



We must recall that people who keep in touch with God DAILY are those on whom God can truly depend!

Ralph D. Winter



Students are confessing their sins on a number of campuses! So says *Christianity Today* (Dec 07). If this is widespread it is surely to the good. Have you in your lifetime been present in some sort of a public confession meeting?

The fact that thousands of Christian students would be seeking to live a holy life is something to be welcomed. But, important as this is, what if these highly emotional commitments do not last? Washing away the past is not the same as every day for the rest of our lives living *Our Utmost for His Highest*.

That is the crucial question: Will those sacred moments last? What will enable them to last?

Durable Integrity Daily?

This issue of *Mission Frontiers* is dedicated to things that can help you as you build a truly Christian life.

Curiously, the most important key to the growth of God-consciousness—of integrity of heart—is *what happens daily*. “Nothing will ever dominate your life that does not occur daily!”

That is why the first thing to which we introduce you readers of this issue is a significant daily discipline: reading for a few moments in the *Global Prayer Digest* (see page 8).

For 25 years this little booklet has been DAILY arresting the attention of thousands of devout followers of Christ in various languages!



Ralph D. Winter is editor of *Mission Frontiers* and the General Director of the *Frontier Mission Fellowship*.

We talk a lot about people becoming “World Christians”—those who accept a range of personal responsibility that extends to the entire world.

But, do you know what? Realistically, I would not give you a dime for a World Christian who is not also a DAILY World Christian.

Unless personally you make sure something *daily* enters your consciousness, something vital and gripping about God’s great heart and His overall claim upon your life—*unless that happens, your life will grow slowly or not at all*.

God, for example, is concerned about those millions of fearful, stressed, suffering people in our world who struggle to survive. They have absolutely no security and at best only a fleeting awareness of their true, loving Father in heaven. He cares. Thus, the better we know Him the more we share His concerns! We don’t fully belong to Him if we do not also care, and CARE DAILY.

Yes, the *Global Prayer Digest* can help. Also of help is to be digging daily in the Bible for a personal “jolt.” To do that we need to begin by putting aside personal concerns and yielding to God’s will. (Personal concerns often intervene in the morning, clamoring for attention.) “Reading for a blessing” is exciting and can take place if we are on the lookout for a Command, a Warning, an Example, or a Truth, and if we make sure our “blessing” is Biblical, Personal, and Specific. We must recall that people who keep in touch with God DAILY are those on whom God can truly depend!

Plus, it is a good idea to jot down a sentence or two in a journal to reflect the inspiration you receive. Otherwise Satan will quickly erase it from your memory!

Perspectives Anyone?

But a few minutes daily, while most important of all, is not enough. It should lead us deeper. In this issue of *Mission Frontiers* we speak next of a 15-week life-transforming study called Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. An extended period like that course can, in turn, heighten your daily walk with our global God.

Note: “Perspectives” was not created as a course for prospective missionaries (although good for that). Rather, it is designed for every serious believer, for precisely those who may never be missionaries or ministers.

It has been an amazing success. This course called “Perspectives” is taught yearly in hundreds of places and to thousands of people—in the USA and in other countries and other languages. You can see an up-to-date report on pages 12-15. Or, click on www.perspectives.org

But, there is more.

Local congregations normally find it difficult to pay attention to what their college students are or are not learning. Yours will be excited to know that as a congregation you can now in most cases take charge of the first year of college yourselves, employing the superb Insight curriculum—designed precisely to be used in local churches and also to carry college credit. Parents are wildly happy about the results. The program essentially covers what colleges teach as “General Studies” in the entire first year of college, but with a decidedly Christian slant and emphasis. It makes things come alive. It answers the tough questions college students stumble into. It may save their faith. Take a good look at it, on pages 17-20.

Another three-unit course like Perspectives boils down an entire M.A. curriculum. It is called “Foundations.” It is a three-unit version of a 32 semester-unit M.A. degree program. It is a single individual study course that anyone can take wherever they live. On the other hand, the entire degree program, called “World Christian Foundations,” is ten times as extensive and essentially covers all the basics of seminary as well as the liberal arts curriculum looked at from a Christian point of view. Note that you can get

Once we can build on total confidence about “life after death,” we are enabled to concentrate our earthly days on “life before death.”

this M.A. degree even if you lack all of college simply by being 31 or older!

The M. A. degree program gives a broad, solid Christian foundation for any serious believer. It is also the basis for the Ph.D. program of our related university, William Carey International University—a program that does not require coming to the United States. It is as tough as any other but it is more flexible by far and much less expensive. You can read about it on page 23. The Ph.D. degree is the only degree which allows you to mentor someone else up to your own level—it is a significant “discipleship” degree!

Our Utmost for His Highest

But, whether or not you need a Ph.D., to maximize your calling, other ingredients are important to a fully surrendered Christian life.

Once we can build on total confidence about “life *after* death,” we are enabled to concentrate our earthly days on “life *before* death.” But that in turn plunges

us into a huge expansion of the usual personal purpose and vision.

So what would be decisively helpful in each of us doing our “Utmost for His Highest?”

Horizontal accountability. Not one in a hundred people can rise to their highest without the support, encouragement, and appreciation of other people. This is why God put us in families, small groups, and churches.

But, for many of us a more formal kind of accountability is important. So here's news. Our organization (the Frontier Mission Fellowship/U. S. Center for World Mission) is exploring the possibility of including in our fellowship people who can't work full time, but who would be willing to try a kind of “horizontal accountability” for a trial period of two months. It is the same kind of accountability daily, weekly, monthly that current full-time members enjoy.


We are eager to encourage those who want to be encouraged. This trial

relationship will involve some of the things mentioned in this issue of *Mission Frontiers*. If you call 610-524-5506 or email Fran.Patt@uscwm.org you can get the details.

The main thing here is to live a holy life, an effective life—“the unexamined life is not worth living!” All true believers in Jesus Christ—not just “missionaries”—are called to give their Utmost for His Highest. If linking with us will help we will be very happy.

30th Anniversary Year

Curiously it is only after 30 years that the FMF/USCWM is seeking seriously to extend its internal accountability to earnest believers wherever they live who may not be able to work with us full time.

That's right, 2008 is our 30th year of publishing *Mission Frontiers*! In case you want to see our big beautiful \$12 volume covering the first six years, connect with Betty at 626-296-7501 or betty.leung@wciu.edu. 

GLOBAL PURPOSE — a new DVD from the U.S. Center for World Mission



“At last, believers can understand the Bible’s “Global Purpose” through this fascinating DVD. Viewers will understand how God’s ‘big picture’ destiny for our planet is inseparable from His ‘small picture’ destiny for believers everywhere.”

Bob Blincoe
US Director, Frontiers

“I loved it. Great tool to use with churches. You have hit a home run with this DVD.”

Tom Telford
Author, national conference speaker
Initiative 360 and United World Mission

“For many who will serve Christ in obedience to the Great Commission, understanding the urgency and enormity of the need will be a first step. The Global Purpose DVD illustrates this reality in a powerful way.”

Bob Creson
President, Wycliffe Bible Translators, USA

This DVD is a teaching resource that gives an overview of **God’s global purpose** to bless all peoples. It invites the viewer to explore ways to partner with others in declaring God’s glory among all nations.

Produced by the Mobilization office of the U.S. Center for World Mission in cooperation with Create International
Running time: 20 minutes

Cost: DVD with User Guide: \$16.95

DVD with User Guide and Study Booklet: \$17.95

To order: William Carey Library/Send The Light • call 1-800-MISSION • www.missionbooks.org

Response to Ralph Winter

The Future of Evangelicals in Mission Article Mission Frontiers 29:5, pages 06-15

by Ron Sider

I am happy to provide a short response to Ralph Winter's piece, "The Future of Evangelicals in Mission." One could comment on many aspects of his article including the details of his historical overview. But that is not my concern here.

What I want to underline—and celebrate with Ralph Winter—is the historic shift in the modern evangelical world in the last forty or so years. Forty years ago, most evangelical leaders would have agreed that the primary mission of the church is "saving souls"—i.e., evangelism is our primary mission. Only if we have a little time and money left over can we devote a little of each to social ministry.

Ralph Winter rightly celebrates the fact that things have changed dramatically. Today, almost all evangelical leaders agree that we are to do both evangelism and social action. They are both parts of a biblically shaped mission.

Many persons, documents and movements have contributed to this significant change. John Stott, Samuel Escobar and René Padilla all contributed to the historic affirmation in the Lausanne Covenant (1974) that evangelism and social responsibility are both part of our biblical task as Christians. Vinay Samuel, the International Fellowship of Evangelical Missions Theologians and Transformation magazine all played key roles. So did John Perkins and his national network in the U.S. of over seven hundred holistic ministries in the Christian Community Development Association—every one of which combines evangelism and social ministry in helping poor folk escape poverty.

Ralph Winter is also right to warn against losing the balance of evangelism and social ministry. I do not see how one can read the Gospels and

not see that Jesus combined word and deed. But history shows that it is so easy to so emphasize one side or the other that one loses the other crucial component. It would be possible for evangelical social activists in the next twenty years to become so preoccupied with social action that they neglect evangelism. That dare not happen. We must renew and strengthen our commitment to inviting persons who do not now confess Jesus as Savior and Lord, to accept the Gospel and come into a living personal relationship with the Savior. We need more evangelism, not less.

But we also need more evangelicals enthusiastically engaged in social and societal transformation. And we need millions of Christians and hundreds of thousands of congregations who understand concretely how to combine evangelism and social action.

The central importance of Ralph Winter's article, I believe, is this. As someone who has for many, many decades been powerfully identified with the evangelistic task of sharing the Gospel with those who have never heard, he shouts clearly and loudly toward the end of his long fruitful career what he has often said before: word and deed belong together. Evangelism and social action are not the same thing, but they belong inseparably together in the mission of faithful Christians.

This essay is both a significant measure of how much progress the evangelical world has made in embracing holistic mission and a clarion call to the next generation to get on with the biblical task of following Jesus our perfect model in combining evangelism and social action in the power of the Spirit. 🌐

Ron Sider is Professor of Theology, Holistic Ministry and Public Policy at Palmer Theological Seminary in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. He is also Director of the Sider Center on Ministry & Public Policy and President of Evangelicals for Social Action.

Over 9,400 Days of Prayer... and Counting

by Keith Carey

On April 1, 1982 a radically new kind of publication was launched. Its purpose? To help families collecting loose change for frontier missions to pray daily for specific unreached people groups and to remind them daily of God's heart for all peoples from God's Word. Since its beginnings over 25 years ago, the *Global Prayer Digest* (first called the *Daily Prayer Guide*) has helped fuel over 9,400 days of prayer for the remaining 10,000 unreached people groups. As of January 1, 2008 that's 9,407 days of prayer . . . and counting.

First published in English only, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean intercessors have long had editions in their languages. Currently the Spanish edition has the smallest monthly print run (some 3,000 total, printed separately in six countries!), followed by English (5,000), Chinese (16,000) and Korean (38,000). That's 62,000 people using the printed versions alone.

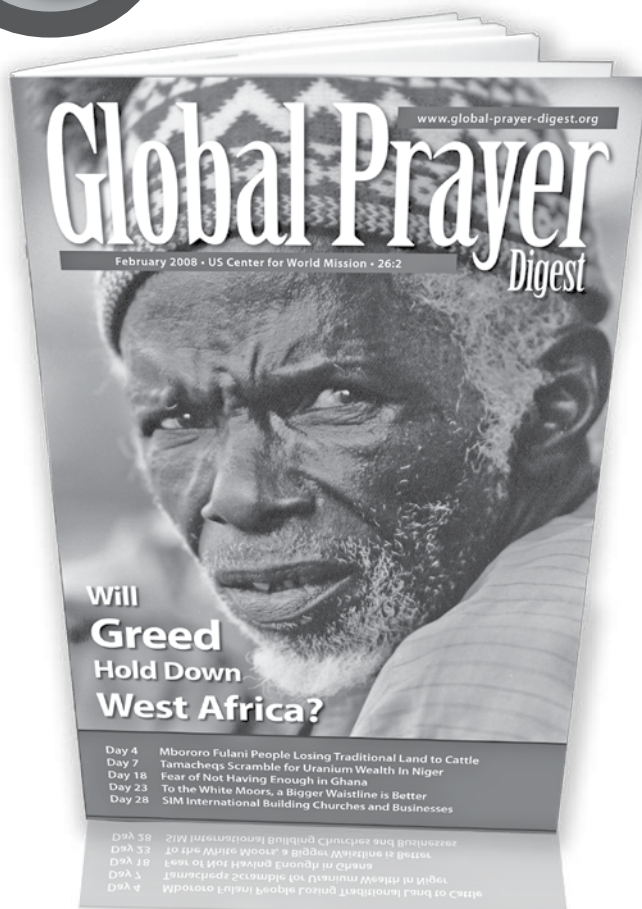
However, in an Internet age, the print run tells only part of the story. Over 10,000 Spanish-speakers receive the *Guia* via daily e-mail—that's more than use the Spanish and English print versions combined. (A message to intercesion_comiban@yahoo.com.ar is all it takes to get the *Guia* by e-mail).

Web editions exist for English (global-prayer-digest.org), Chinese (missionpathway.org), and Korean (gtm.or.kr), but not for Spanish. Intercessors using the English version have other options as well. Like Spanish speakers, you can get your daily prayer entries sent to you by e-mail.

(Just send an email with no subject and no message to



Keith Carey has been working with GPD since 1986, and managing editor since 1992. He and his wife are on staff at the U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena, California.



subscribe-brigada-pubs-globalprayerdigest@hub.XC.Org.) You can download them to your PDA (see global-prayer-digest.org for more info), even to your cell phone (see fourteenfloor.com). Finally, churches can expose their people to the *GPD* through monthly *FrontierScan* bulletin inserts.

This worldwide prayer movement for the unreached people groups is increasingly spanning the globe. Why not join us and be a part of that "and counting" group of intercessors? With so many ways to get the *GPD*, there's bound to be one that fits your lifestyle. 🌐

Find Your Role in Mobilization

Are we all called to missions? Or is there something the Muslims and Coca-Cola know that we don't?



by Steve Shadrach

A few months ago I was standing in the middle of a 60,000 student campus called Sichuan University in Chengdu, China. Every student I talked with knew English, wanted to meet Westerners, and talk about any subject we wanted. They were especially fascinated with this person named Jesus and, as a result, large numbers of students were believing and receiving Him as their Savior. I was told I could move my family into an on-campus high rise for just \$75 a month, obtain visas as long as it took me to learn Chinese (I'm sure decades!), and have almost absolute freedom to befriend, witness, and disciple these influential students from all over this elite province.

My heart was pierced. I looked up into the heavens and almost audibly asked God a question, "Lord, now, tell me again *why* I am living in Fayetteville, Arkansas where there are hundreds of churches and boatloads of campus ministries desperately trying to get people to even *listen* to the gospel? Instead, why am I not here, at Sichuan University, where there are virtually no groups reaching out to the thousands of students who are desperately trying to get people to even *tell* them the gospel?"

I could only think of one word: Mobilization. The only way I could justify living here and not there is that I believed that somehow, someday God is using me here in a greater way to mobilize believers to strategic opportunities like Sichuan University all over the world. The only way I can sleep at night is knowing that raising up 100 workers might be more impactful than just me going myself. But as it

relates to God's call on every Christian's life, don't you think we should have just as strong a call to stay as we do to go?

So, we stay for now, but as Director of Mobilization for the U.S. Center for World Mission, I am *not* trying to get every believer to become a cross cultural missionary. Instead, our team is focused on recruiting, training, and connecting a mighty band of Christians to their most strategic role in completing the Great Commission. Consequently, every one of our programs, courses, seminars, resources, and publications needs to somehow help us accomplish one or more of the following:

- 1) **Recruit** believers to begin this World Christian journey
- 2) **Train** them to be more equipped to find and fulfill their God given calling
- 3) **Connect** them to the right information, people, and opportunities where they can maximize their life in bringing glory to God in all nations

Over the years the Lord has brought along hundreds of staff and thousands of volunteers to help us create and implement some life-changing mobilization tools. Yes, Perspectives has been our highest profile offering, but there is also:

- The INSIGHT program for high school grads around the country who want to build a biblical and missional world view
- The new Collegiate Mobilization strategy where we are placing full time Campus



Steve Shadrach, D.Min., is Director of Mobilization for the USCWM. He is also President of The BodyBuilders Ministry. In the 80's and 90's Steve was involved in helping launch Student Mobilization, The Traveling Teams, and the NVision Seminars. He and his wife Carol live in Fayetteville, Arkansas with their five children, the youngest of which they adopted from Ukraine after spending a year there.

Mobilizers on key state campuses across the U.S. to serve the church and para-church ministries in their mission mobilization efforts

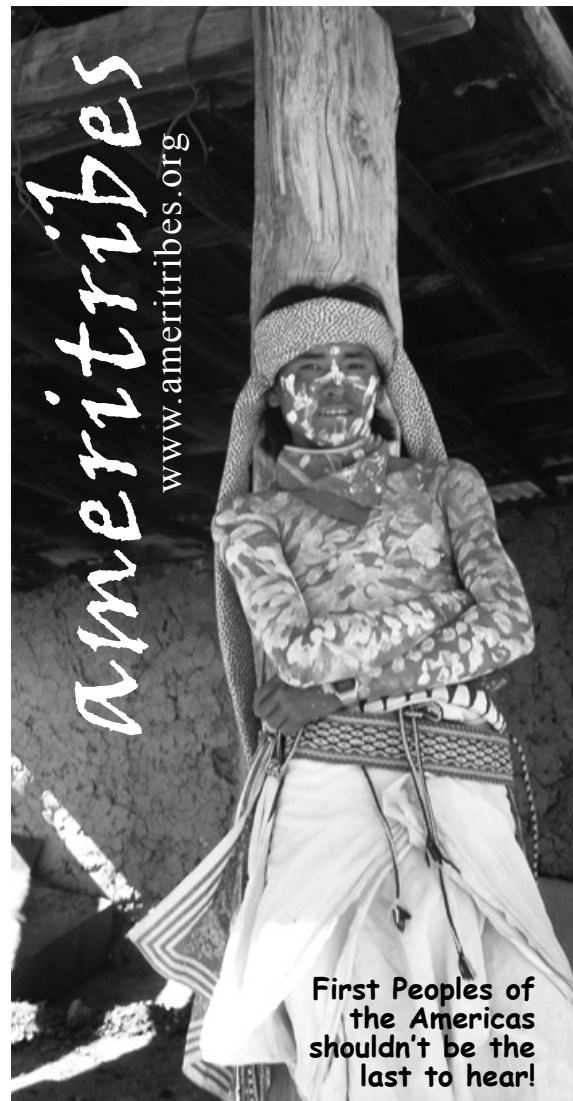
- Unique and insightful publications like *Mission Frontiers*, *Global Prayer Digest*, *International Journal of Frontier Missiology* and, of course, hundreds of excellent mission titles from William Carey Library Publishers
- Regional offices spread around the U.S. with representatives ready to serve and resource churches, agencies, ministries, and individuals in their World Christian journey.

There are many other visions and strategies the Lord has given us and, as always, the greatest need is for laborers—men and women who will step into the gap (either as staff or volunteers) and work with us in our effort to recruit, train, and connect believers to their most strategic role in completing world evangelization. Finally, two examples to motivate us to give ourselves fully to this World Christian effort and the spiritual battle the enemy is waging against us:

- There are now 2500 Muslim mosques around the U.S. Many times Muslim leaders will take millions of dollars of their oil money and offer to endow a Department of Middle Eastern Studies at a university. Next they purchase land and build a mosque right across from the campus and begin services there. Over the last ten years, these Muslim activists have come to understand that American college students are some of the most recruitable, trainable, and sendable categories of persons on the planet. They believe that if they can win the American college student today, they can win the world tomorrow. We must do battle right here in our own backyard for the hearts and minds of our own students to win them to the person and purposes of Jesus Christ.
- Reports have been circulating that the Coca-Cola International Corporation has a business plan with a goal of being able to get a cold Coke within one mile of every person on earth by the year 2020. Wow. That is impressive! Some of my co-workers want to use this company's goal to motivate Christians to get the gospel within a mile of every human being. Their website? www.BeatTheCokeTruck.com. A legitimate question can be asked of us: Although God has supplied us with infi-

nately more resources (than Coca-Cola has) to get His message out, are we as committed to seeing our job finished as they are?

Friends, if there ever was a time when we must have a "Kingdom Perspective" and work together to help bring Jesus to the outer edges of this final frontier, it is now. It has become painfully obvious that our Muslim friends are committed to reaching the world. Even Coca-Cola has a plan to cover the earth! So join us, would you, as we band together in the power and unity of the Holy Spirit, to take the pure, unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth? Shoulder up with us as we recruit, train, and connect myriads of believers to their most strategic role in completing this Great Commission. 🌐





Perspectives

God Changing Austin • God Changing the World

by Troy Alexander

They were living in Austin as newlyweds. He was working in a thriving business and she was a local actress. Right in the middle of taking the *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* course, they discovered that God was calling them to go to the Fulani people of Senegal. That's where they now serve thru Heart of God ministries. He shared: "Perspectives was an eye opening experience that God used to help show us what our lives were purposed for and to draw us into a life of full time ministry work in an unreached people group in Africa." This sending team is mostly friends from "Austin Stone"—their home church. Some say this type of symmetry between the local church and those in mission is where the church starts to look "glocal"; living and serving locally, but also engaged globally.

Consider this: over the past two years, more than 650 people from more than 81 Austin area churches, representing 10 different evangelical denominations have taken the Perspectives Austin course. Lives are being changed, directions

altered, churches energized, and most importantly—our God glorified. Young adults are giving up their lives in America and going to serve peoples in very different lands. Business owners are changing their plans and look at new kinds of investing and Kingdom companies. Mothers are starting new efforts to love Arab women right here

in Austin. Policy makers are finding answers to bring about community transformation. Pastors are dreaming bigger dreams than ever before for their churches.

Locally, Sr. Pastor Michael Lewis of Great Hills Baptist Church has challenged his church leadership to take Perspectives. Pastor Lewis stated,

The class reminds us that there is a time when God calls ordinary individuals to do the extraordinary for the sake of the Gospel. I recommend Perspectives to anyone desiring to gain a Christ-centered worldview.

Meanwhile, The Austin Stone Community Church is making it essential leadership training as well as a prerequisite for anyone engaging in mission. Hill Country Bible is urging all community groups to

attend together. Believers all over Austin are beginning to see that God wants to change this city for the sake of His name and to impact the whole world for Christ.



Stats

- About 70,000 people have taken Perspectives in the U.S. since it began back in 1974
- Almost 60% of those have taken Perspectives since 2000
- About 30% of those have taken Perspectives in the last 3 years
- There are over 200 classes a year taking place in the U.S.
- There are over 700 instructors in the Perspectives teaching network throughout the country
- There are as many as 1,000 volunteer coordinators and team members involved in running classes in the U.S. each year. 

Troy Alexander is a Task Force Member of Perspectives Austin

According to the Perspectives National Office, "Perspectives is not so much a course, as it is a 'movement' involving tens of thousands of God's people throughout the world finding their niche in God's overall purpose to bless the nations." Since its beginning in 1974, more than 100,000 people have taken the course across the world. It has been translated into a number of languages, with more in process.

Here's what some Austin alumni have had to say about the course, or "movement."

"It challenges your thinking, moves you to obedience, aligns your heart closer to God's heart and introduces you to His Big Picture Plan."

"This class will give you tools to do God's will."

"What God has done for my heart through this class is uncontainable...it will take my whole life to fully live out what God has taught me!"

Nationally and internationally the course is endorsed by a wide array of evangelical denominations, mission organizations and leaders. Dr. Avery Willis, former Senior VP of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention said that Perspectives provides believers with "the finest overview of God's world wide work available. I wholeheartedly recommend it for any committed disciple of Jesus."

John Bush with Wycliffe Bible Translators stated:

The Perspectives course succeeds in communicating that God has always had a plan for the world, that He is carrying out that plan, that His plan is unstoppable, and that He invites us to have a part in what He is doing. Many people looking to see where they fit into God's plan find the Perspectives course to be an eye-opener, whether they are involved in their local church or helping to build God's Kingdom among the least reached.

Pastor and author, Rev. John Piper wrote, "Perspectives has been essential in mobilizing hundreds of lay people in our church to be World Christians."

Campus Mobilizers

This fall the USCWM Mobilization Division is kicking off a new ministry strategy of placing full-time Campus Mobilizers on major college campuses to serve the existing church and para church ministries there. Our staff will be catalysts and equippers to ministry staff and students who want to move further along in their World Christian journey. They will offer a variety of resources/tools like small group studies, regional mission conferences, summer training projects, short-term mission trips, and of course, funneling as many as they can into local Perspectives courses. Our goal is to view each campus as a sending base and launching pad, and to bring the missions mobilization component to all of the believers on that campus. Joe and Shelby Murray are at Oregon State while Andy and Jamie Kampman are at University of Iowa. Other campuses we are looking at include LSU, Oklahoma University, and 150 others! Pray for us as we launch this effort! 🌐

Stay tuned: The citywide course, Perspectives on the World Christian Movement (aka Perspectives) will be kicking off another class year in January 08 and is causing quite a stir in Austin. 🌐



Have you ever considered using your gifts and abilities to work with the Perspectives Team to further this mobilization movement throughout the country and around the world? Specific areas of need include...

- Curriculum Development Specialist
- Administrative Assistants
- Academic Coordinator
- Campus Mobilization
- Agency Relations
- Resource Coordinator
- Instructor Development
- Creative Engineers
- IT Database/Web Development
- Regional and Area Coordinators
- Global Perspectives Desk
- Call Center Coordinators
- Class Coordinators

For a list of job descriptions on each of these, visit the website under Next Steps and Get Involved.
<http://www.perspectives.org> 🌐

Have You Visited the New www.perspectives.org?

by John Patton

On September 18, 2007 the Perspectives Study Program launched an incredibly ambitious project encompassing not only the national Perspectives website, but 200 class websites, online registration, a centralized database, and administrative workflow. Here are our goals:

Goal 1: Create an inviting front door

The Lord blessed us with a design team who created a beautiful and well organized website. No single person can see the massive depth of the website. We've found a way to limit the areas of the website based upon a person's roles and responsibility. This helps simplify the web user's experience.

Goal 2: Equip and lighten the load for our volunteers

Perspectives is truly a grass-roots movement of believers who desire to glorify God by raising awareness of what God is doing around the world and mobilize others to finish the Great Commission. Each year over a thousand volunteers help run the classes in over 200 locations. We are striving to put the right resources and tools at their fingertips so they can carry out their tasks more easily. We want to cut down on burdens such as grading and handling finances, so the volunteers can focus more on mentoring students than doing administrative tasks.

Goal 3: Better serve and follow up our alumni

In the past, we have not done a good job in transitioning our alumni's newfound "perspective" into practical application. We now have a way to continue the relationship with our alumni online. Besides



John Patton is Director of Administration for the Perspectives Study Program in the national office in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He is married to Tisha and they have one son, Tozer. Previously John has served with The BodyBuilders Ministry and Student Mobilization with whom he and Tisha spent 13 months ministering in Delhi, India.



all the resources that are now available to them, we are also beginning to communicate with them through our monthly eNewsletter, 'Perspectives in Practice.' It includes tips and testimonials of how alumni can practice what they've learned. In the future, we will be able to match up peoples interests with resources and opportunities that are relevant to them. If a person indicates they have interest in international adoption or unreached peoples in northern India or AIDS, then we will be able to send them resources that match those interests.

Note: If you're an alumnus, instructor, or volunteer and haven't received an email from us lately—we've lost you! Help us get in touch by joining us at Perspectives.org. Alumnus, go to www.perspectives.org/alumni to gain access to a plethora of resources. If you're not an alumni, don't worry, you can gain access to the wealth of resources by becoming a 'friend of Perspectives.'

What can you expect to find at our new website?

National website

- **For prospective students**—use our 'Find a Class' tool to locate near-by courses, watch promotional videos, and read through details about the course
- **For instructors**—resources for each lesson, sample lesson plans, PowerPoints, and audio of others teaching the lesson; ability to have one online profile that all coordinators can see so you don't have to repeat information
- **For volunteers** (coordinating teams)—tips and resources for every volunteer position
- **For class coordinators**—search tools to find area alumni who want to volunteer and tools to find potential instructors and resources on how to run your class
- **For alumni**—audio files of lessons, volunteer opportunities, as well as resources to mobilize your church and friends, going to the mission field, sending and assisting others, welcoming internationals, prayer, and business as mission



Class Websites

- Template based websites—easy for volunteers to update and gives a consistency to the classes around the country. This also brings all the information under one roof, so people know where to go.
- Online registration with easy payment options or you can register to visit the first night for free
- Special access for student resources—file sharing, discussion boards, and announcements
- All students will now have access to audio files of each lesson in case they miss the class

We are trying our best to use technology for good. We have a long way to go, but as one volunteer said recently, "We're miles ahead of where we were." Come join us at www.Perspectives.org.



The Mobilization Division and Perspectives National Office personnel based in Fayetteville, Arkansas



Perspectives

4th Edition Tour comes to an end!

“Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.”
Proverbs 19:20

by Dave Flynn


As we began the tour to get feedback on the revision of the Perspectives reader, we determined to gather as much feedback from key coordinators and instructors as we could. To do this, we planned a “4th Edition Tour” campaign. Over 130 people attended 11 meetings in nine major cities where there has been a long history of Perspectives classes.

Members of the Revision/Editorial Team that were present at these meetings included Dr. Ralph Winter (founder of the U.S. Center for World Mission and Perspectives Editor), Steve Hawthorne (Director of Waymakers and Perspectives Editor), Bruce Koch (Perspectives Curriculum Specialist) and Dave Flynn (Perspectives National Director). Cities around the country where we held 4th Edition meetings were Philadelphia, Columbia, Dallas, Houston, Minneapolis, Seattle, San Francisco, Pasadena and San Diego. In each of these locations we met with key coordinators, task force members and instructors to hear from them regarding editorial content and curriculum structure for this 4th edition revision of the Perspectives Reader and Study Guide.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Not only was the feedback helpful and insightful, but just visiting these folks and hearing from them was a huge step in maintaining a teamwork relationship

with those involved with running Perspectives throughout the country. The anticipated date of release for the 4th Edition Reader and Study Guide is May of 2008. We expect to utilize the 4th edition for all classes starting Fall of 2008.

Perspectives National Conference

That's right! A National Conference for all past and present Perspectives Coordinators, Team Members and Instructors is scheduled for this summer! This will take place June 12 - 14, 2008, at the Westin Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport Hotel and Conference Center. This will be a time of celebrating what the Lord has accomplished the last 35 years—since Urbana '73—when the need for Perspectives was identified. Key speakers include Floyd McClung, Ralph Winter, Steve Hawthorne, Carol Davis and David Bryant. It will be a time of seeking the Lord and jointly praising Him for His great movement around the world. We will hear from Perspectives leaders in other countries, participate in key workshops highlighting new ideas, best practices, wonderful resources, the administrative changes taking place, and much more! Come for the worship, fellowship, equipping, and vision for the future. As a bonus, we will be ending our time on Saturday evening with a very special and unique event. For more information, visit www.perspectives.org/conference08. 



Dave Flynn is the National Director for the Perspectives Study Program. Prior to that, he served as the Director of Recruiting for the USCWM in Pasadena, California. Dave has a BS in Missiology from Nyack College, and is completing his MSM in International Development from Hope International University. Dave, his wife Liz and their three children live in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

What is Insight?

What if there were some way to capture students' hearts for missions straight out of high school and expose them to God's purposes, before they make life and vocational decisions? And what if we could give young adults a firm intellectual foundation for their faith, so they could engage their peers and professors intelligently instead of being labeled narrow-minded or losing their faith at college? What if such a training could be made available to students as part of their college career, at a cost competitive with state schools, so that students who pursue missions aren't hindered by student debt? Finally, what if this could be done in a replicable way so that churches and mission agencies could be the trainers of these young adults? These are just a few of the questions that drove the U.S. Center for World Mission to develop the INSIGHT program.

In 2001, the USCWM created a curriculum and replicable format whereby churches and agencies could be instrumental in adding knowledge of God's purposes to students' zeal. INSIGHT fills a gap for students interested in serving globally to explore mission and gain foundational knowledge with a one-year, cost-effective commitment, and helps churches and mission agencies provide Bible and mission training in-house to their students and missionary candidates. For those familiar with the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course, INSIGHT builds on the Perspectives themes and incorporates a full year of college history and humanities as well as contemporary mission strategy. INSIGHT gives students a critical year before major life decisions start to be made to explore God's

purposes and learn about various worldviews, without postponing college.

For students considering involvement in mission, it provides a solid Bible and mission academic foundation with a short-term commitment as they further explore their options. For students headed for a secular campus, INSIGHT provides intellectual underpinning for their faith while teaching them how to recognize competing worldviews. INSIGHT students of all backgrounds are free to complete a degree however God leads them, whether that be further preparation for mission, pursuing a profession to use globally, or choosing any major at a private or secular college of their choice.

Who are INSIGHT students?

The typical INSIGHT student is between age 17-25, and may be at any point in their college years, with any major or undecided. The majority of INSIGHT students are first year college students, although program locations may accept non-traditional college students and students wishing to take INSIGHT on a

certificate or enrichment basis. The ideal INSIGHT student is motivated and prepared to succeed at college, particularly in college-level reading comprehension and verbal and written communication. Students who are interested in studying the Bible, worldviews, cultures, and religions with a heart that is responsive to God will thrive in INSIGHT.



Locations

INSIGHT groups are hosted on the U.S. Center for World Mission campus in Pasadena, California, and at regional, college, and church locations throughout the United States. Churches and mission organizations are invited to consider hosting INSIGHT locally.

The Content

INSIGHT reveals the metanarrative of God, packaged in a deconstructive, exploratory way for the American postmodern student. The curriculum was designed by Dr. Ralph Winter (Perspectives on the World Christian Movement) and Rebecca Lewis (Sonlight homeschool curriculum), and includes the writings and input of many professors and missiologists. The curriculum endeavors to be both introductory and comprehensive, a big picture sweep of God's purposes in the world throughout history.

The INSIGHT curriculum involves four modules that are typically offered two per semester, in sequential order, for two full-time semesters. Subjects are integrated so that students learn how topics and ideas are interrelated, for example how ethnic politics have been related to the development and interactions of religions throughout history. The curriculum follows the backbone of history, beginning with multiple views on the origins of the universe, following history through Biblical times and ancient civilizations, through the rise of religions, philosophies, empires and nation-states, to the "isms" that affect modern life, such as feminism, postmodernism, capitalism, and globalism.

Throughout the INSIGHT program, students are inductively studying the Bible and learning about theology, anthropology, church and mission history,

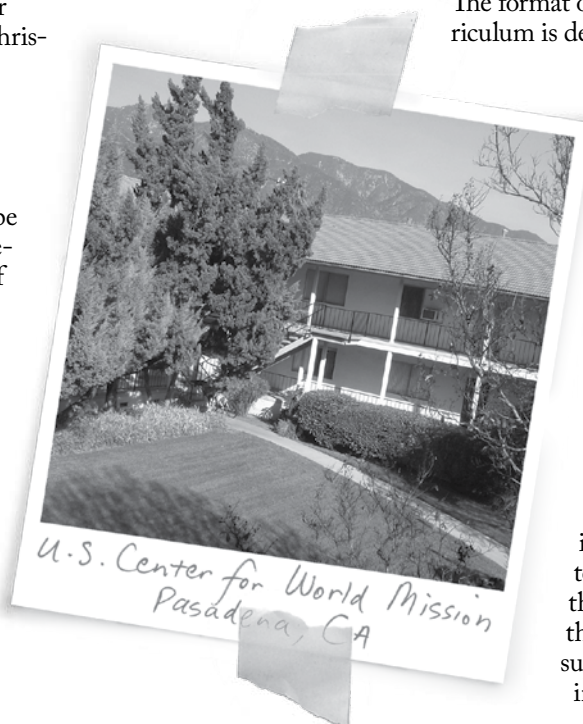
and effective cross-cultural communication. An emphasis is placed on understanding worldview, so that students can recognize the worldview assumptions of a professor, author, the media, a peer, or an unreached people group. The content of INSIGHT is presented through carefully selected assigned readings and study questions. Students are presented with multiple perspectives in their readings, and are encouraged to think through and support their own conclusions in class discussions and written work.

The Format

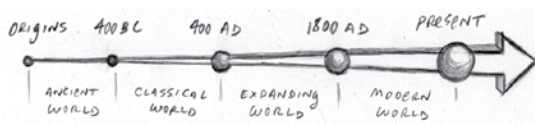
The format of INSIGHT, how the curriculum is delivered, is not the typical college experience. Instead of several lectures each day from professors in different departments, INSIGHT students use Study Guide lessons and readings to independently prepare for an integrative class discussion that is facilitated by staff and focuses on key ideas from the lesson. Discussions follow the format of Socratic dialogue and help students to synthesize the material they are learning. Students are expected to be able to interact with the authors' viewpoints from their readings and their peers, supporting their thoughts in discussion. Due to the chronological progression of the curriculum, lesson and discussion topics build on one another throughout the program.

Every five lessons there is a supplemental lecture from a local professor, missionary, or pastor who can add depth and interest to a topic that is being studied.

Field trips are arranged to nearby mosques, temples, and ethnic communities to further help students integrate what they are learning. Most INSIGHT programs also include a spiritual formation or experiential component, ranging from small groups and retreats to internships, evangelism training, and even short-term mission experiences. 🌐



Chronological Approach



Ways to get involved with Insight

High School Students

INSIGHT was created with the belief that each student has a part to play in the story God is telling. INSIGHT offers high school graduates the opportunity to get a year of college under their belt while learning more about God's purposes. Students that take INSIGHT get to spend their first year of college studying different religions, worldviews, cultures, missions, theology, and the Bible while practicing building relationships to share Christ effectively at school and in our increasingly multicultural world. Through INSIGHT, students gain a Bible and mission foundation with the freedom to complete any degree at a college of their choice. INSIGHT locations are now accepting applications from U.S. citizens.

Next Steps:

- Download an application to INSIGHT at the US Center for World Mission in Pasadena, California at www.uscwm.org/insight.
- Email insight@uscwm.org to learn how to apply for INSIGHT programs in other locations.

Parents and Mission Advocates

Parents and concerned adults have a role to play in helping awaken students to the story God is telling before they make important life decisions and miss the opportunities to sensitively share the hope that is within them on their college campuses. Get involved by spreading the word about INSIGHT to the young people in your life, and encourage churches

and Christian organizations to host an INSIGHT program locally.

Next Steps:

- Contact insight@uscwm.org to request a packet of information to share with local schools, home-school networks, and youth groups.
- Share this article with students and parents you know who have a heart for missions.
- Pray for INSIGHT to be hosted by churches and mission agencies to influence more students locally for mission.

Churches & Mission Agencies/NGOs

INSIGHT was designed with church and agency hosting in mind. The reading-based curriculum, combined with the group discussion format enable churches and mission agencies to offer a high quality credit-bearing Bible, mission, and worldview curriculum through local facilitation.

The curriculum and format can be adapted and combined with existing intern, discipleship, or missionary candidate training programs, and may be delivered at any location. INSIGHT

expands the themes of the Perspectives course into a comprehensive study of the spread of the gospel throughout history. Through the course of the program, students integrate study of the Bible, theology, worldviews, anthropology, mission history, and missiology. INSIGHT students explore the foundations for their own beliefs, learn to identify the worldviews of others, and can think comparatively and strategically about cross-cultural communication of the gospel. Most importantly, stu-



dents who take INSIGHT are challenged to respond to God and His purposes.

Is INSIGHT for your organization or church? If you have globally-minded youth, college students/interns, or missionary candidates and a desire to offer a year of foundational Bible and Mission in-house, contact the INSIGHT National Office to learn more about hosting INSIGHT or combining it with your existing programs.

Next Steps:

- Contact the INSIGHT National Office at insightnationaloffice@uscwm.org.
- Share this opportunity with others in your church or other churches in your area.

Ministry Opportunities

INSIGHT offers opportunities to use your gifts and skills to nurture mission vision and commitment in the lives of young adults. The INSIGHT National Office, which oversees curriculum, relationships with partner colleges, communication with INSIGHT locations, and development of new programs, has openings in the areas of marketing, training, and administration. The INSIGHT student program at the US Center for World Mission is seeking an administrator. Opportunities exist for those who join the US Center for World Mission staff in these and other capacities to also be involved in students' lives as mentors and classroom discussion leaders. Contact insight@uscwm.org to express interest in any of these opportunities. The US Center for World Mission seeks volunteer and support-raised staff, and offers training and coaching throughout the support-raising process.

May God transform the minds and wills of students whose hearts have already been captured by mission experiences, to make life and vocational decisions that are kingdom-oriented. To Him be the glory! 🌐

Get Connected With:

U.S. Center for World Mission

www.uscwm.org

Adopt-A-People

www.adopt-a-people.org

Mission Frontiers

www.missionfrontiers.org

International Journal of Frontier Missiology

www.ijfm.org

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement

www.perspectives.org

Global Prayer Digest

www.global-prayer-digest.org

INSIGHT Program

http://uscwm.org/insight_iis.php

World Christian Foundations

www.worldchristianfoundations.org

William Carey International University

www.wciu.edu

William Carey Library

www.missionbooks.org

SAVE THE DATE

You are cordially invited to... Frontiers' 25th Anniversary Celebration Banquets

Saturday, March 15, 2008: Pasadena, California

Saturday, March 29, 2008: Phoenix, Arizona

Join Frontiers' founder Greg Livingstone, new International Director Tim Lewis, and U. S. Director Bob Blincoe to learn about exciting new ventures to bring help and hope in Christ to Muslims around the world.

Don't miss the Reunion Events, Receptions and Seminars all weekend long!

Details and online registration at:

www.frontersonline.org/RSVP

or call the 25th Anniversary Desk toll-free at 800-462-8436





World
Christian
Foundations

In Rwanda

by James Butare & Beth Snodderly

“We want to study the World Christian Foundations curriculum with WCIU because it will help us discover the roots of our society’s problems in Rwanda and find ways to solve those problems.”—Student in the newly formed WCIU Rwanda group.

Recently a group of Rwandan NGO leaders, pictured with James, was able to officially begin studying together in Rwanda, using the World Christian Foundations (WCF) study program, to work toward an M.A. in International Development with WCIU.

With this group of committed students, WCIU has embarked on an innovative venture of training students as a group, a concept which African students appreciate much more than the usual one student to one mentor approach of WCF.

What are the characteristics of a WCF Group as practiced in Rwanda? The group of students in the picture on the next page meet after an agreed period (WCIU recommends twice a month) with their mentor (see picture of Rev. John Mbishibishi who is also a WCIU PhD student) and go through the mentoring exercise together. This involves discussing Reflection Questions for the lessons and sharing insights recorded in their journals. They have particularly agreed to move at

the same pace, roughly covering 10 lessons a month. That has created a great bonding between them and a motivation that is allowing them to support and encourage one another through the course.

As part of their studies, all WCF students do some practical mentoring of their own. Students in this group are required to use what they learn during their WCF course and also to share with

people they work with from a book their sponsoring NGO, Cornerstone Vocational Institute (CVI) has translated into Kinyarwanda, *Become the Person God Meant You to Be* by Dr. Maurice Wagner.

CVI made arrangements for the students to have a reading room, a computer and a common library for the textbooks, funded by generous donors to CVI, and shared by the members of the group.

The following is a recent email message from their representative, Grace Uwize. “We are enjoying the course. The content is very interesting and meaningful. It is more than just a Masters because we are discovering that God is at work and we can only humble ourselves to listen and do His will.”

We are expecting another group to start in the near future in Cameroon through another associate, Rev. Andre



Dr. Kietzman, Rev. Talla and Dan Wooding



James Butare: Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics at William Carey International University (WCIU), and a Rwandan citizen



Beth Snodderly: Provost, WCIU and Mission Training Division Coordinator, USCWM.

Talla, who is also a WCIU PhD student. Fifteen agency and church leaders have requested and received the application forms and Rev. Talla is ready to mentor them as soon as all the entrance requirements have been met. See picture of Rev. Andre Talla with his main WCIU PhD advisor Dr. Dale Kietzman.

George Mwita, a Coordinator with the Partnership Development Uganda-Tanzania Branch of SIL International had this to say:

"You are most welcome to Tanzania. We are really glad to receive news about your intention to launch the WCF Group in the country. Yes, I will be able to find 10 people [to start] the initial program in the country as well as a PhD associate. I will also be happy to receive the packet explaining the mentoring process and ... if that is okay I may apply for the mentoring role as that would give me more room for serving my folks in the country. While we have a good number of training programs offered by public and Christian universities in the country an additional distance learning university like WCIU would be of added value to leadership training of our Christian leaders. Effective Leadership is still a need in the Church in Tanzania. For the last few decades we have experienced a rise in church conflicts stemming from internal striving over succession. Conflict management facility is very weak such that matters are mostly settled in courts of law. The idea of having more leadership training programs in Tanzania could prepare future leaders in able leadership."

We expect many more countries in the Global South to benefit from the quality "on the job" education for less than a third of the fees required to enroll in a traditional university. WCIU partners with Non-governmental organizations, such as mission agencies and churches, to identify leaders who are qualified to study at the graduate level and who will enable the agency itself to improve in effectiveness as its leaders receive foundational biblical and cross-cultural education.



The World Christian Foundations study program invades the mainstream curriculum, the legendary "liberal arts" curriculum, and invests it at every point with missions-oriented content and perspective, teaching everything people would normally learn in college and seminary (aside from vocational specialties) and doing so with a broad, 4,000-year global, mission perspective.

Restoring God's glory is the theme of this 32-semester unit program. God is the Lord of history but we are locked in a cosmic struggle with the powers of darkness. Through their studies, students begin to understand God's plan for reestablishing His glory through "general"

and "special" revelation, partnering with humans in defeating the Evil One and restoring Creation through Jesus Christ.

This unique curriculum can be studied anywhere in the world with a qualified face-to-face mentor. William Carey International University (www.wciu.edu) offers the program at the graduate level. Northwestern College (distance@nwc.edu) also offers the course at the undergraduate level as a degree completion through their Alternative Education department. 🌐

For More info

See our website for details, including a draft of our Study Guide and a link to ordering textbooks.

www.worldchristianfoundations.org

For more information about using this curriculum, contact Beth Snodderly, Mission Training Division Coordinator, at beth.snodderly@wciu.edu

Is a Ph.D. at WCIU

Part of God's Plan for Your Utmost for His Highest?

by Rick Wood

In this issue of *Mission Frontiers* we are calling you up higher in your relationship with God and in your service to Him. Part of this is getting an understanding of God's global purposes and how He has worked throughout history to accomplish these. Programs like Perspectives and World Christian Foundations can provide this to you. If you have gained this new understanding through Perspectives and achieved a Masters degree, it may be time for you to take the next step and get a Ph.D. through William Carey International University. It may be the necessary next step you need to take to be your very best in service to God.

The Ph.D.

A Ph.D. means a doctorate in what once was thought of as the philosophy of a particular subject. Today the word philosophy must be understood to mean professorship knowledge and skills. It is the premier degree of the university tradition, the main degree that allows the holders to mentor another up to their same level. Mentoring is a skill emphasized by WCIU.

The format of the WCIU doctoral program follows the American pattern in requiring advanced studies in a chosen discipline beyond the master's level, prior to the doctoral qualifying examination and the dissertation (called doctoral thesis in some countries). Unlike older programs, the WCIU doctoral program is primarily field-based, and students are not limited to on-campus or classroom studies.

The Ph.D. requires sufficient study for students to orient their learning and research process within the history and theory of an academic discipline and to become thoroughly conversant with its classic literature, major theorists, and schools of thought sufficiently in depth to assess their findings in relation to (a) previous research, (b) current research and trends in theory, and (c) the University's basic orientation within the field of International Development. The doctorate thus demands that students think critically and inter-relate facts within a broad theoretical framework, as well as be able to mentor successfully.

Program Purpose

The Ph.D. in International Development is designed

for mid-career professionals seeking to engage in humanitarian service, research, program development and direction, or training of personnel in the general field of International Development. Building on the foundational knowledge and skills of the Global Civilization program or its equivalent, the Ph.D. program provides an interdisciplinary approach that focuses on identifying the basic roots of human problems and identifying long-term solutions.

Participants in the program represent diverse nationalities, academic interests, and professional backgrounds, but all are seeking to dedicate their careers to humanitarian service in developing countries and countries in transition, working within foreign assistance agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, or other development institutions, most of which are faith-based.

The heart of the Ph.D. program is the relationship between the participants and their mentors. This is a collaborative relationship in which the participants are willing to contribute to the professional and scholarly goals of their mentors as they pursue their own educational program under the supervision and guidance of their mentors. The participants in turn share what they are learning in mentoring relationships of their own.

Getting Started:

If God is leading you to get your Ph.D. and you like the distance based, mentor led approach of the WCIU program, you can get started by reading information about International Development on our website <http://www.wciu.edu/>. See especially our Academics/Ph.D. link and our Library link where you will find thousands of resources related to the social and cultural aspects of International Development. 🌐

contact

Ph.D. Program Administrator
phd@wciu.edu

Mission Frontiers & International Journal of Frontier Missiology



by Rick Wood

Join Mission Frontiers in Celebrating Our 30th Year

It is time to celebrate. At *Mission Frontiers* we are celebrating our 30th year of publication. Since 1979 we have been calling the global Body of Christ to declare God's glory within all the peoples of the earth. During 2008 you will see us mark this memorable milestone as we recall our accomplishments and reprint some of the most important and foundational articles over our 30 year history. We invite you to celebrate with us by using the many resources we have available for you such as our website at www.missionfrontiers.org. This website includes all the articles for the last 21 years from 1987 to 2008. This is a rich history that is ripe for discovery and research. Each month over 7,000 people do just this. We invite you to join them and discover what God may have for you there.

If you like a more interactive medium, you might want to subscribe to our email conference where you can receive updates from Rick Wood, our managing editor, concerning special information and opportunities from the pages of *Mission Frontiers*. You can subscribe by sending a blank email to subscribe-brigada-pubs-missionfrontiers@hub.xc.org

If you enjoy MF, please feel free to order extra copies for your pastor, missions committee and friends. We also invite you to reprint articles that originate with MF as long as source credit is given. Come celebrate with us by enjoying all of the resources we have for you. 🌐

by Rory Clark

25 Years Old and on Steroids

Some call it *Mission Frontiers* on steroids. However, since "periodical" steroid use may eventually become illegal, the editors of the *International Journal of Frontier Missiology* (the "M" in *IJFM* once stood for "Missions") are only willing to admit that, yes, articles originally published in *IJFM* do find their way, highly condensed, into *MF*, and that the journal shares *MF*'s same relentless focus on frontiers in mission. But there's a lot in *IJFM* that you won't find in *MF*, topics you'll want to explore.

Launched in 1984, the now 25-year-old *IJFM* has, for many years, been the journal of the International Society for Frontier Missiology. Each issue tackles difficult, complicated, even controversial issues in mission today, often from multiple viewpoints.

But don't just take our word for it, listen to the *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*:

"There has been strong debate over how far we can go in contextualizing ministry before it becomes syncretism. Much of that debate has played out in journal articles of the major evangelical mission periodicals. The journal that has the greatest volume of material is the *International Journal of Frontier Missions* . . . We have linked to all that we could find from this invaluable resource." (*Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, October 2005, p. 518).

If you like reading Dr. Winter's editorials in *MF*, you'll love *IJFM*. Since 2001, far more of Dr. Winter's latest thinking has been making its way into *IJFM*'s "Editorial Reflections." And he frequently comments on noteworthy books as well.

Most of *IJFM*'s over 700 articles currently can be downloaded free of charge from www.ijfm.org. Korean speakers will find translations of many recent *IJFM* articles (as well as original papers) in the journal's sister publication, the bi-monthly *Korean Journal of Frontier Missions* (kjfmmission.com).

This is our 25th year and we have some special surprises in store. Subscriptions are only \$18 per year for the quarterly print edition. Don't wait another day to start getting the *IJFM*. 🌐

my AFRICAN experience

by Glenn Schwartz

In the Sept-Oct. 2007 issue of *Mission Frontiers* I wrote about meeting two kinds of people on a recent visit to Africa. By the responses I received, it became clear that my credentials have not been made known to some of the current readers of *Mission Frontiers*. One e-mail I received said something like the following: "You visited nine cities in three weeks and spoke to only two African church leaders. I doubt if you have ever seen people in rural parts of Africa."

If that is the perception of some of my involvement in Africa, I felt I should let the readers know something of my African experience over the past forty-six years. I am not doing this in a defensive manner, but to show the basis from which I write about sustainability in the Christian movement.

I first went to Africa in 1961 in some ways at the height of the colonial period. Many African countries had not yet achieved independence. In those days many missionaries were perceived by African people to be in collusion with leaders in the white minority governments. This was further complicated because white missionaries used "white only" facilities such as restaurants and hotels and traveled first and second-class on the trains. In those days in some countries African people were limited to riding third and fourth class on the trains.

As a young missionary, I took a personal stand to show that I did not approve of that link between the missionary movement and colonial governments. I personally challenged the mission system of which I was a part—something that did not always make life easy for me. However, what I did was



Glenn Schwartz is Executive Director of World Mission Associates, based in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The author welcomes interaction by e-mail at glennschwartz@msn.com.

recognized by my African brothers and sisters who themselves suffered indignities as a result of the colonial mentality.

After spending most of the 1960s in Africa I enrolled in missionary training at the Fuller Theological Seminary School of World Mission (as it was then called) in Pasadena, California. Following the two-year masters program I served as an administrator in the School of World Mission for six years. It was during this time that my understanding of missiology grew significantly. It was my privilege to learn firsthand from the original SWM faculty which included Donald McGavran, Alan Tippett, Ralph Winter, J. Edwin Orr, Peter Wagner, Charles Kraft, R. Pierce Beaver and Dean Arthur Glasser, for whom I served as administrative assistant.

I did not realize it at the time that I was in a period of preparation for future ministry back in Africa. And so in 1983 I began an itinerant ministry which led me back to Africa as many as four times a year for up to two or three months each year. During the following twenty-four years I conducted seminars or consultations in many countries including Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana, South Africa, Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland. Everywhere I went during the past several decades, I listened as one African church leader after another told me about their encounter with Christianity. To say that this was an enlightening experience would be an understatement.

As a result of this travel, research and listening I collected the information which makes up the content of the seminars I have been conducting. In 1996 Dr. Ralph Winter encouraged me to put my teaching onto video. I produced the eight-hour series on dependency and then in 2007 converted it all to a four-hundred page book. The book is called *When Charity Destroys Dignity: Overcoming Unhealthy Dependency in the Christian Movement*.

It is forty-six years since I first went to Africa, and my life has been greatly enriched as a result. I gained a unique understanding of the way Christianity is being lived out in both rural and urban Africa. As you can see my three-week trip to Africa earlier this year was not my first visit there. 🌐

I welcome interaction from those who wish to exchange ideas. My e-mail address is glennschwartz@msn.com.

IFMA Has Not Passed Away!

by Marv Newell

IFMA (Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association of North America) has not ceased to exist! Though the name will no longer be found in mission circles, the association itself is still alive and doing well under its new identity as “CrossGlobal LinkSM.” Many have asked “why this change?”

Consideration of several present day realities brought about the decision. One consideration had to do with the changing context of missions. In 1917, when the association was formed, mission was done solely by the professional missionary movement, and almost exclusively through mission agencies. However today, mission is being done not only by the professional missionary in conjunction with agencies, but also by churches doing missions by themselves. Then add to that, business as mission and the ever expanding short-term mission movement. In short, the mission enterprise in North America is now derived from multiple sources. Our association needed to accommodate these realities if we were to remain relevant in this current mission environment.

Another consideration had to do with the former name itself. Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association of North America, though an appropriate and descriptive name when the association was founded, included several words that have lost relevancy over time. For instance, “interdenominational” is a word that most church people find hard to comprehend. In today’s church environment it is no longer important to peg identity in relation to denominationalism. Therefore, it was deemed best to remove that concept from our identity; and in keeping with that, CrossGlobal Link has also opened its membership doors to denominations.

In an increasingly globalized world and multicultural North America, the word “foreign” also needed to be rethought. The nations are now found in most every



Marv Newell is Executive Director at CrossGlobal LinkSM



corner of our continent – many unreached people groups of the world are among us! Mission is no longer a matter of going geographically distant to find the lost, but rather going a distance


culturally. The phenomenon of an increasingly multicultural society is also spewing an increasingly poly-religious North America that dare not be ignored. Therefore, it was appropriate to substitute the word “foreign” with “Global.”

As the first word in our new name, “Cross” conveys two meanings that up-date the word “mission” in IFMA. The noun “cross” carries the concept of the cross of Christ – the means of mankind’s redemption. The verb “cross” means “to transverse, to go across.” Merging these two concepts describes clearly our mission: taking the message of the cross across cultures.

The final word “association” in our former name was up-dated with the word “Link.” Without minimizing the force of historically being a strong participatory association, the word “link” indicates our efforts to provide connections both within and without.

The connection “within” occurs in the networking among the nearly 90 CrossGlobal Link member mission agencies. A new link is that of associate membership available to North American churches; of interest especially to those that are doing mission directly. The link “without” is our intentional interacting with the greater global mission movement.

The three circles in our logo portray these links along with our new tag line: “Connecting in Mission.” We want the world of mission to know that CrossGlobal Link is passionate about linking together for world evangelization!

No, indeed! After 90 years, IFMA has not passed away nor has it been given a mere cosmetic dress-over with the new name of “CrossGlobal Link.” Instead we have re-tooled ourselves for the present and future in the face of current mission and world realities. For more information, visit our website: www.CrossGlobalLink.org. 



What's in a Name?

How and why EFMA is now The Mission Exchange

by Steve Moore

The context for mission is changing faster than ever. The shelf life of your very best idea is diminishing. The creative tension between an unwavering focus on the mission and remaining relevant to a culture in flux has never been more important.

Since its birth as an outgrowth of the National Association of Evangelicals in 1946, the EFMA has primarily been known as a credentialing body for evangelical mission agencies. The value proposition for membership in our association was primarily the “stamp of approval” given to new members by our existing members. This “good housekeeping” seal of approval affirmed the doctrinal, fiscal and governing integrity of a mission organization.

We believe there is still a role for mutual accountability and the affirmation from peers that an organization’s “house is in order.” But we also believe the challenges of accelerated change call for a new value proposition: we will not only credential we will develop our members.

In April 2006, building on this important paradigm shift, the EFMA board of directors formally resolved to pursue a careful and deliberate journey of inside out re-branding. More than a marketing initiative or organizational make-over, inside out re-branding is a journey of self-awareness that seeks to align who we are in terms of our refocused vision, mission and core values with what we do and how we are perceived by our constituents.

Our mission is to facilitate relational and developmental initiatives that increase the effectiveness of the Great Commission community.

Our desire is to help our members, and the Great Commission community, do what God raised them up to do



Steve Moore is President & CEO of The Mission Exchange & Keep Growing, Inc.



Empowering the Global Mission Community

even better. **Our primary focus** is to add value to leaders and stimulate partnerships.

The climax of this inside out re-branding journey was the changing of our name; EFMA is now The Mission Exchange. We believe our new name captures the spirit of dynamic, inter-active, return on investment relationships that is at the heart of our vision. We have a fresh resolve about cultivating a missional community where church and agency leaders can exchange ideas, expand their capacity, broaden perspectives, share burdens and form partnerships, just to name a few of the possibilities.

We have a rich heritage and are reaching higher because we are standing on the shoulders of many faithful mission leaders who have gone before us. When we say “formerly EFMA,” we are not turning our back on our history but we are turning a new page, entering a new and exciting season.

We are committed to producing results for our members and constituents, delivering on the promise we make in our mission to add a developing function to our credentialing identity. We welcome you to join us on this journey; come explore our new electronic resources and robust menu of online learning initiatives by visiting our new web site, www.TheMissionExchange.org.

We believe it is much more than coincidence that our journey so closely parallels that of CrossGlobal Link and look forward to a vibrant and growing spirit of collaboration. The Great Commission is too big for any organization or association to do it alone. It is too important for us not to try to do it together. 🌐



Our Amazing God

Greg H. Parsons



I remember flying back from Asia a few years ago. I'd been at a global-level gathering and met with some amazing people God has used. Flying home, I thought, "Wow, I get paid to do this! People give money so I can fly around the world and network with believers from all over the globe."

Of course, I don't get paid much, and like most missionaries on our USCWM staff, we trust in the Lord to develop the team of churches and people who support us. I also don't really like long flights. But I was on a "high" from meeting people like:

- **Francis** from Kenya, who, in 1982, picked up a *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* book in a bookstore in Nairobi, read it, and caught a vision for reaching Muslims in Africa. He then established a sending agency that now has about 40 Africans sensitively reaching out.
- The **brother** from Laos, who came to the Lord (that too is an amazing story), was discipled and trained, now with a Ph.D. and running both pastoral training on the border of Laos and an elementary school with 800 children K-8, paid for by the government of that neighboring country.
- **Danny** from the U.S. who'd been a missionary in Columbia for some 25 years, (the governor of the province where he worked, whom he knew as a friend, is now the president of Columbia). Now Danny is working in Africa, learning French and opening new fields by serving the people, both African and missionaries.

The USCWM is an amazing place to serve the Lord. As you read in this issue of *Mission Frontiers* about a few of the ministries here, I hope you sensed some of that amazingness (we like to make up new words too!).

The USCWM is an amazing place to keep in touch with some of what God is doing globally; it is amazing in its struggles—yes, we are human; and amazing in the opportunities or potential. We don't have the space to include all of the USCWM

ministries. For example, the **Joshua Project II** seeks to track with the peoples of the world: www.joshuaproject.net.

For those of you who are citizens of the U.S., perhaps you are interested in joining us or connecting more directly with some of our staff or to volunteer where you are. As I mentioned above, our staff seek to develop a team of churches and people who support their ministry as a part of the team that is the USCWM.

- If you want to join us, we will show you how to do this with joy!
- If you want to help support our staff, let me know if you'd like to become part of the team of a staff member from your part of the country, or in a certain ministry.
- Perhaps you want to send a gift to our special, "Staff-in-Need" account, which helps with special needs.

Let me know how you want to be involved, greg.parsons@uscwm.org

COLA for Missionaries

No, it isn't a drink. It stands for: Cost of Living Adjustment. Have you thought of giving an increase to all of your missionaries?

When they are able, churches give their pastors and staff increases. Many do this annually. I've wondered if we think of doing the same with missionaries—who are really their "staff-at-a-distance." I encourage you to consider this. Even if the costs in the nation they serve are stable, they probably could use more funds for ministry also.



Rev. Greg Parsons is General Director of the U.S. Center for World Mission. He and his wife have been on staff at the USCWM since 1982.