

Progress Report

First Quarter 2007

Poverty ...

Satan's creation, and society's curse is our doorway to world evangelism

By Jon Nelms

In our country, we are often cynical about those who are poor and hungry. We say to ourselves there is no excuse, they are lazy, they just don't want to work. That is possibly true most of the time, - in our country. But what about the rest of the world?

When I began to travel around the world nearly three decades ago, nothing caught my eyes like poverty. I can remember my first trip to Mexico, a church staff trip that we took to get away for a few days. Juanita and I had only been married for a little over a year. We couldn't afford to buy a hamburger at McDonalds, so an all expense paid trip to Mexico was a dream come true. We dropped Daniel off with her parents and traveled with the rest of the church staff on our church's luxury bus. I thoroughly enjoyed myself at the beachside resort, walking on sandy beaches and swimming with the dolphins. The food was great, the sights were great, the prices were great. I loved it. I thought to myself, what a wonderful place to come for a vacation!

We had driven overnight to get there so on the return trip, we were passing sights that the darkness had hidden from view. It was then that I saw poverty for the first time. People were actually living in old railroad cars and lean to sheds beside the tracks. They were dirty and uneducated. I thought to myself, what a wonderful place to come for a ministry!

For the rest of the trip home and many years thereafter, I literally begged God to call me to be a missionary to Mexico. It so impressed me that when I first began to contemplate raising support for missions, my plan was to raise funds for four or five missionary couples and move them to Mexico City to work together as a team to start a church. At that time missionaries were averaging about \$3000 support monthly, so I planned to raise \$3000 a month for five couples (\$15,000 monthly). Of course I planned first to take a trip to Thailand to raise funds for my missionary friend there, and then I would get busy working on Mexico. It was while I was in Thailand, I realized that rather than using \$3000 to fund one American



Ministry Information

The *Progress Report* is a free, bi-monthly publication of the FINAL FRONTIERS FOUNDATION INC., whose purpose is to effectively take the Gospel to the more than three billion souls, who have never before heard. Currently we are ministering in seventy-three nations. Many of these countries are closed to foreign missionaries, and in others, work among the various tribal groups is restricted to national preachers only, thus they are open to us because of our unique method of missions.

We believe that the training and subsidizing of national preachers is the most efficient and effective method of global evangelism. Thus we seek to raise prayer and financial support from believers in the West, for God's servants abroad, who are actively involved in church planting and discipleship.

Selection of those we sponsor is dependent upon their doctrinal beliefs, need and reputation. We support only those who are serving by faith, never those who are waiting for a salary in order to serve. Worldwide, the average preacher in a third-world country needs as little as \$35.00 - \$350.00 each month to support his family and ministry.

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

Current ministries available for support are:

- Sponsorship of a national or native preacher (\$35.00 monthly)
- Sponsorship of a *TEAM* of preachers in a given country (\$10.00 minimum per month, per *TEAM*)
- Sponsorship of a destitute child with our *Touch a Life* subsidiary (\$35.00 monthly)
- Sponsorship of the Final Frontiers Society, Bible distribution program (\$10.00 monthly)

Executive Board of Directors:

FINAL FRONTIERS, a non-profit, religious corporation, was founded by Jon Nelms in 1987, and is governed by those serving on the Executive Board of Directors: Rev. Jon Nelms (Chairman), Rev. Gene Carpenter (Vice President), and Rev. Ron Charles (Secretary/Treasurer), Mr. Ralph Wills, CPA/CMA, Mr. Charles Turner and Rev. Steve Ware. 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.

International Offices:

International offices are maintained in every country of service for accountability purposes, and are staffed by national and regional coordinators who are approved by the Executive Board of Directors. Administrative Branch Offices are located in Honduras and Portugal.

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Front Page Photograph

What do you see in the eyes of this little Haitian boy as he looks into the camera of the American visitor? Could you say "God bless you, be ye warmed and filled" and then send him away naked and hungry?

Where we serve

The 73 countries where we serve as of April 2006

Africa:

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

Middle East:

- Syria
- Iran *
- Iraq *
- Yemen *
- Turkey

Europe:

- France
- Romania
- Albania
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Hungary
- Switzerland
- Poland
- Bosnia
- Macedonia

East Asia:

- India
- Myanmar
- Thailand
- Laos
- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- China
- Philippines
- Nepal
- Indonesia

Americas:

- Mexico
- Cuba
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Costa Rica
- Peru
- Chile
- Columbia
- Ecuador
- Venezuela
- Brazil
- Argentina
- St. Vincent
- St. Lucia
- Grenada
- Haiti *
- Jamaica

Eurasia:

- Georgia
- Belarus
- Siberia
- Ukraine
- Russia

Central Asia

- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Azerbaijan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

Pacifica:

- Fiji
- Solomon Islands

** indicates TEAM or FFSociety support only*

Applications are in process now from:

Lebanon, Guyana, Croatia, Serbia
Crimea and various Middle Eastern nations.

The Jon Nelms family report

Let me begin by saying thank you to all who called and wrote after Juanita's passing. You were really an encouragement to us. It was my intention to write a thank you card to each of you so that you would know what your cards and words meant to us, but to be honest, there were just too many of you. I never knew that so many would care so much. I was overwhelmed as hundreds of you responded. So let me just take space here to say "thank you". Your friendship and efforts to carry my burden really meant a lot to me.

I guess you can see I will be using a new photo now. With the kids grown, I thought it best just to use this space for personal news and editorial comments. I was honored lately when an old friend, Max Helton, dropped by and told me that he thought I looked like my dad. People used to tell me that all the time until I grew a beard, then they said I looked like my mother! I never understood that but at least I look like dad again.

I wanted you to know that Sara and Michael's wedding went off without a hitch. I was the proud father who was running around like a chicken with his head cut off. I had to walk her down the aisle (the dream of my life) and then give her away and then do the ceremony. I had to choke back the typical Daddy's tears but to make it worse, Michael and Sara had an empty chair on the front row with a rose laying on the seat. Just before the wedding started I asked about it and Michael said, "that's Juanita' seat". I thought that was a beautiful thing to do but standing there performing the service and seeing the empty chair was among the hardest things I have ever done. But I did it and the wedding was beautiful. Thank you to all who sent cards and gifts.

Now are you ready for the latest news? My son Daniel is getting married! What's going on around here? After Sara's wedding in November, Daniel and I took off to Honduras to do some filming for our Touch A Life video (we want to put it on TV). The entire time I was sick. My ears were infected and most of the time I could barely hear. It took over a month to get my normal hearing back. Also the weather was just rotten as there was so much wind the camera could not record my voice for the whistling of the wind. Once it subsided, on the last day there, we went out to film and the equipment wouldn't work. Would you believe that the latest Sony remote microphone was not compatible with the latest Sony video camera? Rarely ever have I had such difficulties.

I told Daniel as we left that the Lord must have meant that trip for his benefit because I got nothing out of it. Well a few months back Daniel had told me he was ready to get married (he is 27). He told me that all he cared about was that she would love the Lord and want to spend her life in missionary work. I was so glad to finally hear that. Like Sara and Michael, he had put his life on hold to help with Juanita. While in Honduras he met a beautiful girl that I have known since she was about 10 years old. She was once a poor child that benefited from a sponsorship similar to our Touch A Life program. Now she is a church worker and sold out for missions. They fell in love and have had a whirlwind engagement, just like Juanita



Jon Nelms



and I did. On March 10th he will be married in Honduras. I couldn't be happier!

Now both Daniel and Nolvía and Michael and Sara will be trained to go out speaking in churches and help out old dad. They already do so much for this ministry but if I can squeeze a little more out of them I will. If any of you pastors want to help them get their feet wet, just give me a call and we will arrange a meeting. (They can also fix your computer while they are there.) Of course like any missionary, they need to raise their support so I will be thankful for your help. Along those lines, thanks to those who are now supporting me as a missionary. Since I made my need known, you have responded with about \$500 monthly support.

Enough of personal news. Remember how I told you a group in Alabama had taken all our files and were digitizing them for us. Well this project, if they had charged us, would have cost about \$54,000. It looks like they have finished it and hopefully by the time you receive this publication, it will all be uploaded on the internet. Now you will be able to read the applications and reports on every preacher we have ever supported, see all their photos, etc. As time goes on the sight will be enhanced to provide even more information for you. I'll let you know as it is upgraded. In the mean time, check it out at www.finalfrontiers.org

The most wonderful thing about this is that it will flag us when a preacher is late reporting. Sometimes they are late simply because the letters were lost in the mail but sometimes they just forget. That can create a lot of problems for us as the sponsors are expecting to hear more often. Now, the system will be able to tell us before a concern is raised and we can rectify the problem. Thank God for this new system!

I think it is important for those of you who support this ministry to know what your giving accomplished last year. It is equally important for those who do not and are looking for a ministry to assist that is doing great things for God. Let me just highlight for you briefly what the Lord did through this ministry last year. Of course we don't receive reports from all our preachers. Still about 10% are in countries where reporting is impossible, but even without their reports we compiled the following results during 2006. I think you will see that our supported preachers were hard at work and are worthy of your support..

- ◆ Every 8 minutes they led someone to Christ.
- ◆ Every 18 minutes they baptized a new convert.
- ◆ Every one hour and 12 minutes they evangelized a new village or barrio that had not heard the gospel
- ◆ Every they 4 hours and 48 minutes they started a new church. That's five new churches every day statistically averaging 37 new converts each.

For those of you who may be standing on the sidelines; I hope this report will encourage you to get involved in our ministry so we can do even more in the years to come.

Yours for souls,

Let's Get Acquainted ...

For more information on sponsoring a national preacher, see page 19.

Preacher's Name: Bangaru Solomon Raju
Wife's Name: Appala Narsamma
No. of Children: all grown
Country: India
Sponsorships Needed: 2 @ \$35.00 monthly

Testimony:

I had a government job and was making a lot of money through graft and vice. For ten years, every day I would get drunk before returning home. We had no children. My wife was burdened about this and she met the pastor's wife and we began going to church. The pastor taught us that God would keep His promises to His own people. The next Sunday when I went to church, his words touched me and I began to cry. I came forward at the invitation and accepted Christ as my Savior. On my way home I had such peace in my heart.



Because I had become a Christian, I stopped doing my sinful ways at work. Not only had I benefited by them but my supervisors had benefited by my sin. When I became a Christian I refused to do it any longer. My supervisor tried to force me but I refused so he transferred me to another village far away but this was good because it gave me an opportunity to preach the Gospel there. The people of that village worship a goddess named Nookamma. They are very devoted to her and they are very pagan people. Sometimes, there was controversy with my preaching but in time, more and more accepted Christ.

Finally, my wife became with child and we were needing to take her to the hospital and had no money. The pastor happened to come for a visit and he provided transportation for us and God provided us with a baby boy. God has been so good to us now. All of our children have grown and married and are following the Lord.

We have started three churches already and because I have years left in me, God willing, I will be able to start more churches and train more men for the ministry. This is a great blessing for us to receive funds from you and I hope you will see from our photographs how we live. You can see our style of houses made of wood and bamboo and palm branches. This is how all of our people live. It is all we need but we do need money for food and clothing and to be able to purchase tracts and Bibles to give to our new converts.

Preacher's Name: Santos Vicente Martinez Rivas
Wife's Name: Ana Celia Urbina
No. of Children: 3
Country: El Salvador
Sponsorships Needed: 1 @ \$35.00 monthly

Testimony:

When I was in prison, somebody came by preaching the message of salvation. It was at that time that God impacted my life. I felt the need to accept Jesus Christ into my heart and He has been my Lord and Savior ever since.

Four years after my conversion when I left prison, I started to testify about the Lord to my community. Now I am the pastor and I know that God not only called me, but blessed me with this church. I now do a lot of prison ministry, work along with leper ministries and open-air evangelism. I studied at the Baptist Bible Institute of Chinameca.

My wife is a woman after God, helping me in the ministry. She was converted in 1999 when we visited a church. I was a new Christian then and we had just started going to the church. We both decided that with God's help we could continue this new work of sharing Jesus with our people.

We live in a house with one room made of concrete building blocks. Some of our favorite foods include fish and soup of any kind. We must purchase all our food from the market because we do not have time to harvest because of our church and evangelism duties.

Please pray for us as we try to serve the Lord as He would have us serve. Already we have started two churches and have evangelized two other villages with the hope of starting churches there as well; but it is our desire to do so much more for the Lord. Pray for another sponsor for us as we certainly need your prayers and financial help to make our load easier to bear.



See these and many other preachers in need of support on our website at www.finalfrontiers.org

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 some samples.



NICARAGUA

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	5
villages evangelized	6
professions of faith	48
converts baptized	7

From: Santos Benigno Rodriguez
Sponsored by: First Baptist, Belpre, OH

May the Lord bless you; these are my prayers.

I appreciate all your help toward us and my ministry, thank you for this valuable support.

I want to tell you that between February and September I have baptized two people. This happened in an evangelistic crusade for 20 days. Also I have participated in three conferences carrying out with a group of 45 people in five small towns during two days. The results of this conference was that 106 people received the Lord Jesus Christ. Also we carried out special meetings for Father's Day, Mother's Day and Children's Day.

Also we have had a great parade and concentration in a vigil in the last week of October. These are the towns where I was preaching:

Langue Valle and Juticalpa. May God bless you.



INDIA

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	1
villages evangelized	1
professions of faith	16
converts baptized	16

From: Makka Satti Babu
Sponsored by: Terry Jenson Family, MN
 David VonWald Family, MN

Thank you very much for your regular financial assistance. You do not know how your money is helping not only in winning souls but also in emergencies.

During last month when my mother was sick and we took her to the government hospital for admission, she was denied admission because she was the mother of a pastor. Then with your money I engaged a taxi and took her to the nearby town to a private hospital where I paid money and admitted her. The doctor informed me that because I admitted her in time, her life was saved. Of course she is quite well now and she is very grateful and thankful to you for your help. Your support saved my mother's life. In this way your money is not only responsible to reach many people with the Gospel, but also

to help our family.

All our church members are very grateful and thankful to you for keeping me as their shepherd with your regular support. Please pray for our work in India.



GUATAMALA

Last trimester he reported ...

churches started	2
villages evangelized	4
professions of faith	8
converts baptized	16

From: Miguel Vasquez Ramirez
Sponsored by: John Thompson family, VA

Brother I write this letter to greet you with a special respect in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to thank you for your kindness to send me this economic support. As I have told you before, I'll always need your collaboration. I know that I will never pay you for everything that you are doing for me but I know God will reward you. As I have told you before, here in my country there are a lot of problems such as economic and discrimination. Maybe you have seen the news, our country is having a tremendously bad situation, everything is very expensive.

Again thanks for your economic support; it is a great help to me. Brother this also has been a great help to my pastoral ministry.

I want to ask you if it is possible you can help me to get another sponsor that can help me. I live very poor, my house does not have floors, it does not have anything. I beg your prayers. Also please pray for my security because I walk many kilometers away from where I live to go preach the Gospel and visit the brothers. Please forgive me for all my requests.

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missionary, I could use the same \$3000 to fund 100 national missionaries! Obviously, my plans and direction in life changed.

Looking back on that today, I realize that the "poverty" I saw in Mexico might as well have been the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, compared to what I would see elsewhere around the world.

I despise poverty. I loathe it. To me, poverty is nothing more than a physical manifestation of the spiritual condition of man. And just as we believe some choose to live in poverty for whatever reason, many choose to live without God for reasons known only to them and God Himself. However, just as most would gladly move from poverty to affluence given the chance, so most will gladly forsake life without God to achieve His salvation, if given the chance.

Last January Daniel and I and a friend, Teddy Awad, were in the Dominican Republic. While there visiting a missionary, we went to a village where he had started a church among the Haitian refugees. These people were poor. Many of the children had no clothing to wear and would try to cover their nakedness by smearing dirt and mud over themselves. I noticed one group of curious boys standing by and realized that only one of them even had a shirt to wear.

Their houses, those who had one, were made from latticed sticks covered with mud. The roofs were fashioned from old palm branches and dried sugar cane stalks that had somehow been missed by the harvesters. Each one seemed to lean precariously to one side as if it would collapse at any moment. Some had fence posts outside on which they would hang their clothes to dry after washing them in dirty water with no soap.

We spent hours there walking through the village, playing with the children, talking with the adults and drinking the water from coconuts they had climbed trees to harvest for us. Everyone was curious and friendly; amazed that "rich" people would spend time with them.

Later that evening, Teddy had arranged to have a meal of hot dogs for all the children at the church. Now you need to understand that this little church ran about 100 or less on Sunday. That night, nearly 700 children and parents came to eat and heard the Gospel. For most of them, it was the first time they had ever come to the church. I cannot begin to imagine the impact that service made for the Gospel in that community. The missionary was delighted.

The reality is, when you show grace and mercy to those in need, you open their hearts to receive your message of salvation. Most truly poor people will never receive a hand up or a hand out. They will scratch through life on crumbs and be beaten, cursed, ignored, shunned and raped. No one is going to help them, respect them and certainly not love them.

But poverty is like the proverbial "thief in the night", in that you don't always know when it is coming. There have been millions who have lived most of their lives in relative comfort, only to one day find themselves in poverty. This has been the case of many throughout the Middle East who after being converted to Christ lose everything. One day you can own a house, a car, a business and have money in the bank. The next day you have nothing. Your conversion has left you with nothing but your life



and it in fact, hangs by a thread. You don't know how to survive because you have never lived on the streets. To make matters worse, it is illegal for anyone to give you a coin or a piece of bread or even a cup of water. How do you feed yourself? How do you feed your children and your wife? Where do you sleep tonight and even worse, when the weather turns cold, as you know it will, where will you sleep? When the clothes you are wearing wear out, where will you get more? When you get sick, where will you go, how will you buy medicines?

You see, we in American think that poverty is not having enough money to comfortably pay for our second car. We think we are poor because we can only afford to cook hot dogs in our microwaves. I have known some people who say they are so poor that when they go to McDonalds, they drink water because they cannot afford a Coke. But they did not walk to McDonalds, they drove. They stand at the counter dressed, not naked; they can read the menu and the security guard did not deny them

entrance or threaten to beat them or call the police. We really don't know what poverty is. I suppose it is just relative to our personal situation. We as Americans like to say we are poor but in reality, we are the wealthiest civilization that has ever existed in history.

Walk into most homes around the world and there is no kitchen. The cooking is done outside on an open fire. The wife is thankful if she has a pot that she can cook in. Otherwise, she will cook in a discarded can. She doesn't turn on a range or stove, she gathers sticks and if there are none to gather, she does not cook.

When I take people on trips around the world, sometimes they will carry a little pack of Pringles with them. You know, the chips that come in the round can. In some countries they make them in smaller sizes. It is amazing to watch as one of our group will throw away the cardboard "can" after all the chips are gone. The children scramble for the can. They have no hope of finding a chip; they know the can is empty. What they want is the can itself so that they can use it as a cup to drink from. Their smiles stretch from ear to ear when they are given an EMPTY can of chips!

We are Christians, so we are different. Most people around the world just don't care to help others in need. They feel somehow that the poor deserve their life. Finding someone to help a mentally handicapped child or adult is even harder. I am so thankful for sponsors we have that target such children when given the opportunity. I have a photo here of a mother whose handicapped son is sponsored. He cannot speak and to be honest, he seems to have no control over his bladder. But she or her husband bring him to the kitchen to eat every day. Can you see the smile on the mother's face? You see she has two other children. Though neither are sponsored, we provide food for them all.

Several months ago, the public school teacher in Cantaranas, which is the town in Honduras where we are now building our first feeding center, sent some of the non-sponsored children to our kitchen to be fed. They were so hungry and malnourished that they could not stay awake in class. These children have no sponsor, but we did not turn them away. How can we? No matter what it costs us or how it effects the budget, how can we deny them?

The teacher asked one of the little girls, "when was the last time you ate?" to which she replied, "my mother hasn't lit a stick in four days." When Angie Varela, our director's wife told me



this story, I interrupted to ask what lighting sticks has to do with not eating. She explained it to me this way ...

In the morning when mothers get up, they take a stick and light it on fire in order to cook with. They usually cook with only one stick and gradually insert it deeper and deeper into the adobe stove, that way it prolongs the life of the stick. If there is no food to cook, then there is no reason to light a fire and waste that fuel. Thus the little girl was saying that she had not eaten in four days!

And then there is the reality of the disease that always accompanies poverty. What would be a minor illness for you or me can be life threatening for someone who is malnourished. Malaria for example, is the number one killer in the world. Several million people die of it each year; but I doubt that a single person in the USA has died of malaria in my lifetime. (Unless they did so shortly after crossing our border.)

This little boy pictured on the left does not have his hair shaved because he wants to look like me (though I must admit that is a lofty goal to have); his hair was shaved by a doctor. This little boy had been infected by worms. They had literally bored a hole through his skull and were living inside his brain. They had to shave his head for the treatment. Look how poor he is. But thank God, he has a sponsor. Of course the procedure was not paid by the sponsor, that would have been too much to ask. But needs like this are common. This is why one of my next projects is to build a full scale clinic attached to our feeding center. The cost will be about \$20,000 including the equipment, medicines, structure and supplies. We will be able to hire a full time doctor and nurse for less than \$500 monthly. We need this in Honduras. We need it in India, in Ghana, in Kenya, in Thailand and in Egypt.

Another ministry that really thrills me, something we do that we don't even mention; is when we are able to take surplus food and cook a meal, inviting all the poor elderly people of a village to "come and dine". These are folks who for the most part are invisible to Christian charity, yet they suffer greatly. They literally have "one foot in the grave and another on a banana peel". If we don't reach them and do so quickly, they will pass into eternity without Christ. Feeding, clothing, educating and treating the poor in my estimation, should always be done with the goal of presenting Christ, not just in our actions, but by our words. In my thinking, to do less only brings glory to a man

or an organization or a nation; and as Christians, we are told to "do all to the glory of God". I suppose by now, we have served close to two million plates of food around the world. A drop in the bucket to say the least; but every single meal was served in the name of Jesus and thanks was given to Him verbally and publicly before each meal was served. You and I may have, as an out flowing of human nature, received thanks for those meals, but our Lord received the glory.

But again, in our inability to understand poverty because of the bounty of our culture, we usually think of poverty as something that effects only unbelievers. Surely children of God have not and never will suffer or go hungry. I have often heard David quoted from the Psalm where he affirmed, "I have yet to see the righteous forsaken or his seek begging bread". I have even heard some say that if a professing Christian does go hungry, he must not be right with God. What foolishness. What immaturity in the faith. What ignorance of the Word. We read David's words as some sort of a guarantee from God, but it was not meant to be an iron clad contract to every believer in every age. It was merely David's personal experience. God had taken care of him and those who were loyal to him throughout his lifetime. It is nothing more than David's personal testimony. If you don't believe me, then how to you explain Job or Lazarus the beggar? Both righteous. Both suffering. Both hungry. Job was intentionally forsaken by God for a time, a looong time; and Lazarus was certainly a beggar, as we are told he ate the scraps from the table of the rich man.

I have never been wounded in my quests of serving God. I have been shot at and stabbed at. I have had stones and bottles thrown at me. I have been dragged behind animals over mountain paths and stumbled down hillsides; but I have never had a single scratch or shed a single drop of blood. That is my testimony. But that does not mean that others have not suffered and bled for him over the ages.

Think of all those who have died in prisons over the last 2000 years. Those who were incarcerated for their faith and died that way. You don't consider them to be beggars? Perhaps you are not aware that in many of the world's prisons today, and probably most of them in the past ages, prisoners are not fed by the prison. They have to provide for their own food. We think of them always being fed the traditional bowl of gruel but that is just not reality. Prisoners were fed by family and friends on the outside who would bring food to them. That is why in the scripture when Paul was imprisoned in Rome, it says they allowed him to have visitors that could take care of his needs. Even today in some countries, Mexico being one, when a man goes to prison, his wife and kids are allowed to go with him and live in prison. She can go in and out to buy food or whatever the family needs, then she returns to cook for them. Only if you have no one to care for you will a prison even consider feeding you, and even then, don't think that you wouldn't live on the verge of starvation and have to pay the charges before being set free.

One large class of people today living in poverty is in fact, Christians. Some because of persecution as I have just mentioned but far more because of circumstances.

When you hear about the refugees of Darfur, do you not know that many of them are Christians. They have been targeted by the Islamic government of Sudan for more than a decade, but only now are people starting to take notice. They have died by the millions, mostly through starvation. Walk among them and see if you are not overwhelmed by outstretched hands, begging for food.

While many have starved or live in poverty because of such ethnic or religious persecution an even greater number live in dire straights simply because they were born poor or the conditions of life or health has made them poor. Take lepers for example.

You are not born a leper, well generally speaking. You become a leper. It is a virus of sorts that kills the nervous system and to an extent, the ability of the body to heal itself. Lepers lose fingers and toes and noses and other extremities because they become ill or accidentally infect an area of their body. Leprosy seems to keep the body from healing the wound. Let's take for instance a woman squatting beside a fire cooking food. She is a leper. As she prepares to kneed some flour, her foot is touching the pot of boiling water on the fire beside her. She doesn't feel it because leprosy has killed the nerves in her feet. If her nose still functions, and that is a big if, after a minute she will smell burning flesh and realize that her foot is being burned or scorched. But it is too late, the damage is done. In a few months her foot, which cannot reproduce skin cells, will begin to fall off, piece by piece until she has nothing but a stub to walk on. Eventually this disease will rob her of sight and sound. She is not able to work, after all, who would hire her. Most people incorrectly think leprosy is contagious. She is shunned by society and even her family because of fear and shame. No one wants to touch anything she has made, so she cannot cook or sew or work in a factory. She is left to beg and even that is difficult because anyone who may be inclined to give to her thinks they have to be careful not to touch her when they do. This alone will keep most from helping her. Fortunately around the world, national pastors and missionaries have compassion for such people and minister to their spirits and bodies.

For me, the most horrible image is to see a pastor and his family living in poverty. Not having enough food to eat, not being able to clothe their children or wife. It is to them that I have dedicated my life and service.

India is a nation that functions on a caste system. This system was developed thousands of years ago by the Arayans who invaded them from the north. (They were a tribe of people from Central Asia. Those who conquered to the south eventually assimilated into the Indian races, and those who went west became known as Gypsies.) In order to humble the conquered and keep them servile, they indoctrinated them with their "Hindu" faith and practice. (although that name was not yet coined) As supposed by their victors, the people to the south, those that we today call Indians, have lived that way ever since.



Even though today, many poor Indian Christians know that in Christ we are all equal, they still cannot overcome the cultural indoctrination that they are less than others. They desire and seem to need to serve others whom they esteem to be "higher" than they are.

Among the castes of India, the lowest are called Dhalits. They are known as the "untouchables". Most Christians are from this caste that until the last election, was not even permitted to vote. Having voted in this last election, they were responsible for electing a new Prime Minister and government that is more friendly towards Christians. This will open the door of evangelism in this nation of one billion souls. But it will necessarily be evangelism from within, not from foreign missionaries as Indians are very nationalist as a people and any Indian pastor can tell you the emerging and pressing need to present Christ from an Indian context, not as the "god of the West".

Most of the pastors we support are in fact, Dhalits. Their status often hinders their ability to reach the higher castes and that is where a missionary or Brahman (highest caste) convert can be effective.

Generally the pastor and his wife are forced to work in order to live because the churches offering will often be only three to five dollars a month. Ministry among the poor only pays off in eternal rewards. One of the most common professions by which a poor pastor and his family lives, is to gather buffalo dung. After the animal discards its waste, the pastor's wife will pick it up and fashion it to look somewhat like a hamburger. Then while it is still moist she slaps it against a wall where it sticks and is hardened by the sun. You can see the handprint of the pastor's wife on each patty. Once it is hardened it will be sold for use as charcoal or for plaster to cover the floor or walls of a house. Doing this will earn her about twenty cents a day.

Others may work all day long beating and breaking larger stones into smaller ones to be used in construction of roads and buildings. Women and men alike pound stones day after day with no hope of ever having a better life for themselves or their children. Unless, someone sponsors them so that they can be full time in the ministry and give their children an education.

When work is over, they will return to their stick and straw house standing beside the church. Their floor is dirt, or dung, made from the buffalo patties; the ceiling is just the underside of the roof, which is made from string and dried palm branches. There is a center post to hold the roof and in this case, some plastic sheeting to help redirect rain that seeps through the straw roof. There may be one bed which is merely a rickety wooden frame with cloth strips or tire strips nailed to the frame. During the day it is propped against the wall so that they have room to move around in the house. Those who cannot fit on the small



Outside and inside the pastor's house.



bed will sleep on the dirt, making them susceptible to the cobras that may slither into their home at night looking for food or warmth. The kitchen is a merely small fire surrounded by stones to place the pot on. It is outside so that the ceiling will not become black with soot. In these photos above we show a somewhat wealthy family because they also have one metal chair and one light bulb. If you look closely you may be able to see an umbrella hanging from the wall.

This is where Final Frontiers and Touch A Life is making a difference. Ending poverty, providing education and health, freeing the pastor and his wife to be full time in their ministry, preaching, teaching, witnessing and building the Body of Christ. Let's be honest, neither you nor I could live under such conditions. Is it not a privilege that God has given us to relieve suffering and diminish the effects of poverty - and to do so in His name and for His children? And all the while, effectively helping to spread the glory of Christ to the world that He died to save. No wonder the angels are jealous of us!

2006 — A look back at what was accomplished

2006 was another fantastic year for our ministry; in fact, it seems that things just keep getting better year after year. Let me give you a summary of what took place.

Support for Children:

- ◆ Last year we began to seriously promote our children's ministry, which we call Touch a Life. It almost doubled growing from 141 to 272.
- ◆ We were able to purchase a large piece of land, thanks to the First Missionary Baptist Church of Justice, WV which gave us \$52,000 for that project;
- ◆ and in November we broke ground on our first permanent feeding center. This was done with donations from so many of you. The center should seat about 300 when completed and will serve as a conference and evangelism center, a training facility and the cafeteria for the school and Bible college that we will eventually erect on the property.
- ◆ Many of you also gave to my wife's Memorial Fund after her death in October. These funds are providing for the tables, chairs, stoves, etc. that will be needed in the feeding center.
- ◆ We also made arrangements to begin supporting children in both Mexico and Kenya. We have also received requests from Ghana, Thailand and Cambodia.

Support for Preachers:

- ◆ My concern was that once we began promoting children, that people would choose to support them over the preachers and that we would no longer be able to support preachers. Well, that was an unfounded concern because during 2006 we grew from 1,415 sponsorships to 1,490.
- ◆ One of our weak points has been that in the past we grew too big too fast and were not able to keep up with things administratively. Because of that we sometimes have sponsors to quit giving because they did not receive reports from their preacher. We needed a computer program that would alert us as to when a preacher was falling behind. We also needed to have all our files scanned and entered into our network. This mammoth task was taken on by one of our sponsors and the team he assembled. Kevin Carden and his business partner J.T. Hornbuckle both donated and arranged donations over \$54,000 worth of time and effort—free of charge. In the next few weeks we should have the entire program up and running. You'll be able to access our complete fills over the internet. This will be nearly one million pages of applications, reports, letters and photographs!

Other ministries:

- ◆ There are also other things we do that don't get a lot of publicity like smuggling Bibles into Middle Eastern countries. Last year's efforts were less than those of 2005 but we still provided funding for over 13,300 Bibles and New Testaments for Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Sudan, Honduras and India.

Statistics for 2006				
	saved	baptized	villages evangelized	churches started
Total	68,468	27,898	7,561	1,900
Mthly Average	5,705	2,324	630	158
Daily Average	188	76	20	5
Equals	one every 8 minutes	one every 19 minutes	one every 72 minutes	one every 4.8 hours

Statistics for January 1987 thru 2006 (from our beginning to the present)				
	saved	baptized	villages evangelized	churches started
Total	809,765	279,867	97,748	26,795
Mthly Average	3,374	1,166	407	112
Daily Average	111	38	13	4
Equals	one every 12 minutes	one every 36 minutes	one every 1 hour 49 min.	one every 6 hours

- ◆ We were able to get several preachers freed from prison in a Middle Eastern nation and relocated to a free nation; but that is all I can say about that.
- ◆ We were able to start our new program started called **Bags of Hope** which I will tell you more about in our next issue.

We were also thrilled to find out that for the past two years, without even knowing it, we had grown to being the second largest Independent Baptist missions organizing in the USA and the 14th largest overall missions organization in the USA. No one had told us!

Finally, for the first time in twenty years, our income passed one million dollars. Obviously, the more we receive the more we can give and the more we give the more that is accomplished.

That is why the greatest thing we have to report is that during 2006, every 8 minutes someone received Christ through our efforts and through your giving and prayers.

Anything else? Oh yes, we also ...

- ◆ Received our first support from a Canadian church and booked other meetings in Canada.
- ◆ Received inquiries from British contacts wanting to get involved.
- ◆ Received inquires from churches through mainland Europe.
- ◆ Took our first church group on a missions trip to Honduras
- ◆ Added a new Board Member, Pastor Steve Ware of Tabernacle Baptist in Orlando, FL
- ◆ Made contacts for support of preacher in the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Benin, Venezuela and Brazil.
- ◆ Had a great time getting to know so many of our sponsors through visits, phone calls, letters and church services. And finally, at year's end I took my first vacation in 21 years!

Mission and Violence

By Yosef Rehma

On the 21th of November, 2002, a young missionary lady named Bonnie Witherall laid down her life for Christ in Lebanon at the murderous hands of unknown Muslim extremists. She was serving the Lord in Sidon by practicing her nursing skills in a pre-natal clinic that ministered to needy and poor women, most of them belonging to the nearby Palestinian refugee camp of Ain el-Helweh. A local Muslim Publication denounced her work and the Christian ministry she was helping, as a "Zionist movement". They accused the Christian workers there of teaching Palestinian children to "forgive the Jews" and to "leave them Jerusalem and the land they stole from them". A local Imam accused those involved in the Christian ministry among children, as taking advantage of their poverty to make them "change religions!" The murderer was identified but the case was forgotten.

We could add to this episode, hundreds of cases of religious persecution that converts from Islam face on a daily basis in their communities. The last statistical update available reveals that in the Islamic world, at least one convert is being killed for his Christian faith every day.

This unfortunate opposition to the Gospel in the Middle East should not deter us from attempting to fulfill the great commission in that part of the world. If anything, it should create in us a greater commitment to pray for the lost there, and bigger burden to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in that hostile environment, shredded by hatred and animosity. However while missionaries and Christian workers should be ready to lay down their lives for the Gospel of Christ, one should stop and analyze some of the elements causing the rejection of the Gospel message in the Arab and Muslim context.

Questions to consider

When considering the topic of missions in the context of violence in the Middle East, one must ask several questions.

- ◆ *Is it possible that the opposition is associated with the method of presentation of the Gospel in the Middle East?*
- ◆ *Is it possible that cultural and political antagonisms generate some of the suffering in missions in the Middle East today?*

Concluding that the answer to both questions is "yes", is there anything the church should do to promote further contextualization of the message and its platform, making it more adapted to the culture of the Middle East, rather than being seen only as a vehicle for which to spread Western culture and politics?

The Middle East and the Church

The Middle East has always been controversial. It has long stood at the crossroads of the world's civilizations. It produced and nurtured the world's three monotheistic religions and it is recently yielding the most crucial world events, events that will very likely shape the history of mankind until its consummation. Christianity started in the Middle East and spread from there to the rest of the world. Yet three major challenges face the church today in its missionary efforts to regain in the Middle East.

1- Religious: Islam poses the greatest obstacle for the spread Christianity. Since its rise in the seventh century A.D. persecution has significantly affected the Christian faith in the region where it was born; having also spread quickly into the Fertile Crescent area and North Africa, the same regions that Christian-

ity had already gained a foothold. Under the Islamic Caliphate, Christians (as well as Jews) quickly became a minority and were given an underprivileged social status, which did not permit Christians to have any spiritual activity. The militant aspect of Islamic expansion and the Islamic law (which allowed Muslims to kill any convert) contributed to the intimidation of Christians and loss of the Great Commission burden in the Middle East. Any presentation of the Gospel today in a Muslim context has to cope with the sensitivity and complexity of the religious setting there. Thus it requires a full understanding of Islamic belief and practices as well as that of the Muslim mindset. It should also attempt to offer Christian answers to various challenges raised within that system of belief.

2- Culturally: Many centuries of world history have witnessed the East-West polarization of human societies. Christianity gradually became associated with the West, while Islam was considered an eastern religion. Western societies moved toward individualism and liberalism in religion, philosophy, politics, and human social behavior. This has led to agnosticism, atheism, humanism and licentious lifestyles overtly expressed by sexual immorality. On other hand, Middle Eastern societies maintained a strict and conservative social outlook and adherence to community, social life and family values. Today, Western, liberal forms of thinking are coveted in the Middle East, yet they are not allowed to deeply challenge the conservative, social traditions that have ruled for centuries. In a society where religion is considered a community choice and an affair of the state, western moral degradation has reflected negatively on the Christian profile in the mind of the typical Muslim. Rejection of the Gospel became associated with rejection of the so-called Western Christian societies. There is much to tear down in the mind of a Muslim in order to communicate true, Biblical Christianity to him or to her. It is essential to bridge that cultural gap if we desire to reach Muslims for Christ

3- Politically: Since the inception of the modern state of Israel, western nation's pro-Israel stands have formed a major obstacle for western missions efforts. Evangelicalism has become gradually associated with Western politics in the region that aim to maintaining Israel's supremacy and existence in an Arab context. In the Muslim mindset the "infidels" have invaded two countries (Afghanistan, and Iraq) which has called every Muslim to stand up and fight for aljehad in order to liberate these two countries from the infidels. This misunderstanding is bringing enmity and hostility toward Christianity and missions efforts. It is essentially importance to strip the Gospel message from political stigma and present it as a pure message of salvation to the lost.

What the Church should do?

There are two options for the long term. The first is that we will continue to be compelled to fight and defend ourselves from growing Islamic militant movements. The second, which is better, is that we give a chance to every soul in the Islamic World to receive a clear presentation of Gospel. I do believe with all my heart that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a powerful message which is able to change anybody, anywhere and everywhere. The Bible said in Psalm 119: 130 (*The entrance of thy word giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*) The Word of God is able to make a difference even in Muslim lives. We need merely to see to it that each of them have a chance to hear and read it.

My dear Brethren we are asking you to help us in our desperate need which now allows us a chance to once again take New Testaments into Iran. I am begging you to help us be-

cause as you see in news broadcasts, the situation is getting worse and we now have more restrictions for us as Christian workers. So right now we are preparing to print 30,000 New Testaments; **each one costs us \$2.20.**

In the last few years we have smuggled over 50,000 New Testaments into that country where Believers are persecuted daily. They begged for more but our shipments stopped due to the government's discovery of our secret entry routes. Now with a new president, we believed the opportunity to do more over the next four years had been destroyed. Recently however we have received communication that a new route has been developed to secretly and securely transport God's Word again, to those who long for it and live without it.

It is my request that you who read this news and share my burden and are able to help; will do so as quickly as possible. Imagine if you had to live without God's Word. To me, the only thing that would make that worse is to later find out that there were Believers who had it and had the ability to give it to me, but for whatever reason, just chose not to. Even if all you can buy is one, what a difference that will make! Please designate your gift for **"Iranian Bibles"**. Thank you so much.

Contact our office to schedule a meeting for Yosef at your church and hear what we cannot put in print.

A TEAM Report from ... MYANMAR
 For information about TEAM projects, see page 19

From: Go Za Kham
Location: Yangon

What was the total amount of the TEAM funds received?

\$80.00

What were these funds used for?

The team funds were used to buy medicine for all of the works. They are working in far distant areas away from medical clinics and stores to buy medicine in times of need. So they have to have medicines ready.

Do you have any special needs we can pray about?

Please send more money for the health care of the national missionaries.

Dear TEAM sponsors:

Our country is economically sinking down; no jobs, no work, no money. Different kinds of diseases are abounding. Now there is a new malaria strain which cannot be cured with our old medicines. Also TB is becoming incurable. We need vitamin pills to help unbalanced diets because no protein is contained in our staple food. I cannot go further than this.

Please help a Preacher in urgent need of support ...

To sponsor any of these preachers for \$35 monthly, please send us a check with the return form on page 19 or call our office and we can receive your support by credit card. You may also give on-line at www.finalfrontiers.org



Audrius Putvinskas Lithuania
 A. Z. Vietnam
 A. Tung Vietnam
 Phath Heng Cambodia
 Antonio Salazar Philippines
 Alfonso Perez Guatemala
 Ble T. Gnadou Ivory Coast



Final Frontiers SOCIETY

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

During 2006 we were able to distribute Bibles or New Testaments into seven countries, only one of which is open. In all the others it was an effort to print and distribute them, usually by smuggling. Transporting them was a challenge that was accomplished by men, donkeys and camels.

One great joy last year was that of taking God's Word into Yemen. The believers that we have contact with there told us that was the first time in more than 60 years that they had received a Bible.

The greatest heartbreak was that after the election of a radical leader in Iran, our delivery route was compromised and we were no longer able to get Bibles into Iran. In the past few years we have taken as many as 40,000 at a time into that country and such a shipment was not a drop in the bucket of what was not just needed, but requested. Most peoples without God's Word will beg for it once they find it is available but in Iran, they go far beyond that to literally risking their lives to get it.

So last year with your help we purchased and delivered:

3,000 Kurdish Bibles:
 Turkey, Syria, Iraq

4,500 Arabic Bibles:
 Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Yemen

300 Spanish Bibles:
 Honduras

5,536 Telugu Bibles:
 India

We have been informed that our contacts in Iran have developed and tested a new path for getting Bibles into their country. So let's help them do it! We need to receive \$2.20 to purchase and deliver each copy. Please help us with this. Since they are willing to risk their lives for a Bible, surely we can help by paying for them.

Welcome New Sponsors

Sponsoring Family	Preacher	Country
Bassett Bible Church, CA	A.I. Abraham	India
	Arjuna Rao Chiguluri	India
	A Hung	Vietnam
	Abraham Kathi	India
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Sapp, GA	Jan Tolwinski	Poland
Barbara Roth, NV	George W.	Syria
Ross Memorial Bible, Port Huron, MI	Hosea Michael	Tanzania
	Salvador Caspillo	Philippines
	Dan Faina	Romania
	Ble Theodore Gnandou	Ivory Coast
	Ivan Raul Rea	Venezuela
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Brentlinger, MO	Fraqncis Mwaniki	Kenya
Mr. & Mrs. John Wade, MO	Alex Wafula Kunyu	Kenya
Sally Luellen, MO	Chirra Prabhudas	India
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Hatfield, MO	K. Swatantra Kumar	India
Mr. & Mrs. David Throndsen, MO	Antonio Ferreira de Lima	Peru
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Still, MO	Koy Touch	Cambodia
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ingram, MO	Guillermo Rondina	Philippines
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Dawson, MO	Salvador Caspillo	Philippines
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Durham, NV	Alfonso Murillo Ortega	Honduras
Davie Meyer, IL	Dasanta Das	India
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Croskrey, WA	Navy Mang	Cambodia
	A Blang	Vietnam
Mr & Mrs. Scott Clifford, CA	Jose Maria Lopez Perez	Guatemala
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Adelseck, CA	Chin Thorn	Cambodia
Avanti Pools, Inc., CA	Jacob Luvai	Kenya

Sponsoring Family	Touch A Life Children	Country
Camille Headley, SC	Prakash Raju	India
	Suresh Madavarapu	India
New Vision Baptist, Claxton, GA	Lakshmana Babu	India
	Krupavaram	India
	Karri Venkata Lakshmi	India
	Cristian Alexis Cerrato	Honduras
Christina Moody, CA	Ratna Sulochana	India
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Christopher, CA	Hilci Yareli Hernandez	Honduras
Mitch Pate, FL	Gerson D. Castillo	Honduras
	Jairon R. Castillo	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Nelson, FL	Olvin N. Hernandez	Honduras
	Ana Paola Hernandez	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. Seldon Pierce, FL	SheikAbdulla	India
Geraldine Stratton, FL	Karla S. Avila	Honduras
The Minniear Family, MO	Kevin A. Lagos	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Brentlinger, MO	Carlos E. Reyes	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. James Ledford, MO	Suamy Jacqueline Guzman	Honduras
Kimberly Gardner, MO	Eva Xiomara Benitez	Honduras
Jamie Newell, MO	Cristofer J. Figueroa	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. Mark O'Dell, MO	Yesenia R. Garmendia	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. James Shiley, MO	Olvin M. Pavon	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Hohnson, MO	Cristian D. Rosales	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. Rudi Lorenz, MO	Marvin Antonio Gusman	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Blau, MO	Eric A. Andino	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Rand, MO	Besser A. Aguilar	Honduras
Pastor & Mrs. J.R. Farrington, NC	Carlos E. Pineda	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Baker, MN	Mutyalamma Talli	India
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Sweet, CA	Saira yaleni Pineda	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs.. Charles Adelseck, CA	Joel Antonio Cerrato	Honduras
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Butler, FL	Katrine Estefany Cerrato	Honduras
The Peter Karpe Family, MN	Ever Jafet Elivaque	Honduras



VISIONARY TRIPS

February:
Egypt
Dominican Republic

March:
Touch A Life Trip - Honduras

May:
Egypt
Israel

June:
Touch A Life Trip - Honduras
Sri Lanka
India

July:
Malaysia
Russia

September:
Thailand
Cambodia



CHURCH MEETINGS

January:
Dallas, TX
Wichita Falls, TX
Central City, KY
San Diego, CA
Rialto, CA
Athens, AL
Indianapolis, IN
Cayman Islands (2 mtgs.)
Aruba (2 mtgs.)
Athens, AL
Durham, NC
Brazil, IN

February:
Montreal, Canada
Cincinnati, OH
Toledo, OH
Nederland, TX
Southlake, TX
Groves, TX

March:
Holland (7 mtgs.)
Belgium (6 mtgs.)
France (8 mtgs.)
Italy (10 mtgs.)
Ireland (2 mtgs.)
Fredericksburg, VA
Charlotte, NC

April:
Germany (28 mtgs.)

May:
Austria (2 mtgs.)

SCHEDULES



Touch a Life

A child sponsorship ministry of the Final Frontiers Foundation
www.touchalife.net

By Jon Nelms

In November, while in Honduras, my son Daniel and I went to the groundbreaking ceremony for our new feeding center. It was a cold day with what felt like arctic winds blowing. Pastor Flavio had erected a tent on the property and there were about 250 mothers and guests present. Most of the fathers were in the fields working and they had asked the children not to come because there would not be room for them. We had splurged a little by providing sandwiches and drinks for those who came and we tried to treat each mother with care and respect.

The platform was filled with dignitaries. The police chief, the fire chief, the mayor, a military representative and business leaders. All publicly pledged their support to our cause. In fact, the mayor has exempted us from water and refuse charges. Then we had a few moments of mothers coming to speak and tell how our program had changed the lives of their children; followed by children who just wanted to say "thank you" to me and to their sponsors.

When I rose to speak I talked to them about understanding the value of what their child is getting and seeing to it that they are always allowed to come and dine. These mothers are the product of thousands of years of poverty. As strange as it may sound, many parents, especially fathers, just don't see the value of food and education. It is not uncommon to hear the remark, "My father couldn't read and I can't read so why does my son need to be able to read?" As a result, if it is raining, or they need help in the fields, they may sometimes hold the child back.

I explained as best I could the importance of breaking this cycle of poverty, teenage pregnancies and illiteracy. When the service was over, one mother spoke to our director's wife and said, "I never understood how important this is, for on I will see to it that my child is in school and not at work."



When the ceremony was over, we stepped outside the tent to lay the ceremonial "foundation stone" for the new feeding center. Already we have leveled the property, drawn the architectural plans and begun the foundation for the new facility. (For those of you on our email list, we will be sending you regular updates with photographs on the project. If you would like to receive them and are not, just give us your email address and we will add you to our list.)

Before leaving I was approached by Brother Paul, known throughout Honduras as *Hermano Pablo*. He has a regular radio broadcast and actually has a home in this little village. Most of the churches in the valley were either started by him or by a man that he trained for ministry. He came up to shake my hand and say thank you. He told me that for many years he had dreamed of and prayed that someday, someone would build a children's kitchen in this town and now he was seeing the answer to his prayers. To make this dream an even better reality, it turns out that our director, Flavio Varela, is his son-in-law. In the photo at the bottom you can see his daughter Angie who helps run our program and see the excitement in her face.

What a joy it is to be a part of helping these kids and their parents. Soon our facility will be built and we will be having



night classes for the parents and discipleship programs and teaching hygiene and home based industries. More and more adults will come to Christ and find a home in the local church. As they work and tithe, the church will continue to grow. And it is not just in this village. Already we have

started feeding children in two other villages in the valley, but there are 105 villages there that need this program, and need clinics and most of all, need a sound, Bible preaching church to attend. That is why one of our next goals is to build a Bible College on our campus where we can train men to go out and reach every single village in this valley for Christ. But, I'll have to talk about that in the future some time.



In December, we sent down the Christmas gifts that had been bought by the sponsors. We also spent over \$2000 on Christmas stockings to be sure that no child was left out. Each one contained candy, small toys and a New Testament. The children all met at the church for a Christmas service and

celebration. Then after they all received their stockings we began passing out the gifts purchased for the individual children. On the next page is a montage of photographs of that service and some of the children and gifts.

I just want to say a big **THANK YOU** to those who are helping with this project. We still have many children available for sponsorship in Honduras, India and Kenya. And this year we will also begin in Thailand, Cambodia and Ghana. I hope more of you will get involved and change a child's life. Do you realize that every child in our program in Honduras and India have now accepted Christ as well as scores of parents and grandparents! That's what its all about.

Come see it all for yourself



Visionary Trips

Our Visionary Trips to Honduras for the Touch A Life program will allow you to:

- ◆ meet and spend time with your sponsored child and their family, visit in their home and help feed the children in the feeding centers.
- ◆ meet some of the pastors supported by Final Frontiers.
- ◆ have an opportunity to go out with a Honduran church member to witness and pass out tracts.
- ◆ go shopping for gifts for the children and souvenirs for your family and friends



		Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
March 2007						1	2	3
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31

		Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
June 2007						1	1	2
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30

If you would like to go, call our office to register. You may call 1-800-522-4324 ext. 110. Please leave your name and phone number and we will get back with you. **Deadlines for registration are three weeks before the trip date.**

The approximate cost per person (except for the international airfare), which includes travel within Honduras, great food, and clean, modern lodging, is only \$650 per person. The only other funds you will possibly need are for souvenirs and snacks. A \$200 deposit is non-refundable.

Yet Have Believed



By Ron Charles

“Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed” (John 20:29).

In the above portion of scripture Jesus had just appeared to his apostles for the second time after his resurrection;

and for the second time they were behind closed doors. The first time that Jesus appeared to them, Thomas was not with them and he refused to believe that the person who appeared to them was in truth the resurrected Jesus. In fact, he said that he would not believe that it was actually the resurrected Jesus unless he was able to place his fingers into the nail prints of the wounds in Jesus’ hands and place his hand into the wound in Jesus’ side. So, when Jesus appeared the second time and Thomas was with them, Jesus made a point to recognize Thomas and challenged him to place his finger into the wounds in his hands and place his hand into the wound in his side, Thomas “melted” and recognized Jesus as the risen Lord and God of his life. Jesus then told him that he believed because he had seen, but blessed are those who had not seen and yet have believed. Hence, we have Jesus’ own words that blessings are certain to those who believe, even though they have not seen with their own physical eyes.

This fact was brought home to me very vividly a few years ago in Eastern Turkey. I had been selected to be a member of a search for Noah’s Ark expedition, a joint nation endeavor between America, Russia, and Turkey. Turkey supplied the necessary permits and official personnel, along with some needed expedition supplies; Russia supplied the large military type helicopter that was needed for the expedition as well as the hi-tech equipment, such as sub-surface radar and so on; and America provided the eight researchers and the media personnel. I was invited to be among the eight researchers that were selected. This expedition was in fact the very last expedition allowed by the government of Turkey to search for Noah’s Ark on the north side of Mt. Ararat, the side on which most serious Mt. Ararat ark researchers and scientists agree that the ark is likely located—90 percent of which is enduringly encased in the permanent glacier located on Mt. Ararat, leaving less than 10 percent of the object visible, whenever it is exposed, which is seldom.

We arrived in Turkey in the month of September with satellite photos in hand signifying that that year was the first time in many years that the glacier melt back on Mt. Ararat was significant enough that the object encased in ice on the north side of the mountain, the illusive Noah’s Ark, could very well be partially exposed. Needless to say, we were all excited about the possibilities. After a few days of preparation in Istanbul and another few days of political maneuvering in the capital city of Ankara, we set out on the nine hour helicopter ride to Mt. Ararat in Eastern Turkey, located on the border of Turkey and Armenia, near the northwestern border of Iran. Because there is usually only a one month window of relatively “nice” weather on Mt. Ararat, the month of September of each year, we knew that we had less than a month to complete our research. Our plan was to make

several helicopter trips around and over the mountain over the next number of days, taking pictures, making video tape and experimenting with the onboard sub-surface radar system. Then depending upon the success of our discoveries by air, we would set aside about two weeks to climb the mountain to confirm our finding. But, we were in store for some unexpected political surprises that changed the intended direction of the expedition.

The first several days of helicopter trips were scientifically and archaeologically successful, and politically uneventful. We made several helicopter flights around and over the mountain, investigating not only the north side of the mountain, but other areas of the mountain as well, that had over the years been suspected by one researcher or another of being the location of Noah’s Ark. One note of interest: when standing at the foot of Mt. Ararat, the most imposing mountain (over 17,000 feet in height) in the region with a circumference at its base of over 700 miles and the largest mountain in all of Euro-Asia, west of the Himalayas, and looking up at the mountain, one can easily ascertain at least fifty different formations that can clearly be identified as Noah’s Ark. So, needless to say, an exhaustive investigation was mandatory if truth was to govern. On these helicopter trips around the mountain we took hundreds of photographs and hundreds of feet of video of not only the suspicious configuration at the 15,500 foot level on the north side of the mountain, but of many of the other suspected sites. After several days of air investigation we had successfully eliminated the principal ten sites that could be most positively identified as ark sites from the ground but seemed most suspicious, as nothing more than ice caves, rock formation or ice formations. This process of elimination left the formation at the 15,500 foot level on the north side of the mountain as our primary focal point; a formation that looked unbelievably incrementing. For the next three days we concentrated all of our air investigation on that north side site. Although I cannot say with absolute certainty that the object located on the north side of Mt. Ararat was the Ark of Noah, the Russian helicopter pilot was convinced enough that he (a confessed atheist at the time) accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior while we were hovering in front of and just above the object. As we were hovering above the configuration, I noticed that tears were welling up in his eyes. I asked him if any thing was wrong. He then pointed to the formation and said, “Yes. That is what is wrong. I have been taught all of my life that Noah was a fairy tale like Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. But what I see is no fairy tale. Maybe your Bible is true after all.” I then told him that not only was the story about Noah true, but that Jesus was also true and real. So there, while hovering over the north side of Mt. Ararat, he accepted Jesus as his Savior. He returned to Moscow and started a church, which is now a very successful witness for Christ in mid-town Moscow.

After each flight around the mountain we would return to our place of lodging (a small facility that had been a former NATO military barracks that had been converted into a small hotel) and study the pictures and video, searching for clues in order to determine when we should begin our climb up the mountain. Finally, we felt that we had secured enough information to justify a physical climb of the mountain. We agreed that we would begin our climb at 4:00 AM the next morning.

All went well as we began our climb. But that was soon to change, because unbeknown to us, the Persian Gulf conflict had quickly deteriorated into an all out war. As such, Turkey took the opportunity to again “declare war” upon the Kurds, as they have done so many times in the past, accusing them of being allies of Iraq (it did not matter that Saddam Hussein had been systematically exterminating the Kurds; the Turks still ac-

cused them of aligning with Iraq). Since the Kurds had many camps and villages tucked away in the valleys and gorges of Mt. Ararat, the Turkish military began bombing and artillery shelling these Mt. Ararat Kurdish encampments on the very day that we had decided to make our climb. Needless to say, our expedition did not make much headway that first day. Instead, we found ourselves taking shelter in a cave on the mountain, in order to shield ourselves from the endless barrage of bombs and shells pouring down upon the mountain. The onslaught lasted for two full days and nights, successfully putting an end to our immediate expeditionary plans.

On the second day of the bombardment, I ventured out from my cover in order to try to catch a cautioned glimpse of what was going on. Although I was trying to remain calm and composed, inside, I was being ripped apart with fear of the unknown and the unexpected. From a small protected opening I looked up to the top of the mountain and to my delightful surprise I saw a large rainbow stretching from one side of the mountain to the other, in the very midst of the exploding shells. As I was cautiously admiring the rainbow, one of my expedition colleagues, one of America's most renowned mathematicians, came up behind me and said quite frankly, while sensing my palpable apprehension, "There's a real war going on up there."

I nervously laughed at the obvious statement, as the shells continued to rain, and answered with a chuckle, attempting to cover my evident anxiety, "I would say that that appears to be pretty obvious with all the bombs and the shelling. We just may not get out of this alive!"

He smiled and waited a few seconds before he responded. He then said, "You don't understand what I mean. First of all, we are going to be okay. God will see to that, so don't be concerned about that. Second, you need to understand what I'm talking about."

"What are you talking about? Obviously we're not talking about the same war that's going on up there." I answered.

To that he chuckled and pointed to the rainbow and said, "I'm talking about that war; the war that's going on in that rainbow." He then continued, "Let me tell you something about a rainbow. A rainbow is made up of multiplied trillions of ice crystal particles and water vapor droplets. Each one of these is like a crystal which when white light shines through it; the light is broken down into the colors of the rainbow. The light, both the white light and the divided colored light, is then reflected to another crystal and then to another and then to another, until the light has been reflected trillions of times by multiplied trillions of crystal particles. Hence, we see the beautiful colors that make up that rainbow."

"But," he continued, "What you may not know is that each time the light is reflected by another crystal, the consequential conflict generates enormous amounts of energy. When this energy is multiplied billions and trillions of times, it results in a concentrated compacted power source that is greater than, is more formidable than, and can release more energy than ten million atomic bombs the size that was dropped on Hiroshima."

"Yet," he continued, "Even though this immense amount of conflict produced energy has been created; enough in fact that this entire mountain could be reduced to nothing but sand and gravel from the energy contained in just one rainbow, it appears to us as something that is beautiful, picturesque and orderly. How?"

I did not answer his question. I just stood in total awe as I

muller over the information that he had just given to me. When I did not answer, he continued, "I will tell you how! It is by the power and the systematization of God, the creator of the rainbow."

"In the very midst of one of the most intense conflicts and power struggles in all of creation, God has the power and the ability to hold it all together to the point that when we see it, we do not see conflict; what we see is unparalleled beauty and methodical orderliness."

"So," he continued as he looked me squarely in the eyes, "If God is able to hold together this most intense of all wars and make something beautiful out of it, why are you so fearful of these small bombs and shells that man feels that he has mastered? God has all of this under His control and none of this caught Him off guard. It's obviously not our time to continue. So, just trust Him and all will be well."

From that moment on, my anxiety began to leave as I began to trust God and to realize that even though I could not see it with my physical eyes, that He had everything under control.

As the sun began to dawn on the morning of the third day, the bombing and shelling stopped. Feeling that this was our opportunity to continue our climb, we quickly began to gather our gear. But just as we began our climb, we were stopped by Turkish soldiers and were told that our climb permit had been temporarily revoked and that we would have to return to our base camp. Although disappointed, we turned around and walked back down the mountain to base camp. As for me, I knew without a doubt that since God was in total control of the energy of the rainbow, then how much more should I trust Him to be in control of the part that He wanted me to play in this expedition and to be in control of my life in general. So, even though I felt disappointment, I was convinced that God was in control; and that I need not worry or be anxious. And, even though I could not see with my physical eye how God was masterfully controlling, I did believe and was able to trust that God did indeed have everything under His control.

The team had to wait three more days before being allowed to continue the climb. But to make a long story short (a story that we will have to share at another time), the final expeditionary results has been shown many times over the past few years in a television documentary entitled, "The Incredible Search for Noah's Ark."

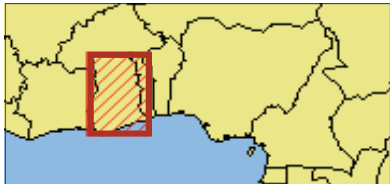
As it was with me, so it is with each of you. If God can control the tremendous energy of the rainbow and make something beautiful out of chaos and enormous conflict, He can make something beautiful out of your life. Regardless of how complicated you feel your life has become, or how irreversibly chaotic and hopeless, God can hold it all together and make it beautiful. Even though you may not be able to see how He can do it or understand how it is possible, if you trust Him regardless of whether you can see or understand and give your life to Him without reservation, then He will indeed make something beautiful out of your chaotic, muddled, confusing and frenzied life. Just trust Him and give *all* of your life (yourself, your spouse, your children, your job, your finances, your bills, your church, your ministry, your expectations, your problems, your commitments, your medical condition, your failures, your successes—*everything*) to Him. You'll be surprised how He will make something beautiful out of the mayhem of your life.

Prayer and Praise Reports from around the world ...

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

Ghana

From Raymond Danso Antwi
Final Frontiers National Preacher in Accra



from it.

I took a whole month, comprising of eight sittings; that is two sittings in a week for the teachings.

On Sundays, I teach throughout but on Wednesdays I allow questions and contributions. The sessions were so lively that it attracted other Christians from other nearby Churches.

After the sessions we introduced "WIN A SOUL A WEEK" which is running up till now. After teaching the Word of God, I have the alter call and introduce the new members. We also make them tell the whole church who invited them, and then we pray for them. This is motivating our members to win souls.

From March 2006 to June 2006, we have been able to win and disciple 55 new souls who attend church regularly. Though not all our members are able to bring a soul to church every week, they are still praying for their souls and following them up. Some take a month before they come to church, but we have taught them not to give up on them. One thing I am very grateful to God is that every member knows how to lead a soul to Christ

Thank you Source of Light Ministries for giving us the opportunity to know and serve God better.

Kenya

From Jerry Daniels, BBF Missionary
Regional Director Final Frontiers



region of these tribal clashes.

Fifty-four of our people from our churches in Nanyuki and the Maasai region to our north, traveled a long, grueling trip to the town of Maralal last week for a special soul-winning revival campaign. Over 285 people came to Christ during this campaign!

We are so proud of our African believers and church leaders who invested their time and finances to make this

India

From Pastor Ashok Andrews
National Church Leader in Kolkata



Simon Khess was born into an extremely poor family in Orissa. Poverty was so severe that Simon never had the joy of entering a school gate and learning to read and write like many boys in his town. His lot in life was to be the servant of a family. He would have to work for his food. What makes this story amazingly real is that Pastor Nehru recollects how Simon was the servant in the house of his aunty.

Simon went about life with not too much hope and as a result began to indulge in various habits that were not pleasing to the Lord. All of that was destined to change on the day when Simon was confronted with the power of the Gospel. He surrendered his all to Jesus and became his servant for life.

On one occasion when Simon was at a fellowship and he heard a man of God reading and expounding the Scriptures with authority. His heart desired that he would be able to do the same too. At the end of the service he walked up to the man and shared with him the secret desire of his heart, to be able to read and write. The man encouraged Simon to cry out to the Lord for help.

On an eventful day when Simon was all alone praying, he heard the Lord speak to him. The Lord said, "Take my Word and read". Simon did not have a Bible of his own and so he picked up his master's Bible and began reading in faith.

Over the next 15 days he read the Bible each day and at the end of the experience he decided that he needed to preach the Word. He went back to his hometown and shared the good news of Jesus. His family and five other families came to the saving grace of Jesus. Simon has never stopped sharing the love of Jesus.

My friend Ashok, was formerly pastor of the Carey Baptist Church in Calcutta, a church started by William Carey and the place where Adoniram Judson and Luther Rice were baptized. Last year he left his secure ministry to plant churches, serve God's servants throughout northern India and to train pastors in teaching and evangelism. We would love to support him but he will not permit it as he says the Lord has provided for all his needs. He has wonderful stories to tell of God's handiwork.

grueling trip! Please continue to pray for those who were saved and for the young church in Maralal Town, which is the capital of the Samburu District where the recent clashes have occurred. 168 people have been killed. The Love of Christ is the ultimate answer to all such conflicts.

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 **Touch a Life**, gives assistance to an orphaned, abandoned or destitute child. The \$35.00 monthly sponsorship provides for food, clothing, basic medical care, and educational assistance.

All orphanages and home placement programs assisted by Final Frontiers are administered by pastors who are supported through this foundation, and are operated as a ministry of a local church. 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.

Your Will

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

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

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

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

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

Now it's your turn ...

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (office) _____

Email: _____

I want to receive the *Progress Report* on-line rather than by regular mail

Check here if this is a new address or phone number.

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

Also, please contact me regarding sponsorship of:

___ a National Preacher	___ a country's <i>TEAM</i>
___ A Touch A Life Child	___ membership in the Final Frontiers Society
___ Bags of Hope	___ other _____

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AUTO

Moved lately?

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

Reports received from the Final Frontiers ...

Reports received in the last three months indicate there have been ...	Totals from all reports received since our beginning in December 1986 indicate there have been ...	A current total of all statistics indicate there are currently ...
483 Churches Started	26,795 Churches Started	1,490 Preacher Sponsorships
1,915 Villages Evangelized	97,748 Villages Evangelized	60 TEAM Sponsorships
14,150 Professions of Faith	809,765 Professions of Faith	272 Touch A Life sponsorships
6,412 Believers Baptized	279,867 Believers Baptized	73 Countries involved

Missions statistics in the "10/40 Window"

Two-thirds of the world's population -- more than 3.2 billion people -- live in the 10/40 Window.

- ◆ **Unreached and unevangelized:** 95% of the people living in the 10/40 Window are unevangelized. Many have never heard the Gospel message even once.
- ◆ **Good news:** There's a difference between unreached and unreachable. In 1989 there were only four known Christians living in Mongolia. That country now has an estimated 10,000 indigenous believers. Also, Christian television programming can now be received in many closed 10/40 Window nations.
- ◆ **Poverty:** Eighty-five percent of those living in the 10/40 window are the poorest of the world's poor.

Statistical data on unreached people groups:

- ◆ 865 million unreached Muslims or Islamic followers in 3,330 cultural sub-groupings
- ◆ 550 million unreached Hindus in 1,660 cultural sub-groups
- ◆ 150 million unreached Chinese in 830 groups
- ◆ 275 million unreached Buddhists in 900 groups
- ◆ 2,550 unreached tribal groups (which are mainly animistic) with a total population of 140 million
- ◆ Forming a smaller -- though important -- unreached group are the 17 million Jews scattered across 134 countries
- ◆ Good news: Missions researcher David Barrett says the country with the most rapid Christian expansion ever is China where there are 10,000 new Christian converts every day.

Bible translation availability:

- ◆ At least some part of Scripture has been translated into 2,212 of the world's 6,500 languages
- ◆ 366 languages have the entire Bible
- ◆ 928 other languages have the New Testament
- ◆ Individual books (such as the Gospel of John) are available in 918 additional languages
- ◆ 80 percent of the world's people have access to at least some portion of the Bible in a language they can understand.

Source: *Missions Mobilizer*