



Progress Report

The story behind the starting of our 20,000th new church

Pastor Gosala Krupa Rao and his wife construct their newest church using sticks, bamboo and palm leaves. The congregation started with 30 new believers and in just a few months now has over 60 members.

By Jon Nelms

For those of us who work for Final Frontiers, we have a rule that effects every aspect of our labor. That rule is, "Accountability is everything". This is why on the missionary report forms, the sponsor sees exactly what was given to their preacher and that we did not take any more for "administration" than we were allowed to. It is not that I don't trust myself - I do. However, I don't know who is coming after me, so I wanted to set up a system that would require even an unscrupulous man to be honest and above board. When a sponsor buys a bicycle, digs a well or constructs a church building, they get a letter of thanks and a photograph of what their funds bought. You have often seen these reports and photos in past issues

of our *Progress Report* under the banner "Credit to whom credit is due".

As we received reports and compiled the statistics during August, we noticed that we had reached the 20,000 mark for the number of churches our supported preachers in 59 countries have started. Thinking that such a story might be of great interest to you, I contacted the Director of that group and asked him to give me the background of that new church plant. I also asked that he would write a letter to inform our newer readers, just what support for their preachers has meant to them over the years. I think you will be pleased to see what has been accomplished in this one group, out of the more than seventy that we assist around the world. Here's his reply...

the story continues on page 5

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 fifty-eight 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 - \$100.00 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)
- Sponsorship of an orphan through our *CHILD CARE* subsidiary (\$35.00 monthly)
- Membership in the Final Frontiers Society, Bible distribution program (\$10.00 monthly)

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 Rev. Ron Charles (Secretary/Treasurer), Mr. Ralph Wills, CPA/CMA, Rev. T.A. Powell and Mr. Charles Turner. 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:

- Vietnamese Expansion: Dr. Minh Dang, - Akron, OH (330) 864-2077
- European Expansion: Rev. Dennis Kiser - Livonia, MI (248) 489-0844
- African Expansion: Rev. Gordon Daam - Portage, MI (616) 327-9192
- South American Expansion: Mr. Don Courliss - Jonesborough, TN (423) 753-9212

International Offices:

National 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.

Information:

For further information concerning this ministry and its various programs, please call or write to the home office:

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Where we serve

The 58 countries where we serve as of June 2003

Africa:

Kenya
Uganda
South Africa
Nigeria
Togo
Ivory Coast
Ghana
Liberia
Burkina
Morocco
Sudan
Tanzania
Rwanda
Congo

Asia:

India
Myanmar
Thailand
Laos
Cambodia
Vietnam
China
Philippines
Nepal*

Caribbean:

St. Vincent
St. Lucia
Grenada
Haiti*
Jamaica

Pacifica:

Fiji

Eurasia:

Georgia
Belarus
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Siberia
Ukraine
Russia

Europe:

France
Romania
Albania
Latvia
Lithuania*
Hungary
Switzerland
Poland

Americas:

Mexico
Cuba
Guatemala
El Salvador
Honduras
Nicaragua
Costa Rica
Peru
Chile
Columbia
Ecuador
Venezuela
Brazil
Argentina

* indicates *TEAM* support only

Applications are in process now from:

Syria, Lebanon, Guyana, Azerbaijan, Macedonia, Georgia and Uzbekistan.

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The Jon Nelms family report

Greetings!

We get letters most every day, not only from foreign lands, but also from here in the USA. It is always a blessing to know that we have played a small part in helping to shape lives for missionary service. We recently received this letter ...



Jon , Juanita, - Daniel and Sara

"It has been our privilege to have a part in your organization for just over 10 years now. I have no doubts that our giving to these national pastors in addition to our regular giving through our church missions program has made an impact on two children. After spending six weeks in the interior of China our oldest son is preparing to enter linguistic studies with the desire to translate the Bible into an unknown language and our youngest is entering Bible College with the intent of serving in full time ministry as well ... May the Lord continue to bless you and Final Frontiers as you seek to spread the gospel around the globe."

Some are eager to get more involved in missions while others just seem to have lost the burden all together. It is not uncommon for us to get a letter from a sponsor saying that they just can longer afford the \$35 it takes to support a preacher. When those letters come, we have to really get in gear to get those preachers responsored so they doesn't miss any support. We have five such men in need of sponsorship right now; three from Kenya, one from China and one from the Philippines.

Then of course there are those who are deliberately trying to sabotage our work. This occurs primarily over the internet. We get thousands of "attacks" from computer hackers every month. Most of them come from Arab nations but recently we were made the target of what can only be termed as a "seek and destroy" mission that originated in Beijing, China. Needless to say, all their attempts failed. Satan may be the "Prince of the power of the air", but God

owns the air and protects His servants from the attacks of the enemy. I am increasingly thankful for His protection and the skill of those working in our office (*my son Daniel and my daughter's boyfriend, Michael Horne*) who are able to block these attempts, not only to shut us down, but also to find out who and where our preachers are, in these nations of persecution.

You are going to enjoy this issue without a doubt. First of all there is the story of the planting of our 20,000th church in seventeen years. Then there are various outstanding reports and testimonies and a new feature article by one of our board members, archaeologist Ron Charles (page 12). So many thousands are now hearing the gospel for the first time every month; so many new churches planted, so much news! We can only hope to give you a spoonful in each issue. I hope it will lead you to continue with us in prayer and financial support for your preachers overseas and keep you coming back for more.

Yours for souls,

Let's Get Acquainted ...

For more information on sponsoring a national preacher, see page 15.

Preacher's Name: Thomas Ambani
Wife's Name: Margaret Mideva
No. of Children: 9
Country: Kenya
Sponsorship Needed: 1 @ \$35.00 monthly

Testimony:

My salvation came because of pastors doing personal evangelism. They came to my home from the Soy Baptist Church. They taught me the Word of God from the book of Matthew and I was convicted by the Holy Spirit and accepted Christ. This was January 1, 1984.



I joined the church and continued to be a faithful church member from that day. I helped the pastor with visitation, personal evangelism and other church duties. One day I gave myself to serve the Lord. I enrolled in Bible school and graduated and then became pastor of my home church with over 300 members.

My wife was saved the same day I was. She works closely with me in the ministry of the Soy Baptist Church. She works with the ladies and is also secretary of the Women's Fellowship.

I have helped train 4 men who are serving in the ministry now and have started 6 churches and led over 800 people to Christ. 600 of these have been baptized.

We live in a small two-room house made of mud with iron sheets for a roof. We live off of corn flour, rice and vegetables. I also work on my farm to raise food for my family. Apart from that I am full time in the ministry.

Thomas had support that was recently ended when the sponsor was no longer able to help him. He has an important ministry that needs to be funded. He currently has only one other sponsor.

Preacher's Name: Chhoeun Ratha
Wife's Name: That Parum
No. of Children: 1
Country: Cambodia
Sponsorship Needed: 2 @ \$35.00 monthly

Testimony:

Before I believed in Jesus I liked to to for walks. I disliked very much whoever believed in Jesus. When the Jesus Film group showed the film in my village I threw rocks at them because I wanted to stop their actions. I was a Buddhist and I hated the name of Jesus. But one day I went for a walk, when I sate on a chair in the park, there was a Christian preaching the Gospel to me and then he invited me to enjoy college life. I decided I would go with him. When I first arrived I was made welcome by the people. I wondered why they were so kind to me. Why did they speak so warmly to me? Later I knew why. When I finally decided to received Jesus, my life was completely changed. I am planting churches, doing evangelism, and other ministries. I have led 90 people to know the Lord Jesus.



My wife was from a Christian family however she only went to church out of custom. One Sunday she was invited to sing for the children and then the teacher taught a brief story from the Bible and explained salvation. My wife knew then that she needed to accept Jesus as her personal Savior and Lord, and she did.

Please pray that God will saved His chosen people in Cambodia and that the Lord will raise up a sponsor for us soon so that we will have someone who shares in our ministry through prayer and financial help.

Chhoeun is the first applicant from a new group we are working with in Cambodia. They are led by an old friend of mine, Missionary Bruce McKee, who is with the Baptist Bible Fellowship.

continued from page 1

Dear Rev. Jon Nelms,

I am happy to inform you that throughout the year 2002 and till today, God has richly blessed our Indian pastors in many ways because of Final Frontiers. All our Indian National Pastors are working hard and winning souls in their respective villages. As a result of Final Frontiers more than a hundred pastors are receiving support regularly and about 50 orphan children are fed, clothed and sheltered.

Because of the hard labor of our Final Frontiers supported preachers, about fifteen thousand people came to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and were saved. As a result of Final Frontiers and TEAM FUNDS more than 600 independent Baptist churches have planted during these years. A church does not mean not buildings. Most of them are small village churches built with palm leaves, bamboo and a thatched roof. Of course we have also build about ten permanent churches.

Because of Final Frontiers' sponsors, about 35 pastors received bicycles, three pastors received scooters and many more pastors received new clothes, musical instruments, Holy Bibles, V.B.S. materials and other gospel tools. Because of Final Frontiers, two bore wells were started in India and people are getting clean water every day.

Because of Final Frontiers most of our preachers are surviving and preaching happily and boldly.

Because the Final Frontiers are on their side they are bold to face any type of persecution in India. Our Pastors perfectly know that you all are their prayer partners. If you came to know anything happened to our preachers immediately you will get tears in your eyes and you will pray to Lord Jesus about us. Your prayers are our strength.

Actually there is no word to tell, how we are benefited by Final Frontiers. If the Final Frontiers will not come to our rescue not only the spreading the Gospel but also the surviving of the preachers will also be vanished. Many preachers who are supported by Final Frontiers are having breakfast, two meals, good dress, bicycle and Bible with them. They are really

privileged to work with Final Frontiers. We know before our eyes that there are some preachers who do not have even a single meal. But thank God because of Final Frontiers we have everything. We appreciate the people who are helping us through Final Frontiers. We are praying for them. Really most of our

preachers have not seen the sponsors. At the same time, the sponsors have not seen the beneficiaries. But the love of Jesus makes us unite and work hard to win our own Indian Nationals. Of one thing I am sure, if the Final Frontiers will not come to our rescue our preachers will be no more. The important thing is, I have been sure of the prayers and the blessings of Final Frontiers and the sponsors for a span of more than ten years. As you know India is a non-Christian country having one Billion people and among them the Christians are only 3%. If

you continue to help us like this I am sure the Christian percentage will increase up to 30 – 40% in the years to come as you help more and more preachers.

Myself, my wife and our Final Frontiers supported preachers are all heartily conveying our thanks to Bro. Jon Nelms and team of his sponsors. I am happy to enclose the story of Pastor Krupa Rao and how the last church he just started acquired the distinction of being the 20,000th church started by a preacher supported through Final Frontiers. I hope and pray God Almighty that we would all continue to be effective instruments in His hands to further His cause and the spread of His word.

Let me first issue a curtain-raiser (*introduction*) on the personality you wanted to know about in your communication. The name of the preacher is Gosala Krupa Rao. For many years, he has been getting support through Final Frontiers from the Leon Sorenson family in Michigan. Before he got your help and before you came to his rescue, he was a preacher who had confronted many problems and difficulties trying to feed his wife and children. Once a week, he used to go to the forest for collecting firewood or branches of trees. The firewood he collected, he used to pack and bring home for cooking.

At such times, his wife also used to follow him and bring water for their domestic use. Their small children also used to follow the couple because there



Pastor Rao preaches from a Bible using a portable P.A. system. His wife (at right) has an armload of tracts to pass out. This is the village where our 20,000th church was recently started.

was no one left at home to look after them.

Sometimes they used to sell the firewood and other material brought by themselves to the village people. With such small sums made, they barely survived. The children also used to help in gathering sticks and branches to be used as firewood. At that



Above: gathering sticks to sell for earning a living before sponsorship began

Below: with sponsorship, they now have clothes and a bicycle for ministry. Their house is in the background.



time, the pastor was not able to concentrate much on winning the people or in witnessing. Pastor Krupa Rao's wife name is Gosala Santha Kumari. They used to have four children, one boy and three girls. The boy died due to heart problem. He was about six years old when he died.

Every Sunday with utmost regularity, Pastor Rao used to conduct his church. Church here means worship service, at his house or at some place provided by someone. But the very first thing the Indian preacher does is he, his wife and children meet at the worship venue. His wife sweeps and cleans the ground. The pastor also helps her and then they spread some mats on the floor or some bed sheets or some cloth

so that the people can sit comfortably. Then the pastor, his wife and children start singing songs using the keyboard the Sorenson family purchased for them. Slowly, on hearing the songs, the people in the neighborhood and surrounding areas come and join the singing and worship service. They join in the singing even though they are not Christians. When the figure of the people reaches 20 or 25, then the pastor tells his testimony. His wife may also tell her testimony. All these are to attract people so as to spend some time with them. After this, they again sing one or two songs and then the preacher gives his preaching. Like this, he started his first church. With great effort and with difficulty, the pastor was able to lead

sixty people to Christ within a span of three years. Then he trained up people to give tithes, not to raise money but to raise good Christians. It was then you, the Final Frontiers, decided in favor of coming to his rescue. Following this, he stopped going into the forest for collecting firewood and his wife stopped going with him to fetch water. By the grace of God Almighty and with your financial assistance, he is able to concentrate fully and spend all his time and energies to witness and to lead people to Christ.

After receiving your help, he secured good clothing for himself and the members of his family. Now he wears a pant and shirt and his wife is seen in neat and presentable dress. After sometime again the Final Frontiers came to his rescue and purchased a bicycle for him. He also built a small church with the help of your *TEAM* funds. It is gratifying to note that today, he is having about 150 members in his church. The weekly offering is about three to four dollars worth of Indian money. In addition, he also gets some rice, vegetables and other help in kind.

This is the general introduction of the pastor's life and his church. Now let me answer your queries one by one.

What is the name of the new Church?

The name of his home church is BAPTIST CHURCH. In India in most of the villages, we call the name of the Church with its denomination by adding the name of the village as the suffix like the Baptist Church of Radheyapalem. In the case of other denominations like Methodist, Lutheran and Catholic, a similar pattern is followed, like Methodist Church of Radheypalem, Lutheran Church of Radheyapalem and Catholic Church of Radheyapalem. In many of the villages, each denomination generally has one church but not many churches of the same denomination. This village has a population of about 6,000. There are six Hindu temples and one Muslim mosque in the village. The pastor's church is the only Baptist church in the entire village. This village has no post office, police station, college or even a hospital. For everything, the people have to go to the nearby town or city.

Because he already has a church and support from F.F.F., the pastor wanted to start another church in another village nearby. The village selected by him for the purpose is called Thungapadu. In Thungapadu village there is no Christian church of any denomination, except the one now started by our Pastor Krupa Rao.

How did he decide to go to that particular village?

The reason why he has selected this particular village is that it is nearer to him and he knows some

people of the village who occasionally visit Radheyapalem where he lives. Because in India there is the constant threat of non-Christians attacking the preachers, he has selected this village, some of whose inhabitants are known to him. If we go to a new place to preach and suppose in that particular village people killed us or murdered us out of jealousy, our body will lie in that village with nobody knowing who the man was. So after two or three days, the village administration takes over the body, declares it as "unclaimed" and takes steps to cremate it. That will be the fate awaiting us if we go to a new place where nobody knows us. Pastor Krupa Rao selected Thungapadu village because even if some non-Christians kill him, at least there will be some people who will recognize him and his body will not become an unclaimed one. If he faces such a situation, the village people identify him and get his body handed over to his family. Because of this reason, he selected the village. In the church started in Thungapadu, he witnessed to the people and encouraged them to come to his village every Sunday. He and his wife are visiting the village by going on the bicycle regularly. Within a span of two years, he started the church with the 35 people he had led to Christ. Now two months later, that number is up to about 60.

He visits houses along with his wife, counsels the families and gives witness to them. Sometimes, he also prays for them and distributes tracts. With the help of a battery-operated P.A. system, he preaches by standing on the street corners.

Pastor Krupa Rao conducts his main church worship service at Radheyapalem from 9 am to 11 am and after that goes along with his wife to the new village Church where the worship service is held between 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm. This village is about 15 km from his home. *(that is about nineteen miles round trip he and his wife travel, in weather that goes up to 120 degrees)*

Did he have helpers? How many? Who?

He is having three to five people as helpers. Sometimes, his friends, his own relatives and his wife's relations assist him by acting as the helpers.

Where did they meet at first? Where do they meet now?

Before building of the village church (hut), they used to meet under a big tree. The church was started in a small hut. You can see the hut in the photograph at right.

In India, in most of the villages, the village president called SARPANCH conducts the village elders' meetings under big shady trees. Under a tree, a small bench or table is built with bricks and cement

for the village head to sit. All others attending the meeting sit on the ground. Even today you can see this happening in many of our villages. When there is no meeting with village president in attendance, any one can use that place for political and religious meetings and for a movie publicity. Thank God, now our believers are able to meet in their own church (thatched roof shed) and conduct their regular worship service.

How many are awaiting for baptism?

No one is awaiting baptisms. Because after the preaching service, if anyone accepts Christ, then we take them to the lake or river or stream in that village and baptize them. So generally we will not keep people waiting for baptisms.



Above: door to door witnessing and passing out tracts

Who will pastor there permanently?

In this new village, there is no one as a permanent pastor yet. Pastor Krupa Rao himself is looking after the church. He is however training a young boy who is a high school graduate to preach (over age 18). The boy is very active and very much interested in doing the church work. But his parents are not willing to let him become a fulltime preacher, they will have to starve.

Below: teaching a class of new converts, notice the grass roof and dirt floor



This young man does some manual jobs daily and helps his parents. Of course, if he gets support, he is ready to work fulltime. Even before Pastor Krupa Rao goes to the new village for conducting worship service every Sunday this young boy prepares everything by making people sit and start singing songs until the pastor arrives and starts the

worship service.

Were there any difficulties or trials involved in starting this church? Any persecution?

Yes, there were some difficulties the preacher had faced while starting this church. Firstly, the village people protested and objected to the starting of the church in their village. Once when he had purchased all the material like palm leaves, bamboos and other material, the non-Christians took away all the material in an attempt to prevent the building of the church. The pastor had to purchase all the material again. When he tried to employ some daily laborers, the non-Christians objected and asked the laborers not to go and work for a church. So, with great difficulty, he was able to procure the services of some daily laborers from nearby villages by paying them extra wages.

Coming to know of the situation and the predicament of the pastor, his relatives and friends also came forward to help him. After he began to build the church, the pastor was not allowed to get water for the construction from the community well. The community well in fact is the property of our village government. Anyone can draw water from the well. But because non-Christians are in majority and the Christians being treated as untouchables, we were not allowed to draw water from the well. As a way out, the preacher, his wife and his relatives carried pots of water from nearby villages by walking all the way. These were the difficulties encountered by the pastor while building the new village Church.

Regarding persecutions, on one or two occasions, the non-Christians beat up the laborers who came from different villages to work in the church construction. The workers have a local union and the union protested against workers from other villages coming to their village for work. The village workers' union members, beat up all the workers who came from different villages. We got the injured workers treated in hospital. This type of persecutions we face whenever we try to build new churches in the villages.

Some more difficulties and problems we faced also need mentioning. If this young boy whom Pastor Krupa Rao has been nurturing becomes a preacher, the first and the main difficulty is that he will not be able to get married. The parents of many girls are just not interested in giving their daughters in marriage to preachers in the light of the fact that the preachers have no fixed and guaranteed income. Every girl's parents want their daughter and their son-in-law to live happily. They know the preacher's life is always risky and dangerous. Quite often, the village people insult him and create trouble, sometimes pitifully, the preacher is not allowed into the regular restaurants or even grocery stores because he is a preacher. If he

were a Christian, many people may not know and identify him. But if he is a preacher, people know him, identify him and try to illiterate (*meaning unknown*) and insult him as he is considered an untouchable. Even if he is married, again the problem comes when his wife becomes pregnant. Many hospitals, especially in villages, are allergic to (*opposed to*) admitting a preacher's wife for delivery. This is because the hospital people know the preachers are poor and as such they cannot pay their bills in full even though the fee is reasonable.

Once, a preacher's wife gave birth to a child. As the delivery became difficult, the doctor conducted a Caesarean operation on her and took the baby out. Of course, the mother and the baby were doing well but the hospital authorities asked the husband to pay some money in excess of the actual bill. This poor preacher-husband did not have that much money and his church is too poor to help him. His sponsor was not in the habit of extending a helping hand to enable the preacher to meet such an unexpected expenditure. What happened finally was so pathetic that it would make even lifeless objects shed tears. The preacher left his wife and baby in the hospital and committed suicide by putting his head under a running train.* No doubt he did this not only out of complete hopelessness, but in the belief that upon his tragic death, the hospital would show mercy on his wife and new baby. This news came in all our daily newspapers and everyone with a human heart felt concerned about it. From that time onwards, the hospital people have made it a point to advise patients to deposit some money before their admission. This is especially so in the case of preachers and their family members.

In addition to the difficulties and problems narrated above, there are many more practical difficulties, which are neither foreseen nor expected, we are faced with everyday as a matter of routine in our evangelical work.

We give our thanks to God and the sponsors for all the help they give to us in doing our Lord's work. Please remind your readers that we still have more than 100 similar pastors who struggle in ministry daily with no support. We need sponsors for them as well. Imagine what we can accomplish when they are all sponsored. Please help us. ■

* *Human life in third-world nations is "cheap". This attitude carries over to the issue of suicide as well. I have seen many times when entire families would commit suicide and die together, rather than die slowly and painfully, one by one. While it is hard for us to imagine, we should at least try to understand their suffering and not condemn them for taking such drastic action. They have not been raised in a "Christian" culture with our values.*

The remarkable fruitfulness of Africa

By Gordon Daam
Director of Expansion for Africa

Ever since I was led to the Lord by a missionary to Angola at the age of seven, I have had an interest in Africa. Sometimes I regret it. Africa is so far away. I hate enduring the two -10 hour plane rides to get there. Africa is hot and dirty with many dangers. So many countries are hot spots for political, religious, and tribal unrest that it makes traveling extremely difficult. The mail is lousy, e-mail is undependable. It would be easy to just forget Africa. After all, ministry there is just too hard. Africa was named "the dark continent" because it was virtually impossible to penetrate the jungles with the gospel. In fact, during the first one hundred years of missionary service there, the average life span of a missionary was only six year! However, frequently I receive reports like the one below and am reminded why I am still drawn to Africa.

Several months ago I received a stack of our standard report forms, including one from Joel Masabo in Arusha, Tanzania. Since they were from Africa they came to me first so that I could examine them for any errors before sending them on to the sponsors. It was his first report since being supported by Final Frontiers so I was anxious to read it. In his report Joel reported 2,500 salvation decisions. I wrote Joel back. I told Joel the report didn't ask how many souls he had let to the Lord in his lifetime, but only how many in the past 4 months. Joel responded that he and his fellow Pastors in the Arusha area (all available for support) had traveled with the Jesus Film to the 2 dozen villages where they had already planted churches. 2,500 had indeed prayed for salvation, and 7 more churches had been started.

Just recently I received another report from Joel. This time it seems he had been invited to Nairobi, Kenya to participate in an intensive door to door evangelism. The first day they organized, prayed and were instructed in how to deal with the teenage gangs and bandits in the squatter areas surrounding Nairobi. Then they began their work.

Besides the door to door witnessing, the outreach involved programs in public schools. Everyone contacted was invited to attend evening meetings in the churches where the gospel was presented again, along with basic spiritual growth principles. This time Joel reported 1,414 salvations. I didn't question his numbers this time; instead I share this story of Africa's remarkable fruitfulness with you.



*Here Joel is witnessing to boys who live on the street.
 July 31, 2003*



*Witnessing to a class at the Kaloleni Public school in Nairobi, Kenya. Notice the Moslem girl in the front.
 July 29, 2003*



Here Joel is preaching to an entire student body in Kenya.

A TEAM Report from ...

GUATEMALA

For information about TEAM projects, see page 15

From: Alejandro Gomez Gonzales
Location: Huehuetenango, Guatemala

What was the total amount of the TEAM funds received?

\$133

What were these funds used for?

Support for two pastors who did not receive enough funding:
Pastor Juan Garcia - \$41
Pastor Leonel Perez - \$41
Traveling to disperse the funds to all the pastors - \$50

Dear TEAM Sponsors,

Receive a cordial greeting from the one who distributes helps to the pastors. I am hoping God has you very well in your sacred ministry. Also I want to thank you infinitely for the economical support that you are sending us. Here in this country there is a lot of poverty and a lot of needs. There are many pastors who are sick and they do not have money to go where the doctor is. Also there are pastors who are receiving a less support now. So this offering, it is a lot of blessing to them because through this offering the work is growing. I wish God blesses and multiplies your goods. We continue praying for you.

At right is a photo of some of our Mayan pastors in Guatemala, all proudly holding up their report forms that are now in the mail to their sponsors. You will recall our last Progress Report featured a story of how our work with this group began.



Final Frontiers
SOCIETY

Because of your concern, we have now raised almost \$1000 more to help with the purchase of Bibles for the Kurdish people of the Middle East. Society funds have also come in to purchase more Bible for China and elsewhere. The more you give, the more we can do. Thank you for your consistent participation in the Final Frontiers Society.



Thank you ...

Randy Stirewalt, BBF Missionary and FF National Director

When Final Frontiers began supporting pastors in western Kenya there were 48 churches. The support has given the pastors there the ability to work full time in the ministry. It allows the pastors to evangelize new villages by being able to plan and pay for evangelistic meetings. These meetings result in new churches being opened. The support also helps young pastors who are not receiving support yet, but know that by being faithful to the ministry, they too one day will have support for their ministry.

We now have 210 churches here in western Kenya and eastern Uganda, with 22 new ones so far this year. (one of the 22 pictured at right) There have been 300 graduates from the Bible Institutes and we currently have 135 students in the Bible Institutes in Kenya and 22 students in Uganda. We have over 3,000 baptism each year and an average attendance of over 30,000. There is no doubt in my mind that this work has grown as it has, because of Final Frontiers support. I do thank you all and the pastors here thank you as well.



Randy Stirewalt

Welcome New Sponsors

Sponsor:	Preacher - Orphan - <i>TEAM</i> or <i>Final Frontiers Society</i> :	Country:
Chris Carden, AL	• A.M. John	• India
Jeffrey Nelson, CA	• Michael Cabugao Clarisa	• Philippines
Dr. and Mrs. George Birch, TN	• S. Paul	• India
Martin and Pat Sparks, VA	• Peter Thotakuri	• India
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Pope, VA	• Veda Kumar Madasu	• India
John and Joanne Thompson, VA	• Jorge Ovando	• Argentina
Elizabeth Wilson, TN	• Jorge Ovando	• Argentina
Braddy Electrical Services Warren, MI	• Tran Ngoc Phuoc • A.I. Abraham	• Vietnam • India
Wes McGinnis, AL	• Brother Wei #3	• China
Shelley Wirt, AL	• Agyarko George Smart	• Ghana
Naomi Traber, CA	• Allangba Konan	• Ivory Coast
Kerby and Heather Ebbers, MS	• Vincente Salgado Coello	• Honduras
Ronald and Linda Ashley, AL	• Naluswa Dez Joshua	• Uganda
Mike and Patti Alexander, CA	• Darivemula Chinna Babu	• India
Carolyn Courliss, TN	• Stephen Lepakin Pokisa	• Kenya
Raphael & Mary Ellen Igartua, TX	• Jorry Divine Mankye, Jr.	• Ghana
Vince Gunn, CA	• Khin Phalla	• Cambodia
Robert and Kathy Likes, CA	• Tatapudi Joseph Kumar	• India
Luis and Elsie Brain, CA	• Guillermo Salazar Ulloa	• Chile
Pastor Keith Corbin West Rome Baptist Church, MI	• Ramon Antonio Ochoa	• Venezuela
Reggie Richardson, FL	• David Ramos • Brother Dao # 8	• Mexico • China
Larry and Christy Allen, NC	• A-Lum Jamlong	• Thailand
Jerry and Caren Brighton, OH	• A Nom	• Vietnam
Walnut Avenue Baptist Pensacola, FL	• Joel Masabo	• Tanzania
Pastor Mike and Florence Gay Gospel Baptist, Claxton GA	• John Momboye	• Ivory Coast
Gospel Baptist Temple Claxton, GA	• Mykhaylo Hryshenko • Elmer Antonio Umanzor • Meibuko Mollel Saitoti • Jorge Ovando • Lomer Dela Cruz	• Ukraine • Honduras • Tanzania • Argentina • Philippines



INTERNATIONAL Visionary Trips

September:

Poland
Latvia
Lithuania
Ukraine

October:

France
Hungary
Switzerland
Belgium
Romania
Italy
Spain
Morocco

January:

India

SCHEDULES



CHURCH MEETINGS

September:

Maryville, TN

October:

Johnson City, TN
Troy, MI

November:

Port Huron, MI
Smith's Creek, MI
Hudson, MI

The Gospel according to archaeology

By Dr. Ron Charles

In 1990 the country of Albania was still being ruled by a communist regime. Although it was not comparable to the ruthless dictatorial rule of Enver Hoxha who had died in 1985, it was still very much an oppressive society with little religious tolerance and freedom of worship.

That year I had been invited to Albania by the Archaeological Institute of Tirana University to participate in excavations at a recently discovered Roman amphitheater in Durrës (ancient Dyrrachium). The amphitheater was constructed by Christian forced labor in the 1st and 2^d centuries. More than 5,000 Christians (according to local tradition) faced death in the amphitheater, including Titus, the 1st century pastor and disciple of Paul. This amphitheater was the largest amphitheater in the Roman world, outside of the city of Rome.

Because of a decree issued by the dictator Enver Hoxha in 1967 eliminating all forms of religion, worship, rituals and religious practices from the borders of Albania; there was zero religious tolerance. Although in 1990, there was a lessening of the iron-fisted communist grip upon religion, its effect was still very much prevalent with more than 85 percent of the country claiming to be either atheist or non-religious.

My privilege was to be involved in excavation of the amphitheater, the catacombs within the amphitheater, and the Christian graves located in and around the vicinity of the amphitheater, with the University of Tirana and the Archaeological Institute.

Although evangelism was officially banned in Albania, historical and cultural research and assessment was greatly encouraged. So, through that avenue the Lord was able to open doors for evangelism. In essence, because the modern Albanians were so "tuned-in" to their Illyrian roots and proud of their Illyrian heritage, anything that was associated with that Illyrian legacy and the history of that ancient people was encouraged.

As such, my method of evangelism was to do it through the back door. I would approach them with the realization that since they were so extremely proud of their Illyrian heritage, they needed to understand something about a choice that their forefathers had made in the 1st century. I then explained that throughout the history of the Albanian people, various beliefs had been forced upon them in which they had no choice. The Greeks forced their form of religion on them, followed by the Persians, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Catholic Church, Ottoman Turks, the

Italians, the Nazis and most recently, the communists. There is only one time in the history of the Albanian people in more than 5,000 years of existence up to 1990, that they had a chance to choose their form of religion and worship. That was in the 1st and 2nd century when they chose Christianity—and not only did they choose Christianity, but they chose to die for the sake of Christ, testified to by the deaths of over 5,000 Christians. I would then show artifacts excavated in the amphitheater that substantiated the fact that the Albanians' ancestors chose to die for Christianity. This truly became a very powerful evangelism tool, approved and sanctioned by the communist government.

One such artifact that is presently on display at the Archaeological Museum in Durrës, Albania, is a clay tablet excavated in a Christian grave in the vicinity of the amphitheater. We had discovered the grave a couple of days before, so I, along with two Albanian university students (one about 19 years old and one about 28 years old), who both confessed atheism, began to excavate the grave. We immediately recognized the grave as being a 1st or 2nd century Christian grave. The vaulted roof of loosely placed, flat stones on the earth tomb was typical of 1st and early 2nd century Christian graves. As we continued to dig, our assumptions were confirmed when we uncovered the skeleton remains of the body that occupied the grave. Like all 1st and 2nd century Christian graves, the body had been placed on its right side with the legs tucked up into a fetal position. The right hand was placed under the head and the left hand was extended. Various Christian amulets typically found in 1st and 2nd century Christian graves were buried with the skeleton. One of the students was a paleontologist and determined that the skeleton was that of a female, probably in her early teens. As I was studying the construction of the roof of the grave the students were finishing dusting dirt off of the skeleton. The entire left side of the skeleton had broken bones and animal teeth marks still remaining on the bones, indicating the young girl had been killed by wild animals in the amphitheater. Suddenly, both of the students jumped to their feet and began climbing quickly out of the grave. They were sheet white as if they had seen a ghost. One of them pointed to the extended hand of the skeleton. So, I crawled over to it and looked at the skeletal hand. In the hand was a clay tablet that obviously had been placed in her hand at the time of her burial. On the tablet was written some words in ancient Greek. The words on the small tablet read, **"For the cause of Christ, I lay down my life."** The students were so overwhelmed that they could say nothing for a while. One of the students, the older

From the Mail Bag...

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



India

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	1
villages evangelized	3
professions of faith	8
Converts baptized	8

From: P. Palu
Sponsored by: Phil Fitzgerald, AL

Thank you very much for your financial support helping to preach the Gospel among the non-Christians. May the Lord shower His blessings on you abundantly. I along with some believers from our church were preaching the Gospel in an interior village among the people who do not know about Christ and His love. They worship the stones and tree as their gods. These people are semi-civilized and dress partly. They are very ferocious people. They react very quickly when they see a man clothed in full dress. They quietly heard us singing songs about Jesus and His love for some time but became very angry and shouted loudly about their idol gods. Afterwards they bound together as human chain and told us to form as a circle. Then they brought an idol carved from the wood and also a flat stone. The idol was put on the flat stone and they spread out some flowers and started singing slogans about their idol gods. They forced us to bow down our heads at the feet of the idol and asked worship it but when we refused to do so, they beat us with branches of acacia tree with thorns. It was very painful when we received the beatings and bleeding but we endured patiently for sake of preaching the God's Word. May the Lord bring repentance for their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. Please pray for them.



Ivory Coast

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	1
villages evangelized	1
professions of faith	65
Converts baptized	0

From: Emile Konan
Sponsored by: Lee's Summit Baptist
 Lee's Summit, MO

Thanks a lot for your faithful support. The last funds arrived on time to provide our family's food needs and to look after our son Pierre Maxime who needs to take regularly medicine because he has a special sickness called in French "Drepano Cytose". It is a blood sickness. He needs to take special medicine to renew his blood quantity and it costs \$35 monthly. He has also a hare lip. He has got the first surgery. They closed his superior lip. Now they have to close his cleft palate. We need \$250 for that. With the war in the country the people are become poorer.

Despite the war situation we continue to preach the Gospel. The Lord saves many personas every week. Our Bible Institute has 75 students. The church grows spiritually and numerically.

With this war in the country we have 30 persons come from the war areas. We raised gifts for them that we will share amount them on Sunday. Please pray for them. They are hurt in their hearts. They lost all their goods and they saw the rebels killing people.

Being a national director, we need to get 2 more sponsorships for Emile. Please contact us if you have an interest in supporting him. Our office number is 800-522-4324

one, soon thereafter knelt down in the grave and gave his heart to Christ. He later became a pastor in Albania. Little did that young teenage girl know that 2,000 years after her death, her testimony would still be so powerful that it would cause an atheist to reject atheism and accept Christ as his personal Savior. Truly the Gospel message never grows old and never loses its power.



Ron Charles holds three Ph.D. degrees in Historical Theology, Ancient History and International Relations, the last being awarded by Cambridge University in England where he was recognized as one of the

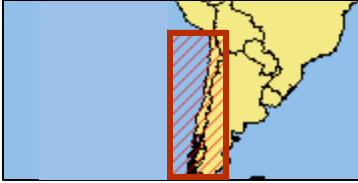
"1000 Greatest Americans" in our national history. He is also an author with seven published books and numerous articles. He was the first Westerner to be awarded the "Friend of Albania" medal by their Prime Minister. Ron, an archaeologist since 1985, has also served as a university professor, senior pastor in Georgia and Ohio, civil engineer and project manager, inventor, researcher and missionary to Albania. Most recently Ron was employed by Crown Financial Ministries, and serves as a member of the Board of Governors of Cambridge's Biographical and Historical Division and serves on the board of directors of Pacific International University and the Final Frontiers Foundation. He is available for speaking engagements on missions, archaeology or his past trips (and future) to Noah's Ark in Turkey. He can be contacted at (770) 531-0180.

Prayer and Praise Reports from around the world ...

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

Chile

From Guillermo Salazar Ulloa
National Director



This is Brother Sergio Villarroel (at right with Guillermo at left). This brother was in jail for many years and recently was set free.

Sergio was converted to the Lord and then studied all of the Source of Light Bible lessons. But then Sergio backslid and was transferred to another jail near the city. He had a lot of problems there and a group of other prisoners tried to kill him. They cornered him in a cell inside the jail and stabbed him leaving him almost dead. He had many stab wounds. Some of them near the heart. Even though Sergio was far from the Lord, he always had a New Testament in his shirt pocket. The knife that was headed for his heart got stuck in the New Testament saving his life. Sergio was near death in the hospital. Once he recovered, he decided to be baptized.

At this time he is free and desires to serve the Lord. As soon as he was set free he went straight to the church to do volunteer work on the building.



Cambodia

From Vek Huong Taing
National Director



There are 61 people from our church in Phnom Penh who completed the water baptism class and 57 were baptized June

21st. We conducted the baptism at Kompong Som, about 150 miles from the city.

On June 27 & 28, Samoeun (Vek's wife) had a Cambodian Women's Training Conference in Phnom Penh. There were more than 300 women who registered for this training conference. It was the 5th annual conference which God has enabled her to organize.



Kenya

From Missionary Jerry Daniels
BBF Missionary, Regional Director for FF



Thanks for your prayers for the youth camp. It was a great success. Nearly 300 young people attended with about 40 salvation

decisions. The Timau Bible Baptist Church also needs special prayers as a result of the people whom we are reaching with the gospel. Because every Sunday from last year to date, we are forced to arrange people in order to create room for all. The church building is supposed to hold only about 300 but the average attendance is over 400. Sometimes some people are forced to stay outside. What I am sure of is that the Lord did not command us to reach more without a purpose. Please pray with us that He will do something about the situation.

Russia

From Pastor Vasily Lastochkin
National Director



My wife came from Kasan, where we had two concerts with preaching. She was crying telling me how amazing it was to see

hopeless people excepting Jesus. She was specially touched by fifteen years old girl who had AIDS, she also excepted Jesus. Around 170 people came, many responded and twenty attended the church the following Sunday. Some of them even came to the train station when the group was leaving for Moscow. It is such a privilege to be a part of their new life with Jesus Christ.

In Tumen. We had an amazing time with the church and Pastor Pavel Galians. On Saturday we baptized three new members and had fellowship. All our time there we spent preaching, encouraging and teaching. There is a hunger in the Russian souls now, the hunger for God and His mercy and eternal hope.

I just wanted to thank you for prayers: we came back from the prison for life-sentenced people in the north of Russia. We had the opportunity to enter into eight cells and gave the Gospel to twenty life-sentenced people and encouraged those who already trusted Jesus. What a joy it was.

Sponsorship Information

- 1

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 opportunity of providing double sponsorship (\$70.00 monthly) if you prefer. This of course is not required. Your \$35 sponsorship also includes \$10 support of our ministry (unless you direct us otherwise). 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. If you prefer your total support to go to your preacher, all you need to do is inform us and we will comply to your request.

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.
- 2

Sponsorship of a **TEAM** can be done for as little as \$10.00 monthly, or for any other amount you wish. *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 every 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.
- 3

Sponsorship of **Child Care**, gives assistance to an orphaned, abandoned or destitute child. The \$35.00 monthly sponsorship provides for lodging, 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. Trimesterly correspondence is encouraged between the orphans and their sponsors. Sponsorship distribution for the child is identical to that of the preachers (see #1)
- 4

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.

Now it's your turn ...

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (home) _____ (office) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Please contact me about hosting a missions prayer meeting in my home. I have friends I would like to invite to hear a ministry presentation.
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if this is a new address or phone number.	

Enclosed is my donation of: \$ _____ **to be applied to:** _____

Please contact me regarding sponsorship of:

___ a national preacher	___ a country's <i>TEAM</i>
___ an orphaned, abandoned or destitute child	___ membership in the Final Frontiers Society
___ other _____	



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Final Frontiers
Foundation
1200 Peachtree St.
Louisville, Georgia
30434

Moved lately? Please give us your new address. E-mail: juanita@finalfrontiers.org or call: 1-800-522-4324

Reports received from the final frontiers ...

Reports received since the last Progress Report (two months ago) indicate there were ...	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 ...
733 Churches Started	20,019 Churches Started	1,245 Preacher Sponsorships
2,787 Villages Evangelized	73,477 Villages Evangelized	99 TEAM Sponsorships
15,095 Professions of Faith	575,853 Professions of Faith	82 Orphans Supported
6,461 Believers Baptized	196,064 Believers Baptized	58 Countries involved



To those 90+ of you who generously contributed to our renovation and repair project at our approx. 5000 sq. ft. home/office, we just want to say THANK YOU!

We were able to do most of the major repairs that were drastically needed. Now after eight years, maybe I can finally concentrate on getting a sign put up so visitors can find us. (I'm not a procrastinator, just a penny-pincher).

For all your help and concern, thank you.
(see our website for a color photo)