

YOU CAN REACH THE WORLD!

A booklet
about missions
by
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A FREE Guide to how any individual, group or church can fulfill their God provided commission to **"be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."** Acts 1:8.

Jesus said, **"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."** John 4:35

Dear Friend, we are praying that God would use this booklet to inform and challenge you to **"lift up your eyes"** and see the opportunities for reaching the lost around the world, for the fields **"are white already to harvest."**

Please just take a few minutes and read the Introduction and Program Outline. It could change your life!

INTRODUCTION

They say to have a successful book, presentation or speech, you must make the recipient laugh, cry, and think. I feel that God does that in His Word, so man is just patterning himself after God. To get one of the first two out of the way, I will take some liberties, as man usually does, with the Word of God. I am a big fan of baseball and fishing. I feel that the Bible proves that God is too. Why else would he start of His word with baseball: **"In the beginning God created..."** (Gen. 1:1). He also discuss fishing throughout the Bible, told us in Matthew 4:19, to **"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."**

Fishing is probably one of the greatest analogies on how we are to approach reaching the lost in the world. It takes much preparation and planning to be a successful fisherman. Different types of fish require different tactics in order to catch them. There are also specific times when you can catch them. In Ecclesiastes 11:1, it says to **"Cast thy bread upon the waters:."** In fishing, a successful cast means that one has put the right bait on the hook, and sent it to a location where there is a hungry fish waiting to pounce on it. If the hook is sharp and strong, and the fish is reeled in properly, success is achieved. We have found that the bread or printed Word of God, in the form of tracts or gospel ads in newspapers or other media, is a highly successful bait. One of the most successful hooks that we have found, is an offer to learn more through a Bible Correspondence School. We have found several areas in the world where the "fish are biting". The Philippines is probably the hottest spot currently, where there is one response for every 10 tracts passed (cast) out. In Indonesia and other parts of Southeast Asia the response has been around one out of every 30 tracts distributed, which is about the same ratio as in Chile. In Mexico, it is still a great "fishing" spot, with 1 response out of every 120 tracts distributed. Putting ads in the newspaper offering a free Bible corespondence course, have seen thousands of responses in Thailand, Guatemala and Ghana to name a few. Tens of thousands have completed these courses in the last several years, in those three countries alone. After completing the courses, the students are then disciplined. Areas with a large number of correspondence course students will then ask for a church to be started in their area. Hundreds of churches have been started throughout the world using this method. We will talk about some of them in our next chapter, so that you can see how easily one person or one church can make a difference in reaching a people or country for our Lord Jesus Christ.

As with fishing for fish, or fishing for men, the key ingredient is **PRAYER**. Though we pray a lot for reaching the world, we have to admit that we fall short of God's command in 1Thess. 5:17 to, **"Pray without ceasing."** Individually it is virtually impossible to follow this command, but as a body of Christ, we can easily pray without ceasing. All it would take is several churches to take a day of the week to pray. Each church would then have their believers take even just one 15 minute time slot, per week, to pray for their own church's missionaries and outreach to their community and the world. In fifteen minutes an individual could pray for every missionary they know, specific mission projects, and still probably have time left over. If one fifteen minute slot wasn't enough, then more could be added.

Here at Bearing Precious Seed (BPS) we feel that it is our ministry to be a servant to the local churches and missionaries to help them follow God's command to: **"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."** Mark 16:15 and to **"be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."** Acts 1:8.

At BPS we feel that we can be a servant to churches and missionaries in the following areas:

INFORMATION

We will provide information and advice to any church that is willing to adopt a missionary or country of God's leading. This book is the first step in assisting churches and missionaries see a way of reaching a people group or country. Any inquiries can be directed to us by e-mail at bpsj@juno.com; by letter to BPS - 14773 Simpson Rd, El Paso, Texas 79938; by fax at 915-855-6211; or by phone at 915-857-1122.

HALL OF PRAYER

To insure that around the clock prayer coverage is facilitated, BPS has established a "**Hall of Prayer**" where all of the names and times of people who are praying are being placed. BPS will make sure that time slots that are available for prayer are filled next. By filling every time slot several times over, we can fulfill God's commandment to "**Pray without ceasing.**" BPS will periodically put out newsletters with areas or mission works to pray for, as well as listing time slots that need to be filled.

PRECIOUS SEED PROVIDERS

To make it easy to get started in reaching a country for our Lord Jesus Christ, we have started a program where any Christian can take part. For just \$5 per month, a person can become a "Precious Seed Provider", where the \$5 will go solely towards printing the Word of God for mission projects. The goal at BPS is to link up with 3,000 Precious Seed Providers, which would then provide enough to reach 15,000,000 people per month. How this can be done will be explained later in the book.

PRINTING OF SCRIPTURE

At BPS we can print and send out tons of scripture per month. To make it easy for churches, or individuals to reach people groups or nations on their own, we will print tracts, John & Romans, correspondence courses, and other scripture at what it costs us to produce. We will also ship it to any missionary in the world at cost. Our main goal is to see that it is then used in the most effective manner possible. We want to see that these scriptures are getting into the hands of missionaries that are effectively reaching their people group or country effectively. We have printed up scriptures for Mexico and other Spanish speaking countries, Thailand, Philippines, African countries, etc.

MEXICO MISSION TRIPS

For any church or individual that wants to see and experience a missionary trip to a people group, BPS conducts numerous trips into Mexico to get souls saved and trained, and churches established. A firsthand knowledge of the steps, described in this book, to reach a people group will be gained during one of the weekly trips that are made into northern Mexico. Once anyone makes a mission trip like this, their lives will never be the same. Seeing and experiencing the miracle of souls being saved and churches being established will change a person, group or church.

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing forth his sheaves with him. Psalms 126:6

"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

These two verses are the cornerstone of the ministry at Bearing Precious Seed. Unfortunately, we haven't come close to fulfilling God's command found in Mark 16. Today almost half of the population of the world has not heard the gospel of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. There are entire countries where there is not one single saved believer. At least 3,400 languages and tribes have not one single verse of Scripture in their tongue, or a single preacher of the Gospel. With the number of saved people and resources in the United States alone, we are failing miserably. Even with the number of missionaries that we have, we could be reaching more people, more effectively. **We can make a difference, we can reach the world!** Let us work together to do this!

PROGRAM OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

MISSION OUTREACH STEPS

1) PRAYER

*(We can honor God's command in 1 Thess 5:17 to "**Pray without ceasing**", by banding together as a body of believers and taking one or more 15 minute prayer slots per week, until someone is praying during every hour of every day for missions. We should also be praying for wisdom on how we can specifically follow God's command in Mark 16:15 to "**Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.**")*

2) PREPARATION & PLANNING

*(The best preparation we can do initially is found in 2 Chron. 7:14, "**If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land.**" The next step in preparation is to survey the area to be reached and determine the most effective way to reach those people.)*

3) PROVISIONS

(This chapter will explain how in most countries, which have missionaries in place, it only costs an average of \$1,000 to reach a million people, if you follow the basic steps in this book.)

4) PREPARING SCRIPTURES (Translation Work)

(In countries or areas that have no scripture in their language, it only requires a minimal amount of translation work to start to reach them. By translating the first chapter of John, a tract, and possibly a newspaper ad, you can get started.)

5) PRINTING OF SCRIPTURE

(The printing of tracts, correspondence courses and scripture can be done initially on a copy machine, but later would need a Christian printer.)

6) PLANTING of SEED (Scripture)

(Ads in local newspapers have been used successfully to reach a large number of people quickly. Mass tract distribution is also very effective. All offer free Bible correspondence course that individuals can write in for.)

7) PREP SCHOOL BY CORRESPONDENCE

(This chapter will show how a correspondence school can be established and managed. An example of a correspondence course for John and Romans is provided.)

8) PRODUCING DISCIPLES

(Once a student has completed the correspondence course, he or she is then discipled one-on-one with a specially designed program.)

9) PASTORAL TRAINING

(Through prayer and God's leading, men will be called to become pastors. They will need to be trained. This chapter will describe ways that this can be accomplished.)

10) PLANTING OF LOCAL CHURCHES

(Once a pastoral candidate has been trained and deemed fit to pastor, the missionary and the other leaders in the area need to help him establish a church, usually in an area where a large number of correspondence course students are located.)

11) PHYSICAL CHURCH SUPPORT

(Other than prayer and financial support, the greatest support a missionary can receive is physical support through visits to their mission field. Assistance with tract & scripture distribution, and literature production help are just two of the areas that churches can help support the missionary. Constant communication with the missionary helps he and his family realize that they are not alone in their work.)

12) PRAISE & POST-OP REVIEW

(As with any venture, a review of the program and process needs to be done periodically. The key people involved need to praise and thank God for what He has done, as well as seek His guidance as to the future of the project.)

MISSIONS IN PROGRESS

SAMPLE TRACTS

MISSIONARY INFORMATION

PRAYER CHAIN

PRAYER

"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)

As was mentioned earlier, the key ingredient to any mission project is **PRAYER**. It is the only thing the Bible tells us to do **"without ceasing"**(1 Thessalonians. 5:17). Though we pray a lot for reaching the world, we have to admit that we fall short of this command of God. Soldiers always have to be in communication with their commanders. The commanders, in turn will provide required supplies and assistance to those who communicate and justify their needs. When numerous soldiers in a particular group, communicate in that they have the same need, then the commanders know that the need is real. Which group of soldiers is God going to bless and send resources: the ones who only call in or pray once in awhile for something; or the ones who have pulled together a large group that is continually praying for the need they see. God will bless the latter.

The biggest keys to answered prayer, even when a group bands together to **"pray without ceasing"**, is that we have faith that He can answer; that we have a clean servant's heart; and that we thank and praise Him for His answers to prayer. Some biblical examples of this are:

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering."(James 1:6)

"Again I (Jesus) say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask (pray for), it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."(Matthew 18:19)

"Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way. Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart: for consider what great things He has done for you."(1 Samuel 12:23-24)

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."(2 Chronicles 7:14)

"Ask, and it shall be given you, seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good gifts to them that ask him?"(Matthew 7:7-11)

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Philippians 4:6)

As we mentioned above, God commands us to **"pray without ceasing"**. Individually it is virtually impossible to follow this command, but as a body of Christ, we can easily pray without ceasing. All it would take is several churches to take a day of the week to pray. Each church would then have their believers take even just one 15 minute time slot, per week, to pray for their own church's missionaries and outreach to their community and the world. In fifteen minutes an individual could pray for every missionary they know, specific mission projects, and still probably have time left over. If one fifteen- minute slot wasn't enough, then more could be added.

BPS in El Paso has set up a **"Hall of Prayer"** that will have the lists of people that are praying in each 15 minute time slot for each day of the week. Individuals or churches can contact them at 1-915-857-1122, or on the internet at bpsj@juno.com, to obtain an open day or time slot that needs prayer.

These 15 minute prayer slots are a great opportunity for a quality family time of prayer. Only once a week should be easy for anyone to be able to do. Many people set their watches or computer reminders so that they

have a reminder to pray. A card can be made up with your prayer time and put on the refrigerator door or other prominent spot. The items of prayer can be put on the back or front of that same card.

A sample of the sign up sheet has been provided in this section. It can be copied or taken out, filled out and a copy sent to BPS at 14773 Simpson Rd, El Paso, Texas 79938, or faxed to 915-855-6211

A copy of the prayer list could be sent to the missionaries that are being prayed for so that they could get the blessing of knowing who is praying for them. I would like to be there to see the face of any missionary receiving that letter and list of those praying for him.

PREPARATION AND PLANNING

Having completed probably the most important part of any planning and preparation: PRAYER, the rest of the preparation and planning will go much smoother. As with fishing, the way one fishes for men from different types of culture will generally be as diverse as the cultures are. As we don't fish for trout the same way we would bass or tuna, being a successful fisher of men will require different tactics. The one constant that we found, is that the bait is the same (the Word of God), and the hook that we talked about earlier, that tends to work the best is an offer for a free Bible correspondence course. When an individual is alone with God and His Word, going over thought provoking questions in the course, without man's interference, it accomplishes what God wants. **“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11)** Our job is to find out the best way to **“cast thy bread upon the waters” (Ecclesiastes 11:1)**; in the best locations; to reach the hungry.

After prayer, the best way to find out which is the best way to reach a particular group of people or country, is to go out and spend sometime with them. Most find that it is the best vacation they had ever gone on. Finding a good local missionary will speed the entire process. They can explain the cultural differences of the people, and tell what method of **“casting”** might work the best. In most countries the least expensive, and most effective way to reach the most people, is by putting a gospel ad in the newspaper, along with an offer for a free Bible correspondence course. Other proven methods have included: ads in magazines, bus tickets, and in radio spots. Passing out tracts at big events or door to door works almost everywhere. A card or coupon is placed in the tract offering the free bible course.

After lack of prayer, the greatest reason mission works fail is due to lack of preparation and planning. God himself talked about preparation and planning many times. God even had a man pre-planned to **“Prepare ye the way of the Lord” (Isaiah 40:3)**. This man was John the Baptist as spoken of in Luke 1:1-16, **“But the angel said unto him, Fear not Zacharias: for thy prayer (see what came first) is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be a great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.”**

My favorite verse on preparation is found in Ezra 7:10, **“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”**

Part of the preparation is determining where the harvests are ready to be picked. Some areas are truly ripe for harvest. The Philippines is a prime example of a harvest that is fully ripe, and ready to be picked. In the Philippines there is averaging one response for a Bible correspondence course or every ten tracts that is put out. That is an unheard of rate of response. We need laborers for that harvest now. Other hot spots are Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries where the response rate is one out every 30 tracts distributed. Chile has a similar rate. Mexico's rate is around one out of every 120 tracts, which is still a tremendous response rate. In the United States is greater than one out of every 1,000 tracts.

Jesus is the epitome of preparation. Even now He is preparing a place for us in heaven, **“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2)** Before we were even made he prepared the way of salvation and the kingdom that we would inherit, **“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:” (Matthew 25:34)**. He has also prepared a place for those that rejected Him, **“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: (Matthew 25:41).**

The greatest preparation that we can do is to pray for guidance as to how we can best reach a people group or

country. When God lays an area on your heart, there is probably one of his missionaries there that you can adopt, and be a servant to. Together you can pray, research and plan how best to reach that group of people. Even without a missionary, an individual can visit a country and put an ad in a local newspaper, and have the responses forwarded to them. The next step for either option is to get together the funds and materials necessary to get the job done.

PROVISIONS

With most of the projects that we have experience with, when there has been a missionary in place, it has averaged only about \$1,000 to reach a million people. In Thailand, for example it cost around \$35,000 to reach approximately 35 - 40 million people. The costs were as follows:

- 1. 40,000 John & Romans cost around \$30,000 to print and ship. (The Thai John & Romans are about 3 times the size of an English John & Romans, so they cost more than most.)
- 2. Several ads in the national newspaper that reached 30 million people, cost around \$1500.
- 3. Miscellaneous tracts, postage and copying of correspondence courses were around \$3500.

As mentioned earlier, it would only take 300, five dollar per month, "Precious Seed Provider", two years to raise enough to handle a country like Thailand. It all doesn't have to come in at once either. One ad in the national newspaper only cost \$700 in Thailand. The first responses to the ads, could be sent a photocopy of the first chapter or two of John, plus the corresponding courses. If you ad a post office box that would forward mail to the U.S., if there wasn't a missionary, the total cost to start should be around \$1,000.

Research trips into prospective countries would be paid for by the individuals going. They could use vacation time for the trip, and use some of their frequent flier miles, that many of us have stashed away to pay for the airfare, or just use that vacation money that was saved up. It would be the best vacation trip anyone could take.

In Matthew 6:20, the Lord tells us, "**But lay up for yourself treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.**"

As you get larger, and need more scriptures, a printing ministry, such as Bearing Precious Seed can provide scriptures at a very low cost in volume. When an entire country, with many churches, have even larger needs, a printing ministry can be established in the country.

PREPARING SCRIPTURE

Every work for God begins with one person yielding to do God's will and then following through. As that person works, God sends others to help and encourage in the work.

If you are new to translation work, my advice is to start small. Begin with the first chapter of John or a short tract, to get the feel of what is involved. The grammar, sentence structure and idioms in most languages are different from English, and therein lies the challenge.

Have a national (Lord willing, saved and separated, but if not, get the best you can) check the translation for grammar and understanding. If you can find a national who has a good knowledge of English, this would be a definite advantage.

Be willing to accept criticism, swallow your pride, and learn, because translation work is a learning experience.

I would suggest the following steps, after much prayer, which is vital before any steps should be taken:

- 1. Fervently pray for God's guidance and wisdom. The devil hates this activity and will do all in his power to mess it up.
- 2. Translate daily, 2-3 hours, during the morning hours (when your mind is alert).
- 3. Set a reasonable pace, 25-50 verses daily, but don't let your goal rule your life.
- 4. Keep excellent notes of how key words are translated (this will help for when you find that word later in the Bible, i.e. prophet should always be prophet and not foreteller or diviner).
- 5. Have your work checked daily, if possible, while the text is fresh in your mind.
- 6. Once you have finished a chapter or two, get other missionaries or national Christians to check the text – this will give you an idea of how you are doing, and also will involve them in the work, hopefully gaining their prayer and future support.
- 7. I would recommend translating John and Romans first, then when they are finished, you could print a John/Romans for distribution. You will also get many of your verses for gospel tracts from these two books.
- 8. As you continue your work, God will send workers and helpers, people who have the same burden as you, to assist in the work.
- 9. Pray Much!

Here are some things that I've found helpful in Bible translation. All of these are in the form of computer programs, but can also be found in book form.

Bible software program with Strongs Concordance, I use Logos <http://www.logos.com/> but there are many programs available, free Bible programs can be found on the web also.

Other programs can be found at <http://www.e-sword.net/>, <http://www.powerbible.com/> (many commentaries and dictionaries available with the Power Bible program), <http://www.bibledatabase.com/> and <http://www.crosswire.org/>

Sword Searcher Bible software <http://www.swordsearcher.com/> contains KJV Bible and several commentaries, good for researching the meanings of words, current version has a lot of helps.

If the translator can read Greek/Hebrew, then obtain the Textus Receptus versions.

Websters 1828 Dictionary, good for meanings of KJV English words.

American Heritage Dictionary.

Holman Bible Dictionary.

PC Bible Maps, good for understanding Bible geography, directions, etc.

Bi-lingual dictionaries, ex. Thai-English, get several if possible because some may not contain all words or all variations of words.

Way of Life Encyclopedia, by David Cloud <http://wayoflife.org/~dcloud/>

List of common errors found in non-KJV Bibles <http://www.av1611.org/biblecom.html>

If the translator will also be doing the typesetting, have them check with the printer before doing the typesetting about page size, computer program to use, etc. to make sure they prepare something the printer can work with easily. Many printers now can go directly from the computer program to making plates. PageMaker seems to be the preferred program.

These are programs/books I've found helpful. A translator might not need all of these, but it may give a good idea of types of programs/books that would be of help.

One thing I have found invaluable in translation work is the computer. If you can't use one, learn how. I have prepared a Bible translation program for IBM compatible computers. On one screen you can view the KJV text, the KJV text with Strong's numbers, and the new text that you are translating. You can also do word searches and word changes. This program is free to anyone who will use it in Bible translation.

Finally, Bible translation can be a lifelong project. Adoniram Judson spent 25 years translating the Burmese Bible. That text remains the paramount Bible translation in Burma today. No one has even tried to introduce a RSV, ASV, NIV, etc., because nothing can compare with the KJV text that he translated. He spent 25 years doing the work, and yet it has stood the test of time. Be willing to take time and do it right, and may God bless your work.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

PRINTING OF SCRIPTURE

Printing of scripture is vital to the Word of God getting into the hands of the unsaved, and newly saved. Before we go into the semantics of printing scripture, we would like for you to read something that Milton Martin put together on the *POWER OF THE PRINTED PAGE!*

"The Lord gave the Word; great was the company of those that published it." Psalm 68:11

After nearly two millennia of evangelization, over 50% of the world's population has never heard the Gospel. It is estimated that the average foreign missionary has an outreach to only 5,000 people during his tenure. At that rate, we would need to send a million more missionaries to the field this year. This is probably humanly impossible.

God has a key -- a means of giving the message to "every creature" in a meaningful, relevant, heart-reaching manner. God does not give commands that are impossible to fulfill. With every command given, God also makes available everything necessary to complete it. A key to many countries, languages and people groups is the printed page.

In America the printed page has become "cheap" and has been taken for granted. This is not true in many foreign fields. In Latin America, for example, one can walk through the villages and towns and pass out literature wherever there are people and the message will be read on the spot. It is not uncommon for people to actually approach the missionary and ask for a piece of the gospel literature. It is amazing to be a witness of the results of Gospel literature. In Central America there is one response to every one hundred pieces of literature passed out. In Mexico there is an average of one letter for every two hundred pieces of literature distributed. There is nothing else that produces such results, taking into account or regarding time and money expended, as Gospel literature.

Have you ever considered the impact of the printed page upon your life? Our opinions are molded, our character is formed, our very attitude toward life is determined largely by what we read. You owe everything you are to the printed page. The typewriter is mightier than the tank.

The greatest invention of all time is the printing press. How fitting that the first thing printed on Gutenberg's first press was the Bible. Gutenberg wrote in the 15th century, "God suffers because of the great multitudes whom His sacred Word cannot reach. Religious truth is captive in a small number of manuscript books which guard the treasures. Let us break the seal which holds the holy things; give wings to the truth that by a means no longer written at great expense by the hand that wearies itself, but multiplied by an unwearied machine, it may fly to every soul born in the world." The God-given purpose and vision of the man who invented the first printing press was world evangelism.

The greatest miracle of our generation is literacy. Over 3 million new people learn to read every 7 days -- more than 150 million a year. They will read something -- anything! They will be reached, and it is simply a question of who will reach them first.

Many nations now have mass nationwide literacy campaigns. Indonesia, with 838 languages, has a national language. Almost all of the schools of the country are now bilingual -- classes in Indonesian and the local tribal language. In 15 years, Indonesia went from 6% literacy to 67% of the population being able to read and write. Some of the African nations have jumped from being 15% literate to being 52% literate.

We are at war-- not a war of tanks, and guns, and planes, but a war of WORDS. The weapons are paper and ink, the victims are the minds of men, and the struggle is ideological. This is a day when conflicting forces are striving for world mastery, and it is imperative for them to win the allegiance of men's minds. The millions of people who grope for guidance are an open prey. They search, not knowing where a sure word of counsel is to be found. Many are being deceived in their search by the clever, lying propaganda of the devil in the guise of

isms, sects, and colts.

Early missionaries blazed the trail for literature evangelism. In recent years, though, we have allowed the cults and the communists to use this weapon which was forged by many of God's pioneers. The Father of Modern Missions, William Carey, founded a printing press and devoted much of his life to literature work. But today in India 70% of all literature in some areas is communistic.

Charles Darwin wrote a book called Origin of the Species. This one book changed the course for evolution. Evolution is now taught, even though a hypothesis, in every state university and college, as well as most public schools in the world. The belief in God of one billion young people has been weakened by one book.

Karl Marx wrote just one book - Das Kapital. Almost two billion souls in at least 20 countries have lost their freedom and have had to live under a totalitarian regime because of one book. It has been responsible for 100 million deaths.

The biggest propaganda machine of the communists is the printing press. They spend over three billion dollars annually on printing; they print three pieces of literature for every man, woman, boy and girl upon the earth every year. In one large Latin America country, they have 22 daily communist newspapers and 32 weekly publications. In Mexico City alone, there are at least 28 communist bookstores. Most state fairs in Latin America have a bookstand operated by the Russian Embassy.

When Lenin took over Russia he said, "The people will never believe or understand communism unless they are indoctrinated with communism by the printed page." Every person was required to become literate, and a nationwide attack was made on illiteracy. Now the USSR is among the most literate nations in the world, even more literate than the United States. It is doubtful if any other people on the earth read more than the people of Russia. They read three times more than the average American. The Russian people have been molded by what they read, and by controlling what was given them to read, the Communist Party was able to convince them that they have the best form of government in the world. One hundred forty million pieces of anti-religious, atheistic propaganda is distributed to the Russian people every year. The communists proudly boast, "Let the missionaries teach the people to read; we will provide them with literature."

From 1955 to 1980, the Jehovah's Witnesses increased their membership 2000%. They did it by the primed page. In 1959, on one day, they filled the old Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds in New York City with 180,291 people: it is reputed to have been the largest religious service, up to that time, in the history of the world. On that one day they baptized 7,136 converts. They testified that the crowd of people and every convert was a result of the printed page. They have an eight-floor printshop in Brooklyn, NY, housing the largest printing press in the world.

Seventh Day Adventists operate at least forty-three printing plants around the world. In the last 130 years, they have published over three hundred fifty million dollars of literature in at least 220 different languages. Their annual literature budget is over thirty million dollars. In 1966, they testified that they had sent their correspondence follow-up literature to over twenty-two million people.

The editor of the Catholic Register not only runs the biggest but the most successful chain of religious newspapers in the world. Twenty years ago, they had in operation a \$650,000 press capable of printing 52,000 papers of 32 pages an hour. The Knights of Columbus advertise a free Bible correspondence in English in newspapers and magazines. They presently receive over 300,000 requests every year.

The words of Daniel Webster are as appropriate today as they were over 100 years ago: "If religious books are not widely circulated among the masses in this country I do not know what is to become of us as a nation. And the thought is one to cause solemn reflection on the part of every Christian and patriot If truth is not diffused, error will be. If God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy. If the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious litera-

ture will. If the power of the Gospel is not felt through the length and breadth of the land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness will reign without mitigation or end."

T. E. Floyd, former British Home Secretary of the African Inland Mission said, "Christian literature is today's absolute number one priority in all missionary planning."

Dr. Harold Cook, tile late Missions Department Chairman of Moody Bible Institute said, "Literature can be our most effective medium of mass communication of the Gospel in terms of the price paid for it, the number of people reached, and the fact that the message can be read over and over again until it is understood. There is no other method that can compare with literature."

Dr. J. Oswald Smith said, "For more than fifty years I have prayerfully considered the problem: How can we evangelize the world in the space of one generation? Long ago I was convinced that we could never send out enough missionaries, but there must be a way. After travel and study in 53 countries, I have come to the conclusion, the only way we are going to be able to carry out the Great Commission, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature' will be by means of the printed page By the systematic use of the printed page we shall be able to enter every, home and thus reach every individual with the Gospel message."

The message of salvation can be presented through means of the printed page. It never flinches, it never grows tired, never grows disheartened; it works while we sleep; it travels cheaply and requires no rented building; it never loses its temper; and it works long after we are dead. The printed page is a visitor which gets inside the home and stays there; it always catches a man in the right mood, for it speaks to him only when he is reading it; it always sticks to what it has said, and never answers back.

The printed page is deathless: you can destroy one, but the press can reproduce millions. As often as it is martyred it is raised. It can enter doors locked to the evangelist; it preaches in the factory, the train, the kitchen; it visits the school and the jail; it whispers in the ear of the dying.

The printed message can reach those whose religions forbid them to go to church. It can reach the student who, proud of his intellectualism, refuses to listen to the Gospel or relate himself to it for fear of his fellow students or professors. Away from searching eyes, from the probing investigations of the state, away from the demand of superstitious religion, away from the critical intrusions of friends and family, the message of salvation can be read and understood.

Yes, literature is the link to life. Tomorrow, many missionaries will have to leave their field, but our witnesses can remain. A link -- LITERATURE -- can be left in the hands of national Christians, sensitive to their responsibility and equipped to reach those masses who long for hope beyond their darkness.

Remember, people everywhere are reading. Education has become compulsory for school-age children in most countries. Just since you began reading this, almost 200 new readers have entered the world of the printed page. They are eagerly extending their hand for reading material.

The way to reach the most people in the shortest period of time is with the printed page. Certainly this does not imply that we should neglect other means of evangelism, but the churches of America should awake to the importance of the printed page. Churches, like the proverbial ostrich, have hidden their heads in the sand of neglect, ignorant and indifferent to the value and potential of literature in the evangelization of the lost and growth of believers. It is time to take massive projects, systematically covering countries and metropolitan areas with the printed page. Do not send your missionary to the battlefield without ammunition.

If God trusted the revelation of the Living Word to the written Word, then so can we. We have one task. It is to evangelize the human race with the only Gospel God ever gave. The size and urgency of our task demands the use of the mass media of literature. "He is not willing that any should perish." Neither am I! Are you?

Initially, the printing of tracts, correspondence courses and scripture can be done on a copy machine. Once the

volume gets larger, a copy machine becomes expensive and impractical. The cost of an English KJV John & Romans would be about \$2.00 each using a 5 cents per copy rate.

There are a couple of options. There are small portable printing machines, such as the Risograph, that can do smaller projects, such as tracts, John & Romans, and correspondence courses in larger quantities. In addition to a copier, a group of staple guns and an industrial cutter will be needed. The cost for a John & Romans using this system is around \$0.80 each.

Once quantities reach 10,000 or more of any part of the literature, a Christian printing ministry or Christian printing company will be needed to print this amount. If the signatures, or rough printed sheets, can be collated, stapled and cut by the missionary church, or supporting church(es), the cost drops to between \$0.03-0.06 each.

Bearing Precious Seed in Milford, Ohio is one of the largest Christian printing ministries in the world. They can be contacted at 1-513-575-1706. Pastor Wayne Holder of Bible Baptist Church of Beckly, West Virginia, in addition to BPS, uses a Christian owned printing company. He has put millions of John & Romans, as well as tracts on various mission fields throughout the world. He can be contacted at 1-304-255-0031.

Pastor Holder is also an excellence source for information on what types of stapling and cutting equipment is best to use.

PLANTING OF SEED

Every farmer knows that he must sow the seed before he harvests the crop. He also knows that his harvest will be in direct proportion to not only the amount of seed he plants, but also in the wisdom he uses in planning and preparing the field from sowing time to harvest. Missionaries need to use the same wisdom in planting the Gospel seed. Not only how much we plant is important, but the planning and preparing of the field will be a factor during harvest time.

There are two things I have learned from God that are important in Seed Planting, and they come from the type He gives about us becoming "**Fishers of men**"(Mark 1:17). First you have to find where the fish are biting, and then you have to use the right tactic (ie. bait and method) to catch them.

To find out where the fish are biting, where people are hungry for the gospel, you can use advertise the gospel through tract distribution, newspaper and magazine ads, or radio spots. These ads would all offer a free Bible Correspondence course. If there are no responses to any of these ads, then you know that the fish aren't biting. The effort will not be in vain, for God's Word will always accomplish what He pleases. In Isaiah 55:11 God promises, "**So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper [in the thing] whereto I sent it.**"

Secondly, you can see what method or bait will work by seeing what type of advertising works in that area. This can be accomplished by seeing what successful local merchants are using to advertise their products and services. I also like the illustration of a fisherman with four hooks on one fishing line. He is likely to catch more fish than a fellow with one hook on one fishing line. A missionary can do this by using every avenue possible to get out the gospel. Don't limit yourself to only one method, but be willing to try every legitimate way possible to spread the gospel message. After a time, you'll see which methods work best in your area, and you can continue using those. Ecclesiastes 11:1 seems to fit this overall method perfectly: "**Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.**"

In a large area or city, you can locate areas of good prospects (for church planting) through tract distribution or other advertising method city-wide, then the areas which get the most responses should be considered for planting a church.

We have found large scale tract distribution, street preaching and newspaper ads to be the most effective means of reaching new folks in Thailand. Each of these methods offers a free Bible correspondence course, and of course, new people can be reached through those taking the correspondence course.

Samples of newspaper ads and the correspondence course will be given in this booklet. Also I have prepared a correspondence course program for IBM compatible computers. With this program you can run any size course and it can be customized for the needs of any mission outreach. This program is free to anyone who can use it.

The most important factor in sowing the seed is to be faithful. No farmer harvests a crop the day after he plants it. Some mission fields give a harvest in a few weeks or months. Others may take years. Just remember that if God has called you, He called you for a reason. That reason: remain faithful until the harvest time.

PREP SCHOOL BY CORRESPONDENCE

Milton Martin, a missionary to the Indians in Mexico, developed the program we used in Thailand. He has used Bible Correspondence courses as a key to his church-planting ministry for over 30 years. This program has helped establish hundreds of churches throughout the world.

His booklet, "How to Start a Correspondence School," is copied and inserted in this chapter with his permission.

We used this method in Thailand, and Philip Pope has a computer program that can be used to track and grade correspondence courses. This program is available for IBM compatible computers to anyone who will use it for the work of Christ. [Click here](#) for more information about that program. [Click here](#) to download a free Bible Correspondence Course, 54 lessons covering the books of John and Romans.

HOW TO START A CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

SUPPLIES

Desk & Chair

Shelves

5 x 8 File Cards

Files or Boxes for 5 x 8 Cards

Courses & Keys

Certificates

Gospels of John

New Testaments

Envelopes

Postage Stamps

Dater (Stamp)

Typewriter

UPON RECEIPT OF REQUEST

1. Stamp with dater
2. Address envelope
3. Insert Course 1 & Gospel of John
4. Affix postage stamp (See explanation of double envelope)
5. File request
6. Mail Course

UPON RECEIPT OF FIRST COURSE EXAMS

1. Stamp with dater
2. Pull request from file
3. Grade exams using key
4. Fill out certificate if grade is passing
5. Fill out 5 x 8 card (see example)
6. Check for names of friends to send first course
7. Address envelope
8. Insert graded exam with certificate, second course, New Testament
9. Affix postage stamp
10. File 5 x 8 card

UPON RECEIPT OF SECOND COURSE EXAMS

1. Pull student's 5 x 8 card
2. Stamp date on card and course
3. Continue steps outlined for Course 1

DOUBLE ENVELOPE

In Mexico, third class (printed matter) could not be sealed, so we put the course, etc., into a self-addressed envelope and inserted this, open end first, into the mailing envelope. This also served to provide the student with a return envelope. Sometimes it made the difference whether a student continued studying or not.

CARD EXAMPLE

Name _____		Age _____			
Address _____					
Notes _____					
Course 1		Course 2		Course 3	
Date Sent	Date Rec'd	Date Sent	Date Rec'd	Date Sent	Date Rec'd

KEY

Make time for grading each course. **IMPORTANT:** Give a Bible verse for each answer. When an answer is marked wrong, the verse is noted on the student's test so that he can know the correct answer. If you do not teach the student the correct answer, then you have accomplished NOTHING!

REMINDER LETTERS

Every 3 months you should review the request file and the student file, sending a reminder letter to all who have not responded in 3 months. You may like to use different color ink on your dater each month to help you find the delinquents. Example of reminder letter:

Dear Student:

We were so happy to send you a correspondence course upon your request some time ago. However, since we have not received your exams, we are concerned. Did you receive the course? Was the returned course lost in the mail before it reached us? We realize that there could be many unavoidable problems, but if there is anything we can do to keep you with your studies, please let us know.

Sincerely,

DIPLOMA

The diploma should be very special and even framed if possible. It is to be given at the completion of all courses. The number of courses offered will vary with each school.

QUESTIONS

Many courses have places for the student to ask questions. Even if there is not a specific place, the students will write for counsel. Answering these questions will be the most fruitful part of this ministry. Always answer their questions seriously. They are your congregation and you are their pastor. This is very time consuming but very necessary.

SUGGESTIONS

Don't consider a person a "student" until you have received their first exam. Then register him on your 5 x 8 card.

Make friends at the post office! They are the lifeline of your school. They can make or break your school. Most countries do not have a very efficient postal service. However, all countries have some way of sending messages. If it works for them, it can work for you.

Be sure the school's address is clearly printed or stamped on the course several times.

Expand as needed. Convert to computer when necessary.

THE SUCCESS OF A CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL IS WORK!

Please read the following note that illustrates the importance of a Correspondence Course Ministry:

I AM A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

I am a missionary in my own right. *I am filled with the Word of God. God has therefore promised that I would accomplish His purpose.*

I am an educator. *Regardless of my student's motives, I teach. Concepts not familiar to the student are read and reread until the meaning is clear. Combined with my sister courses, we form a faculty.*

I am an evangelist. *I reveal sin to the sinner and point out Christ as its remedy.*

I am a diplomat. *I present my case in a well-worded, easily understood brief. I never get into a heated argument. I present myself at the most opportune moment of the day. I am unobtrusive since I came with one of the most welcome of government servants, the postman. I do not overstay my welcome since I leave at the discretion of my host.*

I am follow-up. *I am able to guide the inquirer through months or years of systematic and graded study. I have the added advantage of bringing a personal touch to the reader. The systematic examiner and correspondent takes over in the follow-up where my ministry leaves off. I am but a relatively new tool, yet statistics boast that I am welcome in every country where I have been introduced.*

I qualify as one of God's choice servants. *I am not frustrated by the limitations of the illiterate since I minister only to those who have certain educational abilities. The missionary is one, I am multiplicity. I am always available. I do not have to spend years to learn the language. In fact, I begin my work in the typesetter's hand. I do not deliver a "spur of the moment" message, since I was compiled in an ideal environment and with no concern for time. I neither hunger nor thirst, and therefore, need no sustaining support. I need no expensive transportation. The simple postage stamp is my mode of transport. At the moment of arrival, I am ready to work and travel where missionaries are unable or forbidden to go. I need no furlough and no sick leave. Since I am never moody or temperamental, I am always prepared to deliver my message.*

I am a Bible Correspondence Course!

(Conservative Baptist)

THE MILTON MARTIN FAMILY

Central Baptist Church
P. O. Box 448
Bowie, Texas 76230

"To Every Creature"
P. O. Box 3565
Temple, Texas 76505

PRODUCING DISCIPLES

Once a correspondence student has completed their course, they need to be disciplined one-on-one by a mature Christian. Jesus himself was a discipler, as was Paul.

As with any newborn, years of parenting (discipling) is absolutely necessary for them to grow. The purpose of the correspondence course in John & Romans is to learn to love Jesus and His Word. They will then need to be disciplined in other aspects and doctrines of the Word and Christian life.

We have provided a great potential discipleship program that has been used all over the world. A mature Christian needs to take a new Christian under his/her wing, and prayerfully and faithfully disciple and train them for their new life in Christ. Most successful Christians can trace their success to someone who properly disciplined them.

PASTORAL TRAINING

We need to be ready to train the men that God calls to be pastors and missionaries. This chapter will discuss ways that this can be accomplished.

There are several ways to approach pastoral training:

- 1) One Bible Institute could be started and have all the participating churches send their preacher boys there for training.
- 2) Each church start a Bible Institute and undertake the training of their preacher boys.
- 3) For those who are unable to attend a Bible Institute (already have a work in progress, finances, family, etc.) studying by correspondence could be set up under the direction of a Bible Institute.

The first order of business is to secure a curriculum. Check with your mission board and college and see if they have one available. If you work with people who speak another language than English, you will have to translate the material before using it. I have found that teaching people in their native tongue is the most fruitful because it is easier for them to learn. You, the missionary, may have to work harder by translating the material or having it translated, but the finished product (preachers) will be better. The Bible curriculum that we used is available to anyone who can use it. There are no restrictions or cost involved in its use. [Click here to download a free Bible Institute Course, covering the Old and New Testaments and Major Doctrines.](#)

After we secured a 3 year Bible Institute curriculum and received permission to translate it and teach it in Thai, our first institute was begun. As each student graduated, they were given a copy of the curriculum. When they started their own church and had people surrender for the ministry, they were able to teach them on a daily or weekly basis at their church. This method has some advantages: no need to uproot a family and move to another city, no need to find a job in the new city, the Bible student can continue working in his local church and be a help to his pastor.

One student (a Burmese man) was placed in the position of pastor when his missionary had to return to the states. He was unable to abandon the work and go study at another church, so he began studying by correspondence. I would make tapes teaching the lesson and he would follow along, take the test and send it to me for grading. He later translated the course into Burmese and is now teaching those from his church who surrender for full time service.

We never tried the method of having one Bible Institute for all the churches, because we didn't feel it was best for our situation. However, many missionaries have used this method with great success. The key thing is, find what works best for your field and do that.

Our curriculum consisted of Old Testament, New Testament and Doctrine. I feel it is important to teach all three, so they get an overview of the Bible (through OT and NT) and they also get a firm basis for our doctrinal beliefs (through Doctrine).

Also, I feel it is important to take time to do a job well. Some groups try to run a student through their school in 9-12 months, so they get people out "in the work" more quickly. I believe the standard "college" method of 3-4 years is best, because an education is not simply "book learning", but practical as well. If the student finishes his studies in 2 or 3 years, then have him help in the church ministries for another year or so. We must remember that many of these people saved on the mission field did not grow up in church! Most of them don't have the same experiences that we had growing up in church. We should give them time to develop, see different soul winning and ministering situations, and learn how to be a good minister of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Using this type of training, the pastor training him will know when he is ready to start another work. Sometime

during his training he could start an outreach to an area using PLANTING OF SEED method (see chapter 6). He would then correspond with those from that area who were writing in for the free Bible Correspondence Course. By the time he was ready to pastor a work, under the watchful eye of his training pastor or missionary, he would have a group of people that already wanted him and loved him for teaching them the Bible.

PLANTING OF LOCAL CHURCHES

Once a pastoral candidate has been trained and deemed fit to pastor, the missionary and other leaders in the area need to help him establish a church, usually in an area where a large number of correspondence course students are located.

The initial thing to do is pray for the new church. A proper location can be found through prayer, leaders and finances can be brought about through prayer. The church should be bathed in prayer before, during and after its opening. As the time grows near for the opening, prayer meetings should be planned. Read the chapter on prayer on methods of setting up 24 hour prayer chains, etc. Remember, no church will be started without prayer. If all of the following things are done, but prayer is left out, no lasting work for God will be started.

Missionaries and national pastors who know the "lay of the land" should help the new pastor in securing a building in a good location. A building that is deep in a neighborhood or off the main road will only be seen by a minority. It is best to locate on a main road and surrounded by several neighborhoods. That way more people will be aware of its existence.

Established churches can help with painting, renovation, and supplying needed items (chairs, pulpit, PA system, sign, Bibles, tracts, baptistry, etc.) so the new church starts without a financial burden. As God leads, a missionary or established church could help with rent, utilities, operating expenses and pastor's salary until the church offerings are sufficient. In Thailand, we used a system where yearly (or as deemed necessary) outside support was gradually reduced until the new local church became self-supporting.

If possible, have some members from an established church attend for the first few months. This will help the new church not look "empty" and also will provide ushers, altar workers, an audience and people to encourage the new pastor.

Advertising should be done to make people in the area aware that a new church is opening. This could be done by visitation, signs, newspaper and/or radio ads, etc. It would be helpful to have members from an established church make an initial visitation effort, handing out flyers and giving an extra "push" for the opening day. Special music and speaker might be announced, as well as dinner on the grounds after the service. (All of this is "budget" permitting, of course, but the goal is to make as many people as possible aware of the church's existence and leave a good impression in their minds for future follow-up.) Of course, each one that visits on opening day should receive a pastor visit thanking them for attending and this would give him an opportunity to explain the gospel to them.

The sending church should keep loose reins on the new church, allowing them to develop as the Lord leads. When they are ready, the new church (mission) should pass a constitution and by-laws (once there is a solid core of people who have grown sufficiently in the Lord to be dedicated to the work of the Lord and ready to take on the responsibility of church membership).

It needs to be realized that nothing comes easy, and church planting is no exception. A good start helps and can create a positive atmosphere in the area. After opening day, the pastor needs to be faithful in visitation, teaching and preaching. Once the church is established, they can continue growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, winning souls, baptizing, and training new converts. One day they too will become a sending church, and the cycle will continue.

PHYSICAL CHURCH SUPPORT

After prayer and financial support, the most important support a missionary and his family can receive, is physical support through visits to their mission field. One of the biggest reasons missionaries leave the mission field is loneliness. A visit by spirit-filled, helpful church supporters, to help a missionary with their work, is a gift that will bless all involved.

A family or individual vacation to help a missionary pass out tracts, answer correspondence courses, or produce scriptures, is a life changing experience. A family will be able to pray and help more intelligently after assisting a missionary on the field. They will also be able to share their experiences with others back at their home church, so that they also can have a greater understanding of that mission field.

It is really sad how we support so many missionaries financially, while they rarely get supported physically, with visits. One of the saddest examples was a missionary, who had spent 18 years on the mission field. He told me that he had over 25 supporting churches. I asked him how many had visited him in his 18 years on the mission field, he sheepishly told me none. I know of many that can say the same thing.

I believe that God will also judge us for spending his money on something or someone that we didn't steward. There are many missionaries that are receiving financial support, yet no one is stewarding what they are doing, and they are not doing any real mission work.

Those that can't go, can support missionaries physically by writing letters, or sending emails. They can also help support someone who is going to visit a missionary.

PRAISE AND POST-OP PREVIEW

In any project there needs to be periodic reviews to see how things are going. It is no different with any mission venture. It is actually more important with mission projects. Probably the biggest reason to review a mission project is to praise and thank God for what He has accomplished (John 9:24b "**Give God the praise**"). It is also important to make sure that what is being accomplished matches up with what God wants. This takes seasons of prayer as well. If each step has been seasoned in prayer, then God will make His path known. This is nothing more than proper stewardship. Though reasonable, a considerable amount of money, resources and time will go into any major mission project.

People involved in the various levels of the project need to be consulted for their input into any review. God may have shown them a better way to handle various parts of the project. Consequently their input is vital. Some areas that should be looked at in any mission project review are:

- 1. *Prayer Chain* - Is the prayer chain continuing, or have people lost interest and dropped off? Keeping in touch with prayer partners is just as important as keeping in touch with financial supporters. Newsletters and emails are a great way to keep people informed and remind them of their prayer commitment, and the value of it.
- 2. *Proper Preparation* - Has the preparation and planning been thorough and effective for the people group that is being reached.
- 3. *Provisions* - Are the finances being properly stewarded, and are there enough to continue the project. Reviews also are needed to see if the most cost-effective means are being used to obtain the provisions needed.
- 4. *Preparation of Scriptures* - This is one area that is really sacred. Scripture translation is a very serious matter. Much prayer, and constant review and checking are needed to insure that the Word of God in that language is pure.
- 5. *Printing of Scripture* - This area is also vital. As with scripture translation, Satan would love to mess up the printing of scriptures. A constant prayer and physical vigil and review of this process is critical. Keeping workers motivated, and insuring proper quality control requires continual reviews.
- 6. *Planting the Seed* - This area also needs continual reviews to see if that the most effective ways of reaching a particular people with the gospel, are being employed. What works for one group of people, may not work for others. To blindly continue one way, without seeing any results, will doom a project to failure. Fully understanding the culture of the people group that is trying to be reached will help insure that the planting of seed is effective.
- 7. *Prep School* - An effective correspondence school is key link in any missionary outreach. Keeping track of students' progress, as well as making sure that the volunteer instructors and graders are following through is imperative.
- 8. *Producing Disciples* - Are the graduates and advance students in the correspondence school being disciplined? For growth in their lives, and the life of the churches being started, this process is essential. Jesus and Paul both lead the way in showing the importance of discipling new Christians. No church will ever grow without discipleship. Keeping your disciples prayed up and focused is therefore crucial to a successful discipleship program/
- 9. *Pastoral Training* - Paul knew the importance of pastoral training, and constantly monitored the progress of those he was training, or had trained. We therefore need to do the same.

- 10. *Planting of Local Churches* - Here again, Paul would constantly watch over and monitor the churches he was involved in starting. He would make sure that they were following proper doctrine; ensuring that they stayed in the word; and would exhort and admonish when and where needed. We need to do the same.
- 11. *Physical Church Support* - "**And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.**" (Hebrews 10:24). We need to encourage prayer and financial supporters of any mission project to go and visit those they are supporting. Everyone wins when this happens. Supporters gain a greater heart for missions, and many are called to the mission field after a vacation trip to a mission field.

It should be clear that constant reviewing, thanksgiving and praise are crucial to the success of any mission project. The sign of a successful project is that it is successfully reproduced in other areas.

MISSIONS IN PROGRESS

The purpose of this chapter is to give examples of missionary projects that are working throughout the world, using the approach discussed in this book, so that you will see that just one person, family or church can make a difference if they are sold out to God, and willing to follow His plan.

Many people feel that the commandment to **"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."** (Mark 16:15), was only given to missionaries. Basically that is true, because a missionary should be defined as, **"a heart with Christ, or Christ's Ones (Christians)"**. A mission field would then be defined as, **"a heart without Christ"**. Through the **"effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man"** (James 5:16), entire areas or countries can be reached by even just one faithful person following a plan that works.

1. EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST

A while back a church in the Middle East decided that they wanted to get involved in missions in countries in their area and in Europe. They trained several of the men in their church that were called to be "sent ones". After much prayer and fasting a team of two was picked, with one of them being the leader, and they were sent to Turkey to start churches. This head missionary would then spend the next 22 years establishing numerous churches. They spent about three years in Turkey. They mainly used open-air type meetings to get people saved, and then disciplined them in the Word of God. After about three years, and several churches having been established, they went back for a couple years at their home church to plan for the next area to be reached. They brought with them a young man who was being trained and disciplined to do what they were doing. They did keep in continual communication with the churches that were established. Their next three year mission trip was to Greece, where the pattern was continued, and numerous churches were established. After about a year back at the home church they went back through the areas that they first established churches and helped build them up and establish more. The head missionary's last trip was to Italy, where again churches were established. The home church and these missionaries were in continual prayer for the missionary works, which led to the great success. After this head missionary died, the work continued successfully as these churches reproduced themselves throughout the world. Many people feel that this man was the most successful missionary of all time. His name was Paul of Tarsus.

If you look over Paul's missionary life, you will see that he started everything with prayer. You will also see that it was after his example of missions that we have patterned after. (**"Be ye followers of me, even as I am of Christ."** 1 Cor. 11:1) He was the one who penned God's command to **"pray without ceasing"**. Even his church at Antioch, where they were first called "Christians", sent them out with **"prayer and fasting"** (Acts 13:3). Paul himself said that he continually prayed for the churches that he helped establish. Throughout Paul's 22 years of mission work, he continually was following a pattern of prayer, planning, scripture preparation and planting. Those that were saved were then disciplined, and those that were called to be pastors, were trained. Using the trained pastors, numerous churches were planted, so that the process could begin again. Paul would regularly follow-up with these pastors and churches to insure that they were steadfast in the Lord and His work of fishing for souls of men, and training men to be fishers of men.

2. SOUTHERN MEXICO

In 1960, a young man, named Milton, and his family were convicted of the reality of God's command in Mark 16:15 to **"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"**. He realized that as with fishing, there was a key to **"every creature"** getting the gospel. Milton prayed for that key as he and his family traveled to southern Mexico as missionaries in 1961. God showed him that the printed page, in the form of tracts, was the **bait** that needed to be cast upon the waters (Eccl. 11:1) In order to fulfill that verse in that region they found an illustrated tract in the language of the people, that when edited slightly, worked very well. They also found that by using a **hook** of a coupon offering a free Bible course by mail, they had tremendous success.

They were amazed and aghast at the responses that began arriving in the post office box they set up. They eventually established a distribution center that made the Gospel literature available at no cost nationwide.

Many means of distribution were used. Tracts were thrown out of vehicles to people on streets and roads. Entire towns and cities, up to a million population, were covered door to door and a printed message was placed in every home. Anywhere great crowds gathered, such as parades, fairs, market-days, and special events, tracts were passed out to the masses. For example, when the Pope came to Mexico in 1980, 550 thousand tracts were distributed. An airplane was used to drop tracts to ranches, isolated towns and villages, and any place that had a population of under 20 thousand.

For many years, one written response was received in the mail for every 120 tracts distributed. The responses grew to 14,000 returned coupons or cards a year. When the post card or coupon was received, the interested person was sent a Gospel of John and a set of correspondence lessons covering that Gospel, which they could study in the privacy of their own home. When they would complete and pass the exams for the entire book, they were given another set.

Many would trust Christ as their personal Saviour while studying the courses. In fact, at one time in Mexico, there was an average of 10 a day writing, saying that they had trusted Christ as a result of the tracts and the courses. The next thing that would follow was a burden for souls and a desire for a place that would teach them the Word of God in their city or town.

Through further courses and discipleship, men were found to be called to the ministry. They would be then trained so that they could fill the requests for pastors and churches throughout their region. During their training they would work at answering correspondence courses in their areas, so that they would have a congregation waiting for them when they were ready to lead. Each congregation would follow the same pattern of reproduction, so that within a relatively small amount of time an entire region or country would be reached and have strong New Testament churches established throughout. To-date there are over 300 churches started because of this ministry and approach to missions started by one missionary to Mexico, and the number grows weekly.

3. THAILAND & INDOCHINA

In 1972 a young American man named Jim, whose family was living in Thailand, was saved through the efforts of some missionary families. After leaving Thailand the following year, he continued to have a burden for the Thai people. Jim would continually pray for the people of Thailand and for God's guidance in what he could do for the people that burdened his heart. In 1985 he took his wife and two children to Thailand for the purpose of finding a missionary to work with, and to see if the family might feel led to move there as missionaries. They came back empty handed, except for a greater burden for the Thai people, but with no call to move there. Jim and his family continued to pray virtually every day for the people of Thailand. One day he met a man who ran a training institute for missionaries, and he gave Jim a name of a good missionary in Thailand. Jim contacted this missionary, named Philip, by letter. They talked about how there wasn't a good Thai text of the Bible in Thailand.

Several months later, Jim met Milton, the missionary to southern Mexico, who explained all about how they reached the people of Mexico, as noted in the above story. Jim passed all of this information on to Philip in Thailand. About a year later, Jim stopped getting correspondence from Philip. Though discouraged, Jim and the family continued to pray for Philip and the people of Thailand on a daily basis. About six years later, Jim ran into Milton again, and told him of his burden for Thailand. Milton told Jim of a missionary there that he knew that was doing missions like they had done in Mexico, and his name was Philip. It turned out that it was the same Philip that Jim had been corresponding with in the past. Milton helped him track down Philip.

Philip's tract work began in 1978 (500,000 God's Simple Plan of Salvation printed initially) and over 700,000 were given out during their first term with 1470 responses. After seeing where most of the responses came from, they felt led to begin holding services in 1983 on the northeast side of Bangkok. The correspondence

course was also begun in 1983. Their first pastor (Jesda) was a product of that church. After several years of Bible Institute training, Jesda was ordained and began pastoring that church in 1990. They put ads in the local newspaper for the correspondence course and received a good response. This pattern was repeated in each successive church, ie. tracts, correspondence course, training pastor, etc., and has proved to be an effective means of doing mission work.

It turns out that by the time Jim had caught up with Philip in 1995, they had five new churches going. After Philip had moved to the first new church, Jim's mail to him wasn't being forwarded, and his to Jim wasn't getting out of the area, which is how they lost track of each other.

When Jim finally got Philip on the phone, Jim asked him what he needed. Philip told Jim that they had the entire New Testament translated, but were in need of John & Romans, so that they could give them to their correspondence school members. They had someone print some in the United States, since it is very expensive in Thailand. The cost that they were charged for the few that they had printed up, wiped out their printing budget. Jim told him that he would pray and find a way for them to get some more John & Romans in the Thai language. Shortly thereafter, Jim ran into Carlos Demerest at Bearing Precious Seed when Jim was taking a group of New York City boys on one of BPS's mission trips into Mexico. Carlos showed Jim the large print shop that they now had. Jim told Carlos the story of Philip's need for Thailand. Without a second to think about it, Carlos said that they would print up 10,000 John & Romans for them. Jim told Carlos that they didn't have any money for them, and Carlos said that the Lord would provide. A couple of weeks later, Carlos was going to be preaching in a small church in Delaware, that was about 4 hours away from where Jim and his family lived. Jim and one of his daughters went down to meet with Carlos and hear him preach. Carlos introduced Jim and they both mentioned the burden in Thailand. That night that church raised over \$8,000 for the printing of those John & Romans.

Today there are over 20 new churches that have been started. They have placed an ad in the national paper, which have brought in lots of new correspondence school members, and therefore future opportunities for new churches. They are also planning on expanding into the countries of Laos, Cambodia and Burma.

Jim now saw why God didn't have him move to Thailand to be a missionary. He saw that the best thing that Jim could do was to adopt a missionary already there, and be a servant to him, and help him with the information and supplies to reach the country of Thailand, and the rest of Indochina. Brother Carlos talked Jim into writing this booklet so that others could see that one person, one family, or even one church, could make a difference, and reach a people, country or region for the Lord Jesus Christ, especially if they fervently pray for that area, and then offer to be a servant for that area.

4. NORTHERN MEXICO

5. GUATEMALA

6. GHANA

SAMPLE TRACTS

The cartoon tract "What Is Your Life."

This tract may be purchased from:

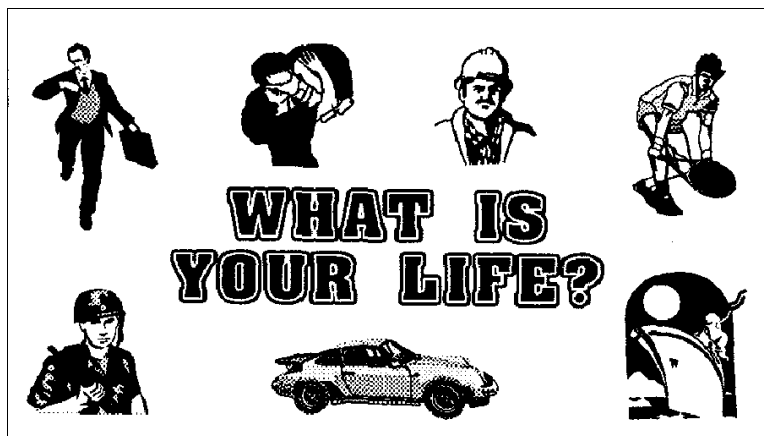
Operation Somebody Cares

1506 N. Fairfield

Dayton, Ohio 45432

This ministry has a tremendous offer. When you purchase these tracts for 3 cents each, an equal amount will be provided free of charge for you to send to a mission field. With a minimum order of 10,000 tracts, you can put your name or message on the back of the tract. Check with this ministry for languages that are available.

Templates for this tract with Asian faces are also available.
Email Philip Pope for information at: philippope@thai pope.org



MISSIONARY INFORMATION

Milton Martin

Longtime missionary to Mexico.

Philip Pope

BIMI Missionary to Thailand since 1978. Visit the Pope's web site for more information: <http://thaipope.org/>

E-mail: philippope@thaipope.org

Tim Urling

Independent Baptist Missionaries sent out by their local New Testament church to win souls in Mexico. Brother Urling has requested prayer for his health.

E-mail: urling@juno.com



The Tim Urling Family

PRAYER CHAIN

God commands us to “**pray without ceasing**”. Individually it is virtually impossible to follow this command, but as a body of Christ, we can easily pray without ceasing. All it would take is several churches to take a day of the week to pray. Each church would then have their believers take even just one 15 minute time slot, per week, to pray for their own church’s missionaries and outreach to their community and the world. In fifteen minutes an individual could pray for every missionary they know, specific mission projects, and still probably have time left over. If one fifteen minute slot wasn’t enough, then more could be added.

LINKS

Chick Publications

<http://www.chick.com/>

Popular and effective cartoon tracts.

Couriers for Christ

<http://www.wyldewood.org/cfc/>

E-mail: donstertz@juno.com

Delivering the Word of God into former Iron Curtain countries.

God's Simple Plan of Salvation

<http://www.godssimpleplan.org/gsp.html>

The gospel in many different languages.

CIA Factbook about Thailand

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/th.html>

Map and other information about Thailand.

Philip Pope's Home Page

<http://thai pope.org/>

E-mail: philippope@thai pope.org

BIMI Missionary to Thailand since 1978.

Korat Baptist Church

<http://www.thai pope.org/korateng/index.html>

An independent, local, Baptist church located in Korat, central Thailand.

Nakhorn Phanom Baptist Church

<http://www.thai pope.org/nkpeng/index.html>

An independent, local, Baptist church located in Nakhorn Phanom, northeastern Thailand.

