

Final Frontiers Foundation, Inc.

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December 8, 1996

Dear *Progress Report* Readers:

Once every year I like to break our regular format and send you a simple letter of thanks for your prayers, financial support and involvement in our ministry. This year should be no exception.

Several days ago our Executive Board of Directors had its annual meeting. This was a great time of celebrating success. Let me give you an example...

Financially, though we were looking at only the first eleven months of 1996, we had already surpassed the previous years funding by more than \$40,000.00. (I expect by year's end that figure to be nearer to \$70,000.00.) In addition, we were under budget every month of the year and have eliminated every debt the ministry has, except our mortgage, and one old debt that will be paid off this year. In fact, we have made additional mortgage payments every month and have already reduced a ten year mortgage by four years in only two years time.

We have also been able to give a small salary to our secretary who has worked for two years without a check. Now the only staff member not being paid is my wife Juanita.

Statistically, we saw in the first eleven months a total of 1,589 new churches planted, bringing our total historical number grand total to 8,018. While this is without a doubt sufficient reason to rejoice, it is also our single greatest cause of sorrow. There is no other issue over which we receive such great criticism than this. Some, just refuse to believe that the reporting is factual, and are "spreading the word" that we are stretching the truth. Of course, those who have traveled with us or on their own, who support preachers personally, who agree with our philosophy and know the value of a national working in his own country, among his own people and in his own culture, do not share that criticism. It is those who doubt God's blessing, or the value of supporting nationals, or who have a jealousy over the successes of others that don't believe our reporting. For their sake, let me remind all our readers that we keep a copy of every report that is sent to us since our inception. Anyone is welcome to come and read through these thousands of reports and do the tabulations for yourself.

I must say that I don't take these accusations personally, even though they are usually directed at me personally; but they do give me a degree of what I hope to be, "righteous indignation", at the dispersions cast upon godly, national preachers who have done so much with so little, simply because, as Hudson Taylor taught, they have dared to "expect great things from God and to attempt great things for God".

Frankly, since we are supporting nearly 900 full time church planters, each with a cadre of trained disciples who are assisting them, I don't find it unbelievable or incredible that these men could and would establish an average of less than two churches each in eleven months. In fact, in my mind, there would be a problem if they had done less than that. But moving on ...

Ministerially, we have been blessed to establish a new and modern printing facility at our home office as well as in Mexico (all paid for). It is my hope that in 1997, we will also place a print shop in southern Africa at our office in Zambia. Of course, we will also send our printer, Bob Tatum, there for several weeks to teach the men how to operate the equipment.

Our representative staff has been enhanced by the presence of Matt Hood, who is helping to raise funds for the national preachers by speaking in churches that are located primarily in the northern mid-west. My brother Lewis and Gordon Daam continue to be effective in their full time capacity as representatives.

Because of the growing number of preachers receiving support, and the need to be well organized, we have opened several "official" Final Frontiers offices in India, Ghana (for West Africa), Kenya (for East Africa), Zambia (for south Africa), and Honduras (for Latin America). We are currently registering with these respective governments, and looking to open an office in Thailand (for southeast

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

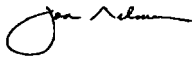
Asia), France (for Europe) and Fiji (for the southern Pacific island nations).

By year's end, a majority of our financing and reporting will be done "on line" rather than through expensive paper mail. To that end we are developing our own home page and later this year anticipate having our own "server" here in Louisville. This will not only enhance our ministry, but also those of other organizations and missionaries who will utilize our space and advanced technological abilities. This is being accomplished by one of our board members, Tim Floyd, who is an executive with the Microsoft Corporation, and by my son Daniel, who seems to be a computer genius. Of course, I prefer to call them both, "nerds".

Finally, and along those lines, we have been able, with your help, to be a blessing not only to the deserving national preachers, but also to a number of American missionaries whom we have recommended to churches here in the States. You see, we are not the enemy of any missionary who is preaching the Gospel, in fact, in a number of countries, our national coordinators are American missionaries affiliated with fundamental boards here in the USA. It should be noted that many missionaries see the value of and need of working with and supporting their national counterparts. And while it is not our calling to assist Americans with their support needs, since they have the ability to do that for themselves, we certainly want to help those who meet the same rigid requirements that we require the nationals whom we support to reach. (doctrinally sound, morally pure, verifiable experience in church planting and discipleship, and not a sower of discord among the brethren)

In closing, I have listed our latest statistics below. I do hope you will be as blessed by reading them as we have been. Keep in mind that all this is accomplished because God loved us enough to send His Son to save us, because there are men worldwide whose hearts burn to preach that good news, and because people just like you are willing to give from their abundance and poverty to finance the labors of these men. When all the parts of the body are fed, exercised, and do as they are intended, even Satan himself cannot keep that Body from growing. Thank you for doing your part.

Yours for souls,



Jon Nelms
Chairman/CEO

News received from the Final Frontiers, indicates that ...

... since last month's report there have been ...

36	New Churches Started
132	New Villages Evangelized
1,287	Professions of Faith
192	Believers Baptized

... since our inception in January 1987 there have been ...

8,018	New Churches Started
24,664	New Villages Evangelized
313,993	Professions of Faith
86,427	Believers Baptized

Please complete the form below, tear off, and return in the envelope provided. Thank you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Apply my donation to:- _____

All gifts to the Final Frontiers Foundation, Inc. are tax deductible. Deductibility is applied to the year in which the check is written.

Final Frontiers Foundation
1200 Peachtree St.
Louisville, GA 30434

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