIA.

disciples to pray in the following manner and the references to the Great Commission are hard to miss:

*“Our Father who is in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.*

What is the Great Commission but the ad-

vancement of God’s kingdom throughout the earth so that “from the rising of the sun even to its setting, His name might be great among the nations”<sup>38</sup> and His will might be obeyed by “every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues”?<sup>39</sup> How is such a seemingly impossible task to be accomplished? Although God has called His people to fulfill the Great Commission, they can only do so to the degree that they are working with God and God is working through them. Whatever is to be

<sup>(36)</sup> every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”

<sup>37</sup> John 21:15-17 – In the New American Standard, Jesus commands Peter to “tend”

and “shepherd” His sheep. The word “tend” is translated from the Greek verb, *bósko*, which means to “feed” or “graze.” The word “shepherd” is translated from the Greek verb, *poimaino*, which means to act as a shepherd, and implies not only the role of protector and

healer, but also of feeder.

<sup>38</sup> Malachi 1:11

<sup>39</sup> Revelation 7:9

<sup>40</sup> Matthew 9:36-38

<sup>41</sup> Revelation 8:3-5

done, it must begin in prayer, be permeated with prayer, and end in prayer.

Another significant text regarding prayer and the Great Commission is found only three chapters later in the book of Matthew:

*“Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.’”<sup>40</sup>*

In the days of Christ’s ministry, the harvest was great and an army of capable workers was needed. However, the means by which Christ commanded an army to be raised was anything but pragmatic. He did not advise His disciples to put adverts in the paper or hold a missionary recruitment conference, but rather to beseech the Lord of the harvest for a labor force that would match the task. In our present day the need is as great as ever and seemingly just as impossible to meet. Rarely has there been so great a time to throw down the fragile crutch of pragmatism and turn to the Lord of the harvest for a numerous and capable missionary force.

Finally, when faced with the opposition of demons (Matthew 17:14-20) and that of earthly authorities (Matthew 21:12-22), Jesus again directed His disciples to the unlimited power of God through believing and prevailing prayer:

*“And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ it will happen. And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.’”*

*(Matthew 21:21-22)*

We live in a time of great opposition from both earth and hell, from men and demons.

Although God has **called His people** to fulfill the Great Commission, they can only do so to the degree that they are working with God and **God is working through them**. Whatever is to be done, it must begin in prayer, be permeated with prayer, and end in prayer.

Either are enough to halt the church and bring her missionary endeavors to an abrupt end. But both the church and the missionary have recourse that is beyond the powers of the combined strength of all opposition. It is the power of God in response to the prayers of His people. In the book of Revelation, the feeble prayers of the persecuted church ascend to heaven, but they return to earth with great power:

*“Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel’s hand. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.”<sup>41</sup>*

This should be a great comfort for those who would give their lives for the advancement the kingdom of Heaven, and it should be an equally great motivation for us to lay aside the impotence of the flesh, stand upon the Scriptures alone, and wait upon His power of God for a mighty response to prayer.

Paul Washer is the Founder and Missions Director of HeartCry Missionary Society.



# ANOTHER JOSEPH

*The Story of Arturo Marin*

This story was first published in issue nine of HeartCry Magazine. It is reproduced here in abridged form.



Although I was born in the jungles of San Martin, my family moved to Lima when I was very young. When I was twenty years old, I came to know Christ, but before that, I did not want to know anything about Him. I was a young man seeking after all the vanities of this life and would have remained lost, but God had me thrown into one of the worst prisons in South America, the prison of Lurigancho in Lima.

One Sunday (May, 1988), after being beaten by the police, I received Christ as my personal Savior. I was filled with joy and my life began to change immediately. Nine months later I was pardoned and let out of prison fully exonerated. I had been arrested because I was in the wrong place at the wrong time. My sister-in-law had been doing some kind of illegal business, and I happened to be in her house the day the police arrested her, so I was taken as an accomplice in her crimes. After nine months of investigation, my name was cleared. I was allowed to leave as a free man.

Immediately after leaving prison I began to attend a Baptist church where a missionary named Carlton Allen was pastoring. His life and preaching greatly impacted my life. In 1993 the church I attended started several new churches, and I felt God's call to serve as a pastor. But God had other plans. The very night that I was to preach at the new mission, I was stopped at a police checkpoint and asked for my documents. The police immediately detained me. At first I thought this was because of my past jail record, but then I discovered that the police suspected that I was personally involved with a gang of drug dealers. One year previously, my documents had been stolen and used by terrorists and drug dealers to falsify their own identities. As God would have it, once again I found myself in prison. I told myself that I was dreaming, that it could not be possible. I was in seminary and looking forward to pastoring, but once again God had me thrown into one of the worst places in the world.

For the first forty-seven days I was in a prison directly below the Government Palace. As I look back, this was, besides my salvation, one of the best experiences of my life. I was able to see firsthand how so many people need the Lord and the salvation that only comes through Him.

Never before had I been given the opportunity to speak with men like these prisoners. There were days in which I stayed up until two in the morning sharing the good news with them. During those days I did not know much about what was happening outside or with my case, but after forty-seven days I was once again taken to the worst prison in South America at Lurigancho. In that prison, it is common to see dead

people each day, and most of the inmates are filthy and sick with TB.

As it turned out, God transformed a living hell into a blessing that changed my life. I was able to preach day and night and experience the joy of seeing the men transformed. The Word of God accomplished what years of prison could not. Many of those who were converted are now preaching the Word also. Time went by very fast because I was preaching and ministering around the clock. Before I knew it, one year had passed.

In the prison of Lurigancho, the authorities are very corrupt. It does not matter if you are innocent, you have to pay to get justice or nothing will happen. The authorities asked me for \$3000 in exchange for my freedom. They told me that my lawyer was being paid by the drug traffickers so that my case would remain hidden, and I would stay in jail. For these reasons, my case would not move. After six months of prison, my church and my family could no longer pay for a lawyer. It was then that brother Paul Washer found out about my situation and was able to pay a new lawyer to keep my case open. I thank God for this because I would have been in prison for twelve years if HeartCry had not helped me.

The day that I was released from prison I was preaching an open-air service to the men in prison. I did not know that I was going to be released, but after my sermon, the authorities came and told me to leave. I could hardly believe my ears. As I have said before, some innocent people spend years in jail because of the corrupt lawyers and authorities who use the innocent as a way to make money. Through all this, God showed me that He does provide for all of our needs.

While I was in jail, I had been praying for the jungle region of San Martin where I was born. After prison, I traveled there and saw that there were no evangelical churches and that the Word of God was not preached. Many cults were moving into the area and it broke my heart because the true Church was not doing anything. I presented the project of starting a mission in San Martin and my church in Lima told me they could not support me or be involved in this type of work because they were focusing more on the city area. However, the Lord eventually provided the necessary support through HeartCry, and I am now serving as a pastor and missionary in the jungles of San Martin.

This is my testimony, and if God gives me many years of life, I want to use them all for His glory. I know God will use me and that He will carry out His will in my life. May God bless you!



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