



The Final Frontiers Foundation

Progress Report

Second Quarter 2023

Outcast and **ABANDONED**

How Can We Help?

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

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

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

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

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

CURRENT MINISTRIES

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Final Frontiers® is a non-profit, religious corporation, 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. Michael Horne (*Secretary/Treasurer*), Rev. Tim Schelling, Rev. Don Prosser, Rev. Steve Ware, Rev. Anthony Lamb, and Mrs. Suzanne Raper. Further council is provided by those serving on the National Boards of Advisors.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICES/DIRECTORS

International offices are maintained in every country of service for accountability purposes and are staffed by national and regional coordinators. Parallel oversight 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.



Cover

Date: 2005

Location: Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, India

Subject: The child of a leper widow weeps from sorrow

The Story: While leper children usually show no signs of leprosy until the age of fifteen, they are nonetheless ostracized as if they, too, had the disease. They are not allowed to attend school and have to beg for food to eat. This little girl was fortunate that the local pastor, our Final Frontiers director, cared for the lepers in his area with food, clothing, medicine, and services for them to attend.

The **Progress Report** is distributed freely by post and/or email to those who request it.

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, 706-955-4916 or 800-522-4324, 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(c)(3) administered by the Final Frontiers Foundation. Other ministry subsidiaries (*see page 23*) 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. Recent copies prior to posting by GuideStar are available by request. Contributions and gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible and are applied to the ministry's global evangelistic outreach. Final Frontiers is classified as a 509(a)(1) public foundation, under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

PROGRESS REPORT TEAM

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Art Director: Heather Ward

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Updates and Encouragement ...

A few thoughts from Jon Nelms

Greetings to all:

My wife Nolin and I just returned from an extensive trip speaking in multiple churches and meeting with old and dear friends. I am encouraged to see that as I grow older, our ministry is not fading but is, much like my stomach, growing. This year is turning out to be incredible. The number of preachers whose church planting efforts we subsidize is swelling, as is the number of families and churches who have chosen to partner with us in our efforts. You feel as we do, think as we do, pray as we do, and share the same purpose and goal -- to fulfill the great commission in our lifetime. As you help us to accomplish our purpose, we, too, help you accomplish yours. What a partnership.

We have been blessed recently by a family that has given a \$30,000 matching gift to purchase a much-needed ministry van in Pakistan. Already, you have responded with over \$5,000 to meet their challenge, and I am confident that our Lord will provide exactly what is needed.

Recently earthquakes occurred in Turkey and Syria (see page 20). Because God has long given us access there, we sprang into action, raising funds to care for the survivors, but primarily for our brothers and sisters. The scripture admonishes us to do good to all men, but especially those who are believers. We asked you to help us raise \$130,000 to meet their immediate needs, and you responded with \$144,000. This has helped us feed, clothe and care for 4,000 of our members who lost their homes and nearly 130 new orphans. We intend to continue supporting them and caring for the orphans and are seeking ways to perhaps open an orphanage there in the near future. There are legal hurdles to overcome, so please pray for our success. Such a facility will be a shining light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in those lands.

What do you think of our new look? Personally, I love it. We are so blessed now to have professionals help us with the layout and artwork. I will continue to write the stories, but they will make them look so much better (and far more concise).

Inside, you will see several QR codes which make it easy to pull up and watch these videos. Simply point your camera phone over the QR codes and click the link that appears.

If you receive the digital format of our Progress Report, you can click and watch those short videos. So, for those of you who, like me, still ride to church on your dinosaur, consider signing up for the digital format. You can still get the paper version, but we can also send you the digital format freely. Then you can enjoy what you have been missing.

Thank you for growing up with us over the past nearly four decades. Your friendship, prayers, and support help us to continually do more and better for our Lord and His servants.

**For the most up-to-date news
from Final Frontiers visit**



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The Final Report From a Fallen Pastor

I want to thank my God for saving my soul and calling me to spread the Gospel's message to my big family and the people who live in our country who have not heard the message of salvation or have not even read or seen a Bible before. Also, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers and financial support all these years, which have enabled us to keep preaching, teaching, and sharing the Word of God with sinners to win them to Christ.

Among them is this testimony. A 39-year-old man grew up in a Muslim family, which was a very devoted Muslim family. His father was part of the Muslim Brotherhood's movement in our country. In the early 1980s last century, a war began between the Muslims Brotherhood and the regime, which lasted for several years. The regime arrested thousands of people on charges of belonging to the Muslims Brotherhood, and his father was one of them. He was arrested and disappeared; they had never seen or heard about him.

His uncles tried to step up and help his mother as our culture demands, and they tried to raise this young man to follow in his father's steps. Still, his mother opposed that because she didn't want to lose any of her children, so he grew up trying to find his own path. At the same time, he hated the regime and blamed the Muslims Brotherhood's leadership for leaving their people behind as the leaders escaped the country.

He tried to obey the essential teachings of Islam and find the right Imam (religious leader) to follow, but all of them were appointed by the government, so they supported the regime and praised the president. Growing up, he couldn't find anyone to trust or follow, so his religious life turned into empty rituals without meaning. At that time, he was consumed with fear of Islam and Allah, then the sectarian war started (almost 12 years ago), and his concerns swelled to include his safety and that of his family.

He told all his extended family that he would not be part of that war. He told them he didn't want his children to grow up without a father just to satisfy fake religious men, that this war has no just cause, and death has become a part of our daily life; every hour, you hear reports that someone you know has been killed for no reason. All this made him lose any meaning of belonging to his religion.

Then one day, after hearing his uncle had been killed, he told his family that he was no longer a part of the Islamic religion. He quit practicing anything that has to do with Islam. But he had three unanswered questions that continued to haunt him; who is God, where is God, and what is the truth?

We have a ministry of helping families in desperate need by providing them with the essential needs of life. For example, our members share with their neighbors, who may ask for a teaspoon of salt or a half cup of olive oil to cook a meal. So, one day he asked one of our families if he could have some salt because there was no salt in all the markets, and even if there was, snipers were shooting in their area. Therefore, no one could leave their apartment for more than five days, and the markets had no salt for almost two weeks. So, naturally, our church member gave him as much salt as he could, and they started to build a friendship.

The man told our church member that before he knocked on his door, he had asked for help from all the other neighbors in their building, who are Muslims like him, but no one helped him, and then he said, "You are from a different religion, and yet you stand with us on many occasions and help us. I really appreciate that!"

Our man looked at him and said to him, "I help others because I am a Christian man; let me tell you a story about what my Lord told us to do," and he shared with him the story of the Good Samaritan, and that story opened the door for his many questions about Christianity. So, our man arranged a meeting for the three of us, and I quickly saw this man was like a barren desert. He started to absorb every word I told him, especially when I started to talk about the person and nature of God in the Bible.

Immediately he stopped me and said, "I can't comprehend everything in one sitting. Can I have a Bible and meet with you again tomorrow?" So, of course, I said yes and gave him a Bible.

It took a few meetings to answer his many questions and explain who God is according to the Bible and how different He is from Allah in the Quran. That is when his eyes were opened to the Truth, and he came to the knowledge of salvation and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. Then, after only two weeks, the Lord helped us bring his extended family to the knowledge of salvation, and they all accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.



AFRICA - Democratic Republic of Congo

Glory to God! We were able to serve God's people by giving them Bibles and putting God's word into their hands! With great joy and thanksgiving, one of them said: "Apart from the day I believed in Christ, today is my happiest and glorious day of my life. I have been praying and struggling to have a Bible for years. Today after my struggling and human effort, today I have got it freely of charge. This is a God-given gift to me. I will read it diligently. Keep it jealously and obey it under the power of His grace."

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION PROJECTS



WATCH THE VIDEO



Around the WORLD

North Africa

We recently delivered **4,500** Bibles to one country. And within two weeks had seen sixty-one adults saved. As our men distributed the Bibles, they met men from Chad who accepted Christ and asked the



team to travel to their homeland to share the gospel with their families. Our men agreed, delivered Bibles to them, and saw our first house church planted there. Now our men are making regular trips to train the new converts and begin the discipleship of future pastors.

Middle East

In one country, the house churches recently increased by **153** adults who came to Christ due to the **3,000** Bibles recently delivered to half a dozen locations.

East Asia

We have just delivered **2,500** more Bibles to one country and **30,000** to another.

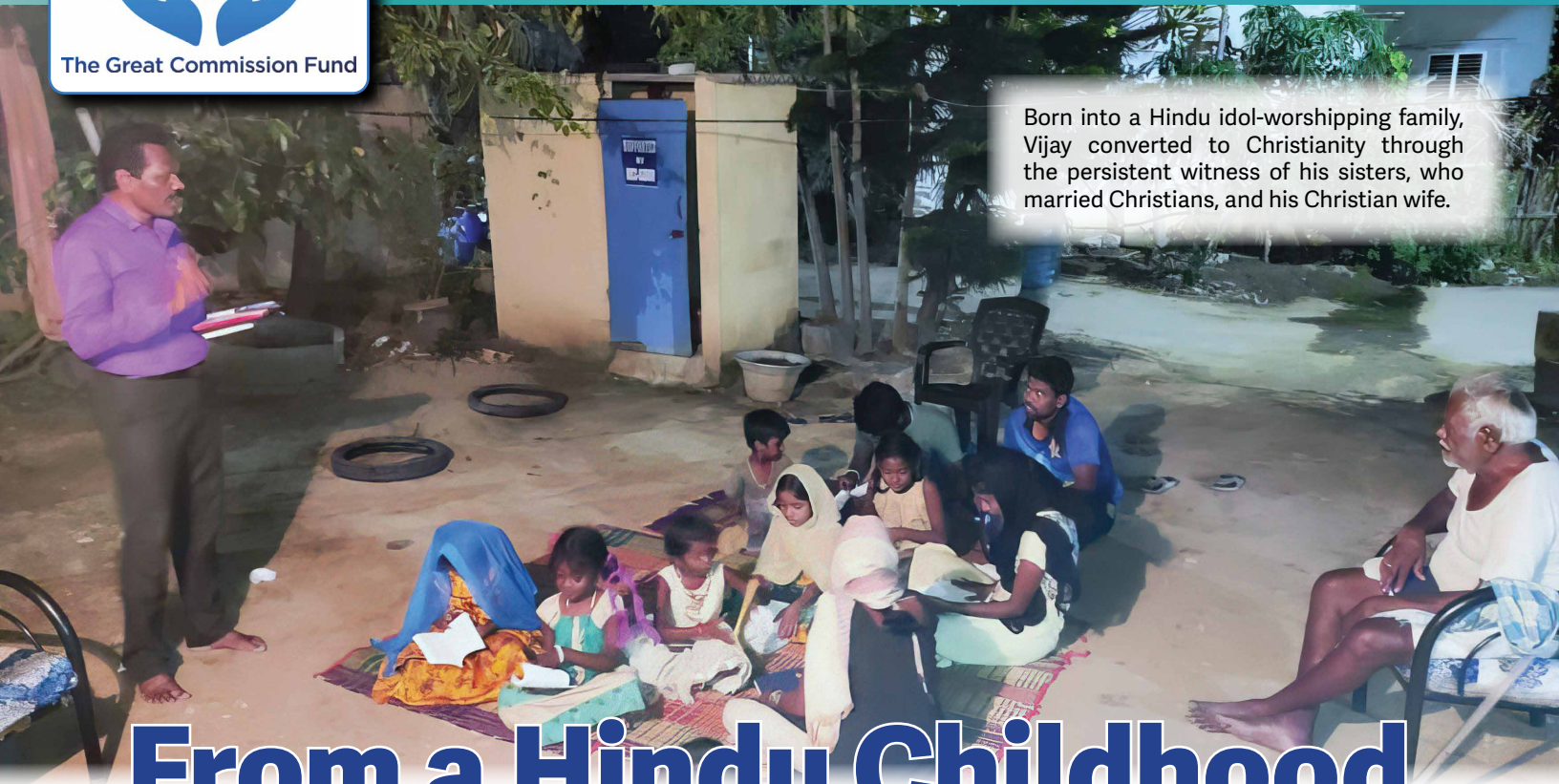


Note

We continually raise funds to print and deliver Bibles in North Africa and the Middle East.

Your contributions of \$6 per Bible are making a difference.

See page 23 for more information.



Born into a Hindu idol-worshipping family, Vijay converted to Christianity through the persistent witness of his sisters, who married Christians, and his Christian wife.

From a Hindu Childhood to Atheism to Christianity

He was born and brought up in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, South India, in a Hindu idol-worshipping family. In giving his testimony, he wrote, “We were very devoted towards idols, following all the required rituals; my parents were also from the same place. My Father’s name was Mr. V. Doraiswamy & Mother’s name was Mrs. Pandamma. Our family included ten children, five sons and five daughters; I am the tenth child and the baby of my family, born on 25 February 1971. My father was a farmer, and my mother also joined him in farming, where we would work as day laborers in the fields of others.”

Before his birth, due to poverty, malnourishment, and illiteracy, his parents lost five children due to unknown causes but commonly described and treated as stomach pain; they suffered from continuous vomiting and dysentery. In those days and in such remote places, they had no proper medical facilities to save their children from these types of diseases. Because they had to travel by foot or bicycle, 15 to 18 miles, to reach the government hospital, many times, when they were on the way to the hospital, the child would take their last breath and expire in the middle of the journey. His second elder brother was five years old, his fourth elder sister was seven years old, his sixth sister was six years old, and his seventh brother was seven years old when they expired due to the family’s poverty and culturally unhealthy practices.

When Vijay was twelve years old, his father expired, and he went into depression, but his mother encouraged him to complete his tenth grade in the government school. Even at the age of twelve, he used to work as a helper for a mason (construction). He used to manage his studies while simultaneously working and succeeded by completing the tenth grade, though with much difficulty.

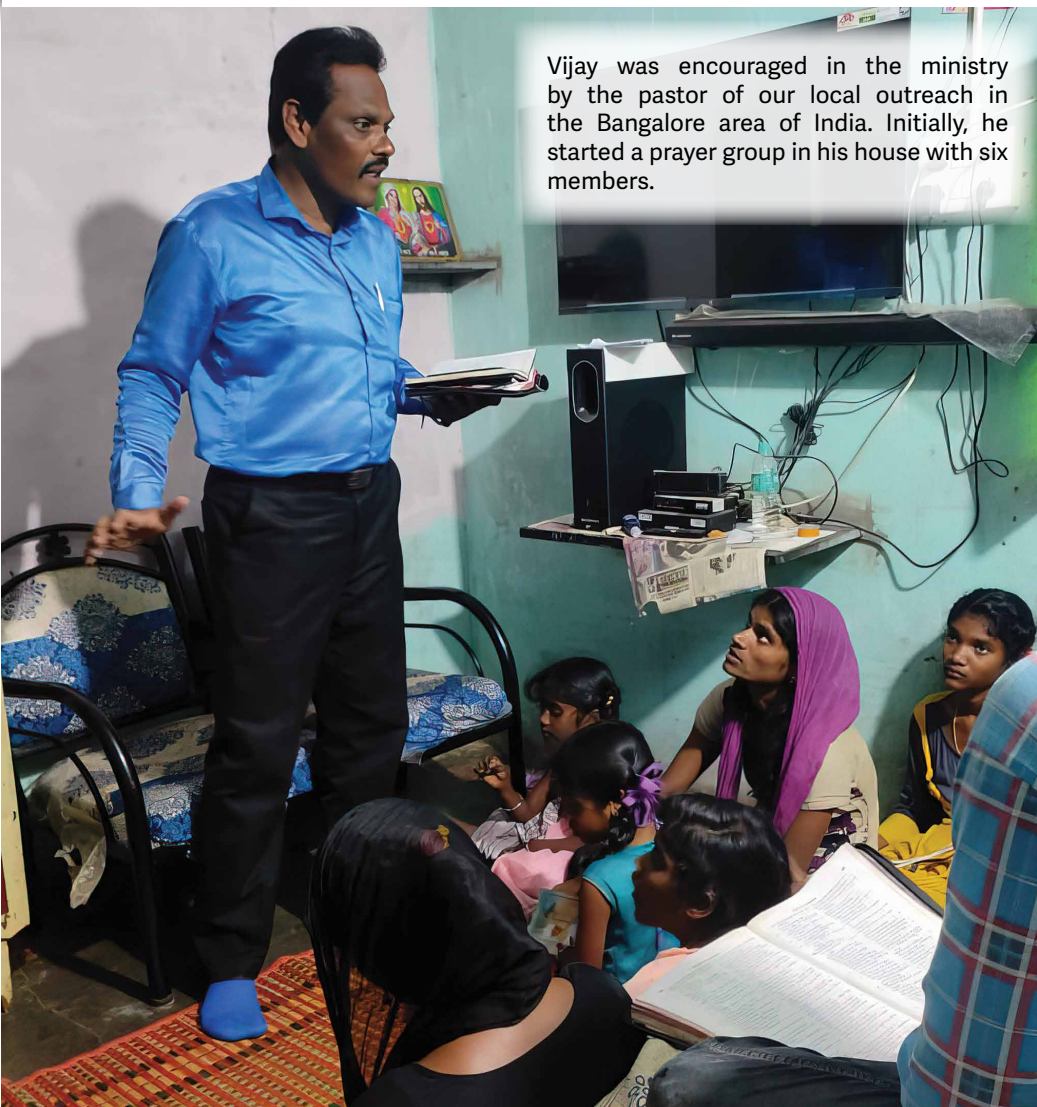
He continued to do construction work even after his studies and gradually was well experienced, becoming a mason in another three years. Having reached that goal, he worked for about twelve years in the same manner. Then later, he learned to drive the tractor fully loaded with sand for the purpose of construction. Due to hard work, depression, and failures, he became addicted to smoking and chewing gutka, which is like tobacco prepared from crushed nuts. At that time, he was happy with his life and unmolested by his addictions. Over time, that began to change. To find peace, he followed Hindu traditions as his parents had. He would sacrifice sheep, goats, and bulls to idols and would sometimes dance before the idols but was no longer happy or satisfied. Finding no peace and believing it to be unattainable, he ultimately became an atheist.

Growing up as a Hindu, he criticized servants of God who visited their village to share the Gospel; he once badly beat a preacher. Due to this type of incident, the villagers used to hate him and feared that he might manhandle them also if they asked him any questions.

As years passed, both his eighth and ninth siblings (sisters) married Christian men who were very nominal. (Nominal typically means someone not born again but rather “born into a Christian family” with little or no faith or knowledge of scripture.) Thereafter both sisters started to attend church because of the pressure from their in-law’s family. Gradually the word of God pierced their hearts, and both the sisters came into the saving knowledge of Christ. (In Indian culture, the sons usually remain with the parents, and the daughters-in-law assume a position of servitude under the mother-in-law, obeying her in every detail and helping to care for the family. She may be held responsible for family problems of health, business, etc., and can be punished for the transgressions



Vijay and his wife, Sujatha, who was instrumental in bringing her husband to Christ.



Vijay was encouraged in the ministry by the pastor of our local outreach in the Bangalore area of India. Initially, he started a prayer group in his house with six members.

The various facets of our ministry work together to plant new churches - despite the existence of persecutions

The purpose of **The Great Commission Fund** is to have finances perpetually available to subsidize, support, and enhance the ministries of qualified and competent national preachers who have experience in starting house churches and in training men as local pastors.

While projects are approved based on their need, and strategic value to the expansion of the Gospel in that particular town or region, the national church planters are approved for a subsidy based on their ministry experience and the recommendation of another national with whom we have a long-standing relationship or by a missionary from an acceptable board. Such team leaders apply for the support of their men (Timothys), who receive not a salary but a stipend for their living needs and support for their ministry. This support could provide ministry tools such as transportation, institute curriculum, fuel, Bibles, clean water, etc. Whereas the stipends assist them with daily necessities such as food for their family, medicines, school expenses, etc.

So, whether stipend or support, your giving to the Great Commission Fund equips those who are already serving, not those waiting for support to serve. Our quarterly articles in the Progress Report illustrate their needs and the results of your giving.

We encourage you to initiate a monthly auto-debit of any amount if you can and are so inclined. Follow the QR code to donate.

Now, please enjoy the testimonial of one of our men in India.





The Great Commission Fund

of her husband. Often, when he perishes, she will be cast out of the home and, sometimes, unable to return to or be accepted by her own family. Due to the low esteem of females and the belief in reincarnation, it is suspected the daughter-in-law, and if none, the mother and/or daughters, are the karmic reasons for any ill that befalls the family.)

Later, both sisters encouraged Vijay to attend church. (Their acceptance was likely due to the godly life of the mother-in-law and father-in-law, who treated them with respect and love as Christ taught rather than with the disdain of Hinduism.) They used to share Gospel with him, and he rejected their pleading many times. Then, at age twenty-five, he was forcefully taken to church for the first time. There the pastor's sermon made him feel a great difference in his heart. The peace of the Lord began to encompass him and reign in his life. He decided to continue attending church, and after two years, one day, he heard the voice of the Lord in a dream asking him to wake and read **Isaiah 43:1-7**, which said,



1. But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

2. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

3. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

4. Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honorable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

5. Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

6. I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

7. Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

From that day, he quit smoking and chewing tobacco. He started to commit his life to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. He believed that Jesus was the only true God and attended a Bible Camp for about six months with his sister's help. Then, by the time he was baptized at the age of 27, he had already started to lead a new life in Christ and for Christ.

After years passed by, his mother made arrangements for his marriage to his sister's daughter, Sujatha, who was born on July 15, 1995, into a Christian family. In that region of India, it is customary for a girl to marry at the age of fourteen and to wed her mother's brother. After marrying, she continued to attend school and was faithful to church. Ultimately, she was instrumental in bringing Vijay to Christ and provided the "force" he mentioned that compelled him to attend his first church service. After marriage, they both faithfully attended church and praised God. He again started to drive a lorry (taxi) to earn money for his livelihood, and several years later, God blessed them with a son, Edwin Raj, born October 4, 2002, who is now 20 years old.

Reader: Do not stand in judgment against the mores and customs of other societies. Remember that Mary was "wed" (though not consummated) to Joseph, likely in her mid-teen years. Abraham was related to Sarah and Isaac to Rebekah, as was Jacob to BOTH his wives, Leah, and Rachel. Indian marriages are based on arrangement, what is best for the bride, groom, and families, not on "love." It is their belief that love comes not from impulse but from a shared life with mutual goals and respect. That being achieved, love follows in deep currents rather than shallow streams. BTW, the American divorce rate is nearly 50%; in India, it is 1%.)

Time passed, and in 2003, when he was 32 years old, he

experienced heart problems. Due to a blockage, he could not walk well, so they visited a doctor, who operated on him and cleared the blockage. We praised God for his mercy upon Vijay. After the operation, the doctors suggested he not drive the lorry anymore because that may cause another severe problem with the heart, and his life would be in danger. (The stress of driving in India is beyond comprehension for most American drivers. Pedestrians seem to never look before entering the street; dust and dirt continually irritate the eyes, and what seems like thousands of horns constantly honk, even when there is no need. The sidewalks, street vendors, and other drivers are crushed by a population of 1.4 billion people. And if you hit a pedestrian, you are at fault, whether you are or not – that is the law. Twice I have had eye surgery to take particles out of my eye while riding as a passenger in an open taxi.)

Now, because of this medical recommendation, he was confused. Many of his Hindu friends and relatives started criticizing him, saying, “because he got converted to Christianity, he is facing all these sorts of problems in life.” He could not work or drive a vehicle, and without income, his life was terrible, so they decided to leave their village and relocate to another place. They came to Bangalore in search of a job for him and his wife. Because their son, at that time, was still young, he thought of taking a security job, and his wife also could help out as an office cleaner or as a housemaid.

Through the help of his friend in Bangalore, he got a security job and was earning money for his livelihood. Months passed by, and he was able to find a church in a village far away. Through the recommendation of that pastor, they began to attend church faithfully in Bangalore. This is the church where our local outreach in the Bangalore area is located. (As persecution and the closure of churches in on the rise in India, we will refer to this pastor as Pastor B.) Soon, Pastor B. discovered that Vijay was interested in ministry and enrolled him in the Bible Institute.

Vijay worked as a security guard for about six months; then, he was promoted to an administrative position and his pay scale increased. After a few years of secular work, he committed to serving God in the same church where he was now serving as a layman for almost 15 years.

Vijay testifies, “We initially started a prayer group in our house with six members, but the neighbors raised complaints against us saying – ‘you people are always making noise’ so we were forced

to stop conducting prayers in our house and instead rented a school classroom to continue the prayer fellowship”.

As a family, they prayed earnestly and God answered their prayer and provided their needs through the people around them, their converts who gave them dry rations as tithes, though they had little or no income. Then we praised God for the way He led us, and Vijay determined to quit his secular job and serve full-time in ministry. Now by God’s Grace, almost 30 people have joined together in this fellowship and are praying to and praising the Living God. They have rented a second place to meet and are praising Him for all His wonderful deeds.

By God’s Grace, they have now started prayer groups (house churches) even in Andhra Pradesh in the village where he was born. Vijay has appointed pastors to take care of the various churches

and, as a family, to visit the same congregation at least one full day in a month. Neither Vijay nor his Timothys has been supported financially by any organization, but in recent years our partners in Bangalore have been supporting them with help from the Great Commission Fund. They lead their lives and ministries by faith. His wife goes each day for a job and earns a little amount. They spend that to remit the rent of their house, and churches, for traveling and family needs in a very limited way.

They are praying to construct a church building of their own and have raised many leaders for the kingdom of God (young Timothys). Their future vision is to start old age homes, strengthen

the widows and encourage them to grow in the Word of God. (Many elderly are cast away as an unwanted burden on the family.) They also plan to start a children’s ministry (a Touch A Life feeding program).

Epilogue:

Vijay currently has started ten house churches in the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, where the Telugu language is spoken. To lead these, he has six Timothys that assist him as a Timothy or Titus. Three other young men are still in training. These pastors also plant other churches and train their Timothys for service. Thus, the Great Commission Fund provides financial subsidies, tracts, Bibles, bicycles, and other ministry supplies. Your auto-debited monthly donation of any amount would tremendously help our national missionaries. Go to finalfrontiers.world/gcf to donate.





Take Our Understanding the Great Commission Course

Because so many of you are interested in learning more about missions, we developed this as a 54-part course, with each lesson lasting about five minutes. As you go through the series, you have the opportunity to receive the course book free *Understanding the Great Commission*, and to receive a certificate of completion if you take and pass the tests. These tests do not follow each lesson but cover a dozen or so classes. Be sure to sign up, free, to enhance your GC understanding.



UNDERSTANDING
The Great Commission

Misunderstandings About

What a Missionary Is

Part 4 - Location

I grew up thinking that a missionary goes from point A to point B to witness, but I was wrong. As far as we know, Peter, James, Philip, and Stephen never left the Roman Empire's boundaries. They ministered as pastors, evangelists, and deacons, but Paul was a missionary. They all served in the same empire preaching the same gospel.

So why did they have different titles? Quite simply, they had different purposes. Those men mentioned preached where people knew of Christ to one degree or another, but Paul preached where Christ was unknown—until he arrived. The seats of Christianity—Jerusalem, Damascus, Alexandria, and Antioch all had the gospel, but Thessalonica, Athens, and Berea did not. The citizens were all living under Roman rule; they all spoke Greek, shared commerce and education, but had a different level of exposure to the gospel.

Some Americans who minister overseas are called “missionaries.” National preachers minister alongside of them in the same church, but they are called “pastors”—same message, same location, same people, but a different title. Why? In my younger church planting work in New York City, I learned if I pastored in upstate New York, I would be called a “pastor,” but because I was planting a church in the New York City area, I was called a “missionary.” Yet, there was and is no Scripture to support that thinking.

A place does not qualify as a mission field because it is far from home or has a different language or culture. It is a mission field because there is an absence of the preaching of the gospel, and the inhabitants know little or nothing of Christ. It's all about access.

If the gospel is there and available without restriction, then it is not a mission field; it is a ministry field. Those needed to preach and serve in regions where Christ is known are not missionaries but evangelists, pastors, deacons, and laypeople. If there really is no purpose in these different callings of God, then why go elsewhere when we can stay home and do the same thing?

Points to Ponder

- Do you see that you are not a missionary because of where you go, but why you go? If your purpose is to shepherd a congregation, you are not doing missionary work; you are pastoring.
- How many missionaries were taught otherwise? Could that be a huge reason why we have not fulfilled the Great Commission?
- Nothing is wrong with starting a new church in an area that already has them; God leads where God leads. But was it biblically correct for me to be called a “missionary” while planting a church minutes north of New York City—in a place that already had scores of churches already established for centuries?



Real World Missions Insight

Dear Brother Nelms,

I just had the privilege of reading your book "Understanding the Great Commission." It is a great masterpiece that everyone trying to do missions should read. The thoughts there are really gleaned not from the classroom but from the laboratory of missions.

Thank you for putting the thoughts together.

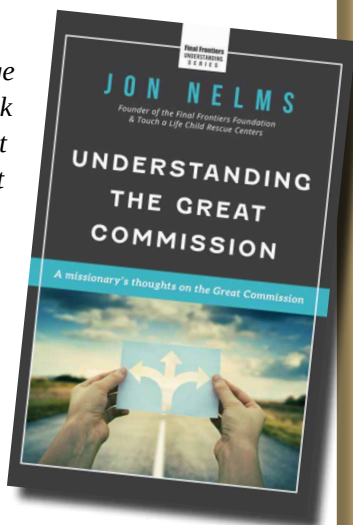
Also, thank you for being an advocate for national preachers in the way you are trying to get others on board to partner with them so that they do twice as much and achieve twice as much of what the missionary could do on the field. Only eternity can reveal how many souls have been reached because of the "national church planters support" philosophy.

This will be your second book I have been privileged to read. ("Great Omission" and "Understanding the Great Commission")

Thank you for all you do for the Gospel and we national preachers.

God bless you!

Pastor Adewale Adesina
Nigeria



Find Jon's Book
on Amazon



Around the WORLD

Honduras

We have reopened a feeding center in the village of Sabaneta. The small school across the street has a teacher/principal who is a church member and allows the children to eat there. We are now feeding all the children in the school. We need \$100 monthly sponsorships to do this.



VISIONARY TRIPS

"Lift Up Your Eyes and Look"

Our customized one week, missions exposure/adventure trips are for families, youth groups, school and churches.



For more
information call
800-552-4324

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Uganda

November:
Pakistan

December:
Egypt
Middle East

Plans are always being altered due to natural events, schedules of those wanting to travel with me, and political events that require readjustment. But at the moment, these are the trips planned for the next year. If you want to join, please let me know.

ALERT Four of the eight weeks of next summer are booked. So, if you or your church are interested in joining us in Honduras, get in touch with me ASAP. jnelms@finalfrontiers.org

BTW June 22-29 seems to be developing into a week for pastors and their wife to come who do not have a group accompanying them. Pastors, are you interested? Call 800-522-4324 ext.110

AVAILABLE WEEKS

- ▶ May 25 - June 1
- ▶ June 8 - 15
- ▶ June 15 - 22
- ▶ July 6-13
- ▶ July 13 - 20

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL



TOUCH A LIFE®



OUTCAST and Abandoned

We work with a young man, whose name I will conceal because he has asked me to. He has shared a story with us that I want to share with you.

“If I speak about this publicly or in any other place like social media, I’ll get into trouble,” he said, “but the fact is that these kids need help, but they (*the authorities*) try to sweep them under the rug.”

Background

This young man is a State Director of **Touch A Life®** in India and is responsible for caring for the children of lepers in one of our local Touch A Life centers, which a local church pastor runs. (*There are six more such centers for leper children in his area, but we do not have funding to care for those children.*) And while none of the children are lepers, their parents are, so they also carry the infamous distinction of being lepers. Leprosy usually does not reveal itself until the child reaches the age of fifteen. A young couple in Texas

provides for these children from their business profits.

In the neighboring state of Karnataka, we have several feeding centers for leper children in and around the megacity of Bangalore. Unfortunately, their feeding program is a Sunday-only meal, which is all we have funding for. It is always delightful to visit these kids and see the traces of smiles on the faces of their leper parents, who often have paralyzed faces due to the nerve damage caused by leprosy. Their attempts to smile, though not always visible on their faces, can be seen in their sparkling eyes. But the delight in the eyes and laughter of these several hundred children never ceases to thrill our hearts when we are blessed to visit them.

Lepers’ children may not get leprosy. Still, they, too, are stigmatized by being the child of a leper. Hinduism teaches that these parents were so evil in past lives they must now live with leprosy to pay for their sins. So the lepers believe they deserve this fate, and their children believe accordingly. Imagine your life if you grew up believing such corruption about your parents.

Unfortunately, the children also believe they must have past sins to atone for, so they were not born to the educated or the wealthy but to lepers. As you can imagine, these lepers are thrilled to learn that Christ paid our sin debt to remove all the guilt of sin from us. They rejoice, knowing that though there was no past life, there is certainly a future life in paradise with their Lord. So they endure here with the promise of a resurrected body there.

For thousands of years, castes have dominated the psyche of Indian life. You are born into a specific caste and cannot move outside it. Well, there are two exceptions. The first, as you may imagine, is leprosy. It condemns you to a life apart from society. A life of misery, often being forgotten by your family, and a life of begging for your daily food. Even if you are somehow “healed,” you will never be accepted back into your family, caste, or society.

The second is if a person of a higher caste converts to another faith, particularly Christianity, they automatically become a part of the lower caste, called Dalit, which means broken or scattered. They are called and considered to be “untouchables.” Physical contact with one requires a cleansing process, just as with touching a leper. They can work but are limited to jobs like crushing rocks with hammers to make gravel, digging ditches for sewage by hand and repairing broken sewage lines, clearing the streets of garbage, etc. The hovels they call home are typically grass huts or tents made of scrap materials. They live on the sidewalks of the cities and have no bathrooms to relieve themselves or places to bathe. They drink from water ditches and wastewater. They live along railroad tracks and near bus stations, two of their favorite places to beg. When they perish, their bodies often lay on the street, waiting for a cart to pick them up and take them to a place of mass cremation.

On my first visit to Calcutta in 1992, now called Kolkata, I can recall seeing bodies on the street and observing how those walking past would step over them and carry on their way, not even looking down to notice that was a human they were stepping over. Humanity can become so callous to suffering that even the smallest gesture seems remarkable. Consider Mother Teresa. Her fame came not from feeding or healing the poor but from providing a clean bed for those at the doorway of death, giving them a dignified death on a clean bed rather than the dirty street.

But these are not the children he risks talking about.

How history has affected the current situation:

Alexander the Great, as did the Romans after him, referred to India as “the Indias.” (*plural*) The Roman historian Strabo, writing from Damascus, a stopping point on the road from the east (*Persia and India*) to Jerusalem, wrote that among those “wise men” who traveled from the “east” searching for the newborn King of the world, there were seventeen ambassadors (*wise men*) from “the Indias.”

From pre-history to the British rule of India, it was never one nation but many independent societies, each led by a Rajah (*king*). In 1947, these rajahs quickly became extinct when the sub-continent was united into one country with a British government style. I have met a Rajah who now follows Christ, living a simple life with no





TOUCH A LIFE®

rule or say in rulings. He lives as an average man who moved out of the palace into a small dwelling, now having authority only over his immediate family.

Now to my point:

Recently, we have learned of a different group of children, also abandoned by society, from a sub-caste called Bogaalu, also known as Kalavanthula. But what have they to do with the rajahs?

For thousands of years, during the reign of the rajahs, and most notably in eastern India, a caste of courtesans was trained to provide entertainment and pleasure to the rajahs. But, seventy-six years ago, the age of rajahs ended, and their assets were confiscated, ending their patronage of the courtesans. Some courtesans plied their trade with the new local government leaders and other wealthy men to survive. They had been taught their craft for millennia, passing it down from mother to daughter. In their minds, they had no other option as they knew no other trade, nor did the caste system allow any other trade.

Soon, their status went from one of elevation to one of degradation. Many plied their trade at local temples, becoming “temple prostitutes” and owing their livelihood to the god or goddess they served. Over time, girls and boys as young as six (*or even younger*) were devoted to the service of the temple priest. They were given food and a place to sleep, but the profits of their trade went to the priest. Once considered too old or worn out to be profitable, usually around eighteen to twenty, the temple sold them to a pimp for his service.

Still, they could bring a profit for him, but as they became even older, their bodies racked by the ravages of sin (*usually before the age of thirty*), they would be cast out to the streets on their own, serving the poorest, the criminal elements, and those with HIV. (*India is number one globally for the number of HIV-infected citizens, having passed South Africa. The spread is primarily due to prostitution at truck stops where out-of-town clients seek their services before moving on to the next stop along the road, eventually spreading across the entire country.*)

My wife Nolin and I have met many of these ladies and are particularly interested in helping them find Christ. Some of our preachers have converted hundreds of these women who then voluntarily quit prostitution but have no other skill to ply. We organize them into communities and have churches filled with

former temple prostitutes, who now praise the Lord of lords, who has forgiven them, cleansed them from all unrighteousness, and set them free. Their lives are not easy, but Christ makes them “Abundant!”

But what of their children? None know their father; if they did, they would not be welcome or accepted by him. Some of these children were also prostituting for their goddesses before their mothers were saved. Now they, too, follow Christ but have the stigma of being the child of a converted prostitute and perhaps being one themselves. They have willingly forsaken their caste, duties, family, society, and gods and goddesses. Now they follow a new Lord who loves, gives, and forgives.

And this brings me to the point of the story. Our “unnamed director” has located a home where many of these abandoned children live. Consider those worn-out prostitutes who cannot feed themselves and certainly cannot feed their children. So they abandon them, and eventually, they may be found by a pastor or church member. If able, they take in more and more until finally, they need help feeding them.

Would it not be our delight to rescue these children? To show them the love of God that so greatly exceeds the abuse of gods



and goddesses? **Look at the photo and tell me if you see what I see — young kids eager to learn, laugh, grow, and become viable members of their church and society.** They have so little hope. They are starting from a hostile place in life, with no earthly status, in a land where status is not just important; it is everything. Therefore, it behooves us to help them and others like them — as many as we can. They were not orphaned by their parents’ death but by their parents’ devotion to a devilish religion, causing them ultimately to give away the most precious thing in their lives – their children.

I am weary of those who say since they cannot help everyone, that there is no need to help anyone. And I have observed that those who say we cannot help them all never help any at all. In the first place, I do not believe that we cannot help them all. On the contrary, if we do all we can, our Lord will raise others to join the struggle. He acknowledged that we will always have the poor but didn’t mention the starving.

Our Savior took the assets of a lad, five pieces of flatbread, and two sardine-like fishes, asked His Father to bless them, and fed 5,000 men plus the women and children. What could He do? What would He do if we gave our comparatively massive assets to Him? Isn’t it time that we took His command seriously to lay up treasures in Heaven rather than on earth? You’re going to leave all you have here. So, what do you have waiting for you there?



◉ Children make up roughly 40% of prostitutes. It is estimated that over 2 million women and children are trafficked for sex into the red-light districts in India. The Indian government estimates that girls make up the majority of children in sex trafficking.

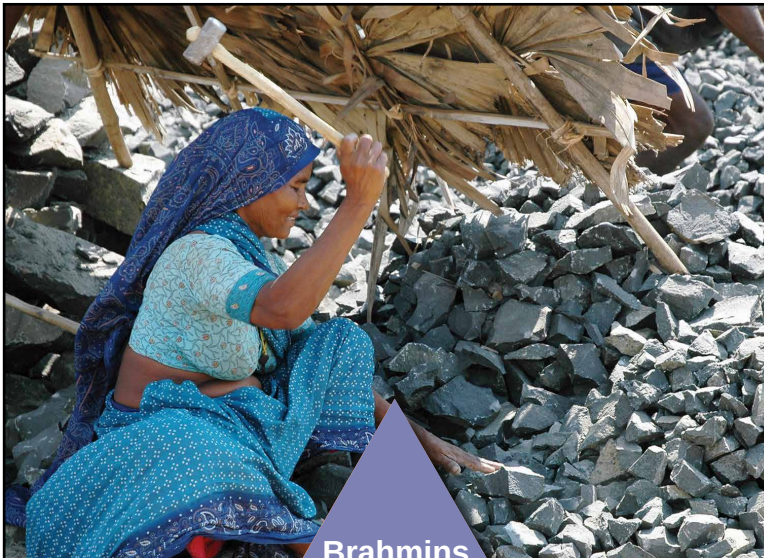
◉ According to a government report, there are 10 million sex laborers in India, with 100,000 in Mumbai (Bombay), which is now the biggest sex industry center in Asia.

◉ Between 2013 and 2014, at least 67,000 children in India went missing, of whom 45% were minors trafficked into prostitution.

◉ According to the National Crime Records Bureau, a girl is abducted every eight minutes in India.

◉ The 2013 report of the National Crimes Records Bureau reveals there were 48,338 recorded cases of child rape from 2001 to 2011.

◉ In 2001 there were 2,113 cases recorded, while in 2011, there were 7,112, a rise of 336%. The report also revealed that 43% of these rape cases were abducted minor girls.



Brahmins
Priestly,
Academic Class

Kshatriyas
Rulers, Administrators,
Warriors

Vaishyas
Artisans, Tradesman, Farmers,
Merchants

Shudras
Manual Laborers

Dalits
Street Cleaners Menial Tasks





Ministry Supplies

When Necessity Becomes the Mother of Invention

In this photo, you see a young boy struggling to color a page – about what, I don’t know. The girls to his right are coloring a picture of Ruth carrying grain home to Naomi, and others carefully color Abraham’s offering of Isaac. Unfortunately, none have multiple colors, so they have to share, nor do they have a table to color on, so some drop to their knees, using the bench as a table, while this boy uses his thigh. The group picture shows that others have no crayons and are waiting for their chance to color.

So what do they have in common?



They all attend Sunday School at our “Coffee Church,” which still meets under the tree where the church began. We now have a newly remodeled house that has become their “church.” While they have class, the adults wait outside. Then the children dismiss for their activities, and the parents use the facility. It can now comfortably hold about one hundred people.

When the preaching, teaching, and activities conclude, the children return to the facility and receive a hot meal. So this church plant now has its own building, kitchen, classroom, auditorium, bathrooms, sinks, storage area, pastor, and joyful congregation. What they don’t have are tables, crayons, and coloring pages. The



Watch Video

teachers constantly ask for any pages that they can use to illustrate the Bible stories. (*Do you have any sketches you can email me?*)

This Coffee Church is so named because it is in the village of Zorzular, which at an elevation of over a mile high, is where the entire economy depends on the annual coffee harvest. Here they grow and sell coffee; what they don't sell, they dry, roast, grind and enjoy. (And so do we when we visit.)

More than an hour away, near the 2,200-foot elevation, is the Baptist Church in the village of Bartolo. We didn't start this church; it was begun decades ago by an old national lay preacher from a mountain village on the other side of the valley in the village of Pajarillos. But we have a facility here with a Touch A Life feeding center and around ninety children eating daily. **I took this picture of these two boys below in the summer of 2022 when I visited with a church group from the USA.** They immediately started a church service, and the boys participated with their homemade maracas. Since they have no money to buy their instruments, their guitars, cellos, and drums are homemade. These were the most amazing maracas I had yet to see. They are made from four tin cans glued and strapped together with dried beans inside. As they shake the cans, it provides a tambourine-type beat for the songs. Believe me; they put their heart into their music. (*See Video*)

Many mothers and fathers here were once children in our feeding center. (This was our second feeding center that opened in 2005.) Now, as in so many of our churches, they are grown, have their own families, and are faithful, local church members.

So, the next time you're missing supplies you feel are desperately needed, remember that around the world, most churches don't even have coloring pages, crayons, or musical instruments. (Nor do they have Bibles.) So, make do with what you have, be inventive, and if you come up with a good idea, share it with us so we can spread the word.

BTW, crayons are available; only funds to purchase them are not. And Bible-story coloring books are virtually unknown in third-world countries. So if you have sketches you can legally share with us, email them to me, and we will spread them worldwide. And be sure to reference the passage they illustrate. Captions are not necessary.



The Art of Giving

By Scott Vignere

I took Greek in college, and I remember the professor saying that John 3:16 in Greek basically said, “So loved God the world, that He gave...”

God loves to give. We have opportunities on earth to give. God gave to us, and we can give back to Him. That is incredibly exciting! To be able to work with God our Father in getting the Gospel to a spiritually starving world.

In Deuteronomy 28, God says that He will bless us if we do what He asks. “And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the Voice of the Lord thy God.”

Overtake thee! Run you over! Does this mean you will suddenly inherit a lot of money, get a big promotion or get a new car? All possible, but no guarantees.

When we develop these expectations, we can set ourselves up for disappointment and frustration. Then we can start thinking, “I put money in the offering plate, and the transmission went out on my car. God didn’t help me for sure.” Or, “All they ever want is money! Money, money, money!” When we fall into this kind of thinking, it becomes a transaction, not a gift.

“I paid you, God, and now you owe me. And you haven’t paid me yet. So you better pay up.” It sounds horrible, but we can find ourselves thinking that way.

God says in Malachi 3:10b, “and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Again, it doesn’t necessarily mean dollars. It could be better health, legal problems avoided, or the car doesn’t break down.

The truth is God does not need our money since He owns the cattle on a thousand hills and more – way more. He owns the universe. So it’s not about giving to get. It’s not a transaction. It’s giving to give.

Let’s keep in mind that money is nothing more than a tool. God can make our money more powerful for others and for good than we could even consider or dream. In addition, God does notice how we use our money. We need to ask ourselves then, “Am I using what God has given me in a way in which He would be willing to invest more in me? Am I a channel to others or a pit for myself?”

“But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”

– Ephesians 2:4-8 KJV

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God”

– I John 3:1 KJV

Consider the parable of the talents. When we struggle, it’s often hard to see a way to give, but then we can remind ourselves of the widow and her two mites.

She had Jesus’ attention. Or the widow and her son that fed Elijah on oil and flour that never ran out.

What a fantastic gift, honor, and privilege to give to God and let Him, through His power, work His miracles with it! I want to be a part of that!

Moving forward with these articles, I aim to help you learn more effective giving methods. I need to lay a proper foundation to do so. Some of the concepts we mention could apply, but some will not. Ask God to open your eyes and heart to ways to give. Give to give. Prove God. He told us to.

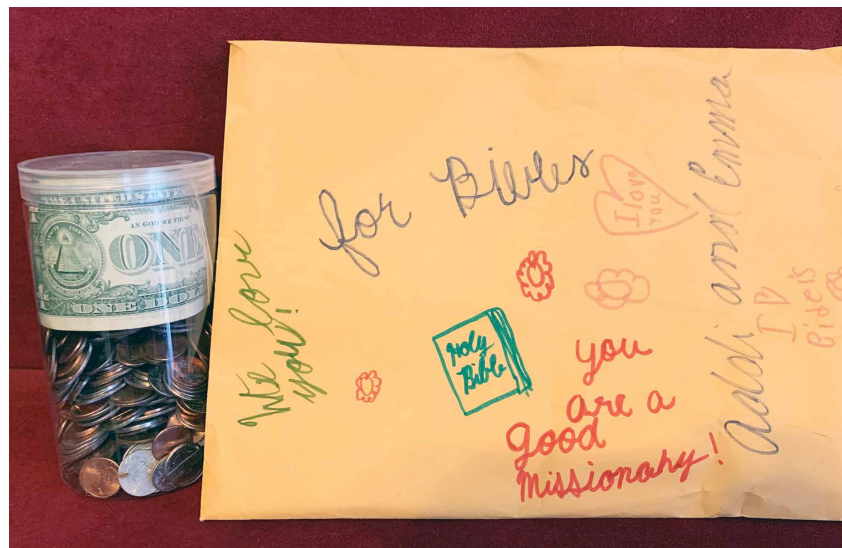
PLEASE NOTE: It is imperative that you consult with a tax advisor and/or attorney when considering any of these concepts. In addition, it is critical that the attorney, tax advisor, and financial advisor are knowledgeable and practiced in these areas.

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

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

Girls Give Summer Camp Savings for Bibles

Recently Jon spoke all day at the Crossroads of Life Baptist Church in Canton, GA. Pastor Ray and the church members gave generously to a partnership with our work, specifically the Great Commission Fund. While showing a short video in the morning service, several were impressed with the need to provide Bibles to those who do not have them. That evening, the four daughters of the Comstock family presented us with the coins and cash that the girls had been saving for their summer camp, a sum of far more than \$100. They told their parents they felt having funds for summer camp was less important than giving for Bibles, so they presented their offering to me in a beautiful folder and coins in a circular container. Pictured is the Comstock family with Emma, Addi, Ellie, and Bonnie (by age).





The Devastation of the EARTHQUAKE

From the Believer's Viewpoint

A more comprehensive version of this report was published via email on February 11. We are sharing the story here for the 50% of you who do not receive our email correspondence. Please provide your email address so we can include you in all the reports and praises we receive. Please send it to jnelms@finalfrontiers.org

The world knows that on Monday, February 6, two earthquakes and multiple aftershocks hit southern Turkey. You may not know that our ministry started several churches in the area long ago, all of which have disappeared over the years and, hopefully, dispersed to other areas, as has our Church on Straight Street in Damascus. Still, our main concentration of work is just across the border in Syria.

On that day, we lost our primary leader. He and his wife were crushed as they slept in their tiny, third-floor apartment. One floor above, another great pastor, his wife, and three children also perished.

We have thirty-three families in one town alone who now have no home. They escaped with only the night clothes they were wearing. Seventeen other families in another location, a few miles away, are now surviving on the street as their homes were also destroyed. And at least a dozen others in their general area have also perished. Many have also been lost, including an unknown number of the refugees we relocated last year and for whom many of you gave to provide food. As a result, we now have over 4,000 souls unaccounted for.

Scores of buildings collapsed during the quakes in a nearby seaport city. Though well-built, they have become weakened during the nearly two-decade civil war. This loss of life among our church members has resulted in 114 orphans we must now care for. Sixty-eight of them are between the ages of three and six. The others are ages seven to fourteen. (Think about that for a moment. These are the orphans of our Church Family. If we do not care for them, who will? They lost their extended families when their parents accepted Christ. Now their parents are gone.)

If we don't care for these children, all of whom are from parents that converted from Islam to Christ, their families will take them from us and raise them as Muslims. We cannot allow the parents, now in Heaven, to see their children raised to despise Jesus and lose them for eternity.

We need your help to care for the orphans and families still whole. And not for one boy or 114 newly orphaned children, but for nearly 4,000 people — our people, our Family in Christ.

We can get the funds to them and bypass the corruption. We have been doing this for nearly two decades, and our supply chain is firm and reliable. Our problem is not the supply chain but the lack of supply. For that, we pray to God and appeal to you to be the channel of His blessing. We will care for our people's needs first, then share with unbelievers.

Our immediate goal was to raise \$130,000. You quickly and generously provided more than \$140,000 to allow us to provide for the survival needs of our people, to give them warm places to live, food, medicine, and clothing. **We are investigating the possibility of starting an orphanage.**



Boxes of food packed and ready for distribution



This man lost everything. Even the clothes he is wearing were given to him. He was Muslim, but the testimony of the Believers led him to convert to Christ.



A large collection of various food items, including packaged snacks, beverages, and household goods, arranged on a wooden surface. The items include Danone yogurt, Mist water, Ancora cookies, Rubex cookies, and various instant noodle cups and packets.

I am sometimes asked if there is no end to us having to help the brethren in the Middle East, binding their wounds, strengthening their spirits, feeding them, and caring for their widows and orphans. I am sure there is an end, but it is not in sight. That end may finally come only when the trumpet blows. Recall that the trauma and events of the last days will occur primarily in this region. That being the case, how can we ignore them? How can we forget them?

22 Second Quarter 2023 Progress Report

In Acts, chapter eleven, a prophet named Agabus and several others prophesied that a great famine would overtake the Roman world. Three famines occurred during Claudius's reign (41-54 AD). The first was in Rome in 41-42 AD. The second was in Judea in 45 AD. (This was the one that concerned Paul.) The third was in Greece in 50 AD.

And so, they gave. Paul collected their funds and traveled to where the need was, along with his team, to see that the funds were appropriately disbursed by the hands of the church elders. Still today, we use Paul's method of announcement, collection, and disbursement in our ministry. Incidentally, this famine is thought to have lasted three years, so the churches began to give a decade in advance and likely continued to give until there was no longer a need. Thirteen years.

Choose a Ministry You Can Help With

NATIONAL CHURCH PLANTERS SUPPORT



The Great Commission Fund

The Great Commission Fund

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AND CARE



TOUCH A LIFE®
A CHILD SPONSORSHIP MINISTRY OF THE FINAL FRONTIERS FOUNDATION

Touch A Life®

Touch A Life (*Child Rescue Centers*) gives assistance to orphaned, abandoned, and destitute children. Your monthly support provides food, clothing, basic medical care, and educational assistance. All orphanages, home placement programs, and feeding centers are administered by pastors who are supported through this foundation and are operated as a ministry of a local church. We welcome contributions of any amount, whether one-time or monthly donations. A monthly gift of as little as \$5 toward this vital ministry would be a great blessing to these children.

BIBLE PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION



Smugglers

Smugglers funding is used to purchase and distribute Bibles. Many national pastors and Believers do not own a copy of God's Word. Smugglers helps to provide a copy to those who desire it in free countries and in closed countries such as Islamic nations.

OTHER VITAL MINISTRIES



Bags of Hope

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



The PowerPack® and Audio Bibles

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

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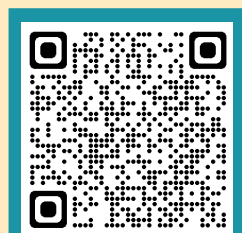
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"Come and see our zeal for the Lord"

– II KINGS 10:16

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529,602	Churches Started
1,662,467	Villages Evangelized
19,592,189	Professions of Faith
6,799,963	Believers Baptized

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Around the **WORLD**

Myanmar

While constructing a new dormitory with a full kitchen and dining area, during a recent storm, the building caught fire and suffered greatly. With your help, we sent funds and have now received this report. Pastor Vel Za Siam wrote: "About 92% of the work is done. I have used the funds you sent for most of the costs, and we still need to pay the final payment for the cabinets in a few days and for the following needs. We also need to build the tiles on the stairs, purchase a sink and dishes, a few beds and mattresses, finish with the water pipe connections, and complete a few other minor things. Thank you so much for your prayers and support."

