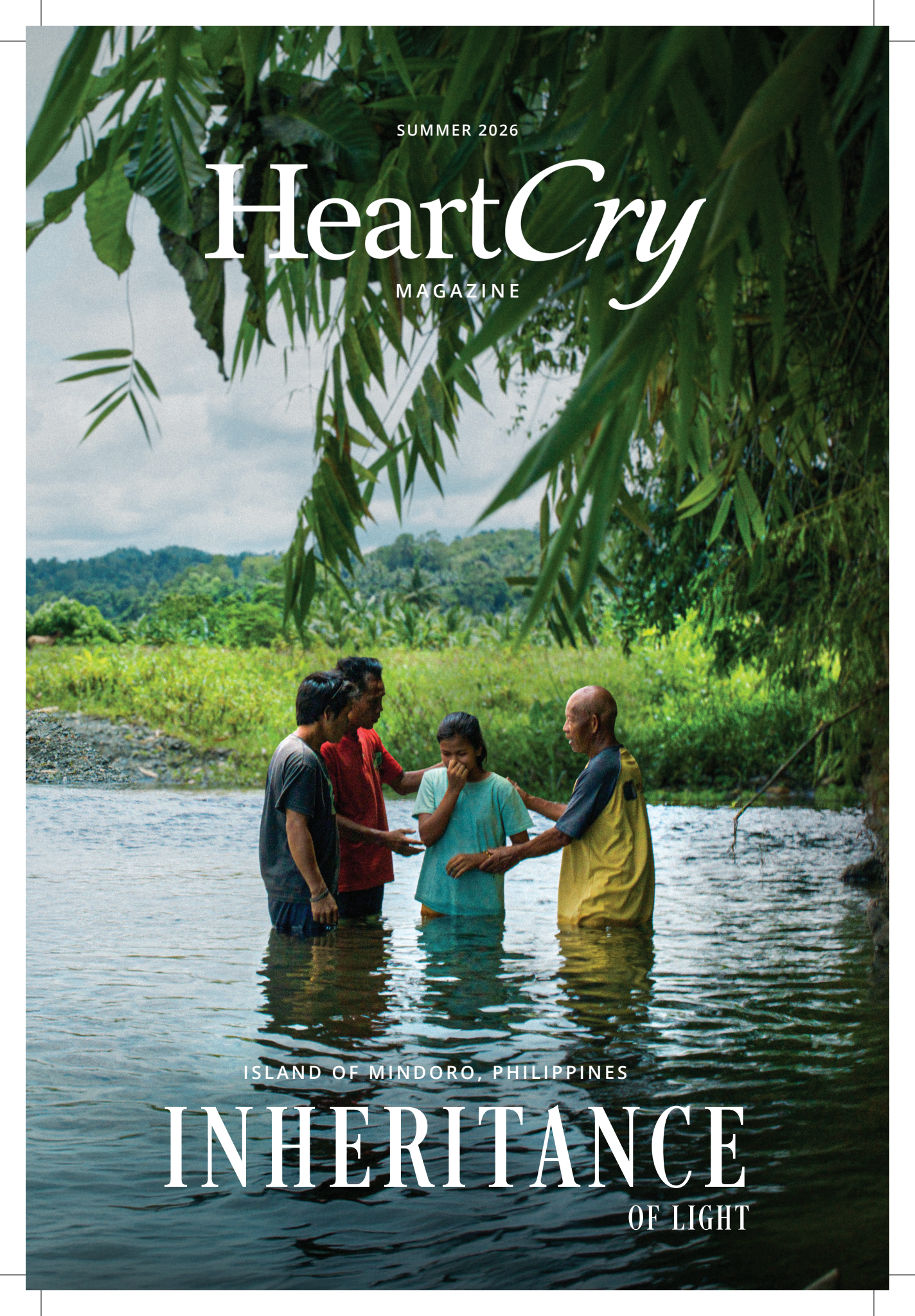




SUMMER 2026

HeartCry

MAGAZINE

ISLAND OF MINDORO, PHILIPPINES

INHERITANCE

OF LIGHT

Greetings

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints..."

– Ephesians 1:18

The Apostle Paul's prayer for the believers in Ephesus is not merely a theological concept for study; it is the heartbeat of our Christian life.

The greatest tragedy in the world today is not poverty, war, or disease, but the darkness of a heart that has not yet been enlightened to see the "riches" of God's inheritance. As followers of Christ, our inheritance is not a fleeting temporal wealth, but rather, spiritual blessings and eternal benefits that flow from God's mercy and grace. It is the fullness of our salvation—the forgiveness of sins, the adoption as sons and daughters, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the sure hope of eternal life with God. It is a treasure that belongs to the saints, secured by the redemptive work of Christ, and guaranteed by our Father's sovereign love.

As the Spirit opens our eyes to grasp the magnitude of this unmerited inheritance, we are compelled to proclaim it to the world! To withhold this eternal gift would contradict the very nature of the God we serve, who desires all He has chosen to come to repentance and enjoy the fullness of His grace.

On the cover: HeartCry missionary Pastor Yannie (right) baptizes a young girl named Sarah on the island of Mindoro, Philippines.

We declare with the psalmist:
“**We will not conceal them**
from their children, but tell
to the generation to come the
praises of the Lord, and His
strength and **His wondrous**
works that He has done.”

– Psalm 78:4

The stories in this magazine offer a small glimpse of how the missionaries we serve are tirelessly proclaiming our glorious inheritance across cultures and generations. Because of their faithfulness, the love of the Father illuminated by the gospel is spreading even to the most remote and dark corners of the earth.

May the eyes of our hearts be continually enlightened to see the depth of the rich inheritance we share, and may we faithfully serve until the whole earth is filled with the knowledge of the Lord.

Soli Deo Gloria

The Staff at HeartCry Missionary Society

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

IN THIS SECTION: COSTA RICA (P.4) • CANADA
(P.5) COLOMBIA (P.6) • MIDDLE EAST (P.7)



Park Bench Evangelism ▲

ANDRES RODRIGUEZ, COSTA RICA | “We recently went to the park to preach the gospel. There, we met a widow with no religious background. She told us that she had never been to any church, never read the Bible, and never heard the gospel. That day, however, the Lord opened her heart to listen attentively. After hearing the gospel, she said she wanted to visit the church. The next Lord’s Day, she arrived early for Sunday School, stayed for the morning worship service, and returned in the evening for the second service. In our context, it is uncommon for a visitor to attend all three gatherings in a single day. But the Lord placed this desire in her heart.

She did not have a Bible, so we gave her one. The following Wednesday, she came to the prayer meeting with her new Bible in hand. I noticed it was full of sticky notes; she had taken the time to mark each book to learn how to navigate it. Since then, by God’s grace, she has consistently read her Bible, regularly attended all church meetings, and actively participated in worship. Please pray that the Lord continues His work in her life. Pray that He would bring her to saving faith.” ●●●

Above: Pastor Andres Rodriguez and the members of his church in Bagaces, Costa Rica, have a goal: to put a Bible in every house. As they walk the streets and share the gospel door to door, these Christians have seen the Lord work powerfully.

SOUTH ASIA (P.8) • SOUTH AFRICA (P.8) • SICILY (P.9) • NIGERIA (P.10)
ROMANIA (P.10) • USA (P.10) • PORTUGAL (P.12)

Finding True Identity ▶

HUGH MORRISON, CANADA | “The Lord has been bringing new people to us. A young woman started attending our church in the late spring of 2025. Myra had no church background and considered herself non-binary. As an expression of this identity, she changed her name, used “they”/“them” pronouns, and cut her hair short.

On her first Sunday at our church, the Lord greatly ministered to her. On her third Sunday, the Lord convicted her of her need for Him, and Myra cried out to Him. When she recalls that moment, she says it felt like the hand of Jesus was “pulling stuff out of her.” In that moment, she knew her sins were forgiven, and she was at peace with God.

God has been at work in her life ever since. Her whole mindset has shifted, and it is wonderful to see how readily she accepts whatever the Bible says. She took back her birth name, began using the correct “she”/“her” pronouns, and is letting her hair grow long again. Myra was baptized in September of 2025. Since then, she started bringing her family to church. She dropped out of her

art program because of the unhealthy and ungodly atmosphere associated with it.

“In that moment, she knew her sins were forgiven, and she was at peace with God.”

She also has witnessed to two of her friends about Christ, one of whom had similar gender identity struggles. One of these friends cried out to God for salvation, and the other has started reading the Bible and going to church. It is amazing what the Lord can do, even in a short period of time.” ●●●



Above: Hugh serves in Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. He is the pastor of a 189-year-old rural church there: Margaree Valley Baptist Church. Hugh grew up attending this church and became the pastor in 2001.

The Divine Hand Protects Life ▶

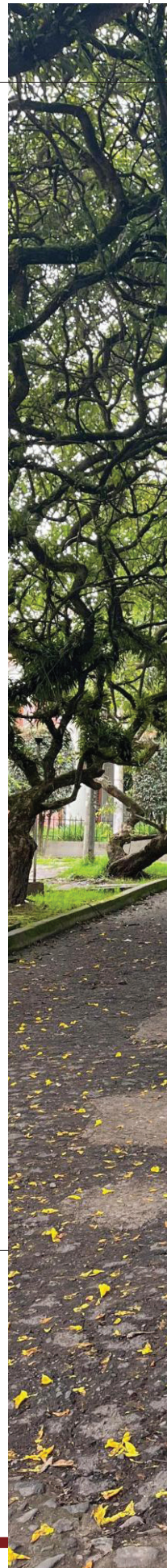
OSCAR PAZ, COLOMBIA | “Since my wife’s adolescence, a medical shadow has loomed over her life: severe endometriosis and constant cysts that invaded her body. The doctors were clear, almost cruelly clear: ‘She will never be able to have children.’ The endometrial tissue had covered her uterus and fallopian tubes, making conception, humanly speaking, impossible. Years passed and finally, the Lord granted us the news we so longed for: Daniela was pregnant. However, that little one did not survive. In addition to endometriosis, Daniela had a deficiency in coagulation proteins that prevented blood from flowing properly to the baby. One month of life was enough for that heart to stop beating and for our hearts to break.

Even so, we did not stop praying. We continued to believe that the God who opens the sea and gives life where there is none could also open a womb that science had closed. A year ago, the pain returned with greater intensity. Her endometriosis had spread, and urgent surgery was necessary. Once again, the medical specialists concluded, ‘She will never be able to get pregnant.’ But our response was the same: pray. Day after day, we cried out

to the Lord, asking for the impossible. Finally, the day of the surgery arrived. The doctors cleaned out her uterus, removed the cysts, and cleared her fallopian tubes.

A month later, my wife began to feel different... strange discomforts, unusual sensitivity. And when the tests confirmed the truth, we fell to our knees: she was pregnant! And this pregnancy had begun before the surgery. The doctor, without knowing it, had operated on her while she was carrying a life in her womb. Miraculously, that little one was not harmed. The human scalpel could not touch what the divine Hand had decided to protect. Today, that baby, our little Esther, is eight months old. She is healthy and happy, and we proclaim God’s faithfulness. The Lord heard our prayers.” ●●●

Oscar Paz serves as a church planter at Mision Biblica de Pasto in Pasto, Colombia. He and his wife, Daniela, have been married since 2020, and he has worked with Heartcry since 2025.





MIDDLE EAST | “L was raised in a country governed by strict Islamic beliefs. She moved away from her family to study, and a friend at the university shared the gospel with her. Though she rejected the truth at first, the Lord continued to work in her heart. In time, she started reading God’s Word on her own. She found it surprising – it answered her questions, and she saw that the God of the Bible was a good and gracious Father.

Last year, she repented and placed her faith in Christ, declaring that she was now a child of God. I met her on her first visit to our Sunday gathering and invited her to study the Scriptures with me. She gladly accepted. Whenever we met, she also asked thoughtful questions from her personal reading. Within a few weeks, she had read the entire New Testament. Her hunger for the Word was wonderful to see, and her joy was evident to all. Moreover, she wanted to share this truth with other friends at the university.”

“Within a few weeks, she had read **the entire New Testament. Her hunger for the Word was wonderful to see.”**

Our Church's First Wedding

SOUTH ASIA | “Our church just hosted its very first wedding. It was a joyous moment. It is difficult—if not impossible—to convince non-Christian parents to allow and support a Christian wedding. However, our church prayed, and the Lord answered our prayers.

Because of the couple's courage, their wedding presented an opportunity to preach the gospel to over 200 attendees, most of whom were non-Christians. The crowd listened attentively during the sermon, and many of them were astounded by our

church's hospitality. Moreover, a close family member was among the crowd. My wife and I have been praying that God would open doors for us to share the gospel with her—this wedding was the answer to our prayers.

I was encouraged by the couple's God-given boldness to stand up for their faith and make Christ the center of their wedding day. By such a stand, they have become a good example to the whole church, unbelievers heard the gospel message, and most importantly, God was glorified.” ●●●



Left: Mario serves as a pastor in Belleville South, Cape Town, South Africa. In a place dominated by gang wars, drugs, and prostitution, God is still saving souls through the gospel work of Mario and Reformed Community Church.

◀ Baptisms In South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA | “I had the immense privilege of baptizing eight souls, including two of my own children, Chané and Tyran. What a joyful and emotional moment for our entire church family! There is nothing better than seeing the gospel on display and the power of Christ transforming lives. We continue to praise God for adding to His church those who are being saved. Hallelujah!” ●●●

—Mario Maneville



Seeking Something Deeper ▲

FRANCESCO POLLICINO, SICILY | “On a recent Sunday, a young couple joined the church. Giuseppe and Carmen grew up in Christian families and attended church regularly, but in recent years, they found themselves longing for something deeper that could feed their souls. After their marriage in 2023, this growing hunger led them to Buona Novella, even though it required an hour-and-a-half drive.

Carmen professed faith as a teenager and was baptized; Giuseppe professed faith in his late twenties, but he was afraid to ask for baptism. After a time of further instruction, clear evidence of God’s grace in their lives, and a public commitment to be faithful church members, they were joyfully admit-

ted to the church. Carmen was added upon her profession of faith, and Giuseppe was added following his baptism.

The baptism was celebrated on a beach in Milazzo, where several people listened to Giuseppe’s testimony and heard the gospel proclaimed. Though it is demanding for them to attend our church due to the long drive, their commitment and hunger for biblical teaching are an encouraging example. Their story reminds us of the need for solid, scriptural, and evangelical teaching. Unfortunately, many lands are spiritually impoverished in this sense. But by God’s grace, we are able to carry out this work in this area of Sicily because of your precious support, and we are very thankful for that.” ●●●

Bible Tract Distribution

NIGERIA | “We had the opportunity to minister to over a hundred students in a secondary school. We proclaimed the gospel and distributed free Bibles and copies of Paul Washer’s “The Gospel of Jesus Christ” to students and staff! May these feeble efforts bear fruit to the glory of our Savior.” ●●●

—Ruke I



Top: Ruke shares: “I am committed to helping spread the gospel to the ends of the earth, especially in my home country, Nigeria, that is heavily under the bondage of false teachings. I believe the most effective way to do this is through the planting of biblically sound churches.”

Top Right: During her college years, Loredana was involved in a student ministry that deepened her relationship with the Lord. Since the Lord called her into student ministry, one of her greatest joys has been seeing students mature in their faith and bear fruit.



HEARTCRY OFFICE | “Every Friday, men and women from a protected country in Southeast Asia gather around a small computer screen to hear from God’s Word. A HeartCry mission coordinator preaches while HeartCry missionary J.R.R. translates the teaching live. Each message is recorded, and J.R.R. distributes the recordings to believers throughout the country. HeartCry counts it a privilege, joy, and stewardship to see the Word reach even the most remote corners of Southeast Asia.” ●●●

Left: HeartCry mission coordinators often have opportunities to teach around the world.

Whether from the office virtually or traveling in-person to hold conferences or training sessions, coordinators are privileged to play a part in the practical and theological formation of missionaries worldwide.



35 Years of Student Ministry ▲

LOREDANA GAL, ROMANIA | “We just celebrated 35 years of student ministry! To celebrate, we held a big event to spend time praising God for how He has worked in the lives of the students in Bucharest. Leaders and graduates from all generations attended. We held a panel discussion with the leaders, asking them how the students have changed over the years and reflecting on the most effective methods for reaching them. We also heard testimonies from students on how they came to Christ, matured in their faith, and got involved as church members. It was a fascinating discussion. It revealed that no matter the generational shifts, people need the same glorious gospel that can save any sinner.” ●●●



Jehovah's Witnesses Beliefs

The Jehovah's Witness organization is a worldwide cult, claiming over 9M members. While they call themselves Christians and say they believe the Bible, their teachings are dangerous and lead many people astray.

The Nature of God	<i>Non-Trinitarian</i>
Jesus Christ	<i>A created being. Identified as the Archangel Michael before becoming human. He is not God.</i>
The Holy Spirit	<i>Not a person; an impersonal "active force."</i>
Salvation	<i>Achieved through faith in Jesus' sacrifice AND ongoing works and obedience to the Watchtower organization.</i>
Ultimate Authority	<i>The Bible (New World Translation), as exclusively interpreted by the Governing Body.</i>
Eschatology	<i>144,000 will go to Heaven to rule with Christ. The rest will live on a new Earth. The wicked cease to exist (annihilationism).</i>

Above: HeartCry missionary Jairo Lopes (pictured right) baptizes James while the congregation watches. Jairo serves as assistant pastor at Miratejo Baptist Church.



◀ Delivered from Empty Religion

MARIO PINA, PORTUGAL | “We recently had the joy of baptizing eight souls who were redeemed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. One was a young man named James, who grew up among Jehovah’s Witnesses. His father was a sect leader. He recalls his upbringing: *‘Every Tuesday and Sunday we would go to meetings in the kingdom hall, and on Saturdays we would preach house to house. This was the reality that I lived, and from a young age it seemed to me that we did it more out of habit and love for religion than something we did for God.’*

Compounding this spiritual emptiness, his father was expelled from Jehovah’s Witnesses for adultery and divorce. James’ family was not allowed to have contact with him. This greatly impacted James, causing him to drift away from his childhood religion. As he drifted further, he developed a romantic relationship with a young lady named Sofia. She was raised in a charismatic church. Neither wanted anything to do with church because of their negative experiences. Over time, however, they were convicted of sin they were committing in their relationship, and they started reading the Bible together. They also started listening to sermons on YouTube. Eventually, they decided to visit local churches. After visiting a few churches in our area, they attended our church. It was there, during the Sunday afternoon Bible study, that James came to understand the gospel.

On the day of his baptism, he testified: *‘Here I realized how deceived I was. It was as if my eyes were opened for the first time. The true gospel of the Lord touched my heart. At every service and during every lesson on the Fundamentals of the Faith, I wanted to worship the Lord with my whole body and soul. I held back my tears that afternoon, but it was to no avail. That night, I prayed to our Heavenly Father, asking Him to forgive me for my sins and confessing that only Jesus Christ could save me from my sinful condition. On that day, I had assurance of my salvation.’*

From the sins we committed as a couple, to the sins that I committed individually, today I am freed. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit have changed me. Thus, I want to show my dedication to God and become a member of this local church, where I learned the true gospel. I am eternally grateful for the salvation of our loving God, and I wish to serve Him forever.” ●●●

“Here I realized how deceived I was. It was as if my eyes were opened for the first time. The true gospel of the Lord touched my heart.”



FEATURES

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THE MERCY OF GOD IN KAZAKHSTAN | PAGE 20

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“If we believe in Him with our whole heart, if we repent of our sins completely and forsake them, He will save us to be like Him. There is only one way—that is trusting Jesus to save us...

SALVATION IS FREE.”

—PASTOR YANNIE

Caracas, Venezuela

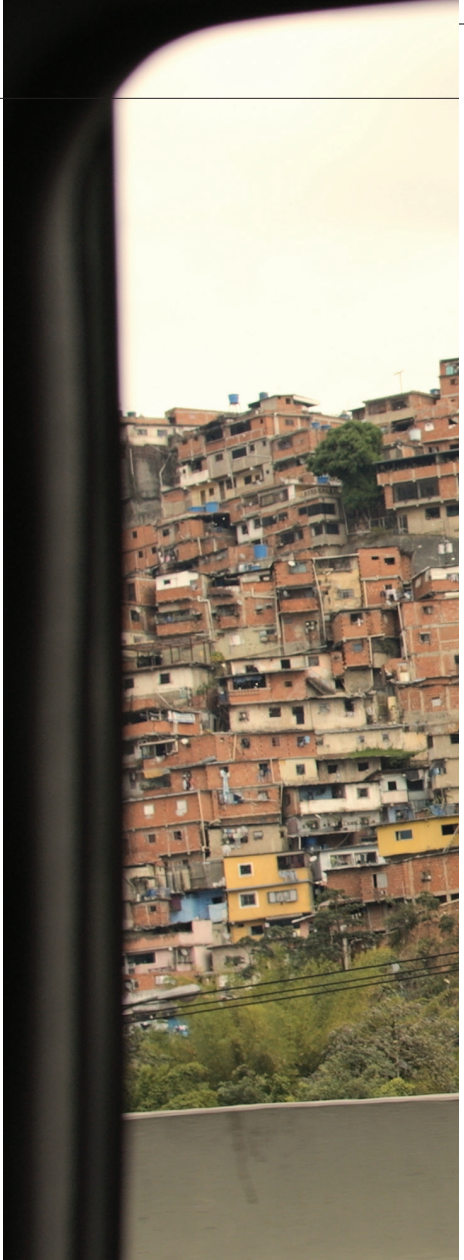
ACCURATELY HANDLING THE WORD

“The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”

—Psalm 119:130

On top of harsh economic conditions, pastors in Venezuela face limited access to theological resources, restricted technological availability, and isolation from other faithful pastors. In response to this need, HeartCry sponsored a workshop and purchased technology for seven Venezuelan pastors. From the moment each pastor opened his new laptop to the final hours of prayer and fellowship, the Lord used this gathering to equip pulpits and build unity across the Venezuelan church.

Each pastor received a laptop equipped with Logos Bible Software, pre-installed theological books, and digital access to training materials. Their travel, lodging, and meals were also covered for the duration of the workshop. Javier Martínez and Leroy Espitia taught live from the screen. The men interacted freely, asking many questions. They learned how to use the software to search Greek and Hebrew dictionaries. They practiced building sermon outlines inside



Above: Many Venezuelans suffer from large shortages of basic goods, unemployment, severe crime, and corruption. Often, people must stand in line for hours just to receive a bag of rice or a portion of bread. Violence has soared, and it is estimated that someone is murdered in the country every twenty-one minutes.



Logos. Pastor Plinio Orozco wrote, *“They were attentive, taking notes, interacting with the instructors, and rejoicing in the opportunity to study the Scriptures together.”*

These pastors are now able to prepare expositional sermons with resources that offer depth and access to language tools, commentaries, and other theological works. Most of them returned home to preach the next weekend and immediately put these new tools to use. Additionally, for many, the fellowship was as meaningful as the teaching.

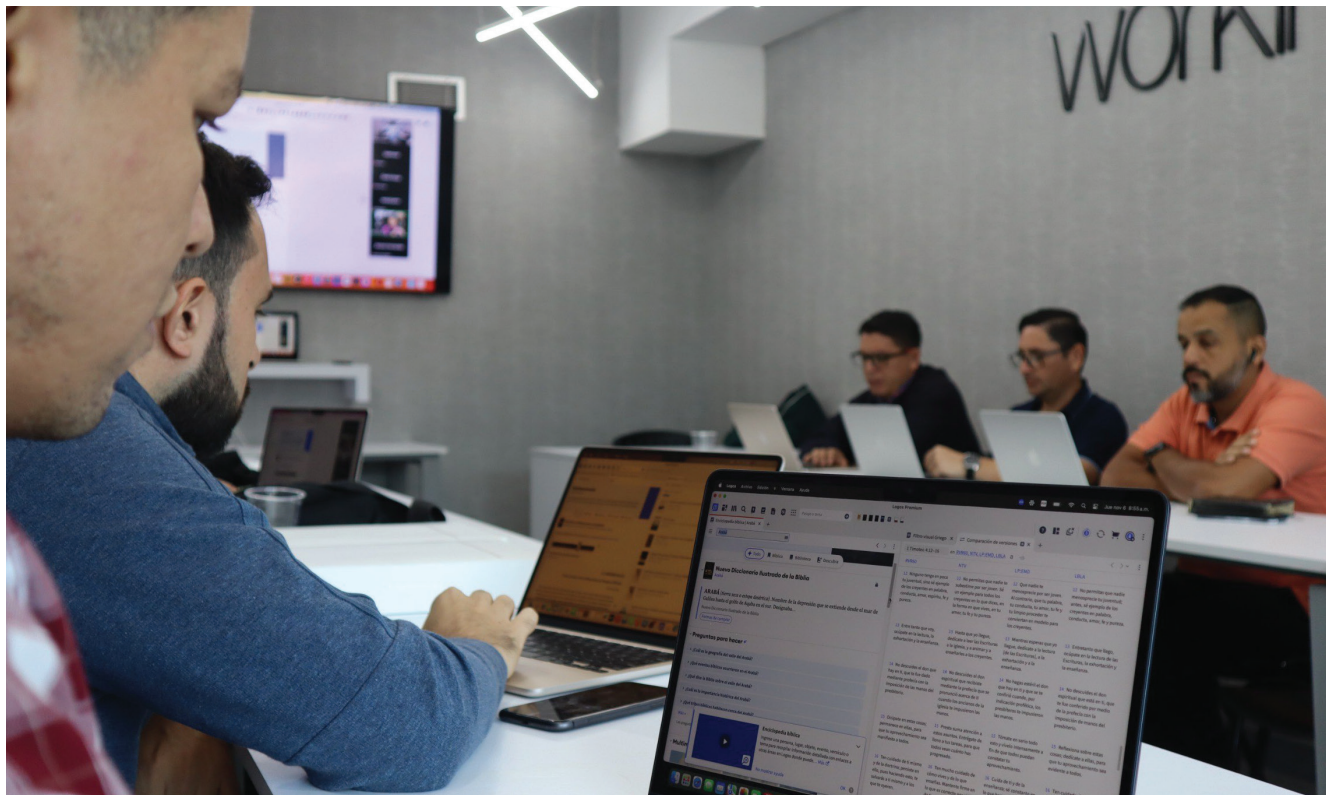
These pastors live far apart, and they seldom see one another. Thus, they also returned to their churches encouraged and unified.

This workshop further equipped them to “accurately handle the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15) and to “preach the word [and] be ready in season and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2). For men who have long labored with limited tools, this was more than a gift of technology. It was an answer to prayer and a direct investment into the churches they shepherd. ●●●

“I am deeply grateful to the Lord and to HeartCry for bringing us these tools. I have wanted to use Logos for years, and **today it is a reality** that has given me a huge boost to continue serving Him. Praise the Lord!”

Bottom: When the funds arrived, Plinio began the difficult task of securing laptops in a market where technology is scarce and supply unreliable. After losing the first supplier due to delays, the Lord provided a second source with the same models, each new and warrantied.

–Luis M.



“Brother, it was a very beneficial and refreshing time for my soul, from the training, the new tools (**which were impossible for us before**), and sharing with the other pastors. I praise God for all of it. Thank you. May the Lord prosper your efforts and the work in Venezuela.”

–Johan R.

“The Lord sometimes allows His providence to be evident to our eyes. This training period is an example of that. The equipment and tools that have been lovingly given to us are **clear evidence that God is bringing reform to our churches and our nation.** He has made clear His desire that our souls and our pulpits grow and mature **so that the light of His Word may shine and burn more intensely in our lives.** May the Lord help us to take advantage of each of these opportunities, and may His goodness impress upon our souls the urgency, the holy duty, and the delight of proclaiming His Name with precision.”

—Jhon M.

“Blessed and praised be our Lord for His kindness and mercy toward us...not only for equipping us with this equipment and the Logos tool that we so desperately needed and for which I am very grateful and amazed, but also for the blessing of fellowship among pastors... **how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity...** Thank you for thinking of the missionary work in Venezuela... Soli Deo Gloria!!”

—David A.

“Our family and the Church are extremely grateful to the Lord and to those who generously give of their resources to make it possible for us to now have these tools, which not only help us in our work, but also encourage us to continue working. **It was an excellent time of learning and fellowship,** which was very necessary amid so many commitments. I hope to continue to make the most of this tool and continue adding resources to the Logos program.”

—Néstor J.



“Lord, I thank You for Your grace. Indeed, You found me in the pit of despair. You saved me from destruction and saved all of us who believe in You. Help us, Lord, to continue to follow You...

GLORY TO YOU FOREVER, FATHER, SON,
AND HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.”

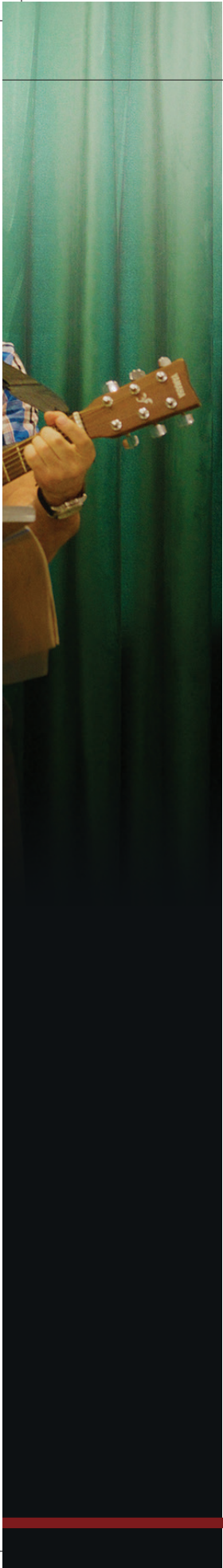
-PASTOR BAGID

A REMNANT OF LIGHT

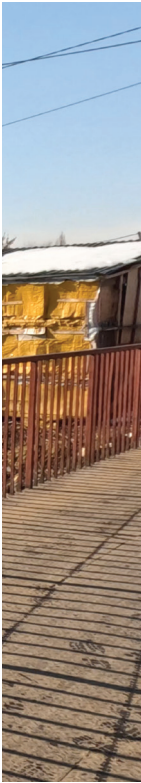
*God's Mercy
in Kazakhstan*

Pastor Bagid serves as a shepherd of God's people in the steppes of Kazakhstan. He came to faith, not in a church, but behind prison walls. After an impoverished childhood, Bagid tried to improve his life through crime and theft. By his third prison sentence, the burden of his crimes and the bleakness of his future overwhelmed him. He recalls: "At that time, I was lying in that smelly dampness. Nobody cared about me." His despair drove him to consider ending his life. But in the middle of that dark, foul prison, he heard a message of hope. A fellow prisoner spoke of a Savior who had lived and died and risen again for sinners like Bagid. Overwhelmed by God's mercy, Bagid prayed, and the chains of his guilt fell off. Joy flooded his soul.

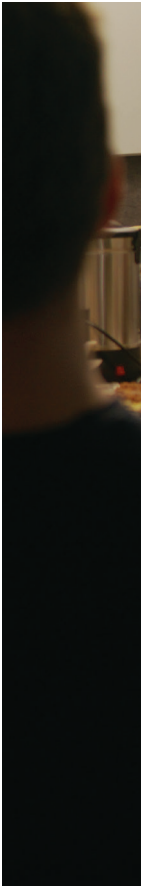
Once released, he quickly joined a church and soon sensed God calling him into ministry. He started preaching in prisons, in drug-rehabilitation centers, and in remote Kazakh villages. He went on to study at a Bible college in Russia, where he experienced a sharpening of this calling. In 2010, Bagid was ordained to pastoral ministry and began his work as pastor of a small house church in Kazakhstan, where he continues to serve today.







Kazakhstan is the ninth-largest country in the world, but it is one of the least illuminated by the gospel. With an ancient nomadic heritage and decades of Soviet influence, it lies at the crossroads of East and West. The dominant religion is Islam, and the message of the gospel of Christ remains largely unknown to most Kazakh people.



Bagid explains, “Most Kazakh people here live in clans, and it is very difficult to break away from that tradition. The Christian context here is weak—mostly Charismatics and Pentecostals. There is a lot of ‘prosperity-gospel’ preaching. Even so-called Christians themselves do not like the pure gospel of Jesus Christ...” Moreover, many Kazakh people speak only the Kazakh language, and there are few, if any, churches in their native tongue. Though Bagid speaks Russian, he endeavored to learn the Kazakh language to reach these people with the light of the gospel. Today, he actively preaches the free and sovereign grace of Christ to Muslim Kazakhs in their own language.

And yet, in this nation that has been blinded to the truth by traditions and false religion, God is still calling His people to Himself. Though the public sphere is characterized by antagonism, a remnant of God’s people gathers in private homes to worship. Faithful men like Bagid labor to preach the gospel, disciple believers, and plant biblical churches where the name of Christ is unknown. Pray for their endurance and for open doors. Pray that the Lord of the harvest would raise up even more laborers. Pray for the gospel to take root in the heart of Kazakhstan. ●●●

Top: In Alma-Ata, it is common for people to use social ministries as a gateway to share the gospel. Bagid, however, believes in a different approach. He asserts that believers are first and foremost called to preach the gospel, approaching people “not knowing anything except for Jesus Christ.”

Left: In addition to his regular preaching ministry, he teaches a Bible and Theology class to individuals who want to know more about Christianity. Bagid has been partnering with Heart-Cry since 2011.

THE ISLAND OF MINDORO • PHILIPPINES

INHERITANCE OF LIGHT

For decades, the Tawbuid people were fugitives in their own jungle. They ran from the shadows of their own superstitions—what they believed were demonic spirits hunting them. They believed these spirits killed humans, and most of all, they dreaded the giant spirits who devoured the small. When a villager died, they believed the *legan*, spirits of the dead, had found them. They burned their own houses, all their possessions, and abandoned their village to find a new home. They never stayed anywhere long.

They made human sacrifices to the demon spirits. They believed babies born prematurely were not human, but unnatural omens of the spirits; they were left to die. The Tawbuid life was one of unceasing fear and dread, an eternal black night that never receded.

But then—the dawn came.



The Dawn Chorus

Each morning, the tribal village wakes up before dawn, gathering together for a time of Bible reading, hymn singing, and prayer before hiking into the mountains to work. This is a daily occurrence, and illustrates the profound change that the gospel has made.

Hudson Taylor's China Inland Mission

For eighty-six years, the China Inland Mission faithfully preached the gospel of Christ. But by the midpoint of the 20th century, the work of the mission abruptly ended. As Communism swept over the country, the 600 missionaries working in China were ordered to withdraw. It seemed as if the entire ministry would disappear.

But in God's providence, these soldiers for Christ would not accept defeat so easily. Like in the diaspora of the apostolic church that ejected so many believers out of Jerusalem and into the world, these missionaries took up the gospel call to Thailand, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan—and to one among thousands of Filipino islands: the island of Mindoro, home to the Tawbuid tribe.

Russell & Barbara Reed

At the same time China Inland Mission was sending scouting parties to remote areas of Southeast Asia, Russell and Barbara Reed were giving their hearts to serve the Lord in missions. They avidly read reports coming from the field. They realized that deep in the mountainous jungle, there was a people who had never heard of the love of God. They resolved to be among those first pioneer missionaries, bringing the gospel to people living in complete darkness.

The Reeds arrived in the Philippines on November 11, 1953, and were assigned the impossible task of locating the reclusive Tawbuid tribe. Russell Reed spent years hiking through the jungles to gather

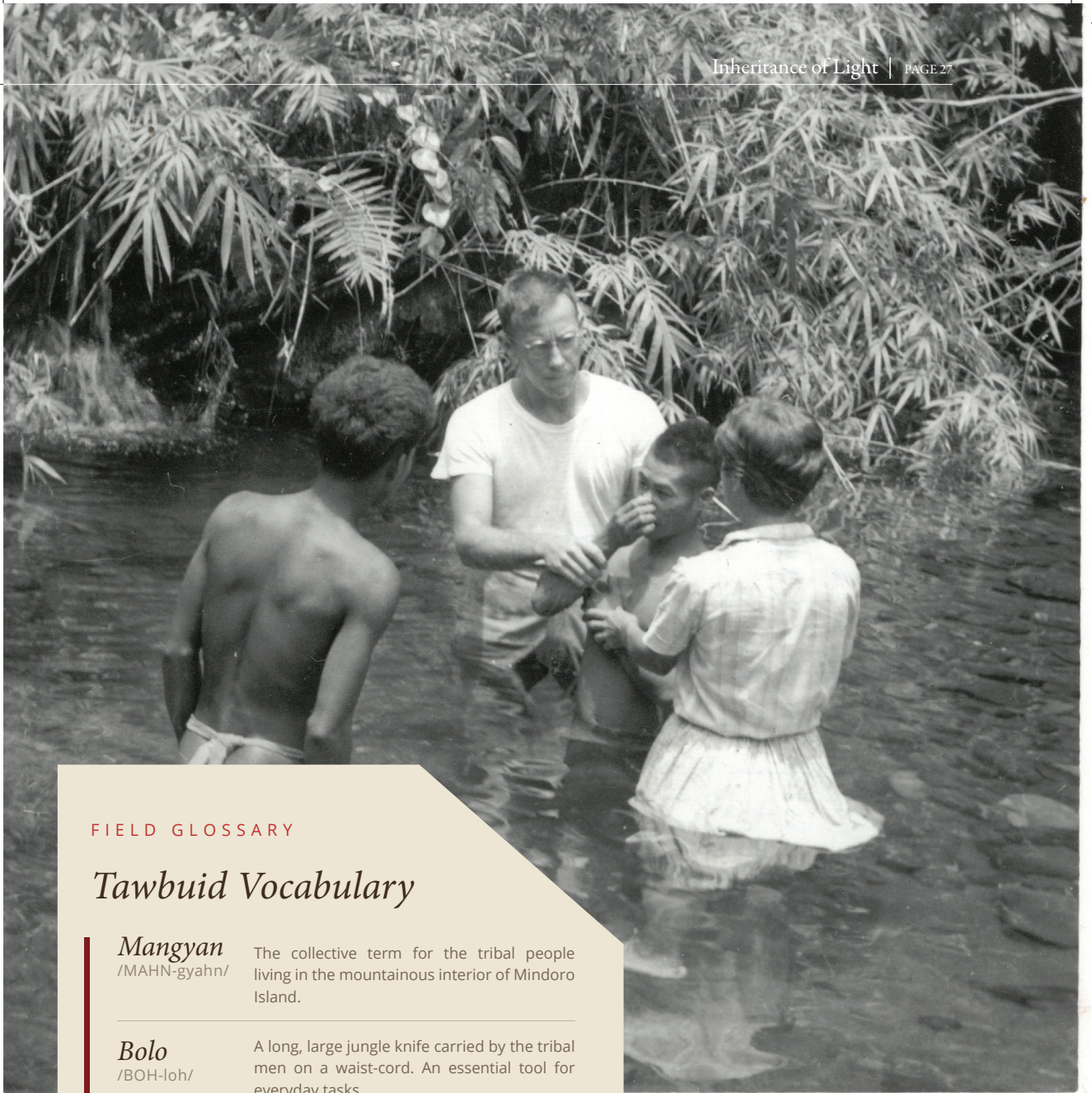
clues of where they might be, often amidst harsh conditions and without proper gear. The Tawbuid were fearful of outsiders and would purposefully walk in such a way as to leave no tracks.

Finally, in 1955, Russell made a breakthrough. After a grueling 16-mile hike, he struck up a conversation with a lowland farmer who eventually guided him to where he knew some of the tribe would be.

“We’re not very far from their houses.’ He went on ahead to meet them while Russell waited breathlessly. Suddenly breaking through the overgrown trail, seven Tawbuid men appeared. It was Russell’s very first sight of these much-prayed-for people, and their first sight of an Americano! While his guide spoke reassuringly to them in Tagalog, Russell stood motionless lest he frighten them into running away... Responding to the farmer’s persuasion, they reluctantly consented to return home, taking Russell and his guide with them...”

(Barbara Reed, *Beyond the Great Darkness*)

Russell Reed returned home with sheets of notes—the first time in history the Tawbuid language had been written down. Over the next forty years, Russell and Barbara Reed lived among the tribe, adopting their way of life and painstakingly translating the Bible into their tribal language.



FIELD GLOSSARY

Tawbuid Vocabulary

Mangyan

/MAHN-gyahn/

The collective term for the tribal people living in the mountainous interior of Mindoro Island.

Bolo

/BOH-loh/

A long, large jungle knife carried by the tribal men on a waist-cord. An essential tool for everyday tasks.

Lowlander

also "Tagalogs"

The non-tribal people who live in the coastal towns and flat agricultural areas of Mindoro. The tribal people often feared and avoided lowlanders.

Legan

/LEH-gahn/

The dreaded ghost of the recent dead. The Tawbuid lived in terror of the *legan*, believing that a lonely ghost would "bite" the living, causing them to sicken and die so the ghost could have companionship.

Bulgo

/BOOL-goh/

A bird-shaped spirit that they believed lives in stony mountains and carries away smaller human spirits to eat them.

Above: Russell & Barbara Reed baptize a young Tawbuid convert. Once paralyzed by the fear of ghosts and curses—these new young believers joyfully and publicly declare their faith in the Savior.

A photograph of an elderly man, Pastor Yannie, smiling and holding a blue Bible. He is wearing a white t-shirt. The background is a wooden structure, possibly a church interior. The Bible he is holding has 'L. Bibb's family' written on the spine.

The Tawbuid Bible

"This is my Bible. Russell and Barbara translated it into the Tawbuid language from the English language. For those who don't know how to read and understand Tagalog, this is a big help to them. God should be worshiped through one's own language, and so we thank God because we have our own Bible in our own language. Let us praise God!"

—Pastor Yannie

Pastor Yannie

When the missionaries arrived, Pastor Yannie was a young boy. At the age of ten, he became friends with the Reed's children. Though they could not understand each other's language, they became good friends. Yannie was also given a special job: to fill the Reed's water jug. His reward was a piece of candy. Every morning, he would run to see if the empty jug was hanging outside the Reed's bamboo hut, knowing that candy was his reward. Through his friendship with the Reeds, he learned of the gospel and of his need for a Savior. Ultimately, he found a greater reward, the pearl of great price—salvation in Christ Jesus.

Yannie recalls, "We in the village did not know God and had never heard the gospel. In my youth I remember when foreign missionaries came to us and shared the gospel in our community. We were excited, not about hearing the gospel, but by the oddity of foreigners coming into our tribal village. Still, those missionaries devoted their time to teaching us the Scriptures and the truth of the gospel. Soon I acknowledged my sinfulness and I put my trust in Christ as my Savior and Lord. I continued to study the Word of God through the guidance of those missionaries living with us in our community. I came to believe that assurance of eternal life is found only in the finished work of Christ on the cross."

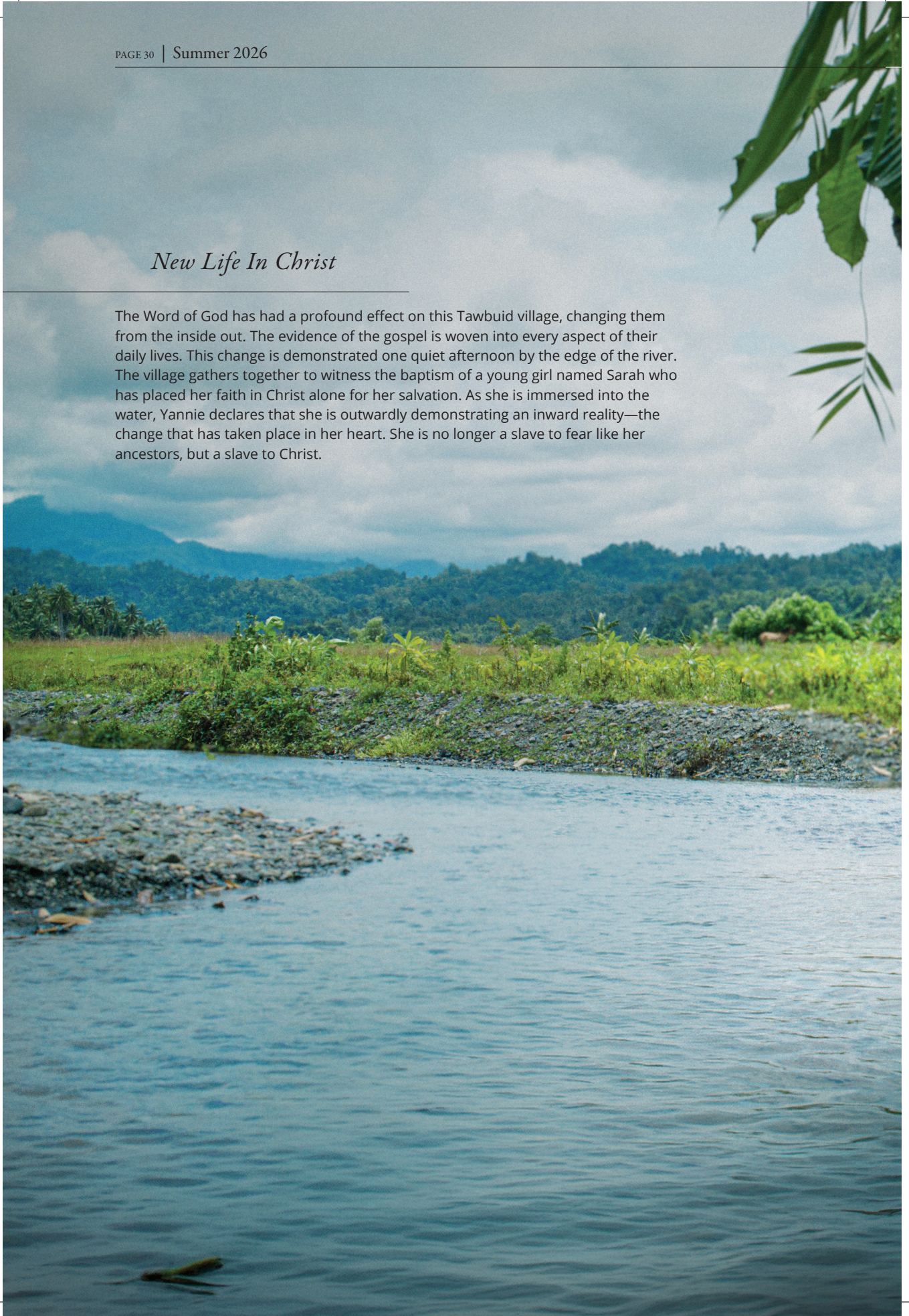
For decades, Russell and Barabra Reed translated the Bible into the Tawbuid language. Today, Pastor Yannie teaches his village from that translation, that inheritance that was given to them. God says in Isaiah 55, "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth...So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire."

"So will My Word be
which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire."

—ISAIAH 55:11

New Life In Christ

The Word of God has had a profound effect on this Tawbuid village, changing them from the inside out. The evidence of the gospel is woven into every aspect of their daily lives. This change is demonstrated one quiet afternoon by the edge of the river. The village gathers together to witness the baptism of a young girl named Sarah who has placed her faith in Christ alone for her salvation. As she is immersed into the water, Yannie declares that she is outwardly demonstrating an inward reality—the change that has taken place in her heart. She is no longer a slave to fear like her ancestors, but a slave to Christ.





Sign Language

Armilyn is the daughter of Pastor Yannie. She explains that her brother is deaf, and so she is teaching herself sign language that she may be able to share the gospel with him. Please pray for Armilyn, that she would learn quickly, and that the Lord would use her efforts to bring the gospel to the deaf community around her.





Dignity of Work

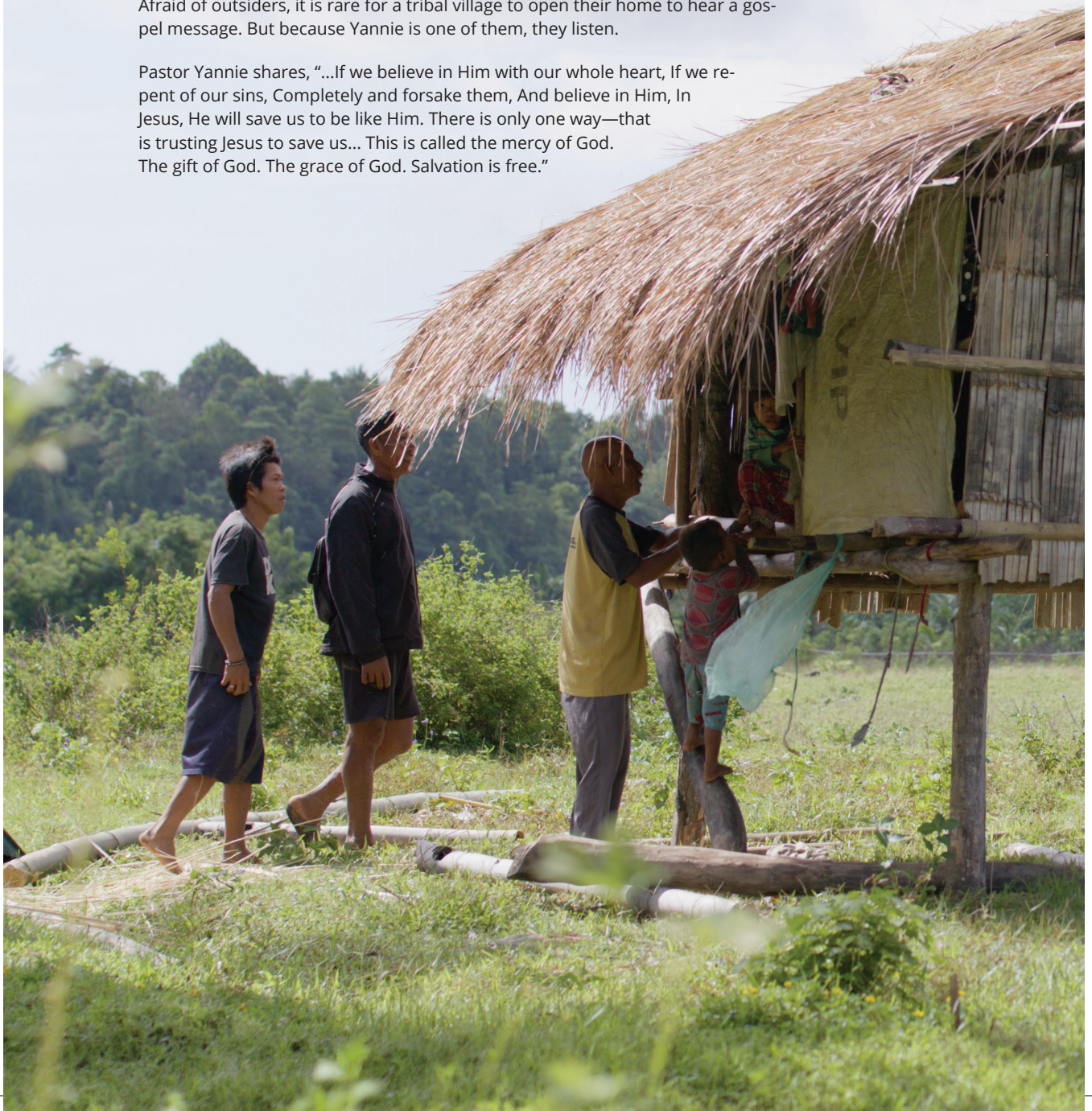
On the slopes of the mountains, the villagers grow the potatoes and cassava on which they survive. They live and work in peace and find the dignity and joy of glorifying God in their work. Pastor Yannie explains, "Until we grow old, this work is what we awaken to. Any kind of work is honorable. This is what God gives to us. It is an honor to work. The work dignifies man and glorifies God." Often, the village purchases rice from outside the village. In the past, the Tawbuid believed that rice was a lowlander's food and was cursed by evil spirits; they never ate it for fear of attacks. Today, they are freed from their old fears by the power of the gospel.

The Evangelist

The Tawbuid were historically isolationists, afraid of spirits, ghosts, strangers. They would run and hide from everything. They now run into the jungle, not to hide, but to share the gospel with those who are under the same darkness that they used to experience. Though older now and more frail, Pastor Yannie leads the village in these evangelistic excursions deep in the mountains.

Afraid of outsiders, it is rare for a tribal village to open their home to hear a gospel message. But because Yannie is one of them, they listen.

Pastor Yannie shares, "...If we believe in Him with our whole heart, If we repent of our sins, Completely and forsake them, And believe in Him, In Jesus, He will save us to be like Him. There is only one way—that is trusting Jesus to save us... This is called the mercy of God. The gift of God. The grace of God. Salvation is free."





Today, the Tawbuid villagers gather in the early light of morning for their chapel for devotions. They sing hymns, read Scripture, and pray together. This is how they begin every morning.

During one morning devotional, Pastor Yannie reads from 1 Corinthians 13. He declares that we have faith because of God's love. Though faith is essential in reconciling us with God, it is the outcome of God's love for us. Love must therefore be planted and cultivated, just as the mountain crops are planted and cultivated. Of the great triad of Christian virtues—faith, hope, and love—the greatest and eternally enduring is love.

It was the love of Christ that conquered the hearts of the Tawbuid people. It is love, the Apostle John writes, that

casts out fear (1 John 4:18). It was love that brought the pioneer missionaries Russell and Barbara Reed to the island of Mindoro to suffer the hardships of the jungle for more than forty years of ministry. It was love that spurred them on each day to translate the Word of God into a previously unknown tribal language and to share the gospel with a ten-year-old boy. The gospel that boy now preaches is the same faith passed down to him: an inheritance of light. ●●●



Tawbuid Hymnody

As the village wakes up before sunrise to gather for prayer and worship, they do not sing the four-note spirit chants of their ancestors. Before the gospel arrived, the native tribes did not sing melodically but chanted mantras out of fear during their rituals and spirit sacrifices.

Christianity not only brought truth and doctrine to the island, but also music and joy. In addition to translating the Scriptures, Barbara Reed translated many beloved hymns of the faith into the Tawbuid language. For the first time in history, the Tawbuid people have music, they sing melodies, and what they sing are melodies of praise to their Creator. Today if you walk through the village in the evenings, you will hear “Wonderful Words of Life” and “Fairest Lord Jesus” echoing through the gaps in the bamboo walls of their huts.



LOOK TO THE FIELD:

JAPAN

Japan is a country of outward beauty and order. But strongholds of idolatry lie beneath the shell of its clean environments, efficient systems, and disciplined society. At its core, the spiritual landscape is desolate. With less than 1% identifying as evangelical, Japan has come to be known as the “missionary graveyard.” Many cross-cultural missionaries come and go within two years, seeing little fruit.

Luis, a HeartCry missionary who has served in Japan since 2003, observes: “Many missionaries have traveled to Japan, only to return to their home countries discouraged. Cultural indoctrination, language barriers, and widespread rejection of the one true God have overwhelmed them for decades.” He likens Japanese society to a bonsai tree—its apparent perfection is achieved by pruning and restricting natural growth. He identifies several aspects of Japanese society that contribute to its resistance to the gospel.

Look to the Field is an episodic series designed to present the spiritual condition of specific countries and regions, highlighting both the challenges to gospel work and the need for prayer. Each episode provides a snapshot of the religious landscape, cultural barriers, and the reality that Christians face on the ground.

Watch on heartcrymissionary.com/stories

THE SPIRITUAL DEADNESS OF JAPAN

123_M
POPULATION

0.4%
EVANGELICAL
CHRISTIAN

2ND
LARGEST
UNREACHED PEOPLE
GROUP

98%
HAVE NEVER
TRUSTED CHRIST

1 The first aspect is the destruction of individual identity. There is strong social pressure to conform to the interests of the collective. Thus, when an individual embraces Christ and follows Him, the community views it as an abandonment of Japanese identity. A Christian therefore becomes an outcast, estranged from both family and society at large. This is a great stumbling block to anyone who hears the gospel.

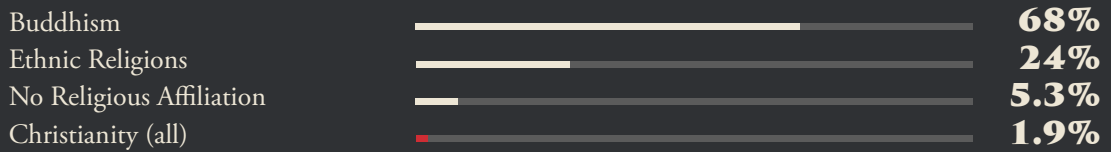
2 The second aspect is cultural infantilization, expressed through the Japanese concept *kawaii* ('child-like cuteness'). It is a form of communication that encourages a surface-level appreciation of what looks pleasant, instead of deeper, critical engagement. This fosters a superficial mindset that readily accepts shallow, trendy expressions of Christianity. For example, many people hire "fake" pastors to preside over their weddings simply because it looks good in photographs. Such exposure to empty forms of Christianity hinders the gospel's deeper, transformative message from taking root.

3 Another aspect is government control. Japanese citizens rely heavily on the government, and the government regulates church outreach. Churches must obtain registration and licensing to serve their community (and the government often takes credit for these efforts). As a result, people do not see themselves as spiritually impoverished, nor do they find any need for the ministry of the church. Instead, they perceive Christianity as a fanatical and dangerous cult.



Above: A visitor to the Senso-ji Temple in Tokyo burns incense to purify herself while offering prayers to the Buddhist deity. She recognizes her need to be made clean from her sins, but burning incense will never save her. Only the precious blood of Christ "cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

PRIMARY RELIGIOUS ADHERENCE



SOURCE: JOSHUA PROJECT

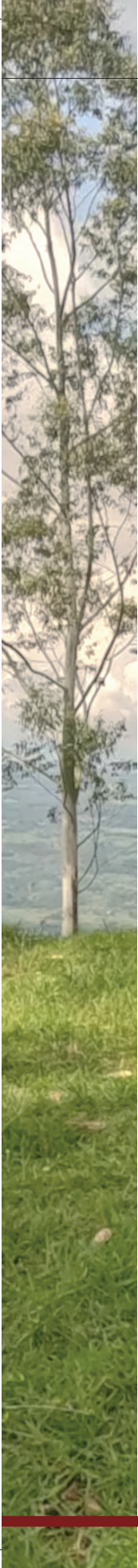


To add to these challenges, Japanese is a difficult language to learn—this often leads to further cultural isolation, discouragement, and doubt for missionaries in Japan. Reflecting on these cultural barriers, Heart-Cry’s mission coordinator for Asia states: “Japan is industrialized, clean, and pristine. But it is just as dark as a country where the population is 99% percent Muslim.”

However, the spiritual state of Japan should

lead us to urgent, obedient, and faith-filled prayer rather than despondency or inaction. Pray that the light of the gospel would expose and break the strongholds of idolatry. Pray that the Holy Spirit would replace empty worship with deep love for Christ. Pray for open doors for the gospel. Pray that the few true believers and faithful pastors would persevere in their labor. Finally, pray that God would establish a deep-rooted legacy of faith in Japan. ●●●





MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT: MALAMULO CHINDONGO

I find it a great privilege to testify about the grace of God in my life. At just the right time, He took hold of me and delivered me from my wayward path (Romans 5:6). Throughout my adolescence, I heavily pursued the things of the world, striving to find joy in all the wrong places. During my college years, I continued to live for myself. My life revolved around basketball and my engineering studies. At this time, I was playing for the national basketball team, with hopes of one day making the NBA.

Even though I continued living this way for some time, the Lord had mercy on me. During my third year of college, He used a drastic event to get my attention. A group of 14 young men attacked me in broad daylight, stole everything, and left me to die. I feared that I would die from my wounds and blood loss. I was in the hospital for two months after the incident.

Throughout my recovery, I was full of anger and bitterness towards God. Even though I was living my life in sin, I still thought I was a good person. I felt I did not deserve such hardship. But the Lord was gracious. He used this incident to work in my heart, reminding me that He had spared me and reminding me that if I had died, I would be in hell.



Malawi Pastor Shepherd

Mala provides an overview of current responsibilities: "I am in involved in preaching on the Lord's Day, in addition to day-to-day pastoral duties. I am also taking part in training leaders, especially those with a desire to enter the ministry or those who are already in ministry. On top of these things, our church also has a wide campus ministry which I am currently overseeing."

Deep down, I knew my life was not where it was supposed to be. I had heard the gospel message in bits, and I knew that God hated sin. I also knew that God sent His Son to die for all who turn from sin and trust Him (John 3:16). But these were just facts in my head that had not yet reached my heart. I knew I was living for myself, and I knew that God was not pleased with my ways. I knew He would be justified in sending me to hell. This knowledge left my heart restless.

Towards the end of 2004, I thought I was a Christian because I had made some good changes and become a better person. I was reading the Bible. I was going to church. But on one occasion, I overheard a discussion on John 3:3: “Unless one is born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God.” I remember thinking, “Wow, that is what I need. I’m not really a Christian. I don’t know the Lord. That’s what I need.” That was a moment where the Lord opened my eyes to see that I needed to come to Christ. I cried out to the Lord in repentance.

After this moment, there was a desire that started very small – a desire to share the gospel. I started by hosting a weekly Bible study with my friends just to study the Word of God together. As I was working and discipling others, I began to feel like I would rather spend my years doing this than working a full-time job. The Lord continued to press upon my heart the desire to serve Him in full-time ministry. In 2005, I obeyed the call. I resigned from my job to the surprise of my family, friends, and classmates. I had such a difficult time explaining the changes in my heart to those I loved. I could not find the words to explain it, but I was certain that, given this second chance at life, my sole purpose was to serve the Lord by serving His people. ●●●

Prayer Requests:

1

Please pray for revival in our church—that the Lord would give our church genuine godliness and holiness.

2

Pray for us as we seek to play a part in raising up godly men. We desire to steward our time and resources efficiently to raise men who are equipped to shepherd churches in our country.

3

Pray also for Malawi. It is one of the poorest countries in the world. With the influence of the prosperity gospel, many people view godliness as a means for gain. We desire that the Lord would use faithful men and women to proclaim the true gospel in our country.

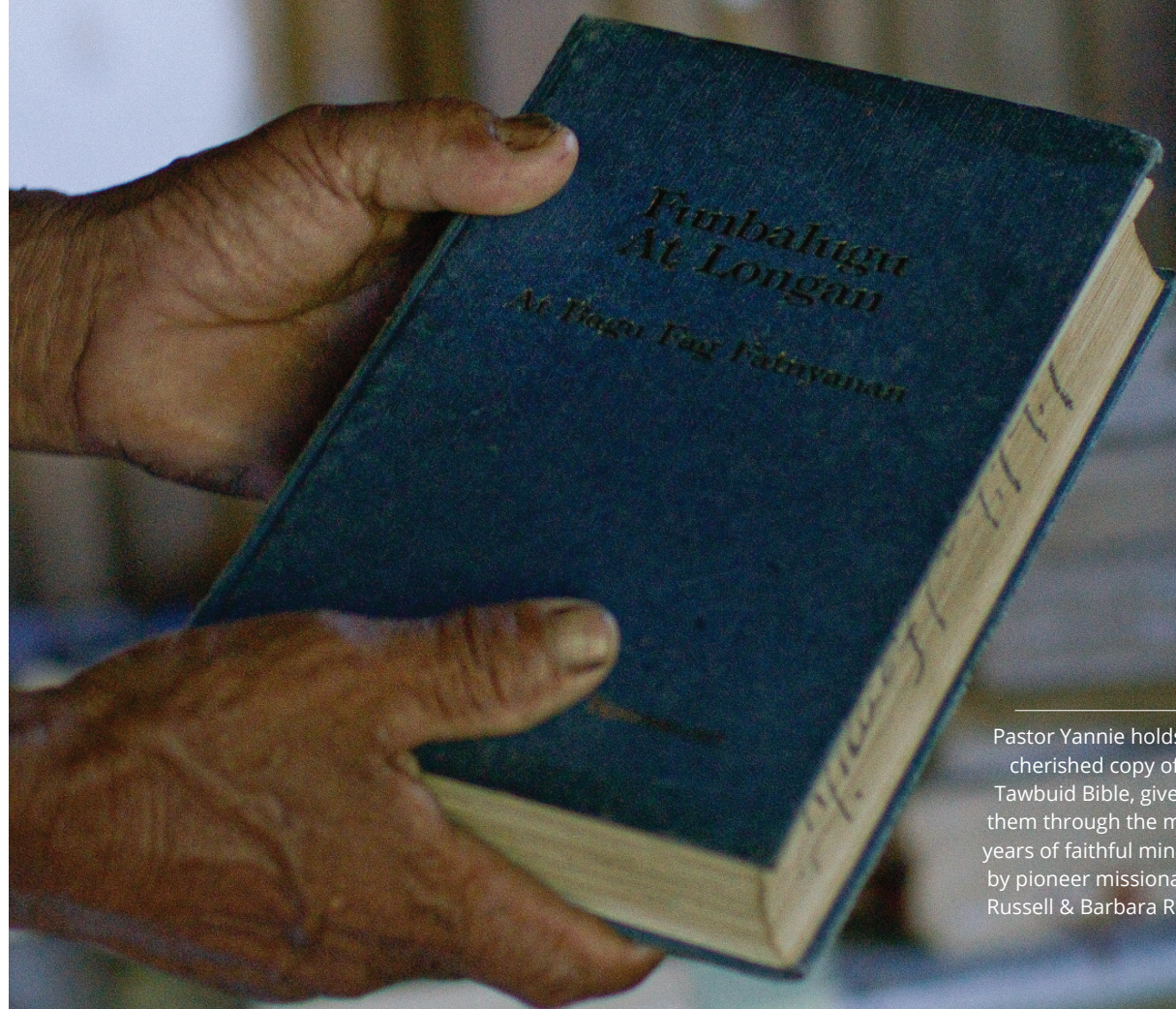
Bio:

Malamulo (Mala) Chindongo is the pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Malawi. Mala received his ministerial training through mentorships within the local church in addition to remote learning in biblical counseling. He began serving in ministry in 2009 and has partnered with HeartCry since 2013. He and his wife, Rachel, have been married since 2013.

A GOSPEL

HANDED DOWN

AND DELIVERED



Pastor Yannie holds his cherished copy of the Tawbuid Bible, given to them through the many years of faithful ministry by pioneer missionaries Russell & Barbara Reed.

“For I delivered to you...that which I also received:
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
and that He was buried, and that He rose again on the third
day according to the Scriptures.”

-1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

Having examined the inheritance we receive in Christ and the gospel heritage passed to our missionaries by preceding generations, we now turn to the vital task of preserving the apostolic gospel we have inherited. The following is an excerpt from “The Gospel’s Power and Message” by Paul Washer that examines our duty as believers to proclaim the one true gospel across cultures and generations.

In the above text, we learn two important truths about the gospel. First, it was not the result of human invention, but of men moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21)! Thus, it bears the full authority of the Scripture as a God-breathed message (2 Timothy 3:16). Secondly, it was a message delivered once and for all to the saints, and each generation of Christians is responsible for handing it down unaltered to the generation that follows (Jude 3).

When the apostle Paul writes that he “received” the gospel, he is making a claim to special revelation. He did not fabricate this message, nor was it borrowed from others. Rather, it came to him through an extraordinary revelation of Jesus Christ. In Galatians 1:11-12, Paul describes this experience in greater detail: “But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Paul's purpose for relating this unique experience is to demonstrate that his gospel has a divine origin. He was not writing to exalt himself or to suggest that his gospel was somehow different from that given to the other apostles or to the church as a whole. In fact, he later relates in the same letter that he had submitted his gospel to those who were of high reputation in the church of Jerusalem, and they had neither corrected him nor contributed anything to his understanding (Galatians 2:1-10). Paul intends for all of this to demonstrate that there is only one true gospel. It was born in the heart of God and handed down to the church through the apostles. It is an eternal

and immutable word that transcends both time and culture. It is not to be modified or adapted to please the palates of differing cultures or epochs, but it is to be held in the highest regard as absolute and immutable truth.

For this reason, we who have become recipients and stewards of the gospel should learn to handle it with great caution, even fear. Jude, the half-brother of the Lord, exhorted us to contend earnestly for this gospel faith that was once and for all handed down to the saints, and the apostle Paul admonished us to guard it as an entrusted treasure (Jude 3, 2 Timothy 1:14). He even went so far as

“Each generation of Christians must realize that an eternal gospel has been handed down to them.”

to pronounce a curse upon any man or angel who would alter its contents for any reason: "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8-9).

Each generation of Christians must realize that an eternal gospel has been handed down to them (Revelation 14:6). As stewards, it is our charge to preserve that gospel without additions, subtractions, or any sort of modification. To alter the gospel in any

way is to bring a curse upon ourselves and to hand down a corrupt gospel to the following generations. For this reason, the apostle Paul warned young Timothy to take pains with the truths entrusted to him, and Paul promised him that in doing so he would ensure salvation both for himself and for those who heard him (1 Timothy 4:15-16).

We who have received the gospel have a fearful obligation to deliver it in all its fullness and apostolic purity. This obligation is not only to God but also to our own generation and the generations to come. The apostle Paul declared to the church in Rome that he was a "debtor both to the Greeks, and to

the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise" (Romans 1:14 KJV). In a similar fashion, we are also debtors to all men now living and to the countless generations of men who may still follow. To the degree that we are faithful to the gospel, we will be as lights shining in the darkness, and a source of blessing to the generations to come. To the degree that we are otherwise, we will be enemies of the cross of Christ, stumbling blocks in the midst of the kingdom, and guilty of shipwrecking the faith of many (Philippians 3:18; Matthew 13:41; 1 Timothy 1:19). As ministers of the gospel, a trust has been placed upon us that is as terrible as it is wonderful. Who is sufficient for these

things? Who is competent for such a task (2 Corinthians 2:16)?

Knowing the seriousness of our charge, let us be diligent to present ourselves approved of God as workmen who do not need to be ashamed because we accurately handle the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15)... There is something worse than holding our silence while the lost of this world run headlong into hell: the crime of preaching a different gospel than the one passed down to the saints. For this reason, we must shun the gospel of contemporary evangelicalism, for it is a watered-down, culturally carved, truncated gospel that allows men to hold to

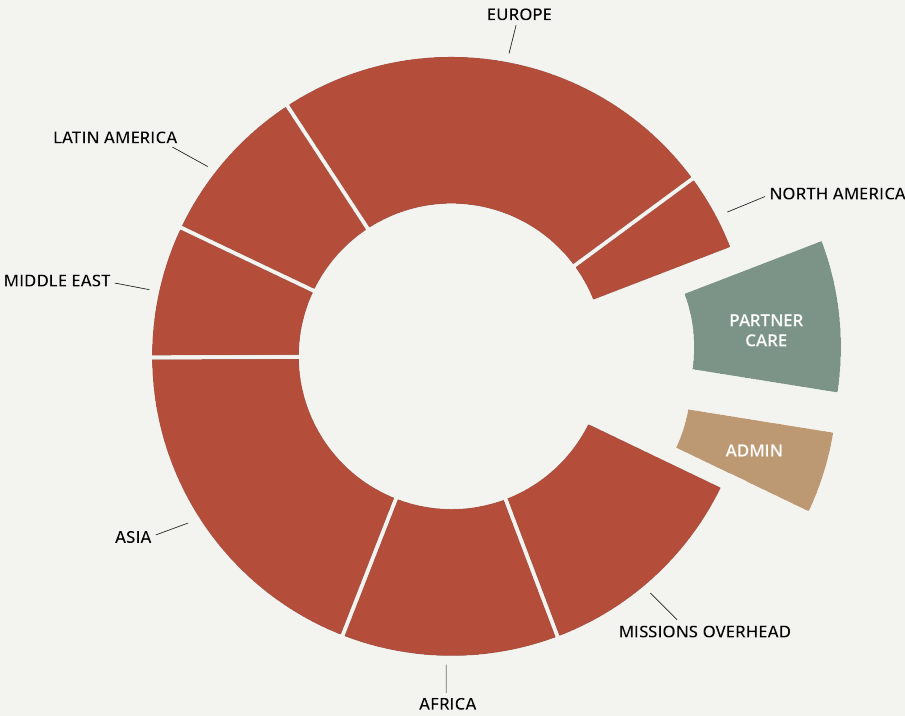
“It is the great task of every Christian to both proclaim as a herald and expound as a scribe.”

a form of godliness while denying its power, to profess to know God while denying Him with their deeds, and to call Jesus "Lord, Lord," while not doing the Father's will (2 Timothy 3:5; Titus 1:16; Matthew 7:21). Woe to us if we do not preach the gospel, but even greater woe is due us if we preach it incorrectly (1 Corinthians 9:16)!

It is the great task of every Christian to both proclaim as a herald and expound as a scribe. The Scriptures abound with such examples. Philip pointed the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ through his explanation of Isaiah's prophecies (Acts 8:26-35). Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos aside and explained to

him the way of God more accurately (Acts 18:26). The apostle Paul met with the Jews of Thessalonica for three consecutive Sabbaths and reasoned with them from the Scriptures, "explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead." (Acts 17:3). Finally, there is the greatest Expositor of them all, our Lord Jesus Christ, who revealed God to man in His incarnation and expounded the gospel to His bewildered disciples on the road to Emmaus: "Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures (John 1:18). ●●●

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



EXPENSES BY TYPE	
MISSIONS 84.8%	
MISSIONS OVERHEAD	\$1,886,198
AFRICA	\$1,439,908
ASIA	\$2,352,427
MIDDLE EAST	\$974,641
LATIN AMERICA	\$1,170,849
EUROPE	\$2,787,739
NORTH AMERICA	\$509,915
TOTAL MISSIONS:	\$11,121,677
ADMIN 6.5%	\$857,337
PARTNER CARE 8.7%	\$1,137,900
TOTAL:	\$13,116,914

2025 SUMMARY	
2024 YEAR END:	\$13,497,802
RESTRICTED ASSETS	\$914,224
NET ASSETS 1-1-25	\$14,412,026
DONATIONS:	+\$13,389,726
INTEREST EARNED:	+\$419,572
OTHER INCOME:	+\$13,969
EXPENSES:	-\$13,116,914
NON CASH ITEMS:*	+\$112,593
NET INCOME:	\$818,946
2025 YEAR END:	\$15,230,972
*DEPRECIATION, UNREALIZED GAINS	

MISSIONS

REGIONAL COORDINATORS	\$1,464,586
MISSIONARY SUPPORT	\$6,868,564
FACILITIES & PROJECTS	\$1,423,061
TRANSLATION & LITERATURE	\$476,093
TRAVEL & TRAINING	\$701,564
BENEVOLENCE	\$173,253
MINISTRY TOOLS	\$14,556

TOTAL: \$11,121,677**ADMINISTRATION**

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	\$383,558
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$214,237
FACILITIES	\$19,528
UTILITIES & MAINTENANCE	\$73,205
OFFICE EXPENSES & SUPPLIES	\$107,032
COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE	\$37,136
CONFERENCES & MEETINGS	\$22,641

TOTAL: \$857,337**PARTNER CARE**

PARTNER CARE STAFF	\$802,515
A/V EQUIPMENT	\$11,221
COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE	\$23,650
SERVICES & CONSULTING	\$108,339
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE	\$75,083
CALENDAR	\$15,026
OTHER PUBLICATIONS	\$2,727
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS	\$51,949
FIELD TRAVEL	\$47,390

TOTAL: \$1,137,900

Partner Care consists of two categories: Partner Relations and Partner Communications. The Partner Relations team provides operational support to donors, prayer partners, and supporting churches. The Partner Communications team (formerly "media") proclaims God's work through print and digital mediums. Both teams exist to serve and care for our partners. Thus, they were grouped together under the new label of "Partner Care."

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