

The Final Frontiers Foundation

# Progress Report

Second Quarter 2025



The Great Commission in  
**HONDURAS**

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# Final Frontiers

Foundation



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:** Summer 2024

**Location:** Honduras

**Subject:** Youth Camps

**The Story:** There is no joy to us as fulfilling as seeing a hungry child receiving food to eat. When we invite the town’s youth to our facility for a day camp, they eat — and eat — and eat, and then we give them a food bag to take home and share with the rest of their family. It is incredible how this act of charity opens the door for the gospel to enter their homes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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PROGRESS REPORT TEAM

**Principle Author:** Jon Nelms

**Contributing Authors:**

Daniel Nelms, Michael Horne, Joshua Martyn, Scott Vignere

**Editor:** Joyce Beverly

**Art Director:** Heather Ward

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## Updates and Encouragement ...

*A few thoughts from Jon Nelms*

## Great News... And Not So Great News

You’ll find a host of amazing reports in this issue. See our feature on Daniel Frei (Page 17). Read about children in Elizabethton, Tennessee, who are buying a Bible every week for Smugglers (Page 5). See how your support has helped Indian women leave prostitution to follow Christ. (Page 14) Learn what is happening in one of our Honduras Feeding Centers. (Page 20)

Unfortunately, though, not all our news is good. There is no easy way to say it: the economy is killing us!

For only the third time in 39 years, we are experiencing a financial burden that we can not bear alone. Our resources usually increase yearly by 3% to 11%. Still, since August, our operating fund has had a monthly deficit of \$40,000, a result from smaller-than-usual donations.

As the chart below shows, funds for the preachers and children seem reasonably consistent in recent years. And though seemingly low, the Smugglers Fund (Bibles) has reliable pledges that should alleviate its deficit. The remainder of our resources are for special projects, such as Middle East needs, wells, motorcycles, etc., and the operating fund. Giving for all these is down over 50% evry month for nine months.

I asked for help a few weeks ago and received over \$29,341. In addition, our entire staff has taken pay cuts, but it is not enough. Please help us financially, and pray that the economy improves faster than anticipated. Our ministry exists to help others, and we rarely ask anything for ourselves, but now we are asking.

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Projected)
Great Commission Fund	\$600,181.91	\$851,990.17	\$570,989.06
Touch A Life	\$339,269.00	\$276,242.97	\$333,964.20
Smugglers	\$252,502.97	\$341,333.91	\$133,459.29

We are doing something a little different in this issue. Rather than featuring a prominent article on the Great Commission Fund, we will share multiple stories highlighting ministries that we have supported in whole or in part through that Fund, despite the deficit. Hopefully, this will display the reality of how important the Great Commission Fund is. We will identify these examples using a small GCF logo on these pages. You’ll be pleased and surprised. To God be the glory.



Yours for souls,

P.S. I'll be hosting **VISIONARY TRIPS** in Honduras from June to mid-August.

**PLEASE DON'T TEXT ME!** That will save us \$10 daily on international text charges (a savings of \$770.00).

Instead, email me at [jnelms@finalfrontiers.org](mailto:jnelms@finalfrontiers.org) or contact my office at 1-800-522-4324, and they will forward your message.







Providing God's Words... For All People... In All Lands... By All Means

Donate To  
Smugglers



# 33-year-old Muslim Man Reads Bible and Accepts Christ as His Savior

Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for praying and supporting us through these hard years to fulfill our God's call in my life to reach our people for Christ, especially those who live in state of conflict between fear of the religious heritage they inherited through birth and the religious authority that controls and dominates people, and their questions that arise through their search for the truth and God.

One of these people, a 33-year-old man from a devout Muslim family, learned from a young age to obey the Quran, the Islamic Hadiths, religious leaders, and the Islamic tradition of worship without any doubts or questions. The older he grew and the more he studied the Quran and the Hadith, the more questions accumulated in his mind about his religion. Whenever he tried to ask those questions to the religious men who taught him, he would be intimidated by the accusation that he was disbelieving in their religion's authority and would receive Allah's punishment. He was living in a state of confusion between his intense desire to obey Allah and his prophet Muhammad and the teachings, and intense fear that was planted within him of Allah's severe punishments, especially after death.

When he finished high school and entered university to complete his education, he realized that their cultural, social, political, and religious beliefs and lives were built on the same principles of religion, which is fear and punishment even from questioning. Then, he realized why the authorities ruled them with an iron fist.

This realization only created more questions about the credibility of his denomination. After that, he began to compare the religious contradictions between his denomination and other Islamic denominations and noticed that all Islamic countries that claim Islam is the only source of laws in their countries rule their people with an iron fist. His question was, "What's wrong with our religion?" He tried to discover the correct measure of religion and Allah.

One day, he went to the Mosque, and after the prayer, he sat with the Imam and discussed some religious matters with him. (In Islam, Allah has 99 attributes such as Most Holy, Most Merciful, etc.) so the Imam advised him to repeat one of these attributes 500 times. He said, "Allah will send an angel to you to help you remove all your confusion

and questions." So, this young man decided to do it. Still, no angel visited him, and nothing happened to him. Then, he tried to obey all the teachings to get answers to his questions, but still, nothing happened to him. He concluded that the mistake was his fault or that Allah didn't want to answer his questions!

Years have passed as he has been trying to understand who God is and that he wants to be worshipped. Meanwhile, our God has been working through all of us with your support to get the Word of God out so we can make it possible to give to those people who are seeking Him. We believe that "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

Indeed, Christianity was not the path he could think of taking to find God because of what he learned in his upbringing about Christianity. Still, when he met one of our church members, everything changed. We teach our members how to build a bridge between the people and us to present the Gospel to them and be protected.

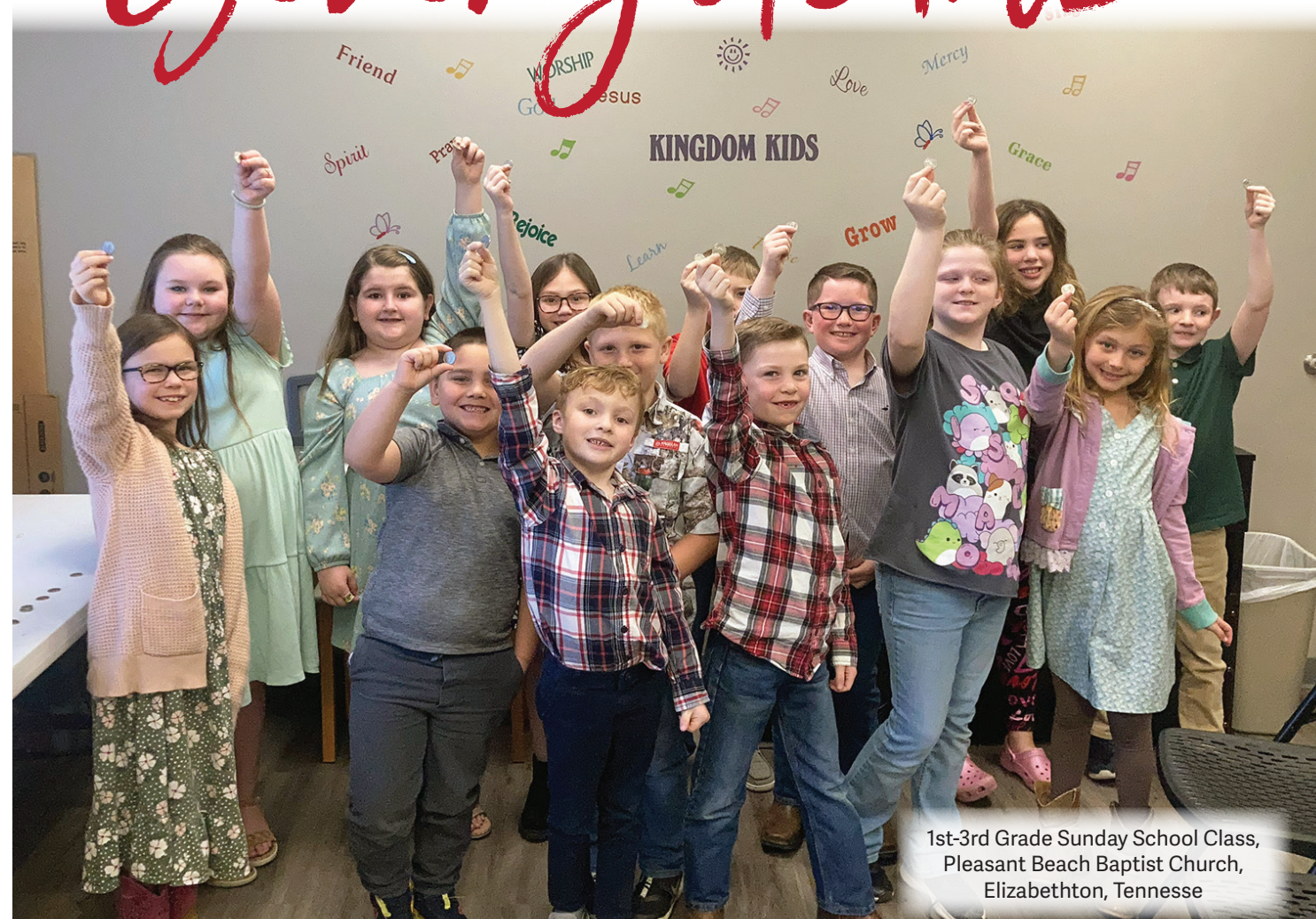
When friendship began to develop between them, questions about God and who He is were the main subjects. Our church member laid down the foundation by talking about God in the Bible, and he started by asking him, "Where does a person learn to love, and how do we know we love God?" That person answered that he did not know if he loved God. Still, he was terrified of him.

So, our church member started explaining to him how we can love God. Our church member noticed that the person was listening attentively and asked if he would like to meet with me to hear more about the love of God. The young man immediately replied, "Yes, without a doubt."

When we started to meet, he was ready to listen about God's love and how we could have a personal relationship with Him. When I offered him a Bible, he accepted it without hesitation, started to read it, and consistently had questions about it. The more he read the word of God, the more he would say, "You don't need anything more than this Book to understand why we need the Love of God." Shortly thereafter, he came to the knowledge of Salvation by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Bibles  
Distributed  
600,000 +

# Giving Hearts



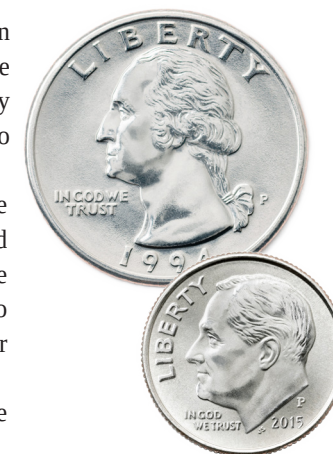
1st-3rd Grade Sunday School Class,  
Pleasant Beach Baptist Church,  
Elizabethton, Tennessee

## Sunday School Class Gives a Bible Every Week

Recently, I was invited back to Pleasant Beach Baptist Church in Elizabethton, TN, where Mark Fowler is the pastor. Thanks to the influence of my friend Markus Seacrist, the church has gotten heavily involved with us in the last year, even taking a Missionary Trip to Honduras last summer.

While speaking about our Smugglers program, many members were moved to help. Still, one in particular, Tommy Vaughn, was determined to involve the children in his first-third grade junior church. Since the cost of a Bible for the Middle East is \$6, they each bring a gift of 35¢ to church every Sunday. In that way, they will provide one Bible a week or fifty-two a year! It's incredible what we can do with pocket change.

Are there any other classes out there that will follow their lead? Let me know, and send a photo of the kids holding up their first offering.



**It's Incredible  
What We Can Do With  
Pocket Change!**

**Each student brings  
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Middle East is \$6, they  
will provide one Bible a  
week or fifty-two a year!**



# A Pattern for MISSIONS

In a strategy as old as the book of Acts, missionaries are tasked by Heaven to reach people who have not heard the gospel, establish a church among them, then move on to another area where Jesus is not known.

God laid out the pattern for missions in the New Testament through the ministry of Paul, who preached the Gospel, baptized the converts, and planted new churches.

Paul understood that these converts were more influential among their own people than any outsider could be, so he raised up pastors from within the community of believers to shepherd these flocks. Eager to share the Good News with family and friends in nearby towns and villages, these churches became launching pads for the gospel.

In today's lingo, these local pastors are referred to as national preachers who, by definition, serve their own people. Unlike their foreign counterparts, national preachers share the same language and culture, making them uniquely able to reach their own people.

## Winning Souls

We must never stop sending faithful productive missionaries, but we must increase our funding for the nationals who are already there serving through the funding of national preachers.

Final Frontiers' **Great Commission Fund** provides funding for national preachers who are proven church planters working primarily in regions where Christ is both unnamed and unknown. These are doctrinally sound, morally pure men who have come by strong recommendation, completed lengthy applications, and have verifiable ministry experience.

They win souls by witnessing one-on-one, door-to-door, and with

street preaching until a nucleus of newly saved and baptized believers has been developed.

The church planter begins meeting with the new congregation weekly or even more often to teach them God's Word, train them to witness to their families and friends, and begin to mature the body. If the man is a pastor, he stays; if he is a missionary, he finds a pastor to come and take the little flock and mature it.

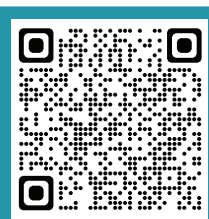
## Planting Churches

Meanwhile, the national preacher selects two or three men from the tiny congregation to move forward with him to the next village. They receive on-the-job training from him as he goes to a new region.

This scenario repeats over and over again, and this is how we fulfill the Great Commission: by working in teams, as our Lord and the Apostle Paul taught us. These teams abound in energy and effort but lack the provision of food and supplies. Support from our Great Commission Fund dramatically accelerates their efforts.

The **Great Commission Fund** supports national preachers and preachers in training. Your gifts help us fund entire teams. Without our assistance, they are severely handicapped.

Through the funding of national preachers, we endeavor to effectively advance the gospel where it has never been preached before. We have thousands of dedicated, proven church planters in our ministry. They all have needs that, if met, would help them produce more churches and more church planters.



Donate Now

# Persecution In UGANDA



Support the Ocowun Family



If you would like to be a blessing to a persecuted family who has lost everything, please consider giving a gift to the Ocowun family. They are requesting your prayers as they face this tragedy together.



WATCH VIDEO

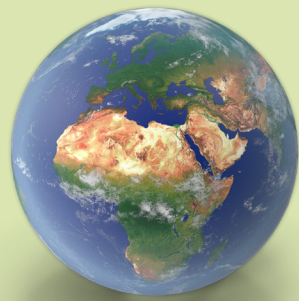


Please remember the dear family of Final Frontiers church planter, Bernard Ocowun. He lives in Uganda on the border of South Sudan and the DRC, where he has faced many trials in recent years, including a collapsed church building due to heavy storms and a skin disease that ravaged his hands and feet, making it very difficult to travel to the churches he has started. Despite much spiritual warfare, this brave preacher has never given up his work. His faith in the midst of hardship has been a powerful example to the believers he has won to Christ.

Late last year, yet another trial came down the pipe. His home and all his possessions were burned by unknown arsonists. He was able to escape safely with his family, but everything inside their home was lost. Although local officials have not yet proven the identity of the culprits, they suspect Muslim extremists.







# Around the WORLD



## INDIA

### 24 Salvation Decisions

The Lord used me to systematically evangelize and lead over 24 people to the Lord. It was very difficult as some would listen, some would argue, and few would accept but were full of doubts. However, the Lord spoke to a few of them. One such person is Geetanjali, a young girl who suffered love failure and wanted to commit suicide. Daily she was spending her time in loneliness, thinking over the person who cheated her. But before she could end her life, she decided to attend a prayer meeting being held for women and young girls in her street. The word of God was preached in full authority. I shared on Col 1, Jesus Christ the Hope of Glory, which penetrated her heart. As a result, she decided to follow Lord Jesus.

– C. Harijan

## INDIA



### Testimony From New Church Plant

I am very thankful for your financial support, as well for your prayers. As the work of the Lord is progressing, so is the devil, who is actively hindering the progress. For the past six months, I was prayerfully visiting one village, Unchyal, where there is no church. I made few contacts and was doing follow-up.

Later, when I was planning to return, one person called me and suggested that I needed to be careful upon my next visit because one man by the name of Mahadev openly challenged that he would punch me in the face if I went there with my Bible. I abstained for a while, prayed for him, and sought God's guidance on whether I should stop or continue. However, I felt the Holy Spirit guiding me to the same village despite threats. I went ahead. Upon my entering that village, I met a few farm workers to whom I ministered. One woman among them was the wife of that man who threatened me. She told me, "Why do you want to convert us? Why don't you allow us to lead a peaceful life as Hindus?" I told her that I don't force anybody, nor do I want to convert people.

Then another woman asked me to pray for her family. I prayed and was about to proceed. Just then the wife of the man who threatened me came to me and said, "I feel you are man of God. Could you also pray for me and my husband? We have no children." I wholeheartedly prayed, then visited a few men who were waiting for me, and returned home.

After two months, I received a call from the woman, stating that she was pregnant and inviting me to her house to once again to pray for her. Accordingly, I went. The man who threatened me now bowed his head and sought forgiveness. Later, I shared the gospel. He, along with five families, have come to the Lord. Thank you

– S. Karyyavaha

## NIGERIA

### 218 Salvation Decisions

The Lord is to be praised for keeping us going in the Lord's service. People are receiving Jesus Christ as savior and Lord. The Church members show more commitment to the things of God. We are able to make gutter around the Church building to prevent the building from erosion.

– O. Adebayo

## UGANDA



### 6 New House Churches

God is doing a lot of work through me in the ministry. People are getting saved and the Gospel of Grace has been preached in the communities.

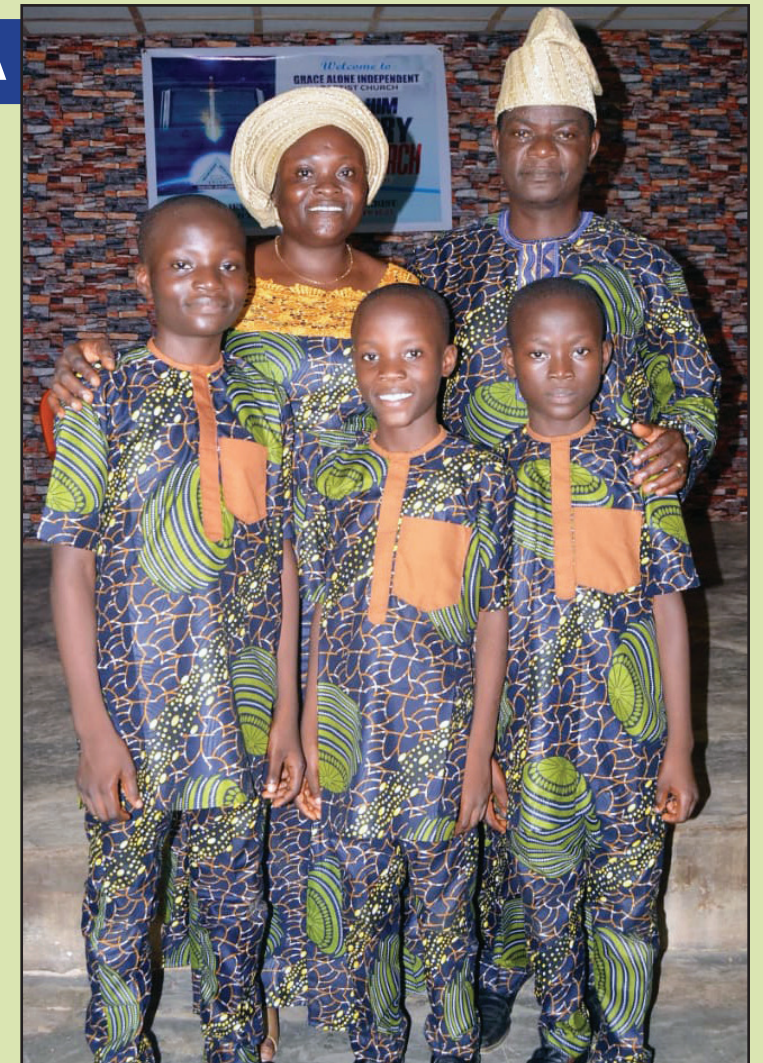
– O. Silvius

## KENYA

### Two New House Churches

We thank God for the increase in church attendance by both adults and children. The children ministry is growing steadily, and we thank God. We have also been having door-to-door evangelism and have developed cell groups for fellowship. We have also been evangelizing in new villages, and we thank God for his grace.

– P. Panyako







# SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS



## Will You Help Us Reach Teenagers In Honduras?

*By Jon Nelms*

When I was in Bible College, our team had a youth ministry that God blessed. We started with less than twenty, and eighteen months later, we were ministering to over 350 teenagers from Chicago every Sunday.

Their lives changed so that siblings and parents began to attend our teenage church. We even had our own nursery and adult classes. All this to say, I know how to work with youth and their potential as a mighty force for the Gospel.

For the past two summers, we have conducted a one-day youth camp at our facility in Honduras. In 2023, after evangelizing at the local high school, we invited the youth to our facility for activities and food. I expected ten percent of the youth to come, but I was shocked when the entire student body arrived - more than three hundred teenagers! What's more, the entire teaching and administrative staff also came. They marched up together as if in a parade, and when our automatic gate opened, they flooded in. The principal, for a moment,

stood in awe, then said to my wife, Nolin, "I never knew such a paradise existed here in our town." We've worked hard to make our campus a beautiful place for the community and provide space for all sorts of activities.

Last summer, we did it again, and their numbers grew. This time, Pastor Steve Ware of the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Orlando and his team came prepared with colossal soccer balls (about five feet high), volleyballs, nets, egg tosses, basketballs, water balloons, and more. (And they left them behind for our continual use.) They also provided lunch with drinks for all the teens and a Bible lesson. Some stood while others sat on our porches and in the shade under the mango trees to respectfully listen to the Word of God and His offer of salvation. Later, we awarded prizes and gave every student a \$10 food bag to take home. (About one-third of all the youth are listed as undernourished or malnourished by the Honduran government.)

No matter what improvements we make at our facility, I always have evangelism in mind, as well as being a benefit to the community. 2025 will be no exception.

Such activities are not free or cheap, but they are far less expensive than equivalent activities here in America and likely far more productive. These youth are not accustomed to activities provided for their entertainment and spiritual enlightenment. What we would consider a mediocre activity for American youth is mind-blowing to them. So, this summer, I want to target the entire student body from







several high schools, including their teachers and administrators. There will be around 350-400 people, and many will be malnourished.

If youth ministry is important to you, please consider sponsoring a teenager to attend this year. They will receive a Gospel witness and a New Testament to take home (as long as the last), lunch, a snack, cool drinks, multiple activities, and a \$10 food bag for their family. We also plan to provide a weekly youth Bible study for those hungry to know more about our Lord, and the administrator has also opened the door for us to have weekly Bible classes at the school.

What “an effectual door of opportunity” has been opened to us. But I need your help. My spirit is willing, and our staff is eager, but my wallet is weak.

A suggested sponsorship for one teenager to attend the multi-hour activity is only \$20 (including the \$10 food bag). That’s \$8000 for 400 teenagers! I will follow up afterward with photos and videos posted online. With help from our staff and my wife, Nolin, we will upload some live shots and videos so you can share their excitement in real-time.

If you can sponsor one or more youths, please send a check to Final Frontiers Youth Ministry, 1200 Peachtree Street, Louisville, GA 30434.

**If you prefer to give online, scan this QR code.** Whatever you give will go specifically to finance our youth ministry in Honduras. Together, we will build an army of teenage evangelists and church workers and take the entire region for Christ.

During the first week of July, we will have a group of dedicated, Spanish-speaking teens from Chicago, along with their leader, Ricky Torres, and his wife. They have visited us many times and have a tremendous testimony infused with evangelistic zeal. This will be a great week as they help me host the local teens – if we can raise the necessary funds. Please help me.







# HELP for the Devadasis

## Help for the Devadasis

Late last year, we released a video to bring awareness to the Devadasis. These were true testimonies of real Devadasi women living in India who have come out of a life of prostitution and are seeking refuge in Christ. Along with the video, we put out a call to raise \$15,000 to help support these women. So far \$11,255 has come in for this project, and we wanted to share with you the results thus far! Please read a report from our regional director on the impact your funds have had so far.

## Impact

The moms are able to feed their kids without depending on money lenders or landlords. Their children are going to school instead of going to work as child laborers. Your support has saved them from the clutches of moneylenders.

In case **Final Frontiers Foundation** continues to offer such grants, we intend to assist unwed mothers who were once eeking a miserable living as Temple prostitutes/sex workers. They are now exercising freedom in Christ Jesus. Due to their fragile health and no longer being able to attract customers, they are now living under the shackles of moneylenders and landlords barely earning \$2 a day. It is surely a matter of life and death for them.

Thank you for helping us to make a difference for Christ.

Thank you for your donations.



**WILL YOU HELP?** Scan this QR code with your phone if you are able to further assist our new sisters in Christ, or mail a check to Final Frontiers designating it for **"The Devadasis"**



Watch the Video



## Regional Director Report

The special gift of financial assistance to the church members consisting of ex-temple prostitutes is enabling them to cope with the economic crisis they are facing; i.e., they do not get regular work on the farm, barely three to four days a week. To some of them, the local farmer denies them work because of their newfound Christian faith. Formal employment opportunities are few, thereby your financial grant is a recourse to these humble Christians.

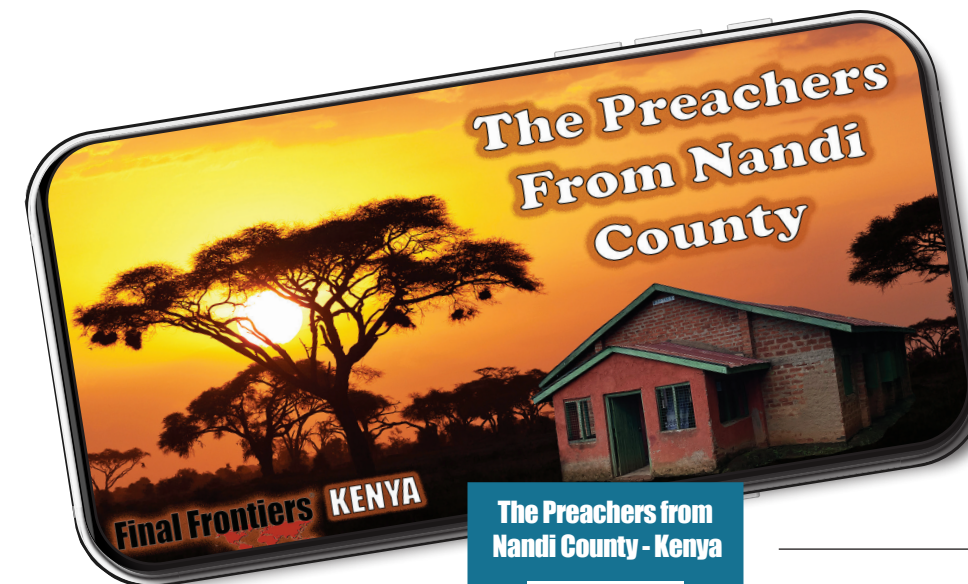
# Final Frontiers Foundation on YouTube



## Church Planters in Uganda

Meet one of our church planting teams in the country of Uganda. This group of preachers live in the Northwestern corner very near the border of the DRC. They are praying for more Bibles for the many new believers they have been reaching, and for help with their transportation up the difficult mountain roads. These preachers face many great challenges, and yet many of them are still taking care of orphans and needy children in their own tiny homes. Pastor Ocowun's church and property are also seen in this video.

Church Planters In Uganda



The Preachers from Nandi County - Kenya



## The Preachers from Nandi County - Kenya

Meet the church planters of Nandi County in Western Kenya. More than 300 churches have been started since the first pioneering congregation (Kechire Bible Baptist) was planted in 1974. This video presents some of these dear preachers needs, as they continue planting the spiritual seed of the Gospel, and their ministries continue to grow. It also introduces a man who was relocated under tragic circumstances, and a veteran preacher who was saved in 1966.

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



# Motorcycle Month

May is Motorcycle Month at Final Frontiers, but even if you're reading this in June or July—or any month of the year—It's not too late for you to help us bless worthy church planters with one of these powerful evangelism tools. For several years, you have helped us do this. Last year, your giving allowed us to purchase a total of 27 motorcycles that went to Honduras, Vietnam, Pakistan, Kenya, Nigeria, and India.

All the motorcycles were given to experienced church planters who had, either by foot or on a bicycle, evangelized the radius around their homes for dozens of miles. Their efforts were only hindered by their inability to go further to reach more villages and plant more churches. You provided the tool, and they provided the work of evangelism, discipleship, and church planting.

Prices globally have increased, but we can still purchase a suitable motorcycle and provide a helmet, license plate, and registration for about \$1,350. Once again, we are asking you to help us buy a complete motorcycle or give towards the purchase of one.

Scan the QR Code here to give online, or mail in a donation and designate it to "Motorcycles for Preachers."



# Introducing Phillip Daniel Frei

Austrian Missionary

Four years ago, I began mentoring an Austrian missionary, Philip Daniel Frei, online. He heard me interviewed on a mission blog and ordered my book, The Great Omission. Reading it, he became convinced that as a missionary, he should be doing more than pastoring a single church. He began winning adults to Christ, started three more house churches, and is training nine men for ministry, scattered across Europe.

In February, four from Germany and one from France came with Philip to America for a short visit. I drove to Alabama to have an afternoon with them.

Several churches invited Philip to return in October/November. He has two weeks open. We often hear that Europe is a difficult mission field, but somehow, he is getting the job done! Find out how.

He hopes to raise \$3,000 monthly support, which is about 40% of foreign missionaries' requirements. This support will help him cover his team's travel and lodging expenses across Europe as he plants more churches, leaving the people's tithes to support their pastors and evangelistic efforts.

Also, working with Final Frontiers, he will encourage established European churches to help support our Great Commission Fund, Touch a Life, and Smugglers.



Pictured, from left: Philip, a financial planner; Manuel, a police officer; Rolf, a bus driver; Soro, a Thai immigrant and computer programmer; and Pascal, a young Frenchman who is also a programmer. (They all loved the BBQ and fried okra.)

# In Memory of Dennis Ellis

On February 6, Dennis Ellis passed on to Glory to be reunited with his Lord, family members, and those he brought to Christ throughout his life. Dennis was the bus pastor for Dr. Adrain Rogers before moving to Russia as a missionary—long before the wall came down. At one time, he was the only American missionary there, and when others came years later, he was the only one to be a legal resident of Russia. A little-known KGB officer named Vladimir Putin approved his residency application at the time.

After building a successful ministry and helping us support several church planters there, Dennis and his Ukrainian wife, Katya, felt the Lord leading them to return to America and help us raise support for national church planters. He has worked to get more than four hundred sponsorships in the last several decades. At first, he went anywhere we needed him. In recent years, due to health problems, he limited his service to within driving distance of his home, south of Knoxville.

Dennis and Katya lived on Social Security, giving their love offerings to support the national preachers he loved so much. If someone gave him a car, he would sell it and give the money to missions. He once sold a car

multiple times. When people learned of his plan, they would give him the price of the car and tell him to sell it to someone else.

He would also collect cans, encouraging his friends to do the same and give those funds to missions. At his death, he had collected his last bundle of cans for the Great Commission Fund, and Katya mailed us the check for \$42.14.

I know times are hard, but they are much harder for her now that Dennis is gone. He was her life, her love, and her "ministry." She has not asked, but it would be wonderful if we could give her a gift to help her through the transition. If you wish to do so, designate it for KATYA ELLIS.





## Charitable Giving in the Workplace

## A Powerful Way to

## Give Back

By Scott Vignere

In recent years, workplace culture has evolved to encompass more than just profit-driven motives. As organizations become more conscious of their social impact, many are embracing charitable giving programs as a way to contribute to society, build stronger communities, and enhance employee engagement. Charitable giving in the workplace is not just about writing a check; it involves creating an environment where employees are encouraged and supported in their philanthropic efforts. In this article, we will explore the importance of charitable giving in the workplace and the benefits it brings to both employers and employees.

### The Growing Importance of Charitable Giving

As societal expectations of corporations have shifted, the role of businesses has expanded beyond just generating revenue. Today, consumers and employees alike are increasingly looking at how companies contribute to their communities and the world at large. According to a 2021 study by Deloitte, 61% of employees want to

work for a company that demonstrates a commitment to social causes. Additionally, 70% of millennials, who represent a significant portion of the workforce, say they would take a pay cut to work for a company that aligns with their values.

This growing emphasis on corporate social responsibility (CSR) has encouraged companies to integrate charitable giving into their core values. Charitable giving in the workplace allows employees to make a tangible difference in their communities and the world, while simultaneously reinforcing the company's commitment to social good. But how can businesses effectively implement such programs, and what benefits do they bring?

Scan this QR Code  
for Ideas on Models  
of Charitable Giving in  
the Workplace.



### The Benefits of Charitable Giving in the Workplace

Workplace charitable giving programs provide a variety of benefits to both employees and employers. Below are some of the key advantages of these programs:

#### 1. Increased Employee Engagement and Satisfaction

When employees feel that their company cares about more than just profits, they are more likely to be engaged and satisfied with their work. A 2016 Gallup poll found that employees who are actively engaged in workplace giving programs are 50% more likely to be satisfied with their jobs and 27% more likely to feel a sense of purpose in their work. Offering charitable giving opportunities allows employees to align their personal values with their workplace, leading to greater overall job satisfaction and motivation.

#### 2. Improved Employee Retention

Employees who work for companies that prioritize social responsibility are more likely to stay with the organization long term. A 2021 report from Cone Communications found that 76% of employees consider a company's commitment to CSR when choosing an employer, and 57% would be willing to take a lower salary if it meant working for a company with a strong social impact. By providing opportunities for employees to give back to their communities, companies can foster loyalty and reduce turnover rates.

#### 3. Enhanced Company Reputation

Corporate philanthropy plays a crucial role in shaping a company's public image. Companies that engage in charitable giving are often viewed more favorably by consumers, potential employees, and other stakeholders. A 2020 survey from Accenture found that 62% of consumers are more likely to buy from a company that supports a cause they care about, and 56% are willing to pay more for products and services from such companies.

By actively participating in charitable giving, companies can build a positive reputation, attract top talent, and strengthen relationships with customers and the community.

#### 4. Strengthened Team Cohesion

When employees come together to participate in charitable giving programs or volunteer activities, it fosters a sense of camaraderie and teamwork. Collaborating on charitable projects can break down workplace silos, create stronger interpersonal connections, and improve communication across departments. These positive relationships can extend to the workplace, where employees are more likely to support one another and work together effectively.

#### 5. Tax Benefits for Employers

Employers who contribute to charitable causes through matching gifts or other programs may be eligible for tax deductions. Donations made to qualified nonprofits can reduce the company's taxable income, resulting in potential tax savings. Additionally, charitable giving programs can be seen as part of a broader corporate philanthropy strategy, which can enhance a company's overall CSR profile and help it qualify for additional recognition or awards.

### How to Implement a Charitable Giving Program in Your Workplace

For companies looking to create or expand their charitable giving programs, there are several steps to consider:

#### 1. Set Clear Objectives:

Identify the goals of your charitable giving program. Do you want to raise funds for specific causes? Foster team-building? Enhance employee engagement? Understanding your objectives will help you design a program that aligns with your company's values and mission.

#### 2. Choose the Right Model(s):

Decide which charitable giving models will work best for your company. Will you offer payroll giving? Match employee donations? Encourage volunteering? Or perhaps host fundraising events? Consider a combination of these models to maximize participation.

#### 3. Communicate the Program:

Ensure that employees are aware of the program and understand how they can participate. Use internal communications channels, such as email, company newsletters, and intranet, to keep employees informed about giving opportunities.

#### 4. Track and Celebrate Success:

Regularly track the impact of your charitable giving program. Measure donations, volunteer hours, and the results of fundraising events. Celebrate milestones and recognize employees who contribute to the success of the program.

#### 5. Evaluate and Improve:

Continuously assess your program's effectiveness. Solicit feedback from employees and make adjustments to improve engagement and impact over time.

### Conclusion

Charitable giving in the workplace is more than just a trend; it's an essential part of modern corporate culture. By fostering a culture of giving, businesses can strengthen their relationships with employees, enhance their public image, and make a positive impact on society. Charitable giving programs not only benefit the communities they support but also improve employee engagement, satisfaction, and retention. As companies continue to recognize the power of social responsibility, charitable giving in the workplace will remain a vital component of their broader corporate strategies.

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

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

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





## TOUCH A LIFE

All seven members of the family sleep here in the one-room house.



**LEFT:** These are the dresses and shoes bought by Nolin and her sister Maxi **BELOW:** Nolin gives some toys donated by churches in America



# Feeding Centers Reach Severely Impoverished Children

**LEFT:** Here are the girls proudly wearing their new clothes. Our kitchen director, Juana, stands off to the side.



Girls with grandmother sit here on their little house's front porch.



This is where the family cooks. Notice the smoot on the tin above the stove. It keeps the rain off so they can cook during the rainy season. The families breathe in this smoke, creating asthma and other respiratory problems. But notice there is no wood in the stove. That means there is no food to cook. Cooking requires wood; if there is no wood, it is unnecessary since there is no food to cook. If you ask a child what they ate that day, and they reply by saying, "We have no wood," that is an idiom for saying, "We have no food."



Solli Marian Zuniga Velasquez was born on October 6, 2020. Her cousin, Belin Elizabeth Zuniga Velasquez, was born on October 26, 2021. They live together in a one-room house with an outdoor kitchen and latrine with their grandmother, Marcellina. They are humble people who share a home that they do not own. A neighbor has pity on them and allows them to live free of charge, yet they can be evicted at any time and forced to live on the streets. The photos will give you an idea of their poverty.

Belin's father was murdered during her first year. Not long after that, her mother, Jasmin, abandoned her, leaving Belin with her grandmother and great-grandmother.

These ladies spend time daily looking for food and kindling for the stove. Unfortunately, the grandmother has limited mental capacity, and the great-grandmother is very elderly and unable to function well. They need help.

Solli still has parents: her mother, Rixzy Maria, and stepfather. She also has a little brother, Elan. Her stepfather works in the fields, earning about \$2 a day. During harvest season, he tries to take care of all seven. When the harvest is over, the struggle begins in earnest.

Now that Touch a Life has begun shifting from individual child sponsorship to supporting all the children in the neighborhood around a feeding center, we are having more and more children attend who are living in absolute poverty. The individual sponsorship method continues for those who, in years past, selected a specific child to help. Compared to the masses, those fortunate few have experienced a dramatic change in their lives over the years. They are taller, healthier, better educated, and happier than their neighbors who were never selected.

Our new method feeds any hungry child who enters one of our feeding centers. When we made this change, our feeding center director in Cantarranas, Juana, informed us of this family she has known for many years and asked my wife Nolin to go with her to visit them. Nolin has visited their house often to chat with the older ladies and bring them clothes, shoes, and food because she is concerned for the elderly who have been forgotten or abandoned by their families. This past summer, Nolin invited some of the ladies visiting us on a Visionary Trip to go with her and was surprised to see these two little

girls. Everyone's hearts were touched.

When she approached the house, she saw the girls on the street looking for discarded fruits that were not yet fit to eat or far past their freshness. Seeing these American ladies approaching their little house, the girls followed them. That is when and how we found the girls—or they found us. By the week's end, Nolin visited them several times, bringing more food and clothes. She saw that the girls had very few clothes and no shoes. Having never worn shoes until she was fifteen, Nolin sympathized with them and, with her sister Maxie, bought shoes and dresses for both little girls.

Now that we are raising funds at any amount from anyone willing to give, we have found that we can feed many more children, including Solli and Belin. Though I miss the "personal touch" of "one child-one sponsor," I must remember that my goal was never to see how much we could help a few children but how efficiently we could help masses of hungry kids. This change has allowed churches to come on board to help by adopting a feeding center. (Some are for feeding five days a week, and others are for Sunday meals while at church.) For example, the Bible Baptist Church in Fairfield, OH, after visiting last summer, gave an offering to build a new feeding center attached to our church in the village of Zurzular. Tabernacle Baptist in Orlando provided the original building, and Bible Baptist in Fairfield provided the new feeding area and the budget to feed all the children in the village for at least a year.

In Honduras, food prices have increased by 35% over the past two years, making it increasingly difficult to feed hungry children. Still, the help from churches like these and families who share the burden of feeding the hungry continues to make our ministry possible.

Thank you all – now, let's do more.

## HONDURAS New Feeding Patio

A new feeding area was recently built at the church in Zurzular. The congregation has its founding pastor back, and attendance is booming. They are having around 80 adults and 80 children each Sunday. The good people of Bible Baptist Church in Fairfield, Ohio, visited last summer. Afterward, Pastor Wally Miller led his church to take a Christmas offering that built the feeding patio and funds to help feed all 80+ children every Sunday or more for about a year. On top of that, they are giving \$50 monthly support for the pastor. All that for about \$15,000. It's incredible how far your money can go in developing countries. Thank you.

They can't wait for you to come back and see what you built.

Pastor Fidel is pictured on the right with the hat. Mike Munson, our new administrator in Honduras, is with him. Tabernacle Baptist in Orlando, FL, purchased and remodeled the original building. Now, adults fill the church while the children are taught and fed out of the rain outside.





# COFFEE WITH A CAUSE



Every summer, every group that comes to Honduras on a Visionary Trip asks if they can get Honduran coffee in America. Disappointed with my answer of "No," they buy bag after bag to take home, but they typically buy the lowest grade of coffee sold there, insisting it is better than what they have been drinking.

As I go to churches to share our ministry, I am constantly asked if I brought coffee with me. Again, the answer is "No." However, that has now changed!

Touch a Life now sells Honduran coffee—not their cheap, standard coffee, but their premium coffee, grown at extremely high elevations and ranked among the best in the world.

100% of the profits from our Touch a Life Coffee fund our feeding centers in Honduras and beyond. It is pricy at \$20 a bag, but it is a premium blend and is coffee with a purpose. We hope you will try it. Buy a bag, drink a cup, and feed a hungry child. Coffee has never made you feel so good!

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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.

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### BIBLE PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION



#### *Smugglers*

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

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### OTHER VITAL MINISTRIES



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