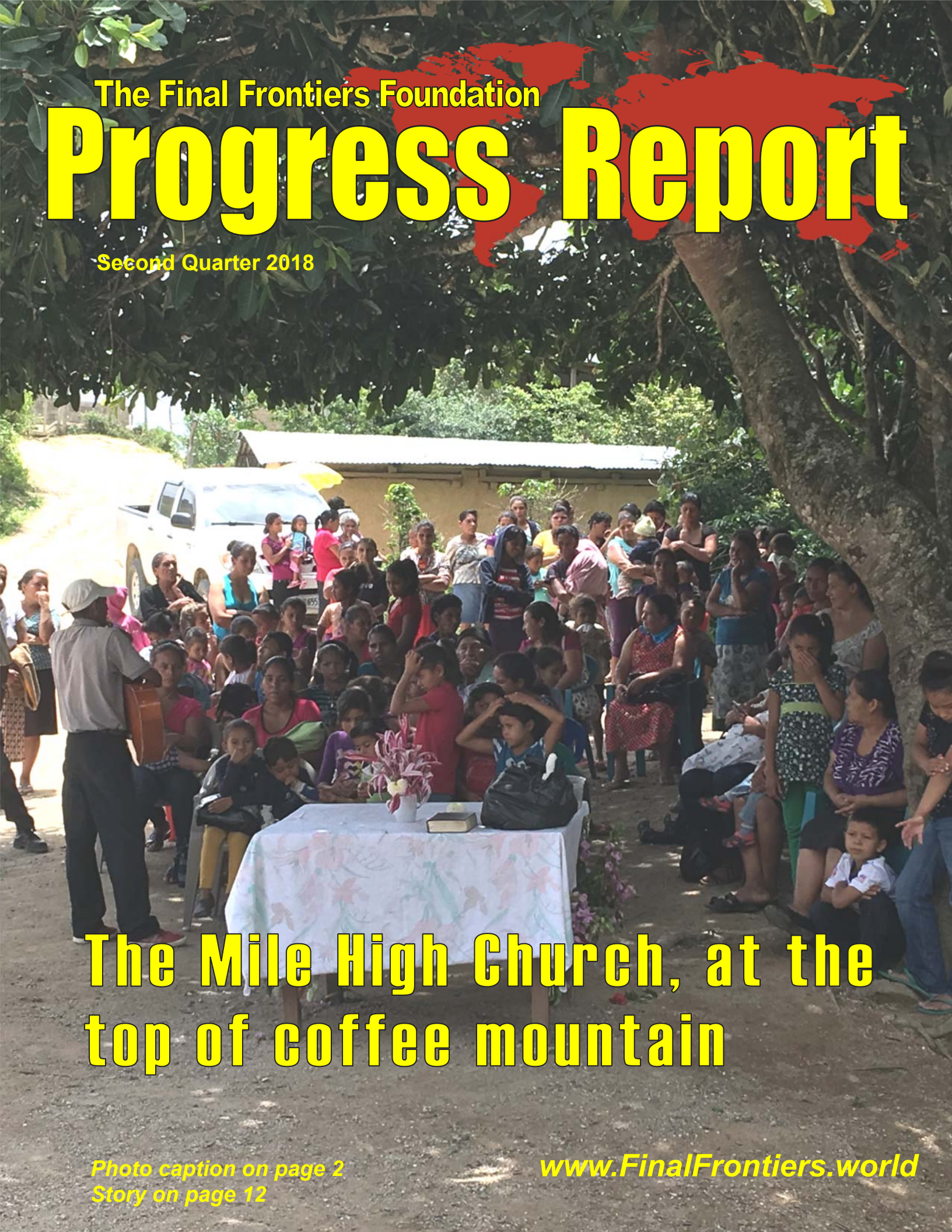


The Final Frontiers Foundation

Progress Report

Second Quarter 2018



**The Mile High Church, at the
top of coffee mountain**

*Photo caption on page 2
Story on page 12*

www.FinalFrontiers.world

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 FOUNDATION 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 \$35.00 - \$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 select and support a specific preacher, project or child under the Foundation's oversight; or give general donations allowing the funds to be used where needed.

Current ministries available for support are listed on page 23:

Most of these have articles within each issue of the *Progress Report* dedicated to their purpose and to provide accountability for those who support those causes.

Executive Board of Directors:

FINAL FRONTIERS, a non-profit, religious corporation, was founded by Jon Nelms in 1987, and is governed by those serving on the Executive Board of Directors: Rev. Jon Nelms (Chairman), Rev. Daniel Nelms (President), Rev. Tim Schelling, Rev. Michael Horne (Secretary/Treasurer), Rev. Don Prosser, Mr. Ralph Wills, Rev. Steve Ware, and Rev. Anthony Lamb, Mr. Tony Buttrick and Mr. Eddie Wilson. Further council is provided by those serving on the national Boards of Advisors. Contributions and gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible and are applied to the ministry's evangelistic outreach. FINAL FRONTIERS is classified as a 509 (a)(1) public foundation, under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Annual copies of the ministry's 990 form are available online at Guidestar.com and elsewhere or upon request by contacting the home office.

International Offices/Directors:

International offices are maintained in every country of service for accountability purposes and are staffed by national and regional coordinators who are approved by the Executive Board of Directors. Parallel oversight of many regions is provided by our Directors of Expansion. These Directors are staff missionaries who are particularly knowledgeable of their region of the world and are responsible for finding and approving the national preachers who meet our qualifications and are in need of support. Missionaries from various boards often fill these positions for us based upon their knowledge, experience and location on site.

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
1200 Peachtree St.
Louisville, GA 30434 USA

Telephone: (706) 955-4916 or (800) 522-4324
Email: webmaster@finalfrontiers.org

Legal:

"Final Frontiers" is a registered trademark of the Final Frontiers Foundation. "Touch A Life" is a partner ministry and a registered 501 C3, administered by the Final Frontiers Foundation. Other ministry subsidiaries are also administered by the Final Frontiers Foundation and are accountable to the Executive Board of Directors. 990s are compiled annually as are Certified Financial Statements, by an outside CPA firm and made available upon request or visible online at www.guidestar.com.



Cover Photo...

Date: Spring 2015

Location: Zuzarsal, Honduras

Subject: Pastors Fidel and Mario, teamed up to evangelize in the mountain top village of Zuzarsal, where the elevation at over a mile high is perfect from growing premium coffee beans. Nearly three years later this church, of over one hundred people, is still going strong; and still meeting under a tree. (Mario is seen at left wearing a baseball cap.)

Each summer when we take groups to visit these good people, they always insist on serving us locally grown, freshly roasted, coffee. If you don't join us for a Visionary Trip, you are missing out on more than you can imagine!



Jon and Nolin Nelms Report

Founder and Executive Board Chairman

Jon and Nolin Nelms
JNELMS@FINALFRONTIERS.ORG
800-522-4324 EXT.110
706-955-4916 EXT.110

For the past 2 years due to health issue, I cancelled most of my meetings. I seem to be entirely healed now. Since our Lord has given me more years to serve Him, I am eager to get back to speaking in churches again. If you would like to schedule a meeting for the next few years, give me a call.

HAVE WE LOST OUR PURPOSE? ...

When you read through our PROGRESS REPORTS, you may be tempted to think so, since we put a lot of emphasis on meeting social and physical needs. But we do it for a reason.

In the book of James and elsewhere, we are exhorted to back up our faith with our works. We are told that our works should include caring for widows and orphans and those who are imprisoned, especially for false charges and for the sake of Christ, and those who are in need, especially Christians.

A long time supporter called me in early 2006, after we started our Touch A Life ministry. He scolded me, as only a sincerely concerned, elderly man can, and insisted that I had lost my purpose. He felt I was putting too much emphasis on social ministry and not enough on supporting the national preachers. It only took a few moments to remind him of the verses in James. Still, his opposition remained, so I did two things.

- 1) First I asked him if he would be satisfied if we ignored the Lord's command (not suggestion) in James to which he thoughtfully replied, no. Evidently he felt the scripture should be obeyed, it's just that it shouldn't be obeyed by us.
- 2) Then I shared with him how we still, and always will, put the support of national preachers first; by telling him that many of the children we sponsor are the children of national preachers who may or may not be sponsored. And that opening a feeding center in a church increases the pastor's outreach, and helps to build his church and offerings, which then support him.

I appreciated his concern but wondered why we always seem to assume the worst in a person's motives, rather than the best.

Years earlier, I had observed that it is easier to get a cute, cuddly child sponsored than a grisly, time-worn preacher. But I also learned that if we sponsor his children, that is in effect sponsoring him. My philosophy has always been, *if you can't get in the front door don't give up, just go around to the back door.*

When you consider the many facets of the diamond that is Final Frontiers, it could be tempting to wonder if we have forgotten our purpose. But all of our sub ministries; the PROGRESS REPORTS, SMUGGLERS, TOUCH A LIFE, DAILY BREAD, THE POWERPACK, THE TIMOTHY PROJECT, EXPEDITIONS, BAGS OF HOPE, TEAM, THE SCHOOL OF MISSIONS, and our PODCASTS, all have to do with supporting, enhancing, training or equipping the national church planters to better do, what they were already doing before our support even began. Remember, we work with veteran church planters only, not novices, not wanna-be's.

Final Frontiers is much like a cake. At a glance you only see the icing and the candles, but without the cake below, there is no reason for them to be there, and in fact, there is not even a foundation for icing and candles to rest upon.

CURRENT STATISTICS REVEAL WHERE OUR HEART IS ...

To prove my point, let me share some incredible information with you that will put all our sub-ministries into context. Through the efforts of our network of some 27,800 preachers that we work with, we can state that statistically we now have ...

- Someone accepting Christ every 18 seconds
- A new convert being baptized every minute
- Another village receiving a gospel witness every three and a half minutes
- A new church started every 11 minutes

Now, in case that's a little hard to take in, let me put it another way. Currently, **EVERY HOUR OF THE DAY** we have ...

- 204 salvation decisions
- 69 baptisms
- 17 villages evangelized
- 5 new churches started

So, if you're tempted to think that we've lost our purpose, those statistics will help assure you, that we're still on track.

And while I'm on the subject, may I remind you that Paul told his supporters, that when his ministry produced fruit (results), it was attributed to their accounts also. He wasn't referring to those who wished him well or who thought he was a really nice guy and respected his sacrifice. It was a deliberate promise of eternal reward for those who took an active part in assisting his ministry with prayer and support. It was a biblical principle that still applies today, even to those who pray for and support Final Frontiers.

We are thankful for each one of you. We only wish there were more you. We have many preachers available for support on our website. Please take a look and find one you can partner with.

PODCASTS ARE ADDING UP AND SUBSCRIBERS HAVE DOUBLED.

Our podcasts, released each Saturday morning, are meant to give missions information to those who are hooked on missions and to inspire others to join their numbers. Each episode has a two-minute missions commentary by me that will give you eye-opening and hopefully, life-changing information about missions, from a perspective you may have never heard. I hope you'll tune in at FINAL FRONTIERS RADIO, which you can click to from our website at FinalFrontiers.World.

Last week I had yet another pastor tell me that our Progress Report is in his opinion, the best missions magazine available. We work hard to give you an informative and encouraging outlook on missions. Can you please refer another friend to the PROGRESS REPORT and our PODCASTS. In that way you can be a bigger part of our growth?

Yours for souls,

THANK YOU



*Bible Institute materials in the Kiswahili language can be used throughout Africa
Randy's books are used by 180 students per year in his seven Bible Institutes throughout Kenya and Uganda.
The course above is entitled, "Great Doctrines of the Bible".*

Missionary Randall Stirewalt and his wife Phyllis who serve in Kenya and Uganda, have partnered with Final Frontiers for more than twenty-five years. They have a tremendous ministry that includes church planting, Bible institutes, youth camps and evangelism.

The Stirewalts, as other missionaries, help Final Frontiers by referring us to national preachers they personally know who meet our core qualifications ... doctrinally sound, morally pure with a verifiable track record of starting new churches and training men for the ministry. In fact, we don't even consider a man for support unless he has already started at least two churches. Even most of the students who are enrolled in our Timothy Program have already started a church. We call them students because they have not finished their primary training or been ordained yet, and part of their training includes starting a church.

It is logical to think that a student is a student, because he has not yet "done the work of the ministry", but since we are funding these men, and do not want to "lift up a novice" only to see him fall, we require them to have experience as a church planter, just to be considered a Timothy.

Randy tells us that in Kenya, eighty percent of those in boarding schools are separated from their families. Having youth camp for them to attend when school is out gives and opportunity to teach them the Word of God and allows them to make life-long friends, and perhaps, find a spouse. It is also a tremendous evangelism tool.

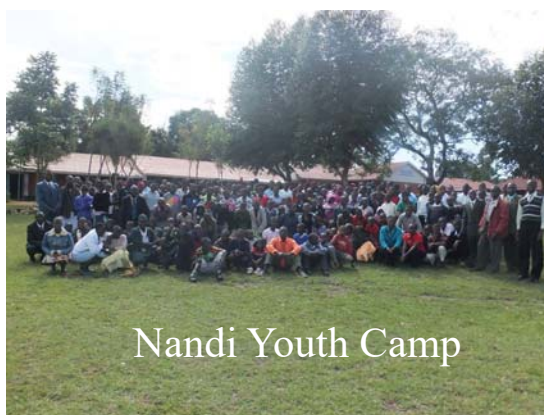
During December, Randy's fellowship of churches, which he and his men have started, hosted fourteen youth camps with an attendance of 3,050 teenagers. 145 received Christ and hundreds dedicated their lives for God's will to be done in their lives.

But being a *biblical* missionary, meaning a church planter and discipler, Randy is always busy training men for the ministry then taking them out to plant new churches. As a result of his mentoring, these men go out on their own, taking *their* Timothys with them. It is common in his monthly prayer letters that he will show photos of new churches being planted or special services. Established churches have their congregations stand in front of the brick auditorium they constructed while new works show members posing in front of mud and stick structures.

One of these new churches was started by a young man who



Makutano Youth



Nandi Youth Camp

Look at these photos above and you can see the enormity of the task Randy has to develop and provide curriculum for all his students. Each box is a different course. Look closely and you can see the name of the course on each box, some in English and some in Swahili.

At left are photos of just two of his youth camps.

Below is a typical, village church and a graduation. Photo of one of his seven Bible Institutes.

The more support he raises the more he accomplishes.



had accepted Christ in a church that Randy or one of his men had started upcountry. After finishing the Bible Institute, he went back to his home village of Sigor and started this church. Last May, Randy sent us this photo with a note saying that this church had already started five more churches and they have four of their young men studying in the Bible institute. They were expecting another five churches to be started in the next two years!

Randy has started seven Bible Institutes and each year we partner with him by providing the funds to print the curriculum they need (some 500 copies). He is always faithful to send us a photograph of each graduating class. The one above is from the city of Eldoret. (Randy stands at far left.)

Randy sent in this report to say "thank you" to us for providing the curriculum, so we relay his "thank you" to all of you who gave us the funds to do so. (Part of your preachers support actually goes to providing them with their needed curriculum.)

credits that growth to our support but I say it is his attention to detail and his devotion to his people, not to mention Phyllis' angel-like character that has brought such success. May God give us a thousand more!

Randy and Phyllis are both from Missouri and came to Christ as children as a result of the Bus Ministry! In their 30+ years of missionary work they have trained over 450 men for the ministry, 154 of whom are sponsored by FINAL FRONTIERS. Together with their men they have started over 600 churches, some rural, some urban, ranging in attendance from 35 to over 2,000. He says the typical church will have 150-200 in attendance. That means his ministry each Sunday, has more than one million in attendance at a church they are responsible for starting!

You can help them do more by supporting one of their preachers. Contact us and we'll make it happen. Extended interviews of Randy can be heard on upcoming podcasts.

We first began supporting Randy's ministry when he had just 12 churches. He now has over 600. He



EMAILS OF INTEREST

If we don't have your email address you are missing out on so much. Inform us at: letters@finalfrontiers.org



From Pastor Sihok Soeurn
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Regarding a medical outreach from his church to a slum where they are ministering.

I am praising God and thankful to God for all our people who are so busy for serving God, From 8AM until 4PM we helped 228 patients and we so praise God that in this group they won 135 souls for Christ.

One more thing Jon, please allow me to let you know that after we finished the treatments we prepared for showing the Jesus film at 6PM. By the grace of God we had 132 people watching and "Praise" God, 78 people received the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior.

So the total of the medical mission and the Jesus film we have 213 souls got saved. And we get back home around 11:00PM; we are so tired but full of joy and blessing.



From Naviri David
Andhra Pradesh, India

Regarding prayers needed for the persecuted there.

Greetings. I am importantly reporting to you that there are some infidels who became a part of an anti-Christ fold and caught hold of the people who keep Bibles with them, and they are frantically burning off the Holy Bibles here India.

It is very agonizing for our hearts with distress. Yet we want to pray for those people to have a repentance and realize the existence of God's Spirit working to eliminate poverty, suffering, causes of illness, perverseness, etc. through the good works of God's people who do not discriminate against people with religious intolerance against our Christians religion.

I have made a hut in my place for the use of my church and every Friday and Sunday we worship there.

Tomorrow I am going to conduct a gospel meeting in my surrounding area. Please pray for street gospel meeting.



High Calling

2019 SUMMER MISSIONARY INTERNSHIPS ... OUR ONE MONTH, INTRODUCTION TO MISSIONS COURSE

What your month of internship will teach you ...

- Philosophy of Missions as taught in Jon's book, *The Great Omission*
- Principles of Cultural adaptation, Language acquisition, and Cultural evangelism
- Practical experience in construction, relief work, and exposure to tribal groups
- Participation in planting a new church.

TO REGISTER, GO ONLINE AND COMPLETE THE
ENROLLMENT FORM

<https://form.jotform.com/FinalFrontiers/high-calling>

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS



CHURCH MEETINGS

April:

Wilkesboro, NC
Weatherford, TX
Atlanta, GA
Columbia, SC
Hilton Head, SC
Bentonville, VA
Abingdon, VA

May:

Christiansburg, V
Greenwood, DE
Millville, NJ

June:

Hendersonville, NC
Bristol, TN

July:

Dallas, TX
Tampa, FL
Lee, MA
Richmond, VA
Pell City, AL
Atlanta, GA

August:

Cincinnati, OH
Little Rock, AR



VISIONARY TRIPS

June:

Honduras
(Visionary Trips)

July:

Honduras
(Visionary Trips)

August:

Honduras
(Visionary Trips)

October:

Ukraine
Romania
Hungary
Bulgaria

November:

North Africa

January 2019:

India

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL



To receive regular updates on our ministry in the Islamic world, get added to our **Email Alerts** list. Register at: letters@finalfrontiers.org
 Help us print and smuggle more Bibles into the Middle East for \$6 each.
 Your contribution makes you an integral part of our Smugglers team.
 See page 23 for more information.

Received from Yoseph Rhema

Reem is a 22 year old Muslim woman who grew up in the Alawite sect, which is a branch of Shia Islam. Most of these women while growing up, are not allowed to learn anything about Allah. In fact, some of their Imams (religious leaders) even teach that women have no soul. As a result, from childhood, girls are taught that they have no legitimate place in the world, no value as a human being, and no connection with their Creator.

Since the sectarian war started in our country almost eight years ago, she had seen many awful things happen in and to her family. At one time in her life, she even began to carry a weapon to protect her youngest sisters and her mother, because she learned that the opposition militia were coming to kill them or take them as sexual slaves. She was trying to defend their right to exist. Reem was confused, worried and scared because she didn't know what was going to happen to her or her sisters for whom she felt responsible. She didn't know how she, as a woman, would be able to protect them or herself. She tried to call out to Allah, but there was no reply; it seemed as if his ears were turned away from her. That did not surprise her because of her upbringing but it did hurt her and left her hopeless. She dismissed Allah's lack of interest in her problems because after all, why would Allah humiliate himself to listen to a woman's prayer, since she has no soul?

By the grace of God, and in spite of all the problems and restrictions that we as Believers are facing, we started a ministry specifically to locate and spiritually care for Alawite women, and though such a ministry makes us more of a target to His enemy, the Lord is helping us to reach them. When we search as the shepherds do, looking for the one lost lamb, we return home rejoicing.

One of the young ladies who was reached by our ministry and had accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, was a friend of Reem. She had often invited Reem to the meetings in our house churches but Reem was afraid to lose the physical and emotional support from her Alawite sect and so was hesitant to attend. But on the inside, she was still trying to find peace and a solution to all her questions, because she could not escape the emptiness and hopelessness in her life.

Our ladies started to fervently pray for her and one day, two of them decided to visit her in her home. In this way they started to build a relationship with her and an openness to share about the love of God. Reem soon started to intently listen and to interact with them. Then one day she accepted their repeated offers to receive a Bible of her own and started to read it. The power of the Word of God began to touch her heart till one day, she said to herself, "*I can't resist any more*", and at the next meeting she came to the knowledge of salvation and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her Savior. By reading the Bible, she learned confidently that she *does* in fact have a soul, and that the emptiness she felt could only be filled by the Son of God, who died to save her. What a revelation. What a Book. What a God.



Some "oldtimers" like me have never listened to a podcast and might not know what they are. So let me explain. A podcast is like a radio broadcast that you can listen to *anytime you want*. You simply log into our website (see instructions below) and listen, or better yet, you can subscribe (free) and it will notify you whenever a new episode is ready, which is typically once a week. You can listen at that time or go back later to listen at your convenience, when you're relaxing at home, driving down the road or whenever the mood strikes.

Our listener audience is growing. In the last month our subscribers have increased over 500%. Here's a random sample of some of the interviews and topics being discussed over the next few months ...

- EPISODE 18** (POSTED ON MAY 5, 2018)
 Interview—wife of Babu Prasad, Bangalore, India
 Report—5th Anniversary results—PowerPack
- EPISODE 19** (POSTER ON MAY 12, 2018)
 Preachers becoming self-supported
- EPISODE 20** (POSTED ON MAY 19, 2018)
 Interview—Russian Ministry (part 1) with FF rep. Dennis Ellis
 Report—Leper ministries with Director, Babu Prasad, India
- EPISODE 21** (POSTED ON MAY 26, 2018)
 Fevers and sickness encountered on the mission field
- EPISODE 22** (POSTED ON JUNE 2, 2018)
 Interview—Director, Pastor Sihok in Cambodia
 Report—South American Jungle Expedition (part 1)
- EPISODE 23** (POSTED ON JUNE 9, 2018)
 Interview—missionary Randall Stirewalt, Kenya
 Report—South American Jungle Expedition (part 2)
- EPISODE 24** (POSTED ON JUNE 16, 2018)
 Interview—Pastor Vel Za Siama/Myanmar orphanage
- EPISODE 25** (POSTED ON JUNE 23, 2018)
 Interview—Morgan Jackson of FCBH, Audio Bibles
 Interview—missionary wife, Phyliss Stirewalt, Kenya
- EPISODE 26** (POSTED ON JUNE 30, 2018)
 Interview—FF rep. David Dzimianski

A note to the old-timers (like me) ... If you have any trouble, finding us, have your five year old grandchild help you.

Download our podcasts and subscribe at:

FINALFRONTIERS.WORLD

When you click on the radio icon on our website, it will take you to our programming guide where you can search by topic, guest, date or personal interests.

Be sure to subscribe and tell your friends.



Download our iOS and android app to listen to our podcasts on your phone!



All the national church planters we support are required to send in a detailed report for their sponsor four times a year. We digitally record their reports and photos in our archive and as a result, have copies of every letter and photo received since we began in 1986. Tens of thousands of reports and more than a hundred thousand photographs. In some cases, tribes have become so westernized that the youth no longer know how their parents and grandparents dressed, what their houses were like, etc. It is only by our archives that such information is preserved.

In their Quarterly Reports, they must account for how many they led to Christ in that period, how many were baptized, how many villages they evangelized and how many new churches they may have started. If any answer is zero, then they must explain why. They also provide the sponsor with an updated family photograph every two years.

Their reports are incredible, informative and eye-opening. We thought you might like to read excerpts from several recent reports we have received from around the world.



D. Stephen, #4233 from Karnataka, India

Quarterly Report for his sponsors:

- Michael and Patricia Alexander Keller, TX
- Pastor David Nutt, First Baptist Church, Belpre, OH

Report Date: December 16, 2017
Report Period: Third Quarter 2017

He reports:

1 church started
4 villages evangelized
19 salvations
8 baptisms

The Lord used me to share the gospel with a high caste group of people during my door to door evangelism. The group invited me into their house and allowed me to share and they even received Jesus as Lord.

Quickly two men who were the neighbors of the group I visited, came up to me without any word held me by my shirt collar, one man slapped me while they dragged me out of their colony. They told me "we are not Christians, we are patriotic Hindus, how dare you come and talk about Jesus, we have so many gods to worship, you defiled our god". We warn you never return to our village. They brought me up to the road and left me. But the spirit of the Lord gave me utterance, I stood on the road and preached the gospel, only a few of them listened, but the Lord was glorified. I thank you for sponsoring me.

Pray for the repentance of those who are opponents of the gospel.

My wife's health is sometimes good and sometimes worse, she is unable to assist me like before. My daughters are studying.



Musa Lorot Emuria, #1216 from Kenya

Quarterly Report for his sponsors:

- Bob and Shirley Campbell Lincoln, GA
- Pastor Raymond Wicks First Baptist Church, Plattsouth, NE

Report Date: December 5, 2017
Report Period: Third Quarter 2017

He reports:

1 church started
2 villages evangelized
40 salvations
35 baptisms

We have been having a lot of problems, people are being killed along the roads. It is dangerous for us to go far places because of no peace, so remember to pray for us. We go to a lot of difficult places to evangelize so pray that God assist me and the other followers (disciples), and give us a lot of energy to continue with the work. I am going to continue so remember me.

These diseases here cause a lot of health problems for me. There are times I have malaria and am unable to do effective ministry until I am healed. Many places when visiting, I have to walk for long distances because of how the area is and I need strength to do this. I believe I will be okay in the Name of Jesus Christ.

I am very grateful for what you are doing ministry partner, because you assist me to pay for children's school fees and to get treatment for the sicknesses that come to my family. We survive now with no hunger, and can go far places to spread the gospel. Your assistance is such a blessing. It is our prayer for my family to be a light in this dark place of many thieves and sicknesses.



We are looking for a VOLUNTEER artist to help us with some children's projects we are working on.

We need an illustrator and an animator who can do "comic book style" drawings based on our ministry stories. We will provide the script and story board, all we need is your artistic skill.

Your assignment, should you choose to accept it, will be highly rewarded by funds deposited into your account at the bank of Heaven.

If you are interested, please contact Daniel Nelms at dnelms@finalfrontiers.org

Thank you.



THE TIMOTHY PROJECT

*Support for the **TIMOTHY PROJECT** is just \$10 monthly whereas support for a full time preacher is \$50 monthly. These funds help the school provide the curriculum and living needs of the Timothys such as food, clothing and transportation to the churches they are starting. If this seems like a worthwhile and an eternally productive investment to you, then perhaps you would consider being a \$10 or more, monthly sponsor of **THE TIMOTHY PROJECT**.*

By Joshua Martyn

When Final Frontiers sent me to visit and film our National Church Planters in Southern India, I was first introduced to one of our regional directors in the State of Karnataka, Pastor Solomon Bijja. The very next morning he took me to meet a man named Yeshwant Hanchinmani, who was won to Christ by one of our sponsored preachers, and was now supported by the Timothy Project.

Yeshwant had been raised as a child in Hindu idol worship, but now testifies in his own words: *"the moment I trusted Jesus as my Savior a great transformation and peace reigned over me."* Since then he has led 150 souls to Christ and helped to start three churches.

The most amazing thing about this man however, is his obvious disability. From birth he has been crippled in both his ankles! Because of this he cannot stand, so when he travels up a street to witness to people, he literally hops from door to door. It is quite a humbling sight for those of us who have always been blessed with two working legs, to watch such a man and consider his devotion and determination in serving the Lord.

The day we met, I visited two of his three church services, and of course both gatherings of believers loved him dearly. They testify of being deeply impressed by the love of Christ that is shown through this man.

He and his family live in only a two room home, with one of the rooms being set aside for his first village church, and the other single room for his family to both cook and sleep in.

Just recently his wife has passed away, and you can imagine what a severe blow it has been to him and their three young children. But despite a broken heart, this lame preacher has not by any means thrown in the towel.



Here is Yeshwant in front of one of his three house churches with some of the Christian ladies looking on with admiration.

Please join us in prayer for them. There are so many other stories of godly men like this with needy families. If you would like to help a Timothy like this who is now ready to become a sponsored church planter, please contact us.

Miraculously, as we were preparing this article, a local church decided to support him as their missionary and to sponsor all three of his children, through our Touch A Life ministry. Thousands like him, handicapped by poverty, are serving faithfully and could benefit by your sponsorship.

You can see a 2:25 minute video about him at: <https://youtu.be/rVquHYvyAmg>

AN ONGOING SERIES

THE CONUNDRUMS OF MISSIONS



A CONUNDRUM IS DEFINED AS "A CONFUSING AND DIFFICULT PROBLEM OR QUESTION".

EVERY PROBLEM HAS A SURFACE CAUSE AND A SURFACE SOLUTION. IN THIS SERIES WE HOPE TO PEEL BACK THE LAYERS THAT WILL REVEAL NOT ONLY THE PROBLEM BUT ALSO THE CAUSE, THE ROOT CAUSES, THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND THE STEPS TO RESOLVE IT.

IF MISSIONS IS CHURCH PLANTING, WHY ARE SO MANY MISSIONARIES NOT PLANTING CHURCHES?



By Jon Nelms

This is the question for the ages. *Why are most missionaries not doing what most of their contributors think they are doing; and how do they get away with it?* Truthfully, if the Church and those who serve as its ministers could, one, grasp the importance of this question, two, understand the conditions as to why the question exists and three, accept the biblical answer for a solution; then we could in short order fulfill the Great Commission. And by short order, I mean in the next twenty years or less.

First let's establish that we have misunderstood the Great Commission. We have heard, taught and believed that it is a command to go soulwinning. As a result we "win souls" by the tens of thousands but never see them get involved in a local church. We leave new converts as sheep without a shepherd, as students without a teacher, as babes without a parent. Then we wonder why our churches don't grow.

The Great Commission instructs us to preach to the unreached, understanding that we are only the *messenger*, not the Savior. Our attempts to notch the handles of our spiritual guns with large numbers of "pray-ers" does not impress God. It is nothing more than zeal without knowledge. And what could be more "unknowledgeable" than for us to lack the understanding of the entirety of His commission. We fulfill only one third of His commission yet believe that we have completed it all.

Our first charge is to **preach**, so that the Holy Spirit, through the spoken Word of God and the "foolishness" of our preaching, may stir the hearts of mankind to repent and turn to Christ. But that is the beginning and not the ending. From there we are to **baptize** them; obviously with a thorough understanding on their part as to why we are performing this ordinance and then we are to **teach** them - not just soulwinning but "all things *that* I have commanded you". Three commands in one commission.

If we then understand His Great Commission, we must realize that it cannot all be done by one man. For example, as a missionary, I cannot go into all the world if I must stay in one spot for years to teach all the things He commanded us. God knew this so He established a process of growth for the perpetual existence and reproduction of His Church, by giving gifts to the Body of Christ that would help them fulfill His commission. Ephesians chapter 4 tells us He first gave apostles, which is the Greek word from which the English word missionary, is derived. All of His disciples were not listed as being apostles, Matthew for example, is not. And all His apostles were not listed as having been among either the twelve or even the 120; of this Barnabas is a prime example. What then were the apostles? They were men chosen and gifted by God to be the first to take the Gospel to a new people or ethnic group. Matthew refers to these groups in

chapter 28 as "nations". But since these apostles must always be moving from place to place, in search of the next unreached people group, God provided prophets (thorough Bible teachers), evangelists (gifted soulwinners) to follow them, and to gather, encourage and enlarge the small congregations they leave behind. And then lastly, He provided permanent fixtures of leadership and instruction by appointing pastors and teachers who will care for, protect and teach all the things that Christ commanded us to know and to do. The end result are strong, secure, knowledgeable, dedicated and energetic congregations that both endure over time and multiply into neighboring communities and beyond. This is God's strategic plan to cover the earth with the Gospel and the knowledge of His glory.

I have summarized this plan just to lay a foundation for a brief discussion of the conundrum at hand, which is, ... *if missions is church planting, why are so many missionaries not planting churches.*

THE REASON IS ... We no longer understand or teach how the Bible defines a missionary and his purpose as separate from the other "gifts". If you don't understand what you are supposed to be, how can you know what you are supposed to do?

We have lost the understanding of what missions really is. Most church members and even many pastors think that a missionary is simply someone who goes somewhere else to preach. Somewhere other than home. But the New Testament itself tells us that missionaries were not the only "travelers", they were followed by teaching prophets as well as evangelists. Pastors were also appointed bringing solidity, leadership and loving care to the church. As a result, regions that were formerly a mission field were now a "home base" sending out to other unreached regions.

I grew up with the consideration that a missionary was someone who looked like me, who went to preach to people that did not look like me. I was so wrong. Paul did not likely look remarkably different from any group of people he ever preached to. They ate the same foods, wore the same clothes, and though they were multi-lingual, they all spoke Greek. The difference was they had no knowledge of the True God and His Son. So, he went to turn them from idols to the living God, from performing sacrifices to accepting the sacrifice of Christ, from darkness to light.

Today we view anyone who goes anywhere other than their own neighborhood to be a missionary. It is a well meaning sentiment but absolutely absurd and biblically incorrect. Paul defined a missionary as someone who was the first to enter a territory or tribal group to preach. He did this by stating that he never "builds upon another man's foundation". Missionaries go first, behind them come the prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. That was God's law as surely as gravity is.

In recent years however, anyone wanting to receive pay for doing his ministry, whatever, whenever and wherever it may be, calls himself a missionary, so churches will support him. This is not biblical and it diminishes both the calling of God and the pur-

pose of the calling.

Logic, which has guided both our misconception of missions and missionaries would say ... Some soldiers do battle and others peel potatoes but they are both soldiers. Some team members hit home runs while others sit on the bench but they are on the same team. Some astronauts fly the spaceship while others do science experiments but they both work for NASA. So what about the various types of missionaries; teachers, children's workers, mechanics, doctors and preachers?

I can only argue against the *logic* (man's reasoning) with the *logos* (*God's thoughts put to words*).

Timothy, Titus, Luke and others traveled with Paul. They worked side by side but were not considered to be missionaries. They were the missionary's ministers (helpers). Paul told Timothy to pastor, he sent Titus to his home of Crete to pastor and to establish churches in every town. Luke was known to all as a doctor who traveled with a missionary but never claimed to be one. Children's workers, teachers, builders, pilots and doctors may work beside a missionary church planters, but they have their own profession and unique ministry for the good of the team and the Body. What they do may assist the missionary, it may comfort the missionary, bind his wounds, transport his equipment and repair his car. But it is not missions. Consider this, when these good people return home and begin to minister in their local churches, do we then call them pastors? Why not? Because we still understand the biblical calling and purpose of a pastor, but we no longer remember the biblical calling and purpose of a missionary.

THE RESULT ...

Because of this we have for several decades sent out men whose ministry more resembles pastoring than church planting. In fact, most missionaries will never start a new church in their entire career. That's sad. But the tragic thing is, they won't even know that they were supposed to. They don't know what it is that a biblical missionary is commissioned to do. We have been taught that it is nothing more than pastoring in another country, while getting paid by the churches back home. It is no wonder that often, the national churches don't understand the purpose of tithing; they have never had to pay a salary for their pastor, his supporting churches in America took care of that. Now that he is gone they don't know what to do. They have never had to pay a pastor, never had to pay a light bill, a water bill, repair damages, purchase chairs, upgrade the PA system. The missionary did all that. They were raised in a ministry plan that cannot and does not reproduce itself. All too often, when the missionary leaves, the church dies. We blame the national Christians but where is the blame for the missionary who preached to them for three decades and when retiring, had to request his mission board to send a replacement because he never took the time to develop Timothys?

HOW THIS HAPPENED, BOTH HISTORICALLY AND TODAY ...

(The following is a quote of one of our podcast episodes.)

Beginning in the 1700s, missionaries were defined as being *church planters in other cultures*. Generally, these other cultures were in foreign lands with foreign customs, foods, lifestyles and languages. Sometimes, like in the Americas, the cultures were totally different but *not so far away*. In fact, they were often less than a day's walk into the forest. Such missionary endeavors to the American Indians, were carried out in the northeast by missionaries like David Brainard and in the southeast by missionaries like John Wesley.

As they ventured further into the forests, they left behind small tribal churches; sometimes led by tribal preachers and sometimes by other foreigners. Usually their efforts produced congregations that developed needed ministries like schools and orphanages. Such worthwhile ministries were first staffed by ministers (laymen), not missionaries. In time, the staff of specialized workers such as doctors and teachers, would outgrow the number of church planting missionaries. Because of this, *and* the need for these workers to be supported, it did not take long before the term

missionary had morphed from being *church planters* to becoming merely *church workers*. From there, the term missionary took another hit to its original definition, in that missionaries almost ceased to be *church planters* and became virtually without exception, *church pastors* and *workers*.

Today, *statistically*, most missionaries will never plant a church. They will serve only as a helper or assistant pastor until the aging missionary retires or moves on, then they will take his place. For this reason, most of the good people today who claim to be and are supported as *missionaries*, are in fact only pastors or workers.

There are two missionary misconceptions prevalent today. One is that *all* missionaries *are* church planters. This is factually incorrect. The other is that a missionary doesn't *have to be* a church planter. This is *biblically* incorrect. To fulfill the Great Commission, pastors need to reeducate our churches, that a missionary is not a *church worker*, he is a *church planter*.

THE SOLUTION ...

It is really quite simple; return to the biblical pattern.

Teach the biblical difference between being an overseas pastor and a church planting missionary. A shepherd is a shepherd and may never plant a church. If that's what you want to support as a missionary go ahead but remember, we cannot deviate from His plan, purpose or pattern and expect His blessing. He may wink at our ignorance, but He never excuses our disobedience.

Instruct the non-performing missionaries you support and encourage them to discover or re-discover their calling and purpose. Then hold them accountable as you would a paid staff member at your church. Remember that you should be supporting them to do what God wants them to do (church planting and discipleship) not what our tradition has taught them to do.

Perhaps, just as your church has a missions fund or budget, you may want to develop a *ministry budget* as well. Support your missionary church planters from the Missions Fund and support other worthy ministry personnel from your Ministry Fund. You don't expect a young lady serving in an orphanage in Africa to be planting churches. Support her for what she is called of God to do. On the other hand, you are not supporting a missionary to pastor a single church of thirty people year after year. (Examine your missionary letters and you may be surprised to learn that is exactly what you have been doing.) Support and expect your missionaries to be starting new works and training new pastors. If he is not doing that ... then, what are you supporting him for?

Keep in mind that missionaries are people. They do what they were taught in a classroom and what those who went before them set as an example for them. Don't rush to drop their support but do inform your supported men of what you expect. A sincere, Christ-like challenge could be all that's needed to spark a flame that will burn for as long as they live, and beyond.

LET US HELP YOU ...

Each May, we offer an overseas, month-long course called *Introduction to Missions*, to undo what has been traditionally taught and to fill minds with the unlimited possibilities of perpetual expansion of the ministry they can have; if they follow the biblical pattern of missions. They will learn how to plant churches, turn them over to national preachers and then go out to plant others. The course is designed both for a missionary who is struggling and for young men about to launch their careers.

Contact our office for more information at:

info@finalfrontiers.world

TWO EXTRAORDINARY HONDURAN PREACHERS



One of the first services at the new church plant in Zuzarsal. There were only seats for a few so more than a hundred had to stand, and they still do.

By Jon Nelms

I want to introduce you to two incredible men, Fidel and Mario.

When we first met Fidel, back in 2013 he was living directly across from our feeding center in Cantarranas. He had formerly been an Episcopalian priest but had come to Christ through the witness of a Honduran preacher. He and his wife were involved in one of our Bible Study ministries and were eager to serve the Lord.

About a year later he moved to the village of Cofradia, about a thousand feet above Cantarranas. While there we helped him canvas the town and start a church which is still struggling. Not because he was lazy, but because local ministers, upon hearing that we were starting a church there, began to interfere and

drove away many of the new converts.

Just as Paul had Judaizers who followed him, always attempting to steal his works by proclaiming to be more spiritual than he; we too have brothers in Christ who do the same. They corrupt new congregations of babes in Christ, with their well intentioned gospel of “taste not, touch not”. Standards of course are important, but they do not bring salvation. Even Paul taught against those who tried to force new gentile believers to obey “the Law” that even they themselves, as natural born Jews, found impossible to obey.

I remember well the first night when we began our church planting efforts in Cofradia. After the service we noticed several families walking past the houses on the road to another village called Sarsal, just a few miles away and where Mario’s family is from. These folks had heard that we were preaching in Cofradia and walked all the way there to attend our open air meeting. After several services they asked if he would start a church in their village and Fidel immediately agreed. That, I suppose, is how he met Mario.

While both of these villages still have converts that meet in houses to fellowship and study God’s Word, the results have not been what we expected or what is normal. We have to remember though we may plant, that it is God who gives the increase.

Fidel and Mario, always eager to start new works, heard about a village an hours drive by passenger truck, from Sarsal, higher up in the mountains at an elevation of well over 5,000 feet. On the way there they had to pass through the village of Yamaguare where I started a church about ten years ago. We met in the street each evening under shade trees. Pastor Flavio Varela would sing and play his guitar; some nights we would show films but each night there was always preaching. After five days we gathered the adult converts together. There were about thirty-five of them in a village comprised of maybe fifty houses. They were all excited to form their own church and upon my leaving the country, I left the newly saved believers, about seventy of them, in the hands of Pastor Flavio. Last year they finished the construction on a beautiful church facility.

Driving on, about twenty minutes up the mountain, there is the small village of San Luis. Twice we have evangelized that village which really doesn’t take long since it has only about twenty-five homes, and the new converts were eager to have us open a feeding center for their children. But as we looked, I noticed that there is a small chapel where a visiting preacher comes once or twice a month to preach. Not wanting to interfere with the work he has begun, we never started a church there. If God leads we will, but with scores of villages having no witness, it is in the heart of this missionary to press on, opening new fields, rather than to build upon another man’s foundation.

Until three years ago, that was as far up the mountain as I had been. People told me there was another town about thirty minutes higher up, and each year I would tell myself, next year I’ll go check it out. In the summer of 2016 “next year” finally arrived.

That May, when I arrived in Honduras to prepare for the VISIONARY TRIPS we were hosting, someone told me that Fidel and Mario had walked up the mountain and found several more villages. What’s more, they had taken the initiative to start a

church in the village of Zuzarsal. Within the first few services they had already attracted a crowd of over a hundred souls.

I was excited to take each group that summer up the mountain. I wanted everyone to see what these two men were doing. So, one day each week we would load up the trucks, pack a picnic lunch and be on our way. Sometimes we take the back route, which is thirty minutes longer, but necessary in order to pick up Fidel, Mario and their helpers. But some days we cross a river, which is always fun. Usually during rainy season you cannot see that there is a submerged, though bumpy, concrete path just below the rushing water. In fact, I had been crossing there for over five years, praying that I would not wash off into the river, until one day several years ago, the water level was unusually low and I could clearly see the concrete.

I love going that way because I usually have a number of teenagers with me and enjoy driving through the water and nearby mud puddles fast so I can drench them. (I'm sorry, I just can't help myself.)

On one occasion, when we arrived in Zuzarsal, it started raining. That's a real problem when your "church" meets under a tree. The lady, who is the local administrator for their coffee association has a shed beside her house the size of a small carport, so we all crowded into it. Some of us couldn't fit under the roof so we stood in the rain. (see photo at right)

However, on most days, the weather is perfect so we gather under the trees, sit on top of the trucks or on a bench, laying precariously beside a nearly strait drop of several hundred feet, and listen as Mario begins to sing. (see photo below) This is "church time"; whether it be Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Whenever the pastors arrive it's time for church, and especially if they have a few truck loads of visitors with them.

What is really amazing to me is that overlooking the bench at both ends, are trees whose limbs hang over the ravine. Young boys and girls climb up the limbs of the trees like monkeys and sit there for "church". If they were to fall, there is nothing to stop them, until they reach the bottom. Yet, they sit there perched like birds, using their hands to clap rather than to hold on. Seeing things like this emphasizes the difference in their culture and ours.

Fidel likes to give the people an update as to when we are coming so they can all gather together, literally as a *called out assembly*. When you first pull into the village you pass a nice school that an international humanitarian organization built for the children. Then you begin winding your way for more than a mile to the far end of the village where the road stops. Before and after the service, you pass scores of people walking to and from the service. The road is narrow at points where even a miscalculation of a few inches could result in a two hundred foot drop. As is the case in every village, people want to ride in the back of the truck so you can have as many as twenty people at a time riding with you. I must confess that it is a bit scary. But I love it.

The first time I went up there, just a ten minute drive from the beginning of Zuzarsal, off to the north, you could see another village called Delicias, which means "delicious". From the road you can look down into a beautiful crevasse where Delicias sits like an Alpine village, having a command of anything coming or going. It has a reputation for being a dangerous town and a refuge for men wanting to escape the police. The story is, that a few years back, the military sent a truck load of soldiers there to arrest several men. The soldiers were never heard from again. This is also the town where our cook Victoria is from. Is there any wonder why she carries a pistol?

Looking beyond Delicias, you can faintly see the winding dirt road disappearing into the gorge laying beyond and wrapping around the mountains. If you follow that road you will pass an untold number of villages and hamlets as you make your way north, 150 miles or so to the Caribbean. They say no missionary has come that way—yet. I say it's time we do something about that and





Fidel and Mario have told me in February when I visited them, that they have already gone to Dilicias five times to preach and evangelize. They have hopes of seeing another church started there, and then go on to the next village, and the next and so on.

What can stop them. Just one thing. Delicias is *before* Zuzarsal, but as you finally make a sharp right turn to approach the trees that are the roof and walls of our church there, if you take a quick glance off to your left, you will see another village, whose road is no more than a path. This is the village of Buenos Dia, which in English is "Good Morning". And on a clear day beyond it you can see another village and another and another. From here, there are innumerable villages taking you all the way southeast to the border of Nicaragua and on to the Pacific Ocean, some 75 miles away. So then, the only thing to stop Fidel and Mario from going north, is the draw of going southeast.

In the photo above you can see Brother Mark Bosje preaching while Pastor Carlos Messam is translating. Carlos was my wife Nolin's pastor before we were married. We have supported his church planting activities for decades with the faithful offerings of his sponsors, Mrs. Lorraine May of Michigan and the Kopylov family of Florida. Carlos seems now to always wear sunglasses. He says it's because his eyes are weak, and he does squint a lot, but I think, that he thinks he looks like a movie star. He would probably say Antonio Banderas, I would say Don Knox.

Then at left in the photo in brown, you can see Fidel, who is so excited to share his ministry on this day with some American brothers. Look beyond Fidel and you will see the children and

women sitting on the log bench and on the branches hanging over the steep drop-off. Beyond them is an unfinished house that we could potentially turn into a church building, but it would only hold about half the congregation. Currently the preachers have found a large and flat piece of land that we are investigating to purchase and build a church facility and feeding center on. In this way, we can saturate this village as we have others, not just with the Gospel, but with a perpetual witness to the goodness of God, as manifested by the offerings of strangers like you, who will give to feed these children. And then God willing we'll do the same in Dilicias and Buenos Dia and beyond.

Fidel and Mario are doing a great job, but at this moment, only Fidel is sponsored. Mario does all this with no financial help at all. He didn't raise support to serve, he just serves! Unfortunately, they can only come here every other weekend. It is more than a days walk each way so they take the bus which drops them off on a Friday and returns on a Monday. The family where the coffee administrator lives has a "prophets chamber" where these men stay with their wives. They badly want to be able to come every day and open a feeding center. And they want to go to the villages beyond as well—in both directions. To do this we need to buy them a 4-wheeler which will cost around \$2,600. Perhaps you might be willing to donate for this cause so they can do even more. If so, please designated your gift to Final Frontiers for

"FIDEL 4-WHEELER".

Any extra funds received will be used to purchase motorcycles for other remote village preachers which cost around \$1,400.

A CUSTOM-MADE VISIONARY TRIP ... IN *FEBRUARY*!

We spend each summer hosting Visionary Trips to Honduras but do we ever go at other times? Yes, it is possible, if you say please.

Nolin and I actually consider Honduras to be our home and the United States to be our second home, so any excuse we have to “go home”, we take.

I was so happy for an opportunity to have three friends come to visit me. I had invited them to come to Honduras in order to see what we are doing and how we do it. Since it has long been my desire to teach young missionaries what I have learned in my thirty some years of missionary work; we have taken that knowledge and have developed a program of teaching missions to students who will spend from a month to a semester with us, and in doing so, receive credit from their schools toward graduation. Of course the decision to offer credit will depend on each Bible College, but logically, once one has accepted our program, it will be easier for others to do get on board. We already have the materials, the teachers, the ministries and the beautiful facilities. All we need now is the approval, so I invited these men to come along so that they can perhaps help me with that goal. All three come from the Hammond Indiana area and are affiliated with either Hyles Anderson College, my alma-matar, or First Baptist Church, Hammond.

If you glance at page 14, you will see Mark Bosje preaching in Zuzarsal on a Sunday afternoon. But earlier that morning I took them to Bartolo to see our feeding center and enjoy a church service there. I think they especially enjoyed the hand-made cello. I always do.

With me was my good friend, Dr. Ray Young, the Chancellor of Hyles Anderson College. Ray and I worked together over forty years ago with other great friends in the High School C department where we had our own youth church. He married my good friend Debbie Whitehouse and I was honored to be in their wedding. Joe Wittig, a long time supporter of our ministry and friend of these two men also came along. In recent years his support and prayers for our ministry have been invaluable. It was good to finally meet him in person. With them was Missionary Mark Bosje, who is the President of Fundamental Baptist Missions International and also teaches missions at Hyles Anderson College. He oversees the missionary ministries of several hundred missionaries. That's a herculean task to say the least. What a blessing it was to get to know Mark. He had spent a number of years in New Zealand as a missionary and was able to teach me a great deal about life and culture there. Then he served in Thailand for nearly a decade, which is my “third



home”. This brother has an uncanny recall of the Thai language. I would say he speaks, reads and writes Thai better than any American I have ever met. Some missionaries teach English in Thailand as a ministry tool to reach the citizens. Frankly, Mark should forget the English classes and just teach Thai. He is that good!

In the photo at left you can see the three men in the Sunday morning service at Bartolo. At the time children were singing for them and quoting Bible verses. Ray is really enjoying it as is Mark, but Joe, (checkered shirt) appears to be sleeping. Really he is not, I just happened to snap the picture when he was blinking. (OK Joe, I said it, so now you owe me \$20.)

No really, he isn't sleeping — we only slept when Ray preached.

Truthfully, I was blessed by having these guests with me. Getting to know Mark was an abundant joy. It is so refreshing to find a brother, a missionary, who shares the same biblical and philosophical beliefs about missionary work. We were like one spirit in two bodies and both feel the same burden to help bring missions back to what it used to be and away from what it

has become.

If you are interested in studying missions, I would recommend that you consider attending Hyles Anderson College, if for no other reason than what you will learn in Brother Mark's missions classes.

Please pray also that God will bless our intention to fully develop the Final FRONTIERS SCHOOL OF MISSIONS, to enhance, not replace, Bible Colleges. Pray that God will lead me to other schools as well, who are open to our program and perhaps already on board with us. We can do this by ourselves with some effectiveness, but together we can do so much more. As the Scripture says, “one will chase a thousand, two will chase ten thousand”. We are not to waver or to retreat, we are to be always advancing with the gospel of Christ, running towards the battle. And if we've gonna run, we might as well do it with maximum effect.

As I say, I had a reason to go to Honduras in February, and if you'll give me a good reason, I'll go with you too — *anytime*.

Top 5 reasons to visit Honduras at another time:

- 5- The summer months are filled with VBS and camp.
- 4- The summer is too hot.
- 3- We have a group that can't go in the summer.
- 2- My kids are in school so it's just the two of us. Yeah!

and the #1 best reason...

1- BECAUSE!



TOUCH A LIFE

A CHILD SPONSORSHIP MINISTRY OF THE FINAL FRONTIERS FOUNDATION

www.TAL.world



Name:	Kacwinyrwoth Petient
ID #	6130
Birthday:	August 29, 2012
Photo Date:	January 12, 2018
Age:	5

The following is a transcript from our March 24, 2018 Podcast, that features the story of an orphan girl who is the daughter of one of our national preachers from Uganda, who had moved with his family to the Democratic Republic of Congo to plant churches. She is pictured at right.

By Michael Horne

Through our TOUCH A LIFE ministry you can personally support a child who is in an impoverished and destitute state. We have helped thousands, and there are plenty on our website, just waiting to be supported. As with everything, there are always levels of poverty, and I certainly don't want to compare one child to another. They are all in desperate need to have a guaranteed good meal every day, to be fed spiritually along with it, and grow physically and with the Lord. Some though, have similarities to their sad circumstances that you see of children here in the USA, like broken families, unemployment and living day to day to survive. There are also those children who are from a background that we are unlikely to have ever heard of, experienced or known of. And when I talk of 'those children', please know that there are a lot in our system who have similar heart breaking backgrounds.

Today I am going to focus on Kacwinyrwoth Patient, a 5 year old girl who is currently living in one of our orphanages in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is overseen by our regional director in Uganda who works out of Nebbi. For those who don't know anything about Uganda, it is a country in East Africa and is landlocked. It is bordered by Kenya to the East, South Sudan to the North, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the East, Tanzania and Rwanda to the South. With a population of just over 40 million, 84% say they are Christian, though almost 40% of those identify as being Roman Catholic. Muslim make up almost 14% which has grown over the last couple of decades from 10%.

Nebbi, is located on the western side of Uganda, just above the northern point of lake Albert and only about 10 miles from the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. She is living in the orphanage located in Mahagi, which is just a few miles from the Uganda border. How did she become an orphan I hear you ask? Well, thank you for asking!

Her parents were part of the Alur tribe. This tribe had dominance of the land in this area where they lived, until Joseph Mobutu became president in 1965. The Anya tribe moved in and started to rule over the Alur because of Mobutu's power. Fast forward to more recent years and the Alur land is mostly ruled by the Anya, many of whom occupy higher government positions. Kacwinyrwoth's parents were also in government positions and this caused frictions and issues with the Anya in the area, who wanted to be in control. One night, some from the Anya tribe came out. They quietly made their way around the small house, set it on fire, burning both of Kacwinyrwoth's parents alive. You

have to remember that a house over there is commonly built from sticks and a grass thatch roof, all of which is very combustible.

Fortunately Kacwinyrwoth was saved by a neighbor and taken to her grandmother where she stayed. Sadly, after some time, she was given to the orphanage as her grandmother just does not have the health and strength to take care of her. Now when I say orphanage, you are probably thinking of a multistory concrete building. That is not the case as right now it is just made up of 3 small grass thatched houses. They accommodate 32 children in total at the moment, 14 boys and 18 girls. They receive some schooling but they don't have enough funds to purchase the teaching materials and all of the teachers are volunteers. They are able to feed them some basics, like porridge for breakfast and something for lunch and dinner, but this is all done which what little resources they have there. And this is why we are asking for your help to support Kacwinyrwoth along with some of the other children there.

Can you imagine losing your parents at such a young age, and in such a horrific way? We can only pray that any memories she has of that night will fade with time and with her young age. She now has an opportunity though, to grow up strong and with the Lord at her side. With your support she can have good food every day, enjoy a complete education and grow up loving the Lord for whom her parents gave their lives.



This is but one of so many sad and desperate stories. As I said, we have so many children waiting for support, and some you can relate to, but there are also those who have a past mired in such despair that it just tugs at your heart.

I hope this has enlightened you to some of the suffering around the world that is faced daily by little children. But I also hope it has shown that we have a way to help, a way to shine the light of the Lord to those in dark places. Please help us by praying for these children, and if you are able, help support them. To learn more, just visit FINALFRONTIERS.WORLD.

Other children needing a Sponsor ... Now!

Anyone can sponsor a child and change their life for only \$35 a month. It's easy and rewarding.

To learn how, see page 23.



HONDURAS

←

Name:	Abdon Isaac Aguilar
ID #	6040
Birthday:	July 14, 2010
Photo Date:	August 25, 2017
Age:	7

→

Name:	Doris Daniela Berrios
ID #	6045
Birthday:	May 28, 2014
Photo Date:	August 25, 2017
Age:	3



UGANDA

←

Name:	Daniel Newman
ID #	5945
Birthday:	April 4, 2013
Photo Date:	February 12, 2018
Age:	5

UKRAINE

→

Name:	Eva Bretushko
ID #	6072
Birthday:	March 23, 2011
Photo Date:	November 9, 2017
Age:	7



We currently have 204 children waiting to be sponsored in Honduras, Ukraine, Uganda, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar Cambodia, and India. Take a look at our website to learn more about them. www.TAL.WORLD

For those who cannot commit to \$35 for monthly sponsorship, you can give any amount to our DAILY BREAD fund. This program feeds hungry children who are still waiting for a sponsor. They won't get school supplies, a school uniform or medical care but they will get life saving, nutritious and delicious food. It takes us only 13 cents to feed a child. See page 22 for more explanation.

POWERPACK

5 years



The Original PowerPack cost \$1000 - \$5000 depending on extras. Everything on the table fits in the back pack.

At right, the PowerPack Nano (\$35) and the Pico (\$10)



the world have multiple languages spoken so this way, the evangelist can have a separate copy of the film for everyone to listen to.

- Most did not have a microphone attachment and those that did offered only one input, so at the end of the film you had to disconnect the projector and then connect the microphone, all the while the people, thinking the event is over, are beginning to leave. Daniel and Michael went to work and developed their own, proprietary (and patent pending) portable PA system that half the size of a lunch box. It has three inputs, one for the film's audio, and two separate microphone inputs and all three can be used simultaneously. Then using our 3D printer, he designed the schematics and custom-built the case specifically for each unit and model.
- Many of the other products ran off of battery power but ours uses lithium, solar-powered batteries. Each unit contained a flexible solar panel, that's right, flexible. It can literally be rolled up and put in the back pack.

That is as far as our competition went. But since ours was designed not for a single use but for prolonged use, we knew that other components would be needed, so we included such things as a sleeping bag, hammock, mosquito net, fire sticks, flashlight, multi-purpose knife and even a small cooking stove. The stove in fact has a USB port on its base so that the heat generated while cooking produces electricity. So while you're cooking, you're also recharging your batteries.

THIS IS NOW ...

As time went on we found that there were times when we didn't need "all that stuff". So we developed smaller versions for use in someone's home or a classroom. And unlike me, as time went on each unit got smaller and smaller. Now we have units as little as one-inch-square that contain only a dramatized audio Bible. It's called the POWERPACK PICO. Other units are smaller than an iPhone and contain an audio Bible as well as the Jesus Film.

We are now targeting entire villages and tribes giving a PICO unit to every single family so they can listen to God's Word in their own language, whether they can read or not. This is especially helpful when evangelizing the blind and illiterate.

AND THIS IS WHY ...

As our 5th anniversary is approaching, we wanted to give you

THAT WAS THEN ...

Five years ago we introduced you to our newly conceived PowerPack. It was designed by Daniel Nelms and Michael Horne for one man to be able to take everything he needed into a jungle to show the Jesus Film from village to village, and be gone for days, weeks or months at a time.

Every need was carefully considered and every selected tool was strenuously researched and field tested before including it into the finished product.

After we began our initial research we learned that there were other similar products available, which though excellent, were just too expensive for us and frankly their components were either too heavy, too awkward or out of date. For example ...

- Other products had folding screens that had to be hung to a wall or from a tree limb. That's great unless the wind is blowing. We selected a glass infused collapsible screen that could be viewed from two sides rather than one, thus doubling the size of the viewing audience. It has its own free-standing frame and can be assembled in two minutes.
- Others had video projectors that were the size of a boot box whereas ours was the size of an iPhone and had three times the brightness. And the memory card is able to hold up to 23 Jesus Films, each in a different language. Some regions of



an update on what the recorded results have been. These statistics do not include the *NANO* or *PICO*, just the full size versions. The original PowerPacks have been used so far to ...

- Combined attendance 518,125
- Salvation decisions 174,224
- Churches started 454

A number of churches have purchased the larger packs for a missionary or national preacher. Dividing the results into the cost we can report that the cost per salvation decision is only 45 cents and the cost per new church started is only \$172.52. Each unit deployed has been used to reach an average of 18,007 people, produced 6,050 conversions to Christ and start 15.7 churches. That's not bad for an investment \$1000 to \$3000. (The *NANO* is only \$35 and the *PICO* is \$10)

NOW FOR A TESTIMONIES ...

(The following two reports arrived in late March from Pastor Babu Prasad, FF National Director for Karnataka State, India.)

This is one of the ladies from our church in Bangalore. *(in the top photo wearing a yellow shirt and holding a Nano for others to see.)* She had been showing the Jesus film on her POWERPACK *NANO* and playing the scriptures in the marketplace where she works. After three days a demon-possessed woman *(in the lower photo wearing a blue dress)* was brought by a young lady who had seen the *NANO* and listened to its message. She believed that Jesus could give her friend freedom from the demon that possessed her friend. The church member quickly gathered together other women from the market who were Believers and

they began to pray for the possessed woman. The next day they learned that the demon had left her but that she had not yet accepted Christ.

The woman who had been possessed, came to our church that Sunday evening and asked if she could borrow the *Nano* for a day. We continued to talk with her about her ordeal and as tears filled her eyes, she cried out to Jesus and accepted Christ.

The next afternoon she returned with the *Nano*, and told us that she wanted to show it to all of her friends. We advised her to bring all of her friends to church so that we could project the film on a larger screen for the group. We have now organized an event using the POWERPACK *ORIGINAL* to show the Jesus film to a large group and will be providing snacks for all the visitors. More are being added to the Kingdom due to seeing and hearing from the *NANOS*.

AND ONE MORE SHORT TESTIMONY ...

In this picture below, one of our preachers was in a village using a *Nano* with a small group. As they were watching, a rough young man snatched the *NANO* and ran away with it. The preacher called me and told me the bad news. I told him not to worry, and that the *NANO* had been lost because God has a plan for everything.



The man who had stolen the *NANO*, watched the film and listened to its message. Convicted over what he had done, he found our preacher two days later when he had returned to the village to evangelize again. Approaching the pastor humbly, he presented him with the *NANO* he had stolen, saying that after his theft, he went home and watched the Jesus film and listened to the Words of God for many hours. He felt convicted by what he had done and wanted the pastor's forgiveness. As they talked, he knelt down in front of all who were watching and accepted Jesus as his personal Savior.

Since that time our preacher has regularly returned to the village, and as of last Wednesday (March 14th) he has planted a new church there; and he reports that the young man who had been a thief, has become a changed man.

Happy Birthday PowerPack and great job Daniel, Michael and all you who have funded the research and purchased or donated units overseas for this great tool.

For more information, visit
www.PowerPack.world



THE STORIES BEHIND THE STORIES...

INTERESTING BACKGROUNDS OF OUR CHURCHES, FEEDING CENTERS, SCHOOLS, PREACHERS. WORKERS AND PROJECTS THAT YOU WILL BE BOTH BLESSED AND AMAZED TO LEARN ABOUT.

Those of you who have been on a VISIONARY TRIP recognize these girls and exactly where the photo is taken. For those of you who have not, allow me to explain.

Each week we take a few hours off to let the groups do some souvenir shopping at a town called Valle de Angeles (valley of angels). The three-squared area of the town is filled with hand-made crafts, great food and coffee shops. In the center of the town is the Catholic Church, which can be seen in the upper left corner of the photograph. I'm taking the picture sitting on my throne in front of the Espresso Americano Coffee Shop. It makes a great meeting place for us to gather at as one by one our guests finish their shopping.

This is a delightful place to visit and to rest; and I'm an expert at resting. Usually during this time my wife Nolin is off with a group of ladies helping them to find bargains. Usually some of our helpers like Frank, Moises and Ligia are there to help out as well, and hoping someone will buy them a coke.

One of the best parts of the trip is the end of the day when we load into the trucks to head home. Usually by that time the evening rain is beginning to fall and for some reason I really enjoy watching the teenagers in the back of the truck get soaked with the down-pour. (I really need prayer—but not as bad as they do!)

Just look at those cobblestone streets and the Spanish roofing tiles in the background. Can you smell the coffee roasting? Don't you feel peaceful? Don't you wish you were going to Honduras this summer. It may not be too late since we have some small groups coming July 26– August 2 and August 2-9. There is still room for more of you.

Now back to the story ...

What I really want you to focus on in the picture are the girls. The little one in the back is Michelle; she has been in our program since day one, back in November 2005. Believe it or not she is nineteen years old. On any given Saturday you will find up to a dozen girls, and sometimes a few boys, selling candy on the streets. Usually these candies are made at home by their mothers. And no matter what the color or shape, they all taste the same, being made from condensed milk and sugar. Sometimes they may have small bags of peanuts and my favorite, peanuts coated with a solidified pineapple juice. I am addicted to those things.

In the past I wouldn't recommend the candies because the living conditions of these kids is so poor, but now the mothers have little machines to make them with and besides, in the past few years we haven't had to take anyone to the hospital, so I'm totally sure it's safe—I think.

These little children, every single one of them, are from our feeding center in Cantarranas. They are so poor that on Saturdays, while other children play, they have to work. They sell each bag for ten lempiras, that's about 42 cents. Of that, they get to keep one lempira, barely 4 cents for themselves. But the bus ride to and from town each Saturday is nearly a dollar, round trip. So they have to sell twenty-five bags just to break even.

We all love these kids and they know it; but I also love to tease them. I tell them they have to give me a ten percent "tax" as their godfather, but they just laugh. You may say I aggravate them but

they love it just the same. For example, I won't buy anything from them unless they call me "Juan Magnifico". That means *Jon the Magnificent*. It's hilarious as I sit drinking coffee and the kids run up yelling Juan Magnifico. All the Honduran people sitting around look at me as if to say, "who is that guy?" "why is he magnificent?"

We love to take these kids out to eat too, giving them a meal like they would never have at home and a needed break from all the selling. I love watching the expression on the faces of the café owners who would normally be running them away from their customers, as they now have to serve them a hot meal and a cold coke. They all know who we are. We are the missionaries from Cantarranas, and as they meet us they learn about our churches and feeding centers. Now everyone in town knows us and respects us and realize we love them because He first loved us. Why hide under a bushel when you can shine from the mountain top?

I also try to teach the girls how to sell their candies. It's the *art of begging*. Hey, I'm a missionary, we wrote the book on begging.

When groups come to visit us, I point them out to the girls and tell them to approach the "target" with a sad face when they beg. It takes about two seconds for the sad faces to burst into laughing faces, but it's still fun. And then, when one of our guests pulls out some coins to buy candy, those laughing faces turn into all business faces. These are our sweet little business-ladies who will someday work in our feeding centers. We love them all and you will too.

So if you're coming to Honduras this summer, remember to bring a few extra dollars to make their day. I can guarantee you the smile they will give to you will be worth a million dollars.

I should mention that there is also one dear little old lady who also sells there every day (photo above). She lives across the street from our feeding center and just adores Nolin. She is in her early nineties I think, and as frail as a snowflake. Each morning she rises around 3-4 in the morning and makes cheese by hand from semi-soured milk. She then takes the bus to Valle de Angeles to sell it and rides a bus home. On a good day she will make a only a dollar or two. Whenever we or Keith are passing through, we always look for her to give her a ride home. That will save her about fifty cents for the bus ride.

And by the way, I just noticed the couple in the background of the photograph who are walking towards us. Take a close look. Is that lady holding a huge teddy bear or what? I guess you'll have to come visit us to find out.







The **DAILY BREAD** Program provides food in bulk to feed hungry children and families who are not yet sponsored through our **TOUCH A LIFE** program. See page 23.



It takes just 13¢ a day to feed a hungry child through our **DAILY BREAD** ministry



This photography was taken by myself (Jon Nelms) in mid February at our feeding center in Bartolo Honduras.

Bartolo is where our **DAILY BREAD** ministry began. We had for more than a decade been feeding, clothing and helping to educate children who were sponsored, but one day, seeing the unsponsored children waiting to snatch the crumbs left on the ground, after the sponsored children had finished their meals, while having to fight starving dogs for individual grains of rice, God touched our heart to do something about the need to care for children *before* and *until* someone steps forward to sponsor them.

Sponsorship is \$35 a month and many would say is the single greatest blessing of their lives. Even an unbeliever would feel satisfaction and warmth knowing they were changing the life of a child in such dire and undeniable need. And that is why so many of our sponsors begin by rescuing one child, then go on to help another and another. Nolin and I sponsor seven. Some are still young while others are now in high school and preparing to make a better life for themselves and their families. We only wish we could help more ... and we will as God provides or we find more ways to cut our expenses. Other families support ten or more children and some companies and churches fund entire small orphanages.

But what about the children who are not yet sponsored? Children whose hunger is with them day after day. You see their hair turning red due to the malnutrition and then eventually beginning to fall out. They have only one dress to wear and no shoes. They live in the squalor of a house made with sticks and mud whose dirt floor is turned to mud for months at a time during the rainy season. When it's dry they sleep on the dirt floor, but when it rains, they squat in a corner all night, unable to lay down. They may sleep in a sitting position for months before their floor dries again.

DAILY BREAD is our way of collecting whatever funds are given and pooling them to feed as many children as possible, while we busy ourselves recruiting a sponsor for each of these kids. Every time one is sponsored, those funds are freed up to help yet another unsponsored child, somewhere in the world. When they are all sponsored, the combined **DAILY BREAD** funds can then start a new feeding center while we find them sponsorships. The process goes on and on. It's amazing.

Some people give a dollar, some ten, some a hundred. Some give every month while others give only once. Whatever is given is pooled and used as it was intended. These kids don't get a school uniform, medical attention, books, gifts or the joy of having their own sponsor. What they do get is food. It fills their stomach, fortifies their bodies and strengthens their minds.

What does it cost?

Thirteen cents a day -- less than \$4 a month.

INTERESTING CULTURAL FACTS ABOUT HONDURAS

CULINARY DIFFERENCES ...

SPAGHETTI IS A FAVORITE DISH ALL OVER THE WORLD. BUT WHILE WE LIKE OURS WITH TOMATO SAUCE, MEAT AND PARMESAN CHEESE, (AND SOME OF US LIKE TO ADD ONIONS, OLIVES, AND GREEN PEPPERS), IN RURAL HONDURAS SUCH A MEAL WOULD GET STRANGE LOOKS. THEIR IDEA OF SPAGHETTI IS NOODLES MIXED WITH KETCHUP AND MAYONNAISE. AND IN BARTOLO, YOU ONLY EAT IT WITH YOUR FINGERS. HOWEVER MOST RURAL HONDURANS PREFER TO USE TORTILLAS AS FORKS TO EAT IT WITH.

R
E
P
L
Y☐ I want to receive the *Progress Report* by Email

Email: _____

☐ Check here if this is a new address or phone number.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Enclosed is my donation of: \$ _____ to be applied to: _____


Please contact me regarding: _____

☐ Please send me information on your auto-debit program**MOVING BEYOND INTEREST TO INVOLVEMENT ...****Sponsorship Information**


NATIONAL PREACHER You can go to our website to choose a preacher or simply call our office and ask us to help you find a preacher from our most needy list. Sponsorship is \$50.00 monthly, and since we get most preachers two sponsors, you have the option of providing double sponsorship (\$100.00 monthly) if you prefer. The standard \$50 sponsorship includes \$10 support of our ministry and \$10 for the preacher's ongoing education and accountability overseas. This gives our foundation funds to operate with as well as providing for immediate emergency needs overseas. Typically up to half of this amount is used overseas.

You will receive personal correspondence from your preacher at least three times annually. Each preacher recommended for support has successfully passed through at least three levels of examination and has been proven to be doctrinally sound, morally pure and have a verifiable track record in church planting and training other men who are serving in the ministry.

TEAM Sponsorship is requested in increments of at least \$10.00 monthly. *TEAM* stands for *Together Effectively Advancing the Ministry*. Supported preachers function in groups for accountability purposes but they often collectively lack ministry tools that can be useful. The purpose of the *TEAM* funding is to provide each group with money to be used for such things as printing literature, buying bicycles for the traveling evangelists, emergency relief, and funding preachers who do not yet have a sponsor. Each trimester as the funds are mailed abroad, the national coordinator in each nation is asked to fill out a *TEAM* Report Form which we will copy and send to you. This will give you a first hand report of how your funds were effectively used to advance the ministry in that land. This program allows those who cannot afford full sponsorship to still have a part in supporting national preachers.

 **TIMOTHY PROJECT** \$10 monthly helps to provide scholarship funds for national Bible colleges, training young men, not yet ordained or graduated, who already meet our core requirements for sponsorship such as having experience as a church planter and being a discipler of others in the ministry. Once ordained, they will move into the ranks of veteran preachers and qualify for full sponsorship.

TOUCH A LIFE gives assistance to an orphaned, abandoned or destitute child. The \$35.00 monthly sponsorship provides for food, clothing, basic medical care, and educational assistance. All orphanages, home placement programs and feeding centers assisted by Final Frontiers are administered by pastors who are supported through this foundation and are operated as a ministry of a local church. Bi-monthly correspondence is required from the children. Funding distribution for the child is identical to that of the preachers (see the first paragraph) giving us extra funds to help unsponsored children. You can go online to select a child or call and ask for our help. Visit www.TAL.world for more information or call 800-522-4324.

 **DAILY BREAD** is a similar program but does not have a specific sponsor/child designation, rather it is food bought in bulk to feed unspecified unsponsored children who are awaiting sponsorship. These centers also operate out of a local church. The goal of this program is to allow us to feed unsponsored children immediately while we seek full sponsorships for them, thus eventually a Daily Bread Center becomes a Touch A Life center.

SMUGGLERS funding in any amount 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 God's Word to those who desire it in free countries and in closed counties such as Islamic nations.

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 is \$20 monthly and provides food, clean water, medicine and vitamins for a family of four.

AUDIO BIBLES is an enhanced "dramatized audio Bible" in native tongues. These tools are used in villages where no Bible is present, primarily to start or strengthen new churches. Their great strength is that they present the Gospel in many languages where it does not exist in printed form. Nanos cost \$35 and Picos cost only \$10.

THE POWER PACK contains 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 two forms. The Power Pack Plus includes camping gear. The pricing and details can be seen at www.ThePowerPack.org

OTHER Any offering given for our **HOME OFFICE NEEDS** or for the support of one of our **MISSIONARY REPRESENTATIVES**, whether monthly or a one time gift, will be applied 100% as designated.

LAYING UP ETERNAL REWARDS**When You're Already in Heaven**

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* world, even when you have passed on to the next - and its easy to do.

For help, contact your personal estate planner or let us refer you to one.

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1200 Peachtree St. - Louisville, GA 30434
(800) 522-4324 — Tax ID Number: 58 -1721535

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*Final Frontiers
& Touch a Life*

"COME AND SEE OUR ZEAL FOR THE LORD"

II KINGS 10:16

SINCE OUR BEGINNING IN DECEMBER 1986, THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF OUR NETWORK OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PREACHERS, TIMOTHIES AND THEIR TRAINEES, RECORDS INDICATE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ...

244,391	Churches Started
767,015	Villages Evangelized
8,980,272	Professions of Faith
3,109,418	Believers Baptized

DURING THESE YEARS OUR NETWORK HAS ENCOMPASSED ...

2,697	Preachers
25,161	Timothies
3,199	Touch A Life Kids



AROUND THE WORLD

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT ... SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Demographic studies reveal that sub-Saharan Africa will, at some point in the next forty years, become the world's undisputed seat of Christianity. Today, 26% of the world's professing Christians live south of the Sahara Desert but by 2060 that number will increase to 40+%; meaning that more than four out of every ten Believers on the planet will live there.

But let's not get too excited, too quickly.

The same research also indicates that while the growth of Islam is static or declining in the rest of the world, Sub-Saharan Africa seems to be the region that has been targeted as a foothold to prevent its virtual demise. Radical Islam has been creeping ever southward for decades and has now taken a foothold in nations that were previously considered to be "Christian".

Today, the region is reported to be 16%

Muslim, but that percentage is expected to grow to 27% by 2060. Some countries, once bastions of religious freedom for their citizens, are now growing accustomed to Islamic attacks on church facilities and people alike and even have professing Muslims as presidents.

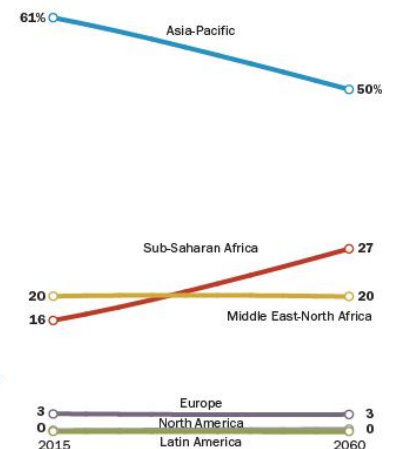
The good news ...

While the chart at right indicates that the percentages of Muslims living in the six, populated regions of the world will remain virtually the same, their influence in Asia-Pacific will drop dramatically from 61% today to 50%.

These studies indicate that Islam may have reached the apex of its growth and be heading downhill. Today the median age of Muslims there is 17 and for Christians, 19. The battle is for the youth, so supporting and aiding youth ministries there can literally change the future of the world.

Growing share of Muslims expected to live in sub-Saharan Africa

Estimated share of global Muslim population living in each region over time



Note: Between 2015 and 2060, the share of the global Muslim population living in North America is expected to increase from 0.2% to 0.4%. The share living in Latin America-Caribbean is expected to decrease from 0.05% to 0.03%.
Source: Pew Research Center demographic projections. See Methodology for details.
"The Changing Global Religious Landscape"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER