

Despite Havana's outer beauty, this city as well as the rest of Cuba, suffers from moral decay and economic hardships brought about through 40 years of Communism.

STORY PAGE 7

*A monthly publication of the Final Frontiers Foundation
March 1999*

MINISTRY INFORMATION...

The *Progress Report* is a free, 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 Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, India, Vietnam, China, Philippines, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Togo, Liberia, Nigeria, France, Romania, Russia, Lithuania, Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Chile, Peru, Fiji, Tonga, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Grenada, and Cuba. Some 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 America, 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 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, blind, deaf and leper ministries, orphan and children's ministries, feeding centers and refugee ministries. The foundation also offers assistance in missionary training; and we provide mission trips for American believers who want to examine the ministries of the national preachers.

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)
- Sponsorship of an orphan through our *CHILD CARE* subsidiary (\$35.00 monthly)
- Sponsorship of our radio evangelism (\$20.00 monthly for free radio distribution)

FINAL FRONTIERS, as 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), Mr. Jake Cook (Secretary-Treasurer), and Rev. Ron Charles. 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.

Regional Offices:

- Office of Asian Expansion: Director: Dr. Minh Dang - Akron, OH (330) 864-2077
- Office of European Expansion: Director: Rev. Matt Hood - St. Paul, MN (612) 776-4156
- Office of African Expansion: Director: Rev. Gordon Daam - Portage, MI (616) 327-9192

International Offices:

National offices are maintained in every country of service for accountability purposes, and are staffed by national and regional coordinators who are elected by the supported pastors, and approved by the Executive Board of Directors. Six additional international offices are maintained to coordinate regional accountability. These are in Ghana, Kenya, Honduras, France, India and the Philippines. For further information concerning this ministry and its various programs, please call or write to the home office:

Final Frontiers Foundation
1200 Peachtree St.
Louisville, GA 30434 USA

Telephone: 912-625-9050
FAX: 912-625-9996
Toll Free: 800-522-4324



the Jon Nelms family report

The Crisis is over! The needs remain...

It is good to be able to report that after all these months, that though the country of Honduras is still not back to normal, it is getting there rapidly. Bridges are being rebuilt, new businesses opening, houses rebuilt, etc. Still there is poverty and still there is need, but not like before. For example, just

the other morning, I woke to hear a rumbling on the street outside our house. It was a family of six opening our trash bags and looking for food to eat. They found a box of left-over chicken with french fries that we had thrown away four days earlier and stuffed it in their mouths before I could stop them. I pray they didn't die from it. Of course, we gathered up food for them and they went away smiling and thanking us. I told them to come back when they needed more. You should have seen the look of shock on their faces when they heard that. Many people here have gotten tired of the beggars and turn them away. I don't think the Lord would do that, and neither should we. I watched as they left. When they got about half way down the street they turned and waved. The mother called out questioning if they really could come back again and I told her "yes". All I heard then was a chorus of "gracias" (thank you). Really the thanks should go to you who have given to help them out, and to the Lord. We are just a channel of your blessing.

Of the funds that have been received so far, nearly \$7,000.00 has been spent on the people and needs here. We have been able to replace furniture that was washed away or destroyed, buy clothing for people who only had what they were wearing, buy pots and pans for cooking, other household utensils, blankets, shoes, and buy food, food, and more food. One particular case that was near to my heart was to be able to buy asthma medicine for a little girl who was suffering. This touched me since my daughter has chronic asthma. In every case, I told the recipients that the monies were not mine, that they were a gift from God's people in the United States who wanted to help them through their suffering. What a witness for Christ!

Today (March 3rd), I am leaving to go to the North Coast to investigate some needs there. Saturday, a group of preachers and church members from our town are leaving to go to Mosquito Coast to work with and witness to the Indians who live there. This group is made up of preachers we support and others still awaiting support. I have given them funds to buy food and medicines and to help with their travel needs.

I want to thank all of you who have given and prayed, not only for our family, but for the nation as a whole. Your generosity has been a real blessing and a testimony of the grace of God to these people here.

To be honest with you, we don't want to "milk" this need here. There will always be things needed, there will always be a personal "crisis" somewhere. I know that we could continue to write heartbreaking stories that would inspire you to give, but that would not be right.

Now is the time for us to focus on the *spiritual crisis*

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Speaker's Schedule

The following cities will host men representing the ministries of **FINAL FRONTIERS** during March. For times, dates and locations call: 1-800-522-4324

Swansea, SC

Visionary Trips

Itineraries are being planned for the following countries. Contact us if you would like to go, but be warned, these are mission trips, not vacations.

May : Egypt

June : Cuba & Mexico

November : Uganda & Kenya

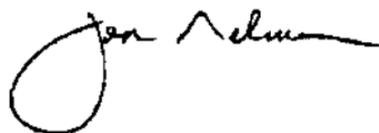
that prevails around the world. Still we have preachers needing support, and their personal situations are every bit as much of a crisis as that the people of Honduras have endured. The problem is, no government, no family is coming to their aid.

We recently received a report of a preacher in India (not one of ours) whose poverty was so great that the entire family committed suicide to escape it. It is easy as Americans for us to judge their lack of "faith" and condemn their "easy way out", but how easy would it be for you to assist your children and wife in suicide, then to take you own life? How drastically must you suffer both physically and mentally, and for how long, that you would be brought to this point?

In my service for the Lord, I have experienced hunger. I know what it is to eat from a garbage can, to pick through piles of discarded, rotting vegetables to find something to feed my family with. Like Paul, I know what it is to "abound and abase" (plenty and poverty). It is endurable but not for long. The mental anguish of not being able to provide for your family is far more tormenting than the pains of hunger. I did not know this brother who committed suicide, as I said, he was not one of our Final Frontiers preachers, but I know that the poverty he endured is being endured by scores of others in India. Men who have been approved for support, but no church, no family has been able to be persuaded to give the \$35.00 monthly support to feed his family and boost his ministry. We have had over 150 preachers in India like him, who have been awaiting support for over two years. Yet in their poverty, they continue to serve Christ without any financial aid.

Is there still a crisis? You tell me. You won't read about it in the paper. You won't see video on television to remind you day after day. But I have told you personally through this letter, and now you are accountable for what you do with this knowledge. From the bottom of my heart I beg you to consider...would giving \$35.00 a month to help out one of these families hurt you so badly financially, that you could not even consider doing so. Like our family and the hundreds of others who support one or two or ten preachers; is there not something that could be sacrificed to help just one preacher and his family to not only survive, but to flourish in their ministry? Do you want to help with a real "Crisis"? Help us feed the only men who can reach these masses worldwide who are dying without knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Yours for souls,



Jon Nelms

A T.E.A.M. REPORT FROM CAMBODIA

From: Vek Taing

Location: Cambodia

What was the total amount of TEAM funds received?

\$16.00

What were these funds used for?

To help the needy in my church

Do you have any special needs we can pray about?

Yes, please pray for the conference among all local pastors in April, 1999. We want to share vision to them to reach the whole country for Him.

Dear Team Fund sponsors:

Thank you very much for the vital partnership to help the Cambodian church leaders with their physical needs. Each time when they receive your gift, they are very happy and give thanks to God for His provision through your faithful support. You have played a vital part in helping these Cambodian church leaders to serve our Lord in Cambodia. We appreciate you very much.

May God bless you and your families.

Love,

Vek Huong Taing

Note:

TEAM is an acronym standing for Together Effectively Advancing the Ministry. The purpose of *TEAM* is to help provide funding for necessary projects carried out by the preachers we support, and to help with funding for preachers without current support. *TEAM* donors are often readers who cannot afford sponsorship of a preacher (\$35.00), but do want to help the cause by an offering of at least \$10.00 monthly. *TEAM* sponsors are allowed to direct their giving to a specific country where we are involved. For more information, refer to the return envelope enclosed.

Cuba...

An Island Nation Gripped By Moral And Economic Depravity.

INTRODUCTION

For years we have intentionally overlooked our closest unreached, mission field, Cuba. That was because, to support preachers there would put our entire ministry in jeopardy. As a representative of the Treasury Department told me years ago, *"if you get involved in supporting preachers there, no matter how high the motivation is, you will be breaking a federal law that could result in jail time, heavy fines and the loss of your tax exempt status"*. Because of this we never moved forward... until now.



The tourist areas in Havana are well-kept and clean.

Since then, some of those laws have changed and other laws have been relaxed. Through Final Frontiers associates in Mexico, we have been able to make contact with a large group of preachers who have struggled through forty years of Communism to serve the Lord in their island paradise. In this article, written by one of those associates, all names and locations have been deleted in order to preserve the safety, not only of the preachers in Cuba, but also of the FF staff who travel there frequently and work with them. I hope this report will bless you, and stir you to be a blessing to some needy Cuban pastor. **Note: introduction written by Jon Nelms. The following report was written by a Mexican pastor.**

AN OVERVIEW OF CUBA Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean. In 1990, the population was approximately 10 million. It is interesting to note that there are roughly seven adult women for every grown man. Many men leave the country legally, leaving their wives and children behind as a "guarantee" that they'll return. More simply escape the communist island in any kind of makeshift boat they can come up with or build. An unknown number of them perish at sea, but many make it to Florida or Mexico. Of course some of the men that leave send money home to their families, but far too many of them don't. That leaves an enormous population of destitute women and children in an extremely poor country.

Sadly, many of the women earn their living through prostitution. Foreign men flock to Cuba by the thousands seeking cheap prostitutes that

they hire by the week. It is not unusual to see an American man in his 60's or 70's with two or three beautiful teenaged prostitutes following him into a hotel. The Cuban government encourages prostitution in many ways, because it gives a boost of foreign money to the very poor economy. The government accomplishes this through several means. In Europe and Latin America they advertise "cheap" vacations, and make sure that most plane tickets to Cuba are a "package" deal. When you buy your ticket, you must also pay for a minimum of one week's stay in a hotel. Outside of each hotel are "salesmen" who badger the tourist with offers of women, liquor, and cigars. Cuban men are not allowed in the hotels, but the women have free access into all areas.

Besides promoting prostitution for money, the government makes

other "allowances" for immorality among the very young. Part of the school program in Cuba is called the "Pioneer Program". All children in junior high are required to spend a month "training" with the army. Boys and girls share all facilities, including dorms. They are away from their parents and allowed to participate in immorality. If parents refuse to send them, then the children are not allowed to go on to college.



We don't know this little girl. Does she know Jesus?

The economy is based on the production of sugar and nickel. Coffee and tobacco are also important crops. Though unemployment is only 6%, UNDERemployment is

very high. Income per person in 1990 was 13% of that in the USA. Food and clothing are rationed and difficult to find. In some areas, medicine is almost non existent.

Less than 3% of the population claim to be protestant, and though over 41% claim to be Roman Catholic, less than 2% attend church regularly. A far greater percentage practice spiritism (voodoo, witch doctors, etc.).

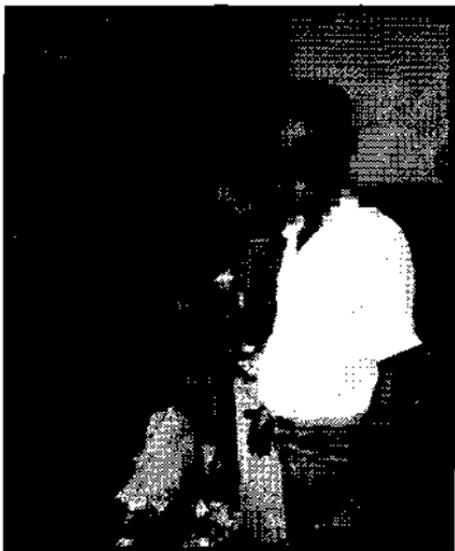
Imagine the results of widespread prostitution, poverty, and lack of religious restraints: Out of wedlock children, AIDS, etc, but mostly, a need to know Jesus Christ as Savior.

Because the country is communist, and all church activities are controlled and regulated by the government, few foreign missionaries can work in the country. In fact, according to Operation World, in 1990 there were only two foreign missionaries in the entire country. Obviously the best way to reach this needy country for the Lord is through the national pastors. There are nearly 300 Baptist congregations in Cuba. Imagine the potential for out-

reach these churches and their pastors have! We can help them financially so that they can travel to the areas near their cities and towns to reach others for the Lord.

USE YOUR IMAGINATION TO TRAVEL WITH ME TO CUBA

"WELCOME TO CUBA!" Last year, I flew from Mexico City to Havana with two other Mexican pastors. (It was a first trip to Cuba for the others, but my second visit.) We arrived in Havana at 6:30 p.m. and waited to present our papers to immigration. We noticed that the majority of people in line were men (probably because of the abundant and cheap prostitution). After a two hour wait, it was finally our turn. We were given tourist permits to stay in the country for 31 days.



Away from the tourist areas, Cuba is run-down and dirty. NOTE: Because negative remarks against the Cuban government are not allowed, the identities of those involved with this article will not be revealed.

The representative of our tour agency directed us to the bus that was waiting to take us to our hotel. He greeted us, "Welcome to Cuba". We had to wait until about 28 others joined us at the bus station. Before we even boarded the bus, the driver said, "We have a little problem and I need your help. If you could kindly push the bus to get it started we'll be on our way." Ten of us got behind the Russian made bus

and pushed until it was off and running. There happened to be a second problem...there were no lights inside or outside the bus. We were cruising through Havana in the dark and there weren't any streetlights to help mark the way. After getting everybody else dropped off at their hotels, we were the last to get to our destination. It was after 11:00 p.m.

AWAY FROM HAVANA. Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. We went downstairs to the lobby to meet a pastor from another town and his traveling companion. They were not allowed to go up to our rooms. We introduced ourselves and had breakfast in the lobby of the hotel. The five of us then climbed into a small Russian Sedan, LADA. That was in pretty good shape and began to travel. We asked the pastor why Cubans were not allowed to enter hotels to which he replied, "By law, Cuban MEN ARE NOT allowed in any tourist place, but women are permitted to enter because they bring money into the

economy through prostitution.”

The pastor wanted us to understand the serious problem of immorality. He continued, “ I am concerned about my two preteen children. In seventh, eighth, and ninth grades all children have to participate in the “Pioneer Program”. They are taken to the countryside to work with the army for an entire month away from their parents. Boys and girls do not have separate facilities or dorms. Immorality is rampant. If you don't allow your children to participate they won't have a chance of going on to university. The word ‘virginity’ in Cuba doesn't exist or is rare.”



Who's who in church?

A few hours later we arrived at our destination. The region surrounding our town is one of the most picturesque and fertile in Cuba. Sugarcane is the chief crop; coffee and tobacco are also grown and cattle are raised. We were introduced to the pastor's wife and their two children who made us feel at home

NO PREACHING “Because you came with tourist visas you aren't allowed to give any type of seminar, or even preach”, said the pastor. “We are concerned about the situation with communism in Cuba. We don't know who to trust, not even in our own congregation. The government sometimes sends spies to see who is visiting and they keep a close eye on us. You will be able to share about your ministries from the floor, but not from the pulpit.” That Sunday evening we were introduced to the congregation. About 200 people came to the service. We enjoyed wonderful fellowship and were accepted by the Cuban congregation. We felt the love of Christ in their lives.

NO BEANS The next morning, we entered the dining room where breakfast was served at 8:00 a.m. The parsonage is a colonial house with high ceilings, arches frame the doors and hallways. It looks like it hasn't been repaired for quite some time. After breakfast the pastor asked one of my companions if he would like to go with him to the market to buy some beans. My countryman noticed that most of the residents were either on bicycles, walking, or in wagons pulled by horses that serve as public transportation. The streets are kept clean and along the main avenue you can find small shops that serve Cuban coffee, very strong but sweet. When they arrived at the market, it was a depressing sight. About 20 people were selling a meager assortment of items in small quantities. There were potatoes, onions, lemons, and flowers, but **NO BEANS**.

LET'S TRY AGAIN. The next day, the pastor wanted to try again

Welcome New Sponsors

Preacher and Orphan Sponsorships:

The following began sponsorship of a national preacher or orphan since last month's report. For information regarding sponsorship refer to the "Now it's your turn" voucher attached to the enclosed envelope.

- Julie Gregg : Rolling Meadows, IL
Sponsored: Sanitha S from India
- Julie Gregg : Rolling Meadows, IL
Sponsored: V. Vinish from India)
- Jim and Shirley Delich: Anoka, MN
Sponsored: Burian Srimookda from Thailand
- Ross Memorial Bible Church: Port Huron, MI
Sponsored: Jati Jacherbo from Thailand
- Terry Schamp: Washington, WV
Sponsored: Tiborc Ga'l from Hungary
- Leon and Gwen Martz: Middletown, PA
Sponsored: Kalisto Onyango Odongo from Kenya
- Ross Memorial Bible Church: Port Huron, MI
Sponsored: Anibal Samayoa from Guatemala
- Elton Barber: Lake, MI
Sponsored: Lanka Samuel from India
- Ralph Boatwright: Eastover, SC
Sponsored: Marco Pompeyo Mejia from Peru
- The Baptist Chapel: Jacksonville, FL
Sponsored: Naluswa Dez Joshua from Uganda
- The Baptist Chapel: Jacksonville, FL
Sponsored: Wilfred W. Nakhokho from Kenya
- Miracles Sunday School Class: Tuscaloosa, AL
Sponsored: Thomas Malakwen Alute from Kenya
- Valley Bible Community Church: Simi Valley, CA
Sponsored: Joseph Kiruku Kumani
- John and Belinda Davis: Montgomery, AL
Sponsored: Roman Rudnev from Russia
- David and Annette VonWald: Hastings, MN
Sponsored: T. Nirmal Kumar from India
- Denise Green: Villa Park, IL
Sponsored: Moses R. Babu from India
- Kalamazoo Bible Church: Kalamazoo, MI
Sponsored: Joseph Kungu Muchinju

From the Print Shop

By Bob Tatum
 Print Ministry Director and Office Manager

I am glad to report that our mailing list has increased to over 6,500 names with more to be added this month. The bad news is that mail rates have also increased. Last year it cost about \$650.00 to mail out the *Progress Report* and this year that has gone up to about \$768.00 a month.

There are still about 79 addresses which the Pitney Bowes program will not code. This means that some of those on our mailing list do not receive 3rd class mail from Final Frontiers. I have sent each of those names the February letter by first class mail in hopes of receiving a corrected address from the post office. Will we ever achieve 100%? Probably not in this lifetime.

More equipment has been donated for the national pastors. I now have two ABDick mimeograph machines and hundreds of new stencils. While these are not off-set printing presses they are still useful to the nationals. One has an electric motor and the other one operates by a hand crank. The hand-cranked one will be great for a rural village without a regular supply of electricity. This machine, with a manual typewriter with the proper characters on it, could produce thousands of pages of Bible study materials for use in small village ministries. The same goes for the electric one, in a place where electricity is available.

These machines are light and would not be very expensive to ship. The hand-cranked machine could even be back packed in to a remote area. Imagine the joy of a group of pastors, in the mountains of China or the jungles of Vietnam, being able to produce hundreds of pages of Bible study material in their own area. Please be in much prayer about the placing of this equipment where it will do the most good for the Lord.

In closing, let me urge those of you who have not yet joined *The Final Frontiers Society*, for an annual donation of \$45.00, to please consider doing so. It will be an investment in the saving of souls.

Let's Get Acquainted

The purpose of this feature is to introduce our readers to approved preachers who are not yet sponsored. It is our hope that their testimonies will verify their worthiness and need, and will lead to prayer and support on their behalf.

Preacher's Name:

Makka Satti Babu

Wife's Name: Satyaveathi

Number of Children: 2

Country: India

Testimony:

I have started two churches since my salvation and have led over 300 people to accept Christ with 90% of them being faithfully baptized. I have had the opportunity of training two other men who wanted to serve as preachers also. I am an independent preacher having no income. I live by faith and with the little offerings which our church provides for us.

I came from a very uncivilized and uneducated people. We were idol worshippers. Many times preachers would come to our village but they would not have good results. We were always afraid that our gods would be angry and curse us if we changed our religion.

One day, there was a big Christian meeting in our village and our men drove out the preachers and began to beat them so that they ran away. I heard the teachings of Christ that night but I was afraid that my parents would drive me away also. I was a coward. Then my father fell from a tree and his spinal cord was wounded and he was going to die. We all wept for him and someone suggested that we call the pastor. He came in fear and after three days of fasting, my father opened his eyes and called me to his side and told me to worship Jesus. The pastor told us that to worship Jesus we had to be born again and after his explanations to us of the gospel message, my father, mother and myself all accepted Christ as our Savior. Now we live our lives for Him. However, we were driven from the village. No one would receive us. We went from relative to relative and none would receive us, but we have stayed true to the Lord over these years.

I thank God that all my family are Christians. This is such an unusual thing in my country and we do not mind the sufferings and hardships that we endure. We want to use the funds you send us to preach the gospel to as many people as we can so that this can become a Christian nation.

Number of sponsorships needed: one at \$35.00 monthly.



Preacher's Name: E. H.

Wife's Name: A. G.

Number of Children: 2

Country: Cuba

Testimony:



I met the Lord around 1975. My mother was a spiritist but somehow the Gospel came into my home which knew no happiness. We all began to visit the Baptist church, that is my parents and I. I was baptized in December of 1977. Two years later, I began to serve the Lord in the church. As I served in this way, I began to understand that the Lord was calling me to serve Him full time as a pastor. That was why I went to the Baptist Bible Seminary in 1983. I graduated in 1987. We were able to establish two new churches. In 1995, I came to pastor my current church. Our hope is in God's help.

My wife's testimony in her own words: "It was a privilege that my mother met the Lord when my father died. I was only 7 years old. I was taught in the things of the Lord. I met the Lord personally when I was 11 years old and was baptized when I was 12. Thanks to God, I am still on His path and am serving Him. I was baptized on November 24, 1974."

I have started 2 churches and through working with others have seen over 30,000 people come to Christ. My ministry here in Cuba involves founding churches, teaching the Bible, discipleship, showing Christian films, ministering to children, ministering to the poor of the community, distributing literature and working in 15 missions and 20 house churches.

A lot of our living expenses must be paid for in U.S. dollars. We spend about 400 to 500 Cuban pesos each month, but need approximately 1,000 pesos. As a pastor, my salary is 350 Cuban pesos a month. If I had 20 or 30 U.S. dollars more each month, then we would have enough money for food and personal items like soap. In order to buy clothing, we'd need to have a little more. But the most important things are the basics. Anything above that will go a long way in helping with our various ministries.

Number of sponsorships needed: two at \$35.00 monthly

From the mailbag



From: Palivela Manikyam

Sponsored by: David Nagengast

Dear Sponsor,

Thank you very much for helping me regularly. Every day we are busily involved in visitation as well as in witnessing. Since last month our government started constructing a very big bridge in our village. Nearly 500 laborers came from different towns to work in this project. Except for Sundays, every day we are witnessing at their lunch break and also in the evenings after they finished their job. It is a long way, but we are going on our bicycle but are keeping the bicycle at least two miles away from the work spot. All these two miles on the stones, cement bags and iron bars we are walking with patience. Thank God the leader of the worker's group asked me to have prayers every alternate day in the night time at the work spot. Thank God I had a good opening. People are showing much interest. Last week nearly 60 people came to my church and among them 25 people gave their hearts to Jesus. Thank and praise God for these people. Each one is representing one town. These people requested me, after completion of the bridge work, to visit their towns. Praise God I have an open invitation from 25 villages to preach. Of course, I need help to go to these villages. Please pray for this.

India

Last trimester:

villages
evangelized - 1

churches
started - 1

people saved - 25

converts
baptized - 25



From: M. Atchi Raju
Sponsored by: David Thornton

Dear Sponsor,

Thank you very much for your prayers and help. I have informed you in the last letter and requested you to pray for one of our Deacons' wife. She was denied admissions in hospital because she was Christian. In India in many private hospitals they don't admit Christians because we are called untouchables. This is a crime in India but still it is prevailing in villages. The government hospitals will admit any one irrespective of caste and status but still we will not get proper treatment unless we pay bribes to them. For every thing we have to bribe. I am sorry to inform you due to lack of proper medical care our deacon's wife died. For Christ sake he lost his wife, please pray for him. Once again I am conveying my hearty thanks to you for helping me to preach and for helping me for my survival. It is common in India to face many difficulties like this for Christians. Christians are called as lowest caste people. Thank God, in His eyes we are all equal. Please continue to pray for us.

INDIA

Last trimester:

churches
started - 1

villages
evangelized - 1

people
saved - 27

converts
baptized - 27



From: Ngul Kho Zang
Sponsored by: Paul Knierim
Dear Sponsor,

My wife works as a school teacher with a small amount of salary. As I am living in the Shan States life is 3 times harder than before. There are so many soldiers around us that they buy all the sales of the markets especially food stuffs. Vegetables and meats are very costly. All the market goods are imported black market from Thailand. One US dollar is equal to 320 in our money. We can barely live. We eat boiled rice and vegetable stews. But we are happy. I am working among the Shan Buddhists. The Noble Shans don't allow us to preach. Then we have to approach the unclean communities. They are lepers and untouchable groups. I taught them that the present miserable life and agony will finish on one day but people have no hope but I give them the hope in Jesus Christ. Please continue to help me. These destitute people need the Gospel. The high class people never think of the future. Many die daily because of AIDS. Thank you very much.

Myanmar

Last trimester:

churches
started - 1

villages
evangelized - 2

people
saved - 16

converts
baptized - 16

A Little About T.E.A.M. Sponsorships...

TEAM Sponsorship funds are used in a variety of ways to help the national pastors accomplish more in their work of furthering the Gospel. Some ways that TEAM funds are put to work include the following: funding an office, providing medicine for the local preachers, helping out with urgent financial needs, travelling and evangelizing, and supplementing preacher sponsorships, etc. TEAM funds are also used to help our National Directors with the great expense of keeping in touch and in personal contact with the national pastors that work in their area. This frequently involves travel (sometimes of long distances) which can be very costly.

A TEAM sponsorship can be as small as \$10 a month and as much as you would like. If you are not financially able to take on a preacher sponsorship of \$35 per month, but have a desire to help the national preachers with your financial support, you may want to consider a TEAM sponsorship as an option.

There are some countries where we have national pastors hard at work, that receive little or no TEAM funds. (Some of the countries that receive insufficient funds are China, Nigeria, El Salvador, Fiji, Tibet, Cambodia, Romania, Myanmar, Albania, and Hungary, to name a few.) Many national pastors must fund offices and travel expenses from their own pockets. With the help of TEAM sponsors, their personal financial burdens would be lessened and their ability to reach out would be increased. Here is a letter from the National Director in Ghana who handles the TEAM funds for that region which shows the need for additional support.

"Dear God's People,

Thanks for your support once again coming to meet our needs in running the office here in Ghana West Africa. Your support backed by your prayers are a great blessing to the ministry. I have been running most of the office expenses from my personal support as well as paying the salary of the office secretary. God has been faithful, and counting on His faithfulness, we are encouraged to continue serving Him in spite of all hindrances."

TEAM funds are also used to reach out to the community in times of need. Russia is in the middle of a serious economic crisis which affects everyone living there, including the Christians. Here is an excerpt of a communication from Vasily, our National Director in Russia.

“As you know, Russia goes through economical crisis now. Sometimes when I travel, I want to help people in the places I go. There is tremendous poverty in the province of Russia. I never felt free to use the TEAM funds for that and tried to use my personal money, which was not enough for that. What do you think? Can I sometimes use TEAM fund to help believers in other places?”

Those of us here who read that letter were touched by this mans generous spirit, who was willing to give even though he himself is in need. How much more important for those of us “to whom much has been given” to reach out to those around us who have less. Please take time today to consider how you might help someone in need. Whether it be a friend, neighbor, family member, or someone you don’t even know.

If you would like to sponsor a national pastor, a child in need, or a TEAM, please fill out and return the “It’s Your Turn” voucher or give us a call at 1(800) 522-4324. If you choose to sponsor a TEAM and have a particular country in mind please include that information, if not, we will designate it to the country where it is most needed. You will receive a notebook with information about your chosen sponsorship and will receive up to 3 reports a year detailing how your sponsorship dollars were put to use.



TEAM Nicaragua

Reports from the Final Frontiers

Reports received since last month's *Progress Report* indicate there were ...

- 242 Churches Started
- 428 Villages Evangelized
- 6,467 Professions of Faith
- 3,582 Believers Baptized

Combined totals from all reports received since our beginning in January 1987 indicate there have been ...

- 11,023 Churches Started
- 43,516 Villages Evangelized
- 387,785 Professions of Faith
- 116,654 Believers Baptized

A current total of all statistics indicate there are ...

- 758 Preachers Supported
- 1075 Preacher Sponsorships
- 86 *TEAM* Sponsorships
- 50 Orphans Supported
- 41 Countries involved in

Please help us save money on return postage by informing us of any change in your address.

You may write us at the address to the right or call toll free: 1-800-522-4324. Thank you.

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