

# Progress Report

First Quarter 2009

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## “Warning, danger approaching”

***A growing, reckless trend in the support of national preachers will have a devastating result***

By Jon Nelms

*After reading the headline you must think I have lost my mind, since I have been so long a proponent of national support, so I implore you to read on for clarity's sake.*

More than anything, I enjoy writing stories of our journeys and adventures around the world. Telling tales of the forays and exploits of the national preachers and their church members who endure much, travail much and triumph in the face of want and adversity. I must admit, it makes me feel as the Old Testament writer must have when he wrote of the astounding accomplishments of David's "mighty men". In my mind, such men still exist today, only they no longer wield an iron sword but rather the "Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God". I expect to titillate you with such adventurous tales in upcoming articles and since I am about to depart for an extended trip to India with my wife and pastor, Don Prosser, I should soon return with a reservoir full of stories to tell. But for now, I want to address a more philosophical issue that needs to be revealed, considered and avoided in our churches across America. Such discussion will no doubt raise both the ire and eyebrows of some but I hope that the majority will accept if for what it is - a watchman's call for informed, responsible stewardship.

I can remember as a youth watching the television series "Lost in Space". Like most of you, I enjoyed seeing the robot swing his arms wildly while declaring "warning Will Robinson, danger, danger!" When his watchman's call became too often repeated, he was simply turned off, either because the adults in the crew felt he was malfunctioning, (since they did not see any immediate danger) or the evil Dr. Smith deactivated him in order for his evil plot to go unnoticed. At any rate and for whatever reason, his warning was ignored until it was almost too late. Fortunately, young Will Robinson's undying trust in his metallic friend, his insight and intuition, always saved the day.

For well over two decades I have been crying "warning" in regard to the singular use of our normally ineffective missions methods and most are now listening. I can recall back in 1986 when we began our ministry, long before the term "national preacher" had become establish terminology. I would present our work in churches and at the close the pastor would ask me, "now what is it exactly you are trying to do?". I thought I must be



## Ministry Information

The *Progress Report* is a free, bi-monthly publication of the FINAL FRONTIERS FOUNDATION INC., whose purpose is to effectively take the Gospel to the more than three billion souls, who have never before heard. Currently we are ministering in seventy-three nations. Many of these countries are closed to foreign missionaries and in others, 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. Thus 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 and reputation. We support only those who are serving by faith, never those who are waiting for a salary in order to serve. Worldwide, the average preacher in a third-world country needs as little as \$35.00 - \$350.00 each month to support his family and ministry.

All those subsidized through this foundation are involved in church planting. Their various outreach ministries include: Bible translation and distribution, radio and television broadcasting, camps, Bible schools, outdoor and film evangelism, educational and health programs, handicap and leper ministries, orphan and children's ministries, etc.

### Current ministries available for support are:

- Sponsorship of a national or native preacher (\$35.00 monthly)
- Sponsorship of a *TEAM* of preachers in a given country (\$10.00 minimum per month, per *TEAM*)
- Sponsorship of a destitute child with our *Touch a Life* subsidiary (\$35.00 monthly)
- Sponsorship of the Final Frontiers Society, Bible distribution program (\$10.00 monthly)
- Sponsorship of our Bags of Hope program (\$20 monthly) which distributes food, etc. to widows, orphans and persecuted peoples, primarily in the Islamic Middle East

### Executive Board of Directors:

FINAL FRONTIERS, a non-profit, religious corporation, was founded by Jon Nelms in 1987, and is governed by those serving on the Executive Board of Directors: Rev. Jon Nelms (Chairman), Rev. Gene Carpenter (Vice President), and Dr. Ron Charles (Secretary/Treasurer), Mr. Charles Turner, Rev. Steve Ware, Mr. Terry Holdt and Mr. Kevin Carden. Further council is provided by those serving on the Board of Advisors. Contributions and gifts to this ministry are tax deductible and are applied to the ministry's evangelistic outreach. FINAL FRONTIERS is classified as a 509 (a)(1) public foundation, under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Annual copies of the ministry's 990 form are available upon request by contacting the home office.

### International Offices/Directors:

International offices are maintained in every country of service for accountability purposes and are staffed by national and regional coordinators who are approved by the Executive Board of Directors. Administrative Regional Offices are located in Honduras, Ghana and India. Parallel oversight of many regions is performed by our Directors of Expansion. These Directors are American missionaries who are particularly burdened for their region of the world and are responsible to find and approve national preachers who meet our qualifications and are in need of support. The Directors are:

Africa	Gordon Daam	Islamic Middle East	Yosef Rhema
Easter Europe	Dennis Ellis	Vietnam	Minh Dang
India	Mike Robinette		

### Contact Information:

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## Where we serve

### The 74 countries where we serve as of December 2009

<b>Africa:</b> Kenya Uganda South Africa Nigeria Togo Ivory Coast Ghana *** Liberia Burkina Faso Morocco Sudan Tanzania Rwanda Egypt Libya Burundi Congo	<b>Middle East:</b> Syria Iran Iraq * Yemen * Turkey Bahrain * Saudi Arabia *
<b>East Asia:</b> India *** Myanmar Thailand Laos Cambodia Vietnam China Philippines Nepal Indonesia	<b>Europe:</b> France Romania Albania Latvia Lithuania Switzerland Poland Bosnia Macedonia
<b>Eurasia:</b> Georgia Siberia Ukraine Russia	<b>Americas:</b> Mexico Cuba Guatemala El Salvador Honduras *** Nicaragua Costa Rica Peru Chile Columbia Ecuador Venezuela Brazil Argentina St. Vincent St. Lucia Grenada Haiti *
<b>Central Asia:</b> Kazakhstan ** Kyrgyzstan ** Azerbaijan ** Turkmenistan ** Uzbekistan **	<b>Pacific:</b> Fiji Solomon Islands

\* *TEAM* or limited support only  
\*\* countries where support is temporarily suspended  
\*\*\* receives *Touch A Life* support also

## Front Page Photograph

This is a drawing of the famous robot from the television series "Lost in Space" who was known for his flailing arms and cries of "warning" and "danger", usually directed at the young boy character Will Robinson.

Incidentally, you can purchase a life size replica if you like for a mere \$24,500 from [lostinspace-robot.com](http://lostinspace-robot.com) or for the same money you can support a typical foreign missionary for six months or 58 national preachers for a year. If you've got it, spend it wisely!

# The Jon Nelms report

What a great year 2008 was for me personally. My son Daniel moved back to the States from Honduras with his bride Nolvía and their daughter Valentina in the early months and by the end of the year announced she was pregnant with another daughter. My daughter Sara and her husband Michael had their first child, a little girl named Jennifer. And I was married to Nolin. (Lucky girl!)



Jon and Nolin Nelms

As we entered December I was sent to a specialist to investigate some strange symptoms I have been having for years that have been accelerating. It was determined that I have a small tumor in my brain but subsequent tests reveal that for now it is nothing to worry about. When I come back from India I will begin some medical treatments that may well resolve the problem. In the mean time I am continually able to get my work done. I do get tired rather easy and have a lot of headaches, but if you had the friends I have you would have headaches too! Fortunately, this is treatable without surgery and will not affect Final Frontiers in any way at all. Besides, for several years now, Daniel and Michael have been fully running the administration of this ministry, I just speak in churches, travel and write.

Now that 2009 has been birthed I am equally anxious for another great year. This brush with "near death" (both my parents died of cancer and my dad died of a brain tumor, three months after it was diagnosed) taught me several important lessons:

- ◆ Surprisingly, I am ready to go. I can't wait to see Juanita and my parents again, so many friends, Biblical heroes and most of all, the Glorious One! My affairs are in order as they say and if my race ends today, I have for the most part run well.
- ◆ Final Frontiers will be able to easily continue without my presence. I have spent little time at the office for the past few months due to feeling just horrible and yet, things are more organized now than ever. Thanks guys, that's a load off my mind.
- ◆ If given more time in this tent, I want to use it up in His service more than ever before. Pray more, give more, do more. You see, at the rate we are going, sometime this year we will officially pass the one million mark in salvation decisions. I know we probably passed it ten years ago in reality but I require myself to go by verifiable reports, even though all reports don't arrive.

Now that brings me to my point at hand. "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me", but it seems I can do very little without your help. God has ordained it that way by making each of us a part of the Body. I don't think I am a glamorous part but I do feel I am a useful part. And frankly, I would rather be God's bedpan than to be some beautiful ornament that gets taken out of the cabinet and dusted off once a year for a special occasion. I want to be useful to Him, to be seen by Him, touched by Him, appreciated by Him, each and every day.

That may make me weird, but I'm happy being weird so leave me alone.

However, to do what He has put me here to do (find qualified church planters and get them supported) I need sponsors; that means, I need you. Yet lately, we have had sponsors dropping right and left. Rarely a day passes now that we don't get a note with a "final check" saying they can no longer give for reasons like: I've lost my job, my salary has been cut, food prices are up, my pastor says we need it more at our church, on and on it goes. Each of these may be valid but consider, when God led you to support a preacher or child, to make that commitment, did He not know what was ahead in your future? Why of course He did. Perhaps this is a test for you from the Lord to see where your priorities are. If you must you must, but if you don't really must, then you don't really must. If you'll

## Statistics for 2008

	saved	baptized	villages evangelized	churches started
<b>Total</b>	70,406	30,209	5,154	1,595
<b>Mthly Average</b>	5,867	2,517	430	133
<b>Daily Average</b>	193	83	14	4
<b>Equals</b>	one every 7 minutes	one every 17 minutes	one every 1 hour 43 min.	one every 6 hours

## Statistics for January 1987 thru 2008 (from our beginning to the present)

	saved	baptized	villages evangelized	churches started
<b>Total</b>	945,255	337,375	111,008	30,376
<b>Mthly Average</b>	3,581	1,278	420	115
<b>Daily Average</b>	118	42	14	4
<b>Equals</b>	one every 12 minutes	one every 34 minutes	one every 1 hour 43 min.	one every 6 hours

look at these two charts you'll see the reported statics for 2008 and for our ministry's lifetime. They are amazing, to the glory of God. And they are what they are because of the labors of the preachers and the support of the sponsors who funded the spread of the Gospel like the Sheiks of Saudi Arabia fund the spread of radical Islam. Their income has been cut by 2/3 with falling oil prices but I can assure you they won't stop the funding of the spread of Islam. We must all do what we can, while we can. "The night is coming, when no man can work."

Yours for souls,

## Preachers in urgent need of sponsorship ...

These men listed below have been faithfully serving the Lord for many years and have benefitted greatly from support. Unfortunately the churches and families that have faithfully partnered with them in ministry are no longer able to do so. We have chosen to highlight these who have long proven themselves, in hope of getting replacement sponsors for them. For more information on sponsoring a national preacher, see page 19 or see our complete list on our website at [www.finalfrontiers.org](http://www.finalfrontiers.org)

**Preacher's Name:** Lucas Ulo  
**Wife's Name:** Florence  
**No. of children** 6  
**Country:** Nigeria  
**Sponsorships Needed:** 1 @ \$35 monthly

**Testimony:**

The first time I heard the Good News, I received Christ as Savior. There were no churches on the island of Equatorial Guinea where I was. I was 17 years of age at that time.

I became an evangelist. My parents stopped paying my school fees. I worked as a casual laborer to get my college fees. While in college I was their Pastor/Evangelist and led more than 400 students to Christ.

After my wife became a Christian as a young person, she was persecuted in her own home. Sometimes her mother refused to allow her to eat.

Since working for God full-time I have led thousands to Christ. I cannot number them, I have started twelve churches and trained many more pastors for the ministry. God has blessed my ministry. I have suffered untold persecutions, I have been stoned 3 times, brutally beaten many times. I escaped being burned by angry villagers.

At present, we have 10 volunteers working with us. We have more than 3,000 students from Nigeria and other African countries enrolled in our Bible correspondence school. We have no income and live by faith alone. With your financial help we want to enroll more students in our school. It will allow us to do much more for the Lord.



**Preacher's Name:** Mwakilasa Nsajigwa  
**Wife's Name:** Tunsume Mwakilasa  
**No. of Children:** 3  
**Country:** Tanzania  
**Sponsorships Needed:** 1 @ \$35.00 monthly

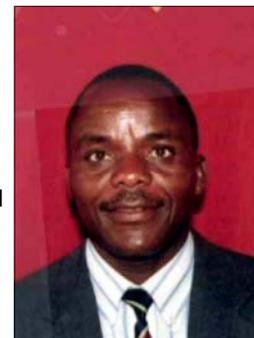
**Testimony:**

I have been saved and had Jesus Christ in my heart since 1984, but at that time I was not baptized. Two months later I heard voice in my dreams telling me to come and follow Him. I knew then that I was being called to be baptized. So I went to the pastor and asked him to baptize me. It is then that I started to be filled by the Holy Spirit which strengthened me to preach and serve God. I asked my church if they would allow me to attend Bible school. They recommended me to be a preacher after I completed my studies.

My wife was saved in 1989. She sells fruits in the market to help our family and she gives her testimony to her customers and in that way has led many to Christ..

I have won 13 souls to the Lord and have baptized 2. I have also helped to start two new churches. I speak Kiswahili and Kinyakyuso, which is my mother tongue.

My family and I live in a room which is part of the church building. It is one room and is cold because it does not have a roof. We eat mainly ugali and beans. My favorite food is rice and beans, meat, fish and vegetables. I have to work full time as a gardener because my church can pay me only \$3 a month and my family needs upwards to \$50 monthly to survive. With your support I will be able to be a full time preacher and accomplish so much more for the Lord.



**Testimony:**

I accepted Christ as my Savior in 1967, and soon after, I developed a desire to teach young children in Sunday School. During this time in my life, the Lord called me into His ministry. I attended Moffat College of Bible. After graduating, I joined full time pastoral ministry and since then I have been a pastor. During the course of my ministry, I have started nine churches and have led 3,000 souls to Christ. I am involved in evangelism and church planting, as well as my regular pastoral duties. I also am involved in Bible transition, child evangelism, literature distribution, and discipleship.

My family and I have very little monthly income and it is not consistent. I have a small farm, but it produces very little. We are able to grow some of our food and the rest we must purchase. We live in a house that is made of grass thatch and mud walls. It has three small rooms.

My day typically includes prayer and Bible reading, visiting the sick, counseling couples, time with my family, attending Bible study fellowship, doing administrative work in the church office, and family devotion. My wife's days typically include personal devotions, prayer with the children, preparing meals, housework and gardening, and prayer fellowship and Bible studies with a small group.

The care for and education of my children has been overwhelming to me. Your Kindly support to my family sll be a blessed relief to this hindering burden.

**Preacher's Name:** Wellington Kute  
**Wife's Name:** Margaret  
**No. of Children:** 9  
**Country:** Kenya  
**Sponsorships Needed:** 1 @ \$35.00 monthly



## From the Mail Bag...

*Every trimester, those who support a preacher or TEAM receive a personal report verifying the receipt of their support and showing how it was used. Here are some samples.*



### CAMBODIA

#### Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	4
villages evangelized	5
professions of faith	15
converts baptized	60

**From:** Vanna Chum  
**Sponsored by:** James Starr Family, MI

We give thanks to the Lord our God who allows you to keep in touch with us and we thank you. We are comforted because of the love the Lord gives to you and then you through this love to Cambodian people like us. It gives us the strength, encouragement and the power from Jesus Christ to make the bravery to bring the word of God and sharing the good news to many people.

Now we have made ten small groups and combine them into four churches. On the other hand we have make the Bible School that has twenty students in it and we do like that every month. There are one hundred pastors, assistant pastors and leaders jointed in it.

We have a plan for making a student center in Kampong Chhnang Province for poor students that has not the place for staying . It is the chance for

brining the new believer (for training). At first we'll choose only twenty students for stay and study. I pray that may the Lord our God Jesus Christ bless your family and you in the living life forever and ever. May the peace of God remain with all of you. See you soon brother!



### MEXICO

#### Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	0
villages evangelized	0
professions of faith	4
converts baptized	4

**From:** Jorge Arturo Enrique  
**Sponsored by:** Missionary Action Project, AZ

In the last few months we have seen how God works in our lives through trials and great promises and teaching. We have had the joy of seeing this church grow and serve others. In June we started a women's group for the purpose to evangelize, multiply and train disciples. There is extensive reading of the Word of God and prayer for the lost. The ladies have seen great growth in their lives spiritually and relationally. Their lives have been transformed by the Word. Their family relationships have improved. Anger, bitterness and lack of forgiveness have taken steps towards reconciliation and led to peace and freedom. They have been challenged to purity and responsibility for daily growing in the Lord. We as men started our own class and are experiencing the same benefits in our lives.

On August 24 we celebrated our first anniversary with this new church.



### MYANMAR

#### Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	1
villages evangelized	1
professions of faith	45
converts baptized	0

**From:** Go Za Kham  
**Sponsored by:** First Baptist, St. Francis, MN  
 Bible Baptist, Savannah, GA

Thank you very much for your helps. I appreciate receiving help from my like precious faith— the Fundamentals. I don't want to miss my precious opportunity warning people that God has warned us that before it is too late to quickly receive Jesus that we may be bound for Heaven.

I am 79 years old but will never give up my witnessing till my last breath. I went out early 2008 to the frontier areas planting a church near India border village. The catastrophic Nargis cyclone in the southern part of Burma. I went to the affected area giving helps to the victims some of the Buddhist to whom I can witness and mostly teaching the nominal Christians the Bible (Christians in name only) and the prophecies concerning the end of the world. About 200 were aroused and heard and receive the Lord. To the Buddhists I witnessed boldly that God allowed this suffering so that they can seek God in time. He is only one God who is the Creator, sustainer and controller. There is no other God beside Him. Where Buddha is not God, only a

human being like us who can deliver laws to follow and to act upon. He cannot save even himself, what to do then? They said they (now) know the true God; maybe they are pretending that they may get helps but my testimony is good enough. During the rainy season I cannot make long distance trips.

I am praying for all of you who are God loving and faithful believers in Him. America also suffers a great deal and I pray that God loving and faithful Christians of America may be blessed as ever for the Americans are serving the Lord throughout the world. If not, people will be perished spiritually and physically. Please remember us as you are able but I am hesitant for begging for all have suffered the same fate. I have given up all for the Lord for this is my conviction and I can assure you that you will see in Heaven the ones you help. Your help is not in vain, that I lie not in Jesus. Thank you very much.

PS I cannot send this kind of reports through the mail, it is severely censored, even email. By providence, I could see a Christian tourist from America who kindly accept to mail from Bangkok, Thailand. Life is as if we are living in a tunnel. Even so, Come Lord Jesus.

*continued from page 1*

the worst communicator in the world. To me it was so simple—I was trying to raise support for national preachers rather than raise it for myself. Somehow, either I just wasn't getting that message across or the concept was so new, so strange, that mentally it was beyond acceptance. I once read that it takes ten years for an altogether new concept to be absorbed and accepted. I think that is just about right. As time passed and more men shared my burden and joined me or started their own ministries, the concept grew and grew until today, in 2009, you can rarely find a church that is not supporting a national preacher somewhere. The end result is that we no longer depend on the American missionary to single-handedly win the world to Christ. We expect that task to be embraced by men of like faith of every nation, every tribe and every tongue; and so it should be according to the Great Commission. This has propelled missions around the world and today America is no longer number one in sending out missionaries, we have been replaced by tiny South Korea. Today for the first time in seventeen centuries, the majority of Christians no longer live in the so-called "Western" nations of Europe, America and Canada but rather in the third world nations. This is cause to rejoice! It doesn't mean that we are shrinking in our evangelistic efforts at home (though we may be); what it means is that the rest of the world, having finally had an opportunity to "taste and see that the Lord is good" have decided that they want more than just a "taste", they want the whole cake! And this is primarily due to the missionaries in ages past who planted the seeds of the gospel and to the great influx of national preachers reaching their own in lands and regions where we as foreign missionaries today either can not or will not venture. They have provided the labor, we have provided the funding and the Lord has provided the harvest.

Is the day of the American missionary over? No, not by any means. But the missiological methods and philosophies of the past are no longer relevant, practical, acceptable or useful and those missionaries who do not learn this and those mission boards who do not accept it and adapt, will soon go the way of covered wagons and cave drawings.

I could take time here to give detail to my assertion and perhaps should, but I would rather jump off and go after another point, which is the purpose for this article in the first place. For you see, the success that we have acquired as outlined above has created its own monster. It is a monster that I saw from my first days in missionary work and the longer I am in it, the older I get, the more blatant it grows. Now, without a doubt, I feel I am in the place of the robot with the swinging arms and the Will Robinsons who are willing to listen to my warning are getting fewer and fewer. What is this warning? **There is a great danger in the way we are supporting national preachers today.** The danger is not approaching, it is here with us already. Unfortunately, most of those I warn simply want to push my off button thinking that if you kill the messenger, the trouble will go away. Wrong, it will only grow exponentially and unimpeded.

Let me share with you a few stories. In doing so I think most of you will intuitively grasp the "war" in the "warning" but for those who do not, I will spell it out for you.

Recently I heard about a "missionary/pastor" from a certain Middle Eastern nation who lives part time in the USA. He has been making the rounds in churches for a few years trying to raise money to purchase Bibles for that region. Now this is something we do also on an ongoing basis so when I heard of him, his story naturally grabbed my interest. Two things stood out about this man that he does not tell the churches where he

raises the funds. First he does not use the standard, acceptable version of Scripture but rather a newer one that is, we might say, Islam approved. In it for example, our Lord is not referred to as "Jesus Christ" but rather as "Mr. Christ". "Christ" was not a family name, it was His title as Messiah that only He could bear. This is an important point and in the Muslim mind, diminishes the deity of Christ entirely. Second, after raising substantial amounts of funds, he returned to his home country and purchased (in cash according to his own testimony) a condominium for \$200,000.00. One has to wonder how much "Bible money" went into the purchase of his condominium. Yet, when you try to tell this to his donors, they grow angry with you. How many of them have ever visited him in his country, how many of them have ever been to his church, met a convert, etc.? They trust him simply because he is a good speaker with good stories and frankly, it is in vogue right now to support ministries in the Middle East. What is the issue here? Accountability from his standpoint and stewardship from the donor's. Many people feel that their responsibility for stewardship ends when they put a check in the offering plate. From that point on they rationalize, it is in God's hand. I disagree. Stewardship does not end in the offering plate, it begins there. Let me illustrate. If you are a steward (manager, buyer, etc.) for a company, let's say McDonalds, and you write a check to a salesman for a container of potatoes that never arrive, what happens to your job? It doesn't matter how well he was dressed, how flashy his presentation, how glossy his brochures, or the fact that he grew up on a potato farm. Your stewardship did not end when you handed him a check, it began at that moment. The only thing that ended is your position as a steward from that day forward.

May I be so bold at this moment as to interject a word about our stewardship here at Final Frontiers? (If you don't like commercials, skip this paragraph.) Our 990s that have been sent to the IRS for the past two years show that we have spent on administrative purposes, only 11% in 2006 and 5% in 2007. You see the \$10 out of the \$35 support for a preacher or child does not go into our pockets, it is used as nondiscretionary funding to help us pay the light bill for sure, but also to have funds for emergency needs for our preachers, to support those who don't have sponsors, to help widows and a host of other needs. The preacher's support, since we began in 1986 has always been set at \$25 a month. The \$10 was added on to give us funds to take care of these other needs. Some of our sponsors have supported preachers for over 20 years and never given us a dime. It has never occurred to them the expense we incur on their behalf to send their support overseas, to mail reports overseas and have them translated and mailed back. To archive them and copy them and mail the original to them. Over the decades we have absorbed the tens of thousands of dollars doing this and your one time "special gifts" or "undesignated gifts" or "use wherever needed most" gifts is what has made it possible.

Let me quickly say that I don't want to cast dispersion on all men from the Middle East who are here doing the same thing. I have been there, I have participated with them in their efforts, been to their churches, met their converts, seen their smuggling apparatus and met their contacts. I know what I am speaking about from first hand experience and am glad to recommend to any church, worthy men whom they can trust with support because the efforts of these men are unbending in ethics and integrity. Call me and I'll give you some names. The one I can most highly recommend is our own Yosef Rehman (a pen name used for security purposes) whose articles appear on page 11.

We as Americans are just too trusting. Let me give you an-

other example. Several years ago I heard about a group of Baptist preachers from the South who went to Iraq to start a ministry there. They raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to (I think) build a church and Bible College and support several preachers who were running things for them. I talked to the director of this ministry and he told me they are all good Baptist men who believe just like we do. After several years this ministry, based here in the USA, was shut down by our federal government under suspicion of financing terrorism. You see, the "Baptist" turned out to be "Baathists", the political party of Saddam Hussein of Iraq and President Assad of Syria.

How does such a mistake occur? It is simple, we don't do our homework. We exercise, as the Bible says, "zeal without knowledge". In our sincere efforts to win the lost, to plant churches, to spread the Good News, we just blindly assume if a man can talk the talk, then he is genuine. It never occurs to us that there are scam artists in the ministry abroad just as there are here. They study us, they know our lingo, they know what buttons to push and they know how to tug at our wallets; and they're good at it.

In our ministry, before a man is approved for support he has to go through a lengthy process. This has been effective in weeding out the wolves in sheep's clothing and has kept us from "rushing in where demons fear to tread". Let me outline it for you:

1. The applicant must be recommended by a missionary from a fundamental board or a national preacher with whom we already have a relationship.
2. The recommendation must be based on a "long term, personal knowledge of that man and his ministry".
3. The application, once completed, is given to a regional or tribal director who is closest to the applicant geographically.
4. The director interviews the applicant and his references to verify if he has the experience that he claims in education, discipleship, training others for ministry and planting new churches. If any point does not check out as claimed the process ends here.
5. If approved, the application is forwarded to the national director who then re-checks and looks for anything out of the ordinary. He can do further interviews as he desires.
6. Once he has approved the application, he sends the application to our home office where we re-check it to make sure all is in order, seek clarification on any questionable or unanswered item and then give final approval or disapprove the application.

If the preacher is approved, we make his portfolio, put in on the internet and attempt to raise support for him. If more than two years passes before he is sponsored, we re-check to be sure he is still serving in the ministry and if necessary, remove him from our approved list.

Of these factors, number one and two are the most important, they are the foundation upon which all the others are based. Let me give you an example. In the early 1990s I received a call from a missionary I had met who had been in Bangkok, Thailand for seventeen years; only now he was living in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. We were only acquaintances and there was some bitterness there on his part as I was supported by his wife's home church and they were not. In fact, that church supported a number of our preachers as well. On this day he called and asked if I would support a Cambodian preacher who was working with him and was an excellent preacher. I immediately had reservations because this particu-

lar missionary, after seventeen years in Bangkok left his church and did not have a single man that he had trained for the ministry who could take his place. He had to rely on his mission board to send a replacement (a board loosely affiliated with a certain Bible college). To me, that's not a very good record; but still, I was certainly willing to hear him out regarding his opinion of this man's ministry. After he gave me a biography of the preacher, I admit, he sounded like a winner. My first question was then, "how long have you known him?" to which he replied, "Since I moved to Cambodia." Not knowing his full history at that time I asked, "How long have you been in Cambodia?" He responded, "six months". I then proceeded to explain to him points one and two and the importance and told him that if he will continue working with the man and still feels after two years that the man is worthy, that he should call me back and I will see what I could do to help find sponsors for him. We chatted another moment and it was obvious that he was really disappointed and then he politely ended the call. Within two months I lost personal support and many preacher's sponsorships from nearly ten churches in his wife's home area because he had called them and told them I would not support his work because he is a fundamentalist and I am a neo-evangelical (liberal).

So what are we looking for when we seek men to support? Well its not if they have a good story to tell. Good stories, I have found, are based more on oratory than experience. I have heard many missionaries make up stories or take other men's stories and use them as their own (they sometimes use their slide presentations as well). While this clearly reveals that they have done nothing themselves worth talking about, you in the audience will never know it because you don't know they are plagiarizing other missionaries. Then, on the other hand, you can have a tremendous minister who is not so gifted in telling tales, thus he comes across as unproductive and unworthy of support. To "get to the bottom" of this dilemma, our application is designed to reveal the following:

1. Is he doctrinally sound?
2. Is he morally pure?
3. Does he have verifiable experience in planting new churches and training other men for the ministry?
4. Is he tied into a local accountability group?
5. Will he commit to writing his sponsors at least 3 times a year?

Why are these important points? Let me elaborate:

#### **Doctrinally sound ...**

To put it simply, this separates the Baathists from the Baptists. Here's one example; we do not believe that one must speak in tongues in order to please God (*the scripture says that "without faith it is impossible to please God"*), obtain the Holy Spirit (*He indwells us at salvation*) or secure personal salvation (*this is done by the sacrifice of Christ and grace of God*). Nor do we support preachers who teach such doctrine. The Bible refers to all things reproducing after their own kind. I feel it is wrong to ask you to support a man who is preaching a doctrine that is contrary to what you believe and what your church teaches. Many ministries today do not reveal that they have such concerns. They support whoever they want and give no accountability to the donor regarding doctrinal purity. Any change in doctrine should be reported to the donors immediately.

#### **Morally pure ...**

The Bible gives us qualifications for men in the ministry and those should be met whether he is a pastor or missionary and whether he is an American or a National. You should not be

asked to support a man and have it hidden from you that he has multiple wives or other moral issues such as lying, theft, etc. If he has a wife and children, we want to know what their marriage is like and what is his relationship with his children. Are they following in the faith of their father, etc.?

#### **Experience in ministry ...**

Around the world, too many ministries have been ruined because churches have not heeded the scriptural command “do not lift up a novice”. It can fill that man with pride and ruin him. Furthermore, he does not have the wisdom that comes with years of experience in service and immersion in God’s Word.

I know of one ministry like ours that has a practice of bringing bright young preachers from other countries to America to speak in missions conferences. The purpose is to help the organization raise funds to support other preachers. However while they are here they raise enormous support for themselves as well. In one case they brought a handful of men from Kenya. They left the old leadership in Africa and brought the young preachers who were energetic and handsome. This caused great consternation among the brethren left behind. Men who had pastored for forty years, who had literal scars of the ministry were passed over for this once in a lifetime opportunity to go to America, in the place of men in their mid-twenties with virtually no experience. It produced confusion, envy and jealousy. When they returned many months later, the aged were given \$25 a month support which was all that was needed. The young returned with \$400 and \$500 a month support. This created a great chasm as they interpreted this as God’s ordination and endorsement of them as the new leadership and with their funding created a coup that split the pastor’s association. In the end, most stayed with the ancients; those who left are now mostly out of the ministry. Sadly, most left their wives for other women. This new leader who had become the director of this American organization ... well, he had applied to Final Frontiers for support several years earlier and we had turned him down. Why? Because he was not even a pastor, the pastors association had expelled him several years earlier. Why? He had two wives and was living openly with a third woman.

When I learned what was happening in this situation I flailed my arms crying “danger, danger” to the president of this American organization to warn him about this so called preacher. Their board’s response was to spread the word in America and abroad that “Jon Nelms and Final Frontiers should not be supported because he is not really a Baptist”. Well, of course I am, but even if I were not, that would only put me in the company of such men as D.L. Moody, David Livingston, Hudson Taylor, the Apostle Paul and Jesus, the son of God.

#### **Accountability group ...**

This speaks for itself. We don’t support “lone rangers” because we have no way of knowing what they are really doing or if they go astray in doctrine or lifestyle. However, if they are involved with a local accountability group, such detours in character or convictions cannot be hidden. Should the group fail to inform us of such deviation, they will all lose support. In the States we have the tendency to cover up the sins of a preacher out of loyalty or fear of that man’s power and influence but the Word of God says to rebuke an elder publically so that others will fear. Fear what? Fear public rebuke, fear the sin that can ruin their lives, fear the chastisement of Holy God.

Am I trying to imply that we have never had a problem, that we do all things perfectly? No, we have had some, but not many because we are thorough in our initial investigation. We have investigated some men up to seven years before approving

them for support, though normally we take only two or three. But even with the greatest investigative care and proven record in ministry, over the years, men are tempted and men fall. I have made my point by sharing the failures of others, so let me now share the failure of our own ministry.

2008 was a tragic year in particular. We had worked with the same preacher in Honduras as our national director for many years. He had been exemplary with never a penny missing. The preachers had always gotten their funds on time and the reports had come back complete, precise and quickly. This past year however, I turned over the completing of our feeding center project to him. It had been supervised by one of my American contacts originally but when I went down for my son’s wedding in March 2007 I found that he was supposedly buying materials that never materialized; plumbing, electrical wiring, half the bricks for our huge building, etc. Over three thousand dollars were unaccounted for. When this happened I asked our national director to take over the project and to begin with, he was doing great and saving us a lot of money. But in 2008 he began to steal from us by using some funds to help build his own house, and for other personal causes. He had gotten himself in debt and saw our funds as the way to get out of that debt. When I learned of his sin and had the proof, I confronted him. After a day he repented with tears but so far, to my knowledge, and I do monitor this continually, he has made no restitution as promised. He stole, we think, at least \$12,000 which was enough to keep us from being able to complete the project. How did I find out about all this? One of our pastors informed me when he noticed irregularities and obtained proof. What did I do about it? Well, I fired him for one, dropped all his support and have publically acknowledged his sin among the pastors we work with. Many of his church members were already aware of his actions but were too shy to tell me. His ministry is over until he fully repents, makes restitution and has time to regain his integrity, if such time truly exists for him. (And I will be glad to assist him in that restoration.) Repentance and restitution seem essential for restoration. Repentance and restitution are the husband and wife that give birth to the child “restoration”. Without the participation of the first two, the baby can never truly be born. You can fake it if you know “church lingo” but you’ll only be kidding yourself as others will eventually see right through you. By the way, we have pinched pennies, made more personal donations, etc. and the initial project is just about finished. We have done this without asking you the donors to give more. It was not your fault we were stolen from so I did not want you to bear the burden of it. The buck stopped here.

#### **Writing reports ...**

This is accountability from their side of the world. Our opinion is that if you can take the time to write a check twelve times a year, they can take the time to write a report three times a year and if not, we’ll just drop their support and give it to someone who will appreciate it more. For years as we grew, this task outgrew us and we quite honestly lost control of it; but thanks to my son in law, Michael Horne, we have a new computer program, which he wrote, that informs us of any preacher that has not written. A report is due from every supported preacher, every four months. At the beginning of the fourth month the computer generates an email to the directors of each group we work with giving them the names of any preachers in their group who have not sent in their reports yet. They are given 30 days to get it to us. If they don’t, they are dropped—permanently. Since we implemented this program several months ago, we have dropped over 100 preachers and given their support to as many new men who are worthy and hungry and will honor their commitment to report to their ministry part-

## With the Lord and whole once again

For years in churches I have told the story of Pastor Anandam who, in spite of death threats, continued going to a certain village to preach. On one occasion three men tied him to a post and drew a sword to cut off his head. He shifted his weight at the right moment and the blade, aimed at his neck, hit just below his shoulder and his severed arm dropped to the ground. After many months in a hospital he was released and returned to the same village and began preaching again. In short order, two of the three men were converted and one of them became a deacon in the new church. When I first met him I asked what he would like to have and he requested a prosthetic arm so that he could baptize his own converts. A small church in Georgia bought him one to his delight. On each trip to India I have made it a point to visit with he and his wife and this past January was no exception, only this time, he could only take baby steps and his entire body shook as he stood, walked and talked. It was apparent that this servant who had started more than 50 churches and led more than 7000 souls to Christ was soon to be going home to the Lord. Now I have received the email below from our director, Pastor Swatantra Kumar:

*I am sorry to inform you one of our pastors, D. Anandam, the preacher whose arm was cut off by the non Christians long back and whom you met several times and even in your recent visit he met your good self, died on 15<sup>th</sup> November at his village due to cardiac arrest. When he had the heart attack I got the telephone message by one of his church members and immediately I rushed to the village. There are no hospitals in that village. So with a great difficulty I brought him to Rajahmundry and spend my money for his medical tests and finally he died. After his death again I took the body to his native place and many of his church members paid their last tributes and respects to their departed spiritual leader. The coffin box also became a problem. My men from Rajahmundry got the coffin box in a taxi and I arranged the burial for the full satisfaction of the church members and also his family members.*



*Before his death he informed me that he was very grateful to you and to Final Frontiers for feeding him and supporting him for the last fifteen years. He was very grateful to you because in your last visit he came and took a photograph with your good self. He remembered all those incidence. After all this he specially prayed for you, for me and for our ministries and after the prayer he simply closed his eyes and died. The people surrounded him including the nurses and the doctor surprised after hearing the statements from his mouth.*

*His son who is aged about 30 years who is already trained by his father will be the next pastor in that church. Please pray for him. I spent my money for all expenses. This is for your kind information.*



Together  
Effectively  
Advancing the  
Ministry

**From:** Alejandro Gomez Gonzalez  
**Location:** Huehuetenango, Guatemala

**Total amount of TEAM funds received:**  
\$207.00

### What were the funds used for?

This money was divided in two parts, I gave a half to a pastor is working a campo blanco (a village where a new church is in the process of being started) and the other part I bought a sound equipment and a microphone for a congregation.

### Do you have any special needs can pray about?

Please pray for the pastors, who are working in the Campos blancos and churches here in Guatemala.

Receive a cordial greeting from me and all the beneficiary pastors, we wish you a lot of success in the precious ministry that God has commended you.

After my short greeting, I want to inform you the following:  
First I want to thank you deeply for the support that you have sent toward the ministry in the area of

Huehuetenango, San Marcos and El Quiche. The pastors are very grateful to God and to you for this economic support that they are receiving. Praise the Lord!

They are always praying for you and for other pastors that are having a lot of economic needs. For them this offering is a great help and blessing. Please brothers keep praying for us.



TEAM funding is based upon two principles, one Biblical and the other practical. Biblically, that the weapons of our warfare are spiritual. We need to provide assistance to groups of preachers who can wisely and collectively use the funds to purchase needed supplies to advance the spread of the Gospel. And from a practical standpoint; that there is no end to what can be accomplished if those working together are not concerned with who gets the credit.

For more information about TEAM projects, see page 19



## Daily Bread

By Swatantra Kumar, National Director, Andhra Pradesh, India

This woman's husband died in an accident. Since that time she has been suffering with chronic TB. Her physical condition will not allow her to work or even to help other women folk in the domestic jobs. For her survival she is begging on the streets. She has only one child, a daughter aged about 8 years. Because of her poverty this girl is not going to any school. She is also accompanying her mother for begging.



One day, all of a sudden when they were begging in a street, this woman noticed a group of small children standing in a queue with plates for food in their hands as if they were waiting to be fed. This woman waited there and observed what is going on. To her surprise about 50 to 60 children formed in the queue and received food and curry from the Pastor and his wife at the church, which is one of the feeding centers of Final Frontiers Foundation in India. This woman observed every thing and the next day this woman sent her daughter to stand in the queue. She thanked God they have provided good meals for her child.



She started sending her daughter every day for food. Some times as a hungry human being this woman was tempted to go and stand in the queue because of her starvation. One day she also went for food. The Pastor is very strict and principled man. He has not provided food for this woman but he allowed his daughter to have food. The pastor's wife encouraged the children to come every day at least for one hour to learn some Bible stories and informed them to attend the church regularly. Most of the children's relatives started attending the church because of the feeding centers. Many parents are poverty stricken, some are handicapped, sending their children for food. This woman also needs food but there is no one to help her.

To our surprise one day when they were providing food and after that the children started eating, the pastor's wife carefully watched the child, she would simply eat only half of the food and the remaining she wants to give it to her mother so with a false impression she left the queue as if she wants to throw the remaining food in the trash but instead she ran to give it to her mother. The people had been thinking that she was getting more than enough to eat each day and she was discarding the remaining food. This completely changed the heart of the pastor's wife and she invited that woman to come and take food and at the same time the pastor's wife asked that woman to clean the plates every day. This woman happily accepted the

proposal of the pastor's wife and by doing that job providing food for herself. All the credit goes to Final Frontiers for arranging feeding centers in India. By these feeding centers the children are learning Bible, memorizing Bible verses and regularly praying for Final Frontiers and bringing their relatives to church. India needs such type of Feeding Centers.

This picture shows an Indian cow boy. Actually he is an orphan boy. When he was three years old both of his parents died in a fire in their village. Now he is eight and his duty is to go to rich peoples houses and take their cows, buffaloes, she buffaloes and take them to the river and wash them. Every day he would clean about six and for each he is paid five cents so every day he earns about thirty cents. With that money he will buy whatever he can to eat and then will sleep under the trees, at railway stations, at bus stations or wherever he is. He is free as a bird.



Some times, like in the rainy season or summer the owners will not give their animals to this boy for cleaning so during those days he will suffer and he will starve. Due to heavy rains recently this boy suffered without food for several days so he started begging. All of a sudden he happened to see a long queue of small children standing in front of a church for food. So he himself went there and stood in the queue. He did not have even a plate to stand so the pastor's wife who is serving the food in our feeding centers of our Final Frontiers observed this boy and started talking with him and got the entire details of his life. She offered food to him and he ate it and after some time, with tears this boy requested the pastor and his wife to provide some accommodation, clothing and food so that he will stop cleaning the animals every day because he wants to study in a school. But how is his desire to be fulfilled? Immediately, one of the pastors supported by Final Frontiers took this boy to his home to live with him and care for him as his own son.

Because of Final Frontiers' Touch a Life feeding centers and the food for unsponsored children given through the Daily Bread program he now has food, clothing and shelter. The feeding centers of Final Frontiers are really helping our Indian street children, orphans and other poverty stricken children. I congratulate Final Frontiers for opening such feeding centers in India. Now he has stopped the cleaning of animals. There are many boys and girls like this one but because of the feeding center this boy is privileged to become a good boy and go to school and learn. He desire is fulfilled by Final Frontiers.

*The Daily Bread Program is funded by those who give special offerings to help us buy food in bulk to feed children who are not yet sponsored through our Touch A Life program. See page 12.*

## We, for the sake of Christ, all things bear.

**By Yosef Rehma**

Fatima was born in Syria but when she was two years old her father divorced her mother. It was so difficult time for a mother with three kids to raise in a society that looks upon divorced woman as a spot or disgrace to her family and her children as well, so after a little while she got married to a man from Saudi Arabia who was already married with two wives and had six children.

So Fatima grow up most of her life in a very complicated situation, but every summer she was allowed to come to Syria to visit her birth father with his new wife and stay with them for couple weeks and then go back to Saudi Arabia. At the age of sixteen she became rebellious against everything she had grown up knowing. By force, her family kept her in Saudi Arabia in a very strict Islamic School. She spent four years in this school and she came out more confused and rebellious than when she entered. Her father passed away shortly after her graduation and that caused her to want to return to Syria to visit her grandmother and other family members. Because of her rebellion and his recent death, she had become overwhelmed with questions: What is after death? Why is Allah a very confused God? Etc.

That summer she came to Syria to visit her grandmother and started to share with her all her questions, her grandmother introduce her to a friend that had been a Muslim but had converted to Christianity, so they start to talk and share with each other their relationship with God and our this new friend, who was a member of our church made arrangements for her to visit us and to talk about her questions. After several visits she accept our gift of a Bible and took it home to read it; my dear friend from that day when she started to read the Bible, God started to work in her heart. One night she spent seven hours reading God's Word without stopping and after ten days from starting to read the Bible she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. From the day that God saved her, He changed this women and she become a great witnesses for Him. After some time she went back to Saudi Arabia and started to share her faith in Christ with her family. When her father heard that she was no longer a Muslim he confronted her about her faith and she told him why she now believed in Jesus Christ. Her family decided to let her talk to a Muslim leader hoping to change her mind but after meeting with this leader, he told them to give her two weeks to consider her fate and if she didn't go back to Islam they should implement their Islamic rules and regulations. The time passed slowly as Fatima, not yet even twenty years old, knew the fate that awaited her. On the final day she boldly testified to them that she would not and could not deny Jesus, no matter the cost; so they appointed her brother to kill her. Knowing that her final day was imminent, she wrote this poem and asked all of us to keep sending Bibles to her people so that God would open the eyes of all Muslims with His truth, as He had opened hers. So, according to her dying request, would you please help us to send Bibles into Saudi Arabia and throughout the Islamic world and give someone the opportunity to be saved, Just let me remind you each one it cost only \$3.00.

Now let us share with you the translation of a poem she wrote just before her execution. It was written in Arabic and translated for our benefit.

**We, for the sake of Christ, all things bear.**

May the lord Jesus guide you, Oh Muslims,  
and enlighten your hearts that you might love others.  
The forum does not revile the Master of the prophets.

It is for the display of the truth, and for you it was revealed,  
this is the truth which you do not know.  
What we profess are the words of the Master of the prophets,  
we do not worship the cross, and we are not possessed,  
we worship the Lord Jesus, the light of the world.  
We left Mohammed, and we do not follow in his path.  
We follow Jesus Christ, the clear Truth.

Truly, we love our homeland and we are not traitors.  
We take pride that we are Saudi citizens.  
How could we betray our homeland, our dear people?  
The homeland of my grandfathers, for it I am writhing.

We grow up without any free choice,  
but God doesn't attend to us this way,  
He gave us free will to choose even our religion and our beliefs.  
He prepared in my life a special people to present for me the  
real message of life, the freedom from sin through Jesus Christ.

Syria the beautiful land, God has set up a place to spread His  
message of new life, to proclaim the real love to my people.  
There are tears on my cheeks, and Oh! my heart is sad for  
those who become Christians, to whom you are so cruel!

And Messiah Says: "Blessed are the persecuted".  
And we for the sake of Christ we all things bear.

What is it to you that we are infidels?  
You do not enter our graves, as if with us buried.  
Enough - your swords or guns do not concern me,  
nor evil nor disgrace.

Your threats do not trouble me and we are not afraid.

By God, I am unto death a Christian – Truly.  
I cry for what passed by, a sad life.

I was far from the Lord Jesus for many years.  
Oh history record! And bear witness, Oh Witnesses!  
We are Christians - in the path of Christ we tread.

Take from me this word, and note it well,  
I got saved! I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.  
You see, Jesus is my Lord, and He is the best of protectors.  
I advise you to pity yourself, to clap your hands in mourning.  
Look to your ugly hatred.

If your religion does not teach to love people that God created,  
what kind of religion my beloved brother do you believe?

Where is the humanity, the love, and where are you?  
Listen to people who preach among you!

Read the Bible the light of the world.  
Read the Bible, which is the Word of God.  
Christianity is not a new age movement to destroy the Middle  
East (Islam).

It is not the Beast that's coming to destroy the Arabs.  
Christianity is God's love toward us.

It is the peace and love in my heart toward you.  
Oh Muslim, we love you and no matter what we pray for you,  
that is what our Savior taught us.

Oh my dear brother, I knew my time is coming soon in your  
hands, I don't hate you, I'll pray for you even in heaven to ac-  
cept Jesus as your personal Savior.  
I'm praying that Jesus the Messiah, will change this nation and  
spread His love among you, Oh Muslims.

*continued from page 8*

ners here in American and elsewhere. It's working like a charm!

As I have stated, we as Americans are making serious errors in the way that we are now supporting national preachers. It is a common thing now for me to get a call from a pastor asking me to help a preacher that just happens to be in America looking for support. He will tell me that the man came to his church, has a great ministry and needs our help. When I begin to ask questions the holes in the story begin to appear. How long have you known him? How did you meet him? Who recommended him to you? Where did he hear about your church? Have you ever met his family? Have you visited his ministry in his country? And while some of these men turn out to be diamonds in the rough, many are just charlatans and fortune seekers. They know or heard of other preachers in their country who came to America and went home with hundreds of dollars of support every month so they borrowed money, bought a ticket and came to America, not knowing anyone here, and hoped to duplicate what he had done. It is nothing more than another version of a "gold rush".

Should we support national preachers? Yes we should, as many as we can and then squeeze the wallet and fund a few more. They have a burden that exceeds ours because it is their own countrymen they are reaching. They have all the advantages over us and frankly, in most cases, only need slight financial help. But in our zeal to help them win the world, we need to be good stewards and support the right men. Obviously you cannot go to every country and do the investigative work to make that determination. That is the purpose for which God has raised up Final Frontiers and other ministries like ours. Check out the organization you are going to trust to recommend national preachers to you. Learn their criteria for support qualification, their requirements, their policies and if you are satisfied that they are good stewards then as they pass the offering plate, let your stewardship begin there with them. Now would be a great time, in the face of nationwide economic crisis, for you to support a preacher somewhere who needs your help.

## The Daily Bread Storerooms around the world need to be restocked

We are feeding literally hundreds of children every day who have no sponsor through our Daily Bread ministry. To see the effectiveness you need only have read the article on page 10.

Simply put, this program allows us to feed children in desperate need now, while we search for a sponsor for them.

I cannot express the importance of this ministry nor the testimony it leaves in the villages and homes where it is carried out. Even if you cannot commit to a monthly pledge of \$35 to sponsor a child, can you give a special offering and buy a bag of beans or rice today so that we can feed them tomorrow? We offer three sizes of each to meet your financial capabilities.

Currently food is being distributed in Honduras, Ghana and India. Remaining surplus is targeted for Cambodia and Thailand.



### Bag of rice

25 lb. bag is \$20.00  
50 lb. bag is \$39.00  
100 lb. bag is \$76.00



### Bag of beans

25 lb. bag is \$34.00  
50 lb. bag is \$67.00  
100 lb. bag is \$131.00



# Final Frontiers SOCIETY

*A society of Believers, dedicated to distributing Bibles around the world*

By the distribution of Bibles and New Testaments primarily, we have been able to plant a new church in the city of Damascus, Syria. Of all places, it is near Straight Street. That's right, the very street where Saul, who was to become the Apostle Paul, was taken to heal after his conversion on the road from Jerusalem to Damascus. After "seeing the Light" (literally) he went on to preach around the Roman world. His first sermon however, according to the Bible, was preached in the synagogue in Damascus (right). This synagogue was later converted into a Muslim Mosque and still stands today.



Several years ago I was blessed to visit Syria and was privileged to enter the Omayyad Mosque and see where Paul first preached. Straight Street, which itself is only a few blocks long (pictured below), is just a short walk from the Omayyad Mosque. Incidentally, the great Moslem leader Saladin is buried in a garden off the northwest corner of the mosque. Going the opposite direction on Straight Street you find the Eastern Gate where Paul was let down in a basket to flee impending persecution and death. Twenty centuries later such fate still awaits modern day "Pauls" as they break ground long since abandoned to name Christ in Damascus again.

To finance the rent of a home to meet in and to cover the "clandestine expenses" we need about \$300 a month for the next three years. To support the pastor, who is not permitted by to work by law because he is a



Christian, we need another \$300 a month. If you are interested in helping with the expense of financing this historical church, please let us know. When will you ever have such an opportunity again, whether by monthly support or by a one time gift?

In the next issue, I'll tell you about our new church in Antioch. Dormant church plants are springing up again in our Lord's garden! We are tilling soil that has not been touched with the plow of the Gospel for centuries. We need your help.

## Welcome New Sponsorships

Sponsoring Family	Preacher	Country
Rich Percy Family, NC	Favio de Jesus Flores	Nicaragua
Larry & Patricia Spencer, OH	Favio de Jesus Flores	Nicaragua
Cornel Vanderlinden Family, CA	Mallipudi Rajeswara Rao	India
	Pettala Chinnabbaiah	India
	Palli Jeeva Ratnam	India
Milt & Cindy Matchak, CA	Phan Sophun	Cambodia
Harley & Wanda Smith, MI	Rapaka Aseeravadam	India
Christopher & Jenny Frazier, MI	Francisco Ruben Lopez	Nicaragua
Lee & Karen Parsons, DE	Francisco Ruben Lopez	Nicaragua
Linda Reese, MO	Indugapalli Nuka Raju	India
Iglesia Biblica de Bassett, CA	Indugapalli Nuka Raju	India
First Baptist, Belpre OH	Jose Ismael Selva Castro	Nicaragua
Nathaniel Carden, Italy	Jose Ismael Selva Castro	Nicaragua
Brian & Lana Sexton, AL	Edward Wanyonyi Wekesa	Kenya
Elton Barber, MI	Isaias de Leon Ortiz	Guatemala
Brush Arbor Baptist, Orlando FL	Isaias de Leon Ortiz	Guatemala
Dennis & Wanda Lester, WV	Daniel Santos Mendez	Guatemala
Tom & Marcia Butler, GA	Daniel Santos Mendez	Guatemala
Cornerstone Baptist, Cumberland MD	Joaquin Ramirez Pablo	Guatemala
Dewey Smith, KY	Digumarthi Raja Ratnam	India
Glenn & Kum Boxley, MO	Digumarthi Raja Ratham	India
Thomas & Rachel Luerssen, VA	Raul Calmo Maldonado	Guatemala
Lupton Drive Baptist, Chattanooga, TN	Joselino Lorenzo Lopez	Guatemala
David & Jill Frazier, MI	Lorenzo Juan Perez	Guatemala
Joseph & Clara Snipes, SC	Daniel Dasrath Survey	India
Daniel & Paula Brown, MI	Chandra Shekar	India
Kevin & Stacey Carden, AL	P.D. Kurpanandam	India
Wayne Pettingill, MN	Kempanna Andhani	India
Dennis & Eileen Douvarjo, VA	Masa Thimoti	India
Judy Carey, TN	Edilberto M. Ramirez T.	Dominican Rep.

Sponsoring Family	Touch A Life Children	Country
Craig & Pamela Holland, MI	Chandra Rao	India
Suzannah and Jamie Williamson, GA	Agbodeka Gideon	Ghana
Reed Springs Baptist, Philadelphia, TN ...		
6th-8th grade SS Class	Karla Jackeline Guardado	Honduras
Women's SS Class	Jose Mario Maradiaga	Honduras
Roger & Pierrette Hall, GA	Emmanuel Agbodeka	Ghana
Denny & Malinda Walker, TN	Noelia Loemi Ramirez	Honduras
Mary Ward, GA	Adzoa Lanyo	Ghana
Jimmy & Kay Woodruff, TN	Mercedes Lizeth Guzman	Honduras
Madison & Lisa Day, AL	Yaslin Natalia Rivera	Honduras
	Yaslin Dayani Rivera	Honduras
Afu Ntiwa, GA	Justice Atsu	Ghana
Greg & Lisa Cavender, GA	Senyo Agbodeka	Ghana
Beacon Heights Baptist, GA	Sarah Wusah	Ghana
Elaine Mealor, GA	Saviour Abrantier	Ghana
Ray & Kristine Lepine, MI	Agbdeka Olando	Ghana
Michael & Patricia Moak, MI	Evelyn Galenor	Ghana
Roger & Dorothy Allen, MI	Selenia Vanessa Gonzales	Honduras
Jim & Kathie Sparling, MI	Gabriel Esau Sandres	Honduras
Harley & Helen Smith, MI	Fanny Melissa Moncada	Honduras
Floyd & Patricia Hindes, MI	Kenia Lizeth Salinas	Honduras



### VISIONARY TRIPS

**January:**  
India

**March:**  
Egypt  
Germany

**April:**  
Syria  
Turkey

**May:**  
Ghana  
Ivory Coast  
Liberia  
Sierra Leon  
Togo

**July, August:**  
Visionary Trips to  
Honduras

*(If your church wants to reserve a week for a group, please call us.)*



### CHURCH MEETINGS

**January:**  
Marion, NC  
San Antonio, TX  
Fort Worth, TX

**February:**  
Augusta, GA  
Augusta, GA  
Anthoy, KS

**March:**  
Manitou Beach, MI  
Caro, MI  
Cincinnati, OH

**April:**  
Moscow, PA  
Pittsfield, IL  
Central City, KY  
Springfield, IL  
Waterloo, IA

SCHEDULES

### Camel update ...

29 have been purchased so far. Our goal is 100. They are only \$50 each or a pack for \$250. Sorry, all we have are camels, no Jeru-Salems.



# Touch a Life

A child sponsorship ministry of the Final Frontiers Foundation  
[www.touchalife.net](http://www.touchalife.net)

By Jon Nelms

This was an interesting Christmas. Fewer sponsors were able to buy gifts than in previous years but those who did bought more than in the past. As orders arrived I was tempted to call some of you to see if you would adopt me!

The sad thing was that unlike previous years, we did not get enough funds to make sure each child received a gift. Usually there are sponsors who cannot afford a Christmas gift but so many people give \$20 for a stocking that we make sure all the kids at least get one. And by the way, if you want to see what came in the stockings this year, look at the following page. Altogether this year there were many children who received nothing for Christmas, but they are receiving food daily, school supplies, uniforms and everything else that comes along with your sponsorship, for which they and we say THANKYOU!

And let me put in a word here about the **Visionary Trips** for this summer. I know many of you like to go down and visit your child or just see the ministry. However this year we really need to know who is going. We can't do this "last minute" thing anymore. If you alone, or your family or a group are planning to go, you need to get in touch with us by the middle of February to make your tentative reservation. I'll be honest with you, if your family can afford a vacation, this would be a great way to do it. All the kids get excited when visitors come down. Sometimes a little girl or boy will come up to me and ask why their sponsor never comes to visit them. I try to explain to them the cost, etc. but they are children and don't really grasp the details of the "why not's". We do have great trips, clean air-conditioned rooms, great food and fun so let me know if you want to come.

At the time of the printing, photos from India and Ghana had not arrived so I can only share a sampling from Honduras. Enjoy!

Large and small food bags, dolls, shirts, bicycles, dresses, pants, shoes, games, cowboy hats, Frisbees, soccer balls, crayons and coloring books, basketballs, candy, backpacks, you name it and they got it. In fact, it might be interesting for you to look at our online store on our website to see what we have available ([www.touchalife.net](http://www.touchalife.net)). We have specialized gifts for Honduras, India and Ghana that you can buy for your child or any child.

This year, after eating, the children gathered outside in what will eventually be the courtyard that separates our feeding center/auditorium from our dormitories (for Visionary Trips and our Bible college students). There they were divided between those who received gifts and those who did not. As each recipient received their gifts, a photo was taken to be sent to the sponsor so they could see the actual gift they bought for their child. We do this for all gifts bought throughout the year in each country.



*This boy received numerous toys, a stocking, a bed and mattress and a large food bag to share with his family. Some received single gifts which they treasured while others, like those below, hit the jackpot!*



*Admittedly, it's hard to get these kids to smile for a picture, even when they are being showered with gifts. It seems they are all afraid of cameras.*



*What takes my smile away are all the children standing behind the rope in the background. They are the children who didn't receive a Christmas gift or even a Stocking. I hope next year they can each get something.*

## Christmas Stockings a big hit!

Several years ago my daughter Sara grew concerned. She was taking care to buy Christmas gifts for the little boy she sponsors in Honduras but was sad for the children whose sponsors were unable to give gifts. She came to me and asked if we could get them Christmas stockings so they would have something on Christmas morning. Why not!

I sat down and wrote an article in the Progress Report asking you to give \$20 to buy a stocking that we could fill with candy, toys and gospel literature. The idea was that these would be given to the pastors to pass out to needy children. First to our own sponsored children who receive no gifts and then to other children as a witnessing tool. The first year we bought hundreds, the second year even more, but this year, I suppose due to the economy, we were not able to do what we had done in the past; but we are thankful for all that was done and to you that made it possible.

One change we made was to make our own "stockings" which admittedly look more like hats. The reason for this is so that the child can wear them at night when they sleep in order to help them keep warm. Remember, most of these kids sleep on a dirt floor with little or no covering. If we can keep their heads warm, then that helps tremendously. An added benefit is that it provided a job for one of the church members to sew them all.

Here are two snapshots of a boy's stocking and a girl's. We have not received photos from India or Ghana in time for this publication so these are from Honduras only. I think you'll see that we got a bargain for your \$20. We couldn't even fit it all in the stocking/hat.



I hope next year that many more of you will be able to help us spread the Good News through this stocking/hat whose colors show the blood of Christ and the purity of our hearts, once that blood has washed away our sins. If you can put aside just \$1.67 a month you'll be able to afford one.

Do we have your email address yet?

Register today at [finalfrontiers.org](http://finalfrontiers.org)  
Or send us an email at:  
[webmaster@finalfrontiers.org](mailto:webmaster@finalfrontiers.org)



## Visionary Trips 2009

Our Visionary Trips to Honduras will allow you to:

- ◆ meet and spend time with our Touch A Life children, visit in their homes and help serve the children in the feeding centers.
- ◆ meet some of the pastors supported by Final Frontiers and share in their church services.
- ◆ have an opportunity to go out with a Honduran church member to witness and pass out tracts.
- ◆ help feed desperately hungry children who have no sponsor but are fed by our Daily Bread ministry.
- ◆ help canvas new communities and villages where we are starting new churches.
- ◆ go shopping for gifts for the children and souvenirs for your family and friends

If you would like to go, call our office to register. **1-800-522-4324 ext.101**. Please leave your name and phone number and we will get back with you.

The cost per person (except for the international airfare), which includes travel within Honduras, great food and clean, modern lodging is only \$650 per person. The only other funds you will need are for souvenirs and snacks. A \$100 deposit is non-refundable. Deadlines for registration is four months before the trip date. Payment in full is required three months before the trip date.

Churches and schools are encouraged to book a week for their own group to go down. We can custom-make a trip just for your ministry needs for a week that you choose. We can even arrange for you to help us start a new church while you are there if you would like to do that.

Trip dates are now available for booking during the summer of 2009 for individuals, families and groups. Young adults and teenagers seeking training as short term missionaries are also welcome to come and special attention will be given to your training needs. Trips dates are: July 10-17, July 17-24, July 24-31 and July 31– August 7. Custom dates can be arranged for groups of 12 or more.

### Not sure if you can afford to go?

If you wait till the last minute you probably can't, so we have set up a program to help you save the funds you need to pay for your trip in advance.

We have a "Lay Away" plan for those who want to put aside a little each month to plan for a trip in the next one or two years. The savings program is set up for six, twelve and twenty-four months. That way you can plan your trip for as early as next summer or for as much as two years from now, depending on how much you can afford to put aside each month.

How does it work? Easy really; you set up automatic payments from your bank account to go into an account we set up on your behalf (example, \$50 or \$100 monthly). You are receipted on a monthly basis for how much you give and when the total is there, you pack your bags and take the trip of a life time. Of course there are details you will want to read about so if this interests you, get in touch with Daniel Nelms at one of the following:

**Daniel@finalfrontiers.org or 822-500-4324 ext. 101**

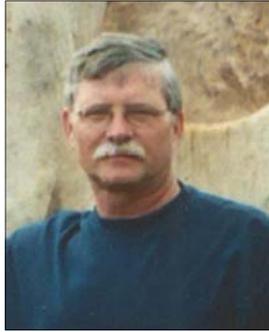
## Before the gods will I sing

By Ron Charles

*"I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee" (Psalm 138:1).*

In the Bible the area that is now known as the country of Albania was called Illyria (Illyricum—Romans 15:19). Albanian tradition claims that Illyria was settled by the survivors of Troy who had fled the city after its conquest by the Greeks. As the known world's geographical borders changed through conquest, Illyria (Albania) found itself victimized by these conquests. They were conquered in succession by the Hittites, Greeks, Persians, Romans, Slavs, Byzantium, and the Turks. The Turks brought Albania under Ottoman Islamic rule until 1912, when they proclaimed themselves independent. But, although they were officially a republic, the primary religious persuasion was Islam, with Roman Catholic and Orthodox rounding out the religious picture.

In 1944 communist partisans led by Enver Hoxha, took over and allied with the hard line policies of the Stalinist Soviet Union. In 1960, Enver Hoxha's hard line communist government broke with the USSR over de-Stalinization. This led to the development of strong alliances with Communist China. But when China began to soften its strong Maoist policies after his death, Albania openly attacked China's new policies, resulting in China absolving its diplomatic relations with Albania. This left Albania totally cut off from the rest of the world. Their official policy became that no one was allowed in to Albania and no one was allowed out—total and complete isolation. Large scale ruthless and horrific purges followed throughout the 1970's and early 80's, which successfully eliminated a large portion of Albania's intellectuals and thinkers, political and military leaders, writers and poets, people of influence, economists, physician specialists, educators, religious leaders, participants in religious worship, and anyone who had the audacity to think freely and dared to question any of Hoxha's policies. This purge was especially difficult for those who believed in God. Ever since Hoxha's ruthless form of Stalinistic communism (considered to be the most brutal and calloused of all of the communist regimes) gained total control of Albania, the practice of religion had been a crime punishable by imprisonment. But during the 70's and 80's, not only were practitioners of religion and religious worship (all forms, but especially Christianity and Islam) imprisoned by the hundreds, but they faced death regularly because of their faith. In addition, *all* churches and mosques were closed; many were burnt down or torn down, many more were turned into governmental facilities like museums, and many more were turned into storage facilities, stables or were left abandoned, becoming victims of nature's elements. In 1947 Hoxha declared that religion was an opium of the people that must be stripped from their society. Persecution of those who practiced religion began shortly thereafter. In 1967 Hoxha declared that Albania was proud to be the very first truly atheist country to ever exist in the world, and that all religion would be expelled from its borders, that "Albanianism" was their religion, that God does not exist in Albania, and that if there has to be a god in Albania, then Stalin, the "Architect of atheism," was to serve as their one and only true example. By 1971 the effort was in full swing to eliminate God, religion, and practitioners of religious worship from the country of Albania. A special police



force was established whose sole purpose was to eliminate God from Albania, by eliminating all who believed in God.

So, from the 15<sup>th</sup> century until 1912 Albania was officially part of the Ottoman Empire and Islam was their primary religion. Although Christianity was allowed (Orthodox and Catholic only), it was not encouraged, nor was it allowed without periodic persecution of the Christians. Hence, Jesus was not welcome in Albania for almost 500 years. Then from the end of World War II, not only was Jesus not welcome, but God and religion of any kind were not welcome. Albania became the first country to constitutionally declare that they were an atheist country and that Stalin was the true example to whom they would turn to for inspiration. Hence, in essence, Stalin began to fill the place in Albanian society that was once occupied by religion and God.

Dictator Enver Hoxha died on April 11, 1985, but the communist government that he had established continued to rule. Nevertheless during the late 80's, with the fall of communism throughout Eastern Europe, the communist government began to loosen its iron grip on the people of Albania. By 1990, certain people (high ranking political and business leaders) were allowed to travel outside of the country and a very, very small trickle of outsiders (primarily from Turkey, the former communist Eastern European countries and Greece, and a very few westerners) began to be allowed to come in to the country. Although it was still officially forbidden to practice religion and God was formally "not allowed" in Albania, by 1990, this policy was not being regularly enforced. In fact, one mosque in Tirana, the capital city, one Catholic church and an Orthodox church were allowed to re-open in 1990. Although the people were not prevented from attending these facilities, the government still did not look favorably upon any religion or religious institution, and there were no funds offered by the government to repair the facilities. So, even as late as the last quarter of 1990, Jesus was a stranger to the majority of Albanians, with most everyone below the age of 70, never hearing His name, and having no idea who He was (is). Finally in March 1992 the communist government was ousted in UN supervised general elections, religious freedom was restored for the first time in 80 years, and freedom to worship as a Christian, with no threat of reprisal or persecution, was restored for the first time in 500 years.

It was in February 1990 that I was first invited to Albania by the Director of Archaeology in order to help in the excavation of a Roman amphitheater discovered in Durres, Albania. This led to the founding of the Albania-American Archaeological Society and our opportunity to remain in Albania to serve not only as archaeological investigators but also as "tent-making" missionaries. Soon after my arrival in Albania, I was joined by my oldest son, who wanted to help in our efforts. Even though he was in college at the time, he set aside some time from his studies to join me and to help in whatever capacity he would be needed. I had asked him to bring his guitar with him when he came, hoping that perhaps it would be useful in our foundation laying efforts.

Soon after my son's arrival I felt very strongly one morning that we should walk down to a small mini-park near downtown and to have him sing some Christian songs. You have to realize that this was still the early part of 1990, and the Hoxha commu-

nist regime was still in control, although they had begun by then to loosen their grip on the people slightly. Nevertheless, it was still formally “on the law books” of the Albanian government that religion, the exercise of religion, religious worship (especially Christianity) or religious tolerance were strictly forbidden. And considering Albania’s past ruthless reputation regarding religious persecution, few were prepared to “test the waters,” fearing a quick reversal of the more tolerant governmental actions to that of the more harsh policy regarding religion to which the people were accustomed. Therefore, Christian songs were still not being sung in public, especially in a public park. The main focal point of the park had been a very large statue of Joseph Stalin standing on a marble pedestal. On the pedestal below the feet of the statue was a bronze plaque that read (English translation) *Joseph Stalin—Architect of Atheism*. For almost 40 years the government officials and people of Albania had regularly placed flowers and money (giving the appearance of an offering) on the pedestal in front of the plaque honoring Stalin. That morning my son and I, along with another friend who later remained in Albania as a missionary, walked down to the park and sat down on Stalin’s pedestal right in front of the plaque that gave glory to atheism and Stalin; the unofficial “god” of Albania as acknowledged by Dictator Enver Hoxha through his respect and unending loyalty to Stalin and his forced admiration of Stalin upon the Albanian people.

My son and our friend had taken their guitars and began to play and sing to the Lord. They first sang the Christian song that was popular in the late 80’s and 90’s entitled *We give you praise*. This was followed by the songs *Jesus, name above all names* and *Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, there is something about that name*, among others. We were expecting any moment for the police to come and stop them from singing, and possibly even arrest them. But, what we expected, never happened. A small group of people soon gathered to listen. Within 15-20 minutes the group had grown to about a hundred (including many policemen and at least two governmental officials). As they continued to sing, the sweet presence of God’s peace began to fill the area. People who had never heard of the name of Jesus before began to cry and began to question, “Who are they singing about?” I took that as an opportunity to stand up on the pedestal and to tell them who Jesus was and what He had done for them with His death and resurrection. When I finished, they wanted to hear more. So, I told them that we were going to be talking more about Jesus in a study regarding Him that night, and told them where we were having the study. Many of those people showed up in order to learn more about Christ, and became brand new believers in Him as their Savior. After inviting them to the study about Jesus, my son and friend again began to sing about Jesus. All of the people listened with enthusiasm. Then they began to ask them to sing the songs in Greek, and Chinese and Russian and Italian and Albanian. My son and friend responded that they did not know those languages, but that they would play on their guitars, if the people wanted to sing the songs. So, for another two hours my son and friend played and sang worship songs to Jesus and played while the people themselves, who were gathered around them and gathered around the pedestal (many of whom had only heard about Him that very day for the first time), sang to Jesus, One particular man who was there listening, I remember vividly. He was an old man (he later said that he was 85 years old) who sat down on the pedestal with my son as he was singing, and cried like a baby as he listened to the music. After about an hour of him listening, I sat down by him and asked him if I can help him or pray with him. He said no, that he was crying for joy. He said that he had been born during the time of Turkish rule when the

name of Jesus was forbidden to be spoken (his mother was a secret Christian who used to sing in a whisper in his ear, songs about Jesus). But that during the time of King Zog (1925-1939), there were songs about Jesus that had been sung in the Catholic and Orthodox churches, and that when Hoxha began his “blood-letting,” the name of Jesus was wiped from the memory of the Albanian people. He still remembered some of the songs that his mother used to whisper to him (she had been a victim of Hoxha’s purge of religion) when he was a child, and felt that he would never hear them again. So, today he could not stop crying for joy as he heard the songs about Jesus for the first time in 50 years, and remembered that his mother had given her life, rather than to denounce her faith in Jesus. His comment was, “Hoxha said that God does not exist and that Albania will be the first nation to survive for millenniums without the crutch of God or the opium of religion. Now, he is dead, his government is weak and getting weaker daily; but God survives and is again King, and Jesus is being praised for the first time since the World War conflict against the Nazis.” His words made me join him in crying.

As my son and our friend sat before the “god” of atheistic Albania, they sang praises and worshipped God, which in turn helped break the bonds of spiritual bondage that had choked the life out of an entire nation.

Today, the same testimonies are being shared throughout the Islamic world. Where praises to Jesus have for so long been forbidden, God is allowing songs of praise and adoration to “slip through” the cracks of Islam, giving comfort and peace to hundreds who had formerly been held in the clutches of religious darkness. So often, as we minister in the Islamic world, doors of opportunity are cracked open by music and songs of praise. Truly, as it was with the Psalmist, today God is using worship and praise followed by teaching and discipleship to break the spiritual bondage of the Islamic multitudes and to open doors, in this last days push for the salvation of the Islamic world. As a result, the gods of hate and terrorism are being undermined, the gods of religious darkness and hopelessness are being diluted, and the gods of intolerance are being challenged; giving way to the God of hope, love, compassion, freedom and assured salvation—Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior and soon coming King. Yet it is not without a price. As we minister in Muslim countries so often we have seen Christians who have had their tongues cut out because they were caught singing songs of praise to Jesus; Christians with their hands cut off because they raised them in praise to our Savior or those who had their eyes gouged out because they were caught reading the Bible. Yet, they still remain faithful to their Lord and Savior. We need your help as we continue our ministry to the Muslim Middle East. We need you to remember these persecuted believers in your prayers and we need your support so that we can continue to provide the encouragement and hope that they so desperately need during these times of such severe persecution.

Ron Charles is a missionary, professor, archaeologist, author and executive board member of Final Frontiers. He travels extensively worldwide giving lectures regarding the correlation between archaeology and the Bible and has photographic evidence taken on his digs to such places as the fiery furnace. He will be with Jon Nelms in India in January and later this year is scheduled to spend several months in Morocco acting as an historical consultant for a movie being produced on the life of Nebuchadnezzar called “The Ancient of Days”. He is available for speaking at churches as well.



## Prayer and Praise Reports from around the world ...

*If you desire to help with any of these needs, please designate your gifts accordingly.*

**Cambodia** From Vek Huong Taing  
National Director



I just returned back to Phnom Penh from visiting our ministries in Banteay Meachey, Battambang and Kompong Chhnang provinces. By God's grace our ministry in general is doing fine. Last

week-end on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, our church in Phnom Penh had a water baptism at Kompong Som beach. There were 141 received water baptism on that day. My wife and I give thanks to God for your vital part in helping us to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in reaching Cambodia for Him.

In May 2008, God gave me vision to saturate Cambodia with the gospel of Jesus Christ through personal evangelism called "Weekly Evangelism Club" (WEC). I am trusting God to raise up 5,000 Christians in Cam-



bodia to join this project. Each person who joins this project is committed to share Christ with one person per week using the "Four Spiritual Law" booklet in the Khmer language as the witnessing tool. As of today there are more than 500 Cambodian Christians who joins the WEC project.

The first report which I received from this project was September 2008. Following is the 4 monthly statistical reports of the WEC project:

Year	Month	# Membership	# Expose	# Win
<b>2008</b>	September	446	1,795	259
	October	446	2,257	374
	November	507	3,330	620
	December	545	2,932	600
<b>Total</b>			<b>10,314</b>	<b>1,853</b>

Number of people who have registered to join the WEC project and have committed to share

**# Membership** : Christ on a weekly basis.

Number of people who were introduced to

**# Expose** : Christ through the WEC project.

Number of people who have prayed to receive

**# Win** : Christ through the WEC project.

**India** From Pastor K. Swatantra Kumar  
Regional Director, Andhra Pradesh



By this time you might have heard lot about Orissa refugees. In our city and in the nearby cities many churches irrespective of denominations collected used clothing, utensils, rice and

also money and with the prior permission of the police we took all the stuff in two trucks and went to Orissa and distributed to the people directly. I myself also accompanied this group and visited many houses.

Many Orissa refugees ran away to the nearby places like our state. Even in our city there are many refugees taking shelter in some schools and at some places. We are also try to provide at least a single meal for them. There are some pastor's young wives and teenage daughters who are raped by the non Christians are also in our Rajahmundry hospital for treatment. They have ran away and taking treatment here. The police kept a strict vigil to enquire who are helping to the refugees. Because I have good connection with the police department they are not objecting. These raped victims, if they would have admitted in the private hospital they will be cured soon and will be discharged. If it is in government hospital as you know there is a common talk in India that if a patient went to the government hospital his dead body will come out but not the cured person. So many of these women who are in the hospital requesting for prayer help as well as financial help.

There are some more people who are in our central prison, men and women. The police in Orissa filed fictitious cases against them with false allegations. So the court imposed some fine for them and those who are unable to pay the fine are in the prisons. Because the prisons in Orissa are loaded, some prisoners sent to Rajahmundry prison. If any one pays the fine amount for them they will be released and will go back to their homes. This is the pathetic condition of the refugees. Please pray for them.

Hope you are doing well and maintaining good health. We need you. If you really healthy and strong that will provide food, shelter, clothing to many national pastors and also to many orphan children around the world. You do not know how many hundreds and thousands of people around the world are praying for you. You are privileged to have prayers by so many people.

**Syria** Yosef Rehma  
Final Frontiers, National Director



Because of the attack by USA forces in October, all our preachers have had to go into hiding. A number of the Christians have been arrested and their vehicles burned. Persecution, is actually on the rise,

though we didn't think that was possible. Please pray that we will be safe and strong. Persecution is not new to us, it is a way of life. We all bear scars in our bodies, now we will have more.

## Now it's your turn ...

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (home) _____ (office) _____	Email: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I want to receive the <i>Progress Report</i> on-line rather than by regular mail <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if this is a new address or phone number.
--	--

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

Also, please contact me regarding sponsorship of:

___ A National Preacher	___ A country's <i>TEAM</i>	other _____
___ A Touch A Life Child	___ Final Frontiers Society (Bibles)	
___ Bags of Hope	___ Daily Bread	

## Sponsorship Information

Sponsoring a **national preacher** is a simple process. Simply tell us which country you are most burdened for and we'll provide you with information on preachers living there who are approved for sponsorship. If you don't have a preference, we'll assign you a preacher from our most needy list.

Sponsorship is \$35.00 monthly, however, since we get each preacher two sponsors, you have the option of providing double sponsorship (\$70.00 monthly) if you prefer. Your \$35 sponsorship includes \$10 support of our ministry. This gives our foundation funds to operate with as well as providing assistance to preachers who do not yet have sponsorship. Typically up to half of this amount is used overseas.

As a sponsor you should receive correspondence when we send your support to your chosen preacher three times annually.

Each preacher recommended for support has successfully passed through at least three levels of examination and has been proven to be doctrinally sound, morally pure and have a verifiable track record in church planting and discipleship.

Sponsorship of a **TEAM** can be done for \$10.00 monthly or more. *TEAM* stands for *Together Effectively Advancing the Ministry*. Though many preachers are being supported, they often collectively lack ministry tools that can be useful. The purpose of the *TEAM* funding is to provide each country with money to be used for such things as printing literature, buying bicycles for the traveling evangelists, building a church or Bible school, emergency relief, feeding widows and funding preachers who do not yet have a sponsor, etc.

Each trimester as the funds are mailed abroad, the national coordinator for each nation is asked to fill out a *TEAM* Report Form which we will send to you. This will give you a first hand report of how your funds were effectively used to advance the ministry in that land.

Sponsorship of **Touch a Life**, gives assistance to an orphaned, abandoned or destitute child. The \$35.00 monthly sponsorship provides for food, clothing, basic medical care, and educational assistance. All orphanages and home placement programs assisted by Final Frontiers are administered by pastors who are supported through this foundation, and are operated as a ministry of a local church. Monthly correspondence is required from the children. Sponsorship distribution for the child is identical to that of the preachers (see #1)

**Daily Bread** is a similar program but does not have a specific sponsor/child designation, rather it is food bought in bulk to feed unspecified unsponsored children who are awaiting sponsorship. \$6.50 monthly can feed one child but bulk purchases of rice, beans, etc. are most encouraged.

Membership in the **Final Frontiers Society** is \$10.00 monthly and is used to purchase and distribute Bibles. Many national pastors and Believers do not own a copy of God's Word. FFS membership funds, help to turn the dream of having their own Bible, into a reality.

**Bags of Hope** is our food distribution program feeding widows, orphans and persecuted families living primarily in the Islamic Middle East. Support for this program is \$20 monthly.

## After Death ...

**More and more sponsors are contacting us about the opportunity to continuing supporting their preacher after they have passed away.**

**Imagine being able to leave funds for your preacher so that after you have gone to be with the Lord, he can still be serving with your help.**

**Or what if your burden is to feed children or distribute Bibles or just to leave funds for the ministry to continue as needed?**

**If you are interested in leaving Final Frontiers or Touch A Life in your will, you should give us a call. We can give you all the information you need and even help you find a professional in your state that will help you with your will or trust.**

**After all, if winning souls and planting churches are important to you in this life, how important do you think it will seem to you in the next?**

**Give us a call at:  
800-522-4324 ext. 110**

Final Frontiers  
Foundation  
1200 Peachtree St.  
Louisville, Georgia  
30434

Register to receive your Progress Report via email, in full color at:  
[www.finalfrontiers.org](http://www.finalfrontiers.org)

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## Address Service Requested

## Moved lately?

Please give us your new address. E-mail: [webmaster@finalfrontiers.org](mailto:webmaster@finalfrontiers.org) or call: 1-800-522-4324

## Reports received from the Final Frontiers ...

Reports received in the last three months indicate there have been ...	Totals from all reports received since our beginning in December 1986 indicate there have been ...	A current total of all statistics indicate there are currently ...
311 Churches Started	30,376 Churches Started	1,180 Preacher Sponsorships
1,220 Villages Evangelized	111,008 Villages Evangelized	366 Touch A Life sponsorships
15,260 Professions of Faith	945,255 Professions of Faith	250 Daily Bread sponsorships
3,757 Believers Baptized	337,375 Believers Baptized	798 Number of actual sponsors
		74 Countries involved

## California AWANA youth sponsor a fund raiser

### Recycling Drive

This was the headline of a flier passed out by the youth of the Lighthouse Bible Church in Simi Valley, CA. The inspiration behind the event was fifteen year old Ruth Christopher, who along with her father and sister Sharon, visited Honduras several years ago. The challenge was for the AWANA Trek & Journey clubs to compete between the boys and girls to see which class could earn the most by recycling bottles and cans from November 12 to January 8. (remember, this is California) Years ago this same church also sponsored an all night **Youth With A Purpose** Event that helped raise funds for our ministry. This time they chose to raise the funds to help finance the Touch A Life and Daily Bread ministries of Final Frontiers.

Dale and Sandra Christopher, her parents, have taught their children to be missionary minded and the family has supported preachers and children through our ministry for twenty years or more. Their pastor, Roger Willis, was one of the first pastors in America to give Jon Nelms an opportunity to present the ministry of Final Frontiers, long before the term "nation pastor" had become a common expression. He has also been influential in referring Jon to other pastors across America. Many, if not most

of the families in the church also support either a preacher or a child.

We just wanted to express our thanks to Pastor Roger, the Christopher family, Ruth especially and all those participating. If your youth group would like to receive information about our **Youth With a Purpose Nights**, which include bowling or skating, pizza, etc., please contact us. They're more fun than you can imagine and help to raise a lot of needed funds for the mission field.



*In the photo is Ruth at right, with her father and sister in Honduras in August 2006 on a Visionary Trip. (Obviously they get their good looks from their mom.) Taking your child on a Visionary Trip can help them get their priorities straight like Ruth has. We have room available for our Honduras trips this summer. For information, see page 15.*