

Progress Report

Third Quarter 2007

If not them, then who will take the gospel to the unreached in closed nations?

The charge that it is unbiblical to support national pastors erupts again

By Jon Nelms

They are not asking for help for themselves, they are asking for others.

This is the issue that amazes me more than any other in my quest to get national church planters sponsored. Just this week I have received requests from Burkina Faso, two groups in India, Indonesia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Belarus. In every case not a single preacher asked for personal support; rather they asked us to help other preachers they know who are cold, hungry, tired and weak; but who labour on in their service to the Lord. Men who are determined to preach, not expecting compensation in this life but believing it awaits them in the life to come.

I can't help but contrast their attitude to how we as Americans have been taught to raise funds. Some go to churches and talk about the work of the national preachers, but then ask the congregation to support them instead. They show photos of the work the nationals have done and claim it as their own. They talk about the church they are pastoring but fail to mention that it was started by a national preacher. "Here is a picture of our adult Sunday School class" they say, never admitting that each of the members were saved and attending of that class before the missionary ever arrived.

Not fair, you say, to lump all the failures of some missionaries into one category. I firmly agree. But neither is it fair to lump all the failures of some nationals into one group. I have been criticized over the



Ministry Information

The *Progress Report* is a free, bi-monthly publication of the FINAL FRONTIERS FOUNDATION INC., whose purpose is to effectively take the Gospel to the more than three billion souls, who have never before heard. Currently we are ministering in seventy-three nations. Many of these countries are closed to foreign missionaries, and in others, work among the various tribal groups is restricted to national preachers only, thus they are open to us because of our unique method of missions.

We believe that the training and subsidizing of national preachers is the most efficient and effective method of global evangelism. Thus we seek to raise prayer and financial support from believers in the West, for God's servants abroad, who are actively involved in church planting and discipleship.

Selection of those we sponsor is dependent upon their doctrinal beliefs, need and reputation. We support only those who are serving by faith, never those who are waiting for a salary in order to serve. Worldwide, the average preacher in a third-world country needs as little as \$35.00 - \$350.00 each month to support his family and ministry.

All those subsidized through this foundation are involved in church planting. Their various outreach ministries include: Bible translation and distribution, radio and television broadcasting, camps, Bible schools, outdoor and film evangelism, educational and health programs, handicap and leper ministries, orphan and children's ministries, etc.

Current ministries available for support are:

- Sponsorship of a national or native preacher (\$35.00 monthly)
- Sponsorship of a *TEAM* of preachers in a given country (\$10.00 minimum per month, per *TEAM*)
- Sponsorship of a destitute child with our *Touch a Life* subsidiary (\$35.00 monthly)
- Sponsorship of the Final Frontiers Society, Bible distribution program (\$10.00 monthly)

Executive Board of Directors:

FINAL FRONTIERS, a non-profit, religious corporation, was founded by Jon Nelms in 1987, and is governed by those serving on the Executive Board of Directors: Rev. Jon Nelms (Chairman), Rev. Gene Carpenter (Vice President), and Rev. Ron Charles (Secretary/Treasurer), Mr. Charles Turner, Rev. Steve Ware and Mr. Kevin Carden. Further council is provided by those serving on the Board of Advisors. Contributions and gifts to this ministry are tax deductible and are applied to the ministry's evangelistic outreach. FINAL FRONTIERS is classified as a 509 (a)(1) public foundation, under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Annual copies of the ministry's 990 form are available upon request by contacting the home office.

International Offices:

International offices are maintained in every country of service for accountability purposes, and are staffed by national and regional coordinators who are approved by the Executive Board of Directors. Administrative Branch Offices are located in Honduras.

Contact Information:

For further information concerning this ministry and its various programs, please call or write to the home office:

Final Frontiers Foundation
1200 Peachtree St.
Louisville, GA 30434 USA

Telephone: 706-955-4916
FAX: 706-955-4908
Toll Free: 800-522-4324
Email: webmaster@finalfrontiers.org

Front Page Photograph

These national pastors in Thailand are destroying idols brought to them by their new converts in a remote tribal village. Foreign missionaries are not allowed to minister among the tribes; thus without supporting the national preachers, there would be no one to take the Gospel to them.

Where we serve

The 74 countries where we serve as of January 2007

Africa:

Kenya ***
Uganda
South Africa
Nigeria
Togo
Ivory Coast
Ghana ***
Liberia
Burkina Faso
Morocco
Sudan
Tanzania
Rwanda
Egypt
Libya
Burundi
Congo

East Asia:

India ***
Myanmar
Thailand
Laos
Cambodia
Vietnam
China
Philippines
Nepal
Indonesia

Eurasia:

Georgia
Belarus
Siberia
Ukraine
Russia

Central Asia:

Kazakhstan **
Kyrgyzstan **
Azerbaijan **
Turkmenistan **
Uzbekistan **

Middle East:

Syria
Iran *
Iraq *
Yemen *
Turkey

Europe:

France
Romania
Albania
Latvia
Lithuania
Hungary
Switzerland
Poland
Bosnia
Macedonia

Americas:

Mexico
Cuba
Guatemala
El Salvador
Honduras ***
Nicaragua
Costa Rica
Peru
Chile
Columbia
Ecuador
Venezuela
Brazil
Argentina
St. Vincent
St. Lucia
Grenada
Haiti *
Jamaica
Dominican Rep.

Pacifica:

Fiji
Solomon Islands

* indicates *TEAM* or limited support only

** indicates countries where support is temporarily suspended

*** includes *Touch A Life* support also

The Jon Nelms report

I was really blessed in June to host a group from Georgia and California on a trip to Honduras. The group from Stockton California consisted of eighteen hard working "youth" from college age to my age. They were tireless in their efforts to evangelize everywhere we went and the Honduran people just loved their presentations. I cannot imagine how they could have been better than they were. Friendly, happy, great attitudes and real servant's hearts. I was especially blessed to find that though nearly all of them had gone on mission trips before, they all agreed that ours was the very best they had ever experienced. (I just had to get that commercial in there.) On the last night we sat around a fantastic meal and they voluntarily took turns sharing what they felt and learned from ministering for a week. Tears were everywhere and we really bonded. I look forward to their return trip next summer.

With them, coming for their second trip in a year from Georgia, were Franz and Carol Menge. These good folks have been a tremendous blessing to our ministry and to me personally since before I first met them. And that is quite a compliment when you consider that they are Yankees from New York and I am a Southern boy from Georgia, still fighting (and still losing) the war. (My apologies to my southern friends but they did win, otherwise we would be calling it the war of northern aggression rather than the civil war.)

While there, Franz and Carol wanted to go to the home of the child they support. They were taken back by the living conditions of her family who lives in a house made primarily of sticks. The Menges did two things while there to change this family's life forever. First, they arranged to send down funds to finish their home and give them some modern conveniences, (and believe me, it can be done there for a lot cheaper than it can be done here) and second, through the interpretation efforts of Pastor Flavio Varela, Franz led the father to Christ!

You can see on their faces in the photo that the family was so thrilled to have the Menges stop by and Franz and Carol truly felt that the blessing was all theirs. As if all that were not enough, after returning home they talked to some friends and got two more children sponsored! (Oh by the way, Franz is the one with the hat and handlebar mustache, Carol has on the dress.)

If you have contemplated taking a trip with us to Honduras, and especially if you are a sponsor, please make your dream a reality. The kids are always so excited when "the gringos" visit. They stand in awe waiting to see their own sponsor and when they don't they always come to me and ask. "when is my godfather coming to visit me?" (To see the dates of our next trips, go to page six.)



Jon Nelms

Another TREMENDOUS blessing for me was that along with the group from California came an old friend, Mike Robinette. Mike and I worked together in the bus ministry many years ago. He and his wife Linda were led to Christ by my father-in-law and have since served in various ministry capacities. Mike and I learned that though we had not seen each other in nearly twenty years, our hearts had grown in the same direction almost as if we were one burden in two bodies. I am pleased to announce that Mike and Linda will be joining our staff in September.

A few weeks after getting home I received some great news. My daughter Sara and her husband Michael, whom I have nagged about giving me a grandchild since they got married last November, surprised me with the announcement that they are pregnant. The baby, who I hope will not have Michael's British accent, will arrive, God willing, some time in April 2008.

Last week we had our board meeting and welcomed a new member, Kevin Carden from Alabama. Kevin is young, only 26 years old, but has wisdom and experience beyond his years. He and his partner have done a tremendous amount of work for us in the past year and Kevin himself is probably responsible for several hundred preacher sponsorships. His participation will allow us to benefit from his business acumen and allow us to help to continue shaping him in his missions efforts and understanding.

In November I plan to go back to the place where it all began, Thailand. If you have a desire to go on a trip, give me a call and I will be your guide. In January we will be making a trip to India as well. Great things are happening in our ministry as you will discover on the pages within. Among them is the great news that Ron Charles has been asked by the Minister of Education in India, to write a 5 year Bible college curriculum that they can use throughout the nation. What an opportunity! What a fantastic way to touch an entire nation with the Gospel and sound doctrine! Pray for him as he begins this project.

Finally, let me say that I hope you can understand my motives in our cover story this issue. There are no photos, no moving stories, no sad tales. Just an over-worded, badly composed defense of what we do here at Final Frontiers. Ever so often those who claim to know more about missions than everyone else, get on their high horses and attack the philosophy of supporting national preachers. If they used Bible verses to prove their viewpoint, I would succumb to their words, but they don't, they use only their opinions, shaped by their own experiences and prejudices. They claim that they care about the health of the national churches and that is their only motive for insisting that Americans only support American missionaries. I just can't be silent when I hear such foolishness and feel that I must counter their "errors" with my "truth" (How's that for opinions!?) I hope the insight will be useful to you. But if you feel I am wrong and they are right, then I want each of you to begin supporting me because I am an American missionary!

Yours for souls,

Preachers in urgent need of sponsorship ...

These men listed below have been faithfully serving the Lord for many years and have benefitted greatly from support. Unfortunately the churches and families that have faithfully partnered with them in ministry are no longer able to do so. In this issue, rather than introduce you to two new men in need of support, we have chosen to highlight these who have long proven themselves, in hope of getting replacement sponsors for them. For more information on sponsoring a national preacher, see page 19.

Preacher's Name: Mol Sarom
Wife's Name: Vanthoeum
No. of Children: 2
Country: Cambodia
Sponsorships Needed: 2 @ \$35.00 monthly

Testimony:

I was a wretched person, always pursuing evil and running with those who were like me. I ignored any correction given me and did not even care for my wife and children.



While I was fighting in our civil war I was badly wounded. I felt I was going to die and never see my family again. I cried out to the gods but none of them helped me. I had heard of Jesus and decided that when and if I were well again, I would believe in Him. It pleased God to give me health, and now I am very happy in Him.

After my conversion, I received training from Pastor Vek Taing, who is the Final Frontiers National Director of Cambodia, while I was still living in a refugee camp in Thailand. Since my return into Cambodia, I have started a church and am also training men for the ministry.

I speak two languages and mostly work with my own people, the Khmer (Cambodians). Already about 150 of them have been saved. I am doing most of my work with the assistance of two other preachers.

I am paid about \$50.00 monthly by my church which is not enough in our economy. We have been ravaged by war. More than 3 million of our people were killed. Since the peace was signed, prices have risen very high and we cannot afford hardly to eat. We are so thankful that the Lord has burdened you to help us. Please be faithful to us so we can reach our nation with the Gospel. There may be a war again, so we don't know how much time we have left to do His work.

Preacher's Name: James Ndungu
Wife's Name: Josphine
No. of Children: 5
Country: Kenya
Sponsorships Needed: 2 @ \$35.00 monthly

Testimony:

I was saved in 1980 in a Baptist Church in Kenya and after accepting Christ as my Savior, I was able to lead my wife to Christ. I began to be involved in the church work and, after seeing many people saved and baptized, I desired to join myself to a Bible institute. After three years of study, I started my own church at a place five kilometers away from my mother church. Since all our people must walk, five kilometers is a sufficient distance away to begin a new work.



I am pastoring now a small church, which suffered under bad leadership for a number of years, but I have also helped to start a number of churches working with the pastors on a team. In addition to that, I have personally started four churches, myself. There are also four men currently pastoring that I have trained for the ministry. My training came from Baptist Missionaries and at the Baptist Bible Institute in West Pokot. I also received training from the national pastors in Kenya.

My work now, other than pastoring, is church planting, film team evangelism and tribal evangelism. I work with many tribes in Kenya but most of the people are from the Abaluhya Tribe. I have had more than 500 people to be saved. I don't know how many I have baptized but I know that, in one day, I baptized 74 souls, so I think that it is more than 300 altogether. I also speak four languages but my mother tongue is Kikuyu.

Our house is made of mud, poles, sticks and cow dung. Our roof is a iron sheet and our house has three rooms. Mostly, we eat corn, beans, pumpkin leaves, chapati and potatoes. My days are filled with Bible reading and sermon preparation. I also visit the church members, those who are sick or were absent. Of course, we spend time each day selling used clothes, but your support will help free up my time to be full-time in the ministry. My wife is also very beneficial to our church as well, preparing food and helping to teach the ladies of the church. We are grateful for our family and our countrymen. Please pray that we will be able to win many more people to Christ.

See these and many other preachers in need of support on our website at www.finalfrontiers.org

From the Mail Bag ...

Every trimester, those who support a preacher, TEAM or orphan receive a personal report verifying the receipt of their support and showing how it was used. Here are some samples.



GUATEMALA

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	3
villages evangelized	2
professions of faith	5
converts baptized	3

From: Candido Sanchez Garcia
Sponsored by: Lupton Drive Baptist, Chattanooga, TN

Loving brother, receive a cordial greeting from me and my family. Our wishes are that when you receive this letter you are very well in the ministry that God has commend to you.

After this short greeting I want to thank you for the economic support that you have sent me which is a lot of blessing. It is helping me to cover the needs in the ministry. This year I started two congregations I have 30 members in one and 20 in the other one. Please help me with your prayers so that God gives me wisdom and strength to go work in these two Campos because here there is a lot of need to preach the Gospel of God.

To go to these places I have to walk almost 4 hours every Sunday. Brothers, may God bless you always.— Please pray for my ministry, for my family, my biblical studies and for my personal physical health because I am having illness problems.



INDIA

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	1
villages evangelized	1
professions of faith	23
converts baptized	23

From: R. Samuel Babji
Sponsored by: Decatur Baptist, Decatur, AL

Very happy to inform you once again I had the opportunity to receive your financial assistance form Final Frontiers. Last month when I had been to visitation I was asked to visit a new house. I went to that house and the owner showed me with pride that he is having fifty different gods in the form of idols. He showed all of them to me saying that he will also keep the idol of Jesus Christ among them and requested me for an idol. I clearly informed him we do not have idols or images of Christ but we will keep Christ in our heart only. First he did not understand. He offered a chair and I sat on it and slowly I started the conversation, meanwhile his wife and children brought a cup of coffee to me.

I spent almost three hours at their house to convince him about the simple way of salvation. For half an hour he was silent so at that time I continued my conversation with his wife and children. I do not know what happened but after half an hour he went to the room and brought all the idols outside and broke them into pieces. I never expected this. His and wife and children are in an impression that he will beat me but nothing happened. Simple he sat on the chair and I have clearly noticed he was shivering and tears rolled away in his eyes. Thank God for this miracle. Then he knelt down and prayed to God and confessed his sins. This is a real change in this rich man's life. Of course his wife and children are not accepted Christ but I will definitely visit them next time.



INDIA

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	1
villages evangelized	2
professions of faith	24
converts baptized	24

From: Vuba Jeevaratnam
Sponsored by: Mark Magnuson Family, MI Terry Schamp, WV

Thank you so much for your regular financial assistance. Still most of the people are yet so much superstitious and worshipping the idols. They feel a pride to be called as idolaters. When we are praying and witnessing these non-Christian people will hear us and make a mockery against us. They call us mad people. We are regularly kneeling down and with tears we are praying to God to wipe off their false minds and false motions.

Recently I had been to a village for preaching. About 300 people are waiting to hear of God. It is also first time for me to go to that village. These people are thirsty for the Word of God. I was told that it is first time that a Christian preacher entered into their village with a message. They paid much attention to the message. While we were in the preaching one non-Christian man with jealousy, brought a snake in a small bag and entered the meeting place and opened the bag and left the snake in the middle of the people. People began to run and a stampede happened. In that rush one small girl was trampled by the people. She received major injuries and immediately I

took her to a hospital and the doctors who attended her stated that some of her bones were fractured and she underwent some operations. I paid her hospital bill and we were able to save her from death. Your additional amount helped me to pay the bill. As a result of this, the girl and her parents accepted the Lord Jesus Christ.

continued from page 1

years by some pastors who say, "In your entire presentation, you did not mention one American missionary, all you talked about were the nationals." Yet how many times have you heard a missionary come to your church and talk about the nationals rather than himself? Why the double standard?

The truth is, I am not opposed to American missionaries. I am one! What I am opposed to however is the utter lack of accountability we accept from Americans who call themselves missionaries, who never start a church or train a man for the ministry, while demanding volumes of accountability from the nationals who prove their ministry year after year.

I am concerned about the growing lack of dedication to the cause of world evangelism at the expense of fulfilling our desires under the cloak of Christianity. Just yesterday I heard about a church in Missouri who in their business meeting voted to drop all their missionaries and then turned around and voted to spend \$2,000,000.00 to build a gymnasium/fellowship hall. They justified this self indulgence by saying in this way they can reach the unsaved youth who come to play basketball. That, they say, is their real mission field.

Let's examine this further: Jesus, Paul, Peter, Livingstone, Carey, Elliot, Taylor, Judson, etc., never had to use a sport to witness. They just opened their mouths and did it. Now is it wrong to witness through athletics? Heavens no! But let's be honest about it. The purpose of such a building is not to evangelize, it is to socialize. Undoubtedly both can be done at the same time but it is likely their basketball court is filled with "saved" youth alone. After all, we don't want our youth associating with the unsaved rabble that can have a bad influence on them.

This week I have also spent some time reading various articles from renowned missiologists who denounce the principle on which Final Frontiers is founded. Our mission statement clearly and proudly proclaims it: ***Through the funding of national and native preachers, we endeavour to effectively advance the gospel where it has never been preached before.*** To date these men have started over 27,000 new churches. Currently a new one is being planted every five hours! I just don't have the heart to tell them they are doing wrong by using "American money" to plant national churches!

These experts are determined to tell you that "American money belongs to American missionaries"; that "it is wrong and damaging to support national preachers". That it weakens their churches and makes them dependent on outside financial sources. That it turns them into employees and "ruins" them. That they don't know how to handle the funds and cannot be "trusted" with a fraction of the monthly income that their American missionary counterparts receive. And they continue ad infinitum, carefully "proving their point" by isolated examples of theft or laziness or embezzlement; as if that only happens outside of America and would never happen here. I guess they have forgotten about Jimmy Swaggart and Jim Bakker and the myriads of pastors who have had to leave the ministry due to immorality or "financial mismanagement".

Well, I must be an expert too because I also have a doctorate in missiology. (*I have had it since 1993 but have never mentioned it because such things mean so little to me.*) However mine is but a lowly "honorary degree" and to make it more ridiculous, it is from a Filipino Bible College rather than from an esteemed American University. But then again, who would know

more about missions; those who study it in American universities as would-be missionaries, gathering data from massive libraries and lectures from traditional missionaries (also known as experts), many of whom, first of all have an admitted aversion to supporting the nationals and secondly, haven't served on a mission field themselves since the air conditioner was invented; or those who teach it every day, not only in the classroom to their Timothy's, but also in practical service?

I must admit though, that some of their articles do bear weight and are worth discussion. But I firmly, and by twenty-one years of experience, believe that it is possible to help without hurting. Let me address some of their points and explain how and why Final Frontiers, and its highly copied methods of accountability, has successfully overcome these pitfalls. And quickly, before I do, let me state that for all their arguments, no scripture is ever given to validate them. They are opinion only. I will attempt to back up what I write with scripture.

Fallacy number one:

American money belongs to American missionaries.

That could well be true if there were such a thing as "American money". The last time I looked at the rule book it said (*Psalm 24:1*) "*The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.*" And interestingly, this is the same message that Moses had told Pharaoh centuries earlier during his plague battles (*Exodus 9:29*). He never seemed to learn the lesson and it led to his downfall.

This view grows in my opinion, less from a standpoint of doctrinal truth, since absolutely no references for this are ever given, and more from a standpoint of financial competition. After all, there are only so many "missions dollars" out there and the more we send overseas to fund the nationals, the less we have for our own missionaries. Let's expand on that point ...

Did you know that America has only had a national currency since the mid 1800s? Thus, based upon their reasoning, that mean that individual "State" believers were wrong to send missions dollars to support preachers in California, which was not a state at that time? (I mention California only because many of these teachings come from liberal California seminaries.) Or what about using Georgia currency to support a preacher in the heathen Northern States (just kidding)? It was the Lincoln administration in 1862 who unified our currency in order to finance "the war of Northern aggression", better known as the "Civil War"; before him, every state did that which was right in their own economic eyes. In fact, there were over 30,000 different State notes of various size and color being used before Lincoln instituted the "green back," which survived until 1971.

Did you know that the early settlers from England were upset because funds from "home" were being used by New England pastors to preach to the Indians that were indigenous here? Many of these pastors had to finance their own outreach and were scolded for doing so. It took some time for Believers in England to wake up and begin financing those who lived in "their colonies". (Read the biography of John Eliot.)

Did you know that like their predecessors, many missionaries alive today have for years used their own personal support funds to help the national preachers? You might wonder why they didn't just raise funds for those men they were working with? That is the logical question. The illogical answer is that to do so would have been breaking their Board's rules. There are actually "fundamental" missionary boards that refuse to allow their missionaries to eat with a national preacher or to have him

as an invited guest in their home. And those missionaries in the past who have been brave enough to challenge that rule have been dismissed. And of course, whenever a board fires you, they generally send out a letter to all your supporters stating that they can no longer endorse your ministry. Such letters usually lead to the veteran missionary losing 1/3 to 3/4 of all his support. Why? Did he commit adultery or steal or teach false doctrine? No. All he did was to refuse when stopping for lunch to eat inside the restaurant and leave his national counterpart outside to eat on the street, if in fact, he had money to buy something to eat at all. God bless the missionaries who take a stand to do what Christ taught us to do, even at the cost of losing personal support.

What is the board's reason for this policy? Well, get ready because I'm going to tell you as I have been told by missionaries all over the world ... *"If you eat with them, have them in your home and become their friend, you will lose control over them"*.

Stop the car! Where is it written in the Word of God that we are to go into all the world and subjugate our converts to our control? And why should veteran national preachers be considered servants to a missionary who is merely a guest in his country, simply because he is an American and has dollars in his pocket? What kind of pseudo fundamental papacy are we promoting with such reasoning?

Fallacy Number Two:

National pastors should only be supported by the national churches.

Now that sounds good to me. After all, if a preacher leads ten men to Christ and they each tithe, then he has a salary equal to the average income of those ten church families.

Sure why not, that works so well here in America why shouldn't it work overseas as well? News flash; it doesn't work here either. That's why so many pastors are bi-vocational.

One reason that it does not work is that we have the mistaken idea that the purpose of the tithe is to build buildings and gymnasiums and fellowship halls and pay for summer camps and men's fishing trips while letting our pastors go under paid.

In the Old Testament I am told, there were three tithes that accrued to about 27% of their income. One for the upkeep of the Temple. One for the upkeep of the government. One for the upkeep of the priests, who were fulltime in "ministry" and were not given lands or farms to provide for their own needs. They lived off the tithes of the people. And while none of these tithes are demanded in the New Testament, the only one referenced was done so by Paul where he informed us *"Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."* (1 Corinthians 9:14)

Now I admit that the national church should support their own pastors. But there are two sides to that coin ...

First: What about the national church that is pastored by an American missionary? Shouldn't they support him too rather than him receiving his support from American churches?

Did you know that most missionaries will never start a church in their entire career? (Some boards require it but most don't, because most "missionaries" may not even be preachers but serve in other capacities such as teachers, mechanics, medical personnel, etc.) Most missionaries will pastor churches that were already established before he arrived and will merely fill in for the senior missionary who has retired or is away on furlough. They are just as much a pastor there as your pastor is

in Alabama or Illinois; yet, *your* church is paying *their* salary.

Question: Who pays your pastor? Why you do of course. Then why don't the missionaries get paid by their churches? Oh you say, they should pay him if he is a national pastor but not if he is an American missionary who is pastoring overseas? Hmm. Can you give me a Bible verse to back that up? If not, then why is it being taught as doctrine rather than as opinion?

Why do we continually support a missionary to another land and never demand that he be supported by his own converts? I have been told by some missionaries that it is illegal for them to receive a salary from their church and that is the only reason why they live off of support from the States. Sounds good. Sounds logical. But did you know that there is a simple way around that? Here it is. When you get to the land where God has called you, upgrade your immigrant status from a "missionary visa" to being a legal "resident". It may take a year or so and cost a few thousand dollars but in the long run you will accomplish several things:

1. The people will see you as permanent and love you for it. Doing so says that you plan to make your life with them, not just be a religious tourist.
2. As a resident, you don't have to continually leave the country in order to come back in with a renewed (and legal) entry visa. Think of the thousands of dollars that will be saved over a lifetime by not having to drive or fly your family out of the country, spend three nights or a week in a hotel and return, only to repeat it all over again in a year, or in three months, depending on the country requirements.
3. As a resident, you can now have a legal right to be employed by the church and they can legally pay you. Now all the "missionary" support you are getting can go to another man who is going to plant churches and fulfil the great commission in his own ministry, whether he be a national or an American.

Second: The economics just do not permit them to fully pay their own pastors. There are many counties that are so overly unemployed that there are few funds left to pay the pastor. Here are several unemployment examples:

Ghana	20%	Iran	15%
Haiti	22%	Micronesia	22%
Honduras	28%	Zambia	50%

I can remember ministering in Nicaragua during the early 1990s when the unemployment rate was above 70% in some areas. These families had no funds left to give to anything other than whatever was needed for their survival.

To bring it home even more, consider that in the year 2004, nearly one billion people lived below the international poverty line, earning less than \$1 a day. That's one out of every six people alive. In 2005, ten million children died before reaching the age of five, simply from not having enough food to eat. Not that they all starved to death, but that due to the lack of food, their bodies were too weak to fight off diseases; primarily diarrhea, acute respiratory illness, malaria and measles; all of which are preventable and curable, if you have the meagre funds needed to buy the medicine.

Additionally, in most developing nations, a much higher percentage of the family's income, however little that may be, is spent on food as this sample list explains:

USA	6.5%	Sri Lanka	40%
Poland	20%	Belarus	50%
Malaysia	29%	Azerbaijan	77%

The fact remains as well that many of the world's peoples, particularly animists, live in a culture of barter rather than currency. I can remember going into my first Akha village which I wrote about last year. I doubt if there were more than a few coins in the entire village. They did not even have a concept of how much \$1000 was. They lived on a barter system which plays out as: *"I'll give you some eggs if you'll give me some rice"*. And while such people do give at church, their tithe is eggs, rice, bananas, etc. The preacher can eat it, but he can't wear it or strap it to his feet to walk over mountain trails. He can't buy Bibles or medicine with it. For such things, he needs outside funding.

Fallacy Number Three:

Giving money to a national preacher will ruin him and besides, they are too stupid to know how to handle the funds.

I agree that you can ruin a man by giving him too much money, whether a preacher or laymen, whether a national or an American. What perplexes me is why we don't apply that standard to our missionaries. A national preacher in the Ivory Coast is fortunate to earn \$50 monthly. We are told that if we give that to him we will ruin him and yet, a missionary there usually earns around \$5,000 and we have no fear of ruining him. The same is true in countries all around the world.

I don't begrudge the missionary. They have expenses the nationals don't have like private education for their children and a car and a good house, and health insurance, and a retirement fund and travel tickets back to the USA, etc. (the same "necessities" you as a church member enjoy). Many of them also use their surplus to help the national preachers and their churches. They feed them, build their churches, pay medical bills, etc. Please understand, my contention is not with the missionary, it is with the boards and schools that propagate such stupidity. I have known missionaries in Thailand that live on \$800 monthly and others that live on \$6,000 monthly. Should we conclude that the more prosperous missionary is "ruined"?

This same concern was expressed in (Proverbs 30:8-9) which states: *"Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain."*

This is truly a serious concern but it should not be applied only to national preachers. That is prideful, unfair and bigoted. Years ago I was in a certain Caribbean nation. There was a Bible college there that had been started by an American missionary. Over time he retired and moved to another island. Some of the missionaries were upset with him because he had left the property in the name of the national association, rather than giving it to one of them. Along with it came a house, several buildings, a dormitory, a chapel and a car. I was there to speak to the pastors and explain our program to see if any of them qualified for support assistance. During the meeting one missionary kept interrupting to the point that eventually, the body of national pastors had to remind him that I was their guest and that he was an uninvited participant. They urged him to remain quiet or leave. The next day he came to scold me for "unbiblically" supporting nationals and pointed to one of the men who "inherited" the car. "He's so stupid", he replied in earshot of the national pastor, "he doesn't even know how to change the oil. He'll ruin that car." Standing with us was the missionary's wife so out of courtesy to him, not wanting to put him in his place in front of his wife, I merely suggested that he take the time to show him how to change oil and explain to him the need

of doing so. My suggestion was not well accepted.

This missionary did not have time to teach, he was too busy with his ministry. And what was that I asked? Well, let me summarize it for you:

- ◆ He taught computer classes at the college; three classes a week, one hour per class. There was only one computer and three students, none of whom had their own computer at home.
- ◆ He taught a Sunday School class at one of the churches pastored by a national pastor. This required, other than "study time", less than one hour a week.
- ◆ He also occasionally went on soul winning.

I shuddered within as I thought about this brother who was condemning the national pastors of being slow, stupid and lazy. What a beam he had in his own eyes! How could he possibly see the speck in theirs? By the way, this missionary was receiving full time support from churches in the USA to do his ministry. I wonder if they know how little he does for the funds he receives from them? I don't know for sure, but I expect that his support was probably greater than the combined income of all the preachers in that fellowship, both from their churches and their second jobs, .

Hmmm, maybe it is true after all that if you give us too much money it will ruin us.

Fallacy Number Four:

You can't trust the national preachers. They will leave you as soon as someone else comes along offering them more money.

Well, I admit that I have seen that happen, but I have more often seen it not happen. Many of the men we work with have been offered salaries by large ministries only to turn them down and remain with us because we have the same heart they do, the other organization only had deeper pockets. But even if that accusation were true on a large scale, it is simply "human".

In Calcutta there is a pastor that I have tried to support for probably six years and he won't accept anything from me. Even when he left his church to live on faith and do missions work inside India, he would not accept my help. His new church, which is barely a year old is already supporting 30 preachers throughout India with no outside help. To that, some will say "praise God" and others will say, "see, they don't need our help". Let me just say that they are not a rural church. They live in a city of millions and are middle-class by their standards. They have the ability to give, so they give. Over the years we have often had preachers contact us to say that they no longer need support. That is just the calibre of men we work with. We have others who have gotten support from us and other organizations, knowing we don't permit that. When we discover it, we drop them immediately. I just did that with one preacher today.

Again, what applies to the goose applies to the gander. How many pastors in America leave a large church to go to a small one. How many take a cut in salary when they move to another church. In the "old days" that was never discussed. Those days are over for most. The accusation may be true, but it cannot be painted with a broad brush; it applies to the character and motives of the heart of the individual, not to his nationality.

In closing:

Much of the criticisms I hear are valid but they do not apply to our philosophy of ministry. I too am opposed to just handing

out money to anyone who claims he is a preacher without investigating him first. Over the years we have developed a system to weed out the true from the untrue. A system which is being copied by other organizations. Let me explain it in a nutshell:

- ◆ Preachers we support must be recommended by a missionary from a fundamental board or by a national preacher with whom we already have a relationship.
- ◆ The recommendation MUST be based on a LONG TERM, PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE of that man and his ministry.
- ◆ The preacher must be doctrinally sound.
- ◆ He must be morally pure.
- ◆ He must have a verifiable record in church planting and training others for the ministry.
- ◆ He must be a part of a local accountability group.
- ◆ He must not be receiving support from another organization.
- ◆ He must agree to reporting to his sponsors.
- ◆ He must fill out an application that reveals his testimony, his personal life, his ministry experiences, etc.

Once all that is done, he must go through several levels of interview and approval before we accept him and seek to find sponsors for him. That being said, we do not ask people to give him a salary, but rather a subsidy. Believe it or not, after all my ranting; I don't think it is good to remove the responsibility of the local church from supporting their own preachers. I do recognize two things however:

One, few national churches have the ability to pay a full salary. Two, most of the preachers we support are more than just pastors. Their ministry extends beyond the four walls of their church. Though their church may be paying their salary or a part of it, we help them with the spreading of the gospel by giving the preacher a subsidy with which he can better provide for his family, buy tracts and Bibles, travel to other villages, give support to those he is training for ministry that are not yet pastors, etc.

I defy anyone to tell me it is wrong biblically to do that. Even in Romans 10:15 where Paul asks, "how shall they preach except they be sent", he never qualified who the sender was or what his nationality or currency was. The great commission was not written to the USA exclusively; it was written to the church throughout the ages.

There have been many incorrect teachings about missions throughout the centuries. They are easy to spot for those who don't mind acknowledging and dealing with them. Churches often need help in discerning what their missionary program should be. In most churches, a high percentage of their "missionary" endeavours are right here in the USA. While relatively little goes to ministries or ministers that are actively and consistently involved in church planting and discipleship (one of our core requirements for the preachers we support.) This is why we train our representatives to consult with pastors and missions committees to help them determine what it is they want to achieve with their missions program and then how to go about accomplishing just that. Our stateside representatives are as much missions consultants as they are missionaries.

Missionaries too have suffered tremendously over the years

because they have not been adequately trained as to how to conduct themselves and how to carry out their calling. Most merely become pastors in another land. Few ever develop meaningful work relationships with the national pastors. This is not their fault, it is how they have been taught. That is why we are now working on a curriculum and training program for those wanting to be missionaries. We will teach missions from a biblical standpoint that includes our place in the host country, culture, and quite simply, how to be a servant rather than a boss. This program should be up and running in the next two years and will take place over several summer vacations. The logical conclusion to this is once we have trained and approved a missionary, he can then seek a board to work with or be offered a position with us, as we develop the **Final Frontiers Association of Foreign Missionaries**.

I love missionaries, even those who disagree with me. I always fear that when I write from my heart, I may be perceived as being anti-missionary. I hope I did not give that impression to you. In truth, many of our national coordinators are American missionaries, some are even with boards that attack our philosophy, and if their boards knew this, they would be fired.

Every now and then as the movement of supporting nationals to reach the world grows, especially into lands where missionaries are forbidden, the naysayers begin to attack us. My entire purpose of this article is to expose their teachings so that the Gospel continues to reach around the world, unhindered by prejudice and lack of funds. After all, what are we supposed to be doing with all this affluence God has given to us? Just keep heaping it upon ourselves while letting our brothers starve? How does that honor God and fulfil His command to love others as we love ourselves? And further, what about all the nations that are closed to missionaries? Should we just write them off for eternity? Does God not have claim to their souls as well?

I don't say that we do everything right or that we never have a set back. I acknowledge that many of the preachers are weak when it come to reporting and that is something we are working on. I guess I can best summarize my feelings by telling a little story I heard years ago about D. L. Moody, the great evangelist of the 19th century.

One day he was on a street in Chicago and wishing to attract a crowd around him to preach to, he put the point of his umbrella on the ground and bent over to put his forehead on the handle. Then he began to pivot around the umbrella making a fool of himself. More and more people stopped to watch him and when he felt his crowd was sufficient, he stood erect and preached to them.

After he finished and the crowd left, a Christina lady approached him and scolded him for using such unorthodox tactics to get a crowd to preach to. To her, the method disapproved the message. His simple response to her was, "Madam, I like the way I'm doing it better than the way you're not doing it."



In the early 1990s when communism took over Nicaragua, most missionaries left but the national preachers remained and partnered with Final Frontiers. Jon went their often to preach in their open air campaigns and churches.

Cast down but not destroyed

By Gordon Daam
Director, African Expansion

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;"
II Corinthians 4:8,9



"When we asked if she would store our motorbike, she directed us to ask her husband. As I was talking to him he used his fist on my mouth. As a result one of my teeth was broken. I spat the tooth in my palm. Brother Lawson wanted to beat this old and weak man. When I looked at him, he stopped. He told me he too remembered what Christ told Peter at Gethsemane. We later discovered that this man is insane, possessed of a demon for 15 years. He is a family worshiper."

(Note:- The ancestors these people think they are communicating with are actually demons.)

Over the years we have printed several reports from Lucas Ulo in Nigeria. I never cease to be amazed at the suffering and sacrifice of this man and his fellow pastors. He truly is a modern day Paul. They keep pressing on despite obstacles that would overwhelm me I am sure. We just received another amazing e-mail so I find myself again motivated to share about the ministry in Southeastern Nigeria.

"With this new pain I began to remember the past 30 years. I have been personally beaten during Crusades, witnessing, and night vigils. Should I be still hunted by the enemy till now? Some years ago these brutal beatings and persecutions stopped to some extent. Why resurface now?"

In the 1960's oil was discovered in SE Nigeria. In 1967 the people of that area tried to succeed from Nigeria so that the oil riches would remain in the region and not be siphoned to the capital city, the politicians, and the other tribes. They called their new nation Biafra. The federal government surrounded Biafra and starved it into submission. It was the big foreign news event of that time.

"Our new harvest field, Ngor, is filled with devils. During December crusades a young man of 30 was beaten by an evil spirit. While he was bathing, the demon which the people worship as the mermaid of the river, removed one of his eyes. The right one. People carried him to hospital but nothing could be done. The eye was gone. It was physically plucked out. Here you face real devils in person. Beloved we need your prayers most."

Since then SE Nigeria has been punished by the rest of Nigeria for their revolt. The oil riches are still siphoned off and the local people get the pollution but little else. A pipeline transporting millions of dollars of oil can be in the back yard, but still the people living next to it are penniless.

Editor's note:

Lucas Ulo serves as our National Director in Nigeria and as such receives extra sponsorships to cover his expenses in caring for the other preachers in his group. He is faithfully supported by:

- ◆ George Mann family, IA
- ◆ Bill Herrlinger family, WI
- ◆ Robert Lynch family, MN
- ◆ Reggie Richardson family, CA

Lucas writes "For us to even eat once a day is a miracle. There are communities that have no schools, potable drinking water, or health care. We who are true to the Lord and take no bribes are the ones suffering the most. We look to the soon coming of Christ Jesus as Lord of Lords. In his Kingdom, which shall have no end, there shall be justice and equality".

These are the obstacles of corrupt government and poverty. There are others, like poor health. Lucas has no vision in one eye and 70% in the other. In 2005, one of his supporters, George Mann, sent him funds for a motorbike which he can only drive slowly since he can't see very far down the road. Still it saves his energy during 30-40 mile trips to open up new areas to the Gospel.

Over the years Lucas' eyesight has gotten worse and worse. He now wears what we used to call "coke bottle glasses" but even with these, he can hardly see. Please pray for him and his team of preachers daily.

It is during these travels that the pastors of the Niger Delta face the most troubling opposition. The area is rife with a mixture of Catholicism and traditional ancestor worship. The strongest opponent is the Devil himself.

Here is what happened while opening up a new area on May 18, 2007. "On Friday, I went in company of one of our new converts, Lawson, to his home town, a small town named Umuneke Ngor. We were looking for a safe place to store my motorbike, while we walked around witnessing. Lawson introduced me to a lady who had just decided to leave the Catholic church because they did not visit her when she broke her leg, but did visit her to collect her church fees. She said, 'now where will I attend church?' We assured her that one day we shall come back and plant a church in Umeneke village. After preaching to her, we led her to Christ."



This is a "juju house" where they worship ancestral and demon spirits. Shortly after this was taken, and when many of the people accepted Christ, they demolished it (below) to follow Jesus only.



Such is the control that our Lord's enemy has over the souls of the African people. People whom the national pastors are best suited to reach.

He spent this summer in prison and in torture

By Yosef Rehma

This pseudonym is used for the protection of the author

The events of this story took place between February and June of this year ...

The Bible says, *“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own, but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”* John 15: (18-20).

As you know we write articles about how God uses each one of us to be a part of the work in the Middle East. Many of you have helped us to print the New Testaments in the Arabic and Persian languages and we have smuggled them throughout the region and God has helped us and protected us from the most deadly situations. One of the men whom God allowed me to win to Christ and train in our ministry, was burdened to go back to his own country to start an underground church. We believe that every nation needs the good news of the Gospel to change the people's hearts. This is the only solution for the Islamic world and the only hope for the Muslim people. As we smuggle the New Testaments, God gives us great victories.

One of our pastors, whom we will call Basim, is faithful to the Lord, self-sacrificing, very dependable and trust worthy, (we consider him our main man in his country). He was saved under my ministry, matured in one of our churches, and has very sound Biblical doctrine. He was appointed to follow up the people who received a New Testament, to witness to them or help them if they have questions regarding the Christian faith. He was primarily ministering and witnessing to people he could trust somewhat, and among his tribe and his community; which is neglected by the government and greatly opposes the political, radical Islamic regime that has grown up in his area in last few years. So we thought it is was a quite safe area for him and for us to operate our underground ministry to reach Muslim people for Christ. What he does, is go to reach people who are interested in receiving a New Testament or have already received one and are interested to go farther in the knowledge of Christ.

Basim knew such a young man, 17 years old, who was very confused and rebellious against Islam, the government, his family, traditions, and the rules of his tribe, to which he was obligated to obey without any question in every aspect in his life. He was especially opposed to the power of religious men in his country who claim to have authority from Allah; the one who killed, hated and destroyed people, and authority from his prophet whom he has never seen or known to have a valid message from Allah directly. He was perplexed with the history of the defenders of Islam who shed innocent blood and were sexually perverted and who allow themselves to do what they did with impunity while claiming that for other people, it was a sin. He questioned, if their prophet was truly the prophet of Allah, how was he able to marry a girl 8 years old, when he was 55 years old? This young man had many dangerous questions, not only in religious matters but also in every aspect as I mentioned above. Pastor Basim talked to him and began to build a relationship with him so that eventually, he would feel it safe to take him to one of our house churches. He explained to him the difference in Islam

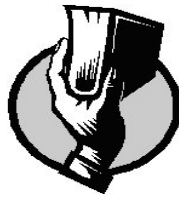
and Christianity, How our Lord is the Son of God, not just a prophet; and that he was and is sinless and pure and holy. That He lived a life of purity to the glory of God and as an example for us to follow. He taught him what it means to have liberation and freedom in and through Christ, even when you are living in an oppressed society and how our faith in and obedience to Christ comes from our free will and not at the threat of a sword. God started to work in this young man's heart and after a little while, his life was changed so dramatically that it became obvious to his family and friends.

When his family started to ask some questions, his answers seemed strange to them as if it were a new philosophy and it made them very concerned; so they shared their concern with one of their tribal headmen. He instructed the family to secretly follow him and watch where he was going, who he was spending his time with, etc.? They noticed he had a New Testament (one of the many thousands that our Final Frontiers donors provided for us to smuggle into his country) and that he was going to the same house on a weekly basis. To punish him and fearing for their own safety, his family informed the Islamic Revolutionary Guard. Before long they raided the house church and arrested everyone in the group). Most unfortunately for us, Basim was detained and incarcerated in an underground cell.

For days all of them were under severe torture from the police who wanted to learn the names of those who were supporting this group. They wondered what kind of people these Believers were who lived with this kind of faith and who, even under torture, proclaimed that there is only one way to heaven and that is through Jesus Christ. This young man, under the severe torture and beatings, lost his sight in his left eye and was emasculated by having his testicles crushed. He eventually told them about our the leadership of Pastor Basim and they did whatever they could to force him to give them any information regarding who was providing their financial support and providing them with the New Testaments and all the study materials. Pastor Basim continually refused to give them any names or information. In the mean time, after learning what was happening, we were doing all we could to save them from death and more torture.

Finally after four months we were able to secure Basim's release but by that time, he was so weak and tortured that he was literally half dead. We quickly made arrangements to smuggle him out of his country and have been providing him with medical treatment. Currently he is facing many months of recuperation and many health issues. He has broken bones, ribs and a broken shoulder and leg. Several of his teeth were broken and knocked out. He was given poison to drink that has damaged his liver and kidney. Last month as he began to recuperate, we decided to smuggle more New Testaments into Iran and we shared the plan with him. Though he had recovered only 30%, he amazed us all by saying, "I am ready to go and smuggle the Word of God again", and continued by saying "We are going to bring life and light to my people, and I'm going to stand before the Lord who will then tell me, 'well done my son!'"

We need your help to smuggle Farsi language New Testaments into the former Persian Empire. \$3.00 per copy provides for the printing and smuggling costs. Basim is willing to return and suffer again. Let's not send him back empty handed. If he is willing to go, can we not be willing to give?



Final Frontiers SOCIETY

A society of Believers, dedicated to distributing Bibles around the world

Lest you think that it is only in the Middle East that we distribute Bibles, I have printed these two letters from some of our Indian preachers. I think you will find there testimonies to be fascinating. The Final Frontiers Society exists solely for the purpose of raising funds to purchase and distribute Bibles and Scripture portions to those who need them and desire them, but are either unable to afford a Bible or have no legal access to a Bible. We often think that refers to only new converts or unsaved people who are interested in learning about Jesus, but did you know that many, and perhaps most of the Christians in the world today have never owned a Bible. In fact, they probably have never seen or touched a Bible. Doing so to them, is a dream they never expect to be realized. We're trying to change that through our network of distribution and smuggling and it is only by your generous gifts that we are able to do so.



*Above: his family
Below: preaching at "church" in front of his house*



From Marlapudi Nehemiyya of India, who is sponsored by the Keith Landreth family of North Carolina

I started writing this letter of thanks the other day. When I began to write an old couple came to our home to ask for a Bible.. They informed me that they are searching for a Bible for almost one week. In India, generally in small towns and villages, we do not have any Christian bookstores. We have the Indian Bible society but we have to request them at least one month in advance and we have to buy Bibles in quantities like one hundred or more. So this couple wanted just one Bible. They are not Christians but they wanted a Bible to read. I think someone influenced them about the importance and greatness of the Bible. I allowed them to sit and we had a casual discussion regarding their faith and regarding their belief. They are idol worshippers and I explained to them about the simple way

of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ as mentioned in the Bible. I showed them some important quotations from the book of Romans. They were really impressed and they clarified many of their doubts, and thank God, they finally accepted Him. Then I donated a Bible to them on behalf of you (*the sponsor*) because whatever I am having is all because of you. Immediately they knelt down and specially prayed for you. They left the place.

The following Sunday I was surprised to see they brought six of their family members, sons and grandchildren to our church as visitors. At the time of invitation four people from this group came forward and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ in our Sunday worship. See, by presenting one Bible four souls were

saved. Like this I think I will be able to reach many people.



*Above: he and his wife
Below: passing out Bibles*



From Aresey David Raju of India, who is sponsored by Nan Watson of Davidson, Michigan.

I thank God for opening your heart to send an additional amount to buy Bibles for our Indian people. Many are spending lot of time and energy just for a copy of a Bible. Last time one couple came all the way from fifteen miles by walking just for the sake of a Bible. Recently one old woman who was saved one year back was not able to read any Bible, not even to hold a Bible with her hands. She expressed her desire to have a Bible. She was on her deathbed in a hospital and after knowing this, I personally went to the hospital and prayed for her and donated a Bible on your behalf. She received this Bible with joy and holding the Bible in her hand, she died. Maybe it was too much happiness and she passed away but her desire was fulfilled.

I have so many practical experiences like this and many of our people are thirsty for the Bibles. It is always better for me to have some at my disposal. I appreciate your generous gesture of sending money to buy the Bibles by knowing the real and genuine need of our people.

In Andhra Pradesh India, where these two preachers live, a Bible can be purchased, in quantities of 100 or more for \$5 each. This covers the purchase and the distribution cost. New Testaments can be purchased for as little as \$0.30 each.

New Testaments in Arabic and Farsi (for Iran) can be purchased for just \$3 each.

Welcome New Sponsors

Sponsoring Family	Preacher	Country
White Oak Church, Sandersville, GA	Bernad Genga Ochuka	Kenya
North Spring Baptist, North Spring WV	S. Prabhudas	India
Barry & Danielle Downing, GA	S. Parbhudas	India
Choice Baptist, Fredricksburg, VA	Mark Thamai Son	Myanmar
"	Denys Roberto Castellanos Munos	Honduras
"	Ramon Leonso Troches Castro	Honduras
"	Santos Vicente Martinez Rivas	El Salvador
Matthew & Amanda Billups, VA	Wycliffe Osaye Odekeyo	Kenya
Ross Memorial Bible Church, Port Huron, MI	Napoleon Ernesto Gutierrez Alfaro	El Salvador
Anna Guy, CA	S. Prabhudas	India
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Mitchell, WV	Mark Thamai Son	Myanmar
"	Jose Mariam Castellanos	Honduras
Michael Krall, FL	Miguel Angel Vallecillo	Honduras

Sponsoring Family	Touch A Life Children	Country
Heath & Bernadette Hoffmeier, VA	Noe David RBasimez Pastrana	Honduras
Caulking Applicators, Inc., VA	Marvin Antonio R. Pastrana	Honduras
Mr. and Mrs. David Markle, NJ	Mario Antonio M. Benitez	Honduras
James & Kristine Brann, VA	Maria de los Angeles Ortiz	Honduras
Ken & Elizabeth Keene, IA	Lester Leonel Reyes Diaz	Honduras
"	Francis Soreida Garcia	Honduras
Jerry & Beth Jones, VA	Osman Omar Ferrera	Honduras
Willie & Jessica Judins, VA	Jose Fernando Bonilla	Honduras
Wesley & Vicki Wilcox	Madhu Vasu	India
James & Janel Viands, VA	Ratna Raju	India
Dean & Kristia Fletcher, VA	Rajendra Prasad	India
Tim & Marilyn Rickcreek, VA	Sundara Babu	India
David & Darla Odor, IA	Damaris Jamileth Lagos	Honduras
Larry & Beth Frankhauser, IA	Davison Izaguirre Garcia	Honduras
Dean & Kristia Fletcher, VA	Luis Fernando Pineda	Honduras
"	Wilson Daniel Cerrato	Honduras
Al & Charlene Hoffmeier, VA	Wilmer Enrique Cardona	Honduras
James & Cheryl Carter, VA	Yeison Neptali Zelaya Saucedo	Honduras
Gary & Kubda Smith, IA	Eliazar Joel Acosta Turcios	Honduras
Carma Schwartz, IA	Erlin Josue Salgado Velasquez	Honduras
Candlestick Baptist, Spring, TX	Kevin Edgardo Pineda	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Norris, GA	Franklin Efrain Mejia Medina	Honduras
Ronald & Patricia Norris, GA	Daniel alejandro Najera	Honduras
David & Carrie Usry, GA	Mayra Rebeca Martinez	Honduras
Charles & Kim Anderson, GA	Gerson Yovani Galindo	Honduras



VISIONARY TRIPS

October:
Egypt

November:
Thailand
Cambodia
Vietnam

January:
India

February:
Honduras

March:
Egypt
Kenya
Ghana

June/July:
Honduras (4)
Touch A Life Trips



CHURCH MEETINGS

August:
Spokane, WA
Vancouver, BC
Sacramento, CA
Green Valley, CA
Carthage, TX
Gladewater, TX
Longview, TX

September:
Liberty City, TX
Tyler, TX
Grand Prairie, TX
Austin, TX
Dallas, TX
Waverly, TN
Tampa, FL
Arcadia, FL
Atlanta, GA
Finley, OH
Port Huron, MI

October:
Munich Germany
Bayern Germany
Frankfurt Germany
Dusseldorf Germany
Hamlin Germany
Oberhausen Germany
Kalamazoo, MI
Valdosta, GA
Pennsboro, WV
Cleveland, OH
Lima, OH

SCHEDULES

Help our influence grow ...

If you have a website of your own or your church or business, please link us to your site. If you are a blogger you can mention us as well.

The more we are referenced on the internet, the more our internet ranking grows. Then when someone "googles" topics such as "national preacher" or "missions", our name will come up first and that will help us get the word out and get more preachers sponsored.





Touch a Life

A child sponsorship ministry of the Final Frontiers Foundation
www.touchalife.net

By Jon Nelms

We had an absolutely great trip to Honduras in June with a group from the Home Church in Lodi, California. The pastor, Tim Pollock and I worked together back in the late 1970s at Central Baptist Church in Pomona. Though Tim's church was one of the first I ever presented Final Frontiers at, I had lost contact with him over the past twenty years; but through our Progress Report, he had kept up with us. When it came time for a group of primarily college age kids from his church to go on a missions trip, he recommended us. I am so glad he did!

The group was led by one of his son's Luke, who is the assistant pastor of the church. They were the most dedicated, organized and devoted group of kids I have seen in a long time. I heard no complaining, but in its place a constant buzz for doing the ministry. One day, our guide, Pastor Manfredy Zelaya, our National Director in Honduras, stopped to see if they could witness at a public school. Unbelievably they were allowed and several were saved, including one of the teachers. He translated as they witnessed and led her in prayer.

Of course those who wanted got to ride the horses and mules to one of our mountain top churches and feeding centers. This is always a thrill, as long as you don't tumble down a 300 ft. cliff!

I suppose that rather than tell you how things went, I should let Pastor Luke do so in his own words ...

"Let me tell you that we could not have asked for a better mission trip. Our church has a great desire to be involved in bringing the good news around the world and



through the ministry of Final Frontiers we were able to be a part of this first-hand.

We were touched by the hearts of the Christians in these little villages and we were burdened by the poverty and spiritual bondage of the unsaved. We were amazed that this thing called the "church", that Jesus started so long ago, has reached to the most remote parts of the little country of Honduras and the gates of hell have not stopped the mighty force of God's church. This is also why we enjoy Final Frontiers so much, because of Jon's faithful commitment to reaching the world through the local church.

On a practical note we have never been on a more organized mission trip. It was a great blessing to us, especially since we had not been to Honduras before. Having the hotel booked, transportation all planned out, food ready for us at each meal time and guides with us at all times to answer any questions was nothing less than wonderful. This made it so easy for us to focus on ministry and for myself as a leader to focus on our team's spiritual condition.

The memories and relationships that we have made from this trip will certainly be lifelong. The 2007 Mission Trip to Honduras is a milestone for many of our young people. I heard some of them say that they didn't want to leave. We plan to go again next year to have a reunion with all our friends and again work to be a blessing to the people of Honduras."

I had a great time with these guys and look forward to hosting them again next June. We also have another group scheduled for June but July and August are wide open. If you would like to have a group from your church come or just come on your own with a mixed group, give me a call. No matter how many missions trips you have been on, this will be a trip that will change your life forever. And just for the record, these trips are for everyone, even you seniors and younger kids if they are accompanied by a parent.



Singing with kids at the feeding center

Witnessing at the public school



It's Almost Finished !

Our first feeding center is almost complete and ready for 300 children to eat at one time. Other projects on the property are ongoing, but to make our huge facility usable we need only a few things like plates, tables, chairs, stove, refrigerators, sinks, etc.

The combined price for these necessary items comes to about \$55 per sponsored child. Can you help by picking up the tab for one or more of these precious kids?

Once this is done, the plates and equipment we have on hand in our rented facility will be taken up the mountain on mule back to the village of Bartolo, where we have other sponsored children. Right now we give them food bags but once their center is open we will be able to have a kitchen there for less than \$500. That's because there are only 50 children there and already 35 are sponsored. Their numbers are small enough that will be able to use their church building to eat in. The food will be cooked on a traditional adobe stove, just like their moms do every day and we already have all the dishes and tables for them.

We bought this property in Cantaranas last November with a donation from the First Missionary Baptist Church of Justice WV after their pastor and several of their men went down with us to see the ministry. It was apparent that we needed a larger facility and property that could provide eventual space for guest cottages, an elementary school and Bible college. Many of you have given since then to help erect the building. Now we are so very close. I hope you will help us finish the job in this one year period.



In the photo to the left you can partially see the finished building with the new roof. Below is an inside picture where the men are making the metal doors and windows for the structure.



We have 200+ kids sponsored in Cantaranas. If we can get donations of \$55 per child we can buy the cement to finish the parking lot and sidewalks, table, chairs, cups, plates, bowls, forks and spoons, and all the kitchen appliances. Including a water tank which is necessary since we only get water there three days a week. Please help me complete this project right away, to the glory of God.

Visionary Trips

Our Visionary Trips to Honduras for the Touch A Life program will allow you to:

- ◆ meet and spend time with your sponsored child and their family, visit in their home and help feed the children in the feeding centers.
◆ meet some of the pastors supported by Final Frontiers.
◆ have an opportunity to go out with a Honduran church member to witness and pass out tracts.
◆ go shopping for gifts for the children and souvenirs for your family and friends

If you would like to go, call our office to register. 1-800-522-4324 ext.110. Please leave your name and phone number and we will get back with you.

The cost per person (except for the international airfare), which includes travel within Honduras, great food and clean, modern lodging, is only \$650 per person. The only other funds you will possibly need are for souvenirs and snacks. A \$200 deposit is non-refundable. Deadlines for registration are six weeks before the trip date.

Churches and schools are encouraged to book a week for their own group to go down. We can custom-make a trip just for your ministry needs in a week that you choose. We can even arrange for you to help us start a new church while you are there.

The dates available for 2008 are:

- June 12-19 Reserved/Full
June 19-26 Reserved/Full
July 3-10
July 10-17
August 7-14
August 14-21

If another date is desired for a church group of 12 or more, please contact us as quickly as possible.



Intelligence Does Not Exist



By Ron Charles

The following is a story that recently happened on my trip to Ireland after returning from Egypt and India. It does not have anything to do with Muslims, but it was something that was the cause of a couple of students becoming saved. Actually the story is not a new one. Some 30 years ago I was faced with a similar, yet different type of situation in San

Jose, California. The situation then was when I was doing door to door witnessing. I recorded the details in my book, *Street Walking*. This time I was lecturing to a group of students at Trinity College in Dublin. But my answer was the same in both situations.

It is so amazing how God knows all situations and all circumstances; and knows how to capitalize on each of these, even though to us human beings, the situations that we find ourselves in may seem hopeless. I recently (June 2007) found myself in a situation like this while lecturing at Trinity College's Department of Philosophy, in Dublin, Ireland.

I had been invited to lecture on the subject of the founding of the Muslim religion and the impact that Islam has had upon the religious and philosophical thinking of the western world. The lecture was scheduled to last for one hour, leaving approximately one half hour for questions and answers. The fifty or so people who attended the lecture were all philosophy graduate students or 4th year philosophy students, along with six facility members.

The lecture went very well. Both the students and facility members were considerate and professional and listened attentively as I traced the Islamic religion from its 7th century founding up to that present time. Not only did I address the founding of Islam, but we also discussed how Islam came into its own in the decades before the first crusade on up through the 4th crusade; and how it became a force to be reckoned with from the 5th through the 9th crusades; and how by the end of the 9th crusade it had become a real threat to Christian Europe, especially western Europe and the European way of life.

The lecture ended with my explaining that Islam is presently, as it was those many centuries ago, the primary religious threat to Christianity and Judaism and before too much longer, could be the primary political threat to today's western lifestyle. The lecture was not presented in a way that could be misrepresented as anti-Islamic, but rather as a matter of historical fact based on known historical documentation. So, although the purpose of the lecture was not to evangelize or to bring attention to the short-comings of Islam, it more than met the criteria for both, strictly by presenting the evidence and allowing the lecture audience to draw their own conclusions.

When the lecture was complete, I opened the floor up for questions and discussion. I was quite surprised at the depth of some of the questions. It seemed obvious that at least a handful of those there had a thorough knowledge of not only the history

of the founding of Islam, but also the philosophical teachings and beliefs of the religion. As the questions were asked, more and more time was given to me by the department head in order to address the questions. Before it was all over, not only had I lectured for one hour, but I had also answered questions and entertained comments for an additional hour. During much of the question and answer time I took the opportunity to compare Islam to Christianity and Judaism, including the varying beliefs, theologies, fundamental teachings, doctrines and founding principles. I compared the known life of Mohammad with the known life of Jesus. I also compared the biblical record and the koranic records of the lives of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Moses, David and Solomon, showing the two texts while similar also had marked differences; and how time and again the Bible had proven itself to be stable in the very midst of world wide instability. In addition, I took the opportunity to present Jesus in a favorable light as mankind's perfect sacrifice and savior and God's chosen method by which mankind could be relieved from the curse of sin and eternal death.

The one subject that seemed to come up more often than any others was the question about the deity of Jesus, and whether He really did die on the cross or was that just a story invented by the early Christians to develop faith in the followers of Jesus? Each time questions of this sort were asked I remember quoting to myself I Corinthians 1: 18, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." And again in I Corinthians 1: 21, "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." Although neither the students nor facility ever stated that they felt that my stand regarding Jesus was foolish, by their attitude when they asked their questions, volumes were spoken and I knew without a doubt that although they were cordial, they for the most part were not "swallowing" the fact that the Bible was God's Word, that Jesus was the one and only way whereby mankind could enter into the presence of God, and that through Jesus and Him only were offenses against God neutralized.

Many felt that the Bible was a good moral book and was a great religious book but the same could be said of other religious books also. Many felt that Jesus was a good man, a moral man, perhaps even the greatest man who ever lived; and if the definition of sin is that thing that separates you from God, then He very well could have been the only sinless man who ever lived. Others seemed to defend the Koran, saying that both the Koran and the Bible are God's Word, so both are inspired by God. There were none who flatly rejected what I had to say, and very few who seemed to be defiantly committed to Islam or to the belief that Islam was the religion of choice for mankind. Yet, many were more than willing to place Islam alongside Christianity and Judaism as religions founded on similar philosophies, with a belief in the same God and a desire to bring all men under the influence of this God. Although there was some mention of terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism, they were not topics that were pursued. What seemed to be the one overriding concern was that we all can live in peace together if we would all stop being so dogmatic in our beliefs and respect the beliefs of others.

Although this seems like good advise, in reality this idealism does not work. "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought

things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence.” (I Corinthians 1: 27-29). The world cannot understand the grace of God. It cannot under the perfect sacrifice of Jesus and it cannot understand the kind of love that made Christ’s sacrifice possible.

The questions and answers continued on the same subject for quite some time. They were trying to convince me that all were equal and all religions were equal, especially if you are sincere in your beliefs and are sincere in your faith in the holy book that you trust. My answers continued to present the Bible as the true, inspired Word of God, that Jesus is the only true way of salvation, that by Jesus can mankind gain entrance into the presence of God and that the issue is not one’s opinion of God or one’s opinion of who God is. The issue is Jesus. Who is He? What position does He hold? What is His function? What did He do for mankind and why?

This went on for some minutes when it finally came to an end by a comment made by a 4th year student. The student stood, and I recognized him. He introduced himself (I will call him Bob for our purposes, even though this was not his real name) and told me that he was a 4th year Philosophy student. He began by complimenting me on the lecture and the information that I had presented. He then said, “You know, I can really get in to the religion thing. Especially when it comes to the great moral teachings recorded in the great holy books of religions throughout the world.”

I started to answer him when he held up his hand, gesturing that he wanted to continue, so I did not speak. He continued, “I know Doctor that you are convinced on the inspiration and the authenticity of the Bible and are convinced of the truth concerning Jesus. But I am not so sure. In fact, I do not think that I can ever be convinced. In fact, I tend more to agree with Karl Marx when he said that religion is the opium of the people, invented to control the masses. I am not in total disagreement with him. In fact I think it is much more logical and more intelligent to believe in this way more so than in the manner that you presented your argument.”

I then questioned him, “Okay, I can understand that you doubt the Bible as God’s Word, but what about God Himself.”

“Well,” He answered, “I place the Bible in the same category as all religious books. They are all good for moral teachings and man’s relationship to man. But concerning God, I cannot say that I believe in a God or at least one that is considered divine.”

“And why is that,” I questioned.

“Well, I am a logical person. I do not believe anything that cannot be confirmed by my five senses. Anything that cannot be confirmed, cannot logically be believed to exist.”

“Tell me what you mean.” I requested. He continued by saying, “I know that you exist because I see you, hear you and can touch you. The same with Islam, music, medicine, an automobile and brain waves. They can be confirmed to exist; hence they exist. But when you consider God, he or she cannot be confirmed to exist. I cannot touch God, God has never touched me; I cannot hear God, I cannot speak to God wherein I don’t know that He hears me; I cannot taste God, and I cannot see God. So, logically speaking, God cannot be confirmed to exist. thus, logically speaking, there is no God ” (*At that moment I was reminded of the words of Psalm 14:1, “The fool has said in his heart, there is no God ...”*.) With that he sat back down and awaited my response.

I waited briefly in total silence. I then asked him to stand back up. He stood up and I addressed him. “Bob. I thank you for your challenge and your observations. I can tell that you are a student of logic, and are quite intelligent.”

He interrupted by saying, “I thank you for that Doctor, and yes, I do feel that I am intelligent and logical. This is why I have come to this conclusion.”

“Well,” I continued, “I appreciate your insight; and you are absolutely correct when you say that logically speaking, God does not exist. So, again I thank you. You may take your seat again.” He sat back down and I addressed the audience. “Bob is absolutely right. Logically speaking, there is no God. Which means that logically we should be dismissed and call this lecture to a close.” Some of the students began to gather their belongings, preparing to leave. But as they did I said, “But just before we leave, I want to make one other observation if I can. So, if you will grant me just two more minutes, I will appreciate it.” They all sat back down and turned their attention toward me.

“Bob, has made a very good, very sound and very logical observation. Bob is obviously a student of logic and obviously very intelligent. But, I have a problem. You see, I have never touched Bob’s intelligence. I have never smelled Bob’s intelligence. I have never tasted Bob’s intelligence, and I have never seen Bob’s intelligence. So, by using the same logic that Bob used to prove that God does not exist, then we must conclude that Bob’s intelligence does not exist.” I then remained silent and waited.

Everyone just sat and looked at me, at Bob and at one another. Finally, Bob stood up. He looked down at the floor and then addressed me. “Sir, I know that I have intelligence, but by using the same logic that I used on God then I too must conclude that I have none. So, if you will excuse me, will you be so kind as to once again explain to me about the Bible and about Jesus, and about Him as he fits into and is the real answer for Islam, and this time I promise that I will listen and not try to logically reason it away. Because I know doctor that I have logic and intelligence, but now I need to know that there is a God.

For the next 10 minutes I again explained the Bible and Jesus and how He was mankind’s perfect sacrifice and the only way to salvation. After the lecture ten students came up to me to ask questions, including Bob. Of those ten, three accepted Jesus as their savior that day, including Bob.

So, the preaching of the cross is foolishness to the world that is lost. But to us who are saved, it is indeed the power of God.

Ron’s book on soul winning which he mentioned, *Street Walking*, is now being proofed for reprinting. We will notify our readers when it is available.

His book, *The Search*, showing the historical evidence for the life and divinity of Jesus, is now in it’s second printing. You can order it online at roncharles.com



Prayer and Praise Reports from around the world ...

If you desire to help with any of these needs, please designate your gifts accordingly.

Russia

From Pastor Vasily Lastochkin
National Director



Thank you so much for all your help through years. (I believe that we have worked together since 1995). I decided to send you the report about our ministry to the prisons.

In the period from June 1 2006 to June 1 2007 we visited 20 prisons with 13,000 prisoners in them, all in the central part of Russia. We made 29 trips and were blessed, by God's grace, to bring aid to these places worth of \$9,000.00

Seven of prisons are for teens, three for ladies, one was the hospital for the prisoners with tuberculosis. I believe that few hundred of these people really gave their hearts to Jesus. We receive 10-25 letters per month from them.

I enclose a photo below - it's from my recent trip to the Smolensk region where I preached in front of 500 men. By God's mercy I also still do nation wide radio, weekly program on a Christian station and try to do my best with the people in church (30 people from our local assembly were visiting prisons with us over the last year).

So life is going on, God is saving souls and moves in our hearts. May Jesus Christ help us not to become warm, like Laodicean church. My dad's health is the same. Yesterday he gave me such a beautiful smile; it touched my heart.

May God bless you.



Vasily's daughter, second from right in front, goes with him to the teenage prison to witness to the young inmates living there.

India

From Pastor Solomon Bijja
National Director, Andhra Pradesh, India



One of the people groups that we are reaching are called Madar/Methri they practice dedicating their young girls to Temple prostitution where they become *devadasis* (handmaidens of

god). They believe once they dedicate their daughters to the goddess "Yelamma," all their problems in life will be solved. Some women give away their daughters between 5 to 10 years of age and others officially dedicate their daughters to the temple between 10 to 15 years. Some wait for their daughters to attain puberty, while some abruptly discard them for just a couple of hundred dollars. All this takes place to overcome poverty and in the name of religion. The government has banned such activities just on paper, but nothing happens. The temple earns through these helpless girls and the government earns in the form of taxes.

These young girls believe they are married to Yelamma, their duty is to fulfill sexual desires of all the male devotees who visit the temple, plus they had to dance and perform temple rituals. Once these girls lose their physical charm they are thrown out, they have to live on the streets begging and surviving by prostitution. The kids born to them in the process end up as child prostitutes and bootleggers.

In order to break this cycle of social evil from repeating in their lives, we have already started an orphanage for girls born to the temple prostitutes. Right now we are taking care of 30 girls, providing education, food and shelter. Now we are in need of starting a separate home for the boys born to the mothers involved in temple prostitution. Hence I kindly request you to pray for our endeavor. Will there be any possibility of Final Frontier to sponsor any of such boys.

Note: This is just one of several gods to whom children are offered as temple prostitutes. We are investigating now the possibility of supporting such children through our Touch A Life program.



Yelamma, also called Renuka, Source BBC



Some of the girls working in a Bombay brothel. Their earnings go to their temple owners. Source BBC



Young girls brought to a temple for dedication., Source Redeenkind

Sponsorship Information

Your Will

- 1

Sponsoring a **national preacher** is a simple process. Simply tell us which country you are most burdened for and we'll provide you with information on preachers living there who are approved for sponsorship. If you don't have a preference, we'll assign you a preacher from our most needy list.

Sponsorship is \$35.00 monthly, however, since we get each preacher two sponsors, you have the opportunity of providing double sponsorship (\$70.00 monthly) if you prefer. This of course is not required. Your \$35 sponsorship also includes \$10 support of our ministry (unless you direct us otherwise). This gives our foundation funds to operate with as well as providing assistance to preachers who do not yet have sponsorship. Typically up to half of this amount is used overseas. If you prefer your total support to go to your preacher, all you need to do is inform us and we will comply to your request.

As a sponsor you should receive correspondence when we send your support to your chosen preacher three times annually.

Each preacher recommended for support has successfully passed through at least three levels of examination and has been proven to be doctrinally sound, morally pure and have a verifiable track record in church planting and discipleship.
- 2

Sponsorship of a **TEAM** can be done for as little as \$10.00 monthly, or for any other amount you wish. *TEAM* stands for *Together Effectively Advancing the Ministry*. Though many preachers are being supported, they often collectively lack ministry tools that can be useful. The purpose of the *TEAM* funding is to provide each country with money to be used for such things as printing literature, buying bicycles for the traveling evangelists, building a church or Bible school, emergency relief, feeding widows and funding preachers who do not yet have a sponsor, etc.

Each trimester as the funds are mailed abroad, the national coordinator for every nation is asked to fill out a *TEAM* Report Form which we will send to you. This will give you a first hand report of how your funds were effectively used to advance the ministry in that land.
- 3

Sponsorship of **Touch a Life**, gives assistance to an orphaned, abandoned or destitute child. The \$35.00 monthly sponsorship provides for food, clothing, basic medical care, and educational assistance.

All orphanages and home placement programs assisted by Final Frontiers are administered by pastors who are supported through this foundation, and are operated as a ministry of a local church. Trimesterly correspondence is encouraged between the orphans and their sponsors. Sponsorship distribution for the child is identical to that of the preachers (see #1)
- 4

Membership in the **Final Frontiers Society** is \$10.00 monthly and is used to purchase and distribute Bibles. Many national pastors and Believers do not own a copy of God's Word. FFS membership funds, help to turn the dream of having their own Bible, into a reality.

More and more sponsors are contacting us about the opportunity to continuing supporting their preacher after they have passed away.

Imagine being able to leave funds for your preacher so that after you have gone to be with the Lord, he can still be serving with your help.

Or what if your burden is to feed children or distribute Bibles or just to leave funds for the ministry to continue as needed?

If you are interested in leaving Final Frontiers or Touch A Life in your will, you should give us a call. We can give you all the information you need and even help you find an attorney in your state that will help you with your will or living trust.

After all, if winning souls and planting churches are important to you in this life, how important do you think it will seem to you in the next?

Now it's your turn ...

<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Phone: (home) _____ (office) _____</p>	<p>Email: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I want to receive the <i>Progress Report</i> on-line rather than by regular mail</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check here if this is a new address or phone number.</p>
---	---

Enclosed is my donation of: \$ _____ **to be applied to:** _____

Also, please contact me regarding sponsorship of:

___ a National Preacher	___ a country's <i>TEAM</i>
___ A Touch A Life Child	___ membership in the Final Frontiers Society
___ Bags of Hope	___ other _____

Final Frontiers
Foundation
1200 Peachtree St.
Louisville, Georgia
30434

Register to receive your Progress Report via email, in full color at:
www.finalfrontiers.org

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Woodbridge, VA
Permit No. 70

AUTO

Moved lately?

Please give us your new address. E-mail: snelms@finalfrontiers.org or call: 1-800-522-4324

Reports received from the Final Frontiers ...

Reports received in the last three months indicate there have been ...	Totals from all reports received since our beginning in December 1986 indicate there have been ...	A current total of all statistics indicate there are currently ...
627 Churches Started	27,893 Churches Started	1294 Preacher Sponsorships
1,020 Villages Evangelized	102,154 Villages Evangelized	308 Touch A Life sponsorships
19,027 Professions of Faith	842,036 Professions of Faith	805 Number of actual sponsors
10,008 Believers Baptized	294,672 Believers Baptized	74 Countries involved

Missions statistics, points to ponder

Did you ever stop to think about the total funds given for missions and what they accomplished? One scale used by missiologists is to divide the reported missionary support for a given nation by the number of converts baptized that year. Here are some examples given by the US Center for World Missions. Mozambique was the most cost effective nation in that it only required \$1,400 of missions funding per baptism.

Mozambique	\$ 1,400	(least)
Ethiopia	\$ 2,700	(2nd)
Nepal	\$ 3,700	(5th)
Cambodia	\$ 4,300	(8th)
Africa	\$ 14,000	
Asia	\$ 61,000	
Latin America	\$ 145,000	
Oceania	\$ 634,000	
Europe	\$ 993,000	
USA	\$1,500,000	

How much did it cost per baptism for Final Frontiers? \$39.64 that means our results were 35 times more cost effective than the most cost effective country reporting. Why are we so much more effective? Simple, we fund church planters only and to do that, you must be a soul winner.

Annual Global Church Finance in US Dollars:

\$15,500,000,000,000	Total Annual Income
\$ 300,000,000,000	Giving to Christian Causes (1.8% of total income)
\$ 17,000,000,000	Given to Foreign Missions (5.7% of Giving to all Christian causes)

Interestingly, it is estimated that 18 billion was lost due to "ecclesiastical crimes" (embezzlement, etc.) That's more than was spent on missions.

Target Groups Where Foreign Mission Funds are Spent:

87%	for work among those already Christian.
12%	for work among those already evangelized but still non-Christian.
1%	for work among still unevangelized and unreached people groups.

If the definition of missions is to preach to the unreached, those who have never heard the Gospel; and that is how Paul defined missions, then why are only 1% of our missions funds going for that purpose and 99% going to those who have access to the gospel or who's societies, like ours, has been saturated by it?