



Progress Report

Church Planting Efforts Accelerated

Learning from the errors of the past accelerate the spread of the Gospel today

By Jon Nelms

Growing up in church, I heard many stories of missionary accomplishments that thrilled me to the core of my being. They inspired me to want to do the same and to encourage others to do likewise. After becoming a missionary, I soon learned that the work of the ministry is not always glamorous, nor is it always a success story. In fact, the only reason I ever heard those stories in the first

place is because they were the “success stories”. The tales of failure were swept away under a rug, never to be revealed, never to be studied and tragically therefore, doomed to be repeated.

When God first laid on my heart the desire to support national church planters, I rushed into the concept with an eagerness that can only be described as “zeal without knowledge”. It didn’t take long however, before the men

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:

Final Frontiers Foundation Telephone: 478-625-9050
 1200 Peachtree St. FAX: 478-625-9996
 Louisville, GA 30434 USA Toll Free: 800-522-4324

Email: webmaster@finalfrontiers.org

Where we serve

The 64 countries where we serve as of May 2004

Africa:

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

Asia:

India
 Myanmar
 Thailand
 Laos
 Cambodia
 Vietnam
 China
 Philippines
 Nepal
 Indonesia

Middle East:

Syria

Caribbean:

St. Vincent
 St. Lucia
 Grenada
 Haiti*
 Jamaica

Pacifica:

Fiji
 Solomon Islands

Eurasia:

Georgia
 Belarus
 Kazakhstan
 Kyrgyzstan
 Siberia
 Ukraine
 Russia

Europe:

France
 Romania
 Albania
 Latvia
 Lithuania
 Hungary
 Switzerland
 Poland
 Bosnia
 Macedonia

Americas:

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

* indicates *TEAM* support only

Applications are in process now from:

Lebanon, Guyana, Azerbaijan
 and Uzbekistan.

The Jon Nelms family report

Thank you for all your prayers on behalf of Juanita. By the end of July we should have news as to her needed operation being covered by insurance. So many of you have called and written, including scores of our national pastors. You have really boosted her spirits and for that our entire family is grateful!

In this issue I have tried to give you some philosophical information on what drives us here at Final Frontiers. I think it is good from time to time to look at failures as well as successes in order to enhance our program and be more effective. Most every day we get reports of so many being saved and new churches being planted. We always give a running total on the back page, but once a year I like to write an article that sheds more light on the successes of our preachers. I hope you will enjoy reading it. I know you will praise the Lord for all that you have helped to get accomplished in the past twelve months. Right now we have five preachers in the Congo that urgently need support. If you are willing to do so, please give me a call at 800-522-4323 or email me at jnelms@finalfrontiers.org



Jon , Juanita, - Daniel and



Recently we sent our a letter asking you to help us buy camels for the Bedouin Christians. This project will continue unto late August when we will buy the remaining “pack”, based on how many of you chose to help out. I am already getting phone calls from some of our “crazier” sponsors, like my brother David who pastors in Florida, who want to buy “unfiltered” camels. (I told you we would have a lot of fun with this one!) Other small churches are buying three and more camels at a time. You have no idea how much this is going ot bless and encourage these persecuted Brothers. If you didn’t get your “Camel Letter”, give us a call and we will send you one or email it to you. I hope some of the churches out there will buy a “pack” or an entire “carton” of camels. Now on to more (seemingly) serious matters ...

Pray for Ron and I who will be traveling into some dangerous regions over the next month. Ron has already left and I will meet up with him in Cairo, Lord willing, in a few weeks. From there I will be going to Morocco to visit the churches there and possibly on to Syria. I cannot tell you where Ron will be but if he is caught, we won’t be seeing him for six years. Pleas pray for his safety. And while I am on the subject of Ron, let me share some more news with you ...

This month, Ron will be speaking by invitation, to 36 of the highest political and military leaders of Germany at their “Reinchsthe” in a special closed meeting. They have asked him to speak on the subject “*Archaeology and how it pertains to history*”. He is also beginning to receive multiple invitations from universities and churches in Western Europe who want to participate in our program of supporting national preachers. This is a great door of opportunity that God has opened to us. Pray that we will be vigilant and discerning as we venture to seek support from Believers in Europe who want to share the blessing of supporting church planters around the world.

You may wonder how Ron has captured the attention of these political leaders. Well frankly, it was done in the same manner that he captivated the producers of certain recent films on the suffering of Jesus (*sorry but you’ll just have to guess which one, we are not allowed to publish that information at this time*). Among his many books, his most recent is entitled “The Search”. I have read and reread this book in the past six months. It gives archaeological authenticity to the events recorded in the New Testament regarding the birth, life, miracles, teachings, death and resurrection of Christ. If you want to purchase one, you may do so at Amazon.com The book is over 500 pages and sells for around \$25. Let me warn you though; once you get started you won’t want to put it down. Prepare to see Christ is a way you have never seen Him before. This book has changed my life. He ends the final chapter with a short preview of an upcoming book. It discusses the spread of Christianity into Europe. This chapter, if you are a history buff, will blow you away. I encourage you to buy this book today.



Yours for souls,

Let's Get Acquainted ...

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

Preacher's Name: Ivan Raul Rea
Wife's Name: Lilia Mercedes Ortega de Rea
No. of Children: 5
Country: Venezuela
Sponsorship Needed: 2 @ \$35.00 monthly



Testimony:

I was brought up in a Catholic home but rejected the emptiness of our religion. Later as a youth, I joined the Communist Party but felt unfulfilled believing in atheism. Upon reading a Bible I began to change my mind about who Jesus is. He was no longer just a religious symbol to me but a real, personal, loving God who died for me. I began to follow Him and soon was converted to Christ.

My wife was also brought up Catholic but as a child, fell under the influence of a friend who admonished her about the sin of worshipping idols, even though they are called saints. By reading God's Word she too came to know Christ as Savior.

After being saved, I began to train for the ministry and earned a Doctor of Theology degree. Upon graduating I entered into the ministry full time without pay, living by faith and trusting in the meagre offerings of our church members, most of whom are unemployed.

I have since started three churches and have trained more than a dozen men for ministry. We are able to survive because I also teach at the seminary and am always training more men and helping them in their church planting efforts. Any support you can give will be greatly appreciated and allow me to do even more in the service of my Lord.

Preacher's Name: Misiriyo Mirindi Jean Pierre
Wife's Name: Mukasine Anne-Marie
No. of Children: 5 plus 2 orphans
Country: Congo
Sponsorship Needed: 2 @ \$35.00 monthly



Testimony:

I was born into a pagan family. In 1970, I was baptized in the Catholic Church when I was at primary school. In 1980, I was led to the Lord Jesus by my teacher who was a protestant. Through the Holy Spirit, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior and was baptized in a lot of water. In 1981, I was singing and in 1985, I became an evangelist at Nyambisi Church. In 1999, I was ordained as pastor in VEBCO and I am serving God as pastor now. I also serve as assistant legal representative of VEBCO.

My wife was saved in 1982. She likes to sing. In 1989, we were married and serve God now together in His ministry. She has helped me I planting churches. She is very good with children's ministries and is involved in visitation too.

I have trained seven men to be pastors and have started nine new churches. So far, more than 800 souls have been led to Jesus through my ministry.

We live in a house made of planks and sheet iron. It has five rooms. Some of our favorite foods include beans, bananas, rice, vegetables and meats. I grow a small amount of leeks, but purchase the remainder of our foods.

Pray for our and our ministry. Pray that God will continue to bless as we tell our people about Him. Pray that we will soon have a sponsor to help in our ministry through prayer and financial support.

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

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we were supporting began to mentor me in who should and should not be helped and in how to help them. It was they who clearly defined the need of supporting church planters who had already proven themselves. It was the unfamiliarity of the concept of supporting “nationals”, that caused us to develop a system of accountability that was unmatched in the arena of missionary support. For that reason, almost since day one we have kept complete records for all that we have reported. We have copies of every single letter, photograph and report that has ever been received in our office. I would estimate that to be around 55,000 pages of reports and more than 100,000 photographs.

In each *Progress Report* we do as the name indicates, we report on the progress of the national preachers and on our own efforts to secure funding for them. In this issue I want to hold our ministry accountable to you by reporting what was accomplished in the year 2003 and in our ministry overall, since its inception in December 1986. In doing so, I want to bring to your attention the mission failures that we have overcome. It is only as we address them that we can begin to eliminate them; and in doing so, we become more fruitful in our work and more faithful in our service. I will address several of them highlighted in bold with a description of what they are and how we have overcome them.

Lack of accountability in Acceptance ...

Our purpose is not just to support preachers, it is to support church planters; men who are *“actively and consistently involved in planting churches and training others to do likewise”*. We make a big deal over the fact that we do not support students nor do we support men who are waiting for a salary in order

to serve. Most every day I turn down requests for support because the inquirers do not meet these core requirements. This, I believe, is one of the primary failures of missions today. Many, in a rush to help the nationals, have totally discarded any logic or requirements for support. I have seen national preachers around the world who are funded by multiple ministries, while others starve in need of help. This should not be. It is for this reason that we do not accept a preacher for support unless he is referred to us by a national preacher or missionary with whom we *already* have a relationship. They must know this brother

intimately in order to refer him to us. And by the way, should they slip us and refer a man who does not meet our full list of requirements, they lose the right to ever recommend anyone else. It is our infamous, “one strike, you’re out” policy. It is hard, it is cruel, it is unforgiving; and oh, by the way, it works!

The world today has gotten much smaller. Pastors and church members are constantly making mission trips and meeting national preachers. It is common and logical for them to feel a degree of trust for the preachers they meet. They want to believe that man is the greatest preacher in his country, and if the brother happens to speak English his acquisition of that position in their minds, is virtually guaranteed. Unfortunately, a two day or seven day trip and exposure to a preacher is not enough to make that determination. I know a national pastor in a certain Latin American country for example, whom many churches here in the South, believe to be the “Paul” of his country. They fund this man beyond imagination. He is likable, he has done some great things for God and he speaks English. Therefore, as they have visited his nation, he serves as their tour guide. He shows them all the marvelous things that he has done, never mentioning the effort and input of others. He takes credit for the work of others but the visitor doesn’t know it because one, they don’t speak the language and two, they are too trusting. While his brethren live in squalor, he has a beautiful home. They walk wherever they go, he literally has a choice of cars and vans at his disposal. I have known this man for more than a decade and have never supported him. Why not? Well, in the first place, he failed my tests. When asked if he could refer others for support, he only referred himself. But more importantly, I took the time to ask around and investigate him. What I learned was this; the other pastors have virtu-

ally nothing to do with him. They see him for what he is, an opportunist. Yes, he is a church planter and a good preacher too, but in my estimation, he does not deserve our trust or support. As alluded to previously, our policy is that in order to recommend a preacher for support, the one making the recommendation must have *"a long term, personal knowledge of that man and his ministry"*.

Years ago I feel out of grace with a missionary because I did not accept someone he referred to me for support. He went on a campaign to destroy our reputation as a result and labeled us as neo-evangelical; ultimately cost me personal support and the loss of nearly fifty preacher's sponsorship. This brother had been a missionary in a certain Southeast Asian country for nearly two decades when he felt the call to move to the country next door. In all those years he had started only one church that had less than 30 members and by his own admission, had not a single, trained, national preacher that he could turn his work over to. It makes you wonder what he was doing all those years. I turned down support for the one he recommended in his new country because he had only known the man for six months. That did not meet our criteria of *"a long term, personal knowledge of the man and his ministry"*.

Lack of understanding regarding the Purpose ...

I am a missionary. I live missions, eat it and breathe it. Missions is the last thought on my mind when I drift off to sleep and the first thought when I awake. My dreams often take place in other lands and it is quite common for me to wake up in the middle of the night and not even know what country I am in. I am a student of language, of culture and custom. Generally, when I see a scene on the television or a photograph, I can tell you what country it is, what area of the country and the people group that is seen. They do not "all look alike to me." Having said all that, may I follow it up with a resounding, "so what!" What does that have to do with missions? The work of missions is the work of winning souls and planting churches. Forgive me while I burst some proverbial bubbles but, missions is not building hospitals, repairing airplane engines, setting broken bones, etc. These are works of religious priority that should be and must be done, but they are not in and of themselves "missions". At best they are a facilitator to missions which over time, will likely have no association with missions whatsoever. The roster of NGOs is filled with social programs that started out as "missionary" organizations, such as the (formerly called) Methodist Hospital in Bangkok; and liberal universities that began as Bible colleges; Princeton being a fine example.

In the New Testament there are two primary examples of missions. The first is Jesus, the second is

Paul. Missions is not something you do (Peter, Philip and others *did* missions), it is something you are. The word missions does not even appear in the Bible. It comes, I am told, from the Latin word for *apostle*. A missionary then was someone who preached the gospel to those who had never heard it before. To preach to those who have heard it makes you an exhorter, a teacher, a pastor. We mistakenly think that an apostle is a writer of the scripture. Where did we get such an idea? Mark and Luke were writers, but they were not apostles. Barnabas was called an apostle but he never wrote any scripture. No, an apostle was and is today, on God's list of gifts to the church, the first gift. He gave His systematic order as apostle, prophet, evangelist, then pastor and teacher. In this God shows His divine order in church planting and nurturing. Someone has to go first and break ground, that is what the apostle (missionary) does.

Lack of accountability in Reporting ...

Today, missionaries can be and do just about anything. Thus, we have drained our "missions" budget to fund other worthwhile causes, leaving precious little to support church planters. You will be shocked to learn that most missionaries will never plant a new church in their entire career! Some boards, like the Baptist Bible Fellowship are a noteworthy exception to that rule, while others, fundamental as they are in doctrine, literally have a policy forbidding their missionaries to plant churches.

I make it a habit to read the letters from missionaries that are posted at the churches where I speak. Do you realize how uncommon it is to read of souls being saved or churches being started? Don't take my word for it, read the letters posted on the bulletin board at your church. Then ask yourself, what are we supporting our missionaries to do? I am convinced that if churches would establish a policy on what they want to accomplish with their missionary support (and that should be church planting above all) and then support missionaries based on that, rather than on what board they are from or who they are related to in the church, then we will begin to see a harvest that is worthy to lay before the feet of our Savior.

On our reports we specifically ask the preachers to acknowledge what their activities have been in the previous pay period. There is no quota that must be filled, but if we see inactivity, then an investigation will ensue and appropriate action will be taken.

On the following page there are two charts. The first shows the results of 2003 that were reported to us. The second shows an accumulative total since our inception in December 1986. Numbers for the sake of bragging rights are an absurd, since all the glory belongs to Christ; but numbers for the sake of accountability are necessary.

Statistics for the Year 2003				
	saved	baptized	villages evangelized	churches started
Total	73,144	28,891	8,663	3,087
Monthly Average	6,095	2,408	722	257
Daily Average	200	79	24	8
Equals	one every 7 minutes	one every 18 minutes	one every 1 hour	one every 3 hours

Statistics December 1986 thru 2003				
	saved	baptized	villages evangelized	churches started
Total	607,269	204,999	76,158	20,932
Monthly Average	2,977	1,005	373	103
Daily Average	98	33	12	3
Equals	one every 15 minutes	one every 44 minutes	one every 2 hours	one every 8 hours

This mindset of foreign domination has ended and Indians are taking up the banner to do what they had never been allowed to do and what they for the most part, had never been trained to do - *lead instead of follow*. Today, thousands of Indian missionaries are venturing into the Islamic northern part of their nation and into neighboring countries with a missionary zeal that perhaps has not been seen since the early church era.

Lack of accountability in funding ...

Who determines how much a missionary should receive and who challenges how that support is used? The most common answer to

that would be the mission board, but often there is no accountability. Missionaries are often allowed to raise as much as they can raise. I have heard of missionaries making up to \$9,000 a month. I dare say that their supporting churches don't know that. I have seen other missionaries who live on a poverty level, yet their support never seems to increase. The national preachers, for the most part, live like the people whom they live among. Look at the cover photo for an example. Here, Go Za Kham is not baptizing in a fiberglass baptistry, concealed in a church building. He is baptizing in the open where everyone can see, and they have dammed up the creek using a bamboo frame to hold together the rocks so they can have enough water to baptize in.

Go Za has a US visa. He can come here anytime he chooses. He just doesn't choose to come. He is an older man who struggles just to get out of bed each day. He is tired, he is worn out. It is just a matter of time before we get the news of his home-going. Yet, he chooses to stay in Myanmar, despite the conditions and persecution. He could remain in his home in the capital, but he chooses to venture out on journeys through jungles that I would dare not enter. Why? It's simple really. He loves his people and he recognizes that his task is not complete until they have all heard of Christ.

He is not a perfect man. He has flaws, but he is there. He speaks the language, he knows the culture, he can digest the food and he has proven himself for decades. Who would you rather support in Myanmar, Go Za, or me? I maintain that if our goal is to send as many white-skinned missionaries into the world as

Lack of insight in methods ...

One of the most misunderstood factors of our ministry is that we don't train any preachers that we work with. The reason is quite simple. The preaches we subsidize are already trained and that is evident in that they have *already* planted at least one church and *already* have men serving in the ministry that they have personally trained. We work with veteran preachers only, not novices. Yes, they as all of us, do need continued training. We help with that of course, but if a man is still "in training for the ministry", he does not meet our basic requirement for support.

One of the greatest mistakes of modern missions is that we are ever training, and never letting go. Let me put it in business terms: *the work of the Gospel was designed to be outsourced*. Paul did not ask for an influx of Jewish missionaries from back home to help with his ever-growing ministry. If God called they were welcome, but they were not requested. Nor did Paul insist on replacing himself with Jewish missionaries. Paul knew the best ones to reach the Greek were the Greek and the best ones to fill the pastorate of the Greek churches were the Greek converts that he had trained. This is why we read of Titus, Philemon, Erastus, Eubulus, Aquila, Quartus, Aristarchus, Apollos, Luke, etc.

Obviously there are many who need more training, but there are thousands who are sufficiently trained and putting their training to good use. They have been kept back for decades and are now bursting at the seams to spread the message.

we can, then we have done a pretty good job, but if our goal is to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, than we have failed miserably. Now, we can either excuse our failures and continue to immerse ourselves in our shortcomings, or we can follow Paul's' lead and like the early church, turn the world upside down.

Then, to touch on another point, you have missionaries who have "pastored" the same church for years, if not decades, yet they receive their salary, not from their church, but from churches here in the USA. Let me ask you a simple question ... who pays your pastor's salary? Is it your church members, or is it the church he grew up in twenty years ago that ordained him and sent him out? Biblically, a pastor is a pastor, whether he is in his own culture or not. One's classification is not determined by location, it is determined by what he does.

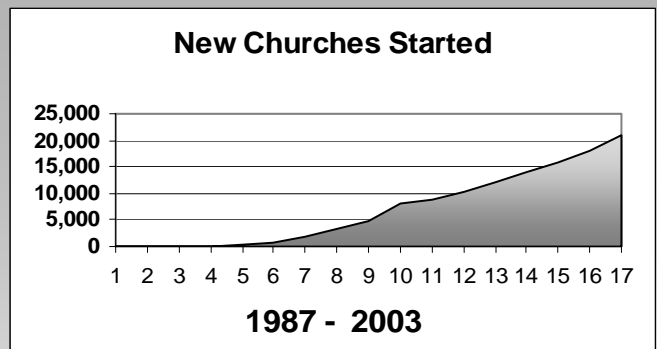
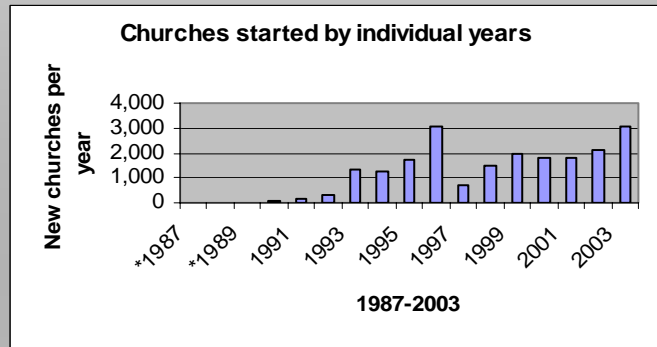
Shall we continue to send out foreign missionaries? By all means and I pray, at an accelerated rate. But while we are doing so, let's hold them accountable to being true missionaries, not just title holders. Let's see to it that they are winning souls, planting churches and training men to carry on. Let's be assured that they are not using the color of their skin or the size of their bank account to maintain control over the nationals pastors with whom they associate. And while we're at it, let's support some of the national preachers too. The work of missions, for all its failures and successes, is the work of the Great Commission. It is our chance in this short life time, to honor Christ with the expansion of His Name around the globe. Each of us has a responsibility to do what we can, and all we can; and to me that means to enable others to do all they can, to expose every man, woman and child alive in our life time, to the Gospel.

We call this work missions. It is only by converting souls and establishing churches that the Gospel perpetuates itself. We were not called to start hospitals or schools, we were called to plant churches. To do that we must preach, disciple, and train the converts to do the same. These new congregations, which in our ministry average around 29 new believers each, like ripples on a pond, will spread out and eventually engulf the world with the knowledge of Christ.

It is clear to see on the charts below that our results are growing at an incredible rate. That is because the number of sponsors is growing. What the charts and numbers do not show is the result of the work being produced by the "Timothys" of our supported preachers. We do not report their "down line activity" (to put it in the terms network marketers understand), we report only what the supported preachers themselves are doing.

I want to do more. This year I have personally began supporting more preachers; not because I *can*

afford it, but because I choose to afford it. The sands in the hourglass seem to be falling at a more rapid rate now. For me, it is clear that the pile of sand in the bottom of the glass is larger than the amount left in the top. My time is running out. What I can do, I must do now. I know many of you feel the same way. I am not rich, but I am somewhat secure. My kids are grown, the expensive years are behind me. I have a choice - consume "my" wealth on myself or use it for Him. I know I am making the right choice. Future graphs will prove it, but only eternity itself will truly reveal it.



Castaway - in a prison of desert



By Ron Charles
*Director of Expansion,
 North Africa and Is-
 lamic Middle East*

In my many years of traveling abroad, the Lord has provided numerous opportunities for me to minister to many of today's oppressed

and persecuted Christians in the world, as well as the "non-people" (those whom their respective governments do not even acknowledge exist). These people have literally given up everything for the cause of Christ and consider it a great honor and blessing to be counted worthy to suffer persecution because of their commitment to Jesus. Most of these oppressed Christians live from day to day without any assurance that they will not be imprisoned that day, or in some way suffer persecution or even death because they made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Most are so poor and oppressed that one daily meal and enough water to drink to prevent severe dehydration, is truly a miracle that must be repeated daily just for them to survive from one day to the next. Yet, their joy remains intact as does their thankfulness to God for the privilege of being able to worship Him daily (even if it has to be in secret) and for being allowed the opportunity to meet together from time to time to pray and discuss the goodness of God through Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior. Some pray for years for the bare necessities of life before receiving them, while others face death, not ever fully realizing how effective their prayers really were.

So often in our daily walk with Christ, we are faced with situations in which we feel God has let us down or has not come through on our behalf like we assumed that He would have and should have. During such times, many of us find ourselves wondering whether God really does care enough to answer our cry for help or our desperate need for His unquestionable directive guidance (many times we feel we need His direct guidance daily), without which we feel we could not possibly maintain and sustain. Yet, many of these above mentioned, oppressed, "front-line" believers pray for years and trust God for a lifetime before they begin to receive even a glimpse of hope and assurance.

Briefly, I would like to share with you one such

believer. Although it is not his real name, for the sake of his protection, we will call him Mohamed. Mohamed lived with his father, mother, wife and two daughters in a small village in the outer reaches of the Arabian desert. In 1955, when Mohamed was 23 years old, British missionaries visited their village and shared with his family the love of Jesus Christ. The entire family accepted Christ that day. When the missionaries left the next day, they left with Mohamed and the family a small paperback (about 20 pages) book of some excerpts from the Gospel of John. On one side was printed in English the scripture reference of John's Gospel and on the other side was an interpretation of the same scripture in Arabic. Immediately after the British missionaries left the village, Mohamed began to pray for three specific things: (1) that God would send more Christians to talk to them and to tell them more things about Jesus, (2) that these Christians would bring Mohamed and the family more of the paperback books of the Scriptures (Mohamed did not know that the Bible consisted of far more than just the Gospel of John), and (3) that the Christians would bring with them and give to Mohamed a pencil or some type of writing instrument as well as some paper so that he could make notes while reading the Scriptures, so that he could teach his family.

Neither Mohamed nor the family ever saw the British missionaries or any other Christians again. Nevertheless, he continued to pray and ask God daily to supply his three requests. Then twelve years later in 1967, the unthinkable happened. In December, 1967 a group of Muslim fundamental terrorists overran their little village and totally destroyed it, killing his parents, his wife and his two daughters. Only by a miracle was Mohamed able to escape the carnage. He walked into the scorching desert for four days and four nights before coming across a tiny uninhabited oasis on the far back side of the desert. There Mohamed settled. For the next 32 years, Mohamed lived alone in the tiny oasis, never seeing another human being. However, he did not cease to pray daily that God would grant him his three requests.

In May 1999, I was riding a camel from one village to another about 3 hours away. Apparently I got lost, because I rode around seemingly in circles for more than 12 hours (of course I know now that nothing happens that is coincidental, when God wants it to happen). Finally, it seemed that my camel was getting thirsty, so I "gave him his head." To my surprise, after about two more hours of riding, with the camel apparently following the scent of water, we arrived at a tiny little oasis that had nothing more than a few

date palm trees scattered around, a pool of water and a tent that someone had pitched. The oasis was so tiny and so isolated that it was not even located or identified on any map. As I dismounted the camel and he began to drink, an elderly man came out of the tent and walked over to me, smiling. He welcomed me to his home and then immediately asked me if I was a Christian. I told him that I was a Christian and I introduced myself. He fell to his knees at my feet and began to worship and to give thanks to God. I didn't know what to do, so I stood there and half-heartedly joined him in prayer. After what seemed to be a long period of time, he stood up and invited me into his tent. He made me some type of tea made from dried and ground dates (it was unique, but good) and we exchanged some pleasantries. Not long after we began to talk, he excused himself and returned carrying an old worn out page that appeared to be from an ancient magazine or paperback notebook. He explained that the one page was all that remained of the Holy Scriptures that had been given to him by British missionaries in 1955. He then began to relate to me his most fascinating story. Needless to say, I was amazed by his unwavering dedication to the Lord Jesus. After 45 years of no Christian contact and 32 years of no human contact, he still worshipped God and was totally committed to Christ.

As Mohamed concluded his story, he said something that broke my heart and forced me to reevaluate my own dedication to Christ. He said, **"For 45 years I prayed everyday, and sometimes many times each day that God would answer my three requests. And then the night before the night of the day that you arrived, I finally realized why God had not answered my prayer—I was asking for too much. I was being selfish with my request and not being thankful for life, breathe, water, and many dates to keep me alive everyday. So, I asked God to forgive my selfishness and told Him that I did not need more Scripture, that I still had one page, and that I did not need a pencil or paper, that I had a good memory. But, I did ask that if it be His will that He would allow me to meet before I die, just one more Christian and to talk to them about Jesus and His love. Now you have arrived to tell me more about Jesus. I can now go to meet my Savior in peace knowing that He has favored me with your visit before my death."**

As Mohamed spoke, I was reminded of the many times that I had wondered whether God heard my prayers and that if He had heard, whether He cared about my situation or appreciated my predicament. Or whether He cared at all about me when I prayed that He would supply the funds to help me pay my credit card bill before the due date (even though God had nothing whatsoever to do with me running up the credit card debt). Or whether really understand the difficult situation that He has placed me in by not sup-

plying the funds to repair my second automobile. And the times that I felt that God had forsaken me because He had not offered me His directive guidance at the time that I felt I needed it the most (there have been times that I felt that I needed that guidance daily or else I could not maintain or sustain). How spoiled we are when we consider people like Mohamed and his unwavering dedication to God in spite of adversity that we in America cannot even imagine, much less have to endure.

Through my tears I told Mohamed that he was not asking too much and that God's greatest desire was to give him those things that he so desired. I told him that I did not know why his prayer had not been answered before then; perhaps God was protecting his life. But, it probably had nothing whatsoever to do with his asking for too much. I had a small pocket New Testament in my baggage that I gave it to him (he was pleasingly shocked that the Bible consisted of much more than the Gospel of John). I also gave him my ballpoint pen I had in my shirt pocket (the kind that businesses and ministries in America give away by the hundreds of thousands) and two pencils that I had in my bag, along with an unused spiral notebook. He was so thankful that he jumped up and down screaming to the top of his lungs, **"Thank my God. Thank my Savior Jesus. Praise to my Savior. I love you. I love you. I love you."** He ran around the oasis and jumped some more. He fell to his knees and cried and then jump up to run some more. This went on for a good hour or more. Truly, God is great and His name must be praised forever.

The next day, Mohamed led me as far as he felt comfortable and then told me how to get back onto the main camel trail. I thanked him and we fell on each others necks and cried and praised God for a number of minutes before I got on the camel and rode off. The last I saw of Mohamed was him waving good-bye, blessing me for visiting him and praising God for answering his 45-year-long prayer. I never saw Mohamed again, but without a doubt he is near the top of God's list of those who have remained faithful "through it all."

Next time we in America feel that we are challenged for the sake of Christ, or wonder if God really does care, just think about the Mohameds of the world and know that believers all over the world are daily trusting in God and are confident that God loves them and cares for them. It is to those like Mohamed and many hundreds more of the oppressed Christians in the world where the Gospel is forbidden to be proclaimed, that this ministry, Final Frontiers, is committed to sharing Christ, disciplining and training, and establishing fellowships.

Welcome New Sponsors

Sponsor:	Preacher - Orphan - <i>TEAM</i> or <i>Final Frontiers Society</i> :	Country:
Michael & Barbara Monroe, GA	• Antonio Ferreira de Lima	• Brazil
Laura Wilson, GA	• Rapaka Aseeravadam	• India
Kathryn Barnett, GA	• Ferdinand Marasigan	• Philippines
Wanda Mullins, GA	• John Lolinyei Longisa	• Kenya
Barry & Le Anne Peoples, AL	• Danut Blaj	• Romania
Daniel McConk, AL	• Gnangoran N'dah	• Ivory Coast
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Barnett, MI	• Juan Williams S. Zorrilla	• Peru
Bob Campbell, GA	• Antonio Bibiano Sobrinho	• Brazil
Brian Cooper family, GA	• Merlo Joy De La Cruz	• Philippines
Pastor and Mrs. Larry Bullard, Evans Community Baptist, GA	• Nguyen Doan	• Vietnam
Mitch & Emily Dinkins, GA	• Abel Reye Oliva	• Honduras
Lora Corbo, GA	• George V.M.	• India
Scott & Holly Patterson, GA	• Mol Sarom	• Cambodia
Thomas & Melba McAvoy, AL	• Hoang Van Kiem • William E. Lotukoi	• Vietnam • Kenya
Robert & Lessie Hill, AL	• Pettala Chinnabbaiah	• India
Missionary Action Project, AZ	• Battina Babu Rao	• India
Tom & Laura Crosby, MI	• Lucas Ulo	• Nigeria
Five Points Bapt. Perry SS class Fernandina Beach, FL	• Chhoeun Ratha	• Cambodia
John & Tina Kuhns, MI	• Yarlagadda Yeshayya	• India
Connie Johnson, MI	• Emmanuel C. Atamudzi	• Ghana
Michael & Jackie Darby, FL	• Son Soak Man	• Cambodia
Patricia Hindes, MI	• Jose Leonidas Castellanos	• Honduras
Gary & Susan LeRoy, MI	• John Thumbi Kigwa	• Kenya
John & Joanne Thompson, VA	• Henry Kinoti Jerusha	• Kenya
Westside Baptist Church Waynesville, MO	• Donka Vijaydanam • Vuba Jeevaratnam	• India • India
Richard & Catherine Vaglianti, MO	• Santiago Gomez Salez	• Guatemala
Will & Barb Farley, VA	• Carlos Messam	• Honduras
Richard Douglas, MS	• Madha Gorla (child care) • Chin Thorn	• India • Cambodia
Frank & Lynda Murray, OH	• Leo Manyasa Obonyo	• Kenya

SCHEDULES



INTERNATIONAL Visionary Trips

June - July:
Egypt
2 restricted nations
Albania
Hungry

September:
Russia
Belarus
Georgia
Siberia
Ukraine
Georgia
Kyrgyzstan
Kazakhstan
Lithuania

Oct. - Nov.:
Thailand
Cambodia
Myanmar
Vietnam

Feb. 2004:
India
Nepal



CHURCH MEETINGS

May:
Hamburg, Germany
Berlin, Germany
Port Huron, MI

June:
Budapest, Hungary

July:
Tirana, Albania
Lazha, Albania
Birmingham, AL

August:
Cincinnati, OH

A TEAM Report from ...

Myanmar

For information about TEAM projects, see page 15

From: Go Za Kham
Location: Yangon

What was the total amount of the TEAM funds received?

\$441.00

What were these funds used for?

For travel to the remote regions where we had a harvest of souls and to use for transportation to deliver the funds to the preachers living far away.

Dear TEAM sponsors:

Thank you very much for the help \$441 in figure. I travel at every two months in the rural areas in the hills. In May I visited Khumnuai village and conducted evangelistic meeting for a week. Twenty people were converted and I baptized 10 people. The rest ten people need more teaching and knowledge about God that next month I visit they will be given baptism. These converts are from animist and I am more proud of them.

We are in political chaos now. US and other European countries banned trade with our country that people are living from hand to mouth. But we still have hope. Our Almighty God can do good things for us. Romans 8:32. For many years we have wonderful experiences of the abiding presence of God. Otherwise, we have been dead many years ago. Our faith and trust in the Lord is more and more build up in Him.

Report forms could not come. Our next reports would be given like this in writing like this. Mails could hardly come after strict censorship. Please understand our situation. The work of the Lord is going forward like the apostles has had faced as persecution arose in Jerusalem soon after the ascension of our Lord into the heavens. God's work can go far reaching in the times of persecution, a positive religion in revolutionary time. Thank you very much.



Go Za Kham, at left, with 9 of those baptized. (see also front cover photo)



Final Frontiers SOCIETY

Opportunities continue to arise as funds continue to come in. Recently at Florida Bible Church in Miramar, FL; in addition to the ten preacher sponsorships, two families committed to support the Society on a monthly basis. This will provide more and more Bibles and tracts for use worldwide.

Several months ago the Society was able to give a grant of \$1000 to purchase Bibles for the Kurds of northern Iraq. Now because of a special gift, we have more than tripled that amount to buy and deliver Bibles to the Christians living in Iran. These Bibles will start their journey from Syria where they will pass through the mountains of northern Iraq and finally be transported by a "mule train" into Iran. (One mule can carry 400 Bibles. A Bible costs only \$1.00)

To do this a team of men will be risking their lives. Not just from danger as they travel, not just by passing through northern Iraq; but if they are caught in Iran with these Bibles, they will be immediately tortured, then executed. They are eager to do this work for their brothers in the faith who live inside Iran. What a great love!

Giving is relatively easy, compared to the consequences of being caught with these Bibles. Pray for their safety and for the Believers in Iran.

Remember, the more we give, the more they can do.

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.



GUATEMALA

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	5
villages evangelized	4
professions of faith	20
Converts baptized	13

From: Leonel Ramirez Hernandez
Sponsored by: Jerry and Rose Greene, MO

Dear Brother Jerry,

Receive a sincere greeting from me to you and to your family.

Thank you to continue sending this offering to us. I have used this offering to travel because we are carrying evangelistic campaigns in Mexico and Guatemala. *(he lives in the border region of this area)* I began this ministry three years ago and every night between 80 to 100 people they have accepted Christ as their Savior. Also I am coordinator of evangelistic campaigns I take charge to buy brochures and other materials to the new ones converted. Also I use this offering to buy food, cloth, etc.

Brother please pray God gives me a motorcycle I need one to go to visit other towns where is very difficult to go. I hope you continue send this valuable offering this one it has been of great blessing to us and to my ministry. *(a used motorcycle costs about \$800)*

Please pray for my family that God gives us understanding and also in respect for my ministry because I am opening a Campo Blanco in Mexico. *(this is a "white field", in other words, an area where he is going to plant a new church)*

Note ...

This letter illustrates one of our concerns in reporting. In his letter he says he has 80-100 converts daily in preaching services, yet for a four month period, he reports only 20 being saved. Contradiction? No, it is a misunderstanding. These are often simple men who do not understand what we are asking for or why we are asking.

The 20 saved are those whom he personally led to Christ on the street, face to face. He does not include those saved in the services. For reporting sake, we use the smaller number in our statistics. Only God knows the full number of souls that have been won to Christ over the years by these men. Conservatively, I expect it would be at least ten times what they have reported.



GHANA

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	1
villages evangelized	1
professions of faith	16
Converts baptized	14

From: Lawrence Lamina
Sponsored by: Carolyn De Paulis, MN

Dear Mama Carolyn,

Many thanks for your faithfulness standing behind the work here. Many of you know this new already but I wanted to make sure that you and your family are informed. Our son Timothy was born. We are so thankful for the Lord's grace in helping Victoria care for the baby and other foster children without too much pain. Praise the Lord!

Please pray that God will provide stable support for the staff/volunteers and family. Pray for lasting results in the lives of the street kids outreach project. We have 56 street kids on various skill training and schooling. We are left with 4 children to reach out targeted goal. For the next two years the street kids outreach project will empower 10 selected homeless disabled beggars to live in a manner that allows for their maximum independence and adjustment into mainstream society.

We request you pray for the regular sponsorship of the 56 children. We need \$30 per month to care for each of them.

Note ...

Lawrence works with a group of preachers we support in Ghana who specialize in church planting and children's work. This is why the greater part of his letter has to do with street children. They also care for orphans and our Child Care subsidiary is responsible already in funding nearly 30 such children in their care.

It is interesting to note also that the village that he went to evangelize in called Bechem. It is a community of deaf people. Lawrence, like most national preachers, do not let handicaps hinder their ministries *(the handicap in this scenario is that he does not speak sign language)*. They just find a way!

Prayer and Praise Reports from around the world ...

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

Thailand From Luke Bee
Regional Director, Northern Thailand



On April we opened short-term bible study for adult and youth from different tribes. We blessed, 17 persons saved but I did not baptize them yet because we need to teach them more about the meaning of baptism. They are all new Christians from Lahu village. They came altogether 66 persons. The villagers want to come more but we don't have enough budget for the people come, so we accepted only 66 people including teachers. Mike taught in English, my wife translated into Thai language, Samuel translated to Lisu language and Titus translated to Lahu, so took long translation.

Our new 9 orphan girls came to live with us this year. They all so happy and they never been to the city before. They all so excited with city life and study in the city in Chiangmai.

Me and my wife Tutu so much encouraged by you because we know that you are praying for us and keep faithful support our family and ministry. We so much enjoy to serve our Almighty God in the Last Day.

We would like to say "Thank you very much for faithfulness support our needs and prayers support. May God rewards you richly here and heaven."



Kenya From Randy Stirewalt, BBF Missionary
Regional Director Final Frontiers

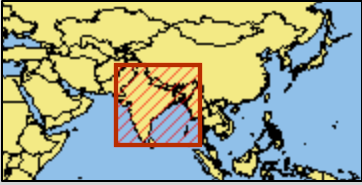


Gordon's visit was a real blessing to everyone. He has such an uplifting spirit that the Pastors love it when he comes. On Sunday he was at a new church

building opening and the local T.V. station taped it. He really did a super job with that.

I can't thank you enough for all the support and what FFF has done for the work in Kenya. You really have made all the different in the world to the work here in Kenya. God has used your ministry to win thousands of souls just here in Kenya alone. We never receive the support without remembering to pray and thank the Lord for your ministry. You have made the difference. Your ministry was the "key" that unlock the "door" of our ministry and I owe you so

India From Pastor Karl Silva
Regional Director, Mumbai (Bombay)



Just wanted to share a praise report about our outreach that we did over the weekend. We had a great city blitz and had around 85-90 people from our church out on this all day blitz. Had An awesome time! We had a drama team perform a 10 min. act on the death and resurrection of Christ, and the miracles of Christ, to draw the crowds, following which, we did a lot of open air preaching.

Great response! We handed out 20,000 tracts and performed in 3 locations around the area of the church in the morning. In the evening we did the same thing on the beach and got to preach to hundreds of people. Indian beaches are very, very crowded. The Karuna team did the same thing in the villages around the orphanage. It is so exciting to see people come to the Lord.

Last week, Sue and I went to the prisons with the Prison ministry team. While I was preaching in the men's section, I noticed a man who was very drawn to the gospel and he raised his hands to receive Christ. Then he prayed for his release. Well, a week later, on 'Good Friday', he was approached by the prison officials and told that he was free. He was on his way to see his family, when he met one of our men (who had gone with me to the prison) at the train station. He was on his way to the outreach. They recognized each other and the brother from our church invited him to be with us all day at the outreach. And he did! He was soul winning with us and is so excited about his new life. One other woman who was released from prison, was on the blitz with us too. What a great hope we have. Thank you for praying for us all.

Please continue pray for our orphanage, the Karuna Sharan. By the grace of God we hope to start building the homes for our orphans and a Christian school for 1000 children this July 2005. God has gone well ahead of us in making the way. Our eyes are fixed above. A new generation to reach for Christ.

Thank you for your love, friendship and support.

much. You will definitely meet 1000's in Heaven who were saved through your ministry.

Randy stands at right with pastors and their wives



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 ...

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

Please contact me regarding sponsorship of:

a national preacher
 a country's *TEAM* _____

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 Progress Report (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 ...
512 Churches Started	21,663 Churches Started	1,334 Preacher Sponsorships
1,193 Villages Evangelized	78,746 Villages Evangelized	104 TEAM Sponsorships
10,267 Professions of Faith	622,785 Professions of Faith	86 Orphans Supported
5,733 Believers Baptized	212,382 Believers Baptized	64 Countries serving



Erik Crosby of Port Huron, Michigan (*seen here with his little sister in their Sparks uniforms*), was the first person to give to our **Camel Project**. His parents read him our slight mention of this need several months ago and in an article written by Ron Charles. He promptly sent us \$10. He also pledge to pray for Ron for "at least 16 days in a row". Well, keep praying Erik. Right now Ron is in a very dangerous area ministering to some Muslim families by request. If he is caught he will go to prison for six years - or worse.

We thank God for pastors like Mike Newman who invite us into their churches and graciously let us share the needs with their people. And we thank God also for parents who are training their children that it is in fact, *"more blessed to give than to receive."*

Erik got the ball rolling. Recently we sent out request to all our readers to follow his lead. Last week I spoke at the Calusa Preparatory School in Miami, FL. Each grade of this school has supported preachers for about a decade. Before I left, the students took up an unannounced offering and gave funds to buy more than 2 camels (\$50 each). Some even gave their lunch money for this need. These were incredible kids. You could see the amazement and thrill on their faces as they gave.

If you haven't bought a camel yet, why not do so today?