

SHIELD OF FAITH MISSION INTERNATIONAL

SFMI

Prayer/News
UPDATE

Fulfilling the Great Commission Through Establishing New Testament Churches



Friends
in Jesus

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Editorial Notes

We live in an increasingly desperate world that for nearly two millennia has had available the ultimate provision available to meet that desperate need. Hebrews 10:12-14 tells us, "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." In "Science or Religion" brother Dick York shows how some seek to keep that provision from the desperately needy.


About Dun Gordy

Since we have included a few items of late from Dun Gordy, representative of New Tribes Mission (and we have included an item in this current issue), folks have asked whether we have a connection to New Tribes. The answer is no; we do not have any official or organizational tie to New Tribes Mission, other than having appreciated their work for many years, knowing personally some of their missionaries and working directly with men in SFMI who were formerly associated with New Tribes. Dun Gordy, like us, loves the Lord's people and shares a common vision. We appreciate what he stands for and demonstrates; so you may see something from

him from time to time. He is a personal friend and brother in the Lord.

Because the *SFMI Prayer/News Update* is a bi-monthly publication, sometimes missionary news reports make reference to events or activities that are history as though they are yet to come or requesting prayer for things that have already happened. We include these reports for your information, knowing that on-going prayer for the people involved, even after the fact, is effectual.

This issue includes two such reports: one concerns the current conferences that are occurring right now in Ghana. Tim Spurling, who nearly died of cerebral malaria after his return from Ghana last year, returned around the 10th of June to be part of a series of conferences in the cities of Tarkwa, Accra and Kpetoe, which began June 23rd in Tarkwa, and will continue through July 10th. Skip Voetberg and Sam Stone left Portland, Oregon on June 19th to join the team, which includes Brother David Kangni, Jerry Skiles and Ed Enns.

The other is Jim Lucas' report concerning his team's tent meetings and evangelism in Memphis, Tennessee and the outreach in Ardmore, OK. The event is over, but the training program students who went to help have included a report of how it went at Ardmore, Oklahoma. 

Our cover: *Beautiful Feet*

I took this picture deliberately. "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel..." These are the feet of two men who have had a part in spreading the Gospel among the Bisorio people of Papua New Guinea. Jack and Janie Housley joined the Kennells and Walkers in taking the good news to the Bisorio in the late 1970s. These are the feet of Jack and Suduama, who has faithfully continued carrying the Gospel throughout the mountains of Bisorio land. Bob and Jack introduced Suduama to me as "Apostle Paul of the Bisorios." I felt like I was standing in the presence of heroes—and indeed they are some of mine.

THANK YOU, Lord, for allowing me this great privilege.

*In the Beloved,
Dun Gordy*

Science or Religion



By Dick York

Science: *1. Any department of knowledge in which the results of investigation have been logically arranged and systematized in the form of hypotheses and general laws subject to verification. 2. Knowledge of facts, phenomena, laws and proximate causes, gained and verified by exact observation, organized experiment and ordered thinking.*

Religion: *1. The beliefs, attitudes, emotions, behavior, etc., constituting man's relationship with the powers and principles of the universe, especially with a deity or deities; also any particular system of such beliefs, attitudes, etc.*

“O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called.”

As is the case in our day, the apostle Paul dealt in his day with the oppositions of science falsely so called.¹ If there is something which is falsely called science, it seems evident that there is something that is truly science. What would be the difference?

Perhaps the dictionary definitions of “science” would afford us some basis for understanding the great gulf between that which may be called science today and that which is truly scientific. The description of true science (as copied from the Standard College Dictionary 1969 and appearing at the top of this page) includes such inflexibly rigid words as “laws,” “verification” and “exact observation.” According to the expanded definition, science involves hypotheses and laws: hypotheses being propositions advanced as *possibly true* and *consistent with known data*, but requiring further investigation; a theory is a hypothesis so well substantiated as to be generally accepted. A law, on the other hand,

is the manner or order in which a set of natural phenomena *consistently* occur under certain conditions. Laws, then, are *factual, invariable, verified by exact observation and proven consistent*. What we call a law is a summary of a large number of actual observations.

It is a common practice among those who exercise a bias toward naturalism to embrace assumptions that have been presented as hypotheses and, over a period of time, dishonestly represented as facts. Those who credit evolution as the cause of all that we see around us are what the Bible calls “*willingly ignorant*.”²

Think for just a moment about the meaning of “willing” ignorance. Would it not mean that the practitioner is *choosing* to ignore what would otherwise be recognized as factual?³ Willing ignorance must be a purposeful act, which would indicate that those who teach contrary to the Bible’s true record of creation are deliberately teaching what they know, or those who taught them knew, to be falsehood because it is not supported by the “science” they claim to espouse.

The claim of the unbelieving “scientist” would be that the Bible reports things that are obviously untrue because they are not normal: the opening of the Red Sea; the falling down of Jericho’s walls; the regression of the sun’s shadow on Hezekiah’s sundial; and numerous other incidents of a miraculous nature. These all seem to defy the laws of nature. And, of course, the scientist *knows* that all things in the universe *must* comply with natural law. Common sense, as science, is the product of experience and observation of what has been tested and shown by time and circumstance to be invariable.

Are there then things inconsistent with the laws of nature in the Bible? One of the things that has been observable and is consistent from generation to generation is the fact that God confirms his word with signs following and in

every generation has done whatever glorifies himself and demonstrates his power and authority. So yes, there are things that are anomalous. However, they are called “miracles” and are attributed to the creator of heaven and earth. But they do not, and did not, set in motion an on-going course inconsistent with known scientific fact; they are atypical.

Are there things in modern science that are equally inconsistent with the laws of nature? Yes. For example, the notion that lifeless forms by a process of mutation can evolve into higher, living forms. But they are attributed by “scientists” to nature and allegedly initiated and determined the course of nature which subsequently established laws in conflict with its alleged origins. These allegations by “science falsely so-called” set in motion an on-going course of historic thought that defies the laws of true science and contradicts observable fact (scientific laws)—such as beneficial mutations which account for the evolution of the human race from lower forms of life and originally from non-living matter—thereby disregarding the laws of thermodynamics. Therefore, according to the dictionary definition, they are religious in nature—unproven assertions based on beliefs, attitudes and emotions that purport to be facts—and guarded, not by intellectual honesty, but by secrecy and rigid academic enforcement.

What do we mean by that? Creationism has been banned from public schools and institutions of higher learning, as has any alternative to evolutionism. Institutions accredited in California and Texas to confer post graduate degrees, that do not conform to this new “science” have been stripped of their accreditation. This may be true in other states as well. Academic liberty has been suspended to conceal and preserve the propagation of “willing ignorance.”

“Scientists,” in refuting creationism, point out that if there is a God that created all things, he himself must have been created; otherwise, where did he come from? The fact is that the origin of all things had to be something or

someone that existed without cause, whether that were a person or a lifeless entity. So whatever side of the argument one may take, one must concede that the origin of all things had to be an eternal entity, something or someone without a beginning. Joseph Stalin, in his book *Historical and Dialectical Materialism* indicated that that eternal entity was energy. From this lifeless, designless energy emerged life and design. But true science, as well as common sense, has observed that only life begets life. There is no observable incidence in which life sprang spontaneously from inanimate matter. It is equally true that no book has been written without an author; no clock has been assembled

...We do not have to prove the validity of the Bible; it has proven itself beyond honest contradiction many times over and continues to withstand the severest criticism by its adversaries.

without a clock-maker; no automobiles have existed without a car-maker. Why then would it seem plausible that there could be a creation without a creator? Or, put another way, why would any thinking person deem it irrational to believe that the existence

of a creation is evidence of a creator?

Would it not seem that those who would embrace such a notion are willingly ignorant? Does it not appear that those who study geology, astronomy and biology, having seen the results of hundreds of years of research, have had to willingly ignore the evidence that has been discovered? Peter, by divine inspiration, as we have already noted, declared that to be the case.

Many books and articles have been written by both believers and unbelievers alike to refute the claims of evolutionism. Not all scientists are in accord with this highly questionable philosophy parading as theory with its many fanciful precepts. But it is a concept that has served well the atheistic political rhetoric of socialist movements that have swept the world over the past two hundred years. How better to explain the obvious existence of a creation without a creator to whom mankind must give account. It is by its nature a rebellion against God.

Darwin’s philosophy was a device made to order for their purpose. V. Lenin (1870-1924), Russian Communist Politician and revolutionary,

said, “A lie told often enough becomes the truth.”

Apparently Adolph Hitler’s minister of propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, concurred with Lenin. He ostensibly said, “If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it.”

William James (1842-1910), father of modern psychology, agreed. “There is nothing so absurd that if you repeat it often enough, people will believe it.”

Following is an excerpt from the aforementioned book by Joseph Stalin:

Contrary to metaphysics, dialectics does not regard the process of development as a simple process of growth, where quantitative changes do not lead to qualitative changes, but as a development which passes from insignificant and imperceptible quantitative changes to open, fundamental changes, to qualitative changes; a development in which the qualitative changes occur not gradually, but rapidly and abruptly, taking the form of a leap from one state to another; they occur not accidentally but as the natural result of an accumulation of imperceptible and gradual quantitative changes.

The dialectical method therefore holds that the process of development should be understood not as movement in a circle, not as a simple repetition of what has already occurred, but as an onward and upward movement, as a transition from an old qualitative state to a new qualitative state, as a development from the simple to the complex, from the lower to the higher:

“Nature,” says Engels, “is the test of dialectics, and it must be said for modern natural science that it has furnished extremely rich and daily increasing materials for this test, and has thus proved that in the last analysis nature’s process is dialectical and not metaphysical, that it does not move in an eternally uniform and constantly repeated circle, but passes through a real history. Here prime mention should be made of Darwin, who dealt a severe blow to the metaphysical conception of nature by proving that the organic world of today, plants and animals, and consequently man too, is all a product of a process of development that has been in progress for millions

of years.” (*Ibid.*, p. 23, [1] “Socialism Utopian and Scientific,” 1880).

My article does not purport to add a stronger argument for creation and against evolution to the works of many more knowledgeable writers than I and learned scientists who reject Darwinian evolution; the point here is to emphasize that the message of the evolutionist is religious in nature, not scientific, and it serves a political agenda. The findings of *true* scientific research in no way contradict the Bible’s message of creation. Although the Bible is not a text book about science, no proven scientific fact is contradicted by it; but at the same time, no scientific hypothesis that is in contradiction of what the Bible has to say about a matter has ever been established as fact. All such hypotheses remain speculations including the theory of evolution.

We do not have to prove the validity of the Bible; it has proven itself beyond honest contradiction many times over and continues to withstand the severest criticism by its adversaries. Although many “Christians,” such as the Catholic Church and others, have tried to accommodate the religious (humanist) doctrine of evolution by apologizing for Genesis, such accommodation is irreconcilable to Bible truth. Any such effort is confusion, which undermines the authority of scripture while doing nothing to diminish the fallacy of “science falsely so-called.” In some cases, even “Christian” education in Christian institutions makes room for things “scientific” which call in question the accuracy of the Biblical account because of their seeming logic. Don’t go there: it is the threshold of skepticism and apostasy. Let us take our stand on unshakably solid ground: “I esteem all of thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.”⁴ If it calls itself science, but is in contradiction to these precepts, it is “falsely so-called.” It is in fact religion not science. 🌐

Endnotes

1 1 Timothy 6:20

2 2 Peter 3:5

3 Romans 1:19-22

4 Psalm 119:128



Friends in Jesus

By Jim Lucas

I did not mean to do it! How often we hear this disclaimer. But did you mean not to?

When the Church in Jerusalem heard about the Gentiles receiving the Lord Jesus in Antioch, they sent Barnabas, “Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord” (Acts 11:23). This simple but all important exhortation is lacking amongst many believers today.

To illustrate the importance of this let’s look into the life of King Rehoboam. “So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother’s name was Naamah an Ammonitess. And he did evil because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD” (2 Chronicles 12:13-14). He didn’t purposely do evil, but he didn’t purpose not to either. You may also read 2 Chronicles 15:2, 12,13.

When we fail to follow after Christ, we become like a leaf in the wind, without guidance. We may not purpose to become worldly or materialistic, but it’s easy to go with the current of this world unless we purpose not to. We don’t want to be worrying about our finances and how we are going to make ends meet; but if we are not seeking the Kingdom of God first, then we cannot wait in faith for our Father to add all that is needed in this life.

We are to walk with Christ in the same way we received Him, in faith and purpose of heart. (Colossians 2:6) This is how we can become rooted, grounded, and built-up in the faith! (Colossians 2:7).

We need to be free from religious spirits and fleshy efforts and all that keeps us from simply resting in Christ Jesus. (See Colossians 2:8) Quit trying to be Christlike—*sometimes, what we think is a noble thought is only manifesting our lack of confidence that Christ is in us*—we cannot reform the old man. Start believing you are truly in Christ and Christ is in you; this is the mystery

that has been baffling the worldly wise from the beginning. True holiness and righteousness is only found in Him. Grace is found when in faith we cleave unto Him.

Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily (Colossians 1:26-29).

We are complete in Him that is perfect; and we cannot improve upon that (Colossians 2:10). Jesus said, “Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). This is only accomplished by those who rest in the finished and perfect work of Christ Jesus. “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (Hebrews 10:14). Let the old man rest.

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it (Col. 2: 13-15).

If we fail to accept our death in Christ, then we will always be struggling and alienated from the life in Christ. By his death and our death with him the old account is settled.

Get a life! Being dead in sins and quickened (made alive) together with Him, it is paramount that we cleave unto Him who is our life.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also

appear with him in glory. For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Col 3: 1-4).

Many professing believers are not manifesting the life of Christ because they have not “put off the old man with his deeds.” They are not hid; they walk about with no shame of their nakedness. Many believe their figs leaves (religious or fleshy works) have them covered.

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds (Colossians 3:5-9).

Many put off the fornication, covetousness and the obvious unChristian activities; but fail to put off the anger, wrath, malice, and etc., in their effort to reform the old man. They lie one to another while claiming the righteousness of Christ, but in fact they are not manifesting the life of Christ.

We can by all means “get a life now”—our Lord Jesus has made all provision for us. By believing he died for us, we can put off the old man in faith; and by believing he rose from the dead and has raised us up in Him, we can put on the new man.


“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him” (Colossians 3:10). *I do not have to change: I need to believe that I can put on this New Man which is renewed after the image of Him who created him.* When we simply believe, we will simply obey. Let’s get a life by going into our prayer closet and putting on the new man that has been provided for us. We cannot put on what is not available, but we better put on what has been made available. I don’t know about you, but I don’t want my nakedness to show anymore.

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put

on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him (Colossians 3:12-17).

Look what we have in our prayer closet: bowels of mercies. If we pray for this in faith believing, we will not be refused. Bowels of mercies is truly a godliness that will manifest who we are in Christ Jesus and cannot be mistaken for the old man. Kindness will draw many unto salvation. Humbleness of mind certainly was not found in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This is a true identifier of Christ’s presence. Meekness is so beautiful that the English language fails in describing her loveliness. When the child of God puts on meekness who would dare to harm him. Longsuffering will bring glory to God. In a world where everybody is suffering, most of them without hope. Forgiveness, don’t you want to display what we received without merit again and again? Forbearing one another, it will be great to have the strength to carry our loved ones. Charity is indeed above all because it is not just love but love in action. The bond of perfectness, oh to be perfect in love. What a glorious hope!

“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.” Isn’t it wonderful that we do not need to be without peace? The new man in Christ can permit peace to rule. If we are without peace, we need to return to the prayer closet.

The child of God who allows the word of Christ to dwell richly in him will be able to teach and admonish others. Many hear, but they don’t allow the word to dwell in them. However, those who do will be endowed the privilege to do all things in Jesus name. When all things are done in his name, then in all things Jesus is manifested. Only if he is manifested, can it be said it was done in his name. What a great honor it would be to stand and pray as Jesus did just before he left this world: “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word” (John 17:4,6). 



Ardmore, Oklahoma Outreach Report

Hello, saints. My name is Austin Ball, and I've been helping with the training program for the last few months and not so long ago went through the training program myself. On June 8, all the current trainees and I went on a trip to Ardmore, Oklahoma to help Jim Lucas with the tent ministry. We returned Wednesday, June 22. Ardmore was chosen because of Ronnie Qualls who is a long time friend of the Burwells, a family taking part in the USA for Jesus team. Ronnie is involved with a little fellowship in Sulphur, Oklahoma; and he has had it on his heart for some time to do some ministry in Ardmore. Our group coming there was an excellent opportunity to start some Bible studies in Ardmore. The Lord



really blessed our time there. The tent was set up on a vacant lot, an excellent location on a corner right in the middle of town. By the time we left, almost everyone in town had seen the tent and was wondering what we were all about.



We went evangelizing twice everyday, and sometimes we had up to 16 people at one time going out door to door during the day. Everyday we had several good contacts, and everyone had at least one good conversation each day.

Personally I can recall about 15 good conversations where the gospel was preached clearly. If you have ever been door to door in America, you'll

know how hard it is to have those kinds of conversations. The Lord really prepared the way for us. Jack Burwell met a lady who had been praying that God would send someone to speak to her, and she recognized that we were an answer to that prayer.

Jim Lucas met a 90-year old man who had a very nice garden with a row of very beautiful 5-foot tall tomato plants, but none of them had tomatoes on them. Jim was able to show this man that his life was like those tomato plants; he looked very good on the outside, was a nice guy with no blatant sin in his life, but he wasn't bearing any fruit! It was a very simple but powerful illustration that the Lord had prepared.


There was also a lady who accepted Jesus right on her doorstep! (We accidentally went to her house twice. She had been thinking so much about what the first group had shared with her that by the time the second group came to her door she was ready to repent and believe the gospel!). Not many people came to the actual tent meetings in the evenings, about two or three every night, but I am beginning to see that the actual tent meetings are only a small part of what we're doing in this ministry. Our main goal is that Jesus be manifested to everyone we meet. This country has plenty of preachers and plenty of church buildings; but in the midst of all of that Christian activity, how much of it is really manifesting Christ?

Jesus said in John 17:4, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4). Our main job



on this earth is actually very simple, to glorify Him, not only in our words, but in our actions as well. People have heard plenty of words about Christ; now they need to see it actually being lived out. That's what we want people to see through this ministry.

By the end of the ten days we had covered a large part of Ardmore. Ronnie was left with a big list of call-backs, and he hopes to get a Bible study started there soon. Please pray for the thousands of tracts that were handed out and all the people that we spoke to. Thanks to all of you who fasted and prayed with us.

In Christ,
Austin Ball 



Missionary Reports



Ivory Coast, West Africa Jerry and Cherry Skiles

Dear Family & Friends;

It has always been easier for me to discern what God's will is from the Bible than it is to discern what God's will for "my" life is. I am confident in knowing that it is God's will that all the nations and tribes on the earth should hear the Gospel. I have an unshakeable confidence that God will call a people from every tribe, kindred and language to be members of the Bride of Christ. I do not struggle with wondering if helping widows, orphans, sick, poor and oppressed people is a good thing or not. I know it is a good thing! I do not wonder if my effort to see the various tribes hear the Gospel of Grace and grow in understanding and knowledge of it was a good choice. It was and still is. I do wonder though how much my decisions have affected my wife and children and if I have always been as sensitive to them as I ought. I just celebrated my 57th birthday. My wife affirmed her love, and my children all took time from their busy lives to remind me of their love and appreciation for being their father in emails. Life is still good. The Ghanaians often say, "By God's Grace." I like that phrase!

I have a great admiration for the Christians who say, "God spoke to me, and wants me to do..." I admire those who then do it, and I am saddened with those who say it and then do not do it. I identify myself more like a man in a dimly lit cave who gropes his way to a dim light coming from somewhere in front of him. I move cautiously toward that light. The best I hope for is that by God's help I never lose sight of The Light nor turn my back to it. I ultimately trust God's placing my feet on secure footing rather than on my own understanding of a decision. Some have ascribed to me as being a man of faith. I think if they only knew how insecure at times I feel, they would not say such things.

Enough rambling and reflections, Cherry and I have discussed and prayed; and we have made a decision to return to Oregon this July. Our hope is still that Ivory Coast will become a nation of law and order, but we have seen little that encourages



us. Ivory Coast is in a transition period where the new government replaces the rebel leadership, but those who represent the new government have told me that to travel in the area will require paying money at road stops. New rebels are in the area, and Cherry and I find traveling is *more stressful* than in the past. We will continue to keep the school and some food distribution going in the village in our absence, "By His Grace." I expect to travel back to the tribe on occasion. The 1040i mission wants to continue to work in our area, and I want to facilitate that as well. I have written to the Ivorian ambassador in Washington DC but have not heard a response from him. I have learned that developing nations market their poverty to the rich nations, but many governments do little to help their populations in need. They use good words to solicit large sums of money that get dispersed to their supporters and rarely does it get to the grassroots needs. I believe that the US State Department is smart enough to know what is happening, but I have not figured out why they feel it is good for America to allow it to happen. I do feel it is a good thing for America to help developing nations, but it must really help those in need and not just those in power. God does bless nations; and when America wants to help poor people, it is seen and rewarded by God.

I have a cautious optimism that in a few months a more stable environment will be established in Ivory Coast. Then our efforts to help the people there will not be hindered. Pray with us to that end.

I believe this is a new chapter in Cherry and my lives. I do not see Cherry moving back to the tribe or Africa, so that means I will be making itinerant visits. She will be involved with me on some of those trips. Her presence blesses the people and me.

I started this letter sharing about knowing God's will and feeling personally insecure about knowing His specific will for my life. I do feel that way, but I know this about God: if He wants me to do something different than what I am doing, He can get my attention. I love that about God. I am no match to His ability, nor do I want to be. I hope you can join with me in saying "God's will be done in our lives."

Resting in His Love and Grace
Jerry and Cherry

Rogers, Arkansas Jim and Fran Lucas

Jesus gave us a parable in Matthew 22:2-14 that depicts clearly what we have been doing.

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

For many are called, but few are chosen.”

We are his servants, and we have been out in the highways and byways. For example, “the river walk” is a walkway along the Mississippi River in downtown Memphis. Our Lord Jesus has prepared everything, and he is ready to return for his bride. The Mississippi River was announcing His soon return in a manner that was very difficult to ignore.



The mighty Mississippi overflowing her banks.

It was higher than it had been in one hundred years. People were coming down to the “river walk” to take pictures and stand in awe, and there they found this group of Christians giving out gospel tracts; one of them was wearing a sandwich board that says, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God,” and “Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

We found most people were willing to take a gospel tract. We were able to speak to many about the return of our Lord Jesus and their need to surrender their hearts to him. In the parable it says, “But they made light of *it*, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise.” I am afraid in most cases it was the same, even though they listened politely and seemingly acknowledge the truth but failed to see the urgency of the hour.

What will it take to wake people out of their apathy? We have been ministering in “tornado alley” where they are being bombarded like never before. If it’s not tornadoes carrying away everything they own in 15 seconds, it is a wall of water.

One man we met in Memphis has a home in Mississippi. He showed us pictures. He was home with two teen-agers, one in the house with him and one in the yard. The tornado hit the house, and he was picked up and thrown out in the forest. He woke up, walked back where the house had been, but it was gone, and he found his two children; and nobody was hurt. In the picture everything was demolished. He says he is a believer; but he is an alcoholic sleeping with a young drug addict that he bailed out of jail. The drug addict also told of being saved from an attack by an enraged dealer who peppered her car with bullets. They have a knowledge of God but have absolutely no fear of him.

Pray with us as we reach out to a nation of people that seemingly do not have ears to hear or eyes to see. Let’s pray they will learn to love the

truth because Jesus said, "He that loves the truth will hear my voice."

Our next outreach was in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Jack, Tracy and children arrived first and went door to door. They announced that the gospel tent would arrive on the 10th of June and that we would have Bible studies every morning and evangelistic meeting each evening for ten days. There are some Christians in Ardmore that the Burwells know; they had meetings in their home and some of them helped in the outreach.

Also the trainees from Bend came out to help. Anybody who loves Jesus and believes that he is returning soon and able to come was welcome. Those who could not come but believed this is a worthy endeavor, we asked to join in with us on the 10th-13th of June for fasting and prayer.

Francille and I are presently in our son Steven's home in Austin, Texas. Steven was in a motorcycle accident and banged up quite extensively; he was in the hospital for seven days, five days of these in ICU. We thank all of you who have been praying for him; he is now home and doing much better. He is still uncomfortable but healing quickly. He has six broken ribs and back wing bones broken. His injured lung is healing, and his face also is healing fine after the operation. Please keep praying for spiritual revival in his life and in his family.

Due to this urgency in our family I canceled my flight to Oregon. I was looking forward to the conference. I heard that it was a good conference. We praise the Lord Jesus who has everything in his wonderful care.

Jim and Fran 🙏

Valle De Juarez, Mexico Ed and Abby Drysdale

The Lord works in mysterious ways to say the least. This was evident throughout all our challenges in finding a location for this evangelistic campaign and threats that my papers might not be in order implying that they could deport me at anytime. We had created quite a stir, and the lines were drawn. The people who were on the fence, so to speak, were now taking our side. The Lord was glorified throughout, despite all of it. He ultimately had the last word. The Lord brought two couples in our pathway who saw the injustice being done by not allowing us access to a public location, so they offered what they had. The one couple's name is Reynaldo and Graciela, who offered their warehouse one of the nights. They are in there 60's and own a



farm and some cattle. Little did we know that their warehouse is only a block away from the church, which allowed people in this neighborhood to see us associated with the campaign.

Since then Graciela has been attending faithfully and wanting us to pray for her nine children and husband. One of her sons Pedro has a serious drinking problem and needs deliverance.

Alcoholics Anonymous is real popular in this culture. Granted, it has helped some people kick this terrible habit of drinking; but at the same time it has enslaved them to attend these meetings in order to have continued success. It has caused a dependency for them that they can't live without. This has been a frustration for me because many can't attend a Bible study because of the constant meetings they have. Another family we know (Carlos and Mari) is quite involved in these meetings. Carlos is a coordinator of this association and has a lot of influence and prestige. His wife Mari has a sincere interest in the Word and has attended off and on when she can. He, however, has only attended once. We have just started a marriage Bible study with his son Carlos, who, like his father, is an alcoholic, and Sarai. They are a young couple with a two year old and have their issues. Please pray for their salvation.

Misael and Oscar, the brothers who have been supporting us with the work here, had invited some of their family members to attend the campaign in which one of their family members Manuel and Arreceli are now attending one of our Bible studies. Manuel, the brother of Oscar, is married and has three kids. Just a week prior to the campaign he was threatening to send his wife back to her parents because he was done with this relationship. The night before he was going to send his wife back he and his wife showed up at the church to help us get ready for the event. The Lord gave me a word for him that night. I had told him that there is way that seems right to man but ends in death, and I admonished him that if he continued down this path he not only was going to

lose his wife and sons but his soul as well. He came to the event, and I believe he was touched by what he heard and saw. I had noticed brothers ministering to him, and I had witnessed a change taking place in his heart. Since then he and his wife are still together, and we are ministering the word to them. Please pray that they will be added to the church soon; it would be an encouragement to Oscar as well as us.



Oscar and family

The second couple that the Lord used to encourage us to continue with our meetings were Chino and his wife Maria. They are in their 40's, and like Reynaldo, own some cattle and a little mom and pop store. I have been seeing them and praying that the Lord will open their eyes to the truth. She welcomes all who want to minister to her. Although a professing Catholic, she doesn't completely adhere to their beliefs. He, on the other hand, is a complete



Chino and Maria and family



Mariachi 1 and 2

open book and wanting to know more. I didn't realize but we had met them about four years ago when we had had Grupo Impact come down. They have been watching us for awhile.

We are encouraged by Samuel and Rosario's growth. They are taking baby steps, but are moving forward. This Sunday I have asked him to minister on communion. He told me that he is nervous and speaking in front of people is stretching him. So please be praying for him; we all know that feeling of jitters and for some it's worse. They are trying to reach out to their doctor friend who had been evangelized during the campaign. Pray that the Lord will give them wisdom and boldness.

Please pray for follow up contacts that we made and that we might see families get saved from this outreach. We want to thank all who participated from afar as well as personally attending. We are grateful for your prayers and support in reaching Valle de Juarez. We know that the Word doesn't return void, and you will be rewarded by your faithfulness in partnering with us. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

Contact: Want to know more?

Call us anytime at (541) 728 5946. Yes, that is a U.S. number! Want more regular updates? Search for Abby Drysdale on Facebook. A first-class letter will get to us in about three to five weeks; so if you prefer pen and ink, here is our address:

Ed and Abby Drysdale
Apdo # 22, Calle Morelos 353
Valle de Juarez,, Jalisco 49540, Mexico

*Praise the Lord!
Ed and Abby Drysdale*

**Canada
Francois Marcoux**

Dear friends,
The Lord has blessed us with another Bible Expo in 2011 from May 26 to 29 in the city of Sept-Iles, approximately 700 km NE of Quebec City along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River. Marcel and I had been praying for many years, as some of

you already know, for an open door in this relatively isolated community. Marcel drove all the way to Sept-Iles back in late April, I believe, and received permission to set up the exposition in a mall called Galeries Montagnaises which belong to the Innu First Nation. So that gave us many opportunities to explain the Gospel to native people, as well as to non-native, including many children. The general response was really encouraging.

One Catholic man came back the next day. He was not satisfied with religion; and the more I gave him Christ, the more he wanted to listen and



Marcel's son talking with an interested observer.



Marcel interacts with some attending the Bible Expo.



Francois Marcoux

showed interest, a little too much for his also very religious wife. Another Catholic man who I talked to, originally from France and who participated in the Algerian War, was sincere but really had doubts about God's goodness in the world. After sharing Christ with him, he said, "I've been here 50 years in Sept-Iles, and I never heard a priest talk like you. I like what you say." One Catholic Innu woman really appreciated what we were doing and asked to bring the Bible Expo to her community to show and teach the young people at school. Schefferville, the name of her community, is an extra 573 km (359 miles) north train ride from Sept-Iles, going into Labrador.

So please pray for this wonderful opportunity that the Lord would make that possible in his time. The Creation and the Flood message were very popular, and many young people appreciated to hear what they are not told in school. Many Catholic parents also wanted us to share this message with their young people. It would be too long to share all the wonderful conversations we had, Marcel, my wife and I.

We were very well received by Denis and Brigitte Maisonneuve, who pastor the Native Innu church. Nohemi and I and the Ouellets (Marcel, his wife, daughter and son) slept in their church facilities. Denis and his wife wanted to receive us in their home, but they already had lots of visitors due to a wedding the same weekend.

SFMI Update

We are scheduled to have another exposition at the end of June at the University of Sherbrooke. Thank you for your continued prayers for the Ouellets and the Marcoux. Please continue to pray for open doors in malls and open hearts for the Gospel.

*In His service,
Francois and Nohemi Marcoux
Marcel and Mireille Ouellet* 🌍

Ghana, West Africa Tim Spurling

Greetings from Ghana!

By God's grace I arrived safely here in Tarkwa late Saturday. As I walked up to the compound, it was amazing to see many of the plants Mamma



Francille [Lucas] had planted some years ago, as they have been faithfully abiding in the vine, have grown like crazy! It has also been a blessing to go round the area and greet old friends and brothers and see the growth as they too have been faithfully abiding in Christ. Some of the brothers were surprised to see me back and thought that because of my serious bout with malaria I wouldn't return (I confess that the thought did cross my mind!) Praise the Lord for his goodness and mighty power.

God willing, Bro Skip Voetberg and Bro Sam Stone will arrive this weekend. We thank you for your prayers for all of us. We are trusting the Lord that the three upcoming seminars (in Tarkwa, Accra and Kpetoe) will be a blessing to the brethren and, ultimately, will glorify the Lord.

Undoubtedly there will be unbelievers attending as well, please pray the Lord would give each of us wisdom and discernment. With all the religiosity here,...it gets tricky!!

More later, thank you again!

*In Christ,
Tim Spurling* 🌍

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Ephesians 3:8

By Dun Gordy

I can't thank our Lord enough for allowing me to serve Him! One of my favorite verses has been Ephesians 3:8. "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." Several key words in this verse always stand out to me.

GRACE—This great privilege I have of serving the King of Kings is nothing less than the grace of God. It is not by nor because of talent nor skill nor anything less than the grace of God Who has chosen to use the foolish...and the weak...and the base things and people so that the excellency of the power may be of HIM and not of us. (1 Cor. 1:27; 2 Cor. 4:7)

PREACH—Without apology and without shame I join the Apostle Paul and I "magnify mine office." In this day "preaching" has fallen on hard times and is even looked down upon in the 'emerging church' and the 'modern mind' as with old fashioned and out dated. Well, that is nothing new and not surprising. The Greeks

of Paul's day called it "foolishness." But the foolishness of God is still wiser than anything the mind of man has been able to devise.

RICHES OF CHRIST—Paul declared that the depth of the wisdom and knowledge of our Lord are past finding out. But he and the other writers of the Scriptures continually point us to those many facets of His greatness and goodness. And we are instructed to continually "consider Him" and "looking unto Jesus," to know Him and to make Him known to the uttermost part of the earth.

And so by the **GRACE** of God, I am (and we are) ready and even anxious to **PREACH** the unsearchable riches of **CHRIST**.

Let us pray to that end.

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