

2016 MISSIONS CONFERENCE

SOUTH AMERICA

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MILFORD



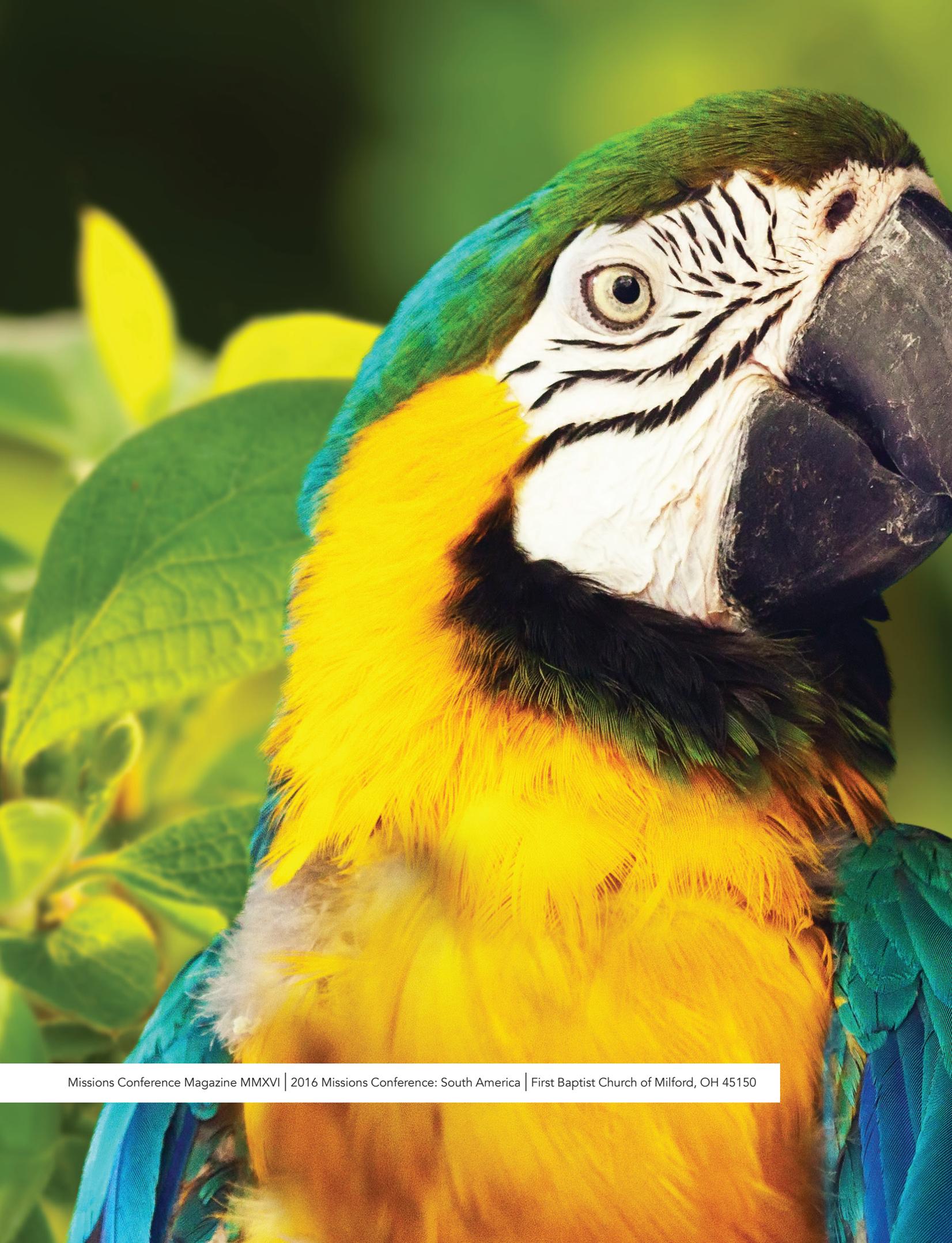


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2016 MISSIONS EDITORIAL

BY DR. BILL DUTTRY

This edition of our annual Missions Conference magazine covers the continent of South America. This is the last of our continents in this rotation. We will start over through the continents again in 2018. I would ask you to read through the articles and information included in this magazine for your personal growth and burden to reach the unreached with the Gospel.

I found this passage for us to ponder this year in our Missions Conference:

1 Chronicles 16:23-29, "Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation. Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvellous works among all nations. For great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also *is* to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the people *are* idols: but the LORD made the heavens. Glory and honour *are* in his presence; strength and gladness *are* in his place. Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."

In verse 23, we are to **SING**; in verse 24, we are to **DECLARE**; in verse 27, we are to **PRAISE**; in verses 28-29, we are to **GIVE**. These four words - **SING, DECLARE, PRAISE, and GIVE** - could be an outline for every Christian, and our responsibility to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

1. SING. This passage tells us not only to sing, but also tells us that our singing is unto the Lord and to all the earth. It is great to lift up our voices in the house of God in the place He has provided for us, but the whole earth (people) needs to hear a song on our lips and joy in our hearts. This reveals our personal relationship with Him and invites others to join in celebrating who He is. We are also told in these verses that it is to be done daily, from day to day. Would you ask the Lord for an opportunity today, or this week, to sing unto Him and allow your song to be a testimony to the lost and dying world that we are in?

2. DECLARE. Declare what? His glory. Where? Among the heathen - the lost! Romans 10:13-14, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" That word "preacher" in verse 14 pertains to "a proclamation or announcement". We are all to be proclaiming; declaring our Lord and our relationship with Him. Not only to be a proclaimer, but also to reveal His blessings in our lives to every individual we come in contact with. You cannot share Him with the wrong person.

3. PRAISE. Verse 27 reflects that "Glory and honour *are* in his presence; ..." We are to praise His name and His Word. Psalm 138:2, "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." What a privilege we have at First Baptist Church to not

only praise His name, but also to exalt Him by producing His Word for the nations, the heathen, and the lost. We must be busy and continue to praise Him by use of His name and His Word.

4. GIVE. Verses 28-29 reflect that our giving is to be unto the LORD. Several areas in which we can give: Give Him to others; give glory to Him; give glory to His name; bring an offering and come before Him. Our Faith Promise commitment and first offering will be given Thursday night in our evening service. Be prepared; be prayed up; and be looking forward to your first Faith Promise offering for the year. What would God have you commit to Him, to His Word, to His Name, and to His Glory so that all nations, people, and tongues may know Him?

Enjoy the articles; pray and be faithful in attending. Rejoice in salvation and let others know of your rejoicing.

In His work together,



Pastor Duttry
Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Milford, OH



If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Matthew 17:20

Every year, our Pastor challenges us to increase our faith in the area of Faith Promise Missions giving. Would you begin praying now about what the Lord would have you to give this year towards missions?





REACHING THE UNREACHED IN SOUTH AMERICA!

BY SEAN LUNDAY

The Amazon rainforest holds the largest concentration of uncontacted people anywhere on earth! Of the estimated 100 uncontacted tribes in the world, no less than 77 reside in the Amazon; tribes isolated from society without any chance to ever hear the Good News of Christ. Romans 15:20 states, “Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation.”

Amazon for Christ is a ministry devoted to glorifying God while striving to preach where Christ is not known. As a team of evangelists and medical personnel, they travel the river tributaries with mobile medical clinics. The provision of medical care opens the door to preach the Gospel in villages where there is no church of any kind. An estimated 33,000 villages in the Amazon basin are without a Gospel witness of any kind.

On a recent trip, the team arrives at a small fishing village just as the sun sets behind the dense jungle along the banks of the Itaquai River. Soon they are met by villagers who bring the first patient. A woman holding

her crudely bandaged arm asks for medicine to ease the pain from a severe knife wound leveled upon her by her machete-wielding husband. A domestic dispute, which potentially could have resulted in a fatality, has become an opportunity to share the life-giving message of Christ. After attending to the pressing physical need, we have an entire village ready and receptive to hear God's Word. This is one example of how God is using mobile medical clinics as a key to open doors in areas otherwise left closed to the Gospel.

Days later, we learn of another village deeper within the bush. After confirming the reports, we begin to mobilize our mission team in their direction. Soon we find ourselves walking through the virgin jungle of Brazil's westernmost Amazon Basin. Woolly monkeys chatter somewhere in the distance, their banter punctuated by the occasional zing of a machete and the shrill cries of screaming piha birds high in the canopy overhead. A column of 14 men proceed in silence, strung out single file far back into the forest. The group is soon swallowed from view by a spray of overhanging branches and vines, as thick as anacondas, dangling 100 feet from the treetops to the forest floor. Just ahead, our guide strides double-time across a stretch of level ground; a welcome break from the steep riverbanks we have been scrambling over for days. As we enter a clearing, we can see in the distance the spiraling smoke from fires indicating a village lay ahead. Soon our efforts pay off as we see in view the tops of the thatched roofed houses and villagers working in their gardens. "You're probably the only outsiders ever to have walked here", the guide explains. The guide has led us into the doorway of one of the most remote, uncharted places left on the planet; near the headwaters of two adjacent rivers, the Itaquai and the Javari. We are not far from an area we dare not enter, known as the Vale do Javari indigenous area. This is the land of the mysterious Korubos, or Club People, a rarely glimpsed Indian tribe known principally as feared warriors disposed to unleashing a blow from their long bamboo clubs in order to defend their territory against intruders; then melting away into the forest. In one of the fishing villages, they tell us stories of the rare experiences they have had with the Korubos which, on one occasion, resulted in the death of two family members. The Korubos figure among the 77 so called "uncontacted tribes" living in the far recesses of the Brazilian Amazon, which have been documented through aerial surveys. The Vale do Javari holds the largest such concentration anywhere in the world. Most of them are descendants of the survivors of massacres perpetrated by white intruders over the centuries.

The tribes then scattered into the rugged folds of the region's headwaters and continue to shun contact with the outside world; but violent clashes account for only a fraction of the deaths suffered by native communities at the hands of outsiders. Many died from epidemic diseases, including the common cold, for which they had no biological defenses. It is for this reason that the government has sought to keep the door closed to this region so long left isolated from the modern world. The provision of medical care is the key which unlocks the door into these areas long closed to the Gospel message. Through mobile medical clinics, we are allowed access by taking teams of doctors and evangelists to virgin areas untouched by our modern world and the Gospel. We have seen God use these clinics as a catalyst to establish churches among fishing villages, known as ribeirinhos, in otherwise inaccessible areas. These small fishing villages provide a bridge between the civilized world and the uncontacted tribes. Often tribal leaders will leave their young in these river villages to learn the "white man's" language and medicine, in order to one day return to help their tribe. This provides us an opportunity to reach these kids while they are young and send them back to the restricted indigenous area with the Gospel message. The clinics in the unrestricted fishing villages are key to reaching the entire Amazon for Christ. As word spreads of the clinics, the people come from distances within the bush, bringing their sick. We have attended to many needs such as malaria, snake bites, skin rashes, even leprosy; but all with one great need, the Lord Jesus Christ. Every clinic is followed by a service where the Gospel is clearly presented and every patient receives a portion of God's Word to take home. National workers later continue follow up with the new converts, much like the circuit riding preachers of American heritage, making possible a church plant. All along the way, while navigating through river tributaries and jungle trails, in village after village we are met with the same receptive hearts waiting and ready to receive the Gospel message.

God, in His providence, has given us this open door into the Vale do Javari. In Matthew 9:38, Christ tells us to "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Why then should we not risk life and expense to reach those isolated from Him? Oswald J. Smith once said, "No one has the right to hear the Gospel twice, while there remains those who have not heard it once". Let us continue the mission of the Great Physician, to take the Gospel to unreached people groups long isolated from God and the modern world!



ACCESSING THE FIELD

by Dr. Adam Slone

When we think about missions, we often think of someone giving up everything they have, going on deputation, and leaving this country for another country that, more than likely, has less amenities and comfort. However, there are many ways that we can accomplish the Great Commission and access the field. One non-traditional way that is not routinely used, especially with the goal of evangelism, is medical missions.

After being saved in early 2001, the Lord put on my heart a desire to become a physician. Shortly thereafter, while on a missions trip to Ecuador, He burdened me with a desire to serve Him on the field, using medicine as a tool to reach the lost. Not many medical missions organizations focus on the evangelistic outreach aspect; they seem to just care about providing medical relief. While it is a good thing to provide compassionate care to those less fortunate, we must not forget that every single human being in the past, present, and future are all, most importantly, affected by the “disease” of sin. It is this disease that we must seek to cure; and only by the precious blood of Jesus Christ is this attainable.

With this in mind, I began a medical missions organization in late 2015 with the goal to “rescue the perishing” and “care for the dying”. In the 20th chapter of Acts, we read about the Apostle Paul’s impending travel to Jerusalem, “... not knowing the things that shall befall me there:” (verse 22). He was persuaded that he must submit to the Lord’s will and Spirit’s guiding, no matter the cost. In verse 24, he makes a statement that has really been influential in my call to reach the lost: “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.” While we are all called to fulfill the Great Commission, not all are called to serve overseas. For me, organizing and orchestrating medical missions trips is just simple obedience in fulfilling His commission, to His Glory, and submitting to the “ministry” that He has provided for me.

Recently I was privileged to have the opportunity to lead a medical team into Honduras. We were able to provide care to more than 700 people. At the same

While it is a good thing to provide compassionate care to those less fortunate, we must not forget that every single human being in the past, present, and future are all, most importantly, affected by the "disease" of sin.

time, national pastors were available to preach the Gospel. There were six people that accepted Christ as their personal Savior. Initially, I was discouraged that only six persons had accepted the saving grace of Christ. During previous trips with other churches and other medical missions organizations, we have seen approximately ten (10%) percent of those who received medical care come to know the Lord. In my mind, I was expecting to see 70. I thought to myself, "Six; that is not enough". It was then that the Lord began dealing with my heart over this matter. He revealed to me several things. First, He gets the glory, no matter what, and He is the one who convicts and changes hearts and minds; not me. Second, He revealed to me that He gets the glory in the process of evangelism. I soon realized that if just one had a new name written down in glory, that is good enough; and we had six, so a six hundred (600%) percent increase! To God be the glory!

When we think about the net result of our fruits and labors, we often have in our minds the end result mentioned in Revelation 5:9, "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;" Yes, we were redeemed by His precious blood and the end result is worshipping Him for the rest of eternity, but we must not forget that His worship and praise begin here on earth, when we come to know Him personally. He is glorified through our life, by His redeeming work, and He gets the glory; as long as we are faithful to what He has called us to do.

Fanny Crosby's hymn, To God Be the Glory, summarizes this thought in the first verse and chorus: "To God be the glory - great things He hath done, So loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the Life-gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory - great things He hath done." The Lord gets the glory, in the here and now, through our simple obedience, and by taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people groups. To God be the glory indeed!



Spreading God's Word

through Major Events

by Phil Taylor

Over the years, the ministry of Bearing Precious Seed (BPS) has had the opportunity to be involved with Scripture distribution at many worldwide events. These events have included the last two World Cups (one in South Africa and one in Brazil) as well as the last 11 Olympic Games. In the last 20 years, the Lord has allowed BPS to partner with other ministries to distribute over 3,000,000 portions of Scripture. This Scripture was printed in 35 different languages. The first open door was during the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. These Olympic Games provided us with our first glimpse of the opportunities that exist during such an event. We quickly recognized the ability to reach a great number of people, from a great number of countries, during a singular event.

I have personally had the privilege of being involved with Scripture distribution during

several of these campaigns. I have been able to attend the 2010 World Cup in South Africa; the 2012 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia; and the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia. By the time this article is printed, I and seven of our church members will have attended the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. The Olympic Games provide us with the unique opportunity of presenting the written Word of God to many nations, languages, and people groups; all at one geographical location and all in a very short period of time.

In the second chapter of Acts, we are given the account of what transpired during the day of Pentecost. We know that during Pentecost many people, from different regions and who spoke many different languages, received the Gospel in their own language and were saved. God used Pentecost to show the disciples that He would use His Spirit to empower them for the work He had commanded them

to do. The result of the obedience of God's people and the working of the Holy Spirit was that God was glorified among the nations. Habakkuk 2:14 says, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." God desires to use the same formula today as He did with the early church. The formula is not speaking with tongues of fire; rather, the formula is the obedience of God's people and the moving of the Holy Spirit. The product of this formula is that God receives glory. The question is not whether the Holy Spirit will move in the hearts of His people through His Word; we know that He will. God's Word tells us that He is unchanging. The question to be answered is this: Will God's people be obedient? Will God's people continue to bring Him glory? Acts chapter two shows us three ways in which God received glory. My experience during these major, worldwide events has shown me that God can still receive glory in these same three ways.

First, we see that God is glorified through the obedience of His people. The disciples were not only obedient to the Great Commission; they were obedient to God for a specific period of time, during a specific event. God told the disciples to wait at Jerusalem and they were obedient. Seemingly, this was contrary to His previous command for them to go into all the world. The disciples soon realized that God was going to bring the world to them at Pentecost. They learned that obedience was following God's plan, God's way, and that doing so brings Him glory. Christians today need to display this same type of obedience if we want to see God receive the glory He deserves. Christians who have been obedient to God over the past 20 years in spreading the Gospel at these worldwide events see the results of their obedience. Believers understand that God receives glory when someone comes to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. We must also understand that God receives glory through our obedience.

We also see that God receives glory through the boldness of His people. Peter had recently denied Christ, yet now stands up and boldly preaches at Pentecost that Jesus is the Messiah. The same man who had feared for his life now seemed to have no care or concern for his own well-being. Clearly, it takes a certain amount of boldness to stand on the streets in a foreign country and distribute Scriptures. People pass by that you do not

know. People pass by and you are unsure of the language they speak. You start asking yourself, "What if they do not want the Scripture? What if I offer them the wrong language? What if they throw it away? What if they become offended?" We must remember that it is not about us; it is about our heavenly Father receiving glory. I personally have found the boldness I needed as I encountered the very same situations during these major, worldwide events.

AS WE MIRROR
the sacrificial lifestyle
OF THE EARLY CHURCH,
WE UNDERSTAND
that God receives glory
WHEN HIS PEOPLE SACRIFICE.

Finally, we see that God receives glory through the sacrifice of His people. Acts 2:45 reads, "And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need." Those who had just received Christ began to understand the pattern that Christ Himself gave us and immediately begin a sacrificial lifestyle that focuses on the needs of others instead of their own. I have witnessed persons forego vacations and spend thousands of dollars for

travel, food, and lodging just to be a part of these Gospel distribution events. Traveling to World Cup Soccer tournaments and Olympic Games for the purpose of spreading the Gospel, rather than attending the sporting event(s) or leisurely surveying the culture, is sacrificial. Vacation time is a valuable commodity for most people. Giving money not only towards the trip, but to pay for the paper to print the Scriptures, calls for a great financial commitment. It takes a lot of sacrifice, from a lot of people, to see a distribution campaign come together at one of these events. As we mirror the sacrificial lifestyle of the early church, we understand that God receives glory when His people sacrifice.

God receives glory through obedience, boldness, and sacrifice. These actions did not originate with the disciples. The disciples were simply following the example of their Savior. Jesus demonstrated obedience to His Father when He boldly and sacrificially endured what no other man could ever endure. Christ died on the cross with the same motivation that should drive us as we labor for Him. His motivation was to bring glory to God the Father.





Shared thoughts from an intern who spent 10 months with Joel and Brooke Daku, missionaries to I-Kiribati

“Onimakina Te Atua”! This is the I-Kiribati phrase for “have faith in God”. This phrase now rings true on an island in the middle of the Equatorial Pacific Ocean. This phrase now means something in the lives of people who had never before heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Prior to the arrival of the Daku missionary family in 2012, the I-Kiribati people did not know God; they had no understanding of “Onimakina Te Atua” or of the grace that is extended to the unbeliever upon exhibiting such faith. Praise God their lives are now changed. Praise God their lives continue to change as they learn more about God and how to live for Him.

God’s Word tells us that the angels rejoice when the lost come to know God as Savior. “Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” (Luke 15:10). We know God receives glory through the redemption of souls. Surely God is glorified throughout the entire process. Surely God is exalted when we evangelize; when we lift His Son’s name in praise as we proclaim the Gospel.

Let’s look at the process; the actions or preparations associated with God using me in I-Kiribati. First, I sat in a classroom. Second, I had to prepare for the field. Third and finally, it was time to go. The classes and field preparation certainly helped, but nothing could totally prepare me for my internship.

I believe God was glorified during my class time. I believe God was pleased as I learned more about Him and His call for my life through study in the areas of doctrine, relationships, contextualization, language learning, and culture. I sometimes struggled in the classroom, but clearly see the significance of this crucial stage of the process.

I believe God received glory as I completed my field prep. It was during this phase that I was able to travel to other churches and present the ministry God had placed on my heart. This was also the time spent raising funds. May I tell you that this phase of the “process” increased my faith! I witnessed God provide as only He

can provide. God was glorified as His plans were made known to other churches who subsequently partnered with me to help make my internship possible.

I also believe God was exalted during the 10 months (internship) I spent with the Dakus in I-Kiribati. There were times when God had to correct my attitude. There were times when I missed my family and friends. There were times when I felt alone, but God was with me and strengthened me, and He received the glory.

Perhaps the most difficult part of the internship process is what missionaries refer to as “first contact”. First contact is a time of uncertainty. First contact is when the missionary is first exposed to a new culture, a new language, and ultimately a new people. Certainly this was a difficult time for me during my internship. However, this was also a very exciting time. Upon reaching my destination in I-Kiribati and upon “first contact”, I was forced to make a decision. I could have allowed my fear to overwhelm and limit God’s moving, or I could allow God to take control and receive glory. I would be untruthful if I said that I was not afraid. Culture shock and language barriers can be quite discouraging. The first few days were frustrating as I realized my inabilities. Only when I began to totally depend upon God did He begin to use me. Only then did He begin to receive glory through this part of the process.

Another challenging part of my internship was “prospecting”. Prospecting, or planning and pursuing lost persons, can obviously bring God much glory. Whether it is passing out literature or just making contacts with locals, God is glorified during the process of proclaiming His name. The locals see a foreigner; they need to see Christ! The locals will follow the foreigner around the village and talk to their friends about the new arrival. It is an anxious time; a time of questions. It is a time when the missionary must walk with the Lord and reflect an upright testimony.

While most challenging, evangelism is clearly the most rewarding part of the process. The end product gives God the most glory! There are a variety of methods that can be used to attract people to Jesus, but there is only one way that they can be converted. “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17). You can imagine the difficulty

expressing the truths of the Bible in a foreign language. The key to evangelism is communication. The key to communication is language. To say that learning the I-Kiribati language was difficult would be a gross understatement of facts. After 10 months, I still feel as if I know little of the I-Kiribati language. Still, you can imagine my joy when I first was able to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Kiribati tongue. I was overjoyed! Language learning is instrumental to the process of evangelism, and evangelism is why missionaries commit their lives to God. “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;” (Revelation 5:9).

I thank God for my classroom studies and for the time spent preparing for the field. I praise God for allowing me to spend over 10 months in I-Kirabatti with the Dakus, but most of all, I thank God for being patient with me as I worked through the processes. He received the glory through it all.

“I could have allowed my fear to overwhelm and limit God's moving, or I could allow God to take control and receive glory.”

¡SUDAMÉRICA



COLOMBIA

POPULATION: 46,736,728
 RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic - 90%, Other - 10%
 LANGUAGES: 84 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Spanish
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 111
 INDUSTRIES: Coal, Oil, & Agriculture



PERU

POPULATION: 30,444,999
 RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic - 81%,
 Evangelical - 13%, Other - 3%, None - 3%
 LANGUAGES: 93 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Spanish, Quechua
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 103
 INDUSTRIES: Mining, Fishing,
 Agriculture, & Tourism



CHILE

POPULATION: 17,508,260
 RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic - 67%
 Evangelical/Protestant - 16%
 None - 12%, Other - 5%
 LANGUAGES: 10 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Spanish, English
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 28
 INDUSTRIES: Exports, & Mining



VENEZUELA

POPULATION: 29,275,460
 RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic - 96%
 Protestant - 2%, Other - 2%
 LANGUAGES: 44 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Spanish
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 65
 INDUSTRIES: Oil



EQUADOR

POPULATION: 15,868,396
 RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic - 74%
 Evangelical - 10%, Atheist - 8%,
 Jehovah's Witness - 1%, Other - 7%
 LANGUAGES: 23 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Spanish
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 32
 INDUSTRIES: Petroleum, Textile,
 & Food Processing



BOLIVIA

POPULATION: 10,800,822
 RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic - 77%
 Evangelical/Pentacostal - 8%,
 Protestant - 8%, None - 5%, Other - 2%
 LANGUAGES: 43 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Spanish, Quechua
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 45
 INDUSTRIES: Natural Gas, & Mining



ARGENTINA

POPULATION: 17,508,260
 RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic - 67%
 Evangelical/Protestant - 16%
 None - 12%, Other - 5%
 LANGUAGES: 10 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Spanish, English
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 28
 INDUSTRIES: Exports, & Mining



Paraguay and Bolivia are the only two landlocked countries in South America with no access to the Atlantic Ocean or the Pacific Ocean.

The driest place on Earth is the Atacama desert in Chile.

Ushuaia, Argentina is the southernmost city in the world.

A!

A SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY MAP



GUYANA

POPULATION: 735,222
 RELIGIONS: Protestant - 31%, Hindu - 28%, Other Christian - 18%, Roman Catholic - 8%, Muslim - 7%, None - 5%, Jehovah's Witness - 1%, Other - 2%
 LANGUAGES: 14 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: English, Guyanese Creole
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 22
 INDUSTRIES: Agriculture, Mining, & Exports



SURINAME

POPULATION: 30,444,999
 RELIGIONS: Hindu - 27%, Protestant - 25%, Roman Catholic - 23%, Muslim - 20%, Indigenous Beliefs - 5%
 LANGUAGES: 19 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Dutch
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 24
 INDUSTRIES: Mining, & Exports



FRENCH GUIANA

POPULATION: 267,000
 RELIGIONS: Christian - 81%, Ethnic Religions - 7%, None - 6%, Hinduism - 2%, Islam - 1%, Other - 3%
 LANGUAGES: 21 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: French
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 23
 INDUSTRIES: Fish, & Forestry



BRAZIL

POPULATION: 204,259,812
 RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic - 65%, Protestant - 22%, None - 8%, Other - 5%
 LANGUAGES: 216 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Portuguese
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 307
 INDUSTRIES: Agriculture, Mining, Manufacturing, & Tourism



PARAGUAY

POPULATION: 6,783,272
 RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic - 90%, Protestant - 6%, Other Christian - 1%, None - 1%, Other - 2%
 LANGUAGES: 23 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Spanish, Guaraní
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 42
 INDUSTRIES: Agriculture, & Trading



URUGUAY

POPULATION: 3,341,893
 RELIGIONS: Roman Catholic - 47%, Nondenominational - 23%, Non-Catholic Christian - 11%, Atheist/Agnostic - 17%, Other - 2%
 LANGUAGES: 2 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Spanish
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 33
 INDUSTRIES: Agriculture, & Exports



FALKLAND ISLES

POPULATION: 3,361
 RELIGIONS: Christian - 66%, None - 32%, Other - 2%
 LANGUAGES: 23 different languages
 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: English
 PEOPLE GROUPS: 2
 INDUSTRIES: Fish, Wool Processing, & Tourism

Brazil is only 431,325 square miles smaller in size than the USA.

**LARGEST COUNTRY
BRAZIL**

**MOST SPOKEN LANGUAGES
SPANISH & PORTUGUESE**

**DOMINANT RELIGION
ROMAN CATHOLICISM**

**HIGHEST GEOGRAPHIC POINT
ACONCAGUA, ARGENTINA**

in the world.

OUR MEMBER MISSIONARIES

**Biblical School of
World Evangelism**
Milford, OH

Michael & Kristen Carter
North Africa

Juanita Case
Bearing Precious Seed

Sam & Betty Caudill
Bearing Precious Seed

Alice Demarest
Bearing Precious Seed

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BRINGING MISSIONS INTO FOCUS

BY DAVID L. WILLIAMSON

We have all taken photographs that are blurry and out of focus. If you are like me, this might happen quite often. I find myself adjusting and refocusing the lens so that the image I am attempting to capture becomes clear. Sometimes I have to take multiple photographs to get a clear representation of the picture or image I am trying to capture.

Missions Conference is a special time for the church; a special time for we believers. Each local church seems to understand its purpose. For many, it is time to refocus. We know it is a time when we believers place a special emphasis on God's command to go, to send, and to fund. Recent events in my life have caused me to meditate on this thing we Christians call "missions."

A little over three years ago, I received the privilege of an assignment change. My ministry changed as I began serving at the Biblical School of World Evangelism, our missions college here at First Baptist Church of Milford. This change alone allowed God to give me a refreshing and broadened perspective on this thing we call missions. I came to realize, more than ever, that our God is a God of missions. I realize, now more than ever, that the preeminent theme thread throughout the entire Word of God is this thing we call missions.

In the last two years, I have been privileged to visit three foreign fields. I have witnessed first-hand church planting ministries in Mexico, Honduras, and Indonesia. In addition to the aforementioned assignment change, these trips also impacted my perspective and my focus. Certainly, I was moved by the lost people in these foreign fields. Clearly, I was burdened for their eternal state and respectful of the sacrifice the missionaries make each and every day of their lives; but what struck me more deeply than anything else was the spirituality of those involved in

the work. You see, the missionaries had no worldly distractions. They had no material enticements or luxuries to cause them to lose focus. They did not need a conference to reinforce their priorities. They were so engulfed in the work of God that they literally had little time to focus on anything else.

In late November of 2015, I was asked to assist with missions here at our home church. What a joy it has been to actively serve in our missions program each day. I found myself wanting to do a better job of communicating with our member missionaries. I wanted them to feel connected and loved. To accomplish this, we were forced to sharpen our focus; to "zoom in" tighter. We had to work a little harder and make prayer a greater priority.

I find myself envying these people we call missionaries. I find myself wishing I had the resolve to limit my distractions to focus more intently on the lost. I find myself burdened to continually make changes in my life. Each time I have received an assignment change that involves a greater commitment to "missions", my focus improves; the image becomes clearer. Each time I have returned home from a "missions" trip, my passion for world evangelism has grown because, for a brief time, I was able to "zoom in" and see the "fields white already to harvest" in person.

I suspect there are many believers like me. I suspect for some, "missions" gets out of focus. I certainly needed God to adjust my lens. Perhaps during this conference, someone reading this article is led by God to adjust their lens; to commit to focus or refocus on missions. 1 John 2:2 reads, "And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." May this Missions Conference cause each of us to adjust our lens and to refocus on God's command to go, to preach, to teach, and to give. May we truly "zoom in" on missions and stay focused on this priority each and every day.



A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt, is smiling and holding a silver tin can to his ear. The background is a bright blue color with several faint, light blue icons: a megaphone, an envelope, a heart inside a circle, a gift box, a speech bubble, and another envelope with a heart. The title "STAYING CONNECTED" is written in large, bold, white capital letters across the top right. Below the title, the author's name "BY FRANK MCNEILL" is written in smaller, bold, dark blue capital letters.

STAYING CONNECTED

BY FRANK MCNEILL

“A GOOD MAN OUT OF THE GOOD TREASURE OF HIS HEART BRINGETH FORTH THAT WHICH IS GOOD; AND AN EVIL MAN OUT OF THE EVIL TREASURE OF HIS HEART BRINGETH FORTH THAT WHICH IS EVIL: FOR OF THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART HIS MOUTH SPEAKETH.” LUKE 6:45

A wise sales manager once told me to scan the office of a potential customer to determine their interests. Oftentimes surroundings reflect what the customer spends time doing; their passion; what they love. You might see a twelve point buck or a six pound largemouth bass mounted on their office wall. Perhaps it is a photo of the family or grandchildren that is conspicuously and prominently located on the desk. Get the customer talking about what they love and they will continue talking about that subject. After going on and on about their passion, they then feel obligated to hear your sales presentation. I have used this tactic for many years and believe me, it works. Matthew

6:21 tells us that we love what we treasure: “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Clearly people talk about what they love.

Not only do we speak about what is on our hearts, but we respond to the things we love as well. When teaching Singles here at First Baptist Church of Milford, I always told the young ladies in the class to look at the checkbook of a potential husband before making a marriage commitment. See what they spend their money on; see if they give to the church. People always give towards things they love. One young lady told me that her fiancé had used money he was saving to purchase a new

firearm to put a down payment on her engagement ring. I told her the young man was a “keeper”. Jesus’ love for people caused Him to respond. We see an example of such a response in Matthew 9:36, “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.” The love of Jesus moved Him to respond; so much so that He gave His life for us.

I believe many churches love missions; I know our church does. First Baptist Church of Milford places great energy in its missions program. We give generously to print the Word of God and to get it to those that do not have a Bible. We choose a different continent each year and have “Missions Emphasis Day” leading up to our annual conference. In doing so, we keep our focus on our missions goals. I wonder if we sometimes get the feeling that we are “doing enough”. I wonder if we, as a church, sometimes think: “We talk about missions; we give and we pray. Our church has a “missions focus” all year long and our church prints millions of copies of God’s Word.” I wonder if we then settle into a comfort zone and become unmoved. I sometimes wonder if we are truly “doing enough”. What more could we do?

It is a great privilege to teach an Adult Bible Study class here at First Baptist Church of Milford. My wife and I are blessed to work with the Berean class. Like other classes, we have a group of believers that love the Lord, His Word, and missions. Like all First Baptist Church of Milford Adult Bible Study classes, we are “connected” with at least one missionary family. Events in the past two years have caused me to recognize a way in which we can do more. A little over 18 months ago, our Berean class assigned a couple to oversee our part in missions. This couple helped our Berean class be accountable and kept us informed as we endeavored to do more as a class for missions. What did we do? I simply refer to it as “staying connected”.

The Carter family, missionaries to North Africa, is assigned to our Berean class. We have the joy of “staying connected” with Michael, Kristen, and their children, Maya, Kenza, and Ian. How we stay “connected” is of vital importance. I have heard missionaries say that they sometimes feel forgotten when they get to the field. Even though we speak of missions often, and we pray and give, the missionary family is miles away. The missionary family can become unconnected to their church. How can we “stay connected”? Here are a few ways in which our Berean class stays connected with the Carters.



HANDWRITTEN LETTERS OR CARDS.

Each month, a different family from our Berean class sends a handwritten letter or card to the Carter family. Each month, a different family lets the Carters know we are thinking of them and praying for the family and their needs. There is just something special about a handwritten message in today’s world of social media. A handwritten letter or card is warm and personal.



STAY CONNECTED ON BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES.

Each Sunday, our Berean class receives an offering. The entire offering is designated to our class missionaries and their families. We use these funds to send gifts to each of the family members on their birthdays, and to mom and dad on their wedding anniversary. It is so important for the children and adults to be remembered on these special days.



STAY CONNECTED AT CHRISTMAS.

We plan early to make sure we can purchase gifts for each member of the family, so that the items can be shipped and arrive before the holiday. We have all taken photos of our children opening presents on Christmas Day. I cannot tell you how encouraging it is when our class receives photos of the Carter children and their smiling faces after opening Christmas gifts. What a blessing it is for us to be a blessing to them.



STAY CONNECTED WITH SPECIAL CARE PACKAGES.

There does not have to be a special occasion to do something special for our missionaries. Often missionaries abroad do not have access to the things we take for granted here in America. Find out what they like, or something that they miss from the States, and surprise them with a package. Send them their favorite snack or upload an iTunes card with their favorite music. The package does not have to contain expensive items; it is the thought that counts!

To love missions is to love people. Missionaries are people who sometimes are forgotten. My prayer is that the Lord uses this conference to move someone to respond and ultimately to go; and that we, as a church, stay connected to those that are sent.

DEPUTATION by Nathan Saint

What is deputation? Deputation can be defined in many ways. It can be defined by thousands and thousands of seemingly endless miles. Personally, we have *only* traveled about 36,000 miles through the first 17 months of our deputation, but I know some missionaries who regularly drive close to 5,000 miles a month! Why so many miles? Because we will go wherever God allows us to go just for an opportunity to tell one more church about the great need for the Gospel in Chile. We will sleep in a different bed each night and meet many people who will soon become mere faces in our memories; just so we can remind them what a great God we serve and how there are billions of others around the world who may have never heard of God's saving grace.

Deputation can be defined by testing. We have not experienced many frightening events while on deputation; however, I would like to share the time our car started to stutter less than halfway to a conference in Georgia. There was no opportunity to get it looked at, as it was during the middle of a downpour. All we could do was pray and keep driving, trusting God to get us there in time.

Then there were times when the budget was stretched tight, especially early on in our deputation. It seemed the love offerings were not ample to cover the cost of our gas and lodging. Deputation tested our patience, as long trips often added stress to our young marriage (we started deputation less than two months after we were married).



I would not say we ever lost our composure, but we often had to dig deep and trust in the Lord to find the patience to endure. Yet through it all, God provided.

Lastly, I would define deputation as a blessing. As the trials and testings came, the blessings soon followed. We made it to our conference in Georgia with time to spare and the repairs did not break the budget. When our budget

did get stretched, we would visit a church that was more than generous with their love offering, or an unexpected check would come in the mail. Moreover, when our patience was stretched beyond what we could seemingly endure, God always gave grace to guide and help us through. If anything, I would say our young marriage might be stronger than most simply because it has been tested. God has blessed beyond measure, but He would not have had the opportunity to bless us if we had not been willing to be tested. We would not know the joy if we had not experienced the pain. We would not know how great God is if we had not put ourselves in a position where we realized how dependent we must be upon Him.

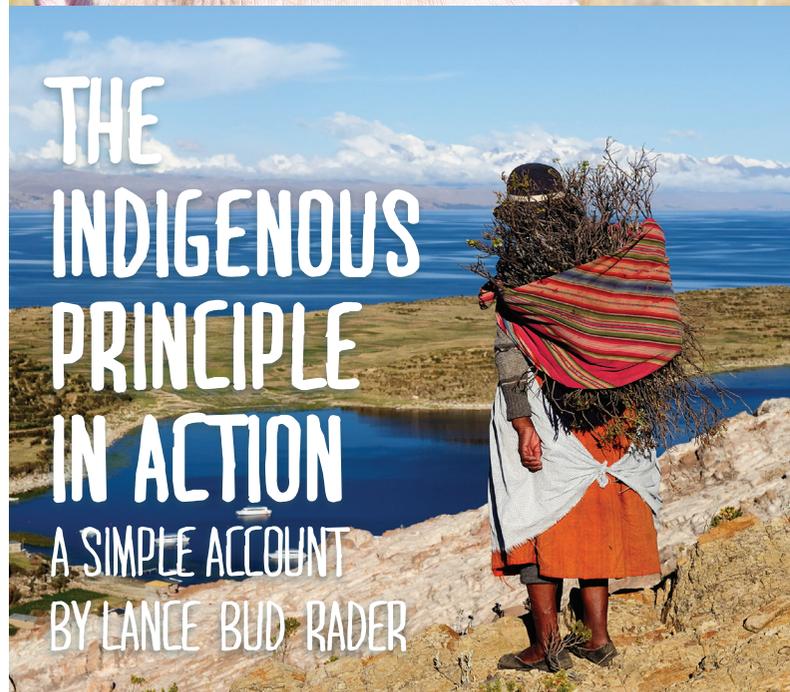
I say this carefully and I say it humbly: I hope, trust, and pray that we might be what God wants us to be because we were willing to take that first step of faith and begin deputation. Now, as the end is truly in sight, we give Him all the honor, praise, and glory for what He has allowed us to do for Him. It is amazing how far He has brought us in such a short period of time.

THERE WAS A CONFUSED GATHERING in a flat, bushy area just north of the isolated Andean village of Postrervalle, Bolivia. Suddenly a young man, with a notable gold tooth, energetically spoke out. The people listened to him and the confused mob began working together in a somewhat orderly manner. The situation was that the village nun (town boss) was sick and the Air Force was sending a plane to evacuate her. The people quickly prepared to provide an adequate landing site. A young missionary, who could barely speak Spanish, was present and working alongside the people. He was impressed by what the man with the gold tooth accomplished and a friendship began that remains to this day.

It happens that this young missionary had been praying for many months that God would lead him to an individual in the village of Postrervalle that he could disciple. His prayer was that God would provide an individual, very early in his church planting ministry, that would eventually become the key person in establishing a church there. God was answering that prayer. That was nearly 34 years ago.

Surely it has been said a thousand times before that the most important element to assist the missionary church planter in overcoming spiritual warfare is prayer. This certainly is true today. God's Word declares this in Ephesians 6:18, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" My advice to the missionary church planter is to begin praying, even before you know where God wants you to establish a church. It really works! I do not understand how our meager prayer efforts influence God, but somehow they do. Is God leading you into a church planting ministry? It is not too early to begin asking God to prepare the people to whom He is sending you. It is not too early to ask God to work in the hearts of the people so they will be ready to receive the Gospel. It is not too early to pray that God would prepare you and your family and enable you, by His power, to take the Gospel to them. In offering these prayers, it is vital to remember that all such prayers must be done with a strong desire to glorify Him!

So in regards to establishing an indigenous local church, the first step is to prayerfully seek to disciple and develop local leadership. Recruit others to stand





IT IS CRUCIAL TO DO NOTHING THAT TENDS TO CREATE A DEPENDENCY ON ANYTHING, OR ANYONE, BUT GOD.

by you in sincere prayer as you begin the process of establishing a God-honoring church. The ultimate goal must be to bring God glory! Achieving this goal requires diligence (laziness is not an option); and not only in prayer. The missionary church planter must train disciples to **strive to give God glory in every aspect of ministry**. Only then will the people truly understand the next objective; a total dependency on God.

It is crucial to do nothing that tends to create a dependency on anything, or anyone, but God. In other words, do not act as a “prop or crutch” for the infant church with promises, influence, finances, or other resources. For the church to truly be indigenous, it must also be autonomous (independent) to the point of being self-governing, self-financing (total dependence on God), and self-propagating (surviving and even thriving without outside help). You must be careful to lead them to prayerfully seek God for all provision. Really! Surely it is not the desire of the church planter to make a church dependent on, or controlled by, a mission board, a missionary, or an affluent church in another country? I pray this is not the goal! What could honor God more than a local body of believers meeting together regularly for worship, training nationals in the propagation of the Gospel and in the whole counsel of God, completely independent from outside influence, and with absolute dependence on our kind and able heavenly Father?

Back to where our story began. Years earlier, some Gospel work had taken place in Postrervalle, Bolivia but only with marginal success. However, roots were now sinking in and the young man with the golden tooth had become a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. When we say faithful, we mean faithful!

His hunger for the Word still amazes us today. He ably pastored what became the Maranatha Baptist Church of Postrervalle for over 25 years. They have a fine new pastor now who is continuing to lead them as they depend on God. They are remodeling the old church house that was built 32 years ago, as God continues to supply the means through the congregation’s tithes, offerings, and work.

The landing site was not ready in time to rescue the nun, but she was evacuated by helicopter the next day. As for the nun, she lived on to hinder the Gospel elsewhere in Postrervalle for several more years. Still, the best thing that happened in the little field north of the village 34 years ago was that God answered prayer and a lifelong friendship began between a discipler and a disciple. By God’s grace, a church was established through this relationship in a very difficult place.

Do you desire to establish an indigenous, New Testament Church that will continue on for decades? Pray about incorporating the following simple steps in your approach to church planting.

1. Pray fervently, faithfully, and frequently (be constant in prayer).
2. As you pray, seek to glorify God in all your ministry endeavors.
3. Seek to disciple (train) faithful, indigenous persons to grow in the Lord.
4. Seek to create a dependency wholly on God from the church’s inception.

MAY GOD BE PRAISED!



Coming Off the Field

by Larry Quinlan

Now ministering at Biblical School of World Evangelism

One of the Bible passages that I memorized as a child was Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." This passage teaches us that although we may not always *understand* God's directing in our life, we can (and should) always *trust* His directing. When I was 13 years old, God began working in my heart about going to Indonesia as a missionary; when I was 15 years old, I surrendered to that call. At that time, I did not know why God wanted me, personally, to be a missionary; nor why He wanted me to go to Indonesia instead of the Philippines where I was raised. Although I did not understand, I knew it to be God's directing in my life, and I trusted Him to bring it to pass.

Missionaries find themselves depending upon the truth found in Proverbs 3:5-6 perhaps more than most. Missionaries often find themselves in situations that they do not understand and must simply trust God. Even the Apostle Paul faced a situation where God did not allow him to take the Gospel to an area that he deemed needful (Acts 16:6-7). It is likely that Paul did not understand at the time why God shut the door, yet he trusted God who directed his path to Macedonia.

After 30 years of being a missionary to Indonesia, I must admit that I still do not understand why God wanted me to be a missionary (there are many others that would have been much better at it) nor why, of all places, He wanted me to go to Indonesia. Yet my wife

Nancy and I trusted God's directing. It is a thrill to see the work He has done in that needy country and to have had a small part in it!

Now we are once again doing that which we do not understand, yet we know God is directing. We are, after 30 years, coming off the field! Truthfully, I do not like the phrase "coming off the field". It sounds like giving up or throwing in the towel. Yet here we are, indeed, coming off the field of Indonesia to pursue a new field of missionary service and we are doing so, knowing it to be God's directing.

What does it mean for a missionary to come off the field as a result of God's directing?

1. Coming off the field under God's directing means that **the missionary is leaving something** - something that is valuable and worthwhile.

“ Coming off the field after the greater part of a lifetime of service can be difficult for the missionary to understand.



Yet if it is God's directing, we must simply trust His wisdom and not our own understanding. ”

He is leaving something that was accomplished at great cost and effort. Work on the mission field is only accomplished as a result of great sacrifice. Certainly, missions work requires sacrifice on the part of the one sent, but beyond that, it requires the sacrifice of a host of churches and Christians in the sending country. Even greater, missions work cost God Himself the sacrifice of His only begotten Son.

He is leaving something in which he has invested his very life! Knowing God's calling, I spent my college years, two years of internship, then two years of deputation in preparation for arrival on the field where we served for 30 years. The core years of my life devoted to missions work has been on the foreign field.

He is leaving something that God has accomplished through him. No one knows his own faults and shortcomings better than the missionary himself, so it is nothing short of amazing for a missionary to labor together with God. He has the opportunity not only to witness what God can do, but to actually be a tool in God's hands.

2. Coming off the field under God's directing means that **the missionary is going to something** - something that is likewise valuable and worthwhile.

Paul wrote to the saints at Rome, expressing his long-held desire to go to them (Romans 1:9-10) that he might "have some fruit" among them (verse 13). He looked forward to the possibility of ministry at Rome with great anticipation and excitement. He believed that his coming to Rome would be a worthwhile and profitable work. Interestingly, Paul wrote this while

he was at Corinth. Paul's desire was not to abandon the troubled Corinthian church, but rather to expand the ministry that God had given him. Of course, *going* to Rome meant *leaving* Corinth. Yet when Paul went to Rome under God's direction, it resulted in the furtherance of the Gospel, rather than a hindrance to it (Philippians 1:12).

3. Coming off the field under God's directing means that **God is glorified** in the missionary's obedience to His will.

It acknowledges that the work the missionary does, wherever it may be, is God's work and not that of the missionary. It is God that places His servants where He chooses, when He chooses, and for the purpose that He chooses.

It affirms that the work the missionary does is totally dependent upon God and not himself. God does not need us to do anything, yet without Him, we can do nothing. While at Rome, Paul encouraged the church at Philippi by reminding them it was God that had begun the good work there, and Paul was confident that God would continue to perform it without his presence.

It affirms that all that is accomplished is a result of God's labor and not that of the missionary. Paul reminded the Corinthian church in I Corinthians 3:6 that although he had planted and Apollos had watered, it was God Himself that gave the increase. Yes, each one of us will be rewarded according to our labor (verse 8), so what we do is important. However, when it comes to the increase, it is all God's doing.

Coming off the field after the greater part of a lifetime of service can be difficult for the missionary to understand. Yet if it is God's directing, we must simply trust His wisdom and not our own understanding. It will result in

the strengthening of the work left behind as Christians learn dependence upon God. It will strengthen the new work God leads the missionary to by providing a needed laborer. It will glorify God by magnifying Him as "the Lord of the harvest".

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