

HeartCry

MAGAZINE



LIVING WATER *in* ZAMBIA

HeartCry

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

In I John 2:17, the Apostle wrote the following:

“The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

The phrase “is passing way” is written in the present tense, denoting the world’s on-going disintegration. In other words, everything that now appears attractive is turning to dust.¹ Think hard on this truth. The world we know is disintegrating... We are passing away. Every hope, purpose, or pleasure not allowed in the next world is currently turning to dust.

In our youth, we are in an upward spiral – improving, growing smarter, gaining strength, becoming more attractive. But we barely reach two decades, and life begins to reverse. For the next several decades, we decline until we are no more.

Not only is this true for us common folk, but also for the greatest among us — the founders of nations, the architects of wonders, the composers of sonnets, the authors of literature, the magnates of commerce. Sooner or later, they see their works turned to dust, or they turn to dust at the feet of their works. In Psalm 103:15-16, King David wrote:

“As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When the wind has passed over it,

it is no more, and its place acknowledges it no longer.”

It is important to note this is not an isolated proof-text but the consistent testimony of Scripture. Job lamented, “Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain” (Job 14:2). The psalmist wrote, “Man is like a mere breath; his days are like a passing shadow” (Psalm 144:4). Finally, James warned, “Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away” (James 4:14).

You may ask, “What does this have to do with missions?” The answer is, “Everything!” First, due to Adam’s sin and the entrance of death, humanity languishes in hopelessness and despair. Many live and die running from one useless vanity to another until they return to the dust. They must know, and we must tell them these chains of sin, death, and despair are broken in Jesus Christ. Second, even the Christian’s life is but a vapor, and it can easily and deceptively be lost to vanity. We are stewards of the greatest treasure ever given to men or angels — the gospel. Thus, we have a critical stewardship entrusted to us. How then shall we live? We must never forget: “The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

Your brother,
Paul Washer

¹ This thought is a summary from the writings of D. Edmond Hiebert, *The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary*, p.103

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ABOUT HEARTCRY

WHO WE ARE

We consider it an important aspect of our stewardship to remind our partners of our ongoing mission and guiding principles. In this edition, we will state and expound our mission statement:

The goal of our ministry is to glorify God and to bring the greatest possible good to humanity through the preaching of the gospel and the establishment of biblical churches throughout the world by means of equipping and mobilizing indigenous churches and missionaries.

“To glorify God...”

The glory of God is the chief end of man’s existence. In I Corinthians 10:31, the Apostle Paul writes, “Whether then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” Since we are commanded to glorify God even in the most trivial matters, how much more in the greatest commission that He has given to the church!

We must go into all the world and preach the gospel out of a sincere love and genuine concern for fallen humanity. But there is an even greater motivation—our love for God and our desire to see Him glorified in “every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues” (Revelation 5:9; 7:9). As the Moravian missionaries exclaimed, “Shall not the Lamb receive the full reward for His sufferings?”



“...and to bring the greatest possible good to humanity...”

The “greatest good” we can accomplish for humanity is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world. It was through the incarnation and redemptive work of Christ that “the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared” (Titus 3:4; John 3:16), and it is through our proclamation of this event that our kindness for mankind is manifested. What greater kindness can be shown to a people than to make known to them the only message which has the power to save from sin and deliver from eternal wrath? What could be more heartless and do greater injury to a people than to withhold such a message?

If we are truly passionate about the glory of God, we will be moved by the billions of people in the world who have not yet

heard of Him. The reality of their dire condition will move us to compassion, even to great sorrow and grief (Romans 9:2). More importantly, it will compel us to do all within our means to make Christ known among the nations and to endure all things for the sake of God’s elect (II Timothy 2:10).

“...through the preaching of the gospel...”

The gospel is the preeminent message of Christianity. First, it is the only message through which people can be reconciled to God. The Apostle Paul writes, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). And again, “For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all...” (I Timothy 2:5-6). Peter joins Paul in confirming the exclusivity of the gospel when he declares, “There is salvation in no one else [but Jesus]; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Second, the gospel is the premier message through which God’s people are sanctified. In I Timothy 3:16, the Apostle Paul refers to the gospel as “the mystery of godliness” or the mystery that produces godliness in those who believe it. The more God’s people understand what He has done for them in Christ, the more devoted, transformed, encouraged, and empowered they will be.

The Holy Spirit assures us that “all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for

correction, for training in righteousness” (II Timothy 3:16). Nevertheless, the gospel must be at the heart of all our preaching. In an age filled with pragmatism and evangelistic methodologies borrowed from the world, we desire to prove that the gospel is not only sufficient to save, but it is the exclusive power to save. We are committed to proclaiming the gospel in its rawest and most biblical form, unencumbered by cultural compromise, contemporary repackaging, or intellectual sophistication.

“...and the establishment of biblical churches...”

While we recognize that humanity’s needs are many and its sufferings are diverse, we believe they all spring from a common origin— radical depravity of the heart, enmity toward God, and rejection of truth. Therefore, we believe the greatest possible benefit to mankind comes through the preaching of the gospel and the establishment of local churches that proclaim the full counsel of God’s Word and minister according to its commands, precepts, and wisdom. True church planting cannot be accomplished through the arm of the flesh, but only through the supernatural providence of God and the means which He has ordained: biblical preaching, intercessory prayer, sacrificial service, unconditional love, and true Christlikeness.

“...throughout the world...”

The Great Commission is not a ministry option to be debated by the church, but a direct command from the Lord Himself (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8). Each generation of churches and individual believers must see themselves as accountable to God for using its gifts, talents, time, and resources

for the advancement of the gospel into “every nation and tribe and tongue and people” (Revelation 5:9; 7:9; 14:6).

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel” (I Corinthians 9:16). Although we must recognize that Paul’s calling was unique, the burden he carried and the compulsion which drove him are the standard for every believer and church. We are all “servants of Christ” and “stewards of the mysteries of God” (I Corinthians 4:1), and “it is required of a steward that he be found faithful” (I Corinthians 4:2). Borrowing the words of William Carey, we are either called to go down in the mine as a missionary, or we are called to hold the rope for those who do go down. Either way, there will be scars on our hands. We must all ask ourselves, “Where are my scars? What has it cost me to fulfill my part in the Great Commission?”

“...by means of equipping and mobilizing indigenous churches and missionaries.”

The adjective “indigenous” denotes a person who originates from or is identified with a specific geographic location, people group, or culture. For example, the Lozi Tribe is indigenous to Western Zambia. A person born and raised in Paris, France is “native” or “indigenous” to Paris. An indigenous missionary is a person who has been called by God to preach the gospel among his own people.

Although HeartCry recognizes the great benefit and need for sending cross-cultural missionaries to the unevangelized peoples of the world, we believe that we are led of the Lord to focus primarily on the support of indigenous missionaries so that they might evangelize their own peoples. ...

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

THE LATEST NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



COLOMBIA

THE FIRST FRUITS OF FAITH IN CAJICÁ

HeartCry missionary Helberth Conde shares from Colombia: I labor in the municipality of Cajicá, located in the Bogotá savannah. Previously, there was no church or faithful biblical witness in this area; but by the grace of God, the first Reformed Baptist Church of Cajicá has been established. Recently, several men and women who showed evidence of conversion were baptized. We believe these were the first baptisms of their kind in Cajicá. We thank the Lord for allowing us to establish a faithful witness in this region. ●●●

MIDDLE EAST

HOW CAN IT BE?

A protected HeartCry missionary in the Middle East shares: The bread and butter of our ministry is the weekly Bible discussions. In many ways, there is nothing spectacular about these studies, nothing fancy, no amazing techniques. We simply open and discuss the Bible. In another sense, however, glorious and eternal things are happening. Students sit in a circle, look at a text of Scripture, and reflect on it together. Often, these students have these discussions under a tree between classes. They are intrigued by the claims of Jesus, exclaiming:

“A relationship with God through nothing you have done! How can it be?”

One student in particular kept coming back to our study to find the answer to this question. She attended regularly and read the Bible faithfully alongside another believer. In the last few months, she found the answer. It is because of Jesus Christ, who died to reconcile sinners to God. This woman will be baptized in our church next week! ●●●



RUSSIA

WHAT DOES THE CROSS MEAN?

A protected HeartCry missionary in Russia shares a beautiful story about evangelism to a remote location: A fellow brother and I went to a small village to see a man named Olme. His house sits next to a river and is nestled deep in a secluded forest. There are only two other houses in the forest, and none of them have electricity. Further into these woods, a lone hut stands on thin posts. Every year, various shamans (spiritists, witches, healers) travel to perform rituals here.

Olme is a Khanty — an Ugric Indigenous people. In older literature, these people are referred to as Ostyaks. His grandfather was a shaman, but his grandmother was Orthodox. Olme shared with us that, once upon a time, an Orthodox priest came by boat along the river and baptized her. He then told us he was also baptized into the Orthodox tradition in honor of his grandmother.

As we talked, Olme told us he owns a cross, and when he encounters problems, he prays, “Lord, help me! Lord, have mercy!” In response, I asked him what his cross meant. He looked puzzled, shook his head, and said, “I do not know.”

I proceeded to tell him about creation, the fall, the nativity, the cross, and the resurrection. As we neared the end of the redemption story, Olme fell to his knees and exclaimed:

“I understand what this cross means! I want to repent. I want to invite Jesus into my heart! I believe that He died for my sins on the cross, and He can make me right before God!”

Afterward, we prayed together, gave him further counsel, and departed. My fellow brother will go to him next week to continue to disciple and support him. ...

NEPAL

BAPTISMS IN NEPAL

Praise the Lord! HeartCry missionary and Nepali pastor, Mahan Ryan, recently experienced the great joy and privilege of baptizing several new believers who came to Christ through his preaching and testimony. As he faces “significant resistance towards sound doctrine and the true gospel,” these baptisms encouraged him to remain faithful. Please pray for pastor Ryan, that he might continue to preach God’s Word with boldness. And pray for these new believers to seek and serve the Lord Jesus Christ every day, walking in the newness of life they have received. ●●●



SOUTH ASIA

GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS

A protected HeartCry missionary in South Asia writes: Every week, our church’s evangelism team goes door-to-door, sharing the message of hope with individuals and families. We do this through our proclamation and the distribution of gospel tracts. Please pray for us because many of the people surrounding us are aggressively opposed to the gospel and our public witness. Please pray that our church will continue to obey the Great Commission regardless of the cost. ●●●



POLAND

THE LORD BUILDS HIS CHURCH IN POLAND

Pastor and HeartCry missionary Adam Wegrzyk shares from Krakow, Poland:

Even now, I can see that our church continues in the grace of God.

Recently, forty men and women attended the baptisms of three new brothers in the faith. Afterward, we had a wonderful time of fellowship and teaching from God's Word.

Though the weekend was busy and exhausting, it was full of God's blessings. On the following Sunday, the baptized brothers were officially received as members of our church. ●●●

RUSSIA

MERCY HOUSE MINISTRY

A HeartCry missionary in Russia, Vladimir, shares a beautiful testimony of the impact of his church's ministry: We thank the Lord for the opportunity to continue our mercy ministry, serving people whose lives have been destroyed by alcohol, drugs, and homelessness. We not only meet physical needs, but we also instruct them in Scripture, prayer, and godly living. Jacob is a man whom we recently took into our mercy house. He is approximately forty years old and unmarried. Twenty years ago, he fought in the war in Chechnya and suffered terrible concussions from battle. Over time, he fell into alcoholism, and he eventually landed in a psychiatric institution. When the institution released him, his family abandoned him, leaving him completely alone. Because of his dire circumstances, he planned to end his life. Instead, however, he stumbled upon our number and decided to call us. We immediately took him in, helped him with his documents, and began instructing him in Scripture and prayer. Now, he has become a Christian, he is growing in faith, and he is eager to serve in the church. We thank the Lord for Jacob and pray he will continue to mature and glorify God with his life and testimony. ●●●

CAMBODIA

CUT FREE FROM FEAR

HeartCry missionaries in Cambodia are faithfully evangelizing the lost in their communities. The following account features the ministry of missionary and church planter Chhinho S.

One Sunday, Pastor Chhinho visited a small Bible study in Pu Chrey and noticed a man in the group who seemed out of place. When he asked about this man, he was told the man's wife was the host of the Bible study. They were meeting in his house! Pastor Chhinho noticed the man wore a red string on his wrist, a traditional Buddhist symbol for protection. Seizing the opportunity, Pastor Chhinho shared the gospel with him, explaining that true protection comes only from trusting in Jesus Christ. He assured the man that by placing his faith in Christ, he would be under God's protection and power, free from the control of evil spirits, and no longer in need of such superstitions.

As Pastor Chhinho spoke, others prayed earnestly for God to open the man's heart to the truth. By the grace of God, the message moved the man, and he expressed his desire to remove the red string as a sign of his newfound faith. Pastor Chhinho then asked the Bible study host to pray over him and to cut the string from his wrist.

We ask for continued prayers that this man's faith might grow strong and



that his home might become a place of worship for the Lord. Pray also for further evangelistic opportunities in this destitute region, which is home to tribespeople, Cambodians and Muslims.

...



ROMANIA

JOINT EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGNS

Sandu Deac is a seasoned HeartCry missionary in the Eastern European country of Romania. In the following, he shares about three recent evangelistic campaigns in which several HeartCry missionaries participated. It is a long-standing practice among HeartCry missionaries in Europe to unite in evangelistic endeavors.

This month, we held three evangelistic campaigns in the towns of Hârșova, Ciobanu, and several other nearby villages. We were blessed in each of these events. God granted grace, and we shared the gospel with hundreds of people. Through these efforts, we have also built stronger relationships with the people in our regions of ministry, and many doors have opened for the gospel.

We spent two days evangelizing on the streets of Hârșova and Ciobanu, alongside seven HeartCry co-workers. As a result of these endeavors—especially the street conversations—several people began visiting our church. Many of them had never attended an evangelical church. We have remained in touch with several families who have expressed interest in continuing to learn more about God and building a relationship with Him. Recently, I had an excellent discussion with one family. They also invited a relative to join us, and we talked for four hours about the gospel and the essential matters of faith in God. I was amazed to discover both families were already reading the Bible on their own; and naturally, they had many questions. It is truly special to see how God draws people to Himself and prepares them to receive the gospel. ...

ROMANIA

PROCLAIMING FREEDOM TO THE CAPTIVES

HeartCry missionary Marian Nae serves the Lord as a pastor and church planter among the Gypsy community in Romania. Recently, a local penitentiary granted him access to visit and speak to its prisoners, affording him the unique opportunity to regularly share the gospel and teach them God's Word. Marian reports:

Last month, the Lord opened the door for me to preach the gospel to ten young inmates from the penitentiary near my church. I taught them how Jesus made it possible for sinners to draw near to God. This month, God opened the prison door even wider, and I became responsible for another group of prisoners. I now have the privilege of preaching to a group of twelve other men every Friday from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. This group consists of inmates from a darker section of the prison, a section that holds criminals with the most serious problems. They are characterized by alcoholism, drugs, mental disorders, and violence. The spiritual condition of their hearts and the environment in which they live make my ministry among them challenging. However, it also serves as a reminder that only the grace of God can transform their hearts, change the course of their lives, and enable them to walk with Him. No matter how difficult, I am confident the Word of God is the power of God that can change their hearts.

Please pray for us. The prisons in Romania are overrun with young people who have no moral compass and no knowledge of God. Please pray that God might work in their hearts and that they might be transformed by the Spirit. In my last meeting, I had the privilege of witnessing first-hand how the Spirit of God works through the simple preaching of God's Word. Again, please pray. ...



A HOMILY ON THE HARVEST

PAUL WASHER

It should not surprise any Christian or church to hear that the world desperately needs the gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is a tremendous need throughout the world for Bible translation work and the sending of missionaries to preach the gospel and plant churches. Regardless of

a believer's specific gifts or calling, every Christian should be equally devoted to the task of the Great Commission.

Upon understanding the great need of the multitudes, our first question would be what would Jesus do? Or better, what did He actually do? The answer is found in Matthew 9:35-38:

GOSPEL REACH

**OF 8.3 BILLION
PEOPLE IN THE WORLD:**

1.4 BILLION
individuals are considered reached.

2.8 BILLION
have had minimal or inadequate contact with the gospel.

3.1 BILLION
individuals are unreached.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

**OF 6,100
SPOKEN LANGUAGES:**

550 ———|
languages have a complete Bible.

1,350 ————|
have a New Testament.

2,400 —————|
have small portions.

1,800 ————|
have no translation at all.

“Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. 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.”

HOW JESUS SAW THEM

In Matthew 9:36, we are given a window into how Jesus saw the lost world, and consequently, how we should imitate Him. The word *distressed* is translated from the Greek verb *skállō*, which in its most literal sense means to flay or lacerate. The idea is not merely a whipping or a cutting, but excoriation — the stripping away of the skin. Figuratively, the word refers to someone who is overly harassed or badgered to the point of great distress. Additionally, the word *dispirited* is translated from the Greek verb *hriptō*. The word conveys something far more violent than tripping or pushing. The idea communicated is that of being picked up and thrown down with bone crushing force. The phrase is translated, “harassed and helpless” (ESV), “bewildered and helpless”

(NET), and “fainted and scattered” (KJV). A shepherd guides, feeds, and protects his sheep, but those without God have no true guidance, nourishment, protection, or hope. They are afflicted and oppressed by the consequences of their own sin, the hostile environs of this fallen world, and the devil who “steals, kills, and destroys” (John 10:10). However, Christ looked upon this helpless and hopeless mass with *compassion*. The word is translated from the Greek verb *splagchnízomai*. It is a strong word. Literally, it means to yearn with the bowels; figuratively, it means to have a deep sympathy or pity for someone. Since the holy and righteous Christ has such great pity on this fallen, sinful world, how much more should we as redeemed sinners show compassion to those who are as we once were?

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THEM

In verse 37, Jesus said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” Nothing has changed in the last two-thousand years. The words *plentiful* and *few* are set in stark contrast to one another. The word *plentiful* is translated from the Greek adjective *polús*, which denotes something that is great in magnitude or quantity. The word *few* is translated from the Greek adjective *oligos*, which denotes something minute, and thus, comparably insignificant. Jesus is saying that the spiritual need of the world significantly outweighs

the human resources available to meet that need. Although the gospel has advanced around the globe in the last two-thousand years, Jesus' statement is still relevant.

Nearly half the world's population has yet to hear a clear presentation of the gospel, and yet the church's missionary force continues to wane, especially from the West. To further aggravate matters, the gospel must be preached again to every new generation.

HOW JESUS RESPONDED TO THEM

In verse 35, Matthew tells us how the Lord Jesus Christ responded to the lost world. He writes:

“Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.”

The word *teaching* is translated from the Greek verb *didáskō*, which refers to the communication of truth either formally or informally, publicly or privately, individually or *en masse*. The word *proclaiming* is translated from the Greek verb *kērússō*, which literally means to herald or announce as an emissary, harbinger, or royal crier. Notice

that teaching and proclaiming are mentioned first – this shows their priority in Jesus' heart and ministry. Here, we discover an outstanding truth that we must take to heart and

guard as an absolute essential. Although Christ deeply cared about the physical needs of the people (Matthew 14:14; 15:32; Mark 8:2), His primary ministry was that of proclaiming the gospel and teaching the Word of God. In Mark 1:38, Jesus said to His disciples, “Let us go somewhere else to the

towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for.” In Mark 6:34, we read:

“When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.”

Preaching the gospel and teaching the full counsel of God's Word is the greatest blessing that the church can confer upon any people! A nation that is reconciled to God and walking in His commands will experience a positive transformation — personally, socially, and culturally. As the psalmist writes, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalms 33:12). The church must never allow any ministry to

“PREACHING THE GOSPEL AND TEACHING THE FULL COUNSEL OF GOD'S WORD IS THE GREATEST BLESSING THAT THE CHURCH CAN CONFER UPON ANY PEOPLE!”

take precedent over preaching and teaching the gospel and the Word of God! Like Christ, we have been sent out to herald the news of Christ's death and resurrection to the vast multitudes and to teach them the implications of it.

WHERE SHOULD WE BEGIN?

In verse 38, Jesus commanded the church, "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." From this we learn that all true ministry and every advance in the Great Commission begins with prayer. This is not a *cliché* to be hung on a wall but a truth that must become a controlling reality in the church. Prayer for laborers is not a ministry option to be pondered or debated but an authoritative command from the Lord of the harvest to be obeyed. Furthermore, the church can obey knowing it will certainly reap a reward. Will not the Lord answer the prayers He has commanded His church to pray? I John 5:14 assures us He will: "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

The church must realize that, in verse 38, Jesus is giving us a signed check to be cashed. But when the Son of Man returns, will He find anyone believing and availing themselves of the things He has promised (Luke 18:8)? Remember James' warning: "You do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2). How much slower is the church's pace because it spends too much time tarrying before the Lord? Again, the church must not merely acknowledge this truth, but it must respond to it with believing and persevering prayer for the fulfillment of the Great Commission. The believer and the congregation as a whole must ask themselves, "How much time do we devote to the great enterprise of interceding for the world, especially with regard to the raising up, equipping, and sending forth of laborers?" ...

LUX IN TENEBRIS

Lux in Tenebris (Latin: Light in Darkness) is an organization dedicated to supporting gospel work in Nigeria. Their mission is “to aid in spreading the preaching of the true gospel of Christ in Nigeria by providing support to reformed churches, outreaches, seminaries, and all efforts aimed at sound biblical teaching.” One way in which they seek to fulfill this mission is through publishing biblical literature.



Nigeria has limited access to solid, biblical literature. Thus, “it is one of LIT’s utmost goals to be at the forefront of making Bibles and sound biblical literature available for believers and especially pastors in Nigeria.”

Through your prayers and gracious giving, HeartCry was able to assist LIT in these efforts. The following is a thank you letter from LIT’s president Olumide Olumide to HeartCry:

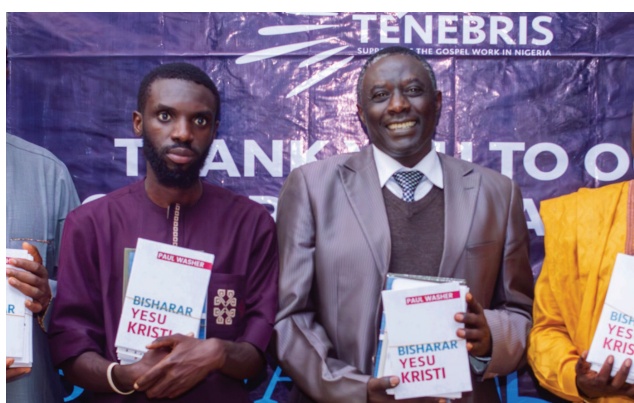
“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

On behalf of Lux In Tenebris, I write to express our profound gratitude for your steadfast partnership in the advance of the gospel in Nigeria. The Lord, who owns the cattle on one-thousand hills, has once again supplied for His people through you. The printing of books, which you so generously supported, were placed into the hands of pastors, churches, and ministries across Nigeria.

This report is more than numbers and logistics. It is an offering of thanksgiving, a record of what the Lord has done through your obedience. And it is a reminder that your work is not in vain.

We pray that you will be strengthened in your own calling to serve the church through truth, and that you will rejoice in the part you played in making Christ known in Nigeria.

Through your gracious provision of \$4200, we were able to print a total of 15,000 copies of *The Gospel of Jesus Christ*: 7000 in English, and



4000 each of Yoruba and Hausa. The increased number of English copies reflected insights gained from our prior distribution efforts. In accordance with HeartCry’s instructions, 1000 copies of each language were allocated to Osinachi Nwoko, your missionary in Lagos. We are glad to report that all 12,000 copies entrusted to Lux In Tenebris have been distributed across Southern and Northern Nigeria. These pictures capture moments from some of the distribution—tangible glimpses of the gratitude, encouragement, and joy that your generosity has produced.”

With a grateful heart,
Olumide Olumide
President, Lux In Tenebris






DEATH BED REPENTANCE

Marian Nae is a missionary in the country of Romania. He serves the Lord as a pastor and church planter among the Gypsy community there.

Recently, God gave me the grace to share the gospel with an underworld figure from the city of Bacau who was in his last stage of cancer. His name was Paul, and he was only forty-eight years old. After they brought him to Fundeni Hospital in Bucharest, his relatives contacted me and asked if I would visit him. Upon entering his room, I immediately began to preach the gospel to him. I told him the Lord Jesus died for his sins and can forgive him of all the iniquities he had committed. After I shared with him, he said it was hard for him to believe God could forgive him for all

the horrid things he had done – his sin weighed heavy on his conscience. In response, I explained again that God, through His Son, was able and willing to forgive every sin he had committed if he would only come to Him sincerely, confessing and forsaking his sin, and trusting in Jesus as Savior and Lord. After listening intently to God's message of forgiveness, this hardened criminal began to cry, calling upon the Lord and asking for forgiveness. God's presence seemed to overwhelm him, and so I also prayed with him. Before I left, I gave him a Bible and urged him to read the Gospel of John. I also promised to continue to visit him



while he was in the hospital.

A few days later, Paul was discharged, and they carried him home to spend time with his family. After a few weeks, he fell ill again, and they returned him to the hospital in Bucharest. He fell into a deep coma, and the doctors gave him no chance of recovery. I returned to the hospital and found Paul lying unconscious, but I was given grace to share the gospel with his children and relatives. I told them about the love and goodness of God and how their father had confessed Jesus as his Savior and Lord. They could hardly believe their father, a notorious criminal, had cried upon hearing the message of

the gospel. They had never seen him cry. They had never seen him broken over his wrongdoings. They had never heard him admit he was wrong. But I told them that no matter how strong a man thinks he is, he is nothing before his Creator, and he must bow down before Him. Before I left, I prayed for them. I told them they must also turn from their sinful deeds and follow God with all their hearts. They must trust the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only one that can offer them the gift of salvation. A few hours later, I received a phone call from the family saying their father had died. I ask you to pray that God would save this family. ●●●

A photograph of a sunset with a church steeple silhouette. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. The steeple is dark against the bright sky. There are trees and other structures in the foreground, also silhouetted.

A STORY OF FAITH & REPENTANCE

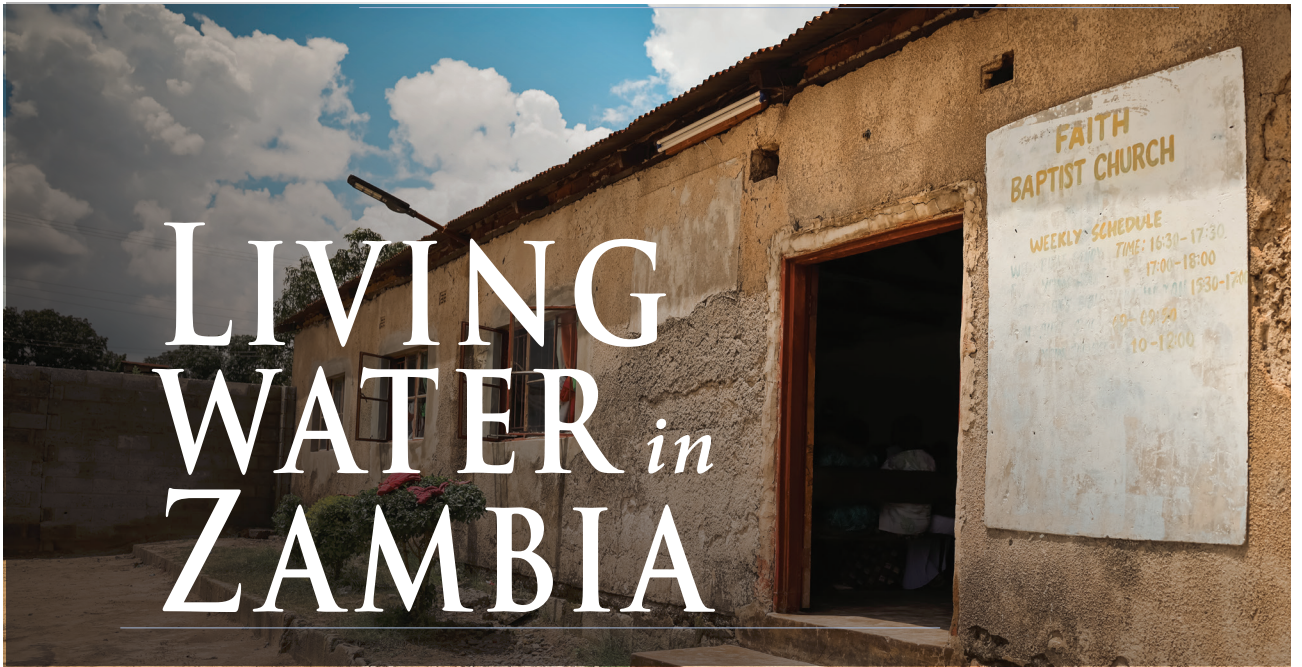
Below is the story of K, a children's teacher in a church in Memong who was recently baptized. It was shared by HeartCry missionary Lork D. who serves in Cambodia. He received ministerial training through Shalom Mission Cambodia, and he is currently serving as an evangelist with a church planting team. Lork has been partnering with HeartCry since 2022. He and his wife have been married since 2002.

In 2023, we began to share the gospel in Memong, led by Pastor Lork. We began at K's house and shared the gospel with her, her siblings, and her parents. K was so interested in the gospel of Christ that we asked to use her house for meetings, praying, and praising the Lord. We taught her about God and encouraged her to read the Bible. Gradually, we saw her growing in her knowledge of God and her faith in Jesus Christ. In time, we asked her to help teach the children at Memong. She loved this, and through teaching the children and encouraging them to read the Bible, her faith continued to grow.

One day, K asked the pastor if there was anything she needed to change or do differently as a believer in God. She explained that in her previous religion, she would do whatever the village leaders told her to do. In response, the teacher told her that even though she could learn from others, her greatest need was to study the Bible and follow what it teaches. From that moment, K began to study the Bible and submit to its teaching. As a result, her life began to change even more.

Through K's testimony, her sister, mother, and husband came to believe in Jesus, but her father would not believe. Instead, he tormented her. Later, when K fell seriously ill, her father scolded her for believing in Jesus. He told her to stop believing and return to his god. In spite of this, she kept her faith and trusted Jesus. Eventually, she went to the hospital and was healed. Afterwards, her father kept trying to quench her newfound faith, and when these efforts failed, he kicked K and her husband out of his house! However, the pastor showed compassion and allowed them to stay in the church. Then, by God's grace, K's father-in-law gave them a piece of land and helped them build a new house. They are now happily raising a family there.

Earlier this year, K and her husband made their faith public by being baptized together. They also brought their newborn to their local pastor to dedicate the child to God. Now, K is a children's teacher at her church. She has dedicated herself to serving the Lord and His people; she is very active. We thank God for what He has done for K and her family. ●●●



LIVING WATER *in* ZAMBIA

Blessings Ndhlovu is the pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Twatasha, Zambia. He received his ministerial training from Central Africa Baptist University. He has church planting experience and served in a pastoral internship under Conrad Mbewe at Kabwata Baptist Church in Zambia. Blessings' desire is to preach the whole counsel of God in order to bring the hope of Christ Jesus to people who have lost hope in life. He has been partnering with HeartCry since 2015. Blessings and his wife, Mukwamba Kilunde, have been married since 2015. The following report offers a glimpse into his recent ministry.



WITH CHRIST-CENTERED COMPASSION, FAITH BAPTIST IS EDUCATING AND EVANGELIZING THEIR COMMUNITY.

Among the people of Twatasha, Zambia, Pastor Blessings Ndhlovu labors to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of his community. Faith Baptist is an evangelistically minded congregation committed to Christ-centered compassion and gospel witness. What began as a gathering of ten believers has now grown into a thriving church where families worship, men are trained for leadership, and the children receive both academic and spiritual instruction.



BLESSINGS BAPTIZES 18 PEOPLE WHOSE TESTIMONIES DEMONSTRATE THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL.

In 2023, HeartCry provided funds for a well on the grounds of Faith Baptist Church. This well has become a powerful ministry tool, giving Pastor Blessings and the church a unique opportunity to share the gospel with those who come to draw water. He explains: “We believe this water has enabled us to share the gospel with our community... We are trying to bring hope and point people to the Living Water—Jesus Christ. Whoever comes to fetch water, let them hear the gospel. Let them hear of the true Living Water. Let them understand that God has sent His Son to die for them.”

The community has responded gratefully to the gift of clean, safe water. The well has also opened doors for spiritual conversations. The

interactions at the well are reminiscent of John 4, where Jesus met the Samaritan woman at her local water source and offered her living water. Jesus declared to her: “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life” (John 4:13-14). Pastor Blessings notes the striking parallel: “In the book of John, Jesus speaks to this woman and says, ‘I will give you the living water.’ And she joyfully responds, ‘Are you the Prophet? Are you the Messiah?’ Then she runs to tell others to come and see. That is what witnessing is all about.”

Through the faithful witness and evangelistic zeal of Faith Baptist Church, God has been gracious to grant living water to many in Twatasha. Recently, Blessings was overjoyed to

baptize 18 people [left]. These men and women were drawn to the wellspring of eternal life, and their testimonies demonstrate the power of the gospel. One young man who was baptized shared: “Jesus is the living water. Whatever we do in our lives, He will be there. Anytime we are thirsty, we can go to Him and drink the water of life.” In the midst of such remarkable spiritual fruit, Blessings gives all praise to God for His work to grant eternal life and spiritual growth. He reflects:

“God is at work. It is not by any human strength or wisdom but by the proclamation of the Scriptures. He is bringing in His own people to us, and we are proclaiming the gospel to them. We are very excited.” ●●●





FAITH OVER FEAR

*A Testimony of the Freeing Power
of the Gospel in Cambodia*

This story was sent by HeartCry missionary Phun Sophea, who serves as a pastor and evangelist in Cambodia. Phun has been partnering with HeartCry since 2015. He and his wife have been married since 2018. The following is a testimony of how God is always at work, calling His sheep out of darkness to Himself.

When my wife and I went to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in a small village, we saw two sisters sitting outside their house with their children. After we approached and greeted them, my wife began to share the good news about Jesus.

We used a booklet that explained God's plan of salvation — the problem of sin, the reality of death, the sacrifice of Jesus, and His resurrection. After reading through the booklet together, my wife challenged them to believe in Jesus and to trust in Him for salvation.

At first, both women hesitated. One of the sisters said she was afraid to believe because she worried that her neighbors might say: "Why do you not believe in our old god? Why do you follow the god of others?" The other sister also said she was afraid her neighbors would hate her and stop caring for them.

Hearing this, my wife shared her personal testimony. She told them when she first believed in Jesus, she was also afraid. Her neighbors hated

her, and her own parents persecuted her. Her father tried to harm her by using magic against her and putting spells in her water. Despite his efforts, nothing happened to her because Jesus was protecting her. She explained that people may persecute or hate us because they do not know who Jesus truly is. But once they come to know Him, they will accept Him as Lord. After hearing her testimony, both sisters, along with their children, decided to believe in Jesus. Before we left, we encouraged them by telling them that those who trust in Christ can pray directly to God.

A week later, my wife and I visited again to encourage them with the Word of God. I asked them how I could pray for them. One sister shared that she had been having nightmares about ghosts, and her children were crying frequently at night. Their neighbors believed evil spirits were involved, and they were terrified.

While we were talking, we noticed both the mother and her children were wearing white threads around their wrists and necks for protection against evil spirits. We gently explained that such superstitions could not protect them, but Jesus—our Savior—can help us in every situation. The sisters took courage and agreed to remove them, so I helped cut the threads and prayed for them. Before leaving, we encouraged her to pray with her children every night before bed. We will continue to disciple them. ●●●



MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT



RAJAT KAPOOR, SOUTH ASIA

Rajat Kapoor is a faithful pastor who is seminary trained and now serves as an elder at a local church – a church he helped plant in 2017. Over the years, the Lord has raised him up to help other pastors and young men in theological training. He has been in ministry since 2006 and has partnered with HeartCry since 2021. Rajat shares his testimony of conversion:

I was born into and brought up in a Christian family. I grew up believing I was a Christian because I attended church. I also tried to please God and to live according to His Word. But I could not do it. I was a failure.

I eventually went to theological seminary, not to be trained for ministry, but to learn English. In my first class, the professor structured the lecture around the question, “Who is a Christian?” He asked, “A person who is born in a Christian family—is that a Christian?” We all said yes. But he said, “No.” Then he asked, “A person who goes to church, prays, reads the Bible—is that a Christian? A person who is baptized—is that a Christian?” We said yes again and again, and he said, “No.” Then he opened the Bible and read from John 1:12:

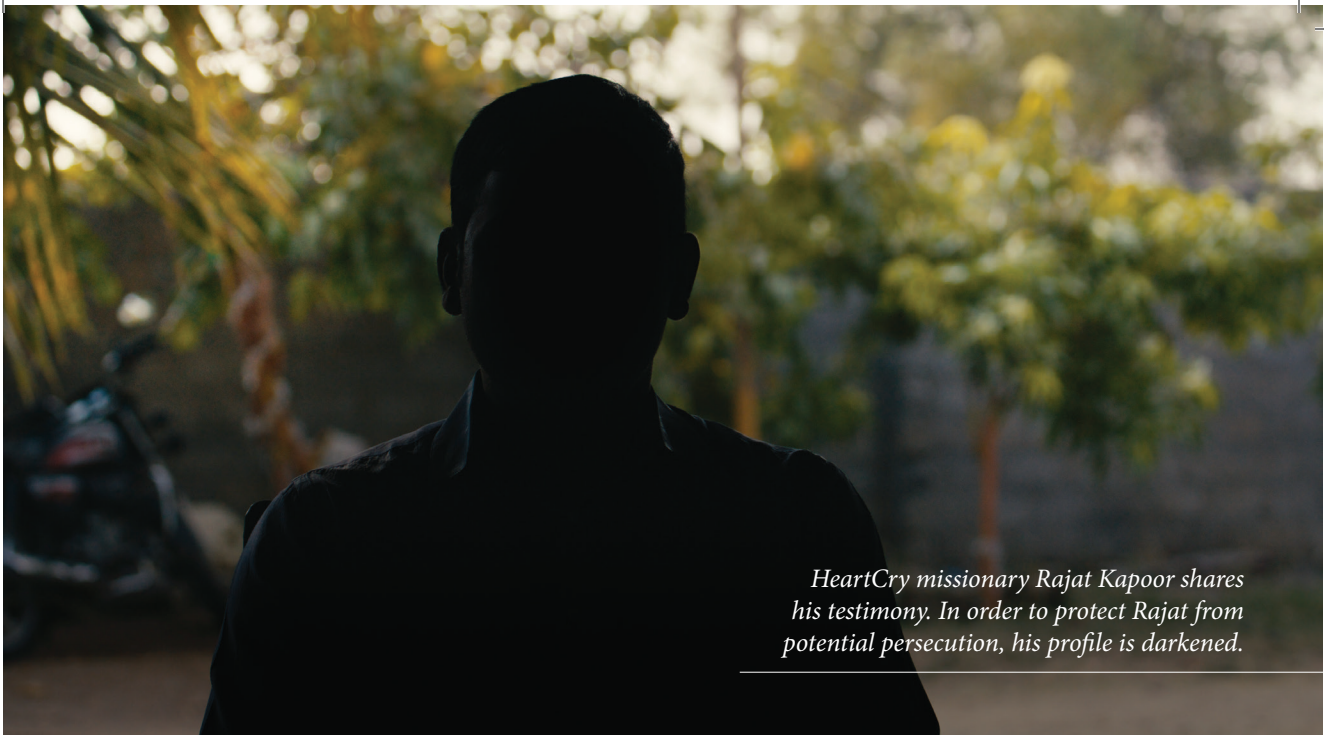
“But as many as believed Him, to them He gave the power to become children of God.”

He talked about repenting and believing in the gospel of Jesus Christ. That was the moment I came to realize I was not a Christian. And yet, even though I knew this, I continued to live apart from the Lord. I had desires I wanted to fulfill, and I thought that after I got what I wanted, then I would commit my life to the Lord. But after three months of hearing the gospel, I listened to a sermon about why Jesus came to die. The preacher asked, “He died for you so that you would have life. Why do you want to live away from Him?” That message struck me personally because I was doing that

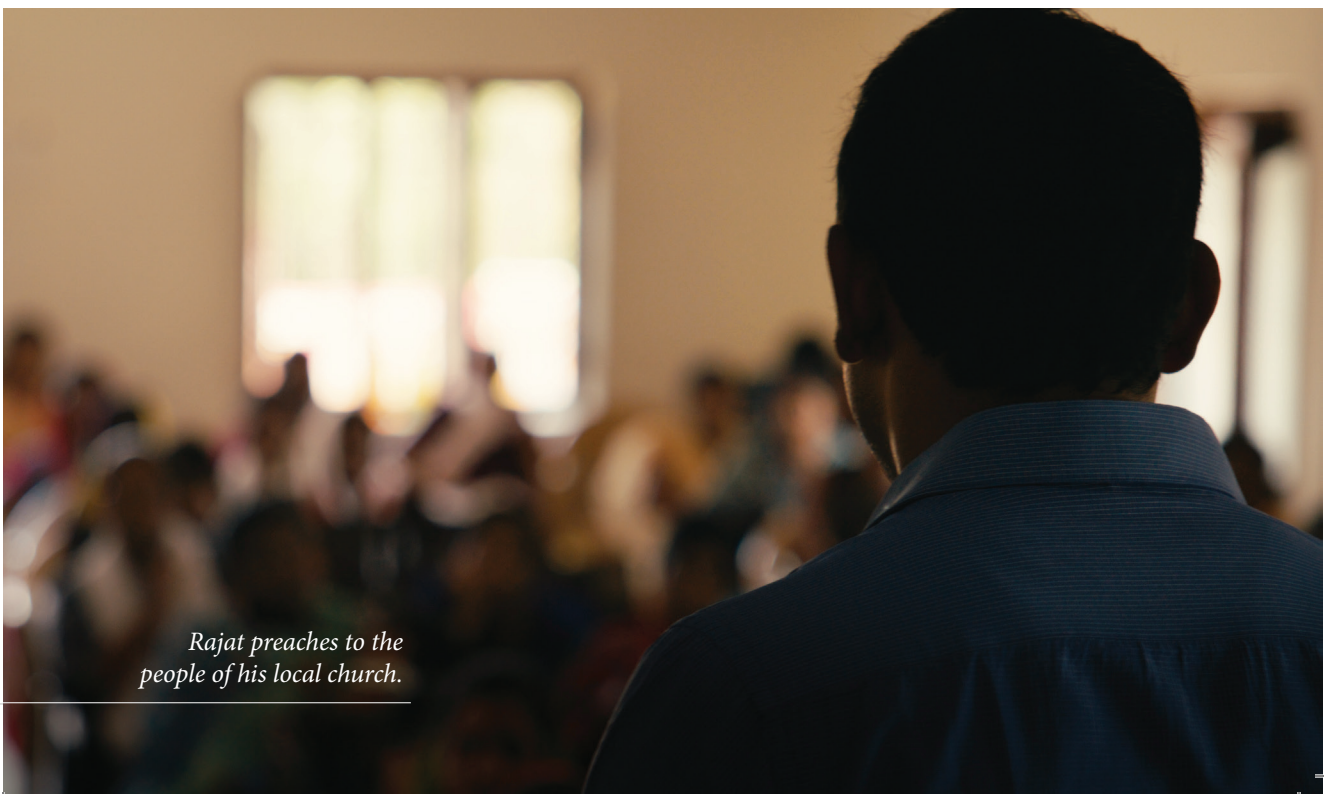
very thing. That night, I surrendered all of my selfish ambitions and desires. I repented and begged the Lord to save me, believing in His gospel. That was when the Lord saved me. After this, a senior at the seminary came to me and said, “Congratulations.” I asked, “Why?” He said, “Brother, this is the most important time of your life.” I have never forgotten that moment.

Later in my seminary career, I was listening to that same pastor. As I listened, I thought, “Because he committed himself to the ministry and to preaching the gospel, I came to know the Lord. If he had not been in ministry, how would I have come to know the Lord? In the same way, if I do not commit myself to ministry, how will people from my town come to the Lord?” I then prayed, “Lord, here is my life. You can use me.” That day, I gave myself to ministry, trusting that the Lord would take care of whatever I needed. This is how I came into ministry.

When my studies were complete, I went back to my people, joined our church, and started preaching the gospel. Not long after, people began to realize their need was not for earthly things, but for heavenly things... for Christ. As a result, they saw their lostness and came to know the Lord. Now, they are growing, and some are even committing themselves to ministry. Having been where they are, I have a burden for those who trust in outward religion but have never trusted in Christ. My mission is to point them to the only Savior who can give them life. ●●●



HeartCry missionary Rajat Kapoor shares his testimony. In order to protect Rajat from potential persecution, his profile is darkened.



Rajat preaches to the people of his local church.

Partner *with* HeartCry

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

For more than three decades, we have plowed, sown, and harvested in our Master's field and have labored to build His house (I Corinthians 3:9). We have made it our aim to "follow the Lamb wherever He goes" (Revelation 14:4) and to give our lives that He might receive the full reward for His suffering. We are determined to hold our course until His banner flies over every inch of the globe.

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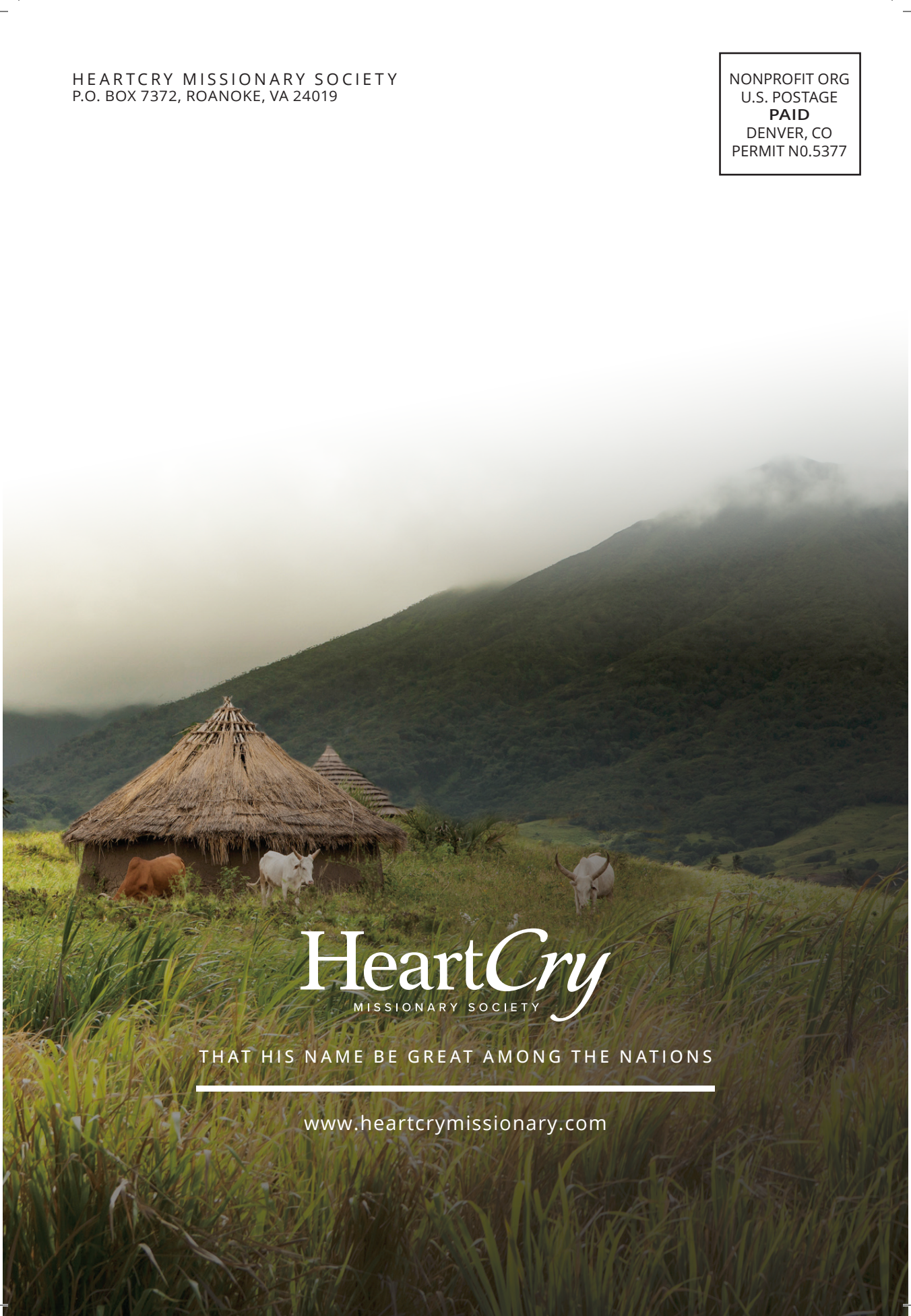


*“For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My
name will be great among the nations.”
Malachi 1:11*



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