

The Final Frontiers Foundation

Progress Report

Using smuggler's trails to take Bibles into Iran

Believers from the United States, Syria and Iran coordinate an historical delivery of New Testaments into Iran



Recently, the Final Frontiers Society, which is the Bible distribution branch of our foundation, participated in purchasing 12,000 New Testaments in the Farsi Language for shipment to Iran. These could not be trucked or flown in. UPS and FedEx could not make the delivery. These copies of God's Word were transported by Believers in Syria who traveled through Iraq to the border of Iran, where they were smuggled in by Believers who literally risked beheading to accomplish this task. Here is their story.

Story by Memed (fictional name)
Edited by Jon Nelms

I want to thank every one of you who participated in getting the New Testaments to Iran. On behalf of the brothers living in northern Iran and those in Tehran, the capital, I send greetings from hearts filled with gratitude.

Today in the north there are at least five house churches in Mattabad and in Tehran we have contacts with 40 churches, includ-



Making their way over the steep mountain trails, a group of four Syrian believers risk life and freedom to smuggle 12,000 Farsi New Testaments from Iraqi into Iran.

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. Wes Simmons - Tacoma, WA (253) 435-4222
- Central American Expansion: Rev. Tim Posey - East Haven, MS (770) 456-5182
- 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. Administrative Branch Offices are located in Honduras and Portugal.

Information:

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

Final Frontiers Foundation
1200 Peachtree St.
Louisville, GA 30434 USA

Telephone: 478-625-9050
FAX: 478-625-9996
Toll Free: 800-522-4324
Email: webmaster@finalfrontiers.org

Where we serve

The 69 countries where we serve as of September 2004

Africa:

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

Middle East:

Syria

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
St. Vincent
St. Lucia
Grenada
Haiti*
Jamaica

East Asia:

India
Myanmar
Thailand
Laos
Cambodia
Vietnam
China
Philippines
Nepal

Eurasia:

Georgia
Belarus
Siberia
Ukraine
Russia

Central Asia

Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Azerbaijan
Turkmenistan
Iran*
Iraq*

Pacifica:

Fiji
Solomon Islands

* indicates *TEAM* or *FFSociety* support only

Applications are in process now from:

Lebanon, Guyana, Croatia, Serbia,
Crimea and Uzbekistan.

The Jon Nelms family report

ALERT

I want to say a great big thank you to all who contributed to the Camel Drive. At the last count we have enough money to purchase nearly 450 camels. 200 have already been delivered and the rest will soon be on their way to their new homes. Now just one final word about that - - - -

Please don't send us any more money for camels.

At this time we don't need to buy any more but I promise to let you know in the future if the need arises. You cannot imagine how it hurts me to ask people NOT to send money but the need has been abundantly met and we don't want to abuse your generosity.



Jon and Juanita, - Daniel and Sara

INSIDE THIS ISSUE ...

- ◆ I have looked forward to preparing this Progress Report for you so we can share the story of delivering the New Testaments you purchased for Iran. (*cover story on page 1*) It is a blessing to know that it was done, but it is awesome to read the story of how it was accomplished and to realize that it was done because of you.
- ◆ It is also a thrill to tell you how our **Night With A Purpose - Bowl-a-thon** event succeeded in Mississippi. We were blessed by those who came out to bowl and through their efforts were able to raise about \$3,000.00 for our ministry. I do hope other churches or youth groups will get involved. Like the camels, this is another opportunity to give and to have a blast while doing so. Normally these events are carried out by youth groups but in this case it



was done by adults in one church, challenging the adults in another church. I think you'll enjoy the story on page 8. And if you are interested in having an event or just learning more about it, give us a call at 800-522-4324 and ask for Tim Posey or myself.

ON A MORE PERSONAL NOTE ...

Since I mentioned my wife's condition in a past issue, so many of you have contacted us for an update and asked how you can help. I have hesitated to ask, in the hope that our insurance company would come through

for us but they have now given a "final rejection", even though her condition is described by the doctors as being life threatening.

Our attorneys state that we should be able to win this if it ever goes to trial and then the insurance company will have to reimburse us; but for now if she is going to have the operation we must pay for it ourselves. Unfortunately the operation will cost up to \$20,000 and I am told that a high percentage of these procedures incur complications that can easily double or triple that amount. I have put this off as long as we can but her condition is now increasingly life threatening and our doctor has insisted that we must act soon. So, I am humbled to ask for your help and at the same time inform you that if you desire, and if the insurance company is forced to reimburse the medical

costs, we can certainly pass that back to you. Please pray for Juanita. Not only is life a daily struggle for her but two weeks ago, she unexpectedly lost her father, who is now with the Lord. She is strong and optimistic but we all want to keep her around and help her get back to normal. I'm sure so many of you understand having experienced the same.

Enough of this doom and gloom; let's move on, thanking God for who He is and what we have in Him!

WELCOME ABOARD ...

We have a new family working with us; Wes and Diane Simmons from Tacoma, Washington. This couple, with their two boys, have been missionaries for more than 20 years and have planted churches in Belarus, Vietnam and Thailand. Though they will still be personally active in church planning in Asia, they have joined with us believing that their ministry as USA citizens can be enhanced by supporting national preachers and encouraging others to do likewise. Wes is now serving as our *Director of Expansion for Southeast Asia*. If your church is on the west coast and you are looking for a missions speaker, I encourage you to give him a call. His number, along with that of all our Expansion Directors, is always found on page 2.

In closing, let me say that I hope you are blessed by this issue. It is such a joy serving the Lord and seeing fruit in our own lifetime. This ministry God has given us never ceases to amaze me, bless me and inspire me to do more and encourage you to do the same. Thank you for your trust and participation. Have a wonderful Christmas season!

Yours for souls,

Let's Get Acquainted ...

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

Preacher's Name: Bamouni Bouma Felix
Wife's Name: Bado Solange
No. of Children: 3
Country: Burkina Faso
Sponsorship Needed: 2 @ \$35.00 monthly

Testimony:

In 1982 I gave my heart to Christ in my village along with my elder brother. In this area people go to the Catholic Church and do fetishes. We refuse all things of that type. God Himself takes care of us. In 1987, I followed my brother, who is a pastor and led me to Christ, into God's work.



In 1993 I went to another place to start a church trained me. In the middle of serving God, I see clearly the call to the ministry as pastor.

My wife gave her life to the Lord in 1990. She loves God and His Word. She went to Bible College and is now actively involved in the work of God. She is a good wife to me.

I have trained three men to be pastors and have started four new churches. I have been actively involved in church planting for many years. Also, I am doing open air evangelism, discipleship, radio preaching, film teams, Bible teacher, literature distribution and other forms of evangelism. I have led 100 persons to the Lord and baptized 30 of them.

We live in a simple house built of baked mud bricks. Some of our favourite foods include rice, spaghetti and To (a local paste). We must buy our food at the market since we are unable to grow our own food.

Please pray for me and for my church members that we will be able to spread the love of Jesus to all the towns around us. Pray that the Lord will soon raise up a sponsor for us so that we will have brothers and sisters to help us through prayer and financial aid. Thank you.

Preacher's Name: G. Benerji Raju
Wife's Name: Baby Mouni
No. of Children: 2
Country: India
Sponsorship Needed: 2 @ \$35.00 monthly

Testimony:

I am the only son with five sisters. I went to school in a Christian orphanage. By the time I completed High School I already had bad friendships and had spoiled my life living without fear of God. One day I happened to visit my uncle who is a pastor, at his church. They were fasting and praying. After the visit, I was about to go when suddenly I heard a voice which I found later in Proverbs 29:1. It really shook me up and I knelt down with other believers and confessed my sins. In March, 1991, I was baptized and then received the call from God to go into the ministry. In 1994 I went to Bible School to study the Word of God and then I went into the ministry where I have been ever since.



My wife was brought up under somebody's care as her parents were separated. Once when she was sick God spoke to her through a vision. At that time she dedicated her life to God and accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour. She then went to Bible School and was trained to serve in a ministry. She is a great help to me in my ministry in the villages.

I am currently involved in church planting, open air evangelism, literature distribution, and child evangelism. I have started and help start three new churches.

We live in a thatched roof, bamboo and mud house which is a part of the church. We have no way to grow our own food so we purchase it all from the market.

Please pray for us as we serve the Lord and reach out to as many villages as we can with God's Word. Pray for good health for us and for a sponsor to help.

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

continued from page 1

ing those in the suburbs. There are more than 1,100 Believers in our fellowships. Though our pastors, who will lead four to five churches each, generally do have Bibles, for the church members it is rare to own a copy of God's Word. Now however, your gift and sacrifice has remedied that lack and we are able to give a copy to each Believer. There are six churches in the south who have heard that God's Word has come and they have requested that we send them copies, so very soon we will be leaving to make those deliveries. Please pray for us because it is very dangerous transporting the Bibles.

When our journey began in Syria, the first thing we had to do was to find transportation. We had intended to hire a small bus that could hold our four men and forty boxes of Bibles. This was proven to be difficult first of all because unbelieving Muslims did not want to transport Bibles and second because of the fear of entering Iraq where there is still a great deal of fighting and finally because of highwaymen and rebels. You know that many of the rebels and terrorists flow between Iraq and Syria and these are the same roads we would be traveling. At last we were able to find a Toyota van, so we crowded everyone in and made our way to the border.

Crossing from Syria to Iraq was an adventure. The Syrian soldiers at the border allowed us to cross into the neutral area but when we tried to pass the guards on the Iraqi side things became more difficult because of the Kurdish military stationed there. They are always concerned about mysterious shipments coming through that might contain arms or other items for the rebels. These patrols don't allow anyone to pass through their zone with boxes unless they have permission from their local authorities. Last year Final Frontiers had given us \$1,000.00 to buy Bibles for the Kurdish people. Now we

were relying on the Kurdish soldiers to let our shipment for Iran pass through their area.

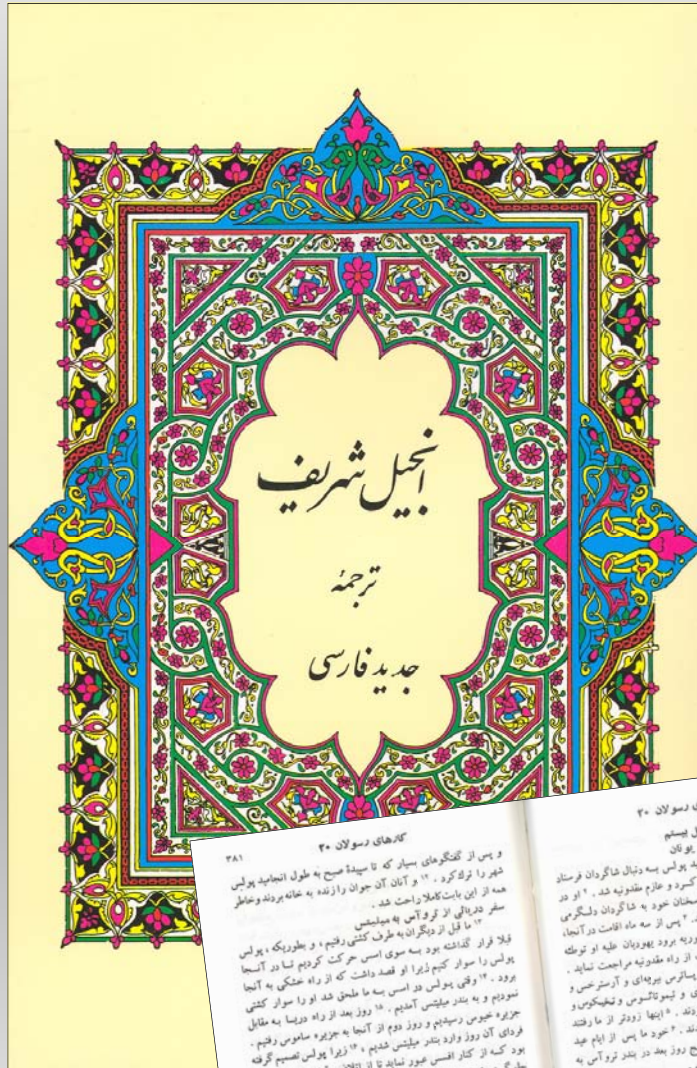
As it began to look more and more difficult, we decided to try to pass at another area that was being patrolled by the Americans. When we approached them in our vehicle they made us stop and lay down on the ground. They then began to search our bodies and the van for explosives and to question us as to who we were, where we were from, where we were going, etc.

Throughout the entire event, we were treated gently and respectfully. They were at all times both kind and cautious.

Their searching lasted for about 25 minutes because they opened every box to search the contents. When they realized we were transporting New Testaments they were curious as to what kind of Mosque we were from. It was then we were able to tell them we were Christians from the underground churches in Damascus and revealed to them the purpose of our journey. Some of the Iraqi troops were not eager to let us pass and this caught the attention of an American captain standing nearby. He approached with his personal translator and began to question us. We explained that we were Believers

who were taking Bibles to Iran. "Where did the Bibles come from?" he asked. I told him that Christians in American had given us \$16,000.00 to print them and that the Believers in Syria had donated \$4,000.00 to cover the expense of the trip. It

was then he told us that he was a Christian and instructed the guard by his authority to let us pass. As we talked he told us that he too is a Baptist and that he loves to have a part in what we were doing. He said that he had come to Iraqi to liberate



A Farsi New Testament



the people from Sadam and that by helping us, he was also now able to liberate their souls.

Under his authority we were released to continue our journey. We had to pass through a dangerous area for the next 45 miles. There were no supplies along that route so before heading out the captain gave us gasoline for our van and food and water. It took us more than an hour and a half to pass this area but we did so without any problems because he provided for us.

Some time later, we came near to the border of Iran. There had been danger involved from the moment we began to pack the van with the New Testaments, but nothing compared to what we were about to experience. Everything to this point, though frowned upon, had been legal. Now we were going to break man's law in obedience to God's law. Several thousand years ago, only a few hundred miles south of where we were, Daniel and his three friends had also chosen to obey God rather than their ruler. Daniel was cast into the den of lions and his three friends were cast into the furnace of fire. In both cases God was with them and delivered them. We prayed and believed that He would deliver us too.

When we approached the border we had to find someone who would rent us his donkeys and transport our boxes over the mountains that reached as high as 20,000 feet. This is a common way of smuggling goods in and out of Iran. No one there ever inquires about what they are being paid to transport, they just hold out their hands for the money. Winter arrives early in this area and it was important that we reached the mountains before the snow began, because when the first flakes fall the mountain trails would be impassable for nine months. Already we were late but God had held back the winter storms for the sake of His children in Iran.

Now that we had arrived at our starting point, we quickly hired four donkeys. It would take five hours for each trip over the mountain and five hours back. Each animal was able to carry five boxes on each trip. Each box contained 300 New Testaments. Thus, each ten hour round trip would deliver 6000 copies of God's Word. They not only had to be delivered, but they had to be hidden while waiting for the second delivery. By the time the trip was over, the donkeys were as exhausted as we were.

I cannot tell you the name of the three men who met us on the other side. I cannot tell you how they know about this trail but it is a common path used by anyone and everyone who smuggles items out of Iran. Everything from Coca Cola to Cocaine; from goods to guns passes along this same trail. As we traveled we would occasionally come upon other smugglers. At this moment you are always terrified because you don't know their cargo or their intention. There are also Iranian troops that patrol this region who will shoot you on sight if you have not paid their bribe. As we walked we prayed. To make our trip safer, we decided to sleep during the day and travel at night. From sundown to sunrise we stumbled along the

The photographs above tell the story ...

The first photo shows the group leaving the village where they procured the donkeys.

The middle photo shows them traveling down a trail that is used by smugglers.

The final photo gives an indication of the terrain and how difficult it was to traverse, especially in the dark-

mountain trails. Cautiously we would take one step at a time on a rocky path illuminated only by the moon. By God's grace we were as surefooted as the donkeys. By daybreak we were comforted by the warmth of the sun and by the warmth of the greeting of our three Iranian Brothers who were waiting for us. Quickly we unloaded and hid the New Testaments in nearby bushes, then we shared a meal together, sang praises to our loving God and prayed. The Brothers told us of their lives and ministry in Iran and we were thrilled to see how much the Gospel is spreading. Then we settled down for rest and waited for the sun to go down so we could pass back over the mountains. When we got back to the Iraqi side, we slept during the day, then loaded the donkeys with the second shipment and repeated the journey throughout the next night. If any of us had been caught, we would have been executed. That thought accompanied each step we took as did the realization that this life is only an introduction to eternal life. If we were caught we would be killed but if we were killed, we would receive a crown!

After two days we reached Damascus and our families were thrilled to have us return. In a short time we received a call from the pastor who had met us on the Iranian side. He wanted us to know that he arrived safely home as well and that they had already begun to distribute the Bibles. We were amazed to hear how happy and hungry for God's Word the Iranian Brothers were. They were so excited that now each believing family could have their own copy of the Words of God. News of the arrival was spreading rapidly and he told us that he was getting requests from all over Iran from the leaders of house churches who needed Bibles for their congregations.

It was incredible to learn also how the New Testaments were effecting the unbelievers. One young man living nearby the pastor received a copy and began coming to the pastor's house to speak with him. After three weeks of conversation he accepted Christ. Becoming a Believer in Iran is a life and death decision, yet this man, along with thousands of others are turning from Islam to Christianity.

A church member who received a copy is sixty-three years old. She had never learned to read, being a woman living in a strict Islamic nation. She would have her grandson read to her every night and use the New Testament to begin to learn how to read. She testified at her house church that having her own Bible is the greatest thing that has happened in her life since she accepted Christ.

One brother, an elderly man of sixty-eight years received his New Testament from his pastor. As he held it in his hands and opened the cover he began to read. After a moment he could read no more, the tears in his eyes were blurring his sight. He took the pastor's hands and said, "Please tell the brethren in America thank you for giving me this opportunity to see the Bible in my language and read it before I die."

I now want to thank you all for your help and your gift. I am told that the New Testaments cost a total of \$18,000.00 to print. Final Frontiers gave \$16,000.00 and some other Christians in American who heard of our need gave \$2,000.00. Then the churches in Syria gave \$4,000.00 to pay for the shipment, the van, the donkeys, etc. While you were all sacrificing for us, we were eagerly waiting for your gift. I want you to know on behalf of all of us that we are so grateful to you. So many of our people now hold God's Word in their hands for the first time in their lives. This is a dream we have shared for decades. Many of our adults had never even seen a Bible. It has been like a rumor to many of us. A fairy tale that has become reality.

We want you to know that we will not take this great gift for granted. We treasure God's Word and will use them to supply the need of all His children here who are lacking. We will carefully use them to bring more of our countrymen to the Truth of Christ. We will pray for you and offer our praise to God because of you.

Postscript ...

The 2003 UNDP Arab Human Development Report states that the 23 countries comprising the Arab world, which comprise 5% of the world's population (300,000,000 people) are as a region, among the most backward in the world.

- ◆ Their combined gross domestic product is less than that of the country of Spain.
- ◆ 65 million adults are illiterate (including two-thirds of the women)
- ◆ 10 million children do not attend school
- ◆ 15% are unemployed (the highest rate in the world)
- ◆ Only 1.6% have internet access
- ◆ The region has per capita, the world's lowest number of telephones, computers and websites.
- ◆ Each year the nation of Spain alone, translates as many books into Spanish as have been translated into Arabic in the past 1,000 years

Recently I heard a report which stated that in the past ten years, more than 100,000 new Believers have been won to Christ in Iran. All that - and without our knowledge. Truly God's church is advancing all over the Islamic world and He doesn't need our help to do so. It is not *because* of us that they have come to Christ, it is in spite of us. We are privileged to be allowed to have a small part.

Final Frontiers has been involved in reaching the Muslims of this region for more than a decade; long before it became popular, long before the typical American had even heard the name of Sadam Hussein. We thank God for his faithful and devoted servants who have shared with us the opportunity to participate in their harvest fields. We look forward to being able to support even more of them as time goes by. I am eager to hear from any of you who wish to purchase more Bibles, support a preacher in that region or just give to one of the TEAM funds for these countries. (see page 15)

In the last year, with your donations, the Final Frontiers Society has given:

- ◆ \$16,000 for Iranian Bibles

- ◆ \$1,000 for Kurdish Bibles
- ◆ \$2,500 for Arabic Bibles
- ◆ And many thousands more for Bibles to Nicaragua, China, India, etc.

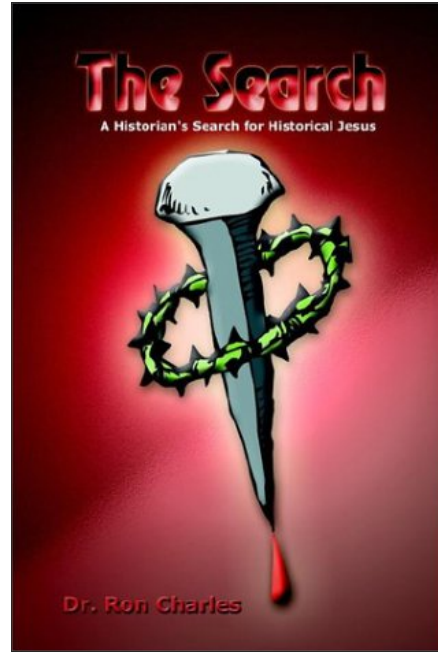
Most of this has come from a handful of donors who share our concern about spreading God's written Word. I hope after reading this story, their numbers will increase dramatically. We must see to it that every person alive in our generation hears the Word and receives a copy of the Word. No man, created in the image of the Living God should be without a copy of His revealed Word. At this moment, millions of Arabs are ripe for salvation but they are not exposed to Christian television, radio, street preaching, crusades, etc. But God's Word, personally and privately placed in their hands, will accomplish what God intends for it to. We must get it to them.

There are 23 nations that speak the Arabic language. Currently we have heart felt requests for:

- ◆ 10,000 Bibles for Syria
- ◆ 2,000 Bibles for Sudan
- ◆ 1,000 Bibles for Morocco
- ◆ 1,000 Bibles for Algeria

An Arabic Bible costs us slightly less than \$2.00 each, *printed and delivered*. If you desire to help with these needs, please send your check and designate it for **Arabic Bibles**. If you would like to cover the current need for a specific country please let us know. Otherwise your funds will be applied to whatever country the team in the Middle East determines.

For another view of why we need to send these Arabic Bibles abroad, read what was written by a Syrian believer in the *Final Frontiers Society* blurb on page 12.



You've raved about his articles so ...
 Don't forget to order your copy of Ron's newest book:

***"The Search,
 a Historian's Search for Historical Jesus"***

You may do so at:
roncharles.com



Three churches from Brookhaven, Mississippi recently competed in a multi-church **Night with a Purpose Bowl-a-thon**. The Easthaven Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Brookhaven and Fair River Baptist Church squared off in friendly competition at the McComb Bowling Center. The event was a great success and fun was had by all participants.

Five members from each church formed their church's team and competed against the other 2 churches. There were a lot of friendly jabs made between the teams and many attempts were made to make sure the gutters were perfectly clean. All joking aside, there were some pretty good scores. A high score of 189 (First Baptist) took the Individual Highest Score award. But Fair River Baptist was the overall winner. Others walked away with the "Most likely to never bowl again" award. Final Frontiers would like to say a big *Thank You* to all who participated as a player or sponsor, your time and donations will go a long way toward supporting missions as altogether, more than \$3000 was raised.

We would like to encourage other church adult groups or youth groups to rise to the challenge and have a **Night With A Purpose** event. Please give us a call if you would like more information. 800-522-4324



Q. and A.

Because of the philosophical uniqueness of our ministry, potential sponsors often have some great questions. Here are a sample that might answer some of your questions as well.

Is there a plan to eventually turn the support of these men over to their local churches?

The support we offer is more of a subsidy than a salary. It is not our intent to remove the local church's responsibility to care for their own preachers. However the men we support are church planters which means they typically move on to start another work, once the existing church is capable of supporting a pastor.

How long do we expect that these preachers will need outside support?

As long as the preacher is "actively and consistently involved in church planting and discipleship" he is qualified for continued assistance. Not all of our men are pastors but those who are will lose their support if their ministry ceases to be one of outreach and becomes limited to the four walls of their single congregation. We assist men who are fulfilling the Great Commission in their own ministry.

What is FF doing to help those churches become self sustaining and mission minded?

All the men we support lead their churches as such. Many if not all have their own mission program of supporting outreach in their own country and beyond. It is not uncommon for them to use "faith promise" as well as giving up to 50% of their offerings to missions. Please keep in mind that we work with highly qualified and experienced men. They need no training from us. Most do maintain ongoing training as it is available but we are not working with students or novices. The men we help must already be trained and have had experience in planting churches and able to point to men in the ministry that they trained, in order to meet our basic requirements for support. Beyond that, they must be "actively and consistently involved in church planting and discipleship".

How does FF ensure that the support levels of these preachers are appropriate for their cultures?

It is our desire to assist a preacher so that he can be full time in ministry rather than part time. This is accomplished by our partnership with his church which already provides some type of salary. We never seek to elevate a man above the average means of his community. For that reason we generally offer support of \$25-50 monthly. For example, our typical support in Vietnam is only \$25 since the average income is around \$35 monthly. In India a typical wage is \$2 daily. Most of the preachers we assist are from village churches and receive around 0.25 cents per day. Our support then brings him to nearly an average income level.

What process of accountability is there to evaluate the performance and doctrine of these missionaries?

Besides meeting the basic requirements already listed, the applicant must also meet doctrinal requirements that would qualify him for any Baptist church anywhere in the world. Before he sees our doctrinal statement we see his. Also, in order to give an application, he must be referred to us by a missionary from a fundamental board or a national with whom we have a relationship. That referral must be based on a "long term personal knowledge of the man and his ministry". We have a "one strike-you're out" policy as far as referrals are concerned. In other words, it does not matter how many men one may have referred to us in the past that are acceptable. Once a non-acceptable application is given, that individual loses the right to ever recommend anyone else for support - FOREVER.

Have you seen many of the churches shed their dependence upon outside money?

We are not supporting the churches, we are supporting church planters. Thus this question really is not pertinent to our situation. Many of the groups with which we work are rural or tribal and as such, do not have much money. Their offerings are usually given in the form of rice, eggs, etc. Items which are bartered. All the churches with whom I have had experience teach the doctrine of tithing.

Please explain how sending money rather than missionaries better fulfills our church's mandate to go?

- ◆ More than half of the world is closed to foreign missionaries, yet we still have a command to reach them. If we rely on sending only Americans, we will not reach them.
- ◆ The command is not given to us to only send missionaries who look like us, the command is to send missionaries.
- ◆ They already speak the language, know the culture, can handle the food and climate, there is no deputation, no furlough, no language school, etc.
- ◆ From a stewardship standpoint, you can support 10 to 100 nationals for the cost of one missionary. Stewardship should not be the only consideration but neither should it be ignored.
- ◆ It is estimated that over half the missionaries sent out do not return for a second tour or duty. This means we have wasted "missions money" on deputation, language school, furlough - for men, most of whom did not plant a single church in their first term. In fact, most missionaries will never plant a church in their entire career. Some boards do not even permit church planting.

- ◆ National preachers can be held accountable to one or two individual or church sponsors therefore concentrating the accountability. Sponsors are encouraged to write and visit.
- ◆ Finally, we should understand that just because we do not personally “go” does not mean we are not fulfilling the Great Commission. The “church” is the body of Christ. Whether we are giving money to an American to go, or to a national who is already there, we are still fulfilling that part of Christ’s command.

Are the churches planted ever asked to contribute a little bit to the FF planters for their later projects, so that their need for outside subsidization would diminish over time, and new planters could be recruited to take their places?

Yes, they do. Their funds do not come to our office, they are used in their own land to support their own church planting efforts, purchasing tracts and Bibles, etc. All the men we work with have their own "Timothys" whom we do not support. As I mentioned yesterday, we don't support novices. The churches care for them and Bible college students as well. I have no doubt that there are at least several million preachers serving worldwide without help. We are not attempting to help them all because many, if not the majority, are not church planters. If a preacher ceases to be a church planter, his support also ceases. It should be noted also that the churches make up for the lack of the support we give. Again, ours is a subsidy meant to help them be full time. It is not a full time salary but a subsidy to fill the void of what their church is unable to provide.

Additionally, many of these also send their own foreign missionaries after time. I have seen Latin American missionaries in Spain and the Philippines and India. I have seen Indian missionaries in Nepal and Bangladesh and Myanmar; Pilipino missionaries in Thailand, Cambodia and India, etc. We are not involved in this type of cross cultural work except under certain conditions.

What network exists for these planters to link up with traditional missionaries to obtain materials and share the benefits of partnership? Or are you primarily focusing on fields closed to the West?

Many of these already know missionaries and use their resources. The internet has helped with that a lot as well. Our primary focus is closed fields and limited fields. There are some countries where missionaries are permitted, but they are not allowed to work with the tribal groups. Thailand and Brazil are good examples of that. In others, missionaries are permitted but not under that name. They are restricted to social and educational work and are not allowed to preach, witness or disciple. Some do, but are expelled when caught. Vietnam, Jordon and China are good examples of those. In some countries we work with the nationals through an American missionary. He in fact serves as a "regional or national director" for

us. As such, he recommends whom to support, how much to support and when to drop support. He disperses the funding and gets their reports sent back to us that we send on to the sponsors. Kenya, Honduras and the Philippines are examples of this. In most cases the men who serve in these administrative capacities were referred to us by missionaries. Fiji, Uganda, Togo, Mexico, Russia, Romania and India are some examples of this.

Is FF able to be involved in scripture translation, and if not, how do you obtain and distribute Bibles for the planted churches?

Some of the preachers we have funded are involved in translation. They have been used by other denominations as translators as well. One example is the Akha Bible in northern Thailand. Once the job was completed in the summer of 2002, our preachers rejected it because the American Baptists, who financed the work deleted the blood atonement, etc. They also translate hymns and study materials.

We have a branch ministry called the Final Frontiers Society that raises funding for printing and purchasing of Bibles and tracts. We recently provided 1,000,000 tracts in the Telegu language and several million in Spanish. We also sent 10,000 Bibles to the Kurds and 11,000 New Testaments into Iran. Most nations also have their own Bible printing as a branch of the International Bible Society. We have also sent Bibles to Nicaragua, China, Syria, India, etc.

How much and what kind of reporting are the church planters expected to provide to FF?

They are funded three times annually. With the check goes a report form for each preacher to fill out (one for each sponsor he has). On the top is his name, the sponsor's name, the amount given for him by the sponsor, etc. He is asked to report on the previous 4 month period as to:

- ◆ How many souls were saved
- ◆ How many people baptized
- ◆ Did they evangelize any new unreached areas (villages, barrios, etc.)
- ◆ Did they plant any new churches
- ◆ Do they have any specific prayer requests
- ◆ Did they receive their funding (This shows the sponsor that neither our office nor the national directors siphoned any of their funds for personal use.)
- ◆ Then on the bottom half of the page the preacher is asked to write a letter of thanks to the sponsor.

When we receive these reports, we read and make copies for our files and compile the statistics, then we send the original and any photos that were included, on to the sponsor.

If you have questions that you would like answered, call or send them to webmaster@finalfrontiers.org

Welcome New Sponsors

Sponsor:	Preacher - Orphan - TEAM or Final Frontiers Society:	Country:
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Drennan, MD	• Say Setha	• Cambodia
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Armistead, GA	• Samuel Muhima • Jorge Arturo Enriquez	• Uganda • Mexico
Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Glenn, MI	• James Muthama	• Kenya
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Turpin, IA	• Ruben Arizalita Espaldon	• Philippines
Mr. Billy Dunahoe, TX	• David Kissame	• Uganda
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Jones, MS	• Vincente Salgado Coello	• Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. James Love, LA	• Nelson R. Caballero G.	• Nicaragua
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Pritchard, LA	• Cleofas Castellanos	• Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bacon, OR	• Babriel Tommy Lalifo	• Solomon Islands
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Whigham, SC	• Karl Silva	• India
Mr. Rickey Payne, LA	• Jimmy Joseph John	• India
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Forrester, SC	• Carlos R. Ramos	• Honduras
First Baptist Church Gilbert, WV	• Dagoberto Miranda Mejia • Josephat M. Makokha	• Nicaragua • Kenya
Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Smith, GA	• George Joseph	• India
Benton S.S. Class of West Monroe Baptist, Monroe, NC	• Bamouni Babou	• Burkina Faso
McKinley James, NJ	• Karl Silva	• India
Mr. & Mrs. James Moore, CA	• Bamouni Bouma Felix	• Burkina Faso
Ralph Hendricks, SC	• Shekhar V.M.	• India
Mr. & Mrs. Burton Dixon, GA	• Felix Antonio Chavez	• El Salvador
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Carden, AL	• Joseph S. Mabonga	• Kenya

Men on our Most Needy List



Name: **Calixto Lopez Cardenas**
Country: **Nicaragua**
Total churches started: **24**
Number of sponsorships lost: **1**



Name: **R'O D.**
Country: **Vietnam**
Total churches started: **4**
Number of sponsorships lost: **1**



Name: **Bui T. N.**
Country: **Vietnam**
Total churches started: **1+**
Number of sponsorships lost: **1**



INTERNATIONAL Visionary Trips

November:
Poland

January:
Honduras
Nicaragua
Cambodia
Thailand
Egypt

February:
Nepal
India
Germany
England

March:
India
Syria

SCHEDULES



CHURCH / GAM MEETINGS

November:
Indianapolis, IN
Mocksville, NC - 2
Ft. Pierce, FL

December:
Tennell, GA
Meridian, MS
San Antonio, TX - 2

Our representatives across America are available for scheduling meetings for 2005. Pastors, please allow us to present our ministry or give an update at your church.
Call Jon Nelms at 800-522-4324.

A TEAM Report from ...

HONDURAS

For information about TEAM projects, see page 15

From: Manfredy Zelaya

Location: Tegucigalpa

What was the total amount of the TEAM funds received?

\$734.00

What were these funds used for?

- ◆ To deliver support to the pastors who receive it
- ◆ To buy Bibles for new Christians (\$300.00)
- ◆ To teach a seminar here in Tegucigalpa for 25 pastors and leaders and one in Santa Barbara with 22 pastors and leaders

Do you have any special needs we can pray about?

For God to raise up a pastor for a new church in Concordia, Olancho where we are starting this new church and for funds for the seminars for pastors and leaders. We teach a course every two months and we need \$500 for each course. The total of the seminar are 10 courses. Also pray for us to be able to finish our building for the Filadelfia Baptist Church.

Dear TEAM sponsors:

God bless you and reward you for the effort you are doing to support the ministry here in Honduras. We are very thankful because of all you are doing to help to develop the ministry here.

I want you to know that you have a special part in all that is going on here because through your help, pastors and leaders are being helped and encouraged and trained to continue in what the Lord has called them to do. Also churches are growing, people are being saved, new churches are planted and the Lord is doing mighty things among us. The students in the seminars are growing and starting new ministries, the work is being done and all of this is in great part done thanks to your help.

Here in Honduras there is a great need but with your funding we are able to help and things are going better for the pastors and churches involved in the ministry with us. We are also able to help to the churches and pastor with the evangelistic team we have in our church, to help them to grow through campaigns, Christian films, evangelistic preaching, Bibles, tracts, etc.

God bless you and reward you and encourage you to keep on doing what you are doing and when Jesus Christ comes back He will reward you.

This is one of our better supported TEAM funds. Some countries receive no TEAM support at all. If you have a burden to help evangelize a particular country and would like to join their TEAM, please refer to the information on page 15.

In each nation, needs like those mentioned above can be met by the combined support of TEAM members who give as little as \$10 monthly. And as you can see, the national directors provide reports to their donors so that they can see exactly how their funds are being used.



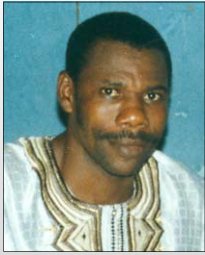
**Final Frontiers
SOCIETY**

Why we do need Bibles for Syria:

- ◆ The Bible is very infrequently available in Syria. Until now we still circulate the Bible among our believers, because many of them do not have one.
- ◆ To reach Moslems for Christ, you have to let him read the Bible, because most of them never have seen the Bible or read the Bible, and the concept of many of them is that Christ is only a prophet and He came to prepare the world for the final prophet - Mohamed. Without word of God we could not reach Moslems to Christ. The Bible says: "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."
- ◆ Moslems are under the bondage of sin and darkness and demons possession, and nothing will deliver them; only the truth and the truth is the word of God, the truth is Jesus Christ. In John 8:32 it says, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." That is why we should send it to these Arabic Moslem people.
- ◆ The Arabic Bible had been translated to Arabic language in 1860, from textus receptus by an American missionary in Lebanon.
- ◆ We have permission to print 30,000 Arabic N.T in Syria each one cost about \$1.50.
- ◆ We have the people to distribute the Bibles and teach the Bible. We only lack in the funds to print all that we need. Already our people have paid for the printing of thousands but we need so many more.

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.



Nigeria

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	n/a
villages evangelized	n/a
professions of faith	n/a
Converts baptized	n/a

From: John Agbakwuru

Sponsored by: Nathan Miller Family, MI

Actually we received your letter on 16th of August 2004 through our brother Lucas that we are all happy. We are grateful to God for touching you people to finance our ministry and my family at most. Your support have being a source of help to me and to the church and we are all proud of you. The church has agreed together for holding praying and fasting on behalf of your family once a month for God's more blessings and protection.

Again through the support you gave us we held crusade and printed some tracts and of a truth we support those new pastors we have for he new branches we opened for the last crusade. We also transport them because we don't have church bus which one day if Jesus tries we will have them. Sometimes we use your support to buy Bible for those new converts and to feed them whenever their parents refused them food.

Moreover we are all happy when we received your letter including your family photograph which I read before the church. They were all filled with joy. Follow us to thank the Lord for adding soul into my family and also in the church, a male baby boy who we named Benefit, Chinaza (God answers prayer) who was born on 4th April 2004. We include his photograph.



Our most pressing need is for the place where we normally have our fellowship, we are being disturbed by flood. For this reason we are looking for new hall which will cost us \$50 per month, we must pay for 2 years advance (\$1200). We need your prayer that God will touch people of God to finance us in the project.



Uganda

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	2
villages evangelized	5
professions of faith	105
Converts baptized	65

From: David Kissame

Sponsored by: Lorraine May, MI

Your support to me has been a blessing form God and I have used it to help me preach the gospel to distant places. My church send their greeting to you also the two churches I have



Kenya

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	0
villages evangelized	2
professions of faith	87
Converts baptized	n/a

From: Kenneth Odhiambo Asembo

Sponsored by: Smith Sparks Family, TN and Liberty Baptist Church, Suffolk, VA

I want to thank you so much for your continuing support you have given me. It has helped us basically in paying school fees, clothing and buying food. Thank you for the wonderful gift.

For the last four months I have been preaching in three local churches. 26 people have received the Lord through my sermons. I have evangelized two villages. In Pundo Village, 9 people have been saved and in Ongielore village 14 were saved.

I have been preaching at least 2 Sundays per month in Naki High School and 31 students have been saved. I have preached one at our month youth rally of the district and 7 youths acknowledged Christ as their Savior.

Pray that we may get a pastor ot Naki High School. There is a need for a full time preacher here. Pray that I may plant a church at Ongielore Village by the end of the year. Pray for my children who have been very sickling. Pray for my traveling. I cannot ride a bicycle on the hills and valleys. Thank the Lord for giving me good health.

I want to thank you again for the gift the Lord continue blessing you.

planted before I came to Kampala. Currently I am overseeing 12 churches in Uganda. Most of these are in villages and average 100km from Kampala. Most of the time I use taxis to go to these villages then we trek on foot for hours reaching village churches. It is really an experience when you come to serve God.

Next year I am traveling to our neighboring counties of Kenya and Tanzania to plant churches. Pray God provides the finances for my travels which is \$500. Pray also for we need 10 bicycles for our preacher that are \$100 each and we need Bibles that cost \$10 each. Your prayers are very vital.

My family is eager to receive your photograph because they want to look at you who is very much behind us. Some of your support go to my children's education. I have put a picture of one of our typical village churches where I went recently to preach and evangelize.



Prayer and Praise Reports from around the world ...

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

Russia

From Pastor Vasily Lastochkin
National Director



I finally got back to a more peaceful schedule, so I decided to write.

We traveled this summer a lot: to Siberia, to Kasan, and I was two

times in the prison for life sentenced. I just came back to days ago. We had the video projector and could show "The Passions of Christ". The prisoners and some of guards were weeping watching it. Many received Jesus when we preached. We spent all day there and it was so encouraging in the light of all bad news around. Keep praying for us, as we do our best to give the Gospel to Russian people.

In December we will have big concert in the same hall which we had for our Easter play. We will have more than 500 people for two night. After the concert people will have opportunity to ask Jesus into their hearts and also, give offerings, which will go for the care to homeless children.

Maybe I told you before, we decided to move the conference in Moscow to the end of December (26-30). It will be great if you could come, we'll meet all preachers, sponsored by FFF. Please, let me know about your plans as soon as you can

Pray for our people, especially for the ones who are affected by the tragedy we had on September 1 (the school massacre).

Thailand

From Kiatisak Siripanadorn
National Director, Thailand



Phanthawit and I were with one of our Akha churches for Revival meeting this week for four days. Praise the Lord because over a hundred people

attended each day for preaching and teaching that lasted from 9am-9pm. By the end of the four days, 14 got saved and 2 followed the Lord into the baptism.

Over 90% of Akha villages in Thailand are now considered to be "Christian villages". When we began our work among them in 1986 they were not even 1% Christian. Jon Nelms started Final Frontiers by supporting the first Akha preachers in October 1986.

Several weeks later he writes again ...

Kenya

From Randy Stirewalt, BBF Missionary
Regional Director Final Frontiers



We just finished a pastors conference yesterday, we had 165 pastors. We meet every three months. This past week was really great!! We will graduate

40 from the four Bible Institutes next month. We have a graduation each week in the month of November, we will be very busy.

Kenya

From Jerry Daniels, BBF Missionary
Regional Director Final Frontiers



Our main church in Nanyuki town has been praying for a long time about the need for new churches in our growing town.

Today, we launched the new church at "Ichuga" subdivision. Over 200 people attended the inaugural service!

Praise the Lord for His blessings! Thanks so much for your continuing prayers and support!



I just got back from Life Camp which is a camp for soul winning of our students at our English classes. I had 19 of them with me. At the camp, three of these got saved from our student center alone. There were over 400 people from all of our fellowship of English student centers that joined together for Life camp at Nakorn-Nayork, about 2 hours drive from Bangkok. Praise the Lord over 40 got saved.

We are going to Nong-Kay Province on Sunday afternoon December 24 to attend the Retreat. Pray for us.

This group in Thailand have over seven churches that have been started by the "fruit" of their English classes. Kiatisak, the one sending this letter, was the first convert of this method and now is the recognized leader of these churches and our first "National Director".



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Moved lately?

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 ...
221 Churches Started	22,490 Churches Started	1,329 Preacher Sponsorships
1,367 Villages Evangelized	82,643 Villages Evangelized	103 TEAM Sponsorships
8,060 Professions of Faith	649,234 Professions of Faith	51 Orphans Supported
2,674 Believers Baptized	222,834 Believers Baptized	69 Countries involved



O Come Let Us Adore Him

Merry Christmas to all our sponsors and readers.

It is our hope that this will be the most blessed Christmas of your life; that you will honor Christ in all you do and have the joy of introducing someone to Him.

“... and by it, he being dead, yet speaketh.” Hebrews 11:4

Every day, faithful Christians send support to their sponsored preachers through the Final Frontiers Foundation. Preachers around the world know that their sponsor is praying for them and they can work harder knowing they have someone standing with them.

But what happens when a sponsor is called to Heaven? Perhaps you as a sponsor have not thought about what will happen to your national preacher after you receive your final call.

We at the Final Frontiers Foundation want you to know that there are financial vehicles available to you whereby you can continue to sponsor your pastor long after your death. Here are a few examples of what other sponsors have done:

- ◆ List the Final Frontiers Foundation in your will
- ◆ Gift stocks, bonds or property to the Final Frontiers Foundation
- ◆ Set up a trust with Final Frontiers Foundation as the beneficiary.

There are many legal and beneficial ways that your commitment to missions and the support of national preachers can live on long after your passing. Some of these can offer you a life time income and/or estate inheritance advantages for your children. For more information call our office or consult your lawyer, financial or estate planner. We will be glad to provide any needed information so that your missionary spirit can live on and continue producing fruit for eternity.