





Through the funding of national and native preachers, we endeavor to effectively advance the Gospel where it has never been preached before.

The Progress Report is a free, quarterly publication of the **Final Frontiers Foundations**, **Inc**. Currently we are ministering in over eighty countries; many of which are closed to foreign missionaries. In other countries, work among the various tribal groups is restricted to national preachers only; thus they are open to us because of our unique method of missions.

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

Selection of those we sponsor is dependent upon their doctrinal beliefs, need, reputation and ministry experience. We support only those who are serving by faith, never those who are waiting for a salary in order to serve. Worldwide, the average preacher in a third-world country needs as little as \$25.00 - \$350.00 each month to support his family and ministry.

All those subsidized through this foundation are involved in church planting. Their various outreach ministries include: Bible translation and distribution, radio and television broadcasting, camps, Bible schools, outdoor and film evangelism, educational and health programs, handicap and leper ministries, orphan and children's ministries, etc. The Foundation receives its funding from individuals, churches, businesses, etc. who choose to support our preachers, projects, or desperate children under the Foundation's oversight; or give general donations allowing the funds to be used where needed.

CURRENT MINISTRIES

The Progress Report contains articles dedicated to their purposes and providing accountability for those who support those causes are listed on page 23.

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Cover

Date: December 6, 2024
Location: Vietnam
Subject: Baptism

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information concerning this ministry and its various programs, or to schedule a speaker for your church or mission conference, please contact our home office: **Final Frontiers Foundation**, P.O. Box 358, Grovetown, GA 30813 USA, 706-955-4916 or 800-522-4324, webmaster@finalfrontiers.org

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The Story: A'Bay, a national pastor, planted a new church in the village of Dak Glei, located on the border of Laos in the Central Highland of Vietnam. In this photo, one of the ladies who converted to Christ is publicly baptized.

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A few thoughts from Jon Nelms

We struggled financially this past year. The giving for support to the national church was down by nearly \$200,000, despite a special gift from a caring family for \$100,000. Imagine if they had not given!

Yet somehow, the work of the ministry not only continued, but it also grew, as the chart below, derived from the reports of our supported preachers, demonstrates. Read it slowly and carefully to get the full impact of what they did for our Lord during 2024 and realize that according to Romans 10, they could not go if you did not send them.

| Ministry | 2024 Totals | Frequency | At a cost of: | Compared to 2023 |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| New House Churches | 86,818 | Every 6 minutes | \$4.18 each | Increase of 8,196 |
| Villages Evangelized | 273,385 | Every 2 minutes | \$1.33 each | Increase of 26,404 |
| Salvations | 3,169,883 | every 10 seconds | 11¢ each | Increase of 278,038 |
| Baptisms | 1,106,061 | every 29 seconds | 33¢ each | Increase of 30,296 |

Paul told his supporters that he was producing "fruit that will abound" to their accounts in Heaven. Logically, the fruit would not abound in their accounts if they had not supported his work. The same is true for each of us today. As you "lay up treasures in Heaven," ensure you get the best Return on your Spiritual Investment.

Nolin and I are in Honduras for a short trip handling legal issues. It will be a blessing to be "home" for ten days and to see the new feeding center built by Pastor Wallace Miller and the good people at Bible Baptist Church in Fairfield, Ohio. Not only did they construct the facility, but they are also providing support for the pastor for one year and enough funds to feed all 85 children every Sunday for a year.

The "church" structure was financed several years ago by Pastor Steve Ware and his members at Tabernacle Baptist in Orlando. It is incredible how these two churches have changed the people's lives in the town of Zurzular. Both churches came to Honduras last summer, and in summers past, they "lifted up their eyes" - saw a need – and met it. We are so grateful.

This summer, we have four church groups booked already but still have several weeks open for others who want to come down, see the work, serve the Lord, and enjoy our newly remodeled facilities. We hope to partner with a new Baptist Bible Institute nearby and allow them to use our facilities as needed. I also hope to open one or two feeding centers this summer among the Tolupan Indians, about whom you read in the last Progress Report.

Our work elsewhere is growing as well or better than those mentioned. We recently took 15,000 more Bibles into a specific Muslim country and are caring for our displaced members in another where we have 550 families targeted for death and, in the meantime, have lost their jobs and homes. They survive in fields and on the streets, where we feed some 5,000+ mouths daily and give them clothes and blankets.

Yours for souls,



Pray for displaced believers and help us

with your offerings. This work is bigger than any of us, so we must all share the burden as we share the blessing. To God be the glory.

Donate To Smugglers



Reading the Bible Brings Two Muslim Men to Christ

A²⁷-year-old man was raised in a religiously strict family that followed one of the fanatical Sunni Sects. His father was diligent in teaching him the fundamentals of religion and memorizing the Quran. He participated in many competitions to demonstrate his ability to recite the Quran with Tajweed, which is a special way to read the Quran that shows voice inflections.

Because he was one of the successful ones in those competitions, he was nicknamed "The Unsheathed Sword of Allah. "The top religious leaders in his sect encouraged him to study his religion more deeply. So, he decided to delve deeper into religious readings and attend special classes to study and learn more about religious jurisprudence.

He spent several years in Islamic studies in addition to his regular studies at school. Many questions accumulated through his study of Islamic books, and as usual, when he was trying to find an answer to those questions, the answers he received from all the sheiks were only to encourage him to study and to trust in his religion. They told him you must accept what you learned without discussing or questioning. Of course, these questions touched on the religious essences, such as revelation, the subjects of prophecies, religious wars, concubines, and when the Quran was collected and written. His doubts began to arise from the covering up of the questions and the fear of being accused of disbelief if he asked any.

When he stopped attending religious classes, he was subjected to a campaign of intimidation by some religious leaders; even his father asked him to explain why he stopped. He couldn't be honest with his father, saying, "I want to focus more on my university studies." After much argument, his father accepted his excuses, but he had to continue again after his graduation from university. When he started reviewing what he learned in those years studying Islamic classes, he realized that he had been taught to hate the Shiites to the point that he could kill them and drink their blood. He also hated all other religions to the point of wishing they would die before his eyes. He would not even help a child among them.

Realizing his evil feelings, he began to move away from Islamic duties. He tried to do a self-examination of what he had learned, -- such as where mercy is in Islam and why is the call in Islam confined to the sword, blood, and tribute. Why do we not accept others, even though we accept everything from them, such as technology, fast food, and cars? He didn't know what to do. The fear of facing difficult questions about Islam meant losing his religion, family, tribe, and social affiliation. His professional career and material life would be ruined. He decided to return to the bosom of his family, but he felt that his life was full of lies, deception, and fear. He knew he would stand with his father in the mosque to pray on Friday and listen to the Imam, but he wouldn't believe a single word, and he began to ask himself, what should I do?

Because of his work, he moved to another city. He felt relieved because

he thought he could escape the religious leash on his neck. Still, customs, traditions, and religious rituals chased him in the same manner and style, regardless of the people. He was feeling frustrated, afraid of losing those around him, but at the same time, he couldn't even express himself, his thoughts, and his doubts! He came to believe in the curse of the nations, especially when he learned that human beings are controlled and do not have free will or freedom of choice. He didn't give up; he tried to find a way out of the circle where he lived, and he always asked God to guide him and establish his thoughts on the truth.

Greetings to all of you in the name of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers and support, which helped us share the truth and the good news that is not allowed to be known in

Because of your financial sacrifice, our God extends His hand to help us bring the Holy Bible to our land. It's alive and effective, never changes, and gives eternal life to all who ask and research the Divine Truth. – Smuggler

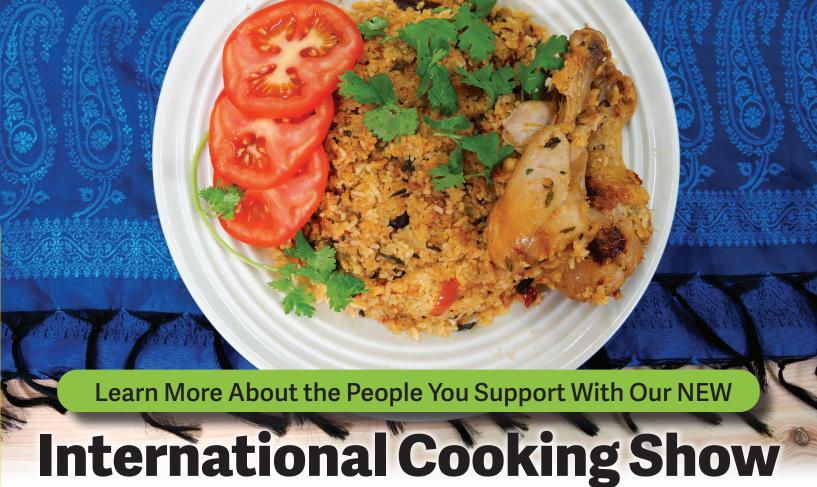
The Lord opened the door for him through a friend at work. His friend had gotten the Bible from a church member and started reading the Bible. "I started reading a book," his friend told him. Of course, he didn't tell him it was the Bible. "In this book there's a saying that says, 'God wants all the people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth.' It made me think about it a lot, and I want to get your opinion about it."

He didn't give him an answer, but he said to him, "I didn't understand what you want from this question." "We are Muslims," his friend replied, "and Allah chose for us the blessing of being born into a Muslim family and a Muslim country. Why does He want us to come to know the truth?"

He didn't answer his friend at all! But he took the question with him and started to think about it. On the second day, he asked his friend, "What is the name of the book you are reading?" After a period of arguments and after he had taken a promise from him to keep his secret, his friend told him that he had a book for Christians called the Bible. The friend decided to give him the book for a week so that he could read it. He would take the book for a week, and they would meet and discuss what they read with each other.

Eventually, they reached the point that they needed to talk to the person who gave them the book. We arranged a meeting to discuss their questions about the book. The Bible says faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

When we met, I was clear that the God of the Bible is not the Allah of the Quran, and I began to explain that faith is not in works but in the personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. It took us a couple of months of meetings and explanations about the Trinity and the reason for the crucifixion, death, and the resurrection of Christ from death. Soon, the Lord opened their hearts to come to the knowledge of salvation, and both accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.



By Joshua Martyn

As you may have noticed in our last Progress Report, we mentioned a brand-new video series: a Final Frontiers cooking show! We've wanted to do an international cooking show for many years so you could see some of the intriguing ethnic dishes we've found in our travels around the world. Now, if you're adventurous enough to try cooking on your own, you can get a taste of the types of food our national church planters, as well as the children in our Touch A Life feeding program, sometimes eat.

We've sent out requests to many of our national directors, especially where we have TAL, asking for either their favorite meals or the ones they feel are the most culturally important. We've then studied a suggested recipe, along with other cooking secrets we can track down, to give you a balanced and authentic presentation of the dish we are making. In several cases, some of our contacts have even sent us helpful home videos that show exactly how they cook it themselves. Often, we go to Arabic, Indian, or Asian grocery stores to find certain foods, but I think you'll be surprised just how many ingredients can be acquired right in your own grocery store.

My wife, Lily Martyn, hosts this cooking show. She grew up in the Southeast Asian country of Myanmar, attended Bible college, and worked in a missions ministry there, where she always enjoyed cooking. Now, she is here with us, studying and presenting exotic dishes from around the world. For each show, Lily wears one of her traditional Asian costumes, which consists of handmade skirts and blouses sewn in her country.



Above: Display items for the country of India











One aspect that sets our show apart is the country facts at the beginning of each episode. Right from the start, you can learn something new and informative about the land where the food originates. We also have real items from each country displayed on the back counter. In the show notes of each episode, you can read details about every piece that is on display, including the exchange rate of their local currency when it is shown.

Another added feature comes in the episodes where she cooks cuisine from a region in which we have an active TAL feeding program. In these special episodes, we have a video call from one of our directors in that country who tells how many children we feed there and confirms the authenticity of the meal.

One of the bonuses for a series like this is that it can be used in your missionary conferences. When I was growing up, my church always held an annual mission conference, accompanied by what we called the "all nations supper." My father always had the Philippines table with both boiled and fried squid sitting alongside coconut cookies. If your church has something similar, you could certainly get all your meals from this one single playlist where Lily shows you exactly how to make them. Also, in the video description with each episode comes a link to a set of fullcolor recipe pages, which include photos and simple step-by-step instructions.

So far, we've produced three videos and six shorts from three different countries: 'Vawksa Lai Suan' from Myanmar, 'Sukuma and Ugali' from Kenya, and 'Dolma' from Azerbaijan. The next

> show scheduled for release will be 'Ambur Biryani' from India.

> We hope you will come and visit the Final Frontiers YouTube channel, where you can always learn something new about the people and places where you support the furtherance of the gospel!

See you soon, and bon appétit!

Joshua Martyn, Final Frontiers Missionary and Media Director, travels through the many countries where our national church planters work, creating video documentaries to tell their stories and needs. He grew up in Iowa, then began missionary work, pioneering into closed countries, and documenting expeditions to unreached jungle tribes.



RECIPE

DOLMA



Stuffed Cabbage and Grape Leaves



Prep Time: 45 Minutes Cooking Time: 30-40 Minutes Servings: 5-6

INGREDIENTS

1 large green cabbage

1 jar of grape leaves (or at least 30 fresh ones)

1 lb. ground beef

11/2 cups short grain rice

1 large yellow corn

½ cup fresh cilantro (or 1 tsp. dry)

½ cup fresh dill (or 1 tsp. dry)

1 Tbsp. fresh mint (or 1 tsp. dry)

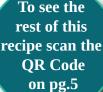
1 Tbsp. fresh thyme leaves (or 1 tsp. dry)

1 tsp. tumeric

1 tsp. salt

5 Tbsp. vegetable oil

To see the rest of this **QR** Code







PREPARING THE GRAPE LEAVES

Individually rinse the grape leaves if they are coming from a jar. (if you have fresh leaves, boil at least 30 of them in water with a pinch of salt for 1 ½ minutes, then rinse.)

Remove the tiny stem for each leaf and keep them ready in a pile.



PREPARING THE CABBAGE

Remove the hard inner core from the head of the cabbage.

Fill a large pot with 5 cups of water and bring to a boil.

Let the cabbage boil for 15 minutes. (Be careful not to overcook it, which would make it too soft and easily torn.)

Remove the cabbage and let it cool, then separate the leaves.

Trim off the spines on the back of each leaf, being careful not to cut all the way through. (The petiole stems only need to be 'trimmed' so the leaves are smoother, flatter and easier to roll.)

Finally, stack them in a pile and keep them ready.



By Jon Nelms

T hirty years ago, I made my last trip to Vietnam. I returned in October, foolishly expecting things to be the same as in 1994. Thankfully, I was wrong.

My first trip was around 1992, I think. The year before, I was in Bangkok with a group of men from my brother David's church. They had met several Vietnamese men at the Christian Guest House, where they were all staying. I was staying about two miles

away at the home of our national director, Kiatisak Siripanadorn.

These men arranged for me to meet a young man about my age named Minh Dang. At the time, he was returning to Vietnam to meet a group of pastors with whom his dad had ministered before and during the war. When Saigon fell, the group insisted Minh's family flee so that his dad, Cang Noc Dang, would not be arrested and, subsequently, disappear. Their refugee craft was discovered more than a week later, floating in the Pacific Ocean en route to the Philippines.

From there, the family relocated to Akron, Ohio. Minh's father, now in Heaven, maintained contact with the growing number of preachers in their group, providing limited funding and unlimited encouragement, which Minh always delivered personally, as his father was officially exiled.

I was intrigued by the possibility of helping church planters in that closed country, so we began investigating their family, ministry, and experience. Simultaneously, and unknown to me, Minh was using their contacts to investigate Final Frontiers and me.

A year later, after our investigation, I traveled to Vietnam to meet the men we would support. There is much I could say about that trip, and over the years, I have written about it often, so let me say simply that my heart became knit to theirs as David's was to Jonathan.

Upon arriving, and after some disrespectful treatment at the airport, I was finally permitted to leave but was, of course, followed. Arrangements had been made for me to stay in a small hotel, where I was later joined by one of our prominent supporters, who had a burden for the country. This man was a farmer from Iowa who, several years later, sold his business and became a missionary in the Caribbean.

While there, the pastors began their systematic journey to meet me. To reduce the possibility of being noticed, some walked, some came by bus, some by car, and some by train. They had

begun traveling, two by two, several weeks before. We met in my hotel room, which had no AC, and kept the windows shut so no one could hear our conversations. Day after day, we interviewed preachers on video, sweltering in the heat that any Vietnam veteran will unhappily recall. Several days later, when the task was complete, I walked over to the window, pulled back the curtain, and noticed two men on the street below, looking up at me and pointing. All our efforts to conceal our activities were for naught. Every preacher we met with was arrested and questioned over the next few weeks.

One preacher had not come, but his wife came in his place. I asked where her husband was, and she replied that he was in prison. She told me they had been married for seventeen years, and he had spent eleven of them, off and on, in prison. During that



Pastor Bich is at the right, posing with his mom and dad. His father is one of the first Vietnamese pastors in this group and has often suffered persecution in years past.







time, he had evangelized and discipled hundreds of prisoners, and some (I no longer remember the number) were among the pastors I had just met. His wife told me that she was able to visit him twice a year, and on each trip, she would bring one of their two children. I asked her why she and they did not go more often, and her reply was that she could not afford the bus ticket.

Wanting to help, I reached for my pocket and asked her what a ticket costs – her reply was "ten cents." I was shocked that she only had 40 cents a year extra to buy tickets to visit her husband, so before she left, I gave her \$100. On my next trip, he was still in prison. I have never met him.

As I said, I had videotaped all the testimonies of the men which was an incredibly ignorant thing to do, but I was still learning. They gave their names, locations, the locations of the churches they had started, the pastors' names, the deacons' names, etc. Then, to attempt to appear as a tourist, we took a day trip to Cu Chi to visit the tunnels that allowed the Viet Cong and NVA to covertly invade one of our primary military bases and win a decisive victory. I had wanted to inspect the tunnels but learned I was too large. On our way back to the hotel, we were stopped and informed that we would give a free ride to a certain military officer going to Saigon. Suddenly, we were all aware of the danger. I did not want to leave the videotapes in the room where they could be found, so I took them all with me in my camera bag beside me on the van's back seat. As the officer entered, he saw me in the back and chose to sit beside me. So, I quickly put the bag on the floor, between my feet. We all welcomed him and were friendly to him, and he returned the courtesy. Naturally, he wanted to know who I was, why I was there, and what I felt about his country. He also wanted to know if I had been there during the war. I told him that I was not a veteran. (I had noticed that wherever I went, people were very rude to me. They mistakenly thought I was a "Soviet" and wanted nothing to do with me. When they learned I was an American, their attitude changed to friendliness and delight.)

As we drove, I spoke to the officer through a translator. We had a great time joking and laughing, and finally, I asked why he was going to Saigon. Of course, I had to refer to it as Ho Chi Minh City. He told me he was an intelligence officer and had been promoted to the highest position in that office because of his successes. So, I asked him what his job was, and he responded that it was to find, capture, and interrogate enemies of the state.

"What classifies a person as an enemy of the state?" I asked. He responded it is anyone involved in spreading capitalism or Christianity.

Here I was, sitting beside the one man in the country who had just been promoted because of his success in hunting Christians and pastors, and between my feet was a bag with many hours of preacher's digital confessions. The evidence was inches from his grasp, and he had no idea. At that moment, the men turned around



Those living near the ocean are baptized there.

to look at me, and we all started laughing. That's right, laughing. He asked what we were laughing at, but I do not remember what they told him. How incredible is our Lord! As we drove on, we immediately saw our Lord's sense of humor and His power of protection. Finally, he had to stop at a bus station, but he asked me to exit the van before leaving because he wanted a picture with me. I must have been wearing a hat at the time, which I never do, so he took off my hat, put it on his head, and put his officer's hat on mine, and with our arms over each other's shoulders, we took the pictures.

Before I left Vietnam, I made the mistake of having my film developed. Of the dozen or so rolls of film they developed, they returned only several photos to me, and these were among those I never received. (I hope they did not get him in trouble.)

In late 1993, I returned, not realizing I was now listed as "wanted." Over the previous year, the government had learned that an American was funding the ministry in Vietnam. For some reason, they thought this American was a Vietnamese-born man who was now a naturalized United States citizen. Their confusion was because one night, while eating at a roadside hobble, the pastors had given me a Vietnamese name (alias) to cover my identity.

On this second trip, we were more cautious and continually saw the hand of God's miraculous protection. I learned techniques for smuggling money to the preachers and participated in deaddropping support at various public places. These lessons are among the same procedures we use now to smuggle Bibles throughout the Middle East and the Islamic world. It was also on this trip that one night, having been trapped in a town due to a monsoon (hurricane), I was stung nine times on my two feet by scorpions. Supposedly, one sting is enough to kill, but nine! The pastors with me were already asleep when it happened, and being paralyzed by the venom, I was unable to move or speak. I thought myself dead that night as I passed out, expecting to wake up in a few minutes in Heaven. Still, the next morning, I awoke with all the pastors around my bed, discussing how they would get my body back to America. When my eyes opened, they were all startled. I don't



Those living far inland without access to a river or pond are baptized in a 55-gallon water-filled drum.

remember much after that. For the next three days, I was in and out of consciousness-but alive.

Soon, my attention focused on expanding our support into Central America, Kenya, and India, so I did not return to Vietnam. For many years following, we supported the church planters there, never getting a report because of the danger of it being discovered. Basic correspondence was written, translated, and then encrypted so as not to reveal any secrets if discovered. Baptisms were swimming parties, conversions were loaves of bread, church planters were bakers, etc.

We continued and increased support as the number of their church planters grew to 123 preachers. Sometimes, people doubt the enormity of our successes because of the numbers we report. Still, we never received reports from 123 preachers in fifteen years (over 20% of our total preachers) because of the danger involved if their reports were captured. Officially, the most expansive ministry in Vietnam at that time was the CMA (Christian Missionary Alliance), which has Baptist roots. Officially, they had three more men than we did. However, we were supporting several dozens of their preachers, making us the unofficial largest ministry in the country.

Then, one day, we received a letter from the leader of our group, Pastor Nguyen Toi. He thanked us for all our help and how it had "bought time" for them to start churches, train pastors, and grow beyond belief. He then said that because of their growing economy, they no longer needed financial help and asked that we give "their" money to preachers in need elsewhere. Bitter-sweet is the only term describing how I felt reading his letter. I was delighted they no longer needed our help. Their members had

How Did We Get Reports Out and Funds into Vietnam?

Over the years, I have been asked many questions that prudence forbade me from answering. Still, now, with the passing of time and changing circumstances, I can. Here are our secrets.

Our program has always been based on the preachers' accountability to their sponsors through quarterly reporting. This allowed the giver to know how effectively their funds were used and have confidence that they were being delivered. To accomplish this, we had to develop a system that delivered the funds to the preachers and their reports to the sponsors. From country to country, methods differed due to logistics and politics.

From the beginning of our work in Vietnam and for the first decade or so, Vietnam was not just a closed country; it was sealed shut. As mentioned in the story, we had developed a code that was used and adjusted from time to time to give the donors the information they needed to be assured their funds were being correctly used and bearing results of salvation decisions, baptisms, and new house churches being planted.

Due to the endless efforts of Vietnamese escaping in search of freedom, an "underground railroad" at that time connected Da Nang to Hong Kong and Singapore. We arranged for refugees to carry the coded reports to one of those cities, where they were translated and carried by couriers to Akron. The coded translations were deciphered and sent to our office in Louisville, Georgia, where our staff would record them, file the originals, and send a copy to the sponsors.

Getting the funds to them was done differently. Our network comprised many Vietnamese Americans doing business or having families there. On their trips to Vietnam each quarter, cash funds were carried over by trusted friends, who would drop them off at a designated location, day, and time. I participated in this once by having lunch in a specific restaurant. Before leaving, I entered the bathroom, took the money I was carrying (in a sealed plastic bag), and dropped it in the tank of a designated toilet. After leaving the bathroom and exiting the restaurant, another patron went to the bathroom, recovered it, and delivered it to the men who would travel to the pastors' homes and distribute the funds. As he gave them the funds, they gave him their letters.

Such efforts are no longer needed in Vietnam, but this is how it was done in the early days when Final Frontiers was the only ministry in America supporting the nationals. The lessons we learned in those years have given us great success in other closed countries.

Providing Missionary Support and Tools For Evangelism and Church Planting



This is a new house church started in December.



This is a tribal house church in an area where many battles occurred during the war.



When a house church outgrows the inside, you build more space on the outside.



In October, we found and visited Nguyen Toi. His ministry now has an office and approved headquarters, and their churches are now legal and unhindered. I recognized him immediately when I saw him, but being in his 90s now, he did not remember me. He just starred and kept repeating the words, "Brad Pitt, Brad Pitt." (I'm kidding) Since he didn't remember the name "Jon Nelms," I suggested that he had known me primarily by my Vietnamese name and asked if he remembered ______. He said the name was familiar and believed he knew a man by that name many years ago. He asked me, "How do you know him?" I replied, "I am ______ – you gave me that name in 1992 in Saigon." His age had robbed him of the memory, but it is still fresh in mine. We will meet again in Heaven, where we "will know, even as we are known."

jobs, gave generously, and prospered, but we would no longer be partners in their ministry. It still hurts me. (Several months later, we received a similar letter from a group we served in Cambodia, which had over eighty men.)

To me, Vietnam has always been a place of oppression and poverty. I expected that people were still being hunted and imprisoned or executed because of their former connection with the South Vietnamese government, service in the military, or conversion to Christianity. On my trips, I seldom saw a smile or heard laughter, even in churches. And this is what I expected to return to – but I was wrong.

I returned to Vietnam in October at the request of my great friend, Pastor Mike Mutchler. Though he still serves on the Grandview Baptist staff, he is no longer the Senior Pastor. He has led his church in Beaver Creek, Oregon, to be our largest



This pastor's wife has a ministry to the orphans in their village.



Audio Bibles are given to those who cannot read.

supporting church, year after year. Collectively, they fund Bibles, feed children, and provide us with more than one hundred sponsorships. For years, Mike had been going to Vietnam and asking me to join him; however, the only group he knew there was already involved with a ministry similar to ours. The founder of that group was led to Christ by my former father-in-law. When starting his mission work, he had spent a great deal of time with me on the phone discussing, from my experience, what to do, what not to do, etc. He is doing a great job.

In the spring of 2024, Mike called and asked me to go with him to Vietnam. He informed me that the ministry he was visiting was no longer involved with the other organization. He felt I would now be interested in meeting them and seeing their work. He did not know I had prayed for some time that God would allow us to work in Vietnam again. Here was the answer to my prayers.

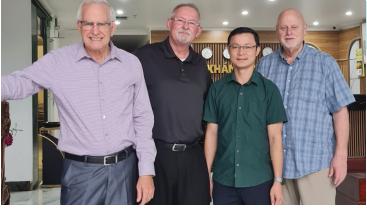


Printed Bibles are given to new believers.



This pastor and his delightful family invited us for a meal to meet the other pastors in their area.





to his two or three supporting churches. He does not raise funds for himself but for the men and the ministry. Steve works with several "groups" and is welcomed by them all. He is there to help start churches and institutes and encourage and help. Since his involvement, they have started scores of churches and now operate eight Bible institutes in Saigon, Quang Ngai, Da Nang (2), Quang Tri, Khe Sanh, Kon Tum, and the Central Highlands. Currently,

owning a car. And he's right.

churches.

I began corresponding with Steve Brockman after Mike introduced us electronically, and I was quite impressed. Every day, Steve would send me short reports of things happening in the ministry throughout Vietnam and provide photos. I still look forward to them. There were several things I noticed about Steve. First, Steve never talked about himself or "his" ministry. Second, he is not even considered a missionary but a retired businessman. Third, he is tireless in his efforts and not hindered by their lack of funding. Fourth, they love him; most call him father or grandfather, even naming their sons after him. Fifth, he has an incredible burden for God's servants. As I got to know him, it seemed as if we were co-joined twins who had been separated at birth and lost contact.

When I stepped off the plane at the Da Nang airport, it was obvious that Vietnam had changed. There is prosperity beyond what I had imagined, and though there are not many American visitors, the country is blessed with European and Australian tourists.

they are training 182 men and ladies. In the last four years, their

graduates have already started twenty-two churches. Their plan

for 2025 is to start another regional Bible institute and eleven more

ABOVE: Steve, Mike, and I share a meal in a seaside restaurant on Danang Beach. A church leader and his wife are with us. **LEFT** is our first

room discounted hotel room in Da Nang and doesn't even have a car. Steve says paying for their version of Uber is cheaper than

Steve rarely returns to America; when he does, he reports

meeting with the administrator of this group of preachers.

Steve has always been a businessman, a bus worker, and a soul-winner, but never a pastor. As he grew older, he wanted to do more for the Lord. Steve had been making trips to Vietnam for business and determined that he would now work there for the Lord. In 2016, he sold his business in California and moved there, living off his IRA and Social Security. He lives modestly in a one-

Every day, Steve took us to meet pastors and visit their house churches. Having a building is cost-prohibited, and their numbers are growing so fast that it is also unproductive. Construction is cheap, but the land is costly, so generally, the pastors will move to an area and use the ground floor as a church hall, and his family will live upstairs. Still, they are not registered, so they often have to shut down and move elsewhere, have their services on





LEFT: Steve led this young lady to Christ as she served us lunch in a roadside restaurant. **RIGHT:** Steve discusses ministry with the pastors and their wives. You can see in their eyes their love for him.

off days and at strange times, distinguish services as parties, close all windows during preaching, sing softly, and use various other techniques. Foreigners are not allowed to preach.

Daily, we would visit a group of believers in one town, then travel two or three hours to the next "service." In some places, planned stops had to be eliminated because the police had received word we were coming and were preparing to "welcome" us with an interrogation party. While there, we visited Da Nang, Quang Nam, Quang Tri, Khe Sanh, Quang Ngai, several locations in Ho Chi Minh City, and various locations in the Highlands (where we were not supposed to be). While there, we visited and ate with some pastors who work with various tribal groups like the Co Tu, Bru, Co, and H're. We also met a pastor who travels in and out of Laos on a motorcycle Final Frontiers provided him earlier this year. (Steve also has pastors in Laos, Cambodia, and the Philippines).

Evangelism methods in Vietnam have also had to adapt. There are no tracts to pass out, and you cannot gather people outside to talk. The government is afraid of revolution, so even in a cafe, more than three people at a table for longer than it takes to drink your coffee brings suspicion and questions. The giving out of literature is how Mao Zedong spread communism in China with his "Little Red Book," so it is strictly prohibited to pass out printed materials such as tracts, Gospels of John, etc. You can evangelize and disciple; you just have to be careful how you do it.

While traveling in an area where most battles took place, villagers told us that they still find artifacts from the war, such as bones, equipment, dog tags, etc. It was strange to realize the area's

historical significance compared to how peaceful it is now. Jungles have been cultivated, villages rebuilt with cement and bricks, the roads paved – mostly, and even churches permitted because they are part of a registered group like the Christian Missionary Alliance, Southern Baptist, or Mennonites. These organizations sometimes offer legal "protection" to independent preachers.

While in what was formerly a jungle and is now tens of thousands of acres of what they call "paper trees," we heard about two tribal families that had been forced from their villages due to their conversion to Christianity. Being homeless, a brother built two one-room houses on his farm for them to inhabit. He wanted us to meet them. Within a few minutes after arriving, we were told that the police had been informed of our presence and we needed to leave. We quickly and politely met the two families, offered encouragement and prayer, took a few photos, and turned to walk back to the car -- but it was too late – the police were already there, and they were not happy.

As the pastor with us walked over to speak to the police, he told us to get in the car quickly. Steve, Mike, and I wanted to play the part of ignorant, innocent tourists. Walking past the police, we shook hands and quietly got into the car. A few moments later, our host arrived, and we quickly drove off, as he said, "before they change their minds." He told them we were curious to see a farm, were from a humanitarian organization (Touch a Life), and wanted to see the house construction so we could consider helping with more. All true.



We were no more than fifty yards away when the phone rang, and we were told that more police were on their way and coming to detain us for interrogation. I have no idea who was warning us, but such is life when serving in closed countries. You have to know what you're doing, or you will have problems.

Because of the alert, our driver took back roads out of the area, allowing us to see beautiful mountains, lush forests of more "paper trees," and rushing rivers. The journey for us was beautiful and safe. Unfortunately, the farmer and his pastor have endured numerous periods of interrogation about why we were there. We knew why we were there, but the pastors did not. We were there to learn how we can help them reach their people with the Gospel.

Most people, myself included, would consider Vietnam to be a Buddhist country. But again, I was wrong. There are Buddhists there, animists among the tribal groups, and even Roman Catholics left over from the war era, but Vietnam is none of these; it is atheistic. Godless. Not because they have chosen to be but because religion was persecuted in all shapes and forms. Communism has "proven" to them that religion is not necessary. The generation of churchgoers and temple-goers is practically gone, leaving a population with a Christ-sized hole in their hearts and a sincere curiosity. They are not like Westerners, who embrace atheism because of hatred for God and denial of His Word and manifest evidence. They are atheists because they have never heard the Truth. And now, it is our task and our honor to help them hear it.

When we first started supporting Vietnamese preachers thirty-two years ago, I would estimate that 95% of the donors were Vietnam War Veterans. So many times, often with tears, men would speak to me at churches and say they had served in Vietnam and now wanted to do something to help the people. One Vet told me he wanted to change the bullets for Bibles. Another poetically summed it up this way, "I brought them death, now I want to bring them Eternal Life."

To you, Veterans, let me say that the people of Vietnam do not hate you. They love you and are thankful for what you did and why you did it. However, of today's population, only 10% lived during the war, and 90% did not. I was amazed at the number of young adults who were totally unaware of the war.

Vietnam has changed. It is a new land with relative freedoms, open to hearing the Gospel, and Believers eager to take it to every corner of the country. Some government members may fight this, but "greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world." The Great Commission Fund is poised to make a far more significant impact than before – if you'll help us.

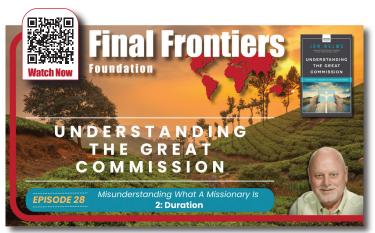
Another of several such meetings are spread across the country.



A Final Frontiers donor provided a motorcycle to help this preacher reach the mountainous tribal areas. Since this photo was taken, we have purchased seven more.

Understanding The Great Commission

The Great Commission Repeated



7 as the Great Commission given only once? In Mark 16:7, while still in the garden tomb area, Jesus instructed Mary to tell the disciples to meet Him at a designated place in Galilee. And Matthew 28:16-18 records the proclamation taking place on a mountaintop—in Galilee. But Luke 24:50 tells us that He spent His final hours with His disciples in Jerusalem, then walked with them as far as Bethany, and from there, He ascended. His final words, which we call the Great Commission, were His parting words.

When He sent out the disciples to evangelize, He may have often repeated the command to encourage and embolden them as He reminded them of the purpose of His sending. Besides the references already mentioned, common sense would suggest that if this commission was important enough to be His last words, they were important enough to have been spoken many times not hidden in a secret place of His heart to be reserved as a onetime, parting command. After all, how often do you tell your wife you love her? I hope often because if those words are reserved as your final words, you may be saying them sooner than you think!

What Christ said is more important than where He said it, when He said it, or how often He may have said it. In a dozen or so words, He shares eight specific details:

- 1. Who the sender is—Himself, not a board, a church or a denomination
- **2.** Whose authority He is sending with—His Father's
- 3. What power He is sending with—all the power given to Him in the totality of His creation

Misunderstanding What A Missionary Is

Episode 28

- **4.** Who He is sending—us
- **5.** Where He is sending us—to the entire world
- **6.** What He is sending us to do—to preach the Gospel
- 7. Who will accompany us—He and His Holy Spirit
- **8.** And finally, how long He will accompany us—until the end of the earth

No business or battle plan conceived by man has ever been so expansive and, at the same time, so concise. On the other hand, no other command of God, existing for over two thousand years, remains yet to be obeyed. The shame is not His; it is ours. Let's get busy and obey.

Points to Ponder

- If we will not obey it, does it matter how many times or in how many locations Christ may have repeated this command?
- In your life, with your time, talents, and financial means, what have you done to help fulfill His Commission? What else or what more could you do?
- · If an impartial observer studied your life and actions, heard your prayers, and monitored your spending - would he surmise that you view Christ's words as a Great Commission you obey or as a Mediocre Suggestion you ignore?



Give What You Can Today

Visit FinalFrontiers.World Scroll down to the **Great Commission Fund**



Touch A Life





Four-year-old Edwin with his father, Raja and mother, Valli

By Noel Solomon

In our church's **Touch A Life** program, there is a four-year-old **⊥**boy named Edwin Raj, who is cheerful and active and always has a smiling face. When I met his mother, I learned his story.

His father is Mr. Raja, and his mother is Mrs. Valli. She is from the state of Tamil Nadu and was part of a Hindu family. She accepted Jesus as her Savior when she was in her twenties through the witness of a friend. At first, her family opposed her conversion, but later, her sister and mother also accepted Jesus as their Savior. Since she was following Christ, the arrangement for her marriage was delayed because she wanted to marry a Christian man, so she waited upon the Lord for his proper time.

Edwin's father, Raja, is from Bengaluru (Bangalore) and is from a Hindu family. When one of his sisters came to church, she shared the Gospel with him. He has four sisters and is the family's only son. In his teenage years, he did not study well. Because of his bad friendships, he started terrible habits like smoking and drinking

Valli's marriage had been delayed. After a long search, through the recommendation of a relative, Raja met Valli, and they accepted an arranged marriage. Before the marriage, she could not get to know him personally, and his lifestyle was misrepresented to her. She was told only that he was a Christian.

Valli was disappointed on the first day of her wedding when she discovered her husband was an alcoholic. Seeking counsel, she went to her pastor, who told her to be strong and pray. Time passed, and after two years, Valli had not conceived, so her sisters-in-law started to taunt her. She and her church prayed, and God blessed her with Edwin.

Raja was so happy to have a son and began to drink much more, which resulted in him losing his job and being unable to find employment. The family now had no money and could not pay their rent or bills. Sometimes, Raj would have painting jobs but would drink his wages. Valli would borrow money from her friends and neighbors to provide for the family and could not repay them. When they would seek her husband for payment, he began to hate her and blamed her for their financial situation.

Feeling hopeless, Valli decided to commit suicide. Still, she could not because she knew that God hates suicide, so she planned to leave Bangalore, her in-laws, and her husband and take Edwin and go back to Tamil Nadu. Hearing her intentions, the owner of the house and her creditors stopped her, demanding her to repay the funds. She could only cry with desperation.

It was then that one of her neighbors, seeing her desperate plight, shared with her about the tuition-free **Touch A Life®** program that provides a free evening meal program. So she came to the church and shared her pain with our volunteers, who prayed for her. God blessed her with a housekeeping job so that she had hope that, bit by bit, she could pay off the family debts.

Every day, she brings Edwin to the TAL program, and while he eats, plays, and is tutored, she enjoys fellowship with the church members.

As the days passed, Valli started attending worship services and Bible studies. She began helping in the kitchen, washing vessels, cleaning the kitchen, etc. After completing her work, she eats leftover food prepared for the children and is allowed to take some home.

They live in a tiny house. Upon entering, they have a hall where they sit and eat, and there is a small room next to the hall where they store their clothes and other things.

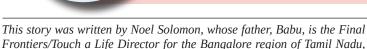
They have a small kitchen attached to the hall where Valli cooks. In the same building, two families use a colony (neighborhood communal) toilet.

They do not usually have proper facilities and experience frequent power cuts. Every second day, or whenever the government opens the tap, they have to fetch drinking water from outside.

Sometimes, she also invites a few ladies from the church to pray for a change in her family situation. They don't have proper food or clothes, and the father is not supportive of the family. Due to all these things, Valli didn't have peace of mind, but as she came to the church, she started to experience peace in her life.

The church is praying for Raja and counseling him. He has become motivated to quit alcohol and keeps himself busy by looking for jobs. As a church, we continue to pray for this beautiful family and help them overcome these hurdles.

Please pray for a change in the family situation. The Touch A Life program has dramatically impacted Edwin's life.



Please Remember Us

in Your Pravers

India.





John Hays is pictured with elements of the Hays Pure Water System.

Water of Life

We are all a part of the body of Christ with our unique purposes and abilities. For that reason, ministries often choose to partner in projects rather than each trying to "reinvent the wheel." One such ministry with whom we have partnered over the years on multiple continents is the Hays Pure Water System. Christian businessman John Hays invented a product that converts filthy water to pure, healthy, drinkable water. He has served our Lord in his unique way for thirty years in fifty countries. His system costs around \$100 and can hydrate up to 5000 people daily.

John contacted us early last year to see if other ministries we support could benefit from his system. We put him in touch with Pastor Shaukat Siddique in Pakistan. John and his team provided training and equipment to install the systems for months. His program includes not just purifying water but also sharing the Water of Life with all who are spiritually thirsty. Recently, he received this report from Pakistan.

"Last year, we visited [and evangelized] seventy villages and planted forty new churches. By the grace of God, we have witnessed face to face with 3,000 people, and 1,700 of them received Jesus Christ."

Final Frontiers and Touch a Life are pleased to continue in partnership with Brother John Hays and encourage you, if this type of ministry appeals to you, to check them out online at www. hayspurewater.com.









UGANDA

5 New Churches Planted

I am seeing the hand of God in saving souls and healing people both physically and spiritually by my witness, and through your help, dear partner, I am able to reach out and do all this. To God be the glory and honor, Amen.

- Pastor Osaga



4 New Villages Evangelized

By God's grace, we were able to purchase a small piece of land. Please pray for some who are reluctant to openly testify will have strength to do so, and for our village administration should supply government ration to all without discrimination.

- Pastor S M



IVORY COAST

175 Salvation **Decisions**

As we were going to evangelism, the right front tire of our vehicle burst. Miraculously the vehicle immediately stopped. We have seen the hand of God. May His name be praised.

– Pastor Vincent

KENYA

2 New Churches Planted

We thank God for He has used us to reach lost souls with the Gospel through evangelism. We have witnessed many people give their souls to Christ and accept salvation. We have baptized the new converts and have welcomed them in the church.

– Pastor Wandabwa



8 New Villages Evangelized

We are deeply thankful to God for the opportunity to bring His light to the desert areas of Pakistan. We are using your funds to preach the word of God, transportation, food for outreach programs, I am thankful to you for your all help God Bless you.

– Pastor Misre Jee

THE ART OF GIVING

Debt Elimination and

BUDGETING

And Budgeting



A Comprehensive Guide to Financial Freedom

By Scott Vignere

Debt is a common financial challenge faced by millions of individuals, and its burden can feel overwhelming. Whether it's student loans, credit card debt, or mortgages, managing and eliminating debt requires a clear strategy, discipline, and knowledge of personal finance tools such as budgeting. In this article, we will explore effective strategies for debt elimination, the importance of budgeting, and how combining both approaches can help individuals achieve long-term financial freedom.

The Importance of Debt Elimination

Debt, while sometimes necessary, can limit your financial flexibility and prevent you from achieving other goals like saving for retirement, buying a home, or investing for the future. The longer you carry debt, especially high-interest debt, the more it can hinder your financial growth. For example, credit card debt with interest rates upwards of 20% can snowball quickly if not managed properly.

Debt elimination is the process of strategically paying off what you owe in a way that minimizes the total amount of interest paid, helps you gain financial independence, and improves your creditworthiness. A successful debt elimination strategy requires commitment and a solid understanding of budgeting to allocate funds efficiently.

The Debt Snowball vs. Debt Avalanche Methods

When it comes to eliminating debt, there are two primary methods: the Debt Snowball Method and the Debt Avalanche Method. Both are effective, but they suit different personality types and financial situations.

The Debt Snowball Method focuses on paying off your smallest debt first, regardless of interest rate. This approach is particularly motivating because it allows individuals to quickly pay off a debt and feel a sense of accomplishment. Once the smallest debt is paid off, the freed-up money is used to tackle the next smallest debt, creating a "snowball" effect.

By focusing on the smallest balance first (Credit Card A in this example), you gain momentum and reduce the number of creditors you owe money to, which can be psychologically encouraging.

The Debt Avalanche Method focuses on paying off debts with the highest interest rates first. This approach saves money on interest over time because you're tackling the most expensive debts first. While it may take longer to see small victories, it's a more financially efficient method in the long run.

This method ensures that you're paying down high-interest debt faster, which ultimately saves you money.

Which Method Is Right for You?

Debt Snowbal: Ideal for individuals who need quick wins to stay motivated and committed to the process.

Debt Avalanche: Best for those who are financially disciplined and

prefer saving money by paying off high-interest debt first.

Both methods are effective, but the key to success is consistency and sticking with the chosen strategy.

The Role of Budgeting in Debt Elimination

Budgeting is the backbone of any successful debt-elimination plan. Without a clear budget, it's easy to overspend and fail to allocate enough funds toward debt repayment. A budget helps you track your income, expenses, and savings, allowing you to make intentional decisions about how to prioritize your finances.

Scan the QR code on this page for strategies for debt reduction and budgeting methods as well as helpful tools.

The Psychological Benefits of Debt Elimination and Budgeting

While financial strategies and tools are essential, the psychological aspects of debt elimination and budgeting shouldn't be overlooked. The stress and anxiety of carrying debt can take a toll on your mental health, but creating a clear plan and seeing progress can be incredibly rewarding.

- **Sense of Control:** Having a budget gives you control over your finances, making it easier to stick to your debt repayment plan.
- **Reduced Stress:** Paying off debt and seeing the balance decrease can reduce financial anxiety.
- **Improved Mental Health:** Achieving financial milestones, whether it's paying off a small debt or reducing your overall balance, can boost self-esteem and mental well-being.

Conclusion: The Path to Financial Freedom

Debt elimination and budgeting are fundamental to achieving financial independence. By choosing the right debt repayment strategy, creating a realistic budget, and sticking to it, you can eliminate debt faster, save money on interest, and build a more secure financial future.

While the journey may be long, the rewards of financial freedom — reduced stress, increased savings, and a brighter financial future — are well worth the effort. By using the tools available and maintaining discipline, anyone can take control of their financial destiny

Please Note: All charts and numbers are for illustration purposes only. Accuracy is neither warrantied nor implied. We are not attorneys or tax advisors. This information is educational only. Not to be considered as advice or recommendations. It is imperative that you consult with a tax advisor and/or attorney when considering any of these concepts. In addition, it is critical that the attorney, tax advisor, and financial advisor are knowledgeable and practiced in these areas.

If you would like help finding such an advisor, we will be glad to introduce you to an experienced planner with your best interest in mind. Please give us a call at 1-800-522-4324

Scott Vignere is a friend to Financial Frontiers and president of Vigntana Advisors. More than 40 years ago, on the advice of his pastor, Scott pursued a career in financial planning. A member of the Planned Giving Design Center, he helps clients partner with God to make an impact on the world through charitable planning. You can reach Scott at scott@vigntana.com.

Choose a Ministry You Can Help With

NATIONAL CHURCH PLANTERS SUPPORT



The Great Commission Fund

The Great Commission Fund is a fund whereby the offerings of everyone are pooled to support as many national preachers as possible. This is our preferred and most

effective method of supporting national preachers. You will receive 4-8 updates annually with a biography or ministry report from a preacher supported through this fund, allowing you to see what your giving is accomplishing. Each preacher recommended for support has been thoroughly vetted to assure he is doctrinally sound, morally pure and has a verifiable track record in church planting and training other men who are serving in ministry.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND CARE



Touch A Life®

Touch A Life (Child Rescue Centers) gives assistance to orphaned, abandoned, and destitute children. Your monthly support provides food, clothing, basic medical care,

and educational assistance. All orphanages, home placement programs, and feeding centers are administered by pastors who are supported through this foundation and are operated as a ministry of a local church. We welcome contributions of any amount, whether one-time or monthly donations. A monthly gift of as little as \$5 toward this vital ministry would be a great blessing to these children.

BIBLE PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION



Smugglers

Smugglers funding is used to purchase and distribute Bibles. Many national pastors and Believers do not own a copy of God's Word. Smugglers helps to provide a copy to those who

desire it in free countries and in closed counties such as Islamic nations.

Final Frontiers Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 358, Grovetown, GA 30813 • (800)-522-4324

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OTHER VITAL MINISTRIES



Bags of Hope

Bags of Hope is our food distribution program feeding widows, orphans and persecuted families living primarily in the Islamic Middle East. Support for this program provides food, clean water,

medicine and vitamins for suffering and persecuted families.



The PowerPack and Audio Bibles contain everything needed for one man to show a Gospel film in a village with no electricity without the need of a generator or four wheel drive vehicle. It comes in various options. The PowerPack Plus includes camping gear. Audio Bibles are hand-held dramatized, audio Bibles produced in a targeted language. These are used in villages primarily to start or strengthen new churches where no Bible is present. Its sim card can contain the entire Bible in up to 48 languages, where it is not available or does not exist in printed form. These are most effective in leper villages and with the illiterate. The varieties, pricing and details of all PowerPack options and Audio Bibles can be seen at www.ThePowerPack.world

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To be informed, be sure to register for our Email Alerts at www.FinalFrontiers.world

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Planned gifts such as a bequest in your will or a charitable trust, a stock donation, or a designation in your life insurance is a way you can help us continue to promote your desire to evangelize this word, even when you have passed on to the next – and it's easy to do. For help, contact your personal estate planner or let us refer you to one.

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"Come and see our zeal for the Lord" - II KINGS 10:16

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8,690,805 Believers Baptized (\$0.24/baptism)

During these years our network has supported...

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Please Give Us Your New Address e-mail: webmaster@finalfrontiers.org or call: 1-800-522-4324 **COMING SOON!**

To A Coffee Pot Near You

Proceeds provide food, medical care, and educational assistance for thousands of abandoned and malnourished children in our child rescue centers.







900 Salvation Decisions

We thank God for the saved souls. We thank God for the life of the people that God is using to support our ministry. They are the one that make it possible for us to go from one place to another. May the lord bless them continually with their families. $-Pastor\ Kolawole$