

Progress Report



Where two or *many* more are gathered in His name

Planting churches literally inside Roman Catholic churches, Eastern Orthodox churches and Islamic Mosques (inset right), with the permission of their leaders

Photo above: Muslims stand in line to attend a Bible Study inside their mosque



Internet photo

By Ron Charles

On February 20, 1991 I was staying on the 9th floor of the Tirana Hotel in downtown Tirana, Albania. As I looked down on a crowd of more than 100,000 people who had gathered in Skanderbeg Square, I felt that something was about to happen. As the crowd began to chant, the noise level began to slowly but steadily rise until before long the surface of the street was literally vibrating from the corporate shouting.

Suddenly, policemen and military personnel with police dogs appeared along the perimeter of the crowd. It didn't take long for the dogs to begin doing what they had been sent there to do; forcibly and violently putting an end to this illegal, anti-communist rally. But rather than stifling the call for an overthrow of the gov-

ernment, the brutality of the police and the fierceness of the dogs instead raised the level of resolve and resistance to unprecedented heights.

To my surprise, as I was watching the spectacle unfold on the street below, I saw a group of men surge forward toward a platform where a huge bronze statue of Enver Hoxha, Albania's ruthless, former communist dictator, stood guard over Skanderbeg Square. They rushed to the statue with ropes and shouts demanding that it be pulled down. I expected that at any minute the military and/or the police would open fire on the rebellious crowd. But rather than firing, the soldiers and policemen dropped their guns and joined their fellow citizens in pulling down the object of

the story continues on page 5

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 fifty-eight nations. Many of these countries are closed to foreign missionaries, and in others, work among the various tribal groups is restricted to national preachers only, thus they are open to us because of our unique method of missions.

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

Selection of those we sponsor is dependent upon their doctrinal beliefs, need and reputation. We support only those who are serving by faith, never those who are waiting for a salary in order to serve. Worldwide, the average preacher in a third-world country needs as little as \$35.00 - \$100.00 each month to support his family and ministry.

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

Current ministries available for support are:

- Sponsorship of a national or native preacher (\$35.00 monthly)
- Sponsorship of a *TEAM* of preachers in a given country (\$10.00 minimum per month)
- Sponsorship of an orphan through our *CHILD CARE* subsidiary (\$35.00 monthly)
- Membership in the Final Frontiers Society, Bible distribution program (\$10.00 monthly)

FINAL FRONTIERS, a non-profit, religious corporation, was founded by Jon Nelms in 1987, and is governed by those serving on the Executive Board of Directors: Rev. Jon Nelms (Chairman), Rev. Gene Carpenter (Vice President), and Rev. Ron Charles (Secretary/Treasurer), Mr. Ralph Wills, CPA/CMA, and Mr. Charles Turner. 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:

- Vietnamese Expansion: Dr. Minh Dang, - Akron, OH (330) 864-2077
- European Expansion: Rev. Dennis Kiser - Livonia, MI (248) 489-0844
- African Expansion: Rev. Gordon Daam - Portage, MI (616) 327-9192
- South American Expansion: Mr. Don Courliss - Jonesborough, TN (423) 753-9212
- Southeast Asia Expansion: Rev. Glenn Wilson - Amelia Island, FL (904) 415-1272
- Middle East Expansion: Dr. Ron Charles - Gainesville, GA (770) 531-0180
- Final Frontiers Society Mr. John White - Colbert, GA (706) 788-3848

International Offices:

National offices are maintained in every country of service for accountability purposes, and are staffed by national and regional coordinators who are approved by the Executive Board of Directors.

Information:

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

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Where we serve

The 60 countries where we serve as of March 2004

Africa:

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

Asia:

India
Myanmar
Thailand
Laos
Cambodia
Vietnam
China
Philippines
Nepal

Middle East:

Syria

Caribbean:

St. Vincent
St. Lucia
Grenada
Haiti*
Jamaica

Pacifica:

Fiji

Eurasia:

Georgia
Belarus
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Siberia
Ukraine
Russia

Europe:

France
Romania
Albania
Latvia
Lithuania
Hungary
Switzerland
Poland

Americas:

Mexico
Cuba
Guatemala
El Salvador
Honduras
Nicaragua
Costa Rica
Peru
Chile
Columbia
Ecuador
Venezuela
Brazil
Argentina

* indicates *TEAM* support only

Applications are in process now from:

Indonesia, Lebanon, Guyana, Azerbaijan, Macedonia and Uzbekistan.

The Jon Nelms family report

What a great month! I have just returned from a trip to India along with John White and Bruce Culbertson. While there we were able to visit with four different groups of preachers and had nightly meetings with attendances ranging from several hundred in village churches to 2,500 in a civic auditorium. God blessed us with the opportunity to see nearly 400 people come to Christ and we baptized well over 100 publicly in the Godavari River (background). I'll give you more information and photos on this in the next *Progress Report*.

At the same time we were there, Dennis Kiser was in Chennai, India teaching in a seminar to pastors for two weeks, then flew from there to Thailand to do the same for another four days. Gordon Daam had just returned from a two week trip to Ghana and Kenya and Minh Dang was ending his journey ministering to our supported pastors in Vietnam. As you can see, we will have quite a few stories to print in the next few issues.

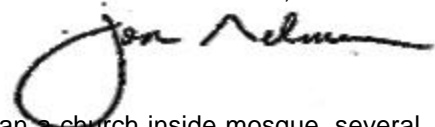
While we were away the Enemy dealt us a heavy blow. Monthly sponsorships that we have come to rely on just did not come in. The support funding for the preachers in February dropped by \$20,000.00 and the support for our home office dropped by \$8,000.00. **In other words our income from January to February dropped by \$28,000.00.** That is nearly a 45% decrease in support. That has never happened before in the nearly two decades of this ministry God has blessed us with. Well, Satan's time is limited and I am sure he didn't like what we were doing in India and around the world, so he took an opportunity to strike back at us. Let him have his fun, after all, his days are numbered. While he'll be suffering in eternal flames, separated from the Almighty One, we will be shining as the stars forever and ever. Hallelujah!

If you are one of the ones who was sidetracked last month, please be aware that your preacher is dependent on you and so are we. We are a team; you, him and us and Eccl. 4:12 tells us that a cord of three bands is not quickly broken. We need you and they need you; please don't let us down. There's just too much at stake to play at this. The end is near and we must be diligent to do as God has led us to do. If debt has put a burden on you, the solution is not to cease supporting God's workers, it is to stop running up debts and interest on things God never intended us to have in the first place. We all need to learn this lesson.

Now I want to share a personal prayer request with you. My wife Juanita has been bedridden for over a year. She is in need of gastric bypass surgery that the insurance company does not want to provide. The average cost for this (without complications) is \$20,000. We have a lawyer who is trying to force the case with the insurance company, because the doctors have determined this has grown into a life threatening situation. Please pray that the insurance company will accept their responsibility and get this operation done quickly. I apologize for not coming to you for prayer support earlier but I always hesitate to ask you to consider anything of a personal nature for my family. I have enough concerns of my own. However, I must now put my concerns aside and humbly ask for your help.

One last thing. In a few weeks you will receive a very unusual letter from me informing you of a most unique (and hilarious) opportunity I have ever heard of. When it arrives, please give it your attention.

Yours for souls,



This issue features a second article by Ron Charles telling how he began a church inside mosque, several Catholic churches and an Eastern Orthodox church all in Albania. It is a fascinating story. He also gives us a sidebar on the origins of Islam and why they hate us so. It is an interesting read and very informative. It will without a doubt surprise you and equip you to deal with the growing number of Muslims in our land.

Along those lines, we are now arranging to receive applications of support for preachers in Egypt and Libya. We have also just received our first Syrian applications and some from Indonesia are in route to us as well. If you have wanted to support a preacher reaching Muslims, now is the time to act. Give us a call at 800-424-4321 or email me at jnelms@finalfrontiers.org



Jon , Juanita, - Daniel and Sara

Let's Get Acquainted ...

For more information on sponsoring a national preacher, see page 15.

Preacher's Name: A Zeir
Wife's Name: Y. Jun
No. of Children: 6
Country: Vietnam
Sponsorship Needed: 1 @ \$35.00 monthly

Testimony:



As a little boy I was an orphan. I was sent to live in an orphanage where I was brought up with the teaching and caring of pastors. I was taught about Jesus. I believed Christ and received Him as my Saviour and was then baptized. Because He loved me so much to give His life for me, I have given my life to serve Him until He comes again.

My wife was raised in a Christian family and was taught the Bible. As a child she knew and understood she was a sinner and that Christ had died for her and she believed in Him. She now helps me in serving God in our village.

I preach the Gospel and teach the Bible. I work with another pastor in serving and caring for the member of our church. At present I serve God with my people in the highland region where the church is in many difficulties. Because of preaching the Gospel I was arrested and put in prison. After returning from the prison which is called a re-education camp, I kept on helping our brothers spiritually. I rely on God's power in many ways in teaching His children so they grow up in Christ.

I have to work in the fields many hours every week to make a living for my family. Our live is a simple one. Our house is made of wood covered with thatch. The floors are earthen. It has three rooms. We eat rice and vegetable soup and we are very grateful for it.

With your financial help and with your prayers I will be better able to meet the needs of our family and be able to reach more people for Christ.

Preacher's Name: Gotru Paul
Wife's Name: Survarthamma
No. of Children: 3 at home, 4 total
Country: India
Sponsorship Needed: 2 @ \$35.00 monthly

Testimony:



I was brought up in a village that worships idols and had polio. My parents took me to different Hindu temples and paid the gods to heal me but it was all in vain. One day in another village they heard some preaching. They attempted to sell me in an auction but in the end, they spoke to the ones preaching and told them that if God would heal me they would dedicate me to his service. Prayer continued for several days and in the end, God did heal me. My parents returned to their home and subsequently forgot their promise but from time to time they would tell me the story.

Later in college I was given a Gospel of John and the verse of 3:16 touched me. I asked my parents to explain it to me but they could not. One day I passed a church and met pastor Swatantra Kumar. He led me to Christ then I brought my parents to him and he led my parents to Christ also.

Some time later my parents died and I was left alone. I entered college and became a witness but was expelled because of my witness for Christ. I began to go witnessing from house to house and some people would give me food to eat and clothing.

Later I was married and used the dowry that came with my wife to establish a small church in my village. Soon God blessed with 80 converts and I began to train others for ministry. Since that time I have led hundreds to Christ and have started more than 12 churches, and have trained men to pastor all of them.

Gotru lost his only sponsorship in March 2001 and is in desperate need of a new sponsor.

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

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their hatred.

As I stood and watched, I was fascinated with what was happening. Then suddenly it dawned on me that I was witnessing a revolution - a literal overthrow of the existing communist government. That's when I decided that I needed to do whatever I could to get out of there. But as it turned out, I had no place to go and no way to get there - even if I had had someplace to go. Although I had been invited by the Albanian government to come to Albania as a consulting archaeologist and my life was probably not at risk, I still felt very uneasy with the situation. So I prayed for God's safety and trusted that He had everything under control. What I had witnessed was the overthrow of more than 50 years of the most extreme of Stalinist communist dictatorships. From that moment until the present day, Albania would never be the same.

Religious background on Albania ...

In the 14th century, Albania was absorbed by the Ottoman Empire. It remained under Turkish Ottoman rule for more than 500 years. During these centuries, Christianity was suppressed in Albania (except for some of the more northern mountain regions who kept a loose alliance with the Roman Catholic Church and the southern region that bordered Greece, who kept a loose alliance with the Eastern Orthodox Church) and Islam became the official religion of the region. By the early 20th century when Albania came under the control and influence of Italian fascism, more than 90 percent of the country's religious persuasion was Islamic.

After World War II, the leader of the communist partisans who had so heroically resisted Hitler's invaders, Enver Hoxha, and his Stalin aligned communist party, began a ruthless 50-year godless rule of Albania. During these five decades, religion of any kind, especially Islam and Christianity, was violently and mercilessly suppressed. So, for all practical purposes, with the pulling down of Enver Hoxha's statue that day in February of 1991, more 50 years of overall religious oppression came to end and for the first time in more than 550 years, Christianity and Christian worship became legal. Soon after the fall of communism, Albania officially adopted a policy of religious tolerance, paving the way for outside missionary involvement.

By February 1992, Western Christianity, especially American and Western European Christians, had begun to become aware of the church planting and evangelism opportunities in Albania. American and Western European missionary organizations began to first send short-term missionaries, followed by long-term missionaries to Albania. By the end of 1992 and the beginning of 1993, the country began to be overrun with missionaries and religious organizations (Christian and non-Christian alike) of all kinds and denominations of sorts and persuasions.

Not long after Albania had opened its doors to foreign missionaries and missionary organizations, they realized that an uncontrolled religious open-door policy was not the best way to re-introduce religion into Albania. So, the government passed a law that officially recognized Albania's three historical religions and religious persuasions: Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Islam. All other religions

and religious organizations were considered sects and/or cults. Although these others were not necessarily persecuted, they were not given the same amount of respect and honor that the three historical religions were given. As a result of this turn of events, Christian missionary efforts in Albania soon leveled off. But, because most of the missionaries and missionary organizations were not part of the three officially recognized historical religions, many of the missionaries began to adopt an adversarial posture against the government and began to feel that they had the right to conduct their religious affairs the way that they felt was most appropriate and to do whatever they wanted to do in the name of "spreading the Gospel" or "planting churches."

Unfortunately, this attitude did more harm than good. Within a year, many missionaries and missionary organizations had left such a bad taste in the mouths of the Albania governmental officials, that they began to incorrectly characterize most Christian missionaries and missionary organizations as arrogant and self-serving, conceited opportunists that held the Albanians as a whole in utter contempt and who had little regard or respect for authority or governmental protocol.

Because of my archaeological connections, I had developed a close relationship and a friendship with many of the Albanian officials. It made my heart ache whenever I heard them talk about the state of affairs with religion and with the religious community in Albania. The situation looked impossible. I wanted to begin a Bible study on a side of town that was dominantly Muslim, but I did not want to go about it in the underhanded, mysterious, secretive way that had for the most part characterized Christian missionary methods over the past year. I wanted to do it legally and in the open. So, one day while traveling to a near-by city with the Minister of Archaeology and Antiquities, I asked him what I needed to do to get approval to start a educational study using the Bible as my source. His answer opened up a whole new arena for evangelism in Albania. He simply said, *"Just ask. Don't try to hide like we in government are your enemy. Just ask."*

So, the next day I put his advise to the test. I went to the residence of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Tirana and told him that I wanted to begin a Bible study on the life of Jesus and would like his permission to conduct the study. I told him that I would not solicit membership nor would I encourage his parishioners to leave the church. He asked me what type of doctrine I would be teaching. I told him that I would not be teaching doctrine, that all I would be doing would be teaching the life of Jesus as recorded in the Bible. He then told me that I was the only American Christian and the only Western Christian who had ever asked his permission to conduct a study. So, because I had respected his authority and had honored him enough to ask his permission, that not only would he grant his permission in writing for me to conduct the study on the life of Jesus, but that he would give me permission to conduct the study in the Catholic church in the capital city of Tirana and that he would encourage his parishioners to attend. Needless to say, that opened a door of opportunity that was unprecedented.

Before I left him, the Bishop told me that the Grand Patriarch of Constantinople, the head of the Eastern Orthodox Church, was in Tirana and that if I wanted him to, he could arrange a meeting between him and me. I told him that I

was interested. Two days later I was sitting in the presence of the Patriarch asking him permission to teach a study on the life of Jesus. He, like the Catholic Bishop, was overwhelmed that I had honored them and had respected their authority. He too gave his written permission and pledged his support for my efforts. So, in less than three days I had secured the written support of the two highest-ranking religious officials, of two of the three recognized religions in Albania. So now not only did I have the support of the religious establishments, but I also had the support and the blessings of the Albania government. But to get the support of the third religion, Islam, I felt would be much more challenging.

As I was about to leave the audience of the Patriarch of Constantinople, he suggested that I visit the Ethem Bey mosque in downtown Tirana (see inset on the cover). The Mullah of that mosque was the highest-ranking Islamic reli-



This is one of the most preeminent Roman Catholic Churches in Albania. Another Bible Study group met here with the permission of the Bishop.

gious leader in Albania. The Patriarch gave me permission to use his name and to show the Mullah the written permission that he had granted me.

I walked down to the Ethem Bey mosque, built in the 18th century, in downtown Tirana, praying every step of the way. When I got to the mosque, the mullah had just completed early evening prayers. He invited me to sit down with him and discuss what I wanted. I told him that I wanted his permission to conduct a study on the life of Jesus and that

the Patriarch of Constantinople as well as the Roman Catholic Bishop had already given their approval. He asked me what doctrine I would be teaching. I told him that I would not be teaching any doctrine. I would only do a study of the life of Jesus using the Bible as my source. He then asked if I would be teaching the adoration of Mary and/or the infallibility of the Pope. I told him that I would not be teaching anything about Mary, other than the fact that she was the mother of Jesus, nor would I be teaching anything regarding the Pope. Then to my surprise, he said, *“You are the one and only Christian who has ever asked my permission to do anything. Usually the Christians try to start something secretly or try to infiltrate covertly. But you have respected my position and have honored my authority enough to ask my permission. So, you have my permission to conduct your study on Jesus.”* I then asked him if I could conduct the study in the mosque and if he would allow his worshippers to attend. To that request he said, *“You amaze me Doctor. You are very sincere. Because of your respect and because you ask me, I give you permission to use the mosque for your educational study on Jesus’ life and will allow my people to come to the study. But you cannot conduct the study during prayer times. You cannot baptize here in the mosque and you cannot take the communion of the Christians. But yes, you have my permission.”* Needless to say, the doors of opportunity swung open wide and we began to have a weekly study on the life of Jesus in the middle of the Islamic mosque. *“Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”* Jesus’ words certainly proved their validity during those uncertain years in Albania. Those particular doors of opportunity remained open wide until 1999, when Albania faced huge economic set backs and political upheaval, putting an end to that promising chance.

In most countries where the Islamic religion is the state religion, secret infiltration and friendship evangelism is still the most successful method of reaching the Muslim population. In Albania during that very critical time in their history and in their religious evolution, securing permission from the recognized religious authorities, which translated into acceptance and approval by the Albanian governmental authorities, ultimately became an effective evangelism and discipleship tool that is even today reaping benefits for Christ; as well grounded and disciplined Albanian believers and national pastors are taking the lead in spreading the Gospel of Christ and in establishing new churches throughout their nation.

The results ...

In time Ron was allowed to operate in several Catholic churches. In one, the Catholic priest was saved and at least 40 were saved in the Catholic and Orthodox churches combined. Ultimately, two churches were started from those studies, which continue to grow to this day.

In the mosque there was about 10 salvation decisions and one Bible study that eventually grew to the establishment of a church, literally inside the mosque. Several years later, the mosque was destroyed during an economic upheaval in Albania and the members relocated their church to the town of Lezha, a suburb of Tirana that is about forty miles away. The church continues to thrive to this day.



This is the back entrance of the Mosque where the church was started. You can see one of the Bible study leaders in the window waving to Ron as he is entering the gate.

Notice that on the gate there appears to be a cross. To the Muslims, this is referred to as the **“Sign of the Infidels”** and was actually placed there centuries earlier by the

Muslim invaders. Originally this had been an Eastern Orthodox Church. When Islam conquered what is now Albania, the church was allowed to continue for a time, but the invaders placed the Sign of the Infidels on the entrance so that all Muslims would know that it was heathen ground and not defile themselves by inadvertently entering through it. In time, the building became a mosque but the sign has remained all these years as a testimony of what this building used to be.

For hundreds of years there has been a hatred of Christianity by many of those who practice Islam; yet that was not always the case. In the beginning, Islam was friendly towards Christianity and was in fact, almost Christian itself. The truth is, Islam has its roots in Christianity. That is why the Mullah Ron spoke to had no problem with him entering and teaching a study on the Life of Jesus. He too, as all true Muslims, believes that Christ was virgin born, sinless, and came to be our sacrifice. Obviously something happened that changed Islam and eventually brought about the barriers that exist today in winning the Muslims to Christ. Thank God that Ron, through his patience and study of their culture and holy writings, has been able to find the seeds of the Truth in what has become error. In the article below he gives a brief background as to what happened to bring about such a schism and why.

How the Roman Church gave birth to Islam

By Ron Charles

“*Allahu Akbar!*—Allah is most great!” The cry that is now used predominately as a prayer and a sign of Islamic fraternal goodwill, struck terror into the hearts of the Christians of the Mediterranean region during the 7th century, as it was used as a battle cry to rally the faithful to take up arms against all who resisted conversion to Islam (the word means “submission to the will of Allah;” Muslims are “ones who submit”). Within 200 years, the followers of Mohammad had spread, the Islamic faith through armed conquest and forced conversion, from Spain to India and from the Black Sea to Ethiopia. Although these faith inspired armed conquests were unprecedented in the history of the world up until that time, the origins of Islam were quite humble in comparison.

Through the untiring efforts of the early Christian evangelists of the first three centuries after the death and resurrection of Christ, through the dawning of the 4th century, a strict monotheistic belief, based on the Judaist doctrine of a one and only true God, had been established throughout the known world. By the mid-4th century, this doctrine had supplemented the ancient axiomatic eruditions of pagan religious worship all the way from the Mediterranean Sea to

the Indus River and from the Caucasus Mountains to the Arabian Peninsula. By the mid-5th century in Arabia, the worship of multiple gods and goddesses that had been so prevalent for two millennia past, had begun to rapidly give way to the worship of a one all-Supreme God. The Arabic tribes called this all-Supreme God, *Allah*, an ancient Semitic named that meant “One God—Only.” So effective were the efforts of the early Christian evangelists, that by the mid-6th century, the Arabic world, led by a group of monotheist converts known as *banifs*, had not only embraced the Jewish-based Christian doctrine of monotheism, but had adopted the fundamental truths of the Christian doctrine that had been proclaimed by the early Christian evangelists. By the dawning of the 7th century, Arabia was on its way to becoming an Eastern stronghold for Christianity. Then came the issuance of the papal decree dubbed the *Verdict of Separation* in AD 600, and the world would never be the same.

The *Verdict of Separation* was a papal indictment that identified peoples and societies whom he labeled “infidels and barbarians.” Because the Arabic tribes were new arrivals to monotheism, the decree identified them as “infidels at heart,” and grouped them together with all other infidels and barbarians who should be compelled, through force of arms, to observe the directives of the “Holy Father” in Rome. The Arabic people were not necessarily offended

that they had been classified as infidels. In the eyes of Rome, that designation could be easily justified. However the one thing that incensed the Arabic people most, was the primary directive mandated by the *Verdict of Separation*: that "...under penalty of death, Mary, the mother of Jesus, had to be acknowledged and worshipped as **Mother of God** or else Jesus, could not be acknowledged and worshipped as Son of God."

For more than two hundred years, the banifs had successfully guided the Arabic tribes through the troubled waters of paganism and the worship of multiple deities into the refreshing calm of Jewish-based, Christian-framed monotheism. Now, the self-proclaimed and generally recognized earthly leader of the Christians, had seemingly digressed back into paganism and demanded that all people everywhere worship—under penalty of death—a goddess known as Mary, the earthly mother of God's perfect sacrifice, Jesus, the Son. The entire scenario reeked of the old Arabic pagan worship of Al-Lat, the goddess of the sun, the virgin mother of Allah—the worship that the Arabic people had abandoned in favor of the worship of the God of the Jews and of the Christians, the one and only true God.

So convinced were the banifs of the truth of Jewish and Christian monotheism and the doctrinal truths regarding the one and only true God and His perfect sacrifice, the only begotten Son of the Father, Jesus, as introduced, preached and practiced by the early Christian evangelists, that they choose to defy the papal mandate set forth in the *Verdict of Separation* and stand, alone if necessary, on the side of strict Christian monotheism and reject, by force if necessary, the *Mary, Mother of God* dogma. The rallying cry of the banifs became, "How could Allah, the One God, God Supreme, be born of a woman?"

For the next decade, a rash of papal bulls and mandates were issued in an attempt to bring the rebellious Arabic tribes under submission and to force them to give adoration and worship to the "Blessed Virgin." The Arabs responded by declaring in AD 610 that: (1) they would not and could not revert back to paganism and worship other gods or goddesses; they would instead worship the one and only true God; (2) the Christian leadership in Rome cannot speak truth, so any and all things that he says must be rejected as false; (3) if the papal decree mandates that Jesus cannot be worshipped as Son of God unless Mary, the mother of Jesus, is worshipped as *Mary, Mother of God*, then the adoration and worship of Jesus as Son of God must be rejected (from that time forward, Jesus was acknowledged to the Arabic tribes as a pure and undefiled prophet of God, whose teachings were ultimately rejected by His followers, the Christians); and (4) the Jews had disobeyed God by rejecting His love in that they rejected His perfect sacrifice that had been sent to them, Jesus, and the Christians had disobeyed God by corrupting the true worship of God in that they rejected Jesus' pure doctrine and allowed other personalities (Mary) to be worshipped in God's stead, which in turn had divided the Christians into schismatic sects. Hence, real and undefiled truth,

through absolute submission to God Supreme, had to again be revealed through God's divinely selected messenger, before true worship could be realized.

In the midst of this conflict, on the night of the 27th in the Arabic month of Ramadan, in the year AD 610, a 40-year-old semi-hermit who became known by the name of Mohammad, was said to have had a visitation from the angel Gabriel, while he (Mohammad) was either asleep or was in deep meditation in a cave in the mountains near the city of Mecca. The angel commanded him three times, "Mohammad, recite!" The angel was said to have then followed the command by revealing to Mohammad the first fragments of what became known as the *Koran* or *Qur'an*. The word in Arabic means, *The Recital*, held by the followers of Mohammad to be God's eternal and infallible word. They further claim that since the Koran both confirms and consummates earlier holy texts that were revealed to His prophets by God (The Torah and the Bible in particular), then the Koran in effect, replaces all of them as God's revealed Word and will to mankind. The other earlier revealed holy books (the Torah and the Bible in particular) are to continue to be honored and respected, but if they are in conflict with the Koran, then the Koran must be accepted as the true and final authoritative Word of God.

After his angelic visitation, Mohammad firmly believed that he had been divinely selected by God (Allah) to be *the* messenger who had been chosen to bring absolute truth to a world that had gone astray, and to confirm previous scriptures that had been given by God to the Jews and the Christians, through His chosen prophets.



The Koran

Mohammad further felt that God had appointed him to bring the Jews, the Christians and the descendants of Abraham back to the right path, as originally preached by the prophets Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus, but which had been rejected by the people. Hence, Mohammad said that he had been chosen to bring absolute truth to a deceived world—by force of arms, if that truth was not accepted voluntarily. Thus, Mohammad's followers acknowledge him as the last of the prophets to have been sent by God to proclaim truth and to demand absolute

submission to Him and to His commandments, and Allah's undisputed leader and messenger, whose definitive mission was to spread the truth of Allah's principles, as imposed by Mohammad (and later by Mohammad's descendants), to the far corners of the Earth. Hence, *Islam*, submission to the will of Allah, was born, and *Muslims*, the followers of Mohammad who submit, became in the minds and hearts of structured Christianity from that time to the present, Christianity's principle adversary and most feared antagonist. Needless to say, because of these self-imposed opinions, misunderstandings, lack of knowledge, fear and assumed rejection of their message, Christian evangelistic efforts have chosen more times than not to bypass the Islamic Middle East and North Africa, rather than risk rejection and discouragement by trying to learn how to effectively evangelize them with the Gospel of Christ. It is

LAST CHANCE—Take a Visionary trip to Egypt this spring

Lord willing, Ron will be leading three trips to Egypt this June. He will be traveling with groups of archaeological students to do work among the pyramids and several historical sites where millions of people live, but are unreached by the Gospel. These sites are forbidden for tourists to enter, but with Ron's credentials, the doors are open to him and those traveling with him.

Ron invites you to accompany him on one of these trips. Your days will be spent with in these forbidden areas, as well as touring the pyramids and listening to his on-site lectures. He will be making midnight deliveries of camels to the Bedouins as well.

This is a tremendous opportunity to travel to historical sites with an expert instead of just a tour guide. It will give you a chance to meet Egyptian Christians and share Christ with the lost. The cost of the trip is about \$2500 per person from your place of departure and includes all meals, lodgings, transportation, etc. If you are interested in more information, give Ron a call at: (770) 531-0180. *You must confirm with Ron by mid February to lock in this price.*

Please remember also that Ron is available for speaking at your church. His expertise is widely used as a speaker on missions, as well as Biblical Archaeology, Creation Sciences and Finances, as he was formerly an executive with Crown Financial Services. Ron is now scheduling meetings for 2004.

What you will see on this trip (among other things):

- Typical Bedouin families. In the top photo you see a Bedouin mother cooking a meal over a fire that is fueled by dung from goats.
- Take a ride on the Nile
- Ride on camels around the pyramids and enter tombs where "tourists" are not allowed
- Help in purchasing the camels that will be delivered to the Bedouin Christians in the desert. This will be done covertly at night and all those on the trip may not be able to accompany us on this venture. If you remain in the hotel, we will certainly appreciate your prayers!
- See pyramids like this one that the Egyptians believe was built by the grandson of Job. They believe the Great Pyramid was actually built by Job himself.



A TEAM Report from ...

GHANA

For information about TEAM projects, see page 15

From: John Jason
Location: Ashaiman

What was the total amount of the TEAM funds received?

\$124.40

What were these funds used for?

I used them for planting a new church in one of the nearby villages in Ashaiman called Adjei Kodzo, about fifteen minutes drive from Ashaiman.

Dear TEAM sponsors:

Greetings from the Greater Grace Church of Ashaiman in Jesus' name. We want to send out love and appreciation to you precious brothers and sisters in Christ who in divers ways sent this support to enable us to meet some of our needs. I used the support to rent a place of worship for the new church in Adjei-Kojoe and on Sunday morning to transport the new converts to our central church in Ashaiman. At present I am discipling two new young converts who will help Brother Banini who is overseeing that work there, I know God will not fail to reward His faithful people. He will not fail to reward them, I repeat. Amen! (I Corinthians 15:58) We love and deeply appreciate each and every one of you dearly.

In his report to his sponsors that arrived at the same time as the TEAM report Pastor John Jason reports the following from a personal standpoint. In the previous four months he ...

- evangelized 2 new villages
- started one new church
- led 53 people to Christ personally

I used the support you sent to take a team of people every weekend to visit three village churches. Our motel and lodging bills and food expenses were paid with the support you sent. We used my 35 year old Land Rover to go to these villages. The back wheel on the right side of the vehicle nearly came out but thanks to our God Almighty that at the toll point somebody called our attention and we stopped to repair it. If it were not for your support I could not go to these places ...

One of our major church planting projects is outside the city of Ashaiman. We have currently outgrown our facility in the center of Ashaiman with over 100 people standing outside during the services. Our current chapel seating up to 600 is the cent of activity for our ministry. The combined churches we have in Accra, Team and Ashaiman are total over 1500 people and 200 in the Bible College. So please pray for two room canopies to house the 100 people outside which will cost about \$350.



**Final Frontiers
SOCIETY**

During our February trip to India we were able to observe and participate in the distribution of 66,000 tracts in a period of only two days.

Pastor Swatantra Kumar led



his church members and Bible college students to blitz the river front where an estimated 250,000 Hindu worshippers gathered to wash their sins away in the Godavari River.

This means that one out of every four people there received a gospel tract entitled "Who is Jesus". This tract was written by Pastor Kumar and printed in his city of Rajahmundry with funds given to the Final Frontiers Society.

One million tracts were printed for the price of only \$4000. That means each dime given purchased about 25 tracts!

Based on their recent experiences, Pastor Kumar estimated that for the next several months, he will need at least five preachers working full time, to deal with those who will contact him after reading the tract, desiring more information about Jesus or wanting to give their lives to Christ.

All one million are now gone and they are requesting more!

Welcome New Sponsors

Sponsor:	Preacher - Orphan - <i>TEAM</i> or <i>Final Frontiers Society</i> :	Country:
Lee and Kristy Frantz, MI	• A Mia	• Vietnam
Mr. and Mrs. James Hair, IA	• Indugapalli Nuka Raju • Vasa Malavi	• India • India
Cindy Dover	• Karl Smith	• Jamaica
Jet Food Store employees, GA	• Uppuleti Prasad	• India
Greg Jones, MI	• Pedapati Ananda Rao	• India
Lynda Murray	• <i>TEAM</i>	• Togo
Warren and Patty Head, MI	• <i>TEAM</i>	• Poland
Tom and Dollie Jones, MI	• Battina Babu Rao	• India
Eddie and Myra Borbon, FL	• Eddie Denosapal	• Philippines
Stan and Donna Jenkins, GA	• Henry Sylvester Nkrumah	• Ghana
Carl and Linda Comeaux, LA	• Melvin Zelaya Trochez	• Honduras
Evelyn Cook, LA	• Erwin Antonio Salgado F.	• Honduras
Joe and Jeanne Wilson, LA	• Miguel Angel Mendoza U.	• Honduras
Friendship Class of Philadelphia Baptist Church, Ringgold, GA	• Nguyen Van The	• Vietnam
Gary and Debbie Daugherty, GA	• Navy Mang	• Cambodia
Mr. and Mrs. Elton Barber, MI	• Beeborog Webereb • Daniel Munavo	• Georgia • Kenya
Wally and Janice Wilson, GA	• Solomon K. Elomdanga	• Kenya
Vernon and Leah Grapes, MD	• Uppuleti Prasad	• India
Jim and April Harlowe, VA	• Tran Ngoc Lam	• Vietnam
Dennis and Eileen Douvarjo, VA	• Bholanath Nanda	• India
M/M Edward Van Heiden, IA	• Bonu Kumar	• India
Dave and Cindy Gardner, MI	• Kassie Bamba	• Ivory Coast
Bethlehem Baptist Church Kalamazoo, MI	• K. Ejra • Naftali Githae • Ramon Antonio Ochoa G.	• India • Kenya • Venezuela
Nathaniel Carden, CO	• Vannak Yun	• Cambodia
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Barney, MI	• Pedro Perez	• Mexico
Jenneth Randall, TN	• Koy Touch	• Cambodia
James and Kimberly Bryant, VA	• Edgar Alayon	• Philippines
Jason and Camerly Lewis, VA	• Bernard Wanjala	• Kenya



INTERNATIONAL Visionary Trips

June:
Egypt
2 restricted nations

September:

Russia
Belarus
Siberia
Ukraine
Georgia
Kyrgyzstan
Kazakhstan
Lithuania
Albania

Oct. - Nov.:

Thailand
Cambodia
Myanmar
Vietnam

Feb. 2004:

India
Nepal



CHURCH MEETINGS

March:
Birmingham, AL
Cumming, GA
Athens, GA
Tocoo, GA

April:
Miramar, FL
Waterford, MI
Conyers, GA
Cincinnati, OH

May:
Hamburg, Germany
Berlin, Germany

SCHEDULES

Now you can make your support payments AUTOMATICALLY

At long last, those of you who have asked can now make your payments automatically. This can be done automatically every month through use of your credit card or checking account, with either PayPal or by using the form below.

Visit our website to activate your giving online or fill out the form below and mail or fax it to us at 478-625-9996.

By submitting this form you authorize the Final Frontiers Foundation, Inc. at 1200 Peachtree St., Louisville, GA 30434, to debit your chosen account the amount shown below, each month on your prescribed date preference. If paying by auto-check you will receive a copy of the check in your next monthly bank statement. If paying by credit card you agree to abide by your cardholder agreement and by submitting this form, you agree to the charges you submit.

Please provide the following information for your monthly auto-donation.

Donor Information:

Name on Check or Card

Company Name (if this is a company check or credit card)

Address

City

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number

Bank Information:

Bank Name

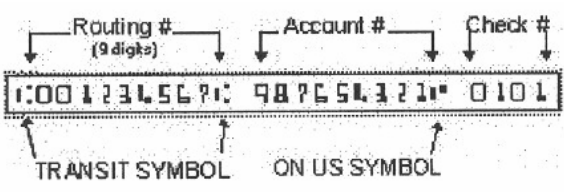
Bank City _____ Bank State _____

Checking Account Information:

Fraction (example 5-215/1011) at top right of check

Routing Number _____ Account Number _____ Ck. # _____
(check number required for first check only)

Enter total sequence at bottom of your check / left to right



The diagram shows a MICR line: ⑆00123456789⑆ 9876543210⑆. Arrows point to 'Routing # (9 digits)' above the first 9 digits, 'Account #' above the next 10 digits, and 'Check #' above the last 4 digits. Below the line, arrows point to 'TRANSIT SYMBOL' under the first 9 digits and 'ON US SYMBOL' under the last 4 digits.

Draft Information:

\$ _____

Amount to be given

Date of this transaction (Month - Day - Year)

Debit every month on the _____ day of each month.

Memo (how you want your funds to be applied if different from your pledged support designation)

Signature as it appears on your account

Credit Card Information:

Type (Visa or MasterCard only)

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date _____ / _____
Month Year

From the Mail Bag ...

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



Kenya

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	2
villages evangelized	12
professions of faith	242
Converts baptized	222

From: James Kimalyo Kosuiol
Sponsored by: Wayne and Linda Gifford, MO

Dear Sponsor,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am in receipt of the funds you sent to me so as (to) help the wok of the Lord (in) this (place) far away of the continent . The funds has greatly help to promote the work of our Lord, especially reaching villages where people are dying without receiving the Lord as their personal Savior. I have used the funds as transport. We are (also) making brick for our new church and it has helped me personally and my family to participate in the Lord's work. I was in Kaehelike in the Kera Poko where by it on all areas for (a) crusade. More than 200 people received Jesus as their Savior.

Next place we are going to open a new church at Chepera and we are going to have a very big crusade and Cheparerai. We have started visiting and soon going to open a new church (at) this is far away (place) from (my) home. I have to travel about 110 kilometers (73 miles) away towards East Pokot.

Praying for your work and love you have for the Lord. I have enclosed pictures to show how we are committed for the Lord's work. Accept greetings from my church members and my entire family. Your faithful servant in the ministry.



Making bricks for the new church



Ghana

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	1
villages evangelized	5
professions of faith	50
Converts baptized	45

From: John Agyei Nyarko
Sponsored by: Robert and Sandy Meyer, FL

Hello my dear brethren in Christ,

I am so glad to write you again to thank you very much for the support of the Gospel.

Thank very much for the bulb you sent to me. It have become a great help to the Film Ministry. I received a bulb from a friend and it got burnt the same day, surprisingly we received your bulb which we are now using in the villages. If it was not (for) your bulb the Film Ministry have become useless.

We operated film Crusade at a certain village and God helped us to win an armed robber and cocaine smoker. It was through the film that he was touched and moved to the front when we were making the altar call. We thought that he was coming to cause trouble but he came with tears, conversing to the public for the sons he had done and needed Jesus to forgive him. He cried a lot when he made the conversing. The money (you sent) , we used some to purchase bicycles for village outreach. Read Philipians 4:18-19

We want to express our appreciation to Mrs. Sandy Meyer who researched relentlessly to find and purchase and ship a projector bulb to John. Such items are not commonplace and particularly when you are working with a very old projector.

This is just an example of how many of our sponsors get personally involved in the lives and ministries of those whom they support. The bulb in question did not exist in Ghana and without her efforts, the projector would now just be collecting dust. Instead, it is reaping a harvest.

Thank you Sandy, for caring!

Prayer and Praise Reports from around the world ...

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

El Salvador From Nelson Esau Crespo
National Director



In January 2004 we were celebrating a crusade in a rural village known as La Trilla. This is a missionary field of The

First Baptist Church of Chinameca. The leaders of this congregation are two brothers whom I have trained for the ministry in the Bible Institute where God has given me the privilege of ministering to new pastors and preachers. These brothers ministering this congregation are: Jose Orlando Toyos and Wilfredo Quintanilla. I praise God for the miraculous conversion of these two brothers who now are leaders; brother Orlando Toyos was leading a life as a drug addict and alcoholic and brother Wilfredo was a slave of marihuana and crack. Now, the two of them serve the Lord fervently.

I want to let you know that in the present year we have started a brand new ministry called "Children's Church". This ministry gives the opportunity to children between 5 and 11 years to worship God in a special building and to hear the preaching of the Bible according to their ages. The service for children is celebrated simultaneously with the service for adult people, who gather in the main temple. We have a crowd of children of about 60 and 100.

Honduras From Tim Posey
Baptist Missionary, Final Frontiers Associate



Brother Paublo Aranda was here with us last night. He is one of our church planters. In the past 10 years he has started 6 no make that 7 churches. Yes, he has done it

again.

The newest has been planted in the village of Tempesti in the south part of the country. There are about 100 houses with 7 - 9 people in each house. It's just a small village and they don't have any type of church at all. Most of them know nothing about the gospel or about Jesus Christ. Most of the children have never attended a church service, or know what baptism is and Jesus to them is just another name. But Bro. Paublo is changing that! Beginning with a nucleus of 7 people and much prayer and personal soul winning the church has begun.

Kenya From Jerry Daniels, BBF Missionary
Regional Director Final Frontiers



Thirty new students just entered our Bible Institute, and we no longer have room to accommodate all of the students in our main

B.I. facility. Therefore, the Maasai Camp complex is badly needed so that we can open a branch Institute to relieve the overcrowding. Many of our new Institute students come from our Maasai churches, so we can see God's perfect timing in this project!

I also traveled out to another remote area where our newest missionary, John Longisa and his family are laboring. I visited with them in their home and was thrilled to see the joy of the Lord in their faces as they told about the work God is doing in their area. They have sacrificed such good jobs with good incomes in answering God's to preach the Gospel in this remote area! They've already filled up the temporary church facility in Rumuruti trading centre! John also travels to several other Centers during the week, conducting prayer meetings and evangelism. He has been there less than a year and is already discipling a number of young men who are candidates for further studies in our Bible Institutes.

Kenya From Randy Stirewalt, BBF Missionary
Regional Director Final Frontiers



Phyllis and I were at Church last Sunday at Elgeyo Boarder. This church was started a few months ago. The Pastor

graduated from the Bible Institute last December. They have had over 40 saved and 30 baptized.

Today we went to a church just outside Eldoret, called Rehema Bible Baptist Church. This church was started a year ago. It is a new developing area. There are



not many people living at Rehema, but all the plots have been sold. We know in the next few years many will be living in this area. They have had 35 saved and 29 baptized since the church started last year.

Sponsorship Information

- 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sponsorship of **Child Care**, gives assistance to an orphaned, abandoned or destitute child. The \$35.00 monthly sponsorship 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. Sponsorship distribution for the child is identical to that of the preachers (see #1)
- 4

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

Now it's your turn ...

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (home) _____ (office) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if this is a new address or phone number.	

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

Please contact me regarding sponsorship of:

___ a national preacher	___ a country's <i>TEAM</i>
___ an orphaned, abandoned or destitute child	___ membership in the Final Frontiers Society
___ other _____	



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

Reports received from the final frontiers ...

Reports received since the last <i>Progress Report</i> (two months ago) indicate there were ...	Totals from all reports received since our beginning in December 1986 indicate there have been ...	A current total of all statistics indicate there are currently ...
219 Churches Started	21,151 Churches Started	1,305 Preacher Sponsorships
1,395 Villages Evangelized	77,553 Villages Evangelized	103 <i>TEAM</i> Sponsorships
5,249 Professions of Faith	612,518 Professions of Faith	85 Orphans Supported
1,650 Believers Baptized	206,649 Believers Baptized	60 Countries involved



**IN APRIL I'LL BE
SENDING YOU A LETTER THAT
WILL BE THE MOST UNIQUE
MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY YOU
HAVE EVER DREAMED OF, SO
BE WATCHING FOR MY
LETTER !!!**