



*Cover Photograph:
circa 1986*

The woman in the photo is from the Akha tribe of Southeast Asia. The word “Akha” in their language, means “stupid”. They say they are stupid because at one time they had a book about the Creator, but their forefathers were careless with it, and their dogs tore it to pieces. They call themselves the stupid tribe because “they have lost the knowledge of the Creator.”

Today, national preachers of the Akha tribe, whose ministries are subsidized by Final Frontiers sponsors, are planting churches among their own people and other tribal groups in China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. They’re not stupid anymore!

Final Frontiers

F O U N D A T I O N

Through the funding of national preachers, we endeavor to effectively advance the Gospel where it has never been preached before.

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A word from our founder

In this brochure, we endeavor to give you...

- a summary of our **procedures** and
- a detailed understanding of our **philosophy**

Many organizations today claim to “work with nationals”, while in reality, doing little more than providing curriculum or building church buildings. Others work hand-in-hand with the national preachers while maintaining a superiority over them, and in many cases, a non-biblical control of these men and their ministries. Sadly, others denounce the support of nationals as being detrimental to the indigenous church, and contrary to scriptural principle; while at the same time offering no Biblical reference for their viewpoint.

We believe that while many mistakes have been made in working with national preachers, we should not “*throw the baby out with the bath water*”. Yes, there have been errors made, but generally it is because the foreign organizations attempting



*Jon Nelms
Founder / Executive
Board Chairman*

to work with the nationals, have not been thorough with their investigation of the preachers before they began support, nor have they been consistent with accountability afterwards.

We further believe, that by thorough research, wise counsel, and more than fifteen years of experience, the Lord Jesus has given us an insight into overcoming these hurdles, which has been proven successful over a number of years.

I hope we will soon hear from you regarding the support of a national church planter.

General ministry information

Our purpose is to effectively take the Gospel to the more than three billion souls, who have never before heard. We currently serve in more than forty countries on five continents; which are often closed to the traditional missionary, but open to us because of our unique method of operation.

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 with financial means, for the support of 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 currently serving by faith, never those who are waiting for a salary in order to serve.

All those subsidized through this foundation are involved in church planting, with various outreach ministries including: Bible translation and distribution, radio and television broadcasting, camps, Bible schools, outdoor and film evangelism, educational and health programs, blind and leper ministries, orphan and abandoned children's ministries, feeding centers and refugee ministries.

The Final Frontiers Foundation, as a non-profit, religious corporation, is governed by those serving on the Executive Board of Directors: Jon Nelms (founder, Chairman), Rev. Gene Carpenter (Vice President), Dr. Ron Charles (Secretary/Treasurer), Mr. Ralph Wills, CPA/CMA. Further council is provided by those serving on the Board of Advisors as well as the various National and Regional Coordinators working with us.

Contributions and gifts to this ministry are tax deductible (by U.S.A. law) and are applied to the ministry's evangelistic outreach. Final Frontiers Foundation, Inc. is classified as a 509 (a)(1) public foundation, under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is registered as a charitable organization in the State of Georgia, and in the United States of America.

Countries where we serve

Currently as of July 2001

* indicates nations where we formerly served but currently do not

** indicates nations that currently receive only *TEAM* support

Latin America:

Mexico
Cuba
Guatemala
El Salvador
Honduras
Nicaragua
Costa Rica
Peru
Chile
Columbia

Africa:

Kenya
Uganda
South Africa
Nigeria
Togo
Ivory Coast
Ghana
Liberia
Morocco
Burkina

Europe and Eurasia:

France
Romania
Albania
Russia
Georgia
Latvia **
Lithuania **
Hungary
Belarus
Kazakhstan

Ecuador
Venezuela

Kyrgyzstan *
Siberia
Switzerland

Caribbean:

St. Vincent
St. Lucia *
Grenada

Asia:

India
Myanmar
Thailand
Laos
Cambodia
Vietnam
China
Philippines
Nepal

Pacifica:

Fiji

Some nations listed as Eurasia, though actually Asian, are done so because of their past affiliation with the Soviet Union, and the fact that our original contacts and continuing accountability for that region, come through our national preachers and international office in Russia.

Countries where expansion is planned during the next year

Latin America:

Belize
Panama
Uruguay
Ecuador

Africa:

Sudan
Libya
Egypt

Asia:

Tibet

Caribbean:

Haiti
St. Lucia

Pacifica:

New Guinea
Solomon Islands
Papua New Guinea

Europe and Eurasia:

Latvia
Lithuania

The obvious benefits of sponsoring a national preacher ...

Citizenship

Over 40% of all nations are currently closed to the traditional foreign missionary, and that number is expected to continue increasing. Yet in reality, they are never closed to the national preacher. He has citizenship! When you "close the doors" of a country, you merely "lock in" the national preacher, providing him with a "captive audience".

Language

For the national preacher, there is no "down time" spent in learning a new language, though language training comprises a large portion of the foreign missionary's first term. Most national preachers are bilingual or multilingual. Many will speak five, ten, or even more languages of the tribal peoples within their regions; while the foreign missionary is usually taught to learn only the "official" language. The detriment of this language deficit is seen clearly in nations such as India where there are more than 1600 different languages and dialects used, besides the "official" language.

Culture

The national preacher is “at home” in his nation and experiences no cultural strain. It has been estimated that over 50% of all missionaries do not return for a second term of duty. The primary reason given for this is the inability to adapt to the culture.

Furlough

Furlough is not necessary in order for the national preacher to maintain an accountability with his sponsors, in fact, the funds that would be used to bring him to America for furlough, could be used to build a church building, or even to support his family and ministry for two to five years or longer. Because of this benefit, he does not suffer the 20% down time experienced by foreign missionaries who are required to spend one year out of every five on furlough.

Retirement

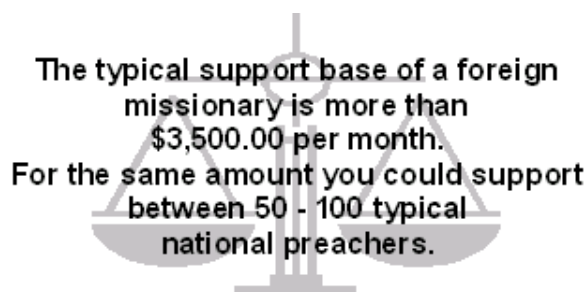
Retirement is not an option for the national preacher. Currently, over 50% of all American missionaries are at least 55 years old. Many of these will face mandatory retirement within the next ten years. Unfortunately, there are not enough young missionaries stepping forward to replace this retiring army of experienced servants. The reality of mandatory retirement based upon age, is an American cultural concept, little known and less understood by national preachers in other lands, who view their calling as one of lifetime ministry.

Time

While many missionaries are paid a salary by their board or denomination, the average missionary who is involved with a “faith mission”, spends 2.5 years or more raising their financial support. Every national preacher supported by this foundation is already “on the field” and actively involved in church planting, with or without regular monthly support. With the help of a sponsor, they can dramatically accelerate their efforts.

Economics

The average personal and work related support needed for a foreign missionary is \$3,000.00 to \$6,000.00 per month, depending on his field of service. This is because foreigners typically live at a higher standard than do the nationals, and must have funding for “necessary” items, that the national would never dream of owning. Worldwide, the average support needed for the national preacher is only about \$100.00 monthly. When inflation rises, his standard of living remains equal to those among whom he ministers. In short, for what it takes to support the typical foreign missionary for one month, you can support the typical national preacher for more than five years!



How the national preachers are approved for support

Recommendation

Each preacher considered for support must be recommended by a missionary from a doctrinally sound board or his “national equivalent”, and the recommendation must be based upon a “long term, personal knowledge, of that man and his ministry”. Thus, the credibility of the one making the recommendation is at risk. Any future recommendations made by him would be subject to refusal, should any of his applicants fail to “meet up to” the standards which were represented to us.

Application

A lengthy application must be completed and translated into English, which covers such areas as doctrine, life style, family life, economics and ministry experience. Additionally, a full doctrinal statement from the preacher is required before he has seen ours. We also insist upon receiving a written testimony of he and his wife, a family photograph and other photos of his ministry if available. All of this information, after translation, is

compiled, bound and given to the sponsor.



This is a tribal director in Thailand, translating an application into English

Ministry Experience

Those preachers who are not actively and consistently involved in church planting and discipleship, and having a track record in such ministries, are not qualified to apply. Pastors are considered for support, only if they meet this criteria. If however, their ministry is limited to the “four walls” of their church, they do not qualify for our assistance. Most applicants are evangelists and national missionaries, who may never have a consistent support base. The reason for this is because after establishing a church, they move on to begin another work, leaving a pastor behind to be supported by the new believers, whom he won and discipled for Christ.

How accountability is maintained for the sponsor

Approval of the national board

In each nation, an advisory and accountability board, consisting of the spiritual leaders and peers of the national preachers, and chosen from among the preachers themselves, is appointed to determine, recommend, oversee and maintain an accountability between the preacher, our international office, and their sponsors. Their recommendations of approval, and if necessary, dismissal, are absolute.

Continuing Accountability

National and regional directors are appointed from among the members of the advisory and accountability boards of each nation. Such directors maintain a local accountability in the areas of doctrine, morals, and ministry. They also verify all (required) trimester reports for accuracy, before they are translated and sent to their respective sponsors. These reports are required for continued support, unless hindered for geographic or political reasons. In addition, the directors oversee the distribution of cameras which are available to all sponsored preachers, for use in documenting their ministries.



Trimester reports for each sponsors are completed by their supported preachers, then translated and returned to the sponsor.

Pastors and sponsors are encouraged to accompany our staff on frequent announced (and unannounced) trips, in order to insure accountability. We believe that accountability is the key to any successful ministry; but having the missionary in a church once every five years to speak for thirty minutes, is not accountability. Accountability would be better accomplished, by churches sending a representative to the field to see for himself, the work of the ministry they are supporting, whether it be of a national preacher or a foreign missionary.

Our Six Steps of Direct Accountability



The sponsor sends his preacher's support to the Final Frontiers office in Louisville, GA. A sponsor may be:

- a family
- an individual
- a Sunday School class
- a Bible Study group
- a church



That support, along with his blank trimester report form is sent to the national director in his country; then if necessary, forwarded to his tribal or regional director.



The funds are given to the preacher as he completes his report form, and returns it to the director present with him.



The preacher's report form is translated as necessary, and returned to the home office in Louisville, GA by the national director.



The statistics from the preacher's form are recorded, and a copy of his report is made and filed for our permanent records.



The original report form, along with the translations as necessary, and a note of appreciation, is mailed the sponsor.

How to become a sponsor

Believing that the most efficient and effective way to reach the world is through the funding of national and native preachers, we have developed two programs to assist you in doing just that.

Sponsorship of a specific preacher



Direct sponsorship of a national preacher means that you choose which preacher in which country you want to sponsor. You are provided with a complete profile of your preacher including his application, and all the data and photographs that we have available on him. While you will have the option to write to him as you please, he will be required to report to you in writing every four months. (Exceptions are made due to geographic and political hindrances.)

Most preachers we support are provided with two sponsorships of \$35.00 monthly. As a sponsor, you have the opportunity to provide:

- Regular sponsorship
\$35.00 monthly
- Total sponsorship
\$70.00 monthly

Profiles of preachers are displayed in the church, during a representative's presentation. Otherwise, you may request a profile by calling 800-522-4324. Please request a preacher from your nation of choice, or ask us to make the determination from among our "most needy" list. The list of countries we currently have preachers in who are approved for support, is located on page 3.

You may also browse our web page to see what preachers are currently available for support.

Sponsorship of a nation's *TEAM*

TEAM is an acronym for *Together - Effectively Advancing the Ministry*; and indicates the relationship between the national preachers in a given country, and those who are sponsoring their ministries.



*This is a
TEAM of
preachers
working
together in
Guatemala*

Some sponsors are unable to support a specific national preacher, but they still have a tremendous desire to help the national preachers reach their nations and peoples for Christ.

Because of this, we have initiated a system whereby you can sponsor a *TEAM* of preachers in a country of your choice for any amount you choose (A minimum of \$10.00 per month, per country is suggested.) Whatever amount you choose to give will be used by the collective *TEAM* of preachers serving in that nation.



*TEAM funds provide
for Bibles, tracts, and
study materials.*

What the *TEAM* will do with your support...

The national and regional directors of your chosen country's *TEAM* will determine how your support can best be utilized by the total body of preachers, in advancing the Gospel. They may use it to purchase Bibles, or to provide a bicycle for an evangelist. It may be used to help erect a bamboo church building, or to support a preacher who does not yet have a sponsor. It may even be used to help subsidize the ministry of a church planter, whose sponsor is unavoidably delinquent in his support.

Sometimes the funds are used to provide a meager compensation for "Bible Women", who help in organizational details and in teaching women and children. The funds may even be used to provide for the

widow of a recently deceased church planter or his orphan children. This assists the family with burial costs and funds to get back on their feet.

Regardless of their use, you'll receive a report every four months from the national or regional *TEAM* director of the country where your funds were sent. It will detail for you of the significance of your contributions.

And best of all, if you do not prefer a specific country to assist monthly, we can direct your funds to the country or region in the most desperate need. Either way, it's entirely up to you.



TEAM funds provide for widows and unsupported pastors.



TEAM funds provide for travel to remote and unreached villages through the purchase of ministry tools.

Other programs customized to fit your personal ministry preferences

Because we realize that God burdens different people with different causes, and because the needs worldwide are so great, we offer you the opportunity to assist in other outreach programs, that are operated by preachers who are approved by this foundation. These various ministries are held accountable in the same manner as the preachers, providing you the irrefutable proof that your support is making a difference for the cause of Christ.

Child Care International

A ministry subsidiary of the Final Frontiers Foundation

An orphaned, abandoned or destitute boy or girl can be provided with food, lodging, clothing, medical treatment, and an education, for only \$35.00 monthly. This support will allow the child to grow up in a Christian atmosphere where he or she will learn about Jesus; rather than being continually beaten and starved, or sold into slave labor or prostitution. In some cases the child is cared for in a traditional orphanage setting, but in most cases, the child is placed by the pastor, into the loving home of a church family, where the child literally lives and is cared for as another son or daughter



The child care programs assisted by our foundation operate as a ministry of a local church. Accountability for the child and your funding is maintained through our office, and through the pastor of the local church where

your child is cared for and taught God's Word.

As a sponsor, you will receive three letters from your child each year, and are welcome to correspond with, or even to visit your child. A profile and photograph of each orphan is provided for the sponsor.

The Final Frontiers Society

A ministry subsidiary of the Final Frontiers Foundation

This is our newest, and one of our most important programs, simply because this sponsorship helps to take care of the administrative expenses of the foundation, both here in the United States, and abroad. It also helps by providing funds from which to assist in times of crisis when emergency relief aid is needed.

From the beginning, national directors were concerned that if the foundation's home administrative needs were not met, that eventually the program of preacher sponsorship would collapse. While this has always been a concern, it has never kept us from going forward, helping where none others would or could. Truthfully though, the staff of the foundation works on a level equal to that of volunteers or minimum wage workers. Often staff members will personally absorb the cost for office supplies, food for visiting preachers, and travel.

Personal sacrifice is the fuel that has kept the fires of this ministry burning. A willing sacrifice, that springs forth from hearts that are totally devoted to the cause of helping the national preachers reach those whom we personally cannot.

In 1997, the Final Frontiers Society was formed as a ministry subsidiary. It's mission is to raise donors from among the unified list of our sponsors, for the purpose of funding domestic and international administrative costs and emergency relief funding.

We invite each sponsor and interested person to become a member of the Final Frontiers Society with a pledge of only \$10.00 monthly. You cannot imagine the difference your pledge will make!

Examples of Society Fund Appropriations

- Flood and disaster relief
- Translation services
- International offices
- Overseas staff salaries
- Medical care
- Emergency food relief
- Burial assistance in areas where Christians are forbidden use of a cemetery

Our Distinctive

There is no verse of Scripture stating that Believers should only support missionaries who share citizenship with them. To the contrary, the command is given to the Church at large to fulfill the Great Commission.

In Acts 11:27-30, I Corinthians 16:1 -4, and in II Corinthians 8; we read of Paul collecting funds to be distributed to others. In these three passages we see parallels to the request, contribution, collection and distribution of the funds. In all instances, the collection was made and placed in the care of chosen men who knew the needs of the intended recipients, and through them, the funds were passed on to those in need. In each case there was a:

- *Motivation to give*
- *Means of the Believer (personal financial ability)*
- *Method of collection (from Believers in the church)*
- *Messengers (men who would distribute the funds and provide accountability)*

Furthermore, we have examples of Paul and other Apostles, encouraging and praising the churches for helping foreign preachers, as they passed through on their way to other fields. (Titus 3:13 and III John 5-8)

When Final Frontiers was first begun, Jon knew of only two other organizations in the United States that were doing this type of ministry. Today there are more than 300 such ministries. Most of these have duplicated the pattern of the earliest two. From the beginning, we set out to be different. Not for the sake of difference, not as a marketing strategy, but from a burden of the heart.

Most similar ministries collect funds and "pool" them together. Some use photographs of an individual pastor, to represent the collective body of preachers they serve in that country or worldwide. The sponsor gives, but may never know the name of the preacher who actually receives their funds.

We feel that while this method is viable, it benefits primarily the receiver, while providing very little interaction or accountability for the giver. And though we also have a similar program called TEAM which operates on this same principle, it is incidental to our primary ministry and purpose, of direct sponsorship.

Our strategy from the beginning, was to partner a specific preacher with a specific sponsor. This partnering relationship allows and requires us, to precisely handle the sponsor's gift. This is because each sponsor receives a report form back in their hands; not from a pool of preachers, with one letter representing the group, but from their individual preacher; a personal letter to the one or two sponsors that preacher has. This fosters a direct relationship between the giver and the receiver.

Imagine as your family sits at the dinner table and reads the original (and translated), personal letter, sent to you from your preacher.

- He knows your name.
- He knows the exact amount you gave to him for his support, and he writes to express his thankfulness.
- He tells you what he has accomplished for Christ, and how he provided for his family, all because of your personal support.

In light of this, we believe our distinctive offers a higher degree of personal involvement for the sponsor, and a higher level of financial accountability from the preacher and our organization.

