

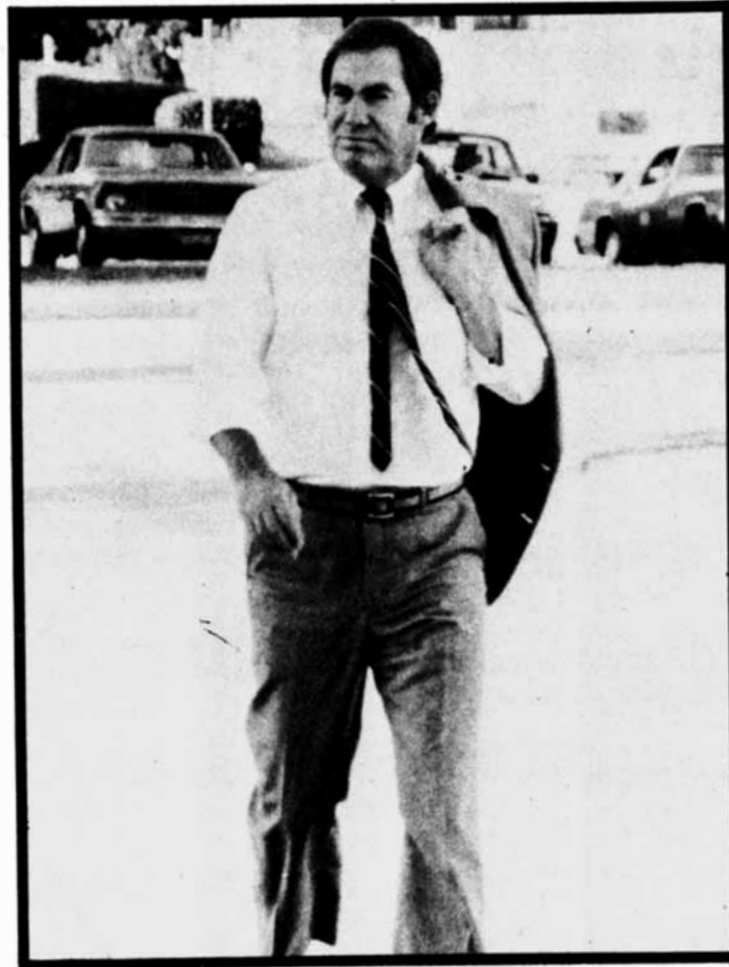


MISSION FRONTIERS

North American
Centers for World Mission:

U.S. Center, Pasadena, CA
Midwest Center, Oak Park, IL
Canadian Centre, Toronto, ON
Northwest Centre, Vancouver, BC

“Probably the most exciting thing here is not what is happening in Pasadena at all, but what is happening in Austin, Texas; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Bozeman, Montana . . .”



Greg Livingstone
Director of Frontiers
NOW

Executive Vice President of
USCWM's University

A Bold New Step

Inside:

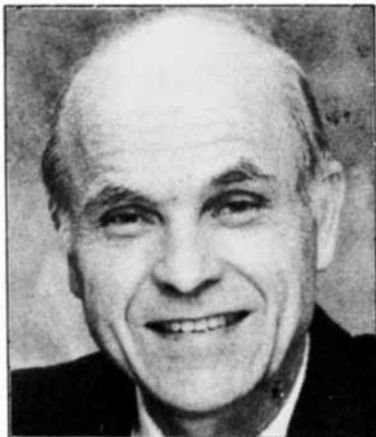
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Editorial

May 31, 1986



Dear Friends,

There is a quickening pulse around here. Not that things were not exciting already. Last time I promised to tell you some amazing news. Here it is.

The coming of so exciting a person as Greg Livingstone to take a hefty role among us is a great part of a **BOLD NEW STEP**.

He's had a great deal to do with "The 1st 1,000 Recruits," and now in this new role will have potentially a phenomenal contribution to the entire mission enterprise, not just his own organization (Frontiers)

A second exciting person, Bob Coleman, steps into the arena again (after a few months away getting married) with another major part of the new step forward: his new plan called "The Last 1,000."

The harder part was the First Thousand recruits. Why can't we get the The Last Thousand dollars?

Are you wondering "What 1,000 new recruits"? We don't really have a list (like they did back in 1906 - next time we'll be telling you more of that astounding story), but judge for yourself:

We are not claiming to be the only ones involved in a 1,000 new recruits for the frontiers since we started in 1976.

But, we ourselves have processed over 6,000 students in our ponderous PERSPECTIVES course, and we can be sure that at least 1,000 of these have become missionaries or are on their way right now. (Plus over 100 schools use our textbook.)

Greg's own organization (Frontiers) has received over 2,000 applications, in just the last two years. SIM International, remember (from our cover story), is already a long way toward the 1,000 new people they expect to recruit in their new push toward their 100th anniversary. Wycliffe recruited over 300 in a single year celebrating their 50th anniversary.

On and on. There is not the slightest doubt that 1,000 new younger missionaries have gone out to the frontiers in the past nine and a half years of our existence. Again, we cannot take any of the credit for some of them, nor all of the credit for any of them - the Spirit of God has many allies!

Rejoice with us in the comments by Greg Livingstone across the page, mine on the next page, and Bob Coleman's on the following two pages. Rejoice with us in the Bold New Step.

Most cordially,

P.S. Pray that our bold new step will not stumble on the July 1st \$300,000 payment. Even if we borrow back the same money we did last time, we'll still fall short by about \$150,000, as of now.



MISSION FRONTIERS

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A Bold New Step

Outstanding Mission Leader Becomes Executive VP of USCWM's University

Greg Livingstone explains why . . .



Most of my friends and skeptical acquaintances must be wondering why the general director of a mission agency to Muslims would be getting himself entangled in this umbrella of mission agencies, the USCWM.

As I criss-cross the country, I am constantly being asked, "What's happening at the USCWM?" My answer at those times and even now is: **NOT NEARLY ENOUGH.** But what a magnificent obsession! Those of us who are part of the community of cooperating agencies here at the USCWM and WCIU are probably like the handful of people watching the Wright brothers trying to get their airplane in the air. The skeptics have gone; those with hope are saying, "Pretty soon it's going to fly."

Is it possible that the USCWM will finally become the catalyst to "a Church for Every People," even as the Wright brothers were for the aviation industry? Or will it be nothing more than an experiment that failed?

I encourage people to get their eyes off the fact that we're having a terribly difficult time paying for the properties and to look at what happens to the people who spend time here imbibing the vision of unreached peoples, being infected with a "can do" spirit, and filling their minds with all kinds of cutting-edge theory. Some of this just

might work as they head out to enact a new chapter in church history.

In fact, one reason the Center isn't producing more is because so many of the staff, burdened by what they have learned here, can't resist the call of the masses of unreached humanity called Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus. Agencies like Frontiers have fished out of the pond of hungry young disciples who have come here determined to do something about unreached peoples.

I encourage people to look at what happens to those who spend time here imbibing the vision of unreached peoples, being infected with a "can do" spirit, and filling their minds with cutting-edge theory.

I see this place somewhat as a war college for unreached peoples. For decades now the United States Army, Navy, and Air Force have been running war colleges (besides their undergraduate academies) dedicated to training men and women who would give leadership in areas where standard procedures won't accomplish the task. In many ways the USCWM and its own specialized international university serve that role.

I am willing to serve as the Executive Vice President of the university (a project of USCWM's Training Division) because I

Greg Livingstone

Mission Leader Becomes Executive VP of USCWM's University

believe in Ralph Winter's basic thrust—a marvelous integration of the best missions thinking ever, with the lives of people who know how to penetrate new people groups, cultivate disciples and plant churches.

We believe there are agencies that will want to encourage their young people to get a "better" B.A. training—including two of their four years actually working and walking among hidden peoples, and being tutored under the best, most creative missionaries in the business. Isn't the tutorial method (or apprenticeship) still the best way to prepare effective men and women? (Check the appropriate line on page 19 for more information about our revolutionary B.A. program.)

Some people will want to know about our field-based Ph.D. program. Here we have gone back to the classical pattern, using people with Ph.D.s to disciple others until the students can surpass their masters. (For more information, send for "Missions and the Ph.D. Tradition" by Ralph D. Winter.)

Possibly the most exciting thing happening to the USCWM is not happening here in Pasadena at all, but in Austin, Texas, Philadelphia, Bozeman, Montana, etc. This is the so-called *Perspectives* course! We anticipate in the next few months, 63 places in the U.S. and around the world where that potent 200-hour course will be offered.

Our Institute of International Studies sponsors what many have called the most helpful, life-changing course on missions available anywhere. *Perspectives* was designed for college students, but we even have testimonies of veteran missionaries who have taken this course after 15 to 20 years on the field, exclaiming, "Where have I been all my life?"

Then, by getting credit through our university, pioneer types have been able to get strategic jobs—such as going to work with the Uighurs in Northwest China, the Pathans in Northwest Pakistan, the 20 million Sundanese in West Java, etc.

What's happening at the USCWM and through its Training Division, the Institute of International Studies (including the William Carey International University)?

People are being prepared to do what hasn't been done in history! It's not all that we wanted to see happen by now, by any means! But it's a lot more than what would have happened if we hadn't been here. And we have not begun to fight! —Greg Livingstone
University Executive Vice President

Who is Greg Livingstone? He represents the best and the brightest of the new, younger executives in today's mission movement. Gentle, sensitive, and humble in a godly way, he is brash, revolutionary, daring, knowledgeable, and superbly envisioned. His mission purposes run deep.

After fourteen years working with George Verwer in Operation Mobilization, Greg was called to serve as North American Director of North Africa Mission. He fulfilled his responsibilities with distinction. In fact, he was so successful, NAM encouraged him to start his own agency. In 1980, he did just that; *Frontiers*, a mission to Muslims, was the result. In the last two years, *Frontiers* has grown faster, proportionally, than any other sending agency we know of. *Frontiers* has the same get-on-the-field-right-away spirit that OM has, but it also has standard, long-term mission goals, and as such must mix in formal education.

As with most of those who lead specific mission organizations, Greg is not merely concerned for the success of his own organization. Instead, he sees his agency, *Frontiers*, as just a small part of the larger work of the Kingdom. He wants to do whatever must be done in order to make *God's* cause succeed, *God's* Kingdom come.

Greg was one of the men invited to be General Director of the USCWM back when the Center was still only a dream. But he was then too deeply involved in designing a mission tailor-made for our times. Now, with his creative impulse expressed in *Frontiers*, Greg is seeking to integrate education and missions. —Ralph D. Winter

The First Thousand Recruits . . . The Last Thousand Dollars

--Ralph D. Winter

"Expect Great Things from God, Attempt Great Things for God"

With all due humility, I really believe we and many others have worked at the **FIRST THING FIRST**: the first thousand frontier missionaries—that's already done—and now the Last Thousand dollars to secure this campus. That, we pray, is only a few months away.

I am deeply indebted to the two very keen men who have contributed to the **BOLD STEP FOWARD** in which we find ourselves.

On this side of the page, I'll talk about our new Executive Vice President, Greg Livingstone, and the array of challenges he faces: basically building on the "The First Thousand New Volunteers" - a thing of the past. On the other side I'll talk about what Bob Coleman is up to. He is another precious person, who has given a great deal of himself to get this "Last Thousand" plan into shape. But I'll also mention a few other cliff hanger "games" we need to be watching.

GREG'S OPPORTUNITIES

Who knows what will come of the new energy brought to our university by Greg Livingstone, now Executive Vice President. Owned and operated by missionaries, WCIU is the world's only university established exclusively for the advancement of the mission enterprise. That is why it is so crucial that a mission executive like Greg Livingstone should have a hand in the certification process of those involved in the mission world. What would *you* do if *you* had something like that in your hands?

A MISSION UNIVERSITY CAN DO ALL THIS:

On the undergraduate level:

1. Offer a completely redesigned college program for young people who want to emerge from school with **CONSIDERABLE** overseas experience. (Now in its 3rd year)

2. Develop a work-study pattern which will allow students to get out of school at any level with no debt whatsoever, and with specially enriched experience.

3. Offer a solid 4 unit college course to students isolated from the Christian movement on secular campuses, one they can take and transfer into their

own curriculum without losing money or time in their normal program. (Now in its 12th year, at 63 locations in the coming months. Over 6,000 have already taken the course!)

On the graduate level:

1. Develop a special M.A. program, by extension, for mission pastors and mission committee members.

2. Offer a special M.A. program for those who wish to teach English as a tentmaking vocation. (Now in its 7th year)

3. Develop a graduate degree program which will fulfill the requirements of ministerial ordination (using existing seminaries) but confer a degree recognizable and acceptable in foreign countries that are reticent about theological seminary training.

4. Offer a field-based Ph.D. program which will allow missionaries and national leaders, unable to take off years for study in another country, to pursue high-quality, standard requirements without leaving their families, work, etc. (We have 32 Ph.D. candidates in 28 countries already and two graduates.)

5. Most mission agencies now have a number of Ph.D.s on their staff. In many cases it will be possible to decentralize the administration of this program to the level of the agency itself, assuring the maximum adaptation of it to the specific needs and circumstances of each organization and candidate, missionary or national leader.

(Note: the world has by now gone crazy with a mania for "degrees". This is not something we can wave away with a wand. Missionaries and national leaders all over the world are being held back due to the lack of the "magic" degrees. **IF IT WERE NOT TRUE** that we (a group of experienced missionaries) literally own and control a fully authorized university corporation, we would not be so terribly eager to promote these goals. Graduate education for its own sake is a massive waste of time in countless thousands of cases. Such schooling unintentionally **POSTPONES** true education! But the opposite is also true, carefully designed and supervised educational programs give the crucial encouragement and enlightenment and certification—which can be highly important to the international cause of missions. We simply have to keep the basic standards firm and at the same time take full advantage of all the flexibilities which nowadays are possible!

Now, Bob Coleman and the Last Thousand

-Ralph D. Winter

"Expect Great Things from God, Attempt Great Things for God"

As we have noted, the coming of so exciting a person as Greg Livingstone to take a hefty role among us is itself a **BOLD NEW STEP**.

The second major part of the new step forward is the new plan called "The Last Thousand." And another exciting person, Bob Coleman. He has been with us from our first year. Recently married, he has developed this new approach in the last few weeks.

Word has already gotten out on this, and one friend is willing to make available as much as \$100,000 to help us with the publicity necessary to make this plan work. (This is not a gift toward the property, but a gift to help bring in gifts.)

The special element, as I see it, in this "Last Thousand" approach is this: People can give whatever they can, but they can do so without a shadow of a doubt about others failing to give enough to prevent this project to go down along with their gift. (All such gifts will be held under separate trusteeship and will be returned with interest if not enough funds come in.)

It's sort of like a matching gift: "I'll give \$1,000 if you can find 7,999 others who will do the same!"

We will be able to report further next issue. We are contacting some very well-known people to serve as trustees of this fund until it reaches the total necessary.

But Will It Work?

Wouldn't you suppose that amidst some 53,000 people who receive MISSION FRONTIERS, 8,000 would be willing to give the "Last Thousand" under these very secure circumstances? However, even if there are not that many who would give one \$1,000 unit, perhaps others could give more than that, so that the full 8,000 units would come into the escrow fund.

Also note: no percentage of this money coming in will be spent—not a penny of it—on raising money. All of it, every penny—as with all property gifts in the past—will be turned over against the remaining debt.

Even current on-going interest (which is like a very modest rent on the amount of floor space we have) will cease when the "Last Thousand" is paid. And, joyful thought, if this is done by our TENTH BIRTHDAY (Nov. 6th this year), it will save as much as half a million dollars of interest/rent.

WHAT GAMES ARE YOU WATCHING?

Many people, almost every moment of their lives are intently watching relatively trivial "games"

- tracking the outcome of TV serial
 - alert to office rivalries, to see who wins
 - concerned about deepening lines on their faces
 - baseball games, football games, little league games
- watching, watching, watching, when it doesn't REALLY matter!*

GAMES THAT MATTER

Here are some outcomes we are watching, that we think have WORLD SHAKING significance! (Do you realize that you yourself may never retire—before the End of History?)

A FIRST-EVER WORLD LEVEL MISSION AGENCY CONFERENCE:

Never before have non-Western leaders, on their own initiative, staged a world-level conference on missions! With almost a \$1 million budget, quotas from every part of the earth, this October 6-12 conference here on our campus. NO FORCE IN THE WORLD is more likely to bring about the END OF HISTORY than this group of humble Third World leaders. Watch THIS "game!"

D. L. MOODY'S CONFERENCE REPEATED!

At precisely the same spot 100 years later. Already some very important leaders have said yes. Others being invited. What potential! Will this lead to the same beautiful arrangement that allowed the Student Volunteer Movement to impact 1,000 campuses in a matter of just a few years? How? In Moody's train, they got the official backing of all the nationwide campus religious organizations. This can happen this year at Northfield, Mass. Watch THIS "game!" August 27-31, Mt. Hermon in Western Massachusetts.

To keep track,

phone our 24 hour/7 day a week number

(818) 797-1111

This is no answering machine. A staff member will answer any time, night or day.

\$8 Million to Finish the Campus Payments:

Let's Get it Over With!

THE "LAST THOUSAND DOLLARS" PLAN —Bob Coleman

One day, a frustrated friend of the Center called and said: "Why not try to find 8,000 gifts of \$1000 each, and *be done with it?*"

The staff member receiving the call responded: "A thousand dollars is a lot of money! Would you give \$1000 to the Center?"

There was a long pause on the other end of the line. Finally the caller said, "I don't have a lot of money. But even *I* would give \$1000—if it were the *last* \$1000 and I knew it would complete your payment. I'd gladly do that! Maybe you could find 8,000 people to each pledge the last \$1000 . . ."

What about the Center's pledge never to ask us for more than a one-time \$15 gift?

Those who have been following the Center for many years know we have pledged to people who have already given that we will not ask them for more than a one-time \$15 gift. We believe this property should be funded by a million Christians who have been awakened to frontier missions.

At the same time, we have discovered that we could not survive in the short run if we depended entirely upon one-time \$15 gifts. Close to 12,000 people have recognized this same fact

"I don't have a lot of money. But even *I* would give \$1000—if it were the *last* \$1000 and I knew it would complete your payment. I'd so gladly do that!"



\$1000



and, on their own initiative, have given more than \$15. In fact, nearly 80 percent of all the funds we have received in our 9-year history have been in the form of gifts larger than \$15.

We intend to pursue the small gift program until all larger gifts have been reassigned.

We still believe the most honorable thing is to pursue the small gift program until all larger gifts have been reassigned. But we face high interest payments, plus an \$8 million balloon payment in just a year. And more and more people are begging us to "just get it over with!" We have begun to wonder: could this "Last \$1000" idea be God's way forward at this time?

A thousand dollars is a lot of money. But it's also within range for many people—IF they are sure that the property won't be lost. We want people to know their money will be used well in the expansion of God's kingdom.

One man said he was relieved to know that his money wasn't going toward a "sinking ship"—that it would only be used if the ship was sure to float and begin achieving all God meant for it.

THE "LAST THOUSAND DOLLARS" PLAN

—Bob Coleman

Another said: "God won't let the Center sink. But I am very happy to encourage you in your decision to *finish paying off the campus and get on with your main job.*" (This man pledged to fund almost 300 of these "Last \$1000" units—or about \$300,000!)

Almost everyone contacted said, "You don't need 8,000 pledges. You only need 7,999—because I'll give the last \$1000."

One pastor pledged to find ten \$1000-donors in his church; another pastor is seeking "five or more" pledges. Several suggested that many churches could handle \$5,000 or more—

especially knowing that it would pay for the campus or be returned. And one man has now offered to fund \$100,000 worth of national advertising for the "Last \$1000" plan.

In view of this response, we are asking many of our followers to join our staff in praying that the entire 8000 pledges (\$8 million) will be in hand by the Center's tenth birthday, November 6, this year. That would eliminate three, and potentially four, of the five remaining quarterly payments—a savings of about half a million dollars in interest!

Surprising progress has already been made. After only informal contacts, we already have almost 500 pledges.

Almost everyone contacted said, "You don't need 8,000 pledges. You only need 7,999—because I'll give the last \$1000!"

If you KNEW that the Center lacked only \$1000 to finish paying for the campus, would you, your church or Bible Study be willing to give it?

But to jump from 500 pledges to 8,000 will still take a real miracle.

Experts tell us our mailing list is too small to generate 8,000 gifts of \$1000. But we're praying that the many who share our eagerness to finish the campus payments will help us multiply pledges from churches, Bible studies, Sunday school classes, or friends.

What do you think? If you KNEW that the Center lacked only \$1000 to finish paying for the campus, would you, your church or Bible Study be willing to give that \$1000? If you KNEW that otherwise it would be returned with interest, could you give such a gift by the end of this year? Let us know of your interest by returning the response form.

One final note:

We are still in the hole financially from our March 1st payment. Any plans we make to finish the payments are academic unless we can clear the July 1st payment—hopefully the last quarterly payment. And so we ask you once more to patiently pray for us. Pray that many people will participate in the "Last Thousand Dollars" Plan—but also pray that we will make the July 1st payment so that we can go on to implement the "Last Thousand Dollars" Plan.

"A Sane Approach To An Important Problem"

THE "LAST THOUSAND DOLLARS" PLAN

How the "Last Thousand Dollars" Plan Works

Because time is of the essence, and because it is difficult to collect pledges even weeks after they have been made, we intend to establish an ESCROW fund—similar to what is used in purchasing a house. The escrow will be held by a nationwide escrow company. When a person places funds in the escrow account, the instructions to the escrow company will read in part something like this:

"You are instructed to accept the enclosed payment in the amount of \$_____ on behalf of the U.S. Center for World Mission. This deposit represents a conditional gift. We are donating this amount to the USCWM on the condition that it, together with other deposits, is sufficient to pay off

the Center's campus. In the event that the full payment necessary to obtain clear title is not received, this deposit, together with accrued interest, is to be returned to me."

Thousand-dollar units will be placed from donors' accounts into the escrow fund. If enough units are given, the escrow fund will be used to make the final campus payment. If enough units are *not* given, all funds will be returned, with interest. Donors are GUARANTEED that the payment will be COMPLETED or their gifts will be returned. In this way, each donor has the opportunity to give the "Last \$1000."

I'd Like to Participate!

I'm not yet ready to decide, but I would like to be kept informed of your progress.

I will include this funding plan prominently in my prayers.

I myself will give _____ "Last \$1000" units as soon as you set up the escrow fund.

I think my church/Bible Study/Sunday School/ or _____ can give _____ "Last \$1000" units.

I will try to find _____ "Last \$1000" units for you.

I want to help with the \$300,000 July 1st payment. I enclose _____.

I know of some funding possibilities for the \$300,000 July 1st payment. Get in touch with me.

Other: _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Home(____) _____

Address _____ Work(____) _____

_____ Zip _____

Remember: as the small gift (\$15) plan continues to grow, we intend, at your choice, to return or reassign all larger gifts to mission activities (not buildings). This is not a guarantee, of course—the small gift campaign may not continue to grow—but it is our aspiration and hope.

MAIL THIS COUPON TO: BOB COLEMAN, COORDINATOR, THE "LAST THOUSAND DOLLARS" PLAN
U.S. CENTER FOR WORLD MISSION, 1605 ELIZABETH ST., PASADENA, CA 91104

News

FROM THE FRONTLINES

More Freedom in China?

According to a report received from house church leaders in China, Hu Yaobang, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, told a group of religious leaders that they could have the freedom to evangelize.

He spoke informally to the leaders who attended a meeting of China's National People's Congress last year. He said that *if religion is true, the people will accept it, but if it isn't true, the people will reject it.*

This informal conversation with Hu is not official Party policy, nor is there any written documentation, but the church leaders are excited that at least some of the reformist leaders think this way. However, it may be some time before such ideas can be openly expressed in public.

—*China News and Church Report* quoted in *Christian Nationals Evangelism Commission* "Partners Update," March 1986.

Thai Bibles to Match Saffron of Monks' Robes

The brilliant saffron of monks' robes have long been a feature of the Thai landscape, and now the bindings of Bibles intended for Buddhist monasteries are being matched in this same vibrant yellow.

The Thailand Bible Society has prepared 5,000 Bibles and is encouraging local churches to persuade both temples and monasteries to accept them.

Each monk has a time set aside daily for study and contemplation. The Bible Society hopes that the monks will find the saffron-bound Bibles useful not only for studying comparative religions, but in their personal search for truth.

—American Bible Society

Nigerian Christians Confront Muslim Extremism

According to Evangelical Missions Information Service's *Pulse*, issue of April 4th, "Gen. Ibrahim Babangida seized power in (Nigeria by means of) a bloodless coup last August. (He) introduced a more liberal style of military government. He also introduced reforms designed to end the country's prolonged economic crisis.

"But recent political mistakes, combined with falling world oil prices, threaten the stability of his presidency. Many see his most harmful political misstep in his decision to join the Islamic Conference Organization—a 45-member group of mostly Islamic nations.

"Apparently, Babangida underestimated the intensity of opposition among Nigeria's Christian minority. Christians account for just over one-third of the country's 100 million people and are concerned over growing Muslim extremism."

Burmese Church Continues to Grow

Though Burma is officially "closed" to missionaries, the Christian church continues to grow.

Almost 4,000 people gathered in Muse, a town in the Kachin mountains, for the 75th anniversary celebration of Baptist Christian believers. The highlight of the program was a mass river baptism that saw the immersion of 574 new converts.

A few days later, the annual session of the Kachin Baptist Convention in Mandala attracted 15,700 delegates.

—*Missionary News Service*, March 15, 1986

Zwemer Institute Looks Ahead

Zwemer Institute leaders say "Every indication is that we will enroll 150 students in our Summer Institute—an increase of nearly 40 percent.

"We are reaching 250 people monthly through our Muslim Awareness Seminars which challenge Christians to the task of Muslim evangelism in our country. And God is giving us incredible open doors with Muslims throughout Southern California through our field ministry."

—Reported in *Zwemer Institute Newsletter*, Spring 1986

Reading the Bible for the First Time

James Falkenberg, president of Bible Literature International, an organization that provides funds for the distribution of Christian literature worldwide, said recently, "Twice recently I have had the privilege of visiting Guatemala and seeing the openness that is there for reading the Bible. On more than one occasion I have handed a Testament to a soldier and then watched as he stood transfixed for a half-hour or more reading it.

"It's hard for us in America to appreciate what an impact the Bible is having today in a country not that far away where many are actually holding God's written Word in their own hands and reading it for the first time."

Falkenberg said that Rios Montt, former president of Guatemala and a recognized evangelical, has been working closely with a Guatemalan mission whose goal is to distribute a New Testament to every man in Guatemala's army and Civil Patrol. According to Falkenberg, more than 100,000 Testaments have been distributed so far and the distribution has led to regular evangelical religious services on many army bases.

EDUCATION

Making Missions Exciting for Children

—Jane K. Prieve

Let's face it, missionaries are doing a great job! Eighty-five per cent of them work where a church has been established. Unfortunately, 100,000 individuals will die every day never having heard of Jesus Christ, and another 100,000 will die every day who have had the opportunity, but were not exposed to Christ's teachings.

Paul took Christ's assignment with a vengeance, and did a spectacular job of witnessing and making believers of men. What he could have done with today's advanced technology boggles the mind! Think of the time saved and the ground covered, if he could have flown from country to country. Typewriters and computers could have typed, recorded, and/or translated sermons and letters making them available for today's use.

Each of us can make a commitment to do our share in helping to spread God's Word both at home and to far-reaching corners of the world. We can pray, contribute money, lend encouragement through letters and tapes to people laboring in the missionary field, and we should never pass up a chance to witness.

What can Sunday School teachers do to alert their students to the importance of mission work? Too often we consign missions education to a missionary committee, or an annual conference. Sunday school offers an opportunity to turn mission work into an on-going experience. Here's an idea: encourage each child to select his or her favorite mission project.

Effective mission projects extend for two or three months. Projects can be selected by a Sunday school mission board, the teachers, or the superintendent, but class members have little or no voice in the matter. So when it's time for a fresh mission project, don't be afraid to expend extra effort involving as many students as possible. Come to class armed with information about not one, but several mission projects. It may be doing

something special for a missionary your church supports. It may be a mission church, an Indian reservation missionary, Bible translations: the list is endless. Discuss each proposed subject with your class, answering all the questions you can. Encourage youngsters to think and pray about three of the suggested mission projects during the coming week, and to select a personal favorite by the next Sunday.

Each of us can make a commitment to do our share in helping to spread God's Word both at home and to far-reaching corners of the world

When the following Sunday arrives, bring out a supply of all kinds of containers; from plastic tubs to styrofoam hamburger boxes, from wide-mouthed jars to small cardboard containers. Let each child select one container to decorate so that it becomes a personalized, custom-made, mission project bank. Store the banks in a safe place during the week, but be sure to have them waiting for the mission offerings on a very visible table or shelf when the first children arrive each Sunday.

Not only do youngsters enjoy having a personal bank, but they like to see the offerings grow from Sunday to Sunday. You might suggest that the children keep a mission bank at home, in case parents or relatives would like to contribute. This provides a way for each child to share his knowledge of his chosen mission project. That knowledge is important.

Encourage your class to do extra research on the mission projects they have chosen, and arrange class time for

them to share new information with classmates. By the end of the project your children will be much more knowledgeable about all three of the mission ministries from listening and telling.

But the raising of mission consciousness need not end with the project itself. When the specified time finishes, send each child's money separately to the selected project. Enclose a stamped envelope with the child's name and address on front. Add a brief note suggesting that a receipt and a return note be sent to the child, thus making missions more personal and meaningful. Parents should be informed that the child's name will be added to the mission's mailing list, and that the child will receive future reports and literature from that mission field. Best of all, children will learn how necessary and fruitful contributing to missions can be.

Be careful to deemphasize the amount each child gathers and sends since some will have more than others. The issue is interest, learning, and prayer, rather than the amount contributed.

Few books on evangelism and/or mission work have been printed to help us prepare for this ministry. *The Global Prayer Digest* is a monthly periodical which furnishes information and encouragement through "a daily discipline of learning, praying, and giving help to people who do not yet have a church in their own cultural or social setting". *The Global Prayer Digest* (U.S. Center for World Mission, Frontier Fellowship, 1605 Elizabeth Street, Pasadena, California 91104) makes an ideal teaching tool to keep world missions alive for youngsters.

One final point: your eagerness and desire to share the importance of mission work is the best "grabber" you can offer. Like most things in teaching, the teacher's own enthusiasm can be contagious.—Jane K. Prieve

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CHURCHES

Prayer Group Sparks Volunteer Movement

Jim Stewart

Calvary Baptist Church in Gardena, California is not the first church to supplement dollars with talents in worthwhile endeavors, but it has certainly utilized that concept far more effectively than most others. Its focus is missions—and even more specifically, missions to impact Hidden People groups. The motivating concept of the church is that the greatest impact on missions Calvary Baptist could make might be through its own home-based congregational talents rather than just the missions budget itself. Every Friday morning at 6:00 a.m. Calvary Baptist holds a men's prayer breakfast. And with a burning heart for missions on the part of its members, missions are always a part of their prayers and their discussions.

The church's mission focus developed when Dr. Ralph Winter, Director of the U.S. Center for World Mission, spoke at their church causing them to ask, "What can we do?" Since Calvary Baptist is only a 30 minute drive from the USCWM church members asked what they could do for the Center.

Art McCleary, General Manager for the USCWM suggested, "We probably need to take an inventory of the whole campus." So, under the direction of Ken Carlson, business manager for the church, the men of the prayer breakfast pulled together a team of 18 individuals and category by category the needs for repairing, plumbing, electrical, painting, carpetry, etc. were categorized. "As we did the survey we made a page for every project," Carlson explained. "These projects could range from replacing a missing door handle to



Their motivating concept was that the greatest impact on missions Calvary Baptist could make might be through their own home-based congregational talents rather than just the missions budget itself.



repairing the roof of the auditorium. Out of this we developed 275 pages of things needing to be done," he said. "We have three computers at the church, and as men with the necessary talents become available, we plug them into the most pressing projects."

Contractors, students, bus drivers, electricians—these are just a few of the volunteers filed in our list. "We get skilled people to do the technical or highly professional parts of a job," Carlson said, "and then utilize a number of 'go fors' to act as assistants. By this method we turned an old 8400 square foot store into our own church preschool—including installation of all the plumbing, lighting, and heating. A lot of people can't do a lot of different kinds of things," he said, "but they can all work."

Currently there are 32 men and 12 young people directly involved in this ministry and since January of this year they have donated in the neighborhood of 600 hours of labor.

Word about the ministry is spread mainly through church bulletins and by personal contact. "In one case," Carlson related, "when we needed an expert on refrigeration, one of our members mentioned this fact to a fellow worker at his place of employment and the worker said, 'Hey, I would be willing to donate some time to a project like that in order to help the Lord.'"

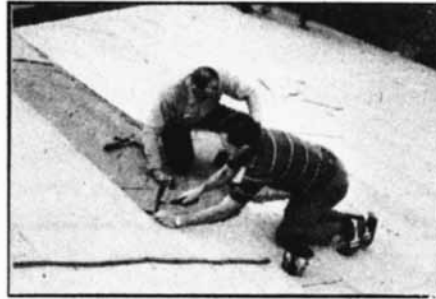
Another individual donated \$1,000 so the church could set up an emergency materials purchase account so projects stymied by the lack of some minor item or material could continue to proceed without delay. When they went

to Mexico on a job they took all their own tools and equipment with them. Carlson also emphasized, "The key to success is to set up one person as the coordinator or catalyst and something like the Friday morning prayer meeting is indispensable to keep the project enthusiasm at a high level." The group also uses *The Global Prayer Digest* to help keep a strong enthusiasm for missions, as well as participating in the Frontier Fellowship movement.

In addition, Calvary Baptist is recruiting individuals and groups from other churches in the greater Pasadena area to address the many other needs they are aware of—especially those at the USCWM. "Our goal is to bring a lot of other churches into the project," Carlson said.

What are some of the other projects that Calvary Baptist crews have worked on? "We built a parsonage in La Mesa, California, years ago, as one of our first projects," Carlson said. "A lot of different volunteer contractors were involved in that job."

The U.S. Center for World Mission has the largest auditorium in the whole San Gabriel valley area. This winter a large section of the roof fell down because the supporting timbers had dried out and shrunk so much over the years that the bolt nuts holding these large timbers up could be easily turned with your fingers. Volunteers from Calvary Baptist sheered up the structure and tightened the bolts, working long hours over three successive Saturdays.



Volunteering here has done a lot for our people. It is giving our people a great heart for the U.S. Center along with a greatly increased vision for missions.



During the Easter period their young people tore down the loose and falling tile in the campus community dining hall so that contractors could replaster the whole ceiling.

A few weeks ago USCWM General Director Art McCleary asked them, "Could you muster skilled laborers to put in a fire alarm system in Townsend Hall if we furnished the materials?"

They certainly could! Working three Saturdays again, their skilled volunteers installed the metal conduit, pulled all the wires and hooked up the necessary equipment as ordered by the Fire Marshal. "They did the job for \$3500 worth of materials," said McCleary, "and our best outside bid for the job was \$7500."

"Volunteering here has done a lot for our people," Carlson commented. "It is giving us a great heart for the U.S. Center along with a greatly increased vision for missions." He has invited other churches in the area to help the USCWM and said Calvary Baptist would be glad to direct, coordinate or help in that effort in any way they could.

"If your church really wants to make an effort like this work, though," Carlson said, "besides needing someone to take responsibility for the effort and a motivating force like Calvary Baptist's Friday morning prayer breakfast, you also need to have your pastor strongly behind the effort. Rev. H. Earl Kauester of Calvary Baptist is certainly behind us. Perhaps that's the main reason why ours is a very mission-minded church."

—Jim Stewart

The "Secret" Mission

A THEOLOGY OF REDEMPTION, PART IV —Ralph D. Winter

In the three previous issues, 1) we tried to see the overall drama of history which displays the Goal of the Secret Mission; 2) we zeroed in on the nature of the long-mysterious Covenant which has become a Secret Mission; 3) then, last time, we surveyed an eight-fold breakdown of the Goals of this Mission—four Upward and four Outward.

Chapter Four The Concept of Means: Can We Really Help?

The eight Goals of the "Secret" Mission are awesome and compelling. But can we reach them? Goals need Means. We are bumping into what has been referred to vaguely as the "Means of Grace." But in light of the Secret Mission, the Means are as startlingly new as the Goals we saw last time.

To enter into a love relationship with God and with His Creation is the goal. But how do we do that? How do we go about seeking God in a loving relationship? Is it all God's initiative? Is there anything we can strive to be or to do? We aspire to the goals of grace. How can we attain them? They are preeminently inward realities, not outward rites. They cannot properly be faked. But can they be attained through rituals which, if mixed with faith, that is, if flowing from "the obedience of faith," will become "means of grace"?

Blessings, The Blessing, and the Blessor

It is very unlikely that any one of the goals of grace—any one of the types of love for God or for His creation—can be cultivated by itself, much less for itself. The specific "blessings" inherent in these graces cannot be sought apart from the "blessing," (the relationship) nor can the blessing be sought instead

of "The Blessor." It was Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:19) who wanted nothing of the Blessor, nor the blessed relationship, only the blessing. Even the Jews (and now American evangelicals) generally sought merely the blessing and not the Blessor.

1. Means: Yours, Mine, or Ours?

Our individualistic American bent, combined with or, perhaps, derived from the crucial deficiency of the pronouns in the English language, encourages us to overlook the fact that almost every passage in the Bible that speaks about the blessings of God is stated in terms

To enter into a love relationship with God and with His Creation is the Goal. But how do we do that?

of God's blessing (empowering, guiding, filling, supporting, using) a group, not an individual. That is, the word *you* is almost always plural not singular.

Looking more closely, we see very few blessings in the Bible promised to individuals, except as members of a group. We are a blessed *people* and we seek to be a blessing to other *peoples*. Human beings cannot be very greatly blessed by themselves. Psychologists are playing along with contemporary American misunderstandings of the

nature of the human being when they attempt to adjust individuals apart from the groups to which they belong or need to belong.

Paradoxically, we feel as if we can sin by ourselves, but not to be blessed by ourselves. Yet even in this matter of sin, the solidarity of the community is such that individuals do not often go wrong without a corresponding laxity in the community. If they do not have a community to which they sense they belong, then they may go wrong precisely because they are not borne along by such a support vehicle.

We must not press this too far, but due to the extreme individualism of our American culture, it surely is necessary to balance out the other side. From an African leader I recently heard the statement, "Americans bring up their children to be independent and loyal to themselves; Africans bring up their children to be dependent and loyal to the group."

2. American Culture and the Bible . . . Again

We have been talking about the relatively greater importance of corporate vs individual approaches to the means of grace (e.g. corporate prayer vs individual prayer, corporate worship vs individual worship, etc.). Let us pause for just one more illustration of the way we tend to distort our interpretation of the Bible along individualistic lines as the result of looking at it through the colored glasses of American culture. In Phil. 2:12 and 13, Paul says, "So then, my beloved (plural), just as you (pl) have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence (still in

A THEOLOGY OF REDEMPTION, PART IV

jail) work out your own (pl) salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God (not I coming out of jail) who is at work in you (pl), both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

Were it not for the American glasses worn by the translators the key phrase toward the end, "at work in you" would more correctly be translated "at work among you" or "in your midst, in my place." In the Greek, the word "in" automatically shifts to "among" when the pronoun is plural.

As Americans, though, we are always on the lookout for verses that speak of God's work in us as individuals, and so our translators translate the Greek "among you" as "in you" and we interpret the "in you" as referring to us as individuals rather than together as a pluralistic body.

3. The Obedience of Faith vs External Compliance

On the one hand, the Bible on almost every page tells us that God looks upon the heart. The pure heart, the heart that is fully the Lord's is the most important goal of grace. On the other hand, when it comes to the matter of the *means* of grace, the Bible is equally consistent in its emphasis upon the centrality of the "obedience of faith." At first glance that may seem to be merely an external thing, but it is, really, a heart response; it is walking in the faith we already have as a gift of God and receiving more faith as a result.

Consider the curious statement "To him who has shall more be given, but from him who has not, even that which he has shall be taken" (Mt. 13:12). Jesus would seem to be saying that God always expects us to act on the light he has already given us as a condition for giving us more light, more faith. As Dawson Trotman of the Navigators used to say, "If you can't see very far ahead, go ahead as far as you can see."

Looking at things this way, we preserve the initiative of God, for He is

the one who has given us the bit of faith in which we can act. We also preserve the concept of human responsibility because "the ball is in our court" if we have not gone ahead as far as God has already shown us. Furthermore, we understand faith in this perspective as akin to light on our path. God gives different light/faith to different people. We look at others' faith and to us it seems darkness. To them it is "evidence of things not seen" by us. Faith is a certainty for the one to whom

Faith is not something we conjure up nor work up, nor is it mere courage. It is the gift of God, something totally God's initiative.

it has been given.

Not all certainty (as a psychological mood) is faith, but all faith is a certainty, even if—as is common in our walk with our Lord—it is only a bit of light beyond where we are.

Faith, then, is not something we conjure up nor work up, nor is it mere courage; it is the gift of God, something totally God's initiative. Those to whom faith has been given are often, in a human sense, almost "victims" of that faith. They do not ask for it any more than Abraham asked for his summons from Ur of the Chaldees.

Believing, on the other hand, e.g. *belief* (vs faith), is a verb, not a noun. *Belief* refers to what we do, not to what God gives. *Faith* is what God gives. *Faith* is what we believe IN. *Belief* is our response to faith; it is walking in the heaven-given light of faith: walking in faith.

Believing, then, is not merely an intellectual but also a volitional response to faith. It is obedience: true heart obedience. It is the "obedience of faith," which is more than compliance, yet which is, often, "compliance in faith." This means that even though we do not know exactly where compliance will lead, we are willing, in faith, to comply with—that is, act out—what we understand to be His will.

The English language is a problem again here. It disguises the fact that Greek uses the same root word for both faith and belief. *Pistis* and *pisteuo*, respectively, display the close association of faith and belief. The one is a noun, the other a verb. In many missionary translations "to believe" is translated "to obey," simply because heart obedience is the same as believing. If that does not sound right, look at what we do in English. Note that "to believe" is not altogether a good translation in English because when someone says he "believes" something, he usually means "I am not sure": "I believe so; I just can't be sure."

So, Then: What To Do?

At this point, our unfolding account of the SECRET MISSION must (next issue) emerge from mere talk and theory and burst into the practical, how-to-do-it sphere.

Next chapter, then, we will begin talking about METHODS, concrete methods. We have gone from GOALS to MEANS. We must now approach the specific METHODS we can pursue to safeguard the most spectacular, inspirational, dazzling, power-love-and-faith-flooded lives we can live. This is because nothing of any consequence whatsoever in all the sordid story of human history is unrelated to the all-encompassing beauty and wonder of God and His SECRET MISSION.

—Ralph D. Winter

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The Summer Institutes are held on the campus of William Carey International University, adjacent to the U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena, California.

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Undergraduate and graduate credit for most Summer Institutes is offered by one or more cooperating institutions, including: William Carey International University; School of World Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary; Columbia Bible College; and Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary, Denver.

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Introduction to Mission Among Hindu Peoples



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Vice President—World Vision Int'l
President—Friends Missionary
Prayer band



Dr. Donald McGavran
Founder—School of World Mission,
Fuller Theological Seminary
Former missionary to India



Rabi R. Maharaj
Author—Death of a Guru
Converted Brahman Guru
Evangelist



Dr. Mahendra P. Singhai
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Introduction to Mission Among Hindu Peoples
William Carey International University
1539 E. Howard St.
Pasadena, CA 91104
July 21 to August 15, 1986

Letters

Dear Friends:

Last Thursday, I was privileged to attend a "work session" on your campus. I helped in the China and Taiwan Department, and was happy to learn of the wonderful work you are doing . .

I was with others from the Galilean Sunday School class of First Baptist Church of Reseda . . This is my first time to attend this "work shop" and I thoroughly enjoyed every minute . . I will look forward to coming again.

Marjory Torres
Reseda, CA

Dear Friend:

God is still making it possible for me to contribute to 14 monthly causes each month. Praise His name!

I am so glad your were able to make the April payment. I will pray that you are able to make the July payment.

I was 80-years-old December 28th and my husband will be 80 third August. If we ever get to California I want to visit the Center. God tells us to ask and we will receive. I believe God will provide the money for the Center.

Ann Reynolds
Moline, Ill

Dear Friends:

I am praying for you and believing God for the victory in your campus debt. Stand firm brethren, you serve a great God who is for you and will be able to deliver you. May He continue to uphold you and use you for His glory.

John S. Engle
Beverly, MA

Dear Brethren:

Grace and peace to you. Thanks for your fine publication—*Mission Frontiers*. I like the new format.

Thanks mostly for the contributions to love and good works. I praise God that I am mostly free of debt, except the debt of love. In that spirit I enclose the second half of my participation in the 2/3rd plan.

David J. Carr
West Lafayette, IN

To whom it may concern:

I have thoroughly enjoyed the materials you promptly sent. I read *In The Gap* in one week and have been asking, begging and nearly stealing everything I could find on world missions, etc., from missionary friends.

I first learned about the Center from the *Mission Frontiers* bulletin.

Glenn Moyer
Bogeta, Columbia

Dear Friends in Christ:

About six years ago I was roaming through a book section of a Chicago thrist shop and picked up *Once Around Jericho!* Since then it has been on the shelf...unread, 'til last week.

In the meantime, I had heard about your organization from the *Global Prayer Digest* which I got through a Chicago Church. Now I understand that the USCWM and *Global Prayer Digest* are related ministries. Here are my first "Hidden Peoples Dollars" for the folks of the Talaud Islands.

Andrew Kaleniyik
Chicago Illinois

Dear Co-Workers:

Enclosed find a check for \$18. My roommate and I collected \$13 in loose change that we keep on the kitchen table. I decided at a college world missions conference that I would give up the coffee I buy on my way to work and put that money in for Hidden Peoples; that amounts to \$2.50 a week.

Also my roommate and several singles in our neighborhood have begun a once-a-month dinner group with the purpose of fellowship and prayer for the world. Would you please give us the name of a specific people group?

Kim Vandergriff
Birmingham, Alabama

Dear U.S. Center staff:

In 1978 or '79, as a result of a "coincidental" news story I "happened" to read, my wife and I first invested in the Center, trusting God to help meet the various deadlines for your financial commitments. Over the last years we have seen God meet those deadlines for His own glory.

I see you are approaching another "faith crunch" time. Therefore, I would like to invest again in the Center on behalf of my 5 children. I will be telling them about the Center, its vision for the Unreached Peoples, and the impact this investment will have for eternity. My children are ages 11 years to 6 months.

We trust that this amount will be part of God's movement to evangelize the world with the gospel for His own glory.

Al Dunham
Highland, CA

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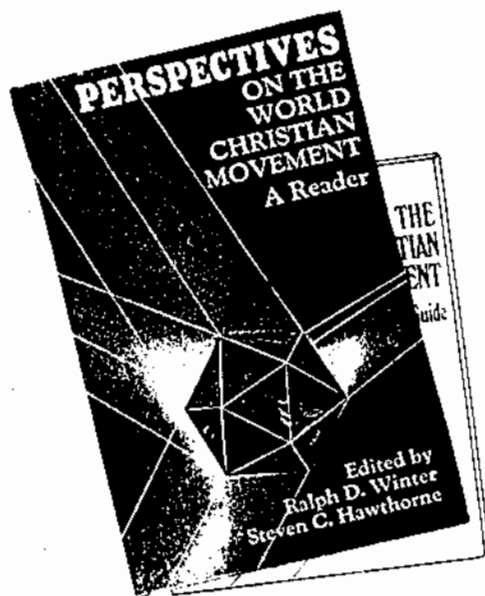
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