

In Thiss Issue

Page 4: Jim Lucas column

Page 6: Conference report

Page 8: Ministry Update

Page 9: Testimony from
Cote d'Ivoire

Page 11: Jerry Skiles
Africa report

Page 13: Mexico

Page 14: Target, Ghana

Page 15: Training program



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

by Dick York

The Revelation is the last book of the Bible and, for many, the most fascinating. Readers go there to learn, they hope, all the details of the last days. It is much like going to a fortuneteller to learn what tomorrow will hold. But when they have read, they understand as little about the details as they did before. So they go to the experts and read what the commentators are saying. To their chagrin, the commentators fail to agree, so they are left with the choice of siding with a commentator of their choice or waiting for God to reveal the Revelation to them.

Are we saying that the Revelation cannot be understood? Not at all. We are saying that the Revelation is not for the purpose of satisfying our curiosity about the end time but rather to make end time events recognizable as they unfold. The vicious evil of the adversary is unmistakable; equally obvious is the ultimate triumph of the lamb. The big picture is clear; the details are more difficult to interpret. But I do not need to understand what all the details mean in order that the message accomplish its purpose in me. I can understand that no matter how severe the trials are that may come or how apparent the seeming defeat, I can rest with assurance in the ultimate victory of God's purpose—in my life and in the world.

Paul prayed that the Ephesians would have a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God. Although it is good for us to know what other men think, to know God and His purposes only through the eyes of other men is not the same as hearing from the Lord. I do not want to know prematurely, to the point of seeking out other men's wisdom, what God is planning to teach me in His time by revelation. This is especially true when reputable, godly men, whom I, with good reason, trust, disagree with each other on matters of interpretation. So if you came to this article with an expectation to gain some unique insight into the mysteries of the future, you may be disappointed. But the Revelation includes many unmistakable admonitions and exhortations to enhance our "today" and equip us more perfectly for the tomorrow that we will assuredly understand as it unfolds.

The apostle John, victim of Nero's infamous persecution and banished to the barren, isolated island of Patmos because of his teaching the word of God, was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. Did his tormentors suppose that punishment would discourage John, curb his appetite for fellowship with the Lord and dissuade him from his purpose? Here is perhaps the first great lesson of this book. The Lord has promised, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." How would one know that experientially if there were not a time when all other companionship and comfort were stripped away?

It was there in that desolate circumstance that John, a faithful witness, received his revelation of Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness. This was more than a vision of the end times. It was a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not in the elegance of the lighted halls of learning or in the sunshine of our most carefree moments that we understand and appreciate most the blessedness of fellowship with our risen Lord. It is in the barren wastelands of our experience—in the dark dungeons of despair—when all other joys have been stripped away that we see, starkly outlined against the dark backdrop of our circumstances, the glorious brilliance of the one who shares them with us.

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending," saith the Lord, "which is and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

John could understand that. The presence of the Lord Jesus transcends whatever else might be imposed upon us. Though Nero was the greatest human authority on earth and also, in his time, the greatest opponent of the Gospel, he was as nothing before the one whom the Gospel proclaimed. He had arrested also the apostle Paul and tried to silence his voice by, according to history, cutting off his head. By this act, Nero had simply ushered him into the presence of the Lord. Paul's ministry continued on, and does to this very day. Nero's life was a vapor that was here for a little time and then vanished away. And John, for a little time, was his prisoner.

But the quietness of John's lonely exile was broken by a great voice, as a trumpet, saying, "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last" and "What thou seest, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia."

"And I turned," John writes, "to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks. And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters."

"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." How would one know that experientially if there were not a time when all other companionship and comfort were stripped away?

Whatever occupied John's thoughts before was interrupted when he heard that trumpet-like voice that caused him to turn and see. Perhaps the bit of information contained in that tiny phrase, "being turned, I saw," has something to say to us who read it. It seems that when we hear God speak, it invariably causes us to turn—to think differently, or to change direction, perhaps even to repent of what we were—and focus upon Him. That was the beginning of John's revelation.

What John saw was amazing: seven lampstands of pure gold with Jesus in the midst of them. These were the seven churches to which John was instructed to write. The material from which they were fashioned informs us of their value as well as their nature. These represented the Church as God sees it. Gold speaks to us of God's glory. It was what covered the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies; it covered the boards of the Tabernacle, the altar of incense and the table of Shewbread; and it formed the candlestick in the Holy place. The Church, as God sees it, is the fullness of Him that filleth all in all. The Church is the body of Christ, and He is to be revealed in it. That is exactly what John saw in the midst of the churches, a revelation of Jesus.

If he had turned and had seen only seven golden candlesticks, no matter how impressive their obvious costliness, there would have been no revelation. This was a revelation of Jesus. The churches were the context in which he was to be revealed.

But this was not the effeminate Jesus of Solman's painting or the cuddly Jesus of the Christmas crèche or the sin-tolerant Jesus of many a modern church; nor was it the bejeweled Jesus of a religious crucifix. This was Jesus clothed with a garment of righteousness—Jesus who is girt about with truth and glory. This was Jesus, the resurrected judge of the whole earth whose judicial hair revealed him as the ancient of days, the supreme court judge of the universe. His flaming eyes portray the fact that nothing is hid from His judicial scrutiny, and those brazen feet are they which will trample the grapes of his wrath in final judgment.

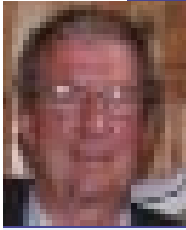
So awesome was this revelation of Jesus as he is—in all of his majestic judicial glory—that John fell at his feet as a dead man. Who of us, seeing

Jesus in such awesome magnificence could do otherwise? This, perhaps, is the vision of him that is lacking among his people. We see him as a friend, and indeed we should. We also see him as our Savior because that's who he is; we even see him as our Lord, although we may lack a clear understanding of what that really means. But if we see our friend, our Savior and our Lord, as John did in this glorious incident on Patmos, there is no doubt that self, which fills us and robs us so mercilessly of the riches of Christ, would fall before him as dead.

As John lay prostrate before this terrifyingly powerful figure who was so obviously endowed with judicial authority and the one whose last words to John and the other disciples had been, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth," he felt the gentle pressure of Jesus' hand and heard his voice say, "Fear not." That right hand already held seven stars, which were the angels, or messengers, of the seven churches. What a remarkable hand that is! It holds his servants. It wasn't too full to include his servant John. And it isn't too full to include _____ (insert your name). But we need a revelation of who Jesus really is.

That awesome Jesus that John saw as the judge of the whole church, as well as of the whole earth, was also the comforter and encourager of his servants. "Fear not," John heard him say, "I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth and was dead; and behold, I am alive forever more, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Jesus is the last word in every situation. He has overcome the ultimate trial, the most fearsome ordeal and even the Devil himself. He has the keys to unlock every prison cell, even death itself.

Imagine John, captive of Nero and the solitary exile on a barren rock, hearing the judge of the Roman emperor, creator of the barren rock, deliverer of captives and rescuer of exiles saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last." And then God gave him the assignment that would instruct the church for every generation to come. There is no captor, no exile and no circumstance that can render us inaccessible to God or unusable to him. If we will hear Jesus' voice and turn to see him as he is, he can be glorified in us yet.



Jim Lucas' Column

Living or abiding in the Spirit!

Abiding in the Spirit is of utmost importance and can bring great joy and peace. Many confessing Christians are not experiencing the blessedness of living a Spirit-filled life. They live out their lives carelessly, apparently ignorant of what Jesus taught us. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."¹

This doesn't give us much of an alternative, if we want to do anything that has value and that will endure and not be burned up; we must abide in the Spirit of Christ Jesus. Everything else, no matter how noble or grand it is, will be in vain. Only those who have the fruit of the Spirit are truly abiding in Him; many have the doctrine, but they don't have the life. What good is it if you can talk of a good life but not actually be partaking of it? "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."² The letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life.³

The one principal element missing is the fear of the Lord. We will never abide in the Spirit until we see the futility of living in the flesh. All flesh will be destroyed. "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."⁴ It appears that we are very slow learners and have too much confidence in the flesh; pride is far too prevalent. We desperately need the wisdom that only the fear of God can bring. "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility."⁵ We will be honored to abide

in Christ when we humble ourselves before Him.

At times it seems as if we will never grow up in the Lord Jesus. However we can take comfort with the promise that "he who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."⁶ I really appreciate the reminder that John gives us of being children of God in John 3: 2: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." We all fall short; we fail often; nevertheless, we have great hope as children of God. All of God's children are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ Jesus.⁷ Peter withstood Jesus and had to be rebuked even though he knew he was the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus knew that Peter would deny Him three times in the same night and that Satan desired to sift him like wheat, but Jesus prayed for him.⁸ Take courage, my brother, Jesus also knows what we will be going through; and He will be praying for us. Heb.7: 25 states, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." As Peter failed miserably but went on to serve God, Jesus succeeded and is able to save us to the uttermost. Peter was humbled and came to the end of himself. I pray that we will see the futility of walking in the flesh and be able to see how hopeless it is to trust in our own strength in our service to God.

We like to see ourselves as faithful servants, and we are likely to say that we will be faithful unto the end. This may seem noble; but if our

faith is centered in our determination or our zeal, then we can be sure that our ego is at work and we are headed for a crash. Praise God Peter's pride of self-achievement was destroyed; then he humbly came to Jesus, and Jesus honored him as a son of God. We bear this treasure (the Spirit of God) in earthen vessels. Our flesh comes on strong and even impressive at times, but it will always fail; and then we find ourselves calling upon him who waits lovingly with all patience. We are deceived by our own lofty thoughts of good things, like training up our children in the Lord. We see the failures of others and say, "I will not make that mistake." But you will if your faith is misplaced. It requires the grace of God to raise up a godly family, not just the zeal of the self-righteous. Are we any stronger than the many godly men who have failed to see their children serve the Lord? No, we are all from the same stock. Who said, "In my flesh dwelleth no good thing?" Was it some pervert that did not know God? I remind you it was Paul, an apostle of God. I believe we are all weak, and the sooner we understand it the sooner we will be made strong in Christ. Paul said, "And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."⁹ In John 15: 7 Jesus said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." It is always beneficial and an excellent discipline as Christians to memorize the word of God. If however we have great zeal to memorize the word of God but fail to abide in Christ, the same word we have memorized will be there to judge us. I say this not to discourage the memorization of the word of God but to encourage us to truly listen to the word that teaches us that unless we abide in Christ Jesus we can do nothing. The same is true for studying the word of God so that we can "rightly divide the truth." If we set out to be knowledgeable of the word of God, this is a very wise choice. But if we do this and fail to abide in Christ, then we will also fail to abide in his doctrine. We cannot know the doctrine of Christ

unless we do the will of God, and it is the will of God for us to abide in Christ. Jesus said, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." In 2 John 1: 9 we read: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

Many are telling us we need to believe in ourselves. The truth is we must quit trusting in ourselves and start trusting in Jesus alone—not Christ and I but Jesus only. The more of self that is involved the more frustration and failure we will experience.

We cannot abide in the Spirit if we are walking after the flesh. "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption: but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."¹⁰ The flesh will never help us to walk after the Spirit or to abide in the Spirit. But, on the other hand, if we walk in the Spirit, we shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. And if we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.¹¹

Are you content? James says, "Contentment with godliness is great gain." The flesh is never content. If you are not content, are you abiding in the Spirit or lusting after the flesh? The enemy of our soul works hard to blind us to the great gain that is found in being content abiding in Christ.

I would like for us now to meditate on the teaching of our Lord Jesus. *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they*

(Endnotes)

¹ John 15: 5,6

² James 2: 26

³ 2 Corinthians 3: 6

⁴ Romans 8: 13

⁵ Proverbs 15: 33

⁶ Philippians 1: 6

⁷ Romans 8: 29

⁸ Matthew 16: 22-23

⁹ 2 Corinthians 12: 9,10

¹⁰ Galatians 6: 8

¹¹ Galatians 5: 25

¹² Matthew 5: 3-6

Conference Report

by **Brian and Peggy Martell,**

Coordinators of the NE Washington Believer's Labor Day Conference

As we gathered at Deer Lake for the Labor Day Believers Conference, saints came from Canada, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Texas, Oregon and all over Washington. With gas prices so high, it was a stretching time for many. Some of the young people so desired to be there, that they helped pay the way so their families could attend. Some gave the money from selling their 4H livestock at local fairs.



The facility was full. Some were housed in tents. No one cared, the fellowship was special.

Folks from far and near, hungry to hear from the Lord, came from small fellowships, from large churches, and from areas where they have no fellowship. But as we came together to hear from the Lord, HE is ever faithful to minister to us where we are.

Pottery and Missions

Jose Luis, Mexican missionary to Muslims, spoke through an interpreter to explain how we serve God with our occupation. Aquilla and Pricilla, tent makers, took Apollos under their wing and taught him the truth of the scriptures. Jose stressed the importance of discipling our own children with the Word



Jose Luis sharing with some of the saints

and work. During a conference, when Jose Luis was seventeen years old, God called him to share the Gospel with Muslims. Listening to the challenge of the Muslim world, he thought, "Are things too difficult for God?" God said, "Yes I can, and I'm going to do it with you." He stated that some are called to stay and some to go.

Keynote Speakers

We were not sure Dick York would be with us,

after just recuperating from a hospital stay. He looked tired when he arrived, but by the end of the conference he looked refreshed.

Dick shared the importance of hiding God's Word in our hearts. He referred to Geoffrey Bull, Missionary to Tibet, who was imprisoned by the Communist Chinese for four or five years without a Bible. But because the Word of God was in his heart, he had the scriptures to encourage him in those times of trouble.

He spoke about the humanity of Christ. Jesus came as the Son of man specifically to go to the cross; He had to qualify as the perfect man. He told his disciples, "The Son of man must suffer many things, must be rejected, must be slain, and must be raised again the third day." Even though the prospect of the cross was so repugnant to him that he prayed, "If it be possible take this cross (cup) from me," his conclusion was, "Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done." Then Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and follow me (to the cross). If we are going to qualify, we may have to leave behind something that is dear to us. The career of a disciple (follower of Christ) is to hear his voice and follow him. It may mean a change of occupation or location. You don't leave your family to go to the work; you take your family to the work. Dick reminded us that those who are most profitable on the field left something profitable to go there. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. *He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.*

Richard McDaniel spoke on hearing the voice of the Lord. God spoke, and it was so; He uttered his voice, and the earth melted. The Lord speaks with a powerful voice. But, as in I Kings 19: 11,12, He also spoke through "a still small voice." The voice of Jesus is in the Spirit of His Word, and He continues to speak to his people today. When God called Samuel, he answered, "Here am I." We have a sure word of prophecy, and God personalizes his

word to each of us. My sheep hear my voice; we need to apply his word to our lives. Sometimes the Lord brings other people into our lives, to verify or clarify what God is saying to us.

Richard shared the meaning of *waiting* upon the Lord. In *waiting* there is availability, patience, commitment, dependency, an expectancy, looking for him, for his coming. Isaiah 40: 31 states “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.” Psalm 121, “Truly my soul waiteth upon God from him cometh my salvation.” Isaiah 25; 9 “And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Jim Lucas ministered on walking in the fullness of Christ and watching for His coming. “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety: then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” I Thessalonians . 5: 2,3. Jim reminded us of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:2. Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. There are plain lamps, and there are fancy lamps; but it is what is in the vessel that makes it useful or useless. May we be like the five wise virgins, always ready for the appearing of the Lord or for whatever He asks. His sheep hear his voice and follow him. God’s program is perfect and lacks nothing. If we are not enjoying the trip, is it because we are on our own agenda? Get on God’s agenda and you will have joy.

Spontaneous Ministry



Dick introducing Dave Woodward said, “When I first met Dave, he was bigger than me.” It’s true. Dick was four and Dave was 10 years old. Seventy-four years ago.

Dave Woodward, an eighty-four-year-old brother that was instrumental in Dick’s coming to the Lord fifty-six years ago, said that when there is a commitment there is a “must.” Jesus said, “I *must* work the works of him that sent me.” That’s Divine constraint. It is quite obvious that we *are* in the last days. Do the work of God while it is today—Divine commission. When Jesus Christ is Lord, we *must*. I am not my own, I don’t belong to me. I *must* work the works of him that sent me. “God, here I am; take all of me;” and God says, “I

am here, take all of me.”

Dave encouraged us, “If you are what you should be, you will soon be where you ought to be.” He said, “Our service is always to the Lord. If you want to get hurt, serve people. But you won’t be hurt if you keep your eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ. God says, I don’t want to hurt you; I just want you dead—to self.

Ed Drysdale shared, “It is how you finish the race that counts.” He also said of prayer, “When someone is put upon our heart; we need to pray for them.

Randy Vannoy read to us Romans 8:28. We are in that group, “The called according to His purpose.” We were reminded to be disciples, followers of Christ. He said that if we allow the Lord to work in us through even unpleasant circumstances, the crushing of our flesh grows us up and draws us closer to Him.

Editor’s note:*How can we disagree with that. We were well fed and much encouraged at this conference.*

There is a distinct possibility that next year there will be a conference near you if you live in Southern California. We are praying to that end. Perhaps we will see you there.



Camaraderie and spiritual fellowship filled the weekend. Those who were a part of it were refreshed and challenged.

Nigeria Report

by: Jack Ring

Nigeria Report

by: Jack Ring

Banana leaves, corn stalks and unidentified jungle vegetation whipped by my face. I was trying desperately to keep my balance on the back of the 80cc Suzuki motorcycle with one hand while I videotaped the scene flashing by with the other. I shifted my weight slightly as my driver threaded his way along a muddy portion of the twelve-inch wide footpath. His “flip flop” clad feet skillfully touched the ground every few seconds to keep the motorbike upright. Ahead, Byron



Clark, my traveling companion from Texas held on with both hands.

Reproved, I slipped my camera into a pocket and grabbed the other side of my seat just in time to slide through several s-curves. Moments later we burst into a tiny village and dismounted in front of what may be the world’s smallest fellowship hall.

This was the second of four villages that we were to visit in Ikomi Land, home of the Ohori Tribe. We had planned to walk to the villages and have a leisurely visit in each. But 6 hours behind schedule and with the day waning, motorcycles had been hired. So, after a brief visit, with two more villages to see and the sun dropping lower in the sky, we hurried on.



Ikomi Land

Until 6 years ago these villages had never heard the message of Jesus. Now each had a small company of believers. The work among the Ohori started about 15 years ago when Nigerian missionaries, trained at Christian Leadership and Missionary Training, went into this hard and hidden land. Slowly the good news has spread among the over 100,000 people of this territory previously held by the powers of darkness. And still dozens of villages remain unreached. As we watched and listened to the new Christians, we were struck by their radiant joy contrasted with the depravity and fear in the eyes of their unbelieving neighbors.



These are among the poorest and most isolated peoples I have seen. There are no year round roads in Ikomi Land, and during the dry season there is no water. With ground water over 1000 feet below the surface, Ohori women often must carry their water 6 miles. The Nigerian missionaries that work among these people also live among them. They suffer the same physical hardships as the Ohoris.

Indigenous Missions

As Byron and I visited these villages and met with mission leaders, a picture of part of God’s work in West Africa began to emerge. Starting with the training ministry, which we helped begin in 1982, Nigerian leaders have taken up the work. In 1986, they took responsibility for the training, renaming it Christian Leadership and Missionary Training International (CLAMTI). Soon after, they began forming their own mission agencies. Many Nigerian-led missions have been started since then, but most of our attention has been on two: Ethnos Christian Mission and Heirs of God Mission. Both of these have as their focus unreached people groups. We learned that they are now working in 25 different fields previously without any gospel witness, both in Nigeria and other West African countries.

Why unreached?

You could be wondering, “Why are there still so many places that the gospel has not reached?” The simple answer is that it’s really hard. The difficulties are many and varied: inaccessibility, hard living conditions, resistance to the gospel, and hostility to outsiders to name a few. As one missionary put it, “If it was easy to reach them, somebody would have.”

Since I left permanent residence there in 1985, we have found two primary ways to keep working with these precious brethren. First, to provide teaching and encouragement that helps spread the vision of mission in this strategic nation. This year Byron and I attended a reunion of over 100 alumni and friends of the training called, “A Refresher Course.” The program was 4 days of intensive teaching, preaching, discussion, strategy sessions, and most importantly,



prayer. We taught on Jesus' vision and methods for disciple making.

Secondly, we help by providing tools and finances for specific projects related to missions. From the beginning, we have believed and taught that missionary support and ongoing mission needs should come from the missionary sending churches. We have seen that when these things are financed from outside it weakens the church and its vision for the commission of Jesus. What we can do is take on

projects, on a one-time basis, that target specific needs. In the past few years we have supplied motorcycles, boats, outboard motors, computers, cameras, many books unavailable in Nigeria, high-speed tape duplicators, printers (and ink cartridges), Sunday school materials, and most recently

the finances to buy 2 acres of land for the training center. In addition to the land, we are helping to build the first building on that site. It still needs windows, doors and a roof to be usable, but it is a wonderful beginning. It's exciting to think of the many who may be equipped there and be subsequently sent of God to take the message of his love to those still waiting to hear.



With the numbers of western missionaries continuing to decrease, it's heartening to see our African brethren eagerly taking up Christ's command to reach every kindred, tribe, tongue and nation. We can partner with them by upholding them in prayer.

NOTE: If you wish to receive more information about this work in Nigeria, or be informed about upcoming projects, contact Jack Ring by email at: jack-ring@sbcglobal.net



A Testimony from Cote d'Ivoire

Hovare greets his Brothers and Sisters who are reading this.

It is for the Grace and Love of Jesus that I am bold to write this. It was the year 1986 that I gave myself to follow God. Before I understood the call of God on my life, He had showed me things yet to come in a dream.

After I dreamed this dream, I never had it again. I did not understand reading or writing at that time. When missionaries came to Gogo, I was not there. I was working in the south. It was while I was in the south that I had the dream. When I came back to my home area, one morning, I got up and walked to Gogo. I was impressed at that time to ask someone about a book. I had not heard of the missionaries. I went to see a woman and asked her about a book. She did not give me a clear answer, but she told me to come back another day.

That day was on a Sunday. When I arrived, there was Jerry and Paul, two of the missionaries. I was glad to see the missionaries. It felt like déjà vu. It was as if the things Jerry and Paul were saying I had heard before. I asked lots of questions concerning faith in God, and they answered me. The searching and teaching began like that and continued.

It came to pass that one day Jerry went to my village and spoke to me. He said he would like me to help him learn the Loron language. When I began to help him, he took a yellow book and said for me to sign it. I told him

I did not know how to write. He said to make a mark with a pencil. I took the pencil and began. Jerry spent three days with me teaching me to write. On the third day, I understood how to write my own language. It was like a miracle; I could not even understand how quickly I learned. If you do not believe me, ask Jerry. It was only three days. It was during these days that I really began to teach Jerry my language, and he asked lots of questions of me and I answered him.

It was not long after this that my child got sick. My child would go into convulsions. Her name is Fulakesebo. We took her into the hospital, but they could not heal her. They called this sickness in our language the turning falling sickness. No one was able to help her, not even the Doctor. One day, we were reading Mark and translating it, and I saw a child had this same sickness (Mark 9). I saw Jesus healed this child, and His disciples were astonished. They asked him about it, and He said that it is prayer that heals this kind of sickness. I went home and did what Jesus told his disciple to do. Just like that, my child was healed. Before, I had never seen this type of sickness healed. I knew of others with this sickness, and they died with it. Some fell in water and drowned, but my child was healed by the power of Jesus.

Jesus has allowed me to see many of His miracles. My wife Lepena also had a sickness. We went together with Jerry to the hospital in Doropo.

The doctor told Jerry, Lepena might not be able to be healed, because she had a reoccurring prolapsed uterus. But God healed her, and since that time there has been no problems. She is with me today in good health. The Lord is the Lord! Lepena's daughter Dubabo was sick. She was very weak. If you touched her, she would not respond. When she was like that, Jerry and some other whites prayed for her inside our mud house. The child was healed and is with us today. My daughter Lako was sick and was healed with prayer. My daughter Pricilla was healed with prayer. Daniel was healed with prayer. Annie was healed with prayer. Grace was healed with prayer. My daughter named End of Times was healed with prayer. All my children named above were healed by prayer in the Name of Jesus. My mother-in-law was healed as well. These events did not happen at the same time.

My brother could not have children with his wife, but Jesus helped them to have children. It seems like everyone in my family has been touched by the Power of Jesus in a miraculous way. Today everyone in our household is a disciple of Jesus.

When Jerry went to the Loma tribe in Bwaybiye, he did not ask me to go with him. He did not say let's go together, but we did travel and witness together in other villages. When we worked together, I was being taught as well. When Jerry went to the Loma tribe, it upset us Loron. I chose to help him. He studied the Loma language. I was studying it as well. Their language and our language are different. Jerry would give me food to eat when I worked there. I ate well there. I grew fat there. The Bwaybiye village had no believers. One went to work in a coffee plantation in the southern part of Ivory Coast and came back knowing of Jesus. He came beside me but did not say anything. He did not speak of Jesus to me. The rest of the Loma had never heard anything of Jesus. The Loma lived by themselves and had no strangers living with them. They had a king over them. Outsiders were afraid of them.

When Jerry and his wife went there, God opened the doors and some became Christians, men and women. Jerry found a man to help me with learning the language and teaching. In the end, he went south in search of other work. Another replaced him. During this time, the villagers young and old were happy with what was happening in their village. The majority of them thought that God's way would make them rich. In the end, they saw that wealth was not what God's

path was about, and some left. When that happened, we learned the purpose of many of the people's hearts. During this time, much pressure was placed upon the believers to abandon the Faith and return to the old ways. Some of them did. A remnant remained faithful, they did not become discouraged. The non-believers would try to deceive them, but the faithful refused to listen and stayed true to Jesus.

When the elders were unable to force them out of the faith, the villagers began to hate the Believers. They would speak evil of them, but the Believers remained faithful and refused to leave the faith. I was teaching them now. I would remind them that others were praying for them, and people in America were remembering them in prayer as well. This encouraged them, and they increased in faith. They were learning to read and write at this time, and they would rejoice in the Lord with singing and dancing.

I was blessed with what God was doing in their midst, and this increased my hope for them as well. They were no longer fearful of their enemies. The number of Believers is increasing. The teaching is moving forward much faster now. All week long there is teaching for men and women taking place. At dawn, the women are first taught and then they leave and I teach the men. After these devotions, I work with those who are in literacy. In the evening, we worship the Lord with songs and musical instruments. Some days the men lead the singing, some days the women, some days the girls, and some days the boys and some times the very young children. Everyone gets an opportunity to lead in singing and worship.

We have four women teachers now who teach other women Tuesday through Saturday. We have 2 other men who are teachers. On Sundays, I go to Bwaybiye and instruct them on the foundations of the Faith. I spend the whole day there. I teach literacy. Sometimes some cry because the teaching is so difficult to learn. Some Sundays we will pray all day until evening. God is working in Bwaybiye. Others are coming from the surrounding villages to hear the teaching taking place there. They are Loma as well. God is working in the hearts of the Loma people.

We are hoping in the near future that there will be enough believers in one location to start a small Church there. I am working now on the scriptures and lessons for Loma language. I know believers from other places are helping in this ministry with prayer. I say this to encourage those who pray. The

Kingdom of the Lord is moving forward among the Loma. Personally, I want to continue with the Gospel of Our Lord until I die.

Jerry's note: *Hovare was born some time around 1961, give or take a few years. He grew up in an area that had little influence by the outside world. The first time the Gospel came close to his geographical area was in the early sixties. Those first missionaries worked with the large language groups in that area. A focused attempt to target the Loron people, who he belonged to, was started in 1975 by Wycliffe Bible translators. In 1985 New Tribes Mission began a church planting ministry with the Loron. In 1995 the Loma tribe was given a focused effort when Shield of Faith Mission began a work there. The ministry of the Church to reach all the nations is gathering momentum as the Body of Christ work together to finish the remaining task of reaching each tribe with the Gospel of Grace. The testimony above is a small part of a very powerful movement that we as members of His Body share in.*



Hovare crossing the swamp between his village and the Loma village of Bwaybiye.

Hovare has worked over 4 years with paper and pencil translating the scripture. Here he is with a solar panel, computer and equipment to translate with.



Hovare teaching in the Loma church at Bwaybiye using pictures showing the Bible stories in chronological order.

School and Church buildings at Hovare's village of Boba (picture taken during dry season).



Jerry Skiles' Africa Report



Hovare and Jerry in Ouagadougou, capital city of Burkina Faso

I arrived in Burkina Faso with the rainy season fully upon us. The rains make travel in the African bush difficult, and this year has been exceptionally wet. In the capital of Burkina Faso, I purchased a small moped that I could put inside the bus for my trip to the Ivory Coast border. It was light enough to carry through the swamps, if needed to get to the tribe. I made the trip to the border town sitting beside a Wycliffe missionary who was working with a small tribe in Burkina. We had a good time fellowshiping, so the seven hour bus ride passed quickly. Crossing the border and rebel zone was easy due to the heavy rain I was riding in. No one likes to be out in the rain. The rebels wanted me to stay until the rains stopped; but I pressed on, which was fortunate, as the rain never let up for several hours. I cross the swamp

arrived at Hovare's village and was warmly welcomed. After discussing our options, we continued together to Bwaybiye. The paths were very slick, so traveling was slow. We arrived in time to start repairs on the village pump and prepare for our stay before dark.

The previous Saturday, one of the young believers of Bwaybiye had died. I could not keep my tears back as Hovare spoke of her prayers and of her faith till the end. Hovare had taken her to the nearest medical facility earlier, on his motorcycle, but nothing could be done. She was in advanced stages of something like meningitis or tetanus. The swamps, the rain and the lack of medicines made the task difficult and frustrating. The rains made



The young believer with A/X on her shirt is the one that died the week before I arrived.

the funeral messy, as a grave was prepared; people came to the funeral under very difficult circumstances. The pagans once again took advantage of the death of a believer to appeal to the crowd to see the vanity of the Christian faith. Hovare took the opportunity to share the hope of the resurrection by the example of Christ.

I taught on Sunday, and a woman stood and made public her faith in Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Another publicly confessed her sin and repented. The work of the Lord continues.

I met with the elders of the Bwaybiye, and they showed a desire to make moves to gain control of the stealing taking place in the village. I explained how stealing destroys a village. I later discovered that someone had recently stolen the village's idols to sell.

Hovare is doing well. He teaches at the Loma village every Sunday and has hopes of another



Hovare teaching at the Loma church

and has hopes of another fellowship starting soon in another village as the Lord is calling some of the believers there. He has prepared 39 lessons for radio, which are played once a week. The Lord provided him with a computer and solar panel after several years of faithfully working on translation with paper and pencil. I was very encouraged to see the change taking place in his home village. Fruit trees, discipline of children, clean courtyard, all reflect the external changes of what the Gospel is doing in the hearts of the believers.

I had several opportunities to visit and discuss with national Christians and expatriate missionaries the changes and challenges that are taking place in Africa. The lack of financial resources plagues the national Christian workers. Translation projects are stopped because there are no finances being given to the national translators. Some of the national translators refuse to move on without financial support. Mission hospitals, now operated by nationals, are without medicines because there are no funds to buy them. The hospital workers receive salaries, but few people use the hospital facilities because of lack of medicines. The hospital administration has extended credit to people coming for help, only to suffer from the good faith extended. This creates the financial burden of not being able to self-sustain



Making repairs on the village pump

the hospital funding. Some national church leaders I spoke to had to decide between two qualified individuals, which one to allow to continue with education and which one had to stop because of the lack of finances.

Last year's cashew crop sold well in the beginning of the season and then fell to half the early price, and in the end, the market completely crashed. There remain a lot of farmers holding their cashew crop. Some have held onto their cashew nuts for two years, almost guaranteeing a buyer boycott due to poor quality.

My condensed teaching, when given opportunity, is that as believers we must trust God for change. He is always faithful. The land and the non-human part of His creation are normally trustworthy. In man is the last place in which I think our faith should be placed. I have not given up all hope in man. However, I see that for man to be involved in positive change, it must begin with a work of God in the heart. The world problems we face today underscore man's inability to bring change to the situations. As I read the scriptures, God often declares Himself to be the author of the results of man's efforts. I take comfort in knowing that the whole world is in His hands.

I am writing this from Africa. I am always seeing the poverty, the needs, the abuse of help, the bad faith, and the selfish ambitions that seem to run wild here. The testimony of the young girl who died was that her last prayers were to be able to worship the Lord. This testimony encourages me that our labors are not in vain. Eternity is the focus of our endeavors, despite the seemingly futile efforts to see peace, goodwill, and prosperity come to others that share the earth with me at this moment in history.



Friends Ken and Audrey Joslin with Wycliffe Bible translators help Hovare learn how to record and edit with his new computer.

The Loma believers and Hovare and the household of Christians with him greet you in the name of the Lord and ask that you continue to pray for them.

Loreto, Zacatecas Mike and Faith Ball family

This summer we took an extended trip up to the States. We returned to Mexico the first week in August. Our situation here in the house has improved and also things are moving along well in the congregation. The saints are preaching the gospel and growing in their life in Christ. We put a lot of emphasis on living in dependence on Christ and living in both His death and life. Consequently, when we see these principles being applied in their circumstances, we know that they are growing in the Lord. More of the men are entering into ministry. While we were gone for a month, four of the men were involved in teaching or leading the Lord's supper, which includes a small amount of teaching. Two of them are young guys who are also young in the Lord. It is exciting to see them become involved.



Every other Sunday evening I am meeting with men to teach them in preparation for being elders. The most important thing to teach them is that they have to live as Christ did in order to be able to do the work that is required by God of the elders. To truly care for the flock they have to be servants as Jesus was. They must live a crucified life as He did, denying self and laying down their lives for others. Jesus prepared His disciples for the responsibility of leading His flock. His last commandment to Peter was to feed His sheep. Jesus had prepared Peter for this work by teaching him principles to live by; teaching him to live in absolute dependence upon Himself, to always deny self, to forsake all, and to take up the cross daily. He didn't teach him much theology or any homiletics, but he taught and showed him how to live as a servant of all.

These are the things that I am trying to teach as well as essential doctrines, so that the men will be able to teach others also. We see so many people that have had their faith destroyed because they have seen dissension and fighting in some churches. It makes me hurt for them and causes me to be angry because so much emphasis is put either on theology or so-called worship while right living between the saints is neglected. Right attitudes, such as humility



and meekness, need to be taught, line upon line and precept upon precept. What I see is that the simple teachings of Christ are being neglected for the more complicated teachings of men. Christ taught us how to live in Him. He taught us less about *what* to believe and more about *whom* to believe. Please pray for these men that God would prepare them for His work.

We are in the midst of a building project. We have finished the foundation for the wall, which will surround the property. We are now ready to purchase the bricks to build the walls. We will do the work ourselves on weekends since several of the men are masons.

We are starting to study the Word with a lady in Villa Garcia, a town about 20 minutes away. She professes to be saved, but we have doubts. Please pray for this study. We would like this to be the beginning of an outreach to this town, to which Juan Jose and I have been considering taking the gospel for quite awhile.

At the time I am writing this, I am in Mexico City for the first time along with Feilynn. I am helping to deliver ninety-three thousand gospels of John and Romans together. Dave Adams and Javier Parra from Scottsbluff, Nebraska brought them down from there. They had problems getting them across the border, but God provided a way to get permission from the administrator of the aduana (Mexican customs). We dropped off fourteen thousand in a mountain village forty-five minutes north of here first. What a time we had getting into there! We got lost several times in the night. The transmission in our vehicle heated up on the hills. We got there finally at 4:30 a.m. and slept for three hours. Then we had a hard time finding our way to where we were to meet on the edge of Mexico City. We parked the trailer at a brother's house and with the pickup are delivering to several different churches and missionaries.

We also brought equipment to show a movie on the street. We did that last night and will do that one more time before we head out the 22nd. When you read this, I would ask you to pray for those who have heard the gospel through the Jesus film and those who have received a gospel. We have handed out several thousand door to door and on the streets. Thank you so much for your prayers.

May the Lord continue to bless you with a richer knowledge of Himself.

Valle de Juarez, Jalisco, Mexico

Drysdale family

“Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness” Psalm 143:10.

God granted us an amazing time of refreshment this summer with family, friends, and congregations, preparing us for the next leg of our journey with Him in Valle de Juarez, Mexico. We were able to attend both the Oregon and Washington Shield of Faith Mission Conferences and share what the Lord is doing in the Circle of Silence. The Lord gave us a plan to garner more prayer support which is sorely needed as the kingdom of light spreads to an area that is very dark (and very “silent”—this city of 10,000 currently has almost no evangelical witness.) Please pray for us as we make inroads there. Specifically, we are asking for:

- A reasonably priced home to rent which will suit our needs and the needs of the ministry. We need to find this home immediately.
- Safe travel on our return to Mexico and a quick border crossing.
- Divine appointments in meeting the locals God wants enfolded into our ministry.
- A good start in setting up our home-schooling program.
- God’s leading in every aspect of the planning for the big Believer’s Conference in November. Pray we will be settled and able to be of service to Steve Montgomery in preparing for this important meeting.
- Blessings on all of those who have refreshed us this summer and have enabled us to continue this ministry.



We did encounter an unexpected mishap this summer. Our six year old daughter Kaylyn broke her arm by falling off the monkey bars at the park. We were horrified when we found out that the medical expenses for a broken arm of a six year old would amount to over six thousand dollars . . . We’re still horrified, but God in His graciousness has already enabled us to pay off half of it and has enabled us to trust His faithfulness for the second half. Kaylyn’s cast was removed before our trip back to Mexico, and her arm is fine.

We are so very grateful for God’s provision in Oregon of a Suburban to replace our worn-out van and accommodate the needs of our family, ministry, and the mandated semi-annual trips to Texas required by Mexico to renew our visas. God also provided a much-needed trailer that will enable us to move from Atotonilco to Valle de Juarez without the expense of a moving van. These necessities had to be met – and God did it in His perfect timing and His wonderful way. However, as God so often does, He went above and beyond to meet a desire of my heart by replacing my beat-up guitar with a brand new one. A wonderful friend presented me with this gift the week before we left. May the music we make this next season of service in Mexico truly be pleasing to His ears.

Target: Ghana

Ghana



Ghana is a country comprising 230,940 sq. km., a land slightly smaller than the state of Oregon, with a population of 22,409,572, nearly ten times larger than Oregon’s population. Almost forty percent of the population is under fourteen years of age, the median age being 19.9 years. *(Note from the World Factbook: Population estimates take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and death rates, lower population and growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected.)*

Within the country, there are 27 tribal groups with less than 2% Christian population, and at least two known groups with no Christian witness at all.

2007 Training Program

On Monday, January 15, 2007 we will begin the next training program.
Will you be one of the participants?

Everywhere there are opportunities to be fully engaged in the Lord's work. It is at the same time encouraging and frustrating to be aware of conditions in other parts of the world where multitudes are hearing the Gospel for the first time and responding to it. The response is what is encouraging. The apparent shortage of laborers where the opportunities are greatest is the frustrating part. A couple of years ago, a church leader in Tanzania told Jim Lucas, "The church there is like Lake Victoria; It is widespread, but extremely shallow. There is a need for people who know the Gospel to come and teach and make disciples." Now we are hearing the same from the country of Ghana. Not only is the church in need of workers and disciple-makers, but there are still identifiable unreached tribes in that nation.

In 2003, David Kangni, formerly a resident of Ghana and now residing in Germany, participated in the SFMI training program. He is now preparing to return to Ghana to preach and teach and raise up disciples by establishing a training center there as was done in Nigeria in the 1980s. In March 2007, Jim Lucas and Jerry Skiles will accompany David on a preliminary trip to Ghana to determine the strategy and a timetable. We are praying for a team to be prepared to enter into that work with them when these things are determined. If the Lord has called you to the work of mission, or if you are already engaged and would like to add your weight to this endeavor, contact us for further details.

I am quite sure that if we could know what the Lord knows about the remaining years of history, many of us would radically change our priorities. If you think you may be one of those, please be listening to the Lord and purpose to follow him at any cost.

**"He is no fool
who gives what he cannot keep
to gain what he cannot lose."**

A photograph of a rustic cabin with a snow-covered roof and surrounding trees, set in a winter landscape. The cabin has warm lights glowing from its windows. The scene is covered in a layer of snow, with evergreen trees in the background.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24: 14

Shield of Faith Mission International
P.O. Box 144
Bend, Oregon 97709

Return Service Requested

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bend, Oregon
Permit No. 118