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# PROGRESS REPORT



*A-Ti, shaman of the Akha tribal village known as "Cat's Eye", laid out his instruments of spirit worship to be burned, after accepting Jesus as his Savior. His entire family has followed Christ and there is now a church in his village. (cover story p. 7)*

*A publication of the Final Frontiers Foundation  
Sept/Oct 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: Director: Dr. Minh Dang, - Akron, OH (330) 864-2077
- Office of Eurasian Expansion: Director: Rev. Matt Hood - St. Paul, MN (612) 776-4156
- Office of European Expansion: Director: Mr. Dennis Kiser - Livonia, MI (248) 489-0844
- Office of African Expansion: Director: 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:

**Final Frontiers Foundation**  
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## The Jon Nelms family report

When you read this report, I will be in either Thailand or Myanmar. Please pray that God will provide us with direction and wisdom.



It was 15 years ago this month, that as a pastor of a Baptist church, I went to Thailand for the first time. I went there to video the work of a missionary friend, for whom I intended to return to the States and raise funds, but God had something else in mind. When I met the national preachers, saw their burden, their churches, their labor and their poverty, I dedicated myself to serve them. In the following years I fell in love with Thailand. My family and I wanted desperately to move there and work with the preachers. I asked two missionaries in Bangkok to pray for me to know God's will. *(They were both with outstanding mission boards: The Baptist Bible Fellowship and BIM!)* After several days we met again, and both told me that they felt I should stay in America and raise support for the national preachers. They said something I will never forget ... "you can do more to reach these people by raising support for their national missionaries, than you could ever do here personally." They were 100% right (in my case). Since that time, nearly a half million souls have been led to Christ through the preachers we support worldwide. You too have had a major part in this.

So it's back to Thailand I go, and the preachers there are waiting to celebrate with me; 15 years of partnering in ministry. After this, like Simeon, I believe that "my soul can depart in peace"; though like Hezekiah, I'll probably be praying for another 15 years. This is just too much fun!

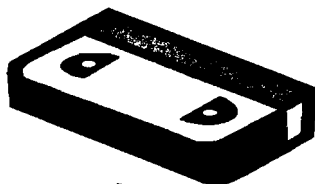
I have been really, really blessed in the past months since returning to the States. You just cannot imagine the number of sponsors and pastors who have called to welcome us back, and to tell us how much this ministry means to them. One in particular, a pastor in Ohio who has been receiving our *Progress Report* for about 18 months, called to say that the story we had on Vietnam really touched his heart. When his wife read our story about the African pastor who had died, and how his wife and children need help, she sent in a generous check to help them. He told me, "Jon, when I read your *Progress Reports*, I feel the burden that you all have for lost souls. I have that burden too." All I can say is

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## Have you seen our new Video Presentation?



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.

## In-Home Missions Prayer Meeting

Call or email if you would be willing to allow a Final Frontiers representative to come to your home some evening and present our ministry to your "mission minded" friends from other churches. Our toll free number is 800-522-4324. Our email address is:

**HomeMeetings@finalfrontiers.org**

*If you have already done this and not received a reply, please send it again, as we were having problems with our server and never received your request.*

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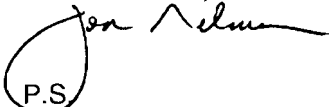
thank you for sharing our burden, and thank you for the upcoming meeting in your church. I pray that our presentation will be used by the Lord to bless your people in a mighty way.

Along those lines, from time to time we get, questions from sponsors about the appropriate time to send in cards and funds for Christmas offerings to their preachers. Below is a table to help you understand when those items need to reach our office. This is the method and the time table that we have used since January 1995. The preachers are accustomed to it. If you have not yet sent in a card and wish to do so, please hurry. Though technically it is too late already, we will do whatever is necessary to get it to your preacher as quickly as possible.

<b>Funds received in</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>thru</b>	<b>April</b>
Are sent out during	May	thru	August
<b>Funds received in</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>thru</b>	<b>August</b>
Are sent out during	September	thru	December
<b>Funds received in</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>thru</b>	<b>December</b>
Are sent out during	January	thru	April

And now that the holiday season is coming on us, it is a good time to mention several things. Let's be thankful to God for all He has given us. There is no price that can be put on the value of living in America and being an American citizen. Billions would gladly trade places with you. But along with the gratitude, let us give more than just our sympathy to those in need. Let's back up our faith with our works. Let's also remember to show our appreciation to our own pastors here in the United States. Believe it or not, many of them are "poor" by our standards, yet they serve faithfully. Honor them with your prayers and notes of appreciation, and maybe even a little gift to help them get through the remaining months of this year.

Yours for souls,



P.S.

For all of you who have begged, suggested, complained and insisted; we are having a new family photograph done. It should be ready by the next Progress Report. Get your darts ready!

# A TEAM Report

Cambodia

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

**From:** Vek Huong Taing  
**Location:** Phnom Penh, Cambodia

## What was the total amount of TEAM funds received?

\$289.00

## What were these funds used for?

*These funds were used for traveling to visit church leaders in different provinces and to help them with their special needs.*

## Do you have any special needs we can pray about?

*Yes. Please pray for church members who are effected by the flood. They do need special assistance for financial needs.*

## Dear TEAM fund sponsors:

*Thank you very much for your love to help reach Cambodia with your faithful prayer and financial support. Because of your partnership God enables us to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to many lost souls in this suffering land. I appreciate you very much. May God continue to bless you richly.*

# SCHEDULE

## Church Meetings - International Travel

September : Nashville, TN  
Johnson City, TN  
Grayling, MI

October: Inver Grove, MN  
Orlando, FL  
St. Matthew's, SC  
Richmond, VA  
Suffolk, VA

November: Louisville, KY  
Pomeroy, OH  
Belpre, OH

December: Crossville, TN

**2001**  
September: Thailand  
October: Myanmar

**2002**  
January: Egypt  
February: Kenya  
Uganda  
Tanzania  
Romania  
Ukraine  
April: France  
England  
May: Italy  
Switzerland

# The Day of Small Beginnings

By Jon Nelms

I don't remember exactly how it happened or when it happened. I just know that it happened. I can tell you this; I was pastoring a small church in the Los Angeles, California area called the Believer's Baptist Church. I had never felt "the call" to pastor. When I accepted the position seven years earlier, I made that known before the vote was taken. I told the congregation that my call was to missions. I didn't know where or when or how, but I knew that was my reason for existing. Several years before that, while on the staff of a large Baptist church in Pomona, California, my wife and I, along with the entire staff, had taken a retreat to Guymas, Mexico. While there and after returning, I begged God to call me as a missionary to Mexico. The call never came, though frequent trips did follow.



*This is the first Akha village Jon entered in September, 1986. It is in the mountains near Mae Suay, Thailand*

For years I served as a pastor, now joking that I "served my time". And while I mean it as a bit of humor, that is precisely how I felt. Not that I despised the work of a pastor, only that I knew it was not what God had called me to do. I believed that as Moses spent forty years in the desert and Paul, three years; that I too was having to put in my time. There were things that I needed to learn, mistakes that needed to be made, trials that needed to be endured and a lot of humbling and developing on my part. I take pleasure in knowing that even though I did not graduate from my own wilderness as quickly as Paul did, at least I got the jump on Moses.

After several trips to Thailand, to which I shall refer in a moment, I announced my resignation as pastor to my congregation on the last Sunday of December, 1987. I agreed to stay on until they had a new pastor, which took nearly four months to secure. They had asked me to

stay on as pastor and offered me nine months of the year to travel, with full salary. I could keep my new house with the pool, my easy life in Southern California, my friends, my life; but I just didn't think that sounded fair to them. They needed a full time pastor. Besides, I was called to missions, and that was a 12 month out of the year commitment. In that business meeting, the night they accepted the new pastor, a motion was made to empty the coffers of the church's "building fund" and give the money to Final Frontiers, so that we could have funds to start with. Actually, the night I resigned, the members had already voted to do that, but I had rejected their decision and asked that they table it until they had a new pastor and consult with him first. After nearly four months, it was still in their hearts to do this, in fact, it was the new pastor who in the business meeting, made the motion to do so. (By the way, even then we asked for them to keep a portion, being assured they would need it, and knowing that God would reward them for what was in their hearts to do, even if we would not accept it all.) Some may consider that to be wrong, but remember, I had been their Shepard for seven years, and my leaving did not remove my desire for their well being.



*In the village of Loistong, 20 Akha families ask the preacher to cut their "devil strings" now that they are followers of Jesus.*

Before resigning, I had already found a new piece of property for our congregation, which had for years rented space from other churches. We had the preliminary plans for the new building in hand. Yet this congregation chose to put the needs of world evangelism over their own needs and desires for a new building that they could call their own. Seldom has such a group of selfless people existed in a single congregation. I am proud to have been their pastor and to have been the spiritual father of so many of them.

Well, what was it then that finally delivered "the call" to me in such a way that my family was eager to give up everything to answer it? Well, I guess you could say that I had truly found my avocation. I don't know what the technical definition of avocation is, but I had defined it to my church in this way. **"Your occupation is what you do to live, your**

**avocation is what you live to do.”** And I live to do missions!

In September of 1986 I took a trip to Thailand, to produce a video for the purpose of raising support for a missionary there, who had trained me for the ministry when I was a teenager. Video was practically unheard of in 1986, but I knew it had a future. I felt this would be a way to grab the congregation's attention and get churches more involved in missions. As a pastor I was concerned about missionaries having to leave productive ministries every fifth year to return to the States to seek more funding. I saw that as a 20% down time. Yes, they are ministering while here on furlough, but they are not doing the ministry God



called them to do, they are doing the ministry that their boards require them to do. Some missionaries, like William Carey, never take a furlough in their entire lives. Adoniram Judson served 25 years in Burma before taking his first furlough. Most missionaries I know, don't want the furloughs, but they don't have a choice in the matter.

*Akha ladies with their tribal head dresses that set them apart from all other tribes, sing praises to the Lord.*

We are told that missionaries are still “ministering” while they spend a year in the States away from their

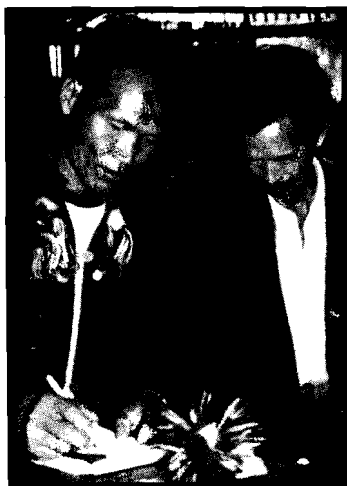
ministries. That may be true, but what ministry? When I pastored, if I had told my church that I wanted a furlough from pastoring for a full year, but I would continue to do ministry by teaching a Sunday school class, I dare say my desire would have gone unfulfilled. It is one thing to do ministry. It is quite another to do the ministry God called you to do.

In October, just several weeks later, I returned to Thailand with a film crew. The missionary whose work I went to film, was gone. He had returned to the States for his wife's operation. Here I was in Thailand with a group of men to do the filming, all the funds of my church spent, and nothing to film. The month before, on my first trip, I had been given the name and phone number of an American missionary who was married to a Filipino missionary and living in Bangkok. I had never met them, but took the chance of calling. They told me that they were leaving the following morning for the north of Thailand to visit with the national preachers of the “hill tribes”, and asked if I wanted to go along. I hon-

estly did not know what a “national preacher” was. The idea that God had preachers working for him that were not American or British, had just never occurred to me to be a possibility. Talk about naive!

It was that trip that taught me the futility of trying to make plans. I had come to Thailand for one purpose, but God had an entirely different plan. Proverbs 16:9 says “*A man’s heart deviseth his ways, but the Lord directeth his steps.*”

When we arrived in the mountains, I was passed along to several



*Ja Pe, a pastor from the Lahu tribe (left) helps an Akha preacher fill out his report form for his sponsor*

preachers who had immigrated to Thailand from their homes in northern Burma, now called Myanmar. They had been won to Christ in their youth, and had given their lives as missionaries to the various tribal groups living in Southeast Asia. They were from a region that borders China, Tibet and Burma that was known during World War II as “the hump”. Their spiritual roots were traceable back to converts of James O. Fraser, a British missionary who worked with China Inland Mission early in the 20th century. These preachers — Samuel Mani, Luke Bee and Jimmy Tachinam (now with the Lord) spent the next few weeks taking us to villages and doing translation work for us. They had literally developed written language for these tribes that until then, had only a spoken language. This had been done by a method produced by their spiritual grandfather called the “Fraser Script” and is

still used today. It is the process of using the letters of the English alphabet, and assigning to them the sounds of the native tongue.

When we had first started supporting these preachers, for only a dollar a day, I was amazed to see how their ministries grew in such a short amount of time. Returning to Thailand frequently, I learned that these men were not keeping their support for themselves, but sharing it equally among their family and the five or six workers that assisted them. When I politely reminded Jimmy that the funds were for him, he asked me how could he buy food for his family and watch the others go hungry? Because of that I agreed to raise additional funds for his work-

ers. In the early years, there was very little accountability in place for us, but over the years we learned much from the mistakes of others, as well as the council of these preachers and American missionaries. „

Time after time I would venture back to Thailand, often being permitted to preach the Gospel in a village that had never before had a preacher. And just as often, being the first white man that they had ever seen. In the first village where this occurred, the people ran from me in terror when I walked into the village under the bamboo entrance gate. Children screamed, mothers picked up their babies off the ground and scaled the notched bamboo ladders to their stilted houses. The dogs barked madly and men surrounded me, all with long knives used to harvest rice. They were afraid because they had never seen a white man, and didn't know white people existed. They actually thought I was an "albino monkey". When I began to talk to them through translators, needless to say, their amazement soared...a monkey that talks! They were amazed at my assertions that I was from the other side of the world. One man asked me why we don't fall off. I'm not sure they believed me when I told them the earth is round, not flat.



*A group of Lahu-shis (Yellow Lahu) in Myanmar that were evangelized by Akha evangelists from Thailand.*

Opening the Word of God to them, I was led to tell them about the Creator and the home He is preparing with streets of gold. I did not know it, but they had in their tribal legends a story about the Savior who would someday come and take them to a great village He would make, whose paths were made of gold. They were in a word, captivated.

After talking with them early into the morning, and feasting on dog and leeches, they told me the story of their ancestors. They said that at one time all men lived together in a village and worshiped the Creator. In time He was displeased with them and separated them by their language, thus creating tribal groups. Each group they assert, was given a book about him in their own new language. They claim that their fore fathers were careless and allowed dogs to tear theirs to pieces. Be-

cause of this they had “lost the knowledge of the Creator” and for that reason, they named their tribe “Akha”, which in their language means. “the stupid ones”.

Today these men are pastors and national missionaries. They have started hundreds of churches throughout southeast Asia. Though they do not yet possess a complete Bible in their language, they are no longer stupid.

Over the next fifteen years we expanded into Burma, Laos, Vietnam, then on to Africa, Latin America, the South Pacific Islands, Europe and Eurasia. We are now we serving God’s servants in 48 lands. Back in 1986 when God first gave me this vision, I told my wife that I had hope that by the time I would reach age 65, (I was 30 at the time) we could support 100 preachers. Today, on our 15th anniversary of my first trip to Thailand, we have over 1,100 sponsorships. I believe that the best still lies ahead of us. We are ever pressing forward to find more sponsors to help support even more national preachers, until every person on earth has heard the gospel at least once, in their own language. Thank you for all your help. From Him the power, to Him the glory!

**See a slide show of our beginning at: [www.finalfrontiers.org](http://www.finalfrontiers.org)**

## **Special Prayer Request from:**

*submitted by Rev. Matt Hood, Director of Eurasian Expansion*

### **Kazakhstan ...**

Dmitri Gromov and his wife are going to Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan. He will be working alone to plant a church. Please pray for this new work. Also, please pray for their health. There are reports that Bubonic Plague is breaking out in parts of Kazakhstan.

### **Russia ...**

Roman Rudnev and Misha Vasilevich are going to the Russian region of Kazan to plant a church. Please pray for their safety and health. There is currently an epidemic of cholera there. Roman and Misha have been going through much persecution in Belarus. The police have been breaking into their meetings in apartments, stopping the services, taking them into custody if caught witnessing, threatening them, tapping their phones, reading their mail, and even intercepting their e-mail. Yet they still will be going back to Belarus when they are done in Kazan. Even in the midst of this persecution, they have started 3 churches, and are training several preachers. Of course, this is why the devil is opposing them so much. So, while praying for them, rejoice!

## Let's Get Acquainted ...

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

<b>Preacher's Name:</b>	Santiago Gomez Salez
<b>Wife's Name:</b>	Candelaria Godinez Garcia
<b>No. of Children:</b>	3
<b>Country:</b>	Guatemala
<b>Sponsorships Needed:</b>	two @ \$35.00

### Testimony:

I was born into a Christian home and was saved in 1977. I joined the youth group at my church and was baptized in 1978. That same year the Lord Jesus called me to be a deacon. I 1980 I became the church

secretary. I also started my studies at the Esdras Bible Institute. The leaders of the church called me to be a pastor in training and I was put in charge of the congregation of "Noah's Ark Church" while I was finishing up my studies. Now I am a "recognized" pastor and I work with another congregation, "Noah's Ark Church of Ikal Tixel."



I the year 1986 I met my wife who was a member of the youth group at the Belen Baptist Church. She had been saved for 16 years when we married. She helps me in the ministry through prayer and directing the women's ministries.

My ministry currently includes church planting, open air and tribal evangelism, discipleship and children's ministry. I have trained one man so far to the ministry and have started three churches.

We live in a two-room adobe house with a tin roof., Our favorite foods include beans, herbs and meat. Because we are unable to grow our own food, we must purchase it when we can afford it. Our people are very poor and have to walk wherever they go. The ladies have to cook their tortillas outside on a large rock.

**Preacher's Name:** Abraham Kathi  
**Wife's Name:** Saramma  
**Number of Children:** 4.  
**Country:** India  
**Sponsorships Needed:** two @ \$35.00

### Testimony:

I was born into a very nominal Christian family. I was disobedient to my parents and to everybody. I never listened to anybody. Since my childhood I gave much trouble to my parents. Soon I became a street boy and was always playing with mischievous boys.

One day, while I was playing cards with my fellows, a quarrel arose among us. I beat one boy with a stone on his head until his skull was broken, so I fled my village.

At that crucial juncture, I met a Christian friend. He comforted me and asked me to pray to Jesus. He told me that Jesus was the only person to save me from this and any other evil. I listened to him and did as he told me. Wonderfully, I got peace in my heart and I confessed all my sins and accepted Jesus as my personal Savior. After that I took pastoral training and now I am doing His ministry.

My wife was also born into a nominal Christian family which practiced the traditions of other religions as well. When I made the change with Jesus in my heart, she saw the difference and accepted Jesus as her Savior as well. She is a great help to me in my ministry and loves to worship the Lord.

I have trained three young men to be pastors and have started one new church. There have been 200 souls ed under my ministry with 170 baptized. I spend every morning studying God's Word and then visit hour to house evangelizing the villagers.

We live in a small, two – room house. We eat rice, fish and chicken as our favorite foods. I am unable to grow any food and many times cannot afford to purchase any. Pray that the Lord will soon provide a sponsor so that monthly food expenses may be met. Pray also that we may be able to build a church building to worship in.



## Missions in the 21st Century by an anonymous pastor

Jesus left the Great Commission as His last words on earth to underscore its importance. He was echoing the heartbeat of His Father. Dwight L. Moody is gone, as is Charles Spurgeon and David Livingstone, but we have been allowed to live now and to see the potential fulfillment of the Commission.

When we look at the immensity of the task, our hearts cry, "*Lord, who is sufficient for these things?*" Yet, we must remember that nothing, including the evangelization of the world, is too hard for God.

We must recapture the passion of former days to reach the last, the least, the lost. The whole church, must take the whole Gospel, to the whole world.

There seems to be no possibility of penetrating the world without producing significant numbers of martyrs. Martyrdom has been a standard accompaniment of Christ missions because Christians inevitably arouse hostilities from religious unbelievers, and for that, they pay the price.

Mehdi Dibaj, an Iranian leader who was murdered in the summer of 1994 wrote from prison, "*I have always envied those Christians who all through church history were martyred for Christ Jesus our Lord. What a privilege to live for our Lord and to die for Him as well.*" The Bible describes men and women like Pastor Dibaj as those "of whom the world was not worthy." (Hebrews 11:38)

We must remember that people who oppose Christianity are not the enemy. They are victims of the enemy! What impedes evangelism today is the scandal of unbroken hearts. The harvest is immense and ready to be gathered by those who have sown in tears.

The late W.T. Conner, godly president of Southwestern Baptist Seminary years ago, once heard two students outside his office flippantly joking about hell. He met the young preachers in the hall, put his arms around their shoulders, and escorted them to a large picture window overlooking the city of Fort Worth. As they gazed out the window, the younger men noticed that tears were coursing down Conner's cheeks. "*Don't joke about hell boys,*" he said softly. "*People are going there. People are going there.*" ■

# Welcome New Sponsors

Sponsor:	Preacher:	Country:
<b>Lamar Hawkins</b> Warner Robbins, GA	• Jesus Antonio Sandoval	Mexico
<b>Mr. Terry Holdt</b> <b>American Business Equipment</b> Kalamazoo, MI	• Payal Gailans • Jean-Paul Amegbor • Amekoe M. Sokemawu • Guy Bouwissiwe	Russia Togo Togo Togo
<b>Samuel and Winifred Durham</b> East Leroy, MI	• Manfredy Zelaya	Honduras
<b>Frelsburg Baptist Church</b> New Ulm, TX	• Bernard Wanjala	Kenya
<b>Kim Gottshall</b> New Castle, DE	• Nguyen Toi	Vietnam
<b>Terry Schamp</b> Parkersburg, WV	• Nguyen Toi	Vietnam
<b>Vickie Karnes</b> Rome, GA	• Lazaro Vasquez	Guatemala
<b>William and Sharon Daniels</b> Gilbert, WV	• Luis Francisco Ramirez	Mexico
<b>Lonn and Susan Spencer</b> Ceresca, MI	• Jose M. Lopez Perez	Guatemala
<b>Jim Vosburgh</b> Mayville, MI	• Huynh Thien Tu	Vietnam
<b>Nathan and Ann Miller</b> Thousand Oaks, CA	• Suresh Pavuri • Prasad Yenibera	India India
<b>New Haven Baptist Brotherhood</b> Gordon, GA	• Richard W. Wanyama	Kenya
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Tom Cooper</b> Las Vegas	• Stanley Njorge Kahiga	Kenya
<b>Sal and Kerry Reyes</b> Mundelein, IL	• Timothy Gaddala	India
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Rick Joslin</b> Vicksburg, MI	• Bernard Wanjala	Kenya

## What if you had no Bible?

*"The heavens declare the glory of God..." Psalm 19:1*

Last night as I was going to sleep, my mind wandered to those who are living, but are not alive. That is to say, those who have not been "quickenened" (made alive) by the Holy Spirit through the redemption offered in the sacrifice of God's son, Jesus. Almost immediately, my mind was captured by the thought. ***"If I did not have a Bible, what would I know about God? How would I know him?"*** Think about that for a moment.



***Jon Nelms***

My inclination was to answer with a single word, "nothing." Yet, my pondering was not liberated with such an immediate reply. I thought longer, and what I discovered took me into a praise session for the next hour. Let me share it with you...

In the evening, when the winds blow across the fields of tall grass, I would learn that God is peace. Watching a doe caress her fawn, I would see that God is loving. The constant boom of water crashing hundreds of feet below the falls would demonstrate to me that He is powerful, but at the same time, a handful of this same cool water on a hot day would reveal that He is refreshing.

A mother stopping to nurse her infant child, kisses him gently on the forehead. To me, this says God is caring. The birds on a limb above my head, playing "leap frog" with one another, shows me that God has a sense of humor. He enjoys the life He has created. The mother cat, watching her kittens play on the sandy beach of a savannah, never takes her eyes off of them, nor does she allow them to wander; fearing the swooping talons of a hawk. This demonstrates God's concern. The clouds, each one as different as the snowflakes, shows the limitlessness of His imagination. The waves crashing on the shore all cry out in testimony to His consistency. The stars that light up the night sky declare His infinity; as the squirrels gathering their nuts testify of his provision and industry.

Everything around us, below us, above us, reveals there is a God. In Psalm 14:1 it says: "*The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God.*" Perhaps God calls such men fools because to deny the existence of God, is to deny the creation of God that surrounds them, that they themselves are a part of. To deny he exists, is to deny our own existence, since He created us.

But then my thoughts snapped from praise to concern. I was baffled by the question, "*What is there in all of God's creation, that shows the mercy and salvation of God?*" As I thought on, and tried to invent an illustration by twisting nature to answer my question, I finally had to yield to defeat. For me, I can think of nothing in creation that shows His salvation; I see it only in Jesus! How marvelous is God's salvation that the human mind, in spite of all the evidence of God's existence, His love, care, concern, provision, humor, consistency, infinity, His power and peace; in spite of it all, we cannot see His salvation, apart from His Son.

Perhaps God did not build this into His creation because before the fall of man, there was need for salvation; and for most men after the fall, there was no desire for it. We want His concern and care. We depend on His love and compassion. We cry out our rights to His provision and fairness. But as men, we don't want what we cannot see, and we cannot see eternity. Thus, we feel no need for His salvation. Yet, God has engraved "eternity" into the heart of man. And that is why men invent for themselves gods, and schemes of salvation that do not exist and do not work. Salvation is found only in Jesus.

This thought brought me full circle once again. Without a Bible, I could know *about* God, but how could I *know* God? So clear was the answer: "ye are our epistles, known and read of all men." (II Cor. 3:2) Unless we are God's word to lost men, they will remain lost. And if we cannot go to them, approach them, speak with them, then we had better do all that we can to see to it that someone else can and does, even if it means sacrificing our comforts and resources to accomplish this.

Truly God's salvation is so great that in our finite minds, we cannot fully grasp it. We at present look through a tinted glass, in anticipation of someday looking in the face of His Salvation. I wonder, who then will stand beside me and look into Jesus' face, because I provided the means for them; the means to not only know about God, but to *know* Him? Who will stand beside you? Let's strive together to do all we can, while we can, to reach those we can - with the Gospel of Jesus Christ! ■

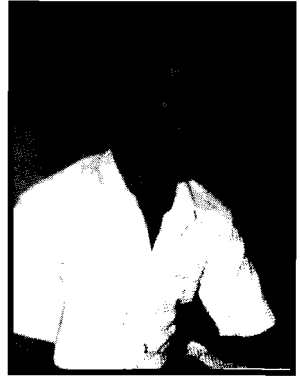
## Child Care *International*

For more information on sponsoring a child see page 23

**Name:** Joseph Appiah  
**Location:** Enyinase, Keea District, Ghana  
**Status:** Orphan  
**Birth date:** June 6, 1986

### His background:

Joseph became an orphan when his father was involved in a road accident in the Ivory Coast. At only one year of age, he was left in his mother's care. The poor woman struggled with life but she could not endure the hardships. Through sorrow and frustration, she became ill for seven years until she died.



Joseph was left in his mother's friends care. He was then eight years of age. Joseph also had to struggle with life just as his late mother. The woman treated him as a slave boy simply because he was an orphan. The poor boy decided to run away from the woman's house and stay with his friends who spent every night at Olion Cinema hall. Finally, Joseph became a homeless orphan, scavenging the depths of traps bins for left over food. Sometimes he spent his nights in the market stalls. He was struggling for his livelihood as a truck pusher and worse of all, being used by unscrupulous adults to facilitate their shady deals.

During the International Dinner conference for orphans which was organized by Rev. Richard Essilfie-Awortwe in the Ivory Coast, Rev. Richard gave an invitation to the children who were at the conference. There, Joseph accepted the invitation to receive Jesus as his personal Savior. Rev. Richard considered the situation of Joseph, that he needed to be in the orphanage, so he brought him to Ghana.

Today, Joseph is in the orphanage attending school. He is in grade six, hoping to enter Junior Secondary School next academic year. Joseph can give Bible quotations, up to fifty verses on the spot.

# From the Mail Bag



Kenya



**From:** Joseph M. Ndinguri  
**Sponsored by:** James Kolkman, MI

I take this opportunity to thank the Almighty God for having enabled you to sponsor me by assisting my family and for that reason it has been easy for me to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. My family is well and at peace. Thank you so much for praying for my wife Rachel who is now well and in good health.

**Last trimester:**

churches  
started - 0

villages  
evangelized - 2

people  
saved - 68

converts  
baptized - 68

The church is growing spiritually. Our youth are very active of the cause of evangelism. Now they preach one to one evangelism and house to house ministry.

On August we have focused on the orphans. We shall visit their homes with food. Pray for me. There was times robbers attacked me and I sustained head injuries and it sometimes affects my walking distances. I sometimes feel like fainting. I seriously need a machine motorbike to help me move quickly and comfortably.

Personally I have grown spiritually as I teach the Word of God. The plan I have is to reach the Masai with the gospel through evangelism. Our goal for the next six months is to:

1. Do church planting in the Masai Tribal area
2. Systemic teaching in the church
3. Leader's training

God answered prayer and we now have a permanent plot that we have bought this year. But we do need Bible Study material for new converts.

Pray for my wife as we serve the Lord here in Kenya. My daughter Ann is in grade two. Ben in nursery and Joy yet to join nursery next year. God bless you. We love you and we pray for you.



**From:** Kiatisak Siripanadorn

**Sponsored by:** Palmetto Land Baptist -  
Summerville, SC  
First Baptist - Sterling Heights, MI  
First Baptist Church - St. Francis, MN



**Last trimester:**

churches  
started - 2

villages  
evangelized - 2

people  
saved - 28

converts  
baptized - 0

Since January the Lord has opened the door for us so much to bring the Gospel to many Akha, Lahu and Palong villages, by using the medical team that came from Michigan. They ministered to about a thousand people in seven days. We saw so many souls come to know the Lord; then after that, our evangelists followed up with Bible study and bringing them to our church or to the home of a Believer who was saved before this time and use their home for Sunday worship.

We thank the Lord for the two new churches established a month ago and for the two camps we had in April. One was for the hill tribe youth and the other for the Thai youth at Pattaya Beach. Many souls were saved through this ministry. I am also still having Bible training three days each month among the hill tribe people and it is going well with more Believers attending.

Thank you so much for your part in the ministry and sharing through Final Frontiers. What I got from you through them I count as a great blessing, so that we could do more ministry for the Lord.

Please come and visit us again and see the work. I do need more working funds, because the ministry is growing and I have much things to follow up and I also need and your prayers.

Thank you for your love to us, your burden for our ministry needs, your sacrifices in giving to the Lord's work and faithful friendship to our family. I look forward to seeing you soon.

*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.

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.

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.

Sponsorship of an **orphaned, abandoned or destitute child** is \$35.00 monthly and provides for lodging, food, clothing, basic medical care, and education.

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.

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**

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

155 Churches Started  
440 Villages Evangelized  
2,089 Professions of Faith  
754 Believers Baptized

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

15,057 Churches Started  
58,380 Villages Evangelized  
475,276 Professions of Faith  
152,175 Believers Baptized

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

757 Preachers Supported  
1,101 Preacher Sponsorships  
79 *TEAM* Sponsorships  
44 Orphans Supported  
48 Countries involved in

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

AUTO

Please help us  
save money on  
return  
postage by  
informing us of  
any change in your  
address.

You may write us  
at the address to  
the  
right or call  
toll free:

**Final Frontiers Foundation  
1200 Peachtree Street  
Louisville, GA 30434  
USA**