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HOPE *for* EUROPE

AFE
NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS

As we see the world around us falling apart in so many ways, many wonder why it is happening. Why has it come to this level of deterioration? Why does it seem like so much hopelessness is around us? Is there any hope for the future?

Looking at Europe, we can easily see such spiritual darkness. We see the effects of sin on culture and society. We see the product of wasted lives and hopeless dreams. We see what happens when no direction or purpose is given. However, it was not always that way in Europe. Europe was once the home of great spiritual revival. Europe was once home to great Biblical study. Churches all over Europe once preached the Gospel of Christ. The truth was proclaimed! The Message was told! Yet all we see now is that spiritual darkness that has captured a continent and affected the world.

In examining the condition of Europe, we see a great emphasis on culture reaching to the younger generation. There are many different age groups in that continent, but we see a major push for the minds and hearts of teenagers. In studying that push, it becomes very clear why Europe has become the hopeless continent that it is—the younger generation was not trained to carry on the message of truth that once led so many to a saving knowledge of Christ. We see that Europe became apathetic towards the Bible and things of God and in turn allowed other influences to determine the direction of countries and people. We saw the things of this world reach out more to teenagers than people with Bible truth. As a result, the message of hope that was once delivered has been

replaced with an atmosphere of hopelessness that is now dominant. The Bible says in Psalm 33:12, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...”. The opposite then could be true—the nation that does not have the Lord as their God will not be blessed. We see that clearly in Europe.

The concern about the status of Europe is magnified by the concern that we have for America. As we watch our society and citizens reject God and the truths of Scripture, it could only be a matter of time before we too are hopeless. However, there is hope! If we are to keep the Christian heritage alive and remain a land where spiritual hope lives, we **MUST** train the next generation to carry on the truth of the Gospel of Christ. There is no reason why we must live in a land of hopelessness. There is no reason to watch future generations wallow in darkness and sin. We must invest time and energy in teaching our young people the truth. We must pass on the Bible and, most importantly, the God of the Bible. We must provide them with the hope-filled message that only exists in the Scriptures. We must make disciples out of our young people so that they will one day take the lead and turn back the tide of hopelessness and proclaim the message of hope! This is what will keep the light of truth going—one generation recognizing the need and accepting the responsibility to train the next generation to “fight the good fight of faith.” Parents, church members, teachers, and so many others must be active in the fight against hopelessness.

Europe is not without hope. While it is dark, the light of the Gospel is a powerful message! Europe can have a spiritual revival. While there is still time, let us keep the hope alive in America so that we can be a part of spreading the hope in Europe. Let us not neglect our young people, but rather train and equip them to live a life for God and spread His message of hope around the world!



ISLAM IN EUROPE

The changing world of Europe.

For 1000 years, Europe has been the last bastion of Christendom. The last 250 years have been years of worldwide advance for the gospel. But today there is a steady decline in faith. Europe has watched secularism and religious social policies erode the faith of their people. No longer are the days of John Calvin with a line-up of missionary candidates knocking on his door and seeking his advice on where they can serve the Lord.

Much of the change happening in Europe has resulted in a biblical illiteracy that is shockingly common. European ideologies have had worldwide dominance. Now we see how the effects of humanism, secularism, socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Nazi-ism, and amoral capitalism have contributed to the erosion of Europe's Christian heritage.

In spite of the high levels of education and historic influence of the Scripture in European society, traditional roots of Evangelicals, Puritans, Anabaptists and free churches, unfortunately have lent to the tendency of Christians toward an outward quietism and withdrawal from engagement with society.

The result is a spiritual vacuum that leaves the door open to atheism as well as Islam and other religions.

In their book, *Already Gone*, Ken Ham and Britt Beemer draw attention to the fact that

since 1969, 1500 churches in England alone have heard the final thud of their doors. Between 1998 and 2005 there has been an overall decline in regular church attendance of 15% and the trend continues.

Population decline is also a factor in the changes in Europe. Europe's aging population and low fertility rate are major contributions to eminent change. Traditional Europeans are failing to reproduce themselves. Historically no culture has ever reversed a 1.9 fertility rate. As of 2007, the fertility rate in France 1.8, England 1.6, Greece and Germany 1.3, Italy 1.2 in Spain 1.1. As the population shrinks, so does the culture. Humanistic reasoning has led man to ignore the Biblical mandate to "be fruitful and multiply".

A Peaceful Invasion. Immigrants have continued to flow into Europe, both legally and illegally in big numbers. The population of immigrants from outside Europe now

reaches close to 30 million. Many pay exorbitant funds for the services of traffickers and others who try to sneak in by countless different methods. It is said that hundreds of thousands are illegally trafficked against their will into Europe, most of them women to be used in the sex trade. Others are forced to work in inhuman conditions for low wages and others still forced to marry against their will.

The population of Europe however is not declining, primarily because of Islamic immigration. There is a population explosion among Muslims. Since 1990, the French have produced 1.8 children per family, Muslims: 8.1 children per family. 30% of children of the age of 20 or under are Islamic. In four of the largest cities, that number has grown to 45%. By 2027 one in five Frenchmen will be Muslim. In just 39 years, France will be an Islamic Republic.

In the last 30 years, The United Kingdom has had a 30 fold increase of Muslims. In the Netherlands 50% of all newborns are Muslim. In just 15 years half of the population will be Muslim. In Russia there are 23 million Muslims, meaning, one out of five Russians are Muslim. 40% of the entire Russian army will be Islamic in just a few years. The government of Belgium has stated that by 2025, one third of all European children will be born to Muslim families.

With immigrants having babies three times faster than native Europeans, Europe's future is going to be multi-cultural. But it may not be peaceful.

Islam is a political system as well as a religious system. While the entrance of Islam into a country appears "religious", soon pressure is increased on local officials to allow Sharia Law to govern the Islamic population. The first step in the growth of a Muslim community is to put political pressure on local officials to establish laws prohibiting criticism of Islam.

The European Union has offered to host the next meeting of the so-called Istanbul Process, an aggressive effort by Muslim countries to make it an international crime to criticize Islam. The announcement comes less than one month after the United States hosted its own Istanbul Process conference in Washington, DC.

As the Muslim population grows, so do the converts to Islam.

France: The total number of mosques in France has already doubled to more than 2,000 during just the past ten years. An estimated 70,000 French citizens have converted to Islam in recent years, according to a report by France 3 public television. As in Britain, the majority of converts to Islam in France are young women who say they are disenchanted with materialism.

Brussels is the capital of Europe. But some are now calling it the Muslim capital of Europe. Muslims are still a minority in Belgium, but in the capital of Brussels, they're already the largest religious group, comprising one-quarter of the city's population. In less than 20 years they're expected to be the majority. "Welcome to 'Belgistan.'"

In Britain, the number of Muslim converts recently passed the 100,000 mark, according to a survey conducted by an inter-faith group called Faith Matters. The survey revealed that nearly two thirds of the converts were women, more than 70% were white and the average age at conversion was just 27.



Overall, at least 10,000 churches have been closed in Britain since 1960. There are now more than 1,700 official mosques in Britain, many converted from former churches. In addition, there are an estimated 2,000 Muslim prayer halls and unknown thousands of unofficial mosques in garages or warehouses scattered throughout the country.

Islam is set to displace Christianity in Britain even further in the years ahead. The number of Muslims in Britain is forecast to double to 5.5 million, or 8% of the total British population, by 2030, according to the Washington, DC-based Pew Research Center.

In Germany, more than 400 Roman Catholic churches and more than 100 Protestant churches have been closed since 2000, according to one estimate. Another 700 Roman Catholic churches are slated to be closed over the next several years.

By contrast, there are now more than 200 mosques (including more than 40 mega-mosques), 2,600 Muslim prayer halls and a countless number unofficial mosques in Germany. Another 128 mosques are currently under construction, according to the Zentralinstitut Islam-Archiv, a Muslim organization based in Germany.

In Germany, at least 20,000 people have converted to Islam in recent years, according to a report by RTL television. Some of these converts are playing a growing role in jihad in Germany. Germans are

especially concerned about the refusal of millions of Muslim immigrants to integrate into German society, as well as the emergence of a parallel legal system in Germany based on Islamic Sharia law.

An initiative to hand out 25 million copies of the Koran has raised the concern of politicians and even Muslims in Germany.

Conversions to Islam are also rife in Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal and Spain.

In Italy, Ambassador Alfredo Maiolese, an Italian MP, recently became a Muslim and now dedicates his time trying to improving the image of Islam in the West.

In Sweden, there are now at least 5,000 converts to Islam.

In Switzerland, young converts to Islam are a potential threat to the country's security, according to Alard du Bois-Reymond, who was head of the Swiss Migration Office until he was removed for his politically incorrect observations.

In Spain, at least 50,000 native Spaniards have converted to Islam in recent years, many of them women. Webislam.net, a Spanish-language website devoted to propagating Islam in Spain, recently published an article that encourages Spanish women to wed Muslim men. The article describes marriage to a Muslim this way: "Multiculturalism is a rewarding experience for all concerned."

Bullfighting is now illegal in the Spanish province of Catalonia. Some arenas have been converted into business spaces. But Muslims want to turn the most famous arena, the Coliseum, into a giant mosque.



Are Muslims receptive to the gospel?

Some Muslims are vigorously opposed to the gospel, while others are very open. Media hype has taught us to stereotype and label all as terrorists. While the majority are nominal, many Muslims are serious about their faith. They have a sincere desire to please God. Most commonly they are family people, love hospitality, and once you gain their friendship and trust, they can be the most loyal of friends.

Every generation is responsible to reach their own world with the gospel. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commands us to go to all nations, "...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you"... Acts 1:8 tells us that we are to go and preach the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit, in Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. In the garden, Jesus prayed "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;" John 17:20. Necessity is laid on us to tell them of our Savior.

The prophet Habakkuk was frustrated with his generation. He cried to the Lord for his people who honored God with their lips but not with their hearts. The Lord responded and promised that He would do a work that Habakkuk would not believe. God told Habakkuk what he was going to do. "For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, *that* bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwelling-places *that are* not theirs." Habakkuk 1:6. Because Israel was unwilling to be a "light" to their generation, God would send the Chaldeans to them. Such seems to be the case in the former "Christian" Europe as well as in America. If we will not go to them, God will send them to us. God's response to the perplexed prophet was "...the just shall live by his faith." Habakkuk 2:4

Well, we might say, it's Europe's problem, not ours, they've had their day. Let us note the evidence of Islam right here around us, where we live.

There are 20 Islamic centers in greater Cincinnati. The nearest one is less than a mile from First Baptist Church of Milford. God has brought them to us.

Will we ignore them? Or search them out to befriend them? The day of isolationism is over. It is our responsibility before God to reach out to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the world.

As for our children: we have been very strong on soul winning, but weak in discipleship. We must inlay the foundations of God's Word deeply into the hearts of our children. The Chronological Bible Teaching series, builds a sure biblical foundation for both adults and children.

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"
Psalms 11:3.

HOW CAN THE MISSIONARY REACH A MUSLIM IN EUROPE?

The same way they can be reached here in America.

Here are several suggestions to help us with Muslim evangelism.

1. Avoid stereotyping. Not all Muslims are the same. While they strive to meet the requirements of the Koran, they're not fanatical about their religion just as Americans are not fanatical about their religion.

2. Place ourselves in places to meet Muslims. Meeting a Christian is the best way to dispel preconceived ideas Muslims have about Christians. Commonly they have never seen a true Christian. They will most often respect you for your faith.

3. Topics you will encounter. Please understand that there are cultural norms for conversation that are different than those we are used to working with. There are two subjects that Americans frequently seem to avoid: Our politics and religion.

However, politics and religion are the topics of choice for many Muslims. It is important that our patriotism not get mixed with the kingdom of God. Avoid arguments.

4. Establish the spiritual dimension in your friendship. Muslims would not be offended, as most Americans, about the spiritual dimensions in your life but would welcome it as a breath of fresh air.

5. Questions to use when meeting people for the first time.

A. Where are you from? People love to share where they are from. The interest in their country of origin shows that you care.

B. How long have you been here? This question helps you learn some of the issues they might

have been facing. Be sensitive to the cultural adjustments they are experiencing. Your friendship and concern can help ease their anxieties.

C. Find a need based issue and ask if you can pray with them on the spot, in Jesus' name. Missionaries have found that 99% of the people will not object to prayer. Commonly the prayer you offer in their presence may be the first time anyone has ever prayed for them and their needs.

D. Give literature. After you have prayed, be prepared to give some literature if appropriate. People are always more open to receiving literature after you have impacted them in a positive way. Ex: All That The Prophets Have spoken, by John Cross.

6. Use your gift of hospitality. Some are afraid to be identified as Islam. The media image has made them fearful to talk about Islam. When you can sit down and ask about their family and talk about your family they can relax. Commonly, such exchanges happen over a cup of tea.

Hospitality in American culture is inviting someone into your home for dinner. We never drop in unannounced. But for most first-generation Muslims, the greatest sign of friendship is stopping by unannounced. Be prepared to drink a cup of tea or "chai", and a light snack.

They may rarely visit you but desire you to visit them. Do it. Remember there is a polite exchange that means so much in their cul-

tures. When asked if you want tea, refuse saying you don't want to put them out. When they offer it again, gently refuse saying you don't want to trouble them. When they say it's no trouble, accept if they are having some.

This polite exchange allows the host to show their hospitality and their friendship. This goes a long way in establishing a friendship.

7. Use your holidays as a teaching tool. Invite your Muslim friends, to your home for the various American holidays, explaining the history behind the symbols in the event.

Caution: Don't serve pork. Give them the Jesus video in their mother tongue, a gift of your friendship at Christmas or at the end of Ramadan. Perhaps you will have the opportunity to watch it with them explaining the significance of what Jesus taught and His death and resurrection.

8. Get Scripture into their hands. Muslims are told to read the Bible in the Koran. But they are also told that the Bible of today is not the original, besides the last revelation has come in the Koran, their holy book. Don't get sucked into debating the Bible, read it together. When Muslims read the Bible, God speaks to them.

If they say the Bible is changed, ask the following questions: Who changed it? What was changed? When was it changed? Where has it been changed? Why was it changed?





INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF OUR MISSIONARIES

Missionary - Walter Stevens

Question: I'm sure there are many that will read this article that don't know you well, so can you give us some background information on you and your family, and how God led you to the place where you serve today? Don't forget to give us the names and ages of all the children.

Reply: Dolly and I were raised in a traditional Gypsy family in the U.S. All of our great-grandparents emigrated to the U.S. from various countries in Europe. Our home was bi-lingual. Dolly and I were married within our culture, December 9, 1971. Our marriage was prearranged by our parents. We did not speak to one another until the day of the wedding. Before our conversion in 1980, Dolly was a fortune teller and I was a con-man in a traveling carnival. After we were saved we were discipled in a good Independent Baptist church in Ohio.

Question: How well have you adjusted to the culture?

Reply: For us this was no problem as we are full blooded Rroma (Gypsies)

Question: What new challenges have you experienced that you didn't experience before?

Reply: As we are aging we are now experiencing health issues. Dolly has cancer and I have high blood pressure and other issues.

Question: What is the most influential religion in the area you are working, and what unique challenge does that present?

Reply: Catholicism and Russian Orthodox. They pose no problems as they are out of touch with the people. The religions we battle the most are the Pentecostals and Reformation church. The Pentecostals appeal to the flesh of the Rroma as they are very carnal people. The Reformation church gives it's member a false sense of salvation.

Question: How will you go about evangelizing the people you are trying to reach?

Reply: Our most productive tool of evangelism is open air meetings. We work mostly in rural areas and the people will come just out of curiosity. God has allowed us to see many saved this way.

Question: What methods will you use to train and disciple the new converts?

Reply: The typical methods (western) of discipleship do not work here. Most of our people are poorly educated and some cannot read at all. Our discipleship is predominately done in and during the church services. Every time the doors are open our people are there to feast on God's Word. We have seen tremendous spiritual growth among our people.

Question: What are some of the goals you have set for yourself and the ministry?

Reply: To continue church planting, to enlarge our Bible institute ministry. To bring someone on board to help teach our people how to read and write. To try to establish some sort of factory to put our men to work.

Question: What advice would you offer a missionary preparing to serve in Europe?

Reply: Raise a lot of money. I am serious. The Euro, poor economies, inflation, taxes and gas prices are killing us. Finances affect what we can and cannot do for Christ.

Question: How can your home church encourage you and other missionaries on the field?

Reply: We enjoy hosting teams. It exposes the greatest Christians in the entire world to our people and at the same time exposes our people to the U. S. churches.

Missionary wife – Dolly Stevens

Question: How are you adjusting to the culture?

Reply: It has not been a problem for me as I can identify with the Roma women as I am a Gypsy.

Question: Do you involve yourself in the ministry, or is your focus on taking care of the home and the children.

Reply: My main focus had been the home. But since my cancer that is even limited. I do get involved with our VBS programs and women's meetings.

Question: What is a typical day like for you?

Reply: These days not much. My lung cancer has affected my breathing, so I am limited to what I can do.

Question: What advice would you offer the wife of a missionary preparing to serve in Europe?

Reply: Fall in love with Jesus and fall in love with your people. Being prepared for heartaches and being disappointed. If you're prepared you will handle it better. Don't call the U.S. "home"; call your field "home". Invest. You will never be sorry you did. The dividends are eternal.

This question is for both of you -

Question: How can your home church encourage you and other missionaries on the field?

Reply: We enjoy notes, cards, emails and little things that we get from the states. Dolly enjoys some of her favorite cooking magazines from time to time.

Question: What are the greatest prayer needs you have for yourselves and the ministry, keeping in mind that this article will not be read until a few months from now.

Reply: Dolly's healing of cancer. Finances for our many ministries. Others to answer God's call to work among the Roma of E. Europe.

Question: What would you like to say to your home church, and your other supporting churches, that perhaps we didn't cover in this interview?

Reply: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Without YOU we could not be faithful to our call.



MISSIONS IS FOR EVERYONE

One of the exciting characteristics of the Great Commission is the fact that it is a command for all Christians to share the gospel with others whether you are young or old, rich or poor, newly saved or a senior saint.

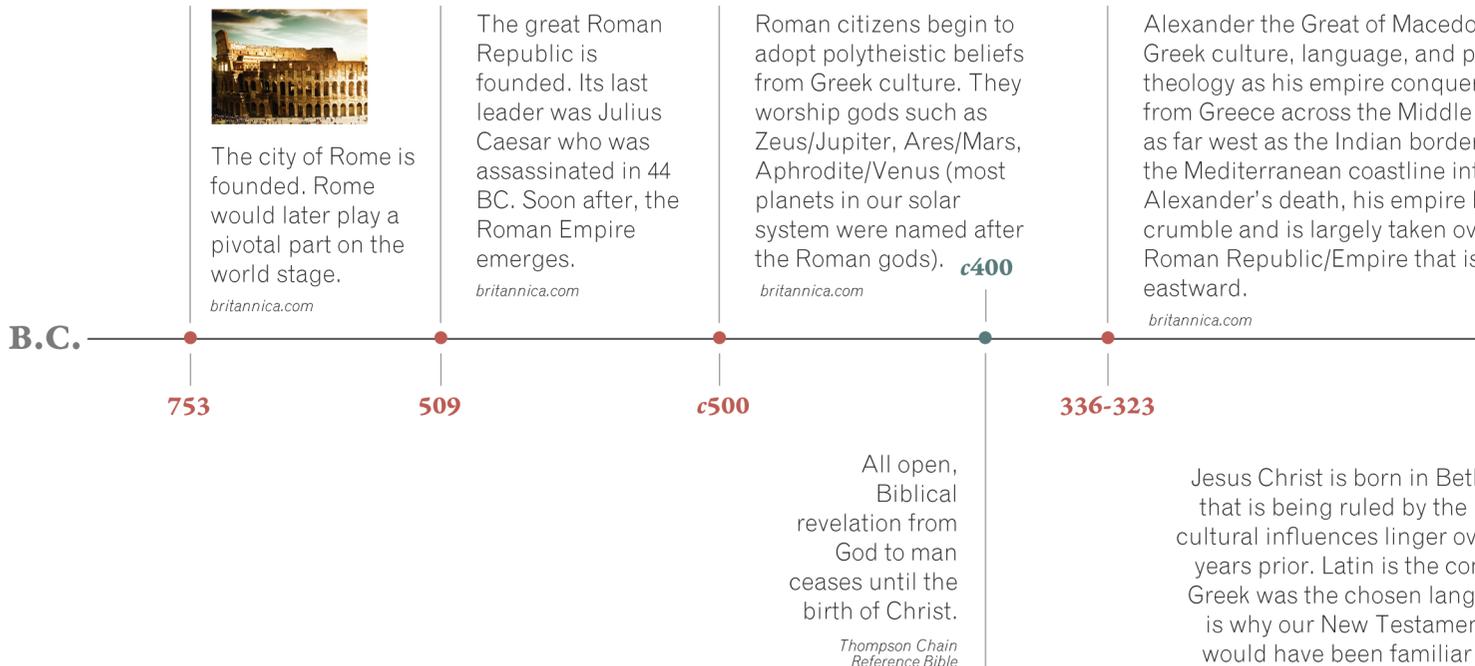
One of the greatest times to get involved in missions trips is during your single adult years. Here are a few short testimonies from several of our singles who have gone on missions trips recently.

You too can experience the joy of going on a short or long term missions trip. Please talk to Pastor or someone on the pastoral staff if you are interested in going on a missions trip.



A History of European Spiritual Influences

Prepared by Micah Ray (with bonus facts for historical reference)



In the past several years, I have been blessed to travel to several different countries. My first missions trip was with my church where I traveled to Lima, Peru. It was there that I saw the great need for foreign missions. The following summer, I traveled with Pensacola Christian College to Sao Paulo, Brazil where I spent several weeks teaching in a Christian school, working in children and teen ministries, and assisting the missionary in many other aspects of the ministry. It was on this trip that I surrendered my life to the Lord. Just recently, I returned from the island of Roatan, Honduras. While there, I was able to teach in a bilingual Christian school, minister to teenage girls, and visit many people on the island. Although Roatan is a tropical island with great natural beauty, it is a place scarred by sin and filled with vast economic and spiritual poverty. The need for missionaries on this island is extremely great. I am thankful for the opportunities I have had as a young adult to serve God on the foreign field and I am looking forward to what God has planned for my future. "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

- Elizabeth Baker



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Caesar Augustus (of Luke 2:1) becomes the first Emperor of Rome (until 14 AD). During his reign, the Roman Empire conquerors or rules much of modern day Europe along with other holdings in the middle east and northern Africa.

britannica.com

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27



lehem, Israel. He grows up in a culture Roman Empire. However, language and er from Greek conquests of the land 300 nmon tongue of the Roman Empire, but uage for literature and philosophy. This t was originally penned in Greek. Jesus with several languages including Latin, Greek, Aramaic, and Hebrew.

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Jesus begins His ministry and His New Testament church in and around the land of Israel on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

King James Bible & britannica.com

The Apostle Paul spreads the Gospel from Jerusalem all across the southern shores of modern day Europe.

King James Bible & britannica.com

The city of Rome burns and the Emperor Nero blames Christians for the fire. Christians begin to be persecuted greatly in the Roman Empire territories.

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MISSIONS IS FOR EVERYONE

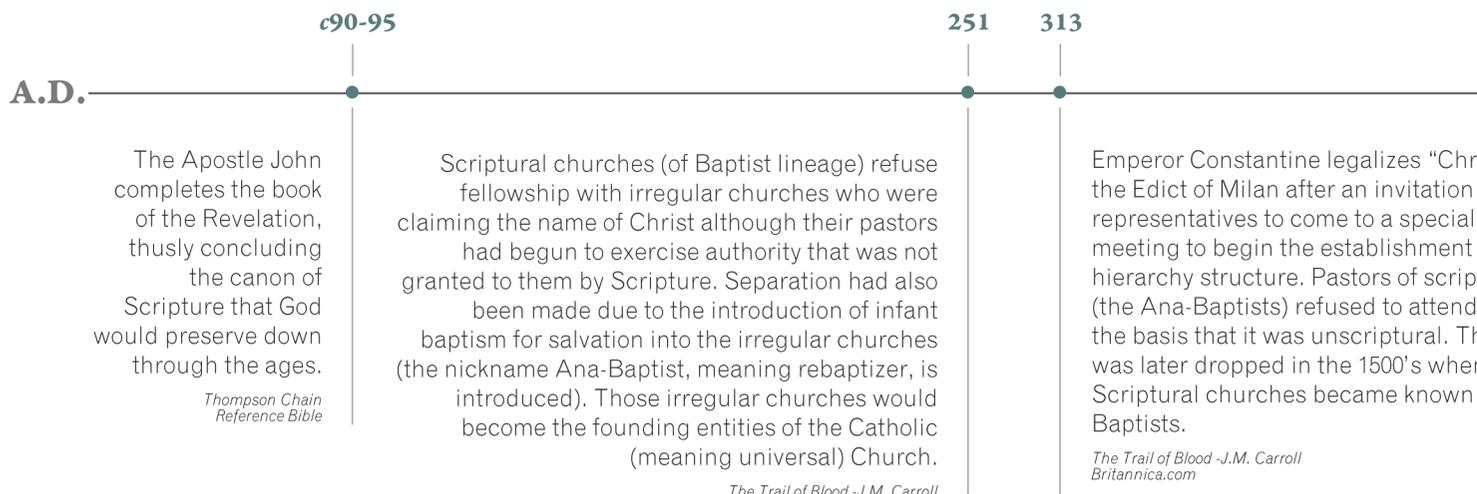
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In the summer of 2011, I had the opportunity to go with a team to participate in a medical missions trip to Haiti. God provided five thousand dollars worth of medicine that we were able to take to Haiti. Over 500 people were treated for sickness, and more than 100 came to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Friendships were made, hope was given, and hearts were touched in a land where the touch of death, destruction, and sadness could plainly be seen everywhere. God is building churches in Haiti. Pray for the Christians in Haiti that they will grow and take on a burden for reaching their own for Christ!

- Adam Ellington

A History of European Spiritual Influences *(continued)*

(with bonus facts for historical reference)





Experiencing the ministry through missions trips has changed my life! All throughout my childhood, I was able to take missions trips to Mexico with my grandparents; however, I did not have an opportunity to travel internationally until the summer of 2005. Since that summer, I have been able to visit eight countries and participate in short term missions trips. God used each trip differently in my life, but overall, I have learned that missions work (short term or long term) is a necessity. I could write paragraphs about how God took care of specific needs; however, the greatest thing that I have discovered while traveling is that the teenagers, adults, and children in Belgium, France, China and the other five countries I visited are all loved by God equally, and it is my responsibility to share His love with them. Don't ever think that God will not use you on a missions trip! Find a place to get involved. You will not regret it!

- Heather Braley



380

The Roman Empire is split into West and East (Divided along the western side of modern day Greece). The eastern part of the realm was later distinguished as the Byzantine Empire.
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Migration to what is now the United Kingdom begins. The Celts are joined by the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes of Germanic descent, and are later joined by invading Vikings and Danes.
britannica.com



(West) Roman Emperor Romulus Augustus surrenders to Germanic King Odoacer . The dissolution of the western empire makes way for territorial kings and princes to arise as new monarchies begin to form.
britannica.com

Christianity" with for all church council of a church tural churches the meeting on the prefix "Ana" n this lineage of simply as



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Emperor Theodosius I makes Catholic Christianity the official State Religion. churches became known simply as Baptists.
Britannica.com

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the Youth of

EUROPE

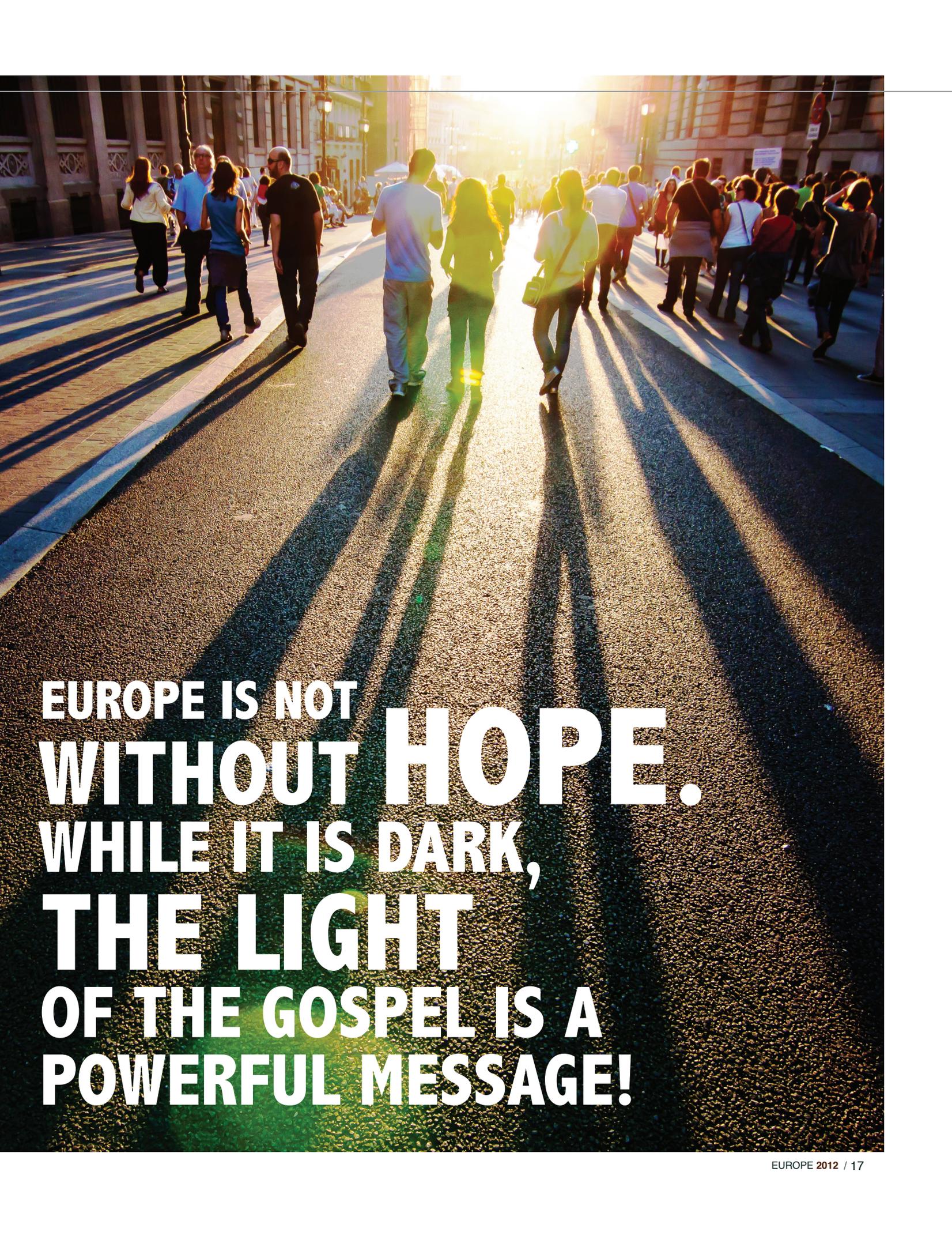
As we see the world around us falling apart in so many ways, many wonder why it is happening. Why has it come to this level of deterioration? Why does it seem like so much hopelessness is around us? Is there any hope for the future?

Looking at Europe, we can easily see such spiritual darkness. We see the effects of sin on culture and society. We see the product of wasted lives and hopeless dreams. We see what happens when no direction or purpose is given. However, it was not always that way in Europe. Europe was once the home of great spiritual revival. Europe was once home to great Biblical study. Churches all over Europe once preached the Gospel of Christ. The truth was proclaimed! The Message was told! Yet all we see now is that spiritual darkness has captured a continent and affected the world.

In examining the condition of Europe, we see a great emphasis on culture reaching to the younger generation. There are many different age groups in that continent, but we see a major push for the minds and hearts of teenagers. In studying that push, it becomes very clear why Europe has become the hopeless continent that it is—the younger generation was not trained to carry on the message of truth that once led so many to a saving knowledge of Christ. We see that Europe became apathetic towards the Bible and things of God and in turn allowed other influences to determine the direction of countries and people. We saw the things of this world reach out more to teenagers than people with Bible truth. As a result, the message of hope that was once delivered has been replaced with an atmosphere of hopelessness that is now dominant. The Bible says in Psalm 33:12, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...”. The opposite then could be true—the nation that does not have the Lord as their God will not be blessed. We see that clearly in Europe.

The concern about the status of Europe is magnified by the concern that we have for America. As we watch our society and citizens reject God and the truths of Scripture, it could only be a matter of time before we too are hopeless. However, there is hope! If we are to keep the Christian heritage alive and remain a land where spiritual hope lives, we **MUST** train the next generation to carry on the truth of the Gospel of Christ. There is no reason why we must live in a land of hopelessness. There is no reason to watch future generations wallow in darkness and sin. We must invest time and energy in teaching our young people the truth. We must pass on the Bible and, most importantly, the God of the Bible. We must provide them the hope-filled message that only exists in the Scriptures. We must make disciples out of our young people so that they will one day take the lead and turn back the tide of hopelessness and proclaim the message of hope! This is what will keep the light of truth going—one generation recognizing the need and accepting the responsibility to train the next generation to “fight the good fight of faith.” Parents, church members, teachers, and so many others must be active in the fight against hopelessness.

Europe is not without hope. While it is dark, the light of the Gospel is a powerful message! Europe can have a spiritual revival. While there is still time, let us keep the hope alive in America so that we can be a part of spreading the hope in Europe. Let us not neglect our young people, but rather train and equip them to live a life for God and spread His message of hope around the world!

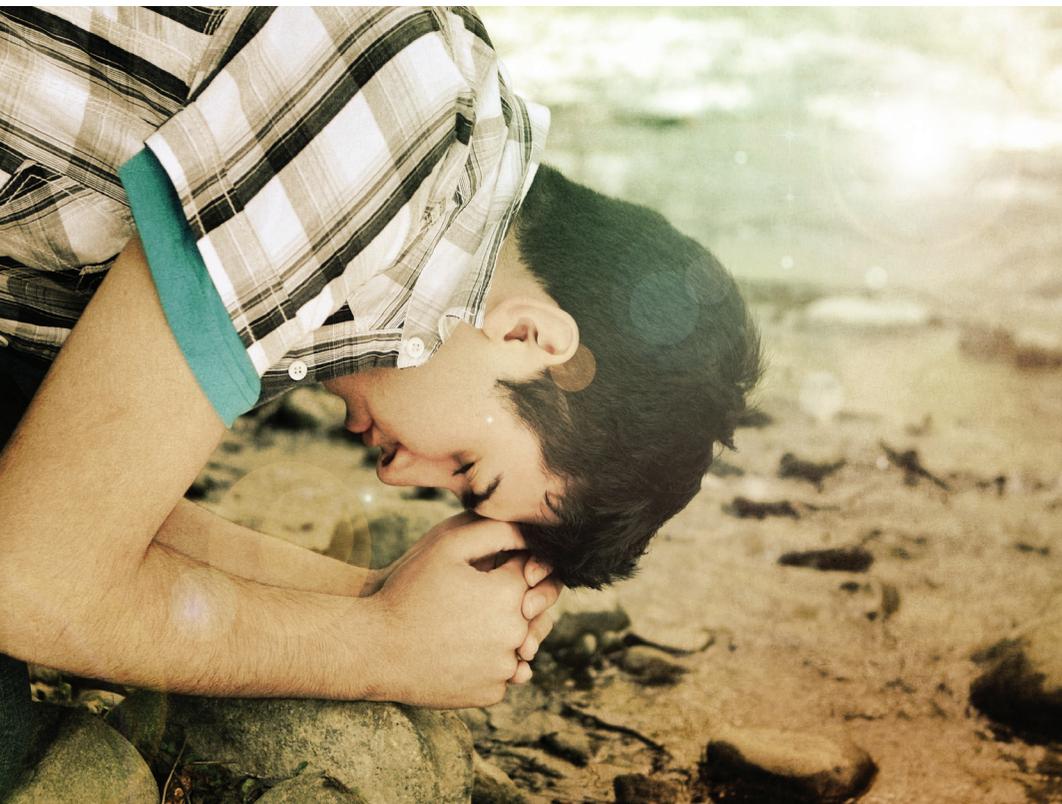


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POWERFUL MESSAGE!**

IN HIS NAME

by Melissa A. Hembree

While interviewing the Reformers Unanimous International students and workers at First Baptist Church, Milford, I realized that missionaries touch lives in ways that I never imagined. The following are examples of how RU students' lives were changed through missions:



“Mr. Smyth, my teacher at Biblical School of World Evangelism, impacted my life, because he took the time to invest in my spiritual growth through his teaching and godly example.

Mr. McTague, a missionary to the Tibetan People of Nepal, was visiting my local church and after the service ended, he came and helped the men put up a tent. It may seem like such a small task to some people, but it left quite an impression on my life. The missionary was willing to labor alongside strangers, and he did it with joy in his heart as he served others. Mr. Mc Tague’s message was delivered with such passion that it awoke the desire in my heart to go across the sea and bring the message of hope to heal that which is broken.

My daughter and I joined our dear friend Eldon Tudor on a missions trip to Mexico. I was amazed by Eldon’s love for the lost people of Mexico. His love for the Mexicans was tangible and visible to the naked eye and the love of God illuminated through him.

Carlos Demarest and his love for Christ affected every life he touched. I remember his desire to get others involved in missions; it was contagious! It was exciting to see God provide for every need while I was on a missions trip with him. If we needed something immediately, Bro. Demarest would always remind us to pray.”

The previous interviews were about students whose lives were directly touched by missionaries; however, students also mentioned missionaries that they had never met. These RU students emphasized the following things about those missionaries. There are missionaries who serve in countries where it is illegal to worship God; therefore, they face penalties for preaching the Word of God. Missionaries are in countries where there is no freedom to pray, to worship, to gather in a church or to praise the name of Jesus. Missionaries are persecuted in His name, thrown in jail, or killed, yet they persevere and endure to bring the glorious message of the Gospel to the lost and dying world.

Every missionary may not encounter the same challenges, but each one brings the same message. Luke 24:47 says “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” Isaiah 55:11 says, “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I

please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.”

Through the interviews, I learned that missions can be accomplished through many different avenues, and lives can be touched in various ways. When some hear the word missions, it brings different images to mind – giving medical supplies, providing food and water, building houses, reaching lost souls, and changing lives.

How can Reformers Unanimous students get involved in missions each day?

The most important aspect of supporting missionaries is praying for their needs and praying for the harvesting of souls. Sponsoring missionaries on the foreign field or participating in an outreach program at a local church is an additional way to get involved; however, to have an experience like the students interviewed, taking a missions trip and reaching out to those in need would be a rewarding opportunity for involvement. I Thessalonians 5:24 says, “Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.”

“Everyone has a mission field”

stated one RU student, so begin in your own neighborhood and walk with God. Peter and Paul did not have great human strategies; however, they were led by the Holy Spirit and did not need “blue prints” for missions. Our job is to bring the message of Jesus Christ to the uttermost parts of the world, and God will bring unto Himself those that He has chosen. God has placed the desire in some to go to Africa, others Mexico, and one to Los Angeles. Even though the destinations for outreach may differ, the desires for each student are the same - to follow God’s calling.

Matthew 28: 19-20 states, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”

YOUR MISSION

Can you help the missionary in the US find his way across the ocean to his people in Europe?

START HERE



A - "MAZE"-ING LOVE

Unscramble

SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT

Missionary Match Up!

Draw a Line to the foreign country the missionary belongs to.

Bartlett
Carter
Klenk
Mann
Siekbert
Siekbert
Tudor
Winter



Scramble For Europe!

each country's name.

caFern _____	tally _____
knUeira _____	iKUoemditndgn _____
ainpS _____	oinamaR _____
neSdwe _____	ulsraBe _____
waoNyr _____	eercGe _____
Grynmea _____	Braaguil _____
danlniF _____	nlcIaed _____
IndoPa _____	rHayugn _____



INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF OUR MISSIONARIES

Missionary - Tom Lancaster

Question: I'm sure there are many that will read this article that don't know you well, so can you give us some background information on you and your family, and how God led you to the place where you serve today? Don't forget to give us the names and ages of all the children.

Nearly 50 years ago Dottie and I had yielded our lives to do anything that God wanted us to do and we were very serious about that. That commitment to God has led us to start and pastor two churches in the states for a total of 25 years and then to spend the last 20 years serving as missionaries to the U.S. military and their families stationed in Germany. Our hearts have been attached to the military going all the way back to when I served in the United States Marine Corp. In our last pastorate in the states we had a large military ministry, so we have always had a special love for our troops. God arranged the circumstances for us to be contacted about a need for a missionary pastor to the U.S. military serving in Mannheim, Germany. We immediately sensed the peace of God to go there and in spite of the challenges we knew it was God's will.

For 20 years Dottie and I ministered to the U.S. military and their families serving in the Mannheim/Heidelberg areas of Germany. They have been extraordinary years and we have seen a harvest of souls, the fruit of full-time Christian workers, the joy of discipling servants and sending them to churches all over the world, as well as a miraculous missions program that has helped to encourage hundreds of missionaries in Europe, as well as aiding in sending missionaries all over the world. Sadly, our base closed in August due to the realignment of troops in Europe. Dottie and I have transitioned from missionary pastor to itinerant missionaries. We are now involved in church planting, raising missionary awareness, recruiting military missionaries, teaching and discipling and aiding missionaries on the field.

God has blessed us with two wonderful children, Mark and Dawn, who with their mates happily serve the Lord. We have four precious grandchildren from ages 6-20 years old.

Question: How well have you adjusted to the culture?

Reply: I adjusted very well because I have mainly worked with the U.S. military, but we always had a strong German presence in the church.

Question: What new challenges have you experienced that you didn't experience before?

Reply: Having just transitioned in August from missionary pastor to itinerant missionary it is a challenge to move from the blessings of ministering to "my people" to new faces every week and not having a people to come home to.

Question: What is the most influential religion in the area you are working, and what unique challenge does that present?

Reply: The two religions in Germany are Catholic and Lutheran; however, our ministry was to the United States military and a particular religion was not relevant.

Question: How will you go about evangelizing the people you are trying to reach?

Reply: We have tried to evangelize them in the Biblical manner - publicly and from house to house. This consisted of church services, door to door soul-winning, tract ministry, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, evangelistic campaigns, church planting, missions, etc.

Question: What methods will you use to train and disciple the new converts?

Reply: New converts classes, personal in-home Bible study with each new convert or new family, Sunday School classes geared to teaching the Bible, including teaching how to study the Bible. Also a Bible Institute that is available to all.

Question: What are some of the goals you have set for yourself and the ministry?

Reply: Our goal has always been to glorify God in our personal lives, to win souls to Christ, to lead people into a life of commitment to the Lord and to start and build churches that are committed to reaching the world.

Question: What advice would you offer a missionary preparing to serve in Europe?

Reply: Go with the intention of staying, learn to encourage yourself in the Lord, and keep a daily walk with the Lord.

Question: How can your home church encourage you and other missionaries on the field?

Reply: Keep in touch with the missionary which our church does. Pray for the missionary. Also, regularly inquire about the missionary's needs - spiritual, physical and emotional.

Missionary wife - Dottie Lancaster

Question: How are you adjusting to the culture?

Reply: Germany is a modern country in many ways, but still has an old world flavor to it. I love that! Other than the language, I adjusted well to the culture. Germans are a bit more laid back than Americans. When we went to Germany in 1992 stores closed at 5:00 p.m. sharp during the week and 2:00 p.m. sharp on Saturday and on Sundays nothing was open. That took a little adjusting, but of course that is a very insignificant thing compared to many other cultures. And of course our ministry to the U.S. military and their families always gave us that 'touch of home'.



Question: Do you involve yourself in the ministry, or is your focus on taking care of the home and the children?

Reply: Tom and I have always worked as a team. Our children are grown, married and have children of their own, but when they were small they had first priority over ministry; however, we always involved them in our ministry and both of them are happily serving the Lord today. My priorities have always been: 1. The Lord 2. My husband 3. My children 4. Home 5.

Ministry. I have always found that when you have priorities right - everything works right. Since our nest has been empty my ministry has been doing anything that I can to help Tom. That has ranged from organizing programs, ladies' ministry, children's ministry, secretarial help OR having a good meal for him, sewing a button on a shirt, keeping a clean house - whatever he needs.

Question: What is a typical day like for you?

Reply: My day is probably like most Christian wives: keeping a home, preparing meals, preparation for a Sunday School class or planning an activity or event, church activities and building bridges of friendship with women in order to reach them with the gospel.

Question: What advice would you offer the wife of a missionary preparing to serve in Europe?

Reply: I would offer the same advice to a missionary wife, no matter where she is serving: Keep your heart warm towards the Lord, stay in His Word, stay close to your husband, make your house a warm, welcoming place for your family, keep your priorities right, be content, have a sense of humor, be flexible.

This question is for both of you -

Question: How can your home church encourage you and other missionaries on the field?

Reply: (Dottie: Pray for us! Read our prayer letters and keep up with our ministry. A note occasionally is a blessing, too.) (Tom: Answered this question above).

Question: What are the greatest prayer needs you have for yourselves and the ministry, keeping in mind that this article will not be read until a few months from now.

Reply: (Dottie: Please pray for the transition that has taken place in our lives and ministry in the past few months due to the closure of our military base in Germany.)

(Tom: Pray for God's anointing on Dottie and myself. Pray for our health. We are not 'spring chickens' anymore, but our desire to serve God is stronger than ever. Pray that God will enable us to be used of Him in reaching missionaries for the military.)

Question: What would you like to say to your home church, and your other supporting churches, that perhaps we didn't cover in this interview?

Reply: (Dottie: Thank you for your love, your prayers and your support over these many years. We are keenly aware of the fact that God has used you to help us do what we have done for His glory and we are so grateful.)

(Tom: I would like to say thank you a million times to Bro. Carroll Joye, our sending pastor, and his wife, Bobbie. They have been our dearest friends for 45 years. He pastors a church that has loved us, supported us and encouraged us for all of these years. They have been there when we needed them and it gives great peace in knowing that if we have any need they will do anything they can to meet that need. I also would like to thank the many churches that pray for us and support us. We truly are "laborers together" and I rejoice in the fact that the hundreds, maybe even thousands, of people who have been saved since Dottie and I have been on the field will be put to your account.)



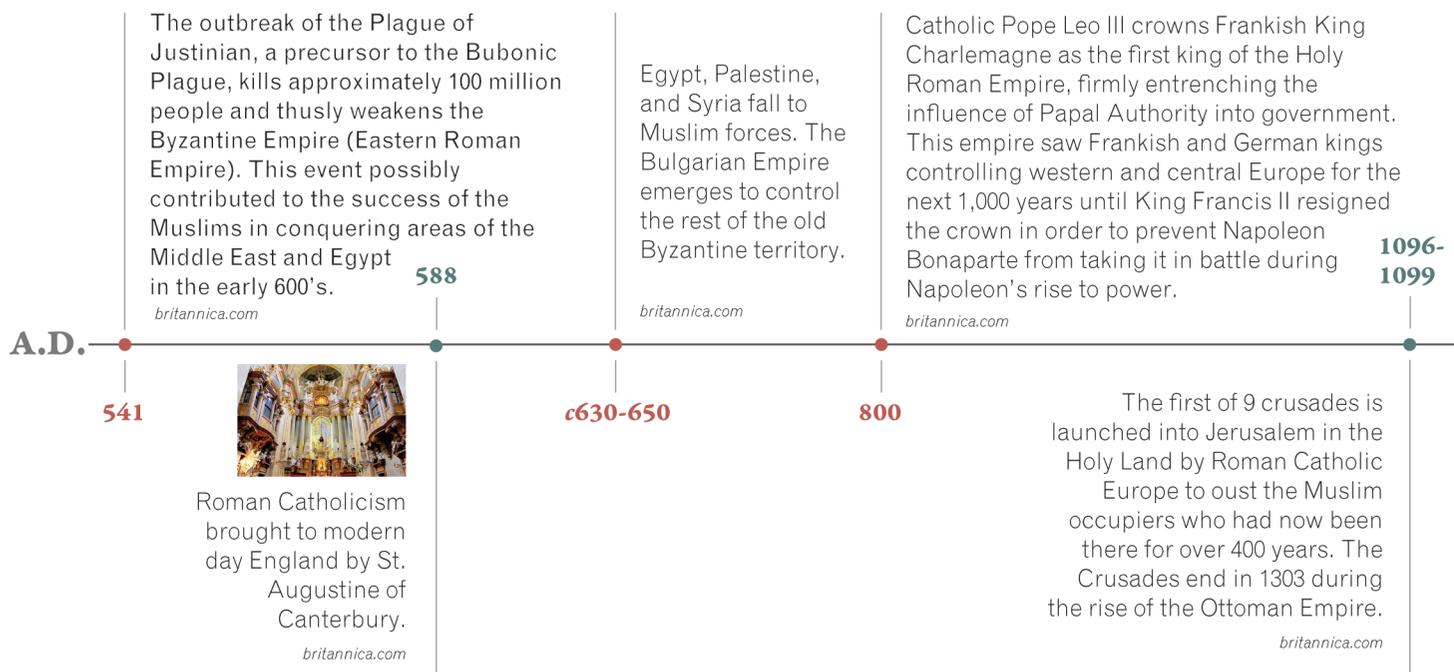
MISSIONS in the Local Church

What is the role of Missions in the Local Church? The answer to that question seems obvious, until you look a little deeper at the actual process and logistics.

I'm not talking about finances; that is for another article, for another time. In other words, by what means does God choose to accomplish His

A History of European Spiritual Influences *(continued)*

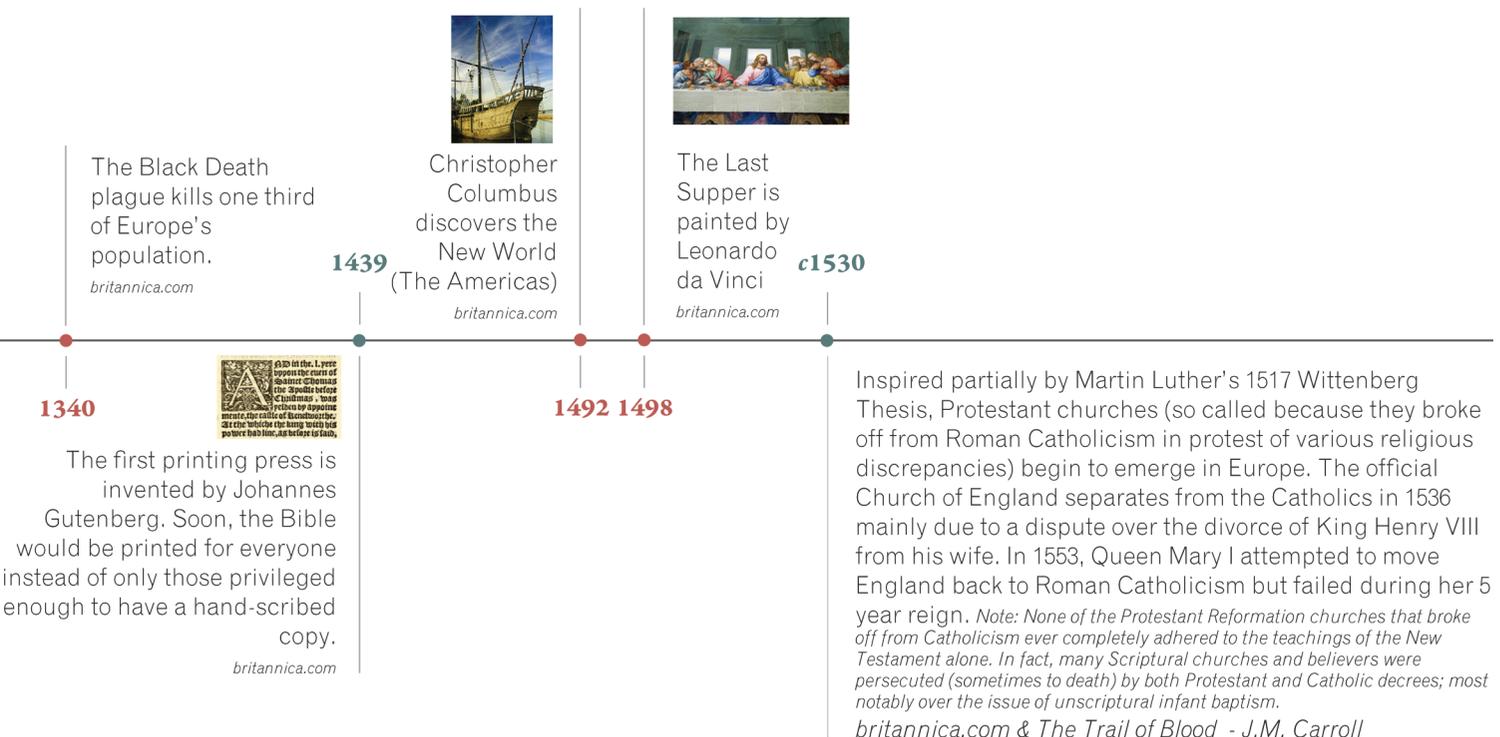
(with bonus facts for historical reference)



mission for redeeming man back to Himself, that man might worship Him forever? Yes, God has chosen man to be His mouthpiece through the preaching of the Word of God, but more specifically, His means is the church. We know it as the “Great Commission,” and it did not come without the power needed to accomplish the task. “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8. The church was not only given the assignment, but was given the authority, or power to do so.

I want to be careful how I say this, and I certainly do not wish to offend anyone, but the assignment and the power were not given to the mission board, it was given to the local church. It is not my place, or my desire, to be critical of mission boards, or suggest they haven’t filled a void that was, and is, necessary to be filled, but that void only exists because the local church has failed in their assignment. Of course I’m not speaking of every local church, but generally speaking, for most, their focus has become so “Jerusalem” minded they have found it easier to outsource the “uttermost” part of the Great Commission. Bible

colleges have focused on having the choice of either Pastoral Major or Missions Major, but have come short of properly training those for the pastorate how to send those for missions. Therefore most pastors lack the understanding and knowledge of the process involved in sending out a missionary that has been called by the Holy Spirit, to be separated unto a specific work in a foreign land. The result is that when God does call out a member of the congregation to do a specific work in missions it seems logical to default to sending them to a mission board.





I'm not suggesting that mission boards should be abandoned, because they are providing an essential need. However, consider the people resources, and the finances, that are consumed with the hundreds of mission boards that exist in the United States alone. Often times the most productive missionaries are brought off the field to be directors and fund raisers for the mission board. Moreover, the duplication in facilities, office staffs and equipment is enormous. Isn't there a better way? I believe there is. Consider the idea that individuals, with the knowledge and experience, assist the local church to do

their assignment. I know what many will say, "That is exactly what our mission board does." That may be true, but answer the following questions: Why must there be a separate entity? Who handles the finances? Which entity is the missionary solely responsible to? Why is the missionary treated differently than other church staff? I think these are legitimate questions, and I certainly don't have all the answers. However, this is why there is a great need for specific training to help churches and missionaries fulfill their God given assignment. What we need

A History of European Spiritual Influences *(continued)*

(with bonus facts for historical reference)

<p>A.D.</p>	<p>1536</p> <p>John Calvin advances the Protestant Reformation by publishing his views which come to be known as Calvinism, a teaching that some people are pre-elected to be saved.</p> <p><small>britannica.com</small></p>	<p>c1580</p> <p>King James VI of Scotland also becomes King James I of England after the death of Queen Elizabeth I. In 1604, King James I commissions a translation of the Bible into English from the original tongues. This "Authorized King James Version" (as it is now known) was originally completed in 1611.</p> <p><small>britannica.com</small></p>	<p>1603 1639</p> <p>English born, Roger Williams, establishes the first recorded Baptist Church on American soil. He was persecuted by the Church of England as well as Puritan colonies in America because of his adherence to true New Testament practices.</p> <p><small>bible-truth.org</small></p>
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British Imperialism begins its sweep over the globe, colonizing and spreading its cultural and linguistic attributes into such territories as the Americas, Africa, India, Asia, and Australia. This expansion of English influence contributed largely to the success of many future missionary endeavors into these lands. England lost its hold on the American colonies in 1783 due to the American Revolution, but at the height of its influence in 1922 the Empire had control of approximately one-fifth of the world's population. After World War II (in 1947), the British Empire began to decolonize and voluntarily relinquish control of its foreign holdings.



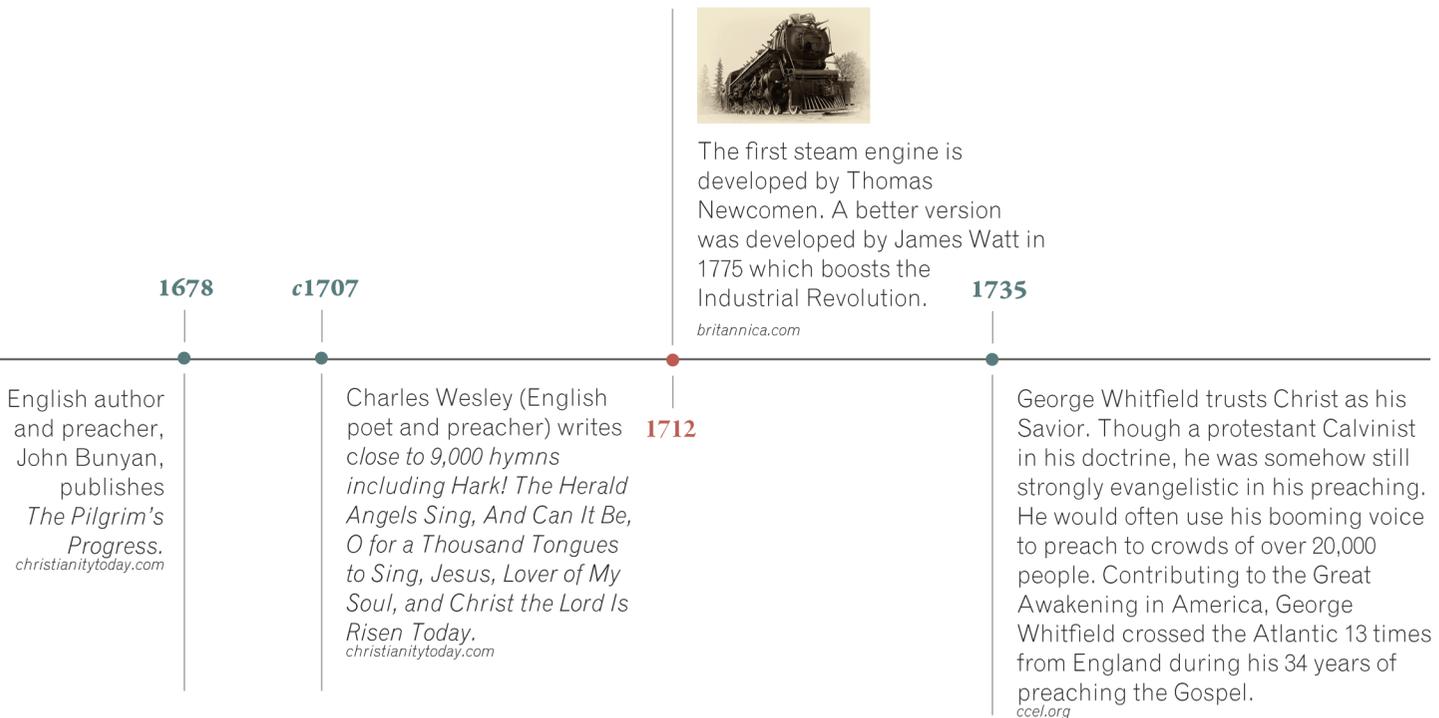
is training from those who have the knowledge to come a long side the pastor and missionary to help them understand and implement the details involved for a missionary to be sent out from their local church. I also realize that every local church is not going to be where they need to be spiritually or organizationally to attempt this effort on their own, but perhaps more could if the assistance was available.

Another huge benefit to the local church sending out their own missionaries is the mutual blessing for the missionary and the church.

It engages the congregation directly into the work of missions in a much greater way. The local church of the missionary is usually where their family and friends serve and will likely be part of a support team that is vital to the missionary's success. Acts 13 is the best model we find in the Scriptures for the "sending out" of missionaries, and it was from the local church.

The mission effort isn't just for the few called to do specific works, but every member is called to participate at some level. For the local church sent missionary this scenario is more likely to be experienced.

I know the process isn't easy. It is far easier to simply send the missionary candidate to the mission board and not be encumbered with the details, but God's best way is usually the harder way. I would suggest that mission boards could play a vital role in the education and facilitating process in a movement to redirect energies back through the local church in helping them do that which only they have been given the assignment and the power to do.



WHEN DOES AMERICA LOCK THE CHURCH DOORS?

Kerby Richmon
Master Ministries



That is a strange question for a missions magazine! Why would anyone want to lock the church doors? There would only be one reason . . . when no one comes! Some would say that would never happen in America. But as you read this magazine and hear the testimonies of missionaries in Europe, it has been happening there for years. In an article written on August 10, 2005 in USA TODAY entitled Religion Takes a Back Seat in Western Europe, a 39 year-old man from Dublin, Ireland stated, “I don’t go to church, and I don’t know one person who does. Fifteen years ago, I didn’t know one person who didn’t.” Did you understand that? He does not know one person who goes to church! If church attendance can change that much in fifteen

years in Ireland, could it happen in Milford, Ohio? You know that answer! The same article goes on to say, "Though many Europeans say they consider themselves Christians, far fewer actually attend services." Does that sound familiar? You ask your neighbors to come to church and they claim to be members of a particular church, but you know they never attend.

The same article in USA TODAY goes on to say, "One need only see the overwhelming number of gray-haired heads in church pews to know attendance will keep falling if something doesn't change dramatically." We all love and respect the "grey-haired heads" in our church pews, but they are the leaders of today and yesterday, who will be our leaders in the future? We need children, teens, and young parents in our pews! You may call that little five year-old boy that stepped off the bus "Little Buddy" today, but in thirty years, you may be calling him, "Pastor." In 1964, a little six year-old girl roamed the halls of this church for the first time; she is now our pastor's wife. Abb Thomas has said for years, "Never underestimate the potential of a child." In what would seem to some as yesterday, a little boy named "Eddie"

preached his first message in Master Clubs. However, in Loveland, Colorado, they now call that man, Pastor Edward Barclay. His baby sister would tell Bible stories in Sunday School and on the bus here. She is still teaching, but now she is in Northern Africa with her husband and daughter. These are not isolated stories, but just a few of the many testimonies of lives changed by the Word of God. Some are now in India, Mongolia, Mexico, Africa, and the list goes on. We all know and many have memorized Mark 16:15, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." But even though God has allowed our church to send missionaries "into all the world," we must never forget to reach our communities within America . . . or the church doors will be locked. One preacher said, "Some churches are so focused on reaching the world, they forget to reach the world around them." May that never be the testimony of our church . . . or our country!

Boys and girls, you are not ready to be a missionary in a foreign land . . . yet, but there is a mission field waiting for you at the baseball game, the

store, the restaurant, and in your neighborhood. At BSWE missionaries learn that the most effective missionary is the national missionary. That would be a missionary from a specific country seeking to witness to "his own people." They are more effective because they speak their language and understand their customs. Children are warned today not to speak to strangers. Consequently, it is very difficult for an adult to witness to a child at the ballpark or on the street. But they will listen to you . . . you are a native child! You understand their lingo and their customs. They will listen to you . . . if you will talk. What do you say? Tell them what you already know about the Lord; tell them your testimony. Need help? That would be a great conversation to have with your parents. And if you need more help, ask your Sunday School teachers, Junior Church workers, or Master Club leaders. Your leaders at church want you to know the facts in your Bible, but even more than that, they want you to understand your Bible. When you understand your Bible, the promises within it, and the love that God offers you, those truths will compel you to reach your own country with the gospel so that our doors will never close!



INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF OUR MISSIONARIES

Missionary - Matt Green

Question: I'm sure there are many that will read this article that don't know you well, so can you give us some background information on you and your family, and how God led you to the place where you serve today? Don't forget to give us the names and ages of all the children.

Reply: Both Amanda and I were saved as children. We both also attended Crown College and got involved in available ministries. In 2006, Amanda traveled to Cambodia while I spent the summer in England. While there God put a burden in my heart for the British that eventually spilt over onto Amanda after we were married on June 29, 2007. God has given us two beautiful little boys: Parker (3) and Hudson (1).

Perhaps the most exciting thing about ministry in England is the possibility of contributing to the pursuit of World Evangelization. Many people from unreached people groups view England as the land of opportunity, entering the country with occupational or educational ambitions. This gives us the rare opportunity to win them to Christ, train them and potentially send them back to their native land to reach the unreached. What an effectual and open door has been given to us!

Question: How well have you adjusted to the culture?

Reply: The summer that I spent in England taught me a little bit about the culture. Yet, I only spent a few months there. God willing, we will be arriving in the UK for full-time ministry this year. We will use the opportunity to work in a national work to learn the culture and prepare us for our ensuing church-planting ministry.

Question: What new challenges have you experienced that you didn't experience before?

Reply: Many people are very critical of the deputation process. However, deputation required us to do something that will be a necessity on the field: live by faith. Though

long and grueling, we feel that it has further equipped us for the ministry in England.

Question: What is the most influential religion in the area you are working, and what unique challenge does that present?

Reply: While "Christianity" (mostly Catholicism and Anglicanism) is by percentage the largest religion, Islam is the fastest growing religion. Most Muslims that come to the UK are devout Muslims. They are working their hardest to try to earn their way to heaven. The redemption that is in Christ Jesus presents them with the answer to the age-old question, "How do I get to God?"

Question: How will you go about evangelizing the people you are trying to reach?

Reply: Though door-to-door work is very challenging in England, we will still use it as one of our methods. We will also be involved in open-air preaching/ ministry. It is surprisingly very effective in England. Another way to evangelize the British is to get involved in community activities (fairs, hymn singings, seminars etc..) in an evangelistic manner. We are told that the failure of many churches is one of just not getting involved. Also, we are told that hospitality is a very effective tool. To invite someone into your home is basically to pledge friendship to them. We hope to have the beginnings of our church-plant in our home.

Question: What methods will you use to train and disciple the new converts?

Reply: Nothing strengthens and builds the soul like Bible doctrine. Through Bible stories and examples we hope to indoctrinate new converts. This can be done through Sunday School, Bible studies and also one-on-one sessions. Yet, nothing equips the believer for service like experience. It has been said that evangelism is not complete until the evangelized become evangelists.

Through these principles and the work of the Holy Spirit we hope to make many disciples.

Question: What are some of the goals you have set for yourself and the ministry?

Reply: Though we will strive to make disciples of the British, we will not neglect the souls of our children. We must point them to Christ and disciple them, as well. This is one of our greatest goals. We have also been called to be itinerant church-planters. We will plant and establish as many churches as God allows us to. We also hope to reach many unreached people groups through the unreached that come to England.

Question: What advice would you offer a missionary preparing to serve in Europe?

Reply: I have been instructed to learn the culture and history of the country. How can one effectively and consistently reach an unfamiliar people? Also, since Islam is the fastest growing religion in Europe, one must be familiar with Islam and how to reach Muslims with the Gospel.

Question: How can your home church encourage you and other missionaries on the field?

Reply: I think that home churches can encourage their missionaries by putting forth just as much of an effort to stay in touch as missionaries make to stay in touch with their home church. It is all about building relationships, as we are all fellow helpers to the truth (Jude 8.)

Missionary wife - Amanda Green

Question: How are you adjusting to the culture?

Reply: On deputation it is hard to try to raise a toddler and baby on the road with no schedule and familiarity. But God is good and He has helped, and continues to help, me through each day.

Question: Do you involve yourself in the ministry, or is your focus on taking care of the home and the children?

Reply: Both. I believe the Lord gave me the privilege to raise my children and be a helpmate to my husband at home. At the same time, I believe it is my responsibility to get involved in the Great Commission and be a helpmate to my husband in the ministry, as well.

Question: What is a typical day like for you?

Reply: Pack everything up, travel to another hotel, and get my children and I ready for a meeting.

Question: What advice would you offer the wife of a missionary preparing to serve in Europe?

Reply: Living in Europe is going to be expensive and raising support will take longer but God is faithful and when He wants you to be there He will put you there.

These questions are for both of you -

Question: How can your home church encourage you and other missionaries on the field?

Reply: It is always nice to know that you have people thinking and praying for you. A simple note of encouragement, an email, or a call on the phone could be a burden lifted on a hard day.

Question: What are the greatest prayer needs you have for yourselves and the ministry, keeping in mind that this article will not be read until a few months from now.

Reply: The first thing that comes to mind is that our whole family would adjust to the culture and surroundings of England upon our arrival. Second, wisdom as we survey an area in Manchester to start our first church. Third, that the Lord would give us favor with British people that we might be effective in reaching them. Fourth, that our relationship with the British government and American government would never be in a strain.

Question: What would you like to say to your home church, and your other supporting churches, that perhaps we didn't cover in this interview?

Reply: We covet your prayers and concern. William Carey said, "I will go down, but remember that you must hold the ropes." We are in desperate need of your prayerful and financial support!



Foundations for Faith Promise Giving

Faith Promise Offering
Explained from II Corinthians
Chapters 8 & 9

Prepared by Dr. Charles Keen



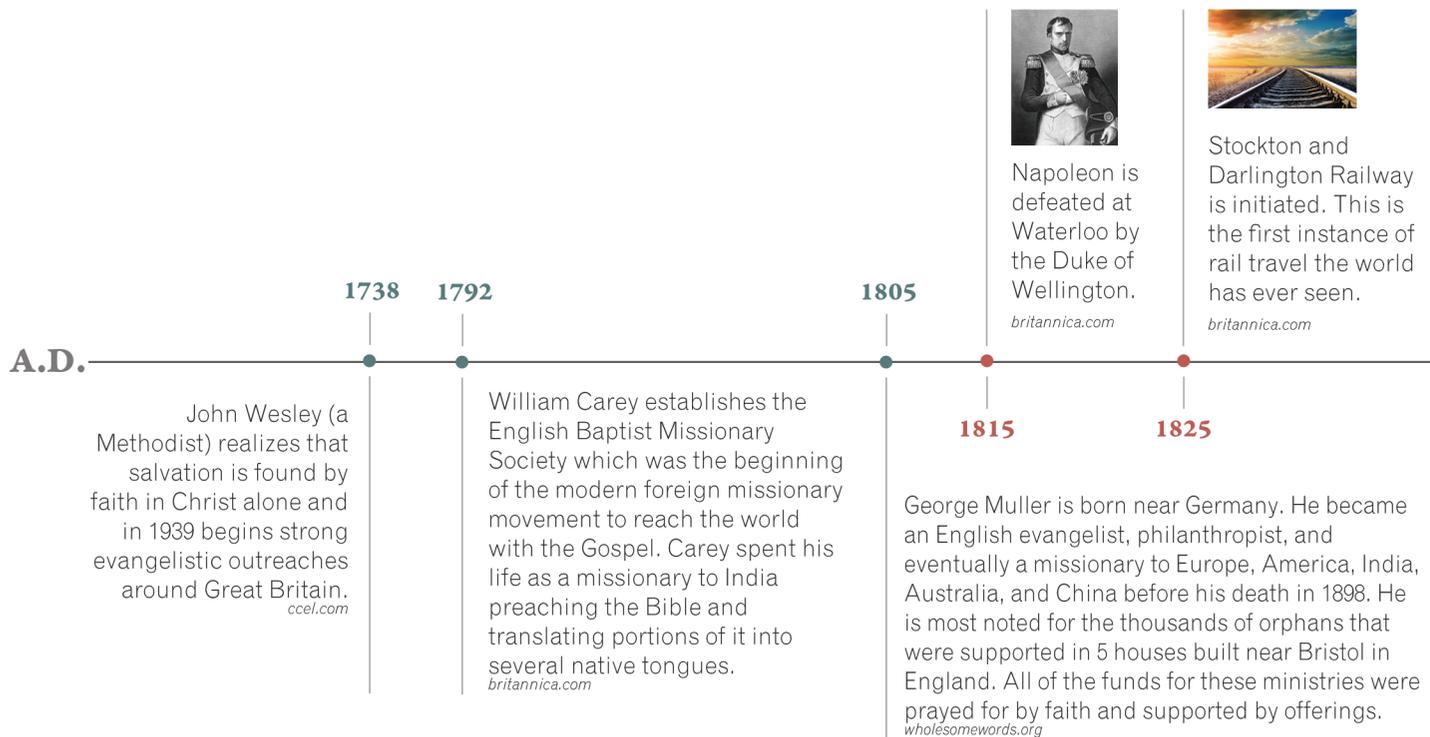
INTRODUCTION:

These chapters, II Corinthians 8 & 9, support the Bible truth that the work of God has never been supported solely by the tithe, but rather by tithes and offerings. Israel was often called upon to give offerings as well as the tithe. In fact, many Old Testament scholars believe the Jew of the Old Testament gave an average of 23% of their income to their worship of God. If that is true, they gave more in offerings than in tithe.

Paul shows us the New Testament church as well as the Old Testament saints added offerings to their tithe. It is what we call Faith Promise Giving. The most concise description of the Faith Promise principle found in Scripture is in II Corinthians chapters 8 & 9. These chapters are a description of two churches (Macedonia and Corinth) involved in Faith Promise Giving; hence, they are immensely practical. The Apostle Paul is involved in: (1) Encouraging their participation; (2) Describing the elements in Faith Promise; (3) Correcting their missteps; and (4) Keeping before them that this is an offering over and above the tithe. Note the following elements:

A History of European Spiritual Influences *(continued)*

(with bonus facts for historical reference)



FOUNDATION ONE: WE MUST START NOW, WHERE WE ARE, WITH WHAT WE HAVE

From II Corinthians 8:1-2, we learn that we cannot wait for everything to get right before we do right. In other words we need to do right, right now. The church at Macedonia was doing right in spite of "...great trial of affliction...and their deep poverty..." This says that it was right to give an offering and that it was right to do it right now, in spite of internal problems and monetary challenges. We cannot wait to be obedient. The need is now and obedience is neither optional nor postponable. I am sure you know that World Evangelism is right for God's children and right to do now. I am equally sure for many of us this is not the best of times to call upon you to get more involved financially. What is your affliction or poverty? Will you rise above it by faith for the cause of Christ?

FOUNDATION TWO: THE BASIC ISSUE IS WILLINGNESS, NOT WEALTH

In II Corinthians 8:3, we learn that the real issue is willingness, not wealth: "...they were willing of themselves;" willing in spite of great trial of affliction and deep poverty. They gave beyond human ability at the time,

“...beyond their power...” We see the real issue is not wealth but willingness. The question is, “How do we become willing?” Our willingness is always connected to His worthiness, not by seeing the plight of the needy but by knowing the contribution of the divine. We should be made willing when we see in II Corinthians 8:9 what Jesus contributed to our plight “... though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor...” Or in II Corinthians 9:15 “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” (Jesus). Jesus gave His life. God gave His Son. Will you be willing to give whatever is asked by Him of you? For additional verses on willingness in giving, see II Corinthians 8:11, 12, and 19.

FOUNDATION THREE: THE ORDER OF PARTICIPATION

In Faith Promise Giving, the order is: (1) Promise; (2) Give; (3) Receive. This is not as some teach, saying: (1) Promise; (2) Receive; (3) Give. The Scriptures say in II Corinthians 8:11 “...so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.” When we give out of what we already have, we are trusting God to replace it. According to Luke 6:38, He will do this, with “... good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over...” The faith is in His replacing, not in His adding to our

already over-abundance. Our giving makes room for an abundant response from Him back to us. Giving must PRECEDE getting. Ask the farmer who sows seed and in return gets the same thing back, more back now and more later. I do not know of any place in Scripture in which we are asked to give what we do not have. I do know, however, of many places in which we are asked to give what we do have, regardless of how small or large the amount may be, with a promise of an abundant return. Ask the widow with the cruse of oil in II Kings 4. She had oil, gave it, and received vessels full “and not a few.” Ask the lad who had loaves and fishes in John 6. He gave what he had, and received twelve baskets full in return. Faith Promise is giving out of what you already have, trusting God to replace it.

FOUNDATION FOUR: THE AMOUNT IS OPTIONAL

In tithing, the amount, frequency, and participation are determined by God. In Faith Promise, you determine the amount. II Corinthians 9:7 “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give;...” Though you determine the amount you give, God has determined the fact of your participation. If being an obedient child of God is your goal, you must give because God said “Every man...” regardless of your

“...great trial of affliction...their deep poverty...” Our participation tells volumes about our level of Christianity: II Corinthians 8:8 “...and to prove the sincerity of your love.” II Corinthians 8:24 “...the proof of your love...” II Corinthians 9:2 “...I boast of you to them of Macedonia,...your zeal hath provoked very many.” (Paul was boasting of their participation in the giving effort, which was a giving program above the tithe, one for others that was reaching outside of their immediate ministry area, missions). Though they lived in Corinth, the offering was for people in Jerusalem, hundreds of miles away and on a different continent.

CONCLUSION

We cannot all participate at the same level, but we can all participate. Jesus was pleased with the widow’s mite and the woman’s alabaster box. These two gifts differed greatly in amount and value, but both were a pleasure to Him. He will also be pleased in our honest effort.

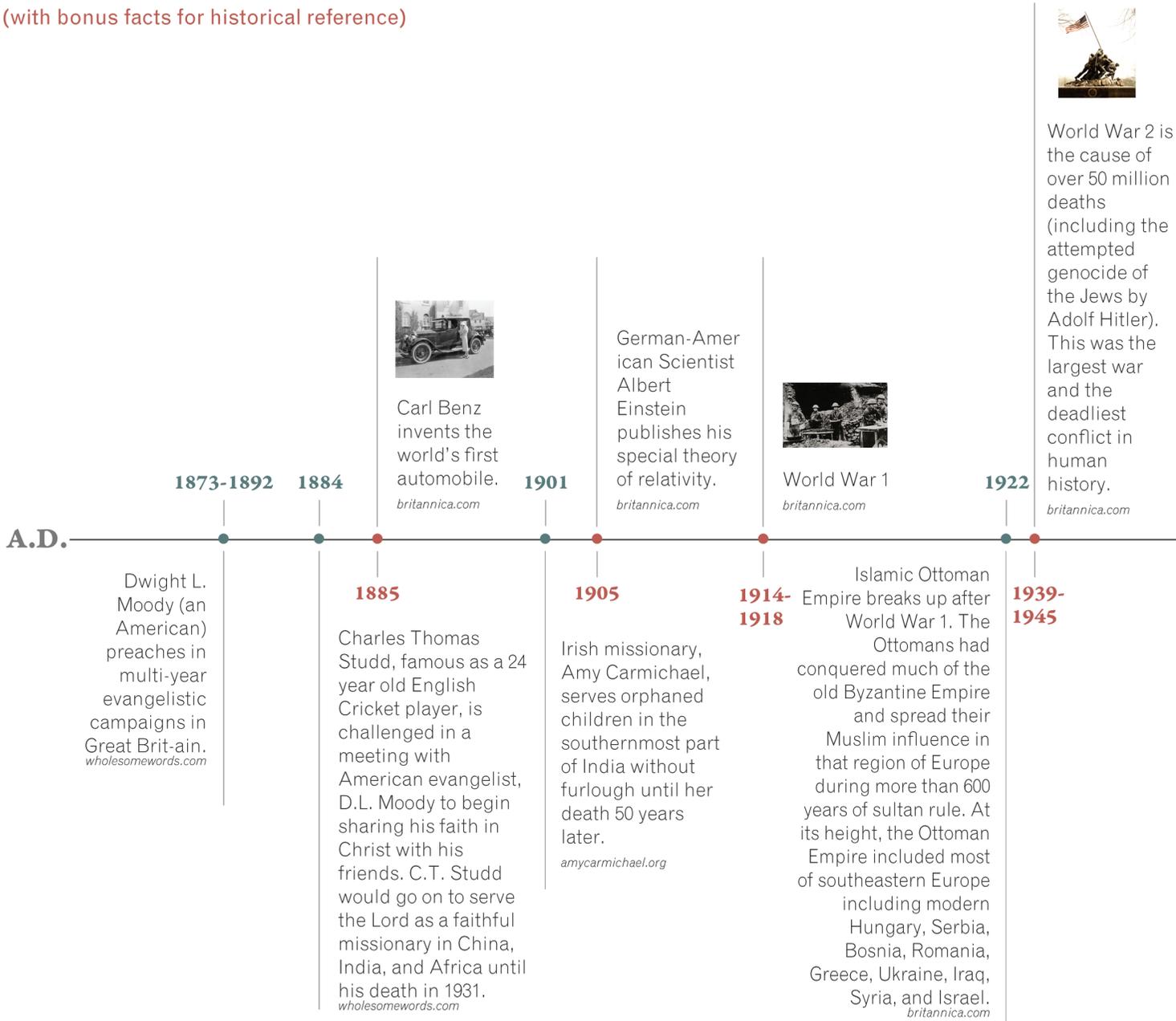
The kind of people we have proven to be in the past requires us to believe that this year’s Faith Promise Offering will be one in which we can boast of our faith in the Lord - an offering that will prove the sincerity of our love for the dear Lord Jesus and supply the needs of the saints.

A horizontal timeline with a central line and vertical markers for the years 1832, 1838, 1840, 1850, and 1859. Each year has a corresponding image and text block.

- 1832**:  The first trans-Atlantic steam ship comes into service. The SS Great Western joins in with steam-powered rail transportation to make world travel more accessible. *britannica.com*
- 1838**:  J. Hudson Taylor is born. He would become an English missionary to China and found the China Inland Mission which, at his death in 1905, included 205 mission stations with over 800 missionaries, and 125,000 Chinese Christians. *wholesomewords.org*
- 1840**:  Scottish doctor, missionary, and explorer, David Livingstone, at the beckoning of Mr. Robert Moffat (another Scottish missionary), travels to Africa to spread Christianity around the “dark continent” before dying in 1873 in what is now Zambia. Dr. Livingstone’s heart was buried in Africa while his body was removed back to England for burial. *wholesomewords.org*
- 1850**:  Charles Darwin publishes his book *On the Origin of Species* which would provide the basis for many to justify their atheism in light of a worldview in opposition to a Creator God. *britannica.com*
- 1859**:  A Baptist minister named Charles Haddon Spurgeon preaches his first message at 16 years old. He would later pastor a congregation of over 6,000 and had wide reaching spiritual influence. *britannica.com*

A History of European Spiritual Influences (continued)

(with bonus facts for historical reference)



FIRST BAPTIST MEMEBER MISSIONARIES

Barclay, Edward III & April Hayley, Caden
Church Planting

Bartlett, Bob & Vinnie

Biblical School of World Evangelism

Carter, Michael & Kristen, Maya
North Africa

Case, Hershel & Juanita
BSWE

Caudill, Sam & Betty
BPS

Demarest, Alice
BPS

Durnil, Clyde & Linda
BPS

Ford, Bob & Marie
BPS

Hayes, Alice
BPS

Hodge, Don & Donna
CCPC/Church Planting

Hopper, Ken & Bonnie
BPS

Durnil, Clyde & Linda
BPS

Jarvis, Jack & Cheri
BPS



The United Nations is founded. Today it includes 193 member states and has moved its headquarters from London to New York City.

britannica.com

Israel declares statehood and becomes their own country again after the Jews' horrific treatment during World War 2.

britannica.com

1950

Irish born Christian apologist, scholar, and author, C.S. Lewis, publishes *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* (a Christian based allegory for children).

britannica.com

Democratic West Germany and formerly communist East Germany are reunited toward the end of the Cold War (1947-1991). Germany had been split and political tensions from the west opposing communism in the Soviet Union had existed since the end of WW2. Communism was overthrown in 1989, and the Soviet Union itself dissolved in 1991.

britannica.com

The name European Union (EU) is officially adopted although it had loosely existed since 1958. Today, the EU comprises 27 countries and exists to unify Europe for the purposes of commerce, social interaction, and political security.

britannica.com

2004

A Gallup poll conducted in Europe reveals an overall religious decline. Of the (then 25) European Union countries, 16 of them had less than 20% of their citizens attending church regularly while 9 of those countries showed less than 10% weekly attendance. **Note:** *Keep in mind that the majority of those that still attend church regularly in Europe are doing so in religious systems that are in error of true Biblical Christianity and without an accurate Gospel witness. European spirituality is still dominated today by the leftover influences of political empires and incomplete reformations found in Catholicism, the Church of England, Lutheranism, and Calvinism. This is not to mention the rising influences of secular humanism and Islam. Today, the European people's need for the hope of the Gospel message is greater than ever.*

gallup.com & education.nationalgeographic.com

Klenk, Warren & Jo Anne
Mexico

Mann, Chad & Faith
Whitley, Bryce, Caleb,
Brianna, Nathanael
South Asia

Money, Dale & Vickie
Aaron, Rebekah
BPS/Seedline

Roe, Jim & Melissa
Jerusha, Kimmy
Spanish Ministry

Sexton, Jerry & Kim
Rachel, Shannon, Krystal, Ronald
BPS

Sexton, Ron & Carol
Evangelism

Siekbert, Charles & Madelon
Esther Joy, Charles Jr., Abraham
Priscilla
Uganda

Siekbert, Mark & Tammy
Mongolia

Smyth, Jerry & Beth
BSWE

Stallings, Larry & Donna
BPS

Taylor, Phil & Sarah
BPS/Seedline

Tudor, Eldon & Connie
Mexico

Winter, Ron & Connie
Mexico

INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF OUR MISSIONARIES

Missionary - Daniel Brown

Question: I'm sure there are many that will read this article that don't know you well, so can you give us some background information on you and your family, and how God led you to the place where you serve today? Don't forget to give us the names and ages of all the children.

Child Name: Micah Johnson Brown - 5/31/10

Reply: During our time at Bible College, God began to work on our hearts about the need for local New Testament churches to be planted worldwide. We felt that He was calling us to be involved, in some way, in starting local churches. Also during college, we were introduced to biblical missions, as opposed to traditional missions. We began to understand the effectiveness of accomplishing God's work solely upon the pattern given in Scripture. Another component which God used in our lives was the introduction of the "Unreached People Groups". We had never heard that almost half of our world's population lived where there were no New Testament churches. We began to pray through lists of the "Unreached", willing ourselves to go if the Lord would lead. After some time of praying for labourers, the Lord directed our attention to the tiny Principality of Liechtenstein. After much time in prayer, and a short visit in April of 2011, the Lord made it very clear that it is His will for us to start a church in Liechtenstein.

Question: What are some cultural differences you expect to encounter when you get to Liechtenstein?

Reply: The differences between American and European culture are subtle, but vast. Everything from apparel, to food, to personalities are extremely different. Perhaps the greatest cultural difference we will face will be the way people communicate. In America, we are blessed to have both the freedom and the opportunity to confront people

with the gospel. While many reject the gospel, we have no problem asking a person we have never met about their eternal soul. In Europe, the rules of communication are quite different. There is a business level, and a personal level of communication. To violate the business level is offensive until one is invited to do so. Personal communication would include family, politics, and religion. For this reason, we will have to approach "soul-winning" from a different angle. We will have to build relationships before we will ever have an opportunity to share the gospel. This will prove to be a challenge, but we believe it will be fruitful in time, as those who trust Christ as Saviour will have a better knowledge of who it is they are trusting in.

Question: What new challenges do you expect to experience that you have not experienced before?

Reply: Learning the language and culture will be an obvious challenge. However, I believe the greatest challenges will be spiritually. It will be a spiritual battle all of the time. Our daily walk with God will be of utmost importance as we will be facing many roadblocks and temptations from Satan along the way.

Question: What is the most influential religion in the area you are working, and what unique challenge does that present?

Reply: Roman Catholicism; The entire culture of Liechtenstein is wrapped up in Catholicism. The businesses, schools, social clubs, and even the government are heavily influenced by the Catholic church. When a person is saved and baptized, they will surely face persecution from their family and friends. Their employment may even be at risk. While it is definitely a challenge, we are confident that those who make a profession of faith will not do so lightly, as we see so much in America. They, like the New Testament Christians, will be forsaking all to follow Christ.



Question: How will you go about evangelizing the people you are trying to reach?

Reply: As personal relationships are so important, we will have to be creative in our attempts to build them. We plan to meet people through public venues (i.e. social clubs, employment, school events, sporting events, etc.). From there, we will begin Bible studies with those we meet, attempting to clearly give them the gospel. We will also use the means of technology we have available. We are currently planning to host a website in Liechtenstein which will target those wanting to learn more about the Bible. Those interested will receive a Bible, and get information about local Bible studies in their area. The means of evangelism are many, but the only biblical method for evangelism is preaching the gospel.

Question: What methods will you use to train and disciple the new converts?

Reply: From the beginning, we will hold Bible studies which will instruct the new believers in the Christian walk, and challenge them to begin sharing their faith with others. Leadership training will be set in place for those who mature in their walk with the Lord. We will seek to provide the biblical training necessary for believers and churches to reproduce themselves in Liechtenstein. Discipleship will be the key to this ministry's success, as the nationals will be more effective in reaching their own people for Christ than we will.

Question: What are some of the goals you have set for yourself and the ministry?

Reply: 1.) Glorify God in everything we do 2.) Finish deputation and leave for Europe by the end of January 2013 3.) Learn the German language and culture in 1 1/2 years. We will be attending language school near Munich, Germany and working in a German church during our time in language school. 4.) Gain entrance into Liechtenstein 5.) Estab-

lish a New Testament church in Liechtenstein 6.) See at least one church started from that church in Liechtenstein

Question: what advice would you offer a missionary preparing to serve in Europe?

Reply: 1.) Don't be discouraged by the "naysayers". Many people will give their reasons why ministries can't succeed in Europe, but God's Word doesn't list any. 2.) Don't try to convert people to a Western style of Christianity. 3.) Be Biblical in your missionary methods. Traditionalism will not work in Europe, or anywhere else in the world.

Question: How can your home church encourage you and other missionaries on the field?

Reply: 1.) Pray for us and the needs of the ministry the Lord has called us to. 2.) Support us financially. 3.) Treat this ministry as a ministry of the local church.

Continued on next page

Missionary wife - Deana Lea Brown

Question: How are you planning to adjust to the culture?

Reply: I believe the Lord has given me this time in deputation to pray, learn, and prepare my heart for living in a new culture. Secondly, I desire to become as much like the people as possible. Trying to get myself around the other mothers and activities will help me to adapt.

Question: Do you involve yourself in the ministry, or is your focus on taking care of the home and the children?

Reply: The Lord laid the desire for missions on my heart as a child. We both have a heart for missions, and believe that God's calling is not only my husband's calling, but our calling. My first priority is my husband and children, but I do not believe children should be used as an excuse or hindrance from being involved in the Lord's work. While on deputation I involve myself in as many ways as possible in each church we attend. The Lord enables me to be involved in the ministry of deputation as well as the ministry of my family. While in Europe, I desire to be just as involved in the ministry, while raising our children and caring for our family.

Question: What is a typical day like for you?

Reply: Great! I love having so much time as a family. I am normally sitting in our minivan with our calendar open, looking up church's numbers to dial for my husband. Some days are a full day of traveling, while others are days of ministry and mission conferences where we have the opportunity to meet new friends and family in Christ. I have yet to grow tired of sharing our burden and raising awareness of unreached people groups with Christians all over the States.

Question: What advice would you offer the wife of a missionary preparing to serve in Europe?

Reply: Take things one step at a time. Do not be overwhelmed with what you might face in Europe. There is so much to learn from each stage of preparation, and each one equips you to face the next. Also, do not let yourself become defensive or critical toward people's responses to the ministry God has given you. Europe is not a poor, "pull on your heart strings" type of place. When others see our presentation I regularly hear one of two replies: "It looks so nice! I wish I could live there!" or, "That area seems so hard. I know it will take years to see anyone converted. So many missionaries return from there. You have your work cut out for you." Just understand that part of your ministry is to inform people of the need of those God has called you to.

These questions are for both of you -

Question: How can your home church encourage you and other missionaries on the field?

Reply: 1.) Pray for us and the needs of the ministry the Lord has called us to. 2.) Support us financially. 3.) Treat this ministry as a ministry of the local church. 4.) Send laborers to help in the ministry periodically.

Question: What are the greatest prayer needs you have for yourselves and the ministry, keeping in mind that this article will not be read until a few months from now.

Reply: PROTECTION: We travel many miles on deputation and are in many different and unfamiliar places. PROVISION: We desire to complete deputation by the end of January 2013. Please pray that the Lord will provide the necessary financial support by this time. POWER: While on deputation and in Europe, we will need the power of God. Our walk with the Lord must be intimate, and we desire God's people to pray that the Lord will keep us close in fellowship with Him. PURITY: As we are involved in God's work, we realize that Satan will be in opposition to us. Part of this opposition is temptation. Please pray that the Lord will strengthen us against temptation, and keep us pure in heart, mind and action.

Question: What would you like to say to your home church, and your other supporting churches, that perhaps we didn't cover in this interview?

Reply: Please understand that the responsibility of Reaching the Unreached does not end with sending the Brown family. There are still millions of others who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. Keep praying for, and sending laborers to the Unreached.

** Please stay faithful while we're away. Many times churches expect missionaries to produce on a foreign field, what they are not willing to do themselves. Win souls to Christ here at home; Disciple them faithfully here; Plant local New Testament churches here; Let us return to the States in years to come finding the people who sent us still faithfully moving forward for the Lord.*



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