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PROGRESS REPORT



One of 27 new Christians of the Thado Tribe, being baptized in a stream near the border of India, just inside Myanmar, by the Final Frontiers National Director of Myanmar, Go Za Kham.

(cover story p. 7)

*A publication of the Final Frontiers Foundation
November / December 2001*

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 Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, India, Vietnam, China, Philippines, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Togo, Liberia, Nigeria, France, Romania, Russia, Lithuania, Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Chile, Peru, Fiji, Tonga, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Grenada, and Cuba. Some 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 America, 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 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, blind, deaf and leper ministries, orphan and children's ministries, feeding centers and refugee ministries. The foundation also offers assistance in missionary training; and we provide mission trips for American believers who want to examine the ministries of the national preachers.

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)
- Sponsorship of an orphan through our *CHILD CARE* subsidiary (\$35.00 monthly)

FINAL FRONTIERS, as 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. Ralph Wills, CPA/CMA. 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.

Regional Offices:

- Office of Asian Expansion: Dr. Minh Dang, - Akron, OH (330) 864-2077
- Office of Eurasian Expansion: Rev. Matt Hood - St. Paul, MN (612) 776-4156
- Office of European Expansion: Rev. Dennis Kiser - Livonia, MI (248) 489-0844
- Office of African Expansion: Rev. Gordon Daam - Portage, MI (616) 327-9192

International Offices:

National offices are maintained in every country of service for accountability purposes, and are staffed by national and regional coordinators who are elected by the supported pastors, and approved by the Executive Board of Directors. Six additional international offices are maintained to coordinate regional accountability. These are in Ghana, Kenya, Honduras, France, India and the Philippines. For further information concerning this ministry and its various programs, please call or write to the home office:

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www.finalfrontiers.org

The Jon Nelms family report



Greetings to all!

I know I promised a new photograph of my family, but this time it's not my fault. I have had the photographer cancel three different appointments and when I finally got a chance for another photographer, the only dates he had available conflicted with my daughter's trip to England in December, so - just be patient with me.

Since last writing, I went to Thailand and Myanmar to meet with the preachers we support there. Other than being knocked off my feet with sickness for one day, everything went great. I'll share more information about the situation in Myanmar, in the feature story of this issue.

It was a delight to be able to see old friends, warriors of the faith; to visit their churches, meet their young Timothy's and see the progress they are making for the Lord's Kingdom. I have been around a long time now and have seen a lot, but I am happy to tell you that I was impressed! Not only have they solidified their own churches, but they have also reached out to others who are not in their "groups", offering Bible teaching, and hands on training in evangelism. Some of the younger preachers, were just youth group members last time I saw them. Truth is, most of them I never really knew, they were just faces in the crowd. I don't usually spend much time with the youth or church members; when I travel, my time is consumed with the preachers. Yet these young men and ladies, have completed their studies, discipled converts, started new churches, and all without support. After all, we don't even consider someone for support until they have started at least one church. I thank God that we are able to assist a new generation of preachers who were brought up under the care and tutelage of the older men, whom we have been supporting for years.

A special blessing for me was meeting with A-Ti. He was mentioned in our last *Progress Report* as a former witchdoctor who had come to Christ and been exiled from his village as a result. On the cover of the last issue was a photograph of his "tools of witchcraft" that he gave to Pastor Kiatisak to be burned, after his conversion. I am happy to tell you that A-Ti started a new village, which has become a haven to other Akha tribal families that have converted to Christ and been cast out of their villages. They rent land for their village and must walk long distances to have available free land to cultivate for their food. In their village there is no water, and no well. Though they did not ask for help

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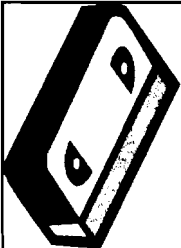
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In Memory Of:

• On October 8, we received an email from our national director in the Ivory Coast, Emile Konan, which was forwarded to his sponsors. We want to share it with you.

"Last night at 11:00 at home, our dear daughter in Christ who live for seven years and who very sick, died. We know she is with Him but our hearts are suffering. Please pray for us".

• On November 20, Jane Lewis, the wife of one of our representatives, Niel Lewis, after years of sickness, went home to be with the Lord. In her final hour, Niel stood beside her bed witnessing to her doctor. We thank God for her testimony and his, and ask for His comfort for their family in this time.



For years people have asked why we don't make a video. Well now we have, and it is being used by the Lord tremendously! This fifteen minute video will take you literally around the world visiting preachers and ministries supported by Final Frontiers. You will see their works and catch their vision to reach their own people with the gospel. Some scenes are graphic however, as we make no attempt to "water down" the reality of the world's mission fields. And though love offerings are welcome, the video is yours FREE for the asking.

Just call 1-800-522-4324 and order your copy today.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

with this, if any of our readers would like to help them dig a well and put in a pump, I know that they would be thrilled. I would estimate such a project would cost at least \$1,000.00. (If you want to help with this, please make a notation on your check.)

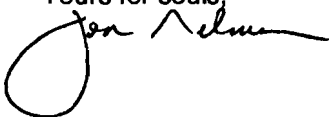
The following day we traveled to the edge of Myanmar, where there are a number of churches being planted among the Lisu, Lahu, and Akha tribes. Many of these people have suffered tremendously over the years for refusal to use their land to grow opium. The drug lords often torture and kill those who refuse, or take their children hostage. The Thai government is now bringing them roads and electricity. This communication with the outside world generally causes the drug lords to flee. It also helps the preachers because they can now travel in five minutes what used to take hours.

It was a joy to be in services that were a mixture of several different tribes and seeing them sing each others songs and worship together. I felt like I was getting a little peek into what it must be like in Heaven. In every church, after every service, we were given food and drink. I actually gained weight on this trip, though I usually lose about 15 pounds in a two week period there. They could use help in putting new roofs on their churches. They have all expanded, or are in the process of expanding the size of their structures. Most are made of bamboo, until there are enough members to be able to purchase concrete blocks and build more permanent structures. Now they need roofs made of tin, and for that they need our help. (For more information, see Prayer Requests on page 12)

Finally, let me say how much I appreciate the pastors of the churches I have been in lately. Their respect for our ministry and desire to help is such a tremendous blessing. In the last month I have had meetings in Ohio, Kentucky and Virginia and have had nearly 40 sponsorships. In one, we became the first missionaries taken on by their church. In another, I was invited by a missions pastor who taught me Bible in high school. In still another, a church with 22 sponsorships already who has been supporting us for ten years, took on 10 more. And in another, before leaving town, the pastor asked me to come back in January so all his people could hear the presentation and get involved in supporting a preacher. He and another Virginia pastor are both scheduling meetings for me with their pastor friends, so that they can learn about us and get their people involved as well.

And in closing, a special thanks to Terry Schamp, a long time sponsor who is working hard to expand our ministry to the churches in his area. May God bless you all, and multiply your efforts.

Yours for souls,



A TEAM Report

RUSSIA

For more information on the various TEAM projects, see page 23'

From: Alexey Klimenko and Vasily Lastochkin
Location: Moscow

What was the total amount of TEAM funds received?
 \$709.00

What were these funds used for?

Some of the funds were used to help with the more than 20 mission trips we have taken to various areas of our country and the former Soviet Block nations. We have started as a result, churches in Cimlansk, Russia and in the nations of Kazan, Tatarstan and in Tblisi, Georgia. The rest of funds needed were given by church members.

Do you have any special needs we can pray about?

Pray that we grow spiritually as much as we are numerically.

Dear TEAM fund sponsors:

God has led us to develop more than 30 outreaches including a critical counseling line, marriage and family counseling, the Russian Leadership Conference, printing books, radio, drama, and children and teen summer camps. This semester 90 students are studying in our Seminary, and we have among them, five students from other countries. Of the 25 new students, 14 came from listening to one of the 4 weekly radio broadcasts that we have.

SCHEDULE

Church Meetings - International Travel

November: Louisville, KY
 Pomeroy, OH
 Belpre, OH
 Maryville, TN
 December: Crossville, TN
 January: Suffolk, VA

January: El Salvador
 February: Romania
 Ukraine
 Russia
 Poland
 April: France
 England
 Morocco
 May: Italy
 Switzerland
 July: Chile
 Argentina
 Brazil
 October: India

Get Acquainted Meetings for Pastors

November: Parkersburg, OH
 January: Suffolk, VA

The Growth of the Church in Myanmar

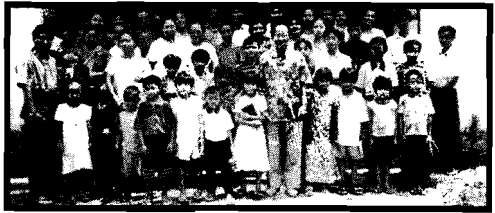
By Jon Nelms

It has been said that Adoniram Judson, who was the first American missionary; lived, worked and ministered in Burma for more than six years before gaining a single convert. Without a doubt, Burma, now known as Myanmar, has historically been a difficult nation to minister in.

Myanmar had for many years remained secluded from the rest of the world, not by accident, but by choice. Even today, the world's press is for the most part, neither welcome nor present; tourism is highly restricted and international aid is virtually non-existent. For these reasons, little is known of Myanmar to the outside world.

In recent history, most Americans only learned about Burma because of the *Flying Tigers* and the *Chinese Nationalist Army* which took refuge there from the Communist forces of Mao Tse Tung, who gained control of China. Mao effectively divided the forces of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, who fled with his eastern forces to the island of Formosa and formed the nation of Taiwan. What had been his western army, being cut off by the Communist forces, retreated into Burma in the region known as the "Golden Triangle" and developed in some degree, into an "army" of gorillas, funding their efforts through such things as smuggling opium.

Even in my own situation, I first learned of Burma because during World War II, a pilot from my parent's little town of 300 people was shot down and lost in the Burmese "hump"; a fiercely contested region of the Himalayan Mountain range, that claimed the lives of scores of American and Allied airmen earlier this century. Burma was finally wrested from Japanese control, largely due to the struggle and sacrifice of "Merrill's Marauders" who trudged through the swamps and jungles to defeat the Japanese forces that controlled the nation. Even in the years before that, the Japanese further added to Burma's history by their death marches of Allied prisoners of war that were forced to build the infa-



This is a congregation of the Tidim Chin tribe standing before their new church building. Standing with them in the front row is our Burmese national director, Rev, Go Za Kham.

mous " bridge over the River Kwai". It is said that more than 100,000 oppressed laborers and another 16,000 prisoners of war died in the construction of the railway and bridge, which runs from within Thailand, to the Three Pagoda Pass just inside Burma.

Burma's history has nearly always been a mystery to the West; and thus the growth of the Church has been hidden from us as well. Nevertheless, from the humble beginnings of Judson, generations of converts have been produced and disciplined, to the point that the Gospel has spread almost fully among some of the tribal groups living there. One tribe in particular, the Karens (pronounced Ka-re-ans), who were the first to be evangelized by the converts of Judson, are a people group comprising more than one million souls. It is estimated that as many as 80% of them are Christian, with the majority being Baptist.

Judson's personal ministry was never large, however his results were monumental. We might say that his success was not in quantity, but in quality. Judson began the ministry of converting the Burmese from Buddhism to Christianity, for which he spent many years in prison. During that time he completed covertly, the translation of the Bible into the Burmese language which is still in use. After his release he developed the Burmese primer, which along with his Burmese-English dictionary, is still used in the national school system to this day.

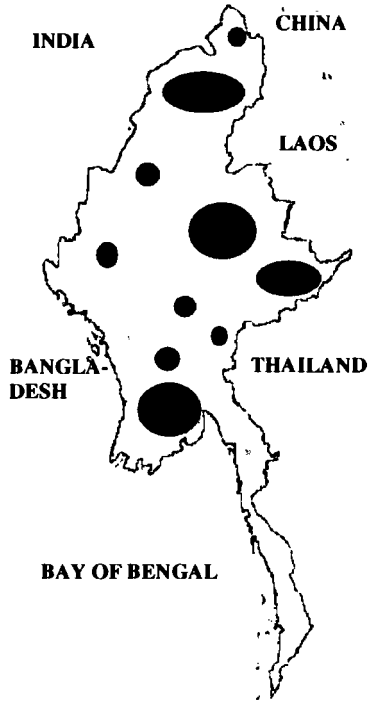


This is a church of the Naga tribe in the township of Tamu, near the border of India

Judson had many defeats in his life. He buried several children in Burma and one in India. His first wife died painfully while he was away preaching and was buried in Burma. His second wife took to the sea to recover from an extended illness and died on board the ship and was buried on the island of St. Helena. On his first furlough to America, having been in Burma for 25 years, Judson discovered that he had almost completely lost the English language. He had in effect, become Burmese. On this furlough, Judson met and married a nationally known writer named Emily Chubbuck, who went by the pen name of "Fanny Forrester". This, in the mind of some was his downfall. Emily, as a young girl had read a book written by Judson's first wife, Ann. Her life-long admiration of him, upon meeting in person, developed into love; and the two were married. By this time Judson was fifty-eight and she was twenty-eight. Emily was considered to be a fool, giving up a life of

national notoriety and wealth, to become the wife of an aging missionary destined to live in bamboo huts and steaming jungles. He, on the other hand, was branded by some as being carnally minded for falling in love with such a young woman. What should have been viewed as a blessing from God was perverted by "the righteous" here in the States into a scandal, though after his death four years later, Emily remained in Burma to carry on their work; profoundly demonstrating that her love for the *mission* was equal to her love for the *missionary*.

Judson's ultimate legacy was that he had trained his Burmese converts so thoroughly, that they went in search for their own "mission fields" within the confines of their national borders and beyond. They became missionaries to the tribal groups and were so successful, that even before Judson's death, the tribal churches in Burma were far more numerous and populated than the Burmese national churches. Now nearly than 200 years later, that is still the case. This is largely due to the firm belief Judson had in training and supporting the national preachers. While in the midst of his literary work, Judson began to meet each day with six of his trained converts, then send them out to the streets to pass out tracts and preach. After one year of this method he wrote; ***"more preaching has been done in that vicinity during the past year than all the previous years together...it has brought in several converts and excited more religious inquiry...than we have ever known before. I have never adopted a plan which pleased me so much, and appeared to be fraught with so many benefits both to***



The darkened areas show where we have preachers currently sponsored. Smaller circles represent 2-4 preachers and larger ones represent 5-10.

Tribal Groups being Evangelized by Final Frontiers in Myanmar

Akha	Pa-o
Asho Chin	Pwo Karen
Eden Chin	Rawang
Jinghpo	Sgaw Karen
Kachin	Shan
Lahu	Thado
Lisu	Wa
Maru	Zhou
Mon	Zomi Chin
Naga	

the assistants and the people at large...Ten such persons cost no more than one mission family; and for actual service they are certainly worth a great deal more. This is the way I think missions ought to be conducted". (Burma Baptist Chronicle, pg. 127)

It is with the spiritual descendants of these first converts, that Final Frontiers is working today. These preachers, whom we consider to be "Burmese", are in reality made up of different tribes. Most of the preachers speak Burmese as well as their own language and the tongues of several other tribes. For the most part, they are regional, just as the American Indian tribes were regional. In years past, some were enemies, but today, most share a common bond of contempt for the Socialist Military government of Myanmar.

Traveling again to Myanmar just two months ago, I invited our national director from Thailand to accompany me. We were both amazed and saddened at the lack of growth in the development of the nation, Myanmar today, economically, is like Thailand was in 1960. The buildings are drab to say the least. The economy is so poor, that people feel it foolish to "waste" money on paint, therefore, concrete buildings often go unpainted. In the capital city of Yangon (formerly Ran-



A group of supported preachers pose with their bicycles purchased by their sponsors and Final Frontiers Society funding.

goon), the main streets are wide and well paved. It is only when you venture out of the city that you would notice the difference. The only problem is, foreigners are not allowed to travel outside the city. To this day, tourist are only allowed in three cities of Myanmar, and travel must be by airplane only. Myanmar is effectively, cut off from the outside world.

Today we hear much in our churches about reaching the unreached, the 10/40 window and fulfilling the Great Commission. Yet we seem to lack the understanding that to do these things in some nations, like Myanmar, you much accomplish it through partnership with the national and tribal preachers who live there. Missionaries in many cases, are neither welcomed nor allowed.

The legal and cultural nuances of Burmese life often complicate ministry. For example, it is not uncommon to have churches on streets that are no more than a block apart. Many city dwellers are actually tribal people. They live and work on the same city block, seldom venturing

into "foreign" neighborhoods. The idea of walking to another block to go to church seems as ridiculous to many of them as us driving to the next state for Sunday services. For this reason, churches in Yangon seldom grow large, they are in effect, house churches. This brings both positive and negative results...

Negative. Technically, house churches are now illegal. The police can enter at any time and arrest the leaders, confiscate their possessions and shut them down. If the "church" meets in your house and this happens, you suddenly find yourself to be homeless. All it takes for such an event is for a neighbor in the tenant house to complain. For this reason, "members" arrive at various times so as not to draw attention, and must be escorted upstairs by the owner of the apartment. Printing tracts and passing out tracts is now forbidden.

Positive. Since house churches usually are only able to draw from those who live on that block, it is usually clustered with high numbers of converts. Everyone knows everyone in the church because you are all neighbors. When "a foreigner" from the next block ventures into your neighborhood and is converted, his house will likely become the location of the next church to be planted, just one block

over. This is not because he is unwilling to walk one block to go to church. It is because the unconverted on his block, would never dream to do so, though they may gladly attend a church on their own street.

Evangelism in Myanmar is certainly on the rise. Some limited persecution exists, but for the most part, people are eager to hear about our Lord. Recently, one of our supported preachers entered a village that he had been evangelizing and decided to have a special service for the



This is a Burmese House Church in the vicinity of Yangon. There are an estimated 100 such churches in the capital city, and 20 small Bible schools training more preachers.



During a children's ministry among the Rawang tribe, a group of young Buddhist monks asked to join in the service and heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

children living there. As the service began, a group of young Buddhist monks stopped to ask if they could participate. Of course they were welcome. So the little boys, wearing saffron colored robes, with shaved heads, sat cross-legged on the wooden platform and listened as the Gospel was preached. Today in Myanmar, some of their adult counterparts have shed the robes of saffron for the "robes of white", and are now serving the Lord Jesus as faithful witnesses and evangelists.

Judson taught his fellow missionaries, that the Burmese and tribal Christians should be taught so well, that if all the missionaries were forced out of Burma, a threat they always lived under, that the Church would not be hindered in its teaching or growth. Ultimately, what Judson feared happened, though not in his lifetime. He was a wise missionary to have laid such a Biblical foundation. And because of this, what he aimed at, he hit in the bull's eye.

Today, the national and tribal churches of Myanmar are doctrinally solid and evangelistically fervent. They have the mandate to continue reaching their own and their neighbors on every side. They lack only personal support. As the economy worsens today in Myanmar, the average man may earn as little as \$20.00 monthly. Imagine what your sponsorship of \$35.00 monthly could do to energize one of these preachers. This is your opportunity to make your little - amount to much.

Special Prayer Request from:

Request submitted by Kiatisak Siripanadorn, our National Director in Thailand and by Jon Nelms who has personally witnessed the projects in need

We have a number of building projects that are currently in need of assistance. There are three churches in the northern along the border of Myanmar that have built their own buildings out of concrete blocks, but need help in putting on a roof. The roofs are made of tin and must have support beams. Two churches need \$500.00, another needs \$700.00 because it is larger. Their people have outgrown the building, so they are having to expand it.

I have been to all three of these churches in the past few months and can attest of their need for this project. The members have taken great delight in doing their own work without outside assistance, but at this point, they really do need the help.

Also, Kiatisak has built a large hostel and school for the tribal children. The various churches also meet their for conferences and camps. They need to construct a meeting hall to hold about 500 people. The cost is \$2,700.00. This will provide for the concrete floor, a roof and a half wall. The sides are left open for venting and cooling. Hundreds are being trained and won to Christ on this location. Such a building will greatly aid in the Bible Training School, etc.

Let's Get Acquainted ...

For more information on sponsoring a national preacher, see page 23.

Preacher's Name: Nuon Youn
Wife's Name: Laiy Saron
No. of Children: 6
Country: Cambodia
Sponsorships Needed: two @ \$35.00

Testimony:

Before I became a Christian, I was a person who put trust in devil magic. When my children got sick, I always did a sacrifice to this devil. I never got anywhere, so I lived in a frustrated life. Then in 1993 someone told me about Christ. At that time my wife and I prayed to receive the Lord Jesus and I asked Him to forgive my sin. I started to learn so that I could know Him more and more personally. Through my bible study, I realized that God was calling me to be His servant. I decided to enroll to study God's Word for a long term in Phnom Penh. After I graduated, I became a pastor.



My wife believed in other gods which never satisfied her. She was always looking for something that sounded worthy of her faith. She was saved by Jesus when I was, and since then her life has changed. She supports me in all my work.

Currently I am church planting, doing discipleship training, evangelism and children's ministry. I have trained other men to be pastors and have started on a church. So far, 100 souls have been led to the Lord and 20 have been baptized.

Our house is made of bamboo and has only one room. We must purchase all our food. Please pray for us and for our ministry. I will pray for you daily as well. Pray God will send a sponsor to be our partners in winning my people to the Lord.

Preacher's Name: Jose Marino Rodriguez
Wife's Name: Yolani Pineda
Number of Children: 2
Country: Honduras
Sponsorships Needed: two @ \$35.00

Testimony:

In 1967, two missionaries came to my town. I was very young and I was Catholic along with all my family. I became friends with the missionaries and from time to time they gave me work. Once, when I was sick, the missionary took me in his car to the town clinic. He prayed



for me and that had an impact on me. Two weeks later I was well. When they came to talk to me, I accepted Christ as my personal Savior. Later I received teaching and was baptized. I felt led to evangelize and so I went to study at Biblical Laico IBL Institute. After studying there I felt the Lord leading me to return to the town where I was born. The Lord blessed me and I am happy because my Lord uses me. I want my time to be given to serving Christ.

My wife accepted Jesus when she was ten at Sunday School. She grew up in the Christian life and at age 19 was baptized and began serving the Lord. By the grace of God she is serving the Lord Jesus with me.

I am involved in church planting, open air evangelism, Bible teaching and radio preaching. I have trained several men to be pastors and have started four new churches. I have led about 3,500 people to Jesus and approximately 1,200 have been baptized. We live in a three-room house made of improvised building materials. Our favorite foods are rice and beans. We have to purchase all our foods as we have no way to grow them ourselves.

Please pray for our projects here, there is much evangelizing to do. Also, we need to have a sound system. Pray for faithfulness in serving our Lord.

Missions in the 21st Century by an anonymous pastor

What others have said about giving ...

A.W. Tozer, noted Christian and Missionary Alliance Pastor and author once said: *“There is no doubt that the possessive clinging to things is one of the most harmful habits in life. Because it is so natural, it is rarely recognized for the evil that it is. But its outworking is tragic. This ancient curse will not go out painlessly. The tough old miser within us will not lie down and die obedient to our command. He must be torn out, torn out of our hearts like a plant from the soil; he must be extracted in blood and agony like a tooth from the jaw. He must be expelled from our souls in violence as Christ expelled the money changers from the temple.”*

John M. Templeton, founder of the Templeton Group of mutual funds, concluded a speech to the International Association of Financial Planning by confiding that he had been asked by a financial planner at the convention to mention the name of the “very best opportunity” for investing in the world today ... *“I told him that the most risk-free investment, the most rewarding investment was tithing ... In my 46 years of experience, I have never known anyone who regretted that investment.”*

As a teenager **Alfred Avery** determined a plan for his life. As a college graduate he went to work for the Dupont Company. He and his wife, Ethyl, had decided on a plan to keep money from owning them during those money-making years. Beginning by tithing, they increased their giving by 5% of their income every five years. At age twenty-five to 15%, at age thirty to 20%, at thirty-five to 25%. At age forty, as they talked about their next increase, Ethel suddenly said, “Alfred, we could live on the 25%, so why don’t we give 75%!” So that is what they began doing. By the time he died, he and Ethel had given away more than \$5,000,000.00!

Why is giving so important?

- 80,000 people die daily in Asia without ever hearing the Gospel
- 500,000 villages in India still, have never had a Gospel witness
- 831,000 Muslims make up the world’s largest unreached people group
- 80% of funds given to “missions” are used for social causes, not preaching the Gospel to those who have never heard it.
- Over 95% of all funds given to churches in America are utilized by those same churches for their own needs. ■

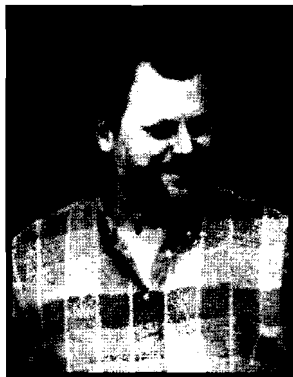
Welcome New Sponsors

Sponsor:	Preacher / (Orphan):	Country:
William Worth Fulton, MI	• Recresio Barbaso, Sr.	Philippines
Patty Brown Jacksonville, FL	• Jose Maria Gusman	Nicaragua
Roger and Robin Barker Telford, TN	• Francis Kwame Arhin	Ghana
Mr. And Mrs. Dennis Lester Baisden, WV	• Nguyen Cong Ho	Vietnam
Clyde and Carol Athman Saint Joseph, MN	• Timoteo G. Lopez	Guatemala
Pastor and Mrs. T.A. Powell Liberty Baptist Church Suffolk, VA	• Felipe Ponce Castro	Honduras
Howard and Daralyn Reynolds Suffolk, VA	• Nguyen Viet	Vietnam
Martin and Pat Sparks Suffolk, VA	• Israel Gunturi	India
Roland and Brenda Rivera Suffolk, VA	• Wilfred Nakhokho	Kenya
Scott and Melanie Taylor Chesapeake, VA	• Atsou Bansah • Jorge Calderon • Timothy Annor (Child)	Togo Costa Rica Ghana
James and Laurie Kolkman Kentwood, MI	• Abraham Kathi	India
Frelsburg Baptist Church New Ulm, TX	• Ama Deprah (Child) • Richmond Washington (Child)	Ghana Ghana
Terry Schamp Parkersburg, WV	• Bling R'Mah	Vietnam
Pastor and Mrs. Paul Knierim Belpre, OH	• Phan Chu	Vietnam
Paul Strauss Cedar Rapids, IA	• Joqngpaw Tamutu	Thailand
Joanne Thornton Fort Meade, MD	• Arom Chirmir	Thailand
Roger and Rachael Day Metamora, MI	• Luke Bee (double sponsorship)	Thailand

What if ... ?

So many churches lately have told me that they know of other ministries doing what we do. I am thrilled every time I hear of another such work of God. We have been blessed over the years to help train some of these men who have started their own works. In other cases, we have opened the doors of our Training Classes to teach men from other ministries how to get meetings, find preachers and hold them accountable. I suppose we have probably helped to start at least six other ministries that are identical or very similar to our own.

Yes, I know that logic says we must be crazy. We are literally training our own competition. Yet, my viewpoint on all this is somewhat contrary. We all share the same doctrine. Have the same burden. Want to see souls saved and God's servants helped. We may have slightly different ways of going about it, but we are all on the same team. I don't see these other ministries as competition, but as compliments of our own. Someone once said the greatest form of flattery is imitation. If that is true, then we must blush with flattery. Now I must admit that I have a desire for these men to work with us, rather than just duplicating what we do, but we must understand that these are highly motivated, deeply spiritual men. Such men are usually prone towards "doing it on their own, and doing it their own way". It is not my desire to block their efforts, but rather to help them through some of the hurdles that will allow their ministries to grow more solidly and more rapidly. I believe God has blessed us for our motivation.



Jon Nelms

Lately I have spoken with some of these ministries about our working together. For instance, there is a ministry called GAP, headed up by George Collins. George was a missionary to Bangladesh with ABWE when he was called by God to start his own. George and I have developed a deep appreciation for one another over the years, though we have never met. You see, our ministries do not compete, they compliment. While we strive to raise support for the national preacher's family needs, George has a burden to help them with their projects, such as raising funds for church buildings and schools. Only God knows the number of times we have recommended him to churches

and he has recommended us. Our ministry is like the Marines; (who claim) to always be the first on the scene. His is more like the Army Corp of Engineers. If he did not do what he does, we would not be as effective as we are. And while we're at it ... if the foreign missionaries had not done what they have done, there would be no national preachers for us to support or for George to assist.

Recently I heard that a ministry like ours gave a presentation in a church and made the statement "*if you are supporting anything other than nationals, you are wasting your money.*" I find such a statement to be divisive, misleading, tragic, uninformed, etc., etc., etc. Without China Inland Mission, BIML, Baptist Mid Missions, ABWE, BBFI and a host of others, there would be no national preachers. These boards have been faithful over the years and the fact that they have been successful in their calling (replacing themselves by winning and training nationals) should not place them in a position of condemnation, but rather in the place of honor.

However, this does bring me back to the title of this little ditty. "*What if*". I have often wondered what would happen if each missionary, home on furlough, would raise support for the men he is working with. He knows them, he trained them, and he could hold them accountable. Seems like a workable plan to me.

Also, *what if* evangelists, who travel week after week to their favorite churches to preach revivals, helped out? Surely in at least one service per week, an evangelist is going to talk about world evangelism. What if they had some national preacher's portfolios with them and gave the church members a chance to actually do more than hear about the need. They could sponsor a preacher. This same evangelist could give one or two weeks a year to go to the field and work hands on with these same preachers for whom he found sponsors. This would expand his own personal ministry as well as help theirs.

Think about this; *what if* pastors here in the States jumped in the wagon with us? The best way to get a meeting is by personal recommendations. Many pastors will preach in the church of a friend at least once a year for a revival, or when they are on vacation. This would be a good time to promote the cause and help other churches learn how they can get involved in supporting national preachers.

And finally, *what if* you helped us by speaking to the pastors you know? Your referral could go a long way in getting us into more churches and getting more preachers sponsored. You could even open your home for a presentation some evening when we are passing thru. ■

Child Care *International*

For more information on sponsoring a child see page 23

Name: Bangarubabu
Location: India
Status: Orphan
Birth date: February 19, 1986



Note:

Normally in this space we introduce you to a child in need of support and care. In this issue, we have chosen to share with you a sample of a letter received by this child's sponsor, the Ken Guy family in California. Children who are sponsored write at least three letters annually to their sponsor.

His letter:

Though you are unknown, it is great of you that you are helping me. Thank you very much for your help. I think you are so busy in your work as well as with your (elderly) parents. Every time you (write you mention that you) are busily involved in special duties or special projects. I feel happy that you entire family is a dedicated and committed family. God has blessed your family. I was told that many pastors and orphan children in India are supported because of you family. If every family in your country is having the same compassion and burden like you we don't have any starvation deaths in India. Many street children and orphans now a days are facing difficulties to get even a single meal per day. They are committing suicides, because they are unable to bear the starvation. I am privileged because you are for me. God has chosen you as my sponsors. Because of you only, I am having everything. So I am very grateful and thankful to you. Many of my friends and classmates know about your love and affection you got towards me. Every time they are asking me about you. Thank you once again.

His History:

Bangarubabu was orphaned along with his brother when his mother, being badly beaten by her husband because her family could not provide more dowry was cast out and starving, in desperation she poured kerosene on herself and ignited it. Her husband, trying to extinguish the fire also died from burns. The children, at first taken in by an uncle, were later put n the street where they were found by one of our pastors, and taken into his orphanage.

From the Mail Bag



India



Last trimester:

churches
started - 2

villages
evangelized - 2

people
saved - 12

converts
baptized - 21

Note:

You will notice above that he led 21 people to Christ, yet in his letter he refers to one service alone where 26 were saved.

This is because many of the preachers when reporting salvation decisions, only refer to those made during personal witness, not during church or evangelistic services.

From:

Sponsored by:

S. Luke

Decatur Baptist, AL
Calusa Prep. School, FL
James Godwin Family, GA

I take it a pleasure to thank you very much for your regular financial assistance. Because of your help we are visiting many unreached villages with Gospel. God has chosen you as a donor to help me. Last month I went to a village along with my wife and my wife's sister's son who is aged 8 years. We traveled by train to that place because it is a long way. We reached that place where my wife's sister lives. We had a good meeting. My wife's sister and husband who have accepted Christ long back, helped us to have a good meeting. Nearly 400 people attended and at the time of invitation, 26 people came forward and accepted Lord Jesus Christ. When we were returning my wife's sister requested us to take their son back along with us, as he is studying in a school in our village. When we traveling in the train, the ticket examiner asked us to show him the tickets. He is satisfied with our tickets, but he was not obliged with the half ticket of the boy. According to Indian Railway Act, children below 12 years were permitted to pay only half tickets. The Examiner asked us to pay full amount even though he is a boy of 8 years. We informed them that were allowed to travel with him for the same half ticket. He argued with us. He detained as in the middle and took us to the nearby Railway Police Station. There unnecessarily without any bonafide reason, we were detained for the whole day without giving even a glass of water to drink. Of course the next day, the Chief came and relieved us. But what we were told is that the train ticket Examiner is a non-Christian, the one who attended our meeting in my wife's sister's village. He is anti-Christian. He doesn't like people to embrace Christianity. With this intention only he detained us/ Like this unexpected troubles and tribulations arise for us pastors. Please pray for this.



From:
Sponsored by:

Pramod Das
Vanderlinoen Family, CA
Aud Brown Family, TX
Bryan Alderfer, PA

It is getting very difficult to work among the people coming from non-Christian backgrounds in our country because of the anti-Christian movement. Many of our evangelists face a lot of persecution while working in Hindu villages, their lives are at stake.



Last trimester:

churches
started - 2

villages
evangelized - 2

people
saved - 28

converts
baptized - 0

Recently 17 new believers in a village of Orissa after taking water baptism, faced a lot of persecution. They were beaten, their heads (hair) were shaved off and they were (physically) forced to bow down before idols and were made to drink water mixed with cow dung, in order to make the other villagers think they were returning to Hinduism.

In south India, one of our evangelists working in a village of Belgaon was dragged out of his house where he was conducting a prayer meeting and was beaten severely, and his motor-bike was pushed into a ditch.

Note:

Last year Pramod had a stroke that has left him with a great pain in his right side.

Due to this, he is personally hindered for a time, in his own preaching. That is why he gives no statistics above.

His health is not good and he is extremely weak. Pray for him and his family.

I have not been keeping well. Some one had done witchcraft on me and our house. We went through a terrible time which we had never experienced before. The evil spirit did a lot of mischief in our house; hairs started falling on everything, our table, beds and even on our food. We could not eat nor sleep in the house. Many things were missing, all the glass items were broken and there was a horrible sound of cry and laughter in our house. However, it was all stopped and the spirit left the house as believers started praying in our house. Please pray for our safety and that the Lord will continue to protect us from the evil one.

In the last four months, our preachers have evangelized many new villages and have started 60 churches.

Note: Pramod Das serves as a Regional Director for Final Frontiers in the State of Orissa, in Eastern India.

Now it's your turn...

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (office) _____

Please contact me about hosting a **missions prayer meeting** in my home. I have friends I would like to invite to hear a ministry presentation.

Check here if this is a new address or phone number.

I like what Final Frontiers is doing around the world and I feel led of the Lord to help out.

Please find enclosed my donation of: \$ _____

for the following worker _____

for the following project: _____

I am interested in making a monthly commitment to this ministry. Please send me information on the following:

- **Sponsoring a national preacher**
(\$35.00 monthly)
- **Sponsoring a country's TEAM**
(minimum of \$10.00 monthly per country)
- **Sponsoring an orphaned, abandoned or destitute child**
(\$35.00 monthly)
- **Sponsoring the Final Frontiers home office**
(any amount)
- **Membership in the Final Frontiers Society**
(\$10.00 monthly)

Sponsorship Information

To obtain further information on sponsorship, refer to the "Now It's Your Turn" voucher, or call us at 1-800-522-4324.

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. The preacher receives 72% of the funding in cash and 28% is used for operating expenses. Of the 28%, nearly half is forwarded to the preacher "in kind" (postage fees, film and access to cameras to take pictures for their sponsors, travel costs, etc.)

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 purchasing Bibles and tracts, printing literature, buying bicycles for the traveling evangelists, building a church or Bible school, helping with emergency relief, 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 an **orphaned, abandoned or destitute child** is \$35.00 monthly and provides for lodging, 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.

4

Membership in the **Final Frontiers Society** is \$10.00 monthly and is used to fund special ministry projects overseas and our various international offices.

Reports from the FINAL FRONTIERS

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Louisville, GA
Permit No. 33

AUTO

Reports received since last
Progress Report
indicate there were ...

397 Churches Started
1,832 Villages Evangelized
13,779 Professions of Faith
4,867 Believers Baptized

Combined totals from all reports
received since our beginning in
January 1987 indicate there
have been ...

15,459 Churches Started
60,331 Villages Evangelized
489,162 Professions of Faith
157,095 Believers Baptized

A current total of all statistics
indicate there are ...

792 Preachers Supported
1,107 Preacher Sponsorships
102 TEAM Sponsorships
46 Orphans Supported
49 Countries involved in

MOVED LATELY?

Help us save money on
postage. Give us your new
address. Inform us by
mail, or by

E-mail:

juanita@finalfrontiers.org

Phone:

1-800-522-4324

Final Frontiers Foundation
1200 Peachtree Street
Louisville, GA 30434
USA

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Address Correction Requested**