

Editorial Comment

Ralph D. Winter



There are some things only missionaries can do best. One of those things is to man a major global center focused on the remaining frontiers of mission.

Sure, we need other people too—and we have them. But we still need people with field experience.

distribution of hundreds of thousands of specialized mission books annually, representing the mission titles of over 100 other publishers.

Half of our workforce lives right in Pasadena in homes adjacent to the campus, in close fellowship—a working and worshiping community.

Here we generate the *Mission Frontiers*, the *Global Prayer Digest* and the *International Journal of Frontier Missions*.

across the country, now annually 5,000 students in over 130 locations. While some missionaries are among the 800 professors who teach in this network, *the program itself has not required missionaries with field experience to operate it.*

- They have developed a spectacular Mission Resource Center here on the grounds with hundreds of titles ranging from children's materials to missiological texts. *That has not required mission field experience.*
- They have tied the entire campus here into a single data network linking 650 phones and far more data jacks. *That has not required mission field experience.*
- They have cheerfully provided advice and materials for countless inquiring churches building local mission programs. *That has not always required mission field experience.*
- On and on ...

Our major workforce here now urgently needs the infusion of a few more missionary families.

We have educational facilities for your children. We now have on campus Judson International School, the 15th of the global "Network of International Christian Schools."

We have innovative educational programs combining short-term and academic-credit programs which run all the way through college and graduate school.

We have a place for you to live. We own over 100 homes surrounding the campus. This cuts down on cars since this place is the locus of labor, living, and learning (from kindergarten through Ph.D.)

Are you, or do you know, a missionary or missionary family who is nearing retirement or already retired, forced to come home for some reason, or on extended educational furlough? Please get in touch with us.

Dear Reader,

What in the world is this Center in Pasadena, California? And why is it one form of "Strategic Giving" to support, staff and run a place like this?

It is 87 organizations and entities huddled together seeking to serve the ends of the earth.

More specifically, it is 56 families who are members of the "Frontier Mission Fellowship." That's the corporate title of the mission society which manages the U. S. Center for World Mission and the William Carey International University.

It is the hub of regional offices in many parts of the U.S. and world, all focused specifically on the final, cutting edge of the missionary task.

It is also the hub of a vast network of "professors" who teach in the *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Study Program*, plus 700 specially-trained field coordinators who uphold this program.

The Center's William Carey Library has been the source and support for the publishing and

What we have done with only a few missionaries

Our major workforce across the years in setting this place up has been a marvelous group of envisioned young people—who are now older and are the backbone of this humming center!

- They helped us buy this 33-acre, \$40,000,000 campus with its auditoriums, dorms, food service, and conference center, and they now man it with the help of 80-some dedicated employees. *That has not required mission field experience.*
- They have helped us edit and send out this *Mission Frontiers* bulletin (now going to some 80,000 people). *Much of that does not require missionary experience.*
- They have edited the *Global Prayer Digest*, which is used daily by thousands in various languages. *Much of that does not require missionary experience.*
- They have built up the vast network of *Perspectives* classes

Our major workforce here now urgently needs the infusion of a few more missionary families.

What do we so urgently need missionary staff for?

Only one example is our concern for the urgent “frontier” in mission constituted by the need for effective distance education of the two million functional pastors already on the mission field who have never had any formal theological education.

One problem to be solved: The basic, crucial, and essential knowledge these key leaders need to know about the Gospel (the Bible, the Christian church, the meaning of faith in today’s world) is traditionally wrapped up in a huge list of separate “packages” (separate “courses”) due to the nature of our multiple staffed schools and academic specialties.

What these people need are two things:

1. They need the fruits of our exhaustive efforts to reintegrate that knowledge and turn it out as a single 4,000-year story of God’s work on this planet. This has taken us eight years and a million dollars to produce. The graduate version of this involves a hundred textbooks and 300 additional articles and chapters. The freshman-level, Global Year version is greatly scaled down.
2. And, they need this sort of thing to be made available to them right where

they live and minister, not at some daytime school even if it is nearby.

Our curriculum, already in use in overseas schools, is packaged precisely for individual study.

But, to maintain this curriculum we need five missionary scholars with Ph.D.s (or setting out to get a Ph.D.) who can help us maintain it. Some of the textbooks and articles are going out of print and out of date each week. Vast, ongoing energies, informed by mission and missiological experience, are essential to keep this

in good shape.

There are many other needs for missionaries here, not the least to help edit this bulletin. Also, institutes for Muslim, Hindu, Chinese studies, etc., here cannot do their work effectively without people from the field. Do get in touch with us. You can write, call, or e-mail me directly at:

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A Look at The Big Picture

—Ralph Winter

This issue of *Mission Frontiers* is beautifully backed up by Stan Guthrie’s *Missions in the Third Millennium*.

There, packed in highly illustrated, readable style is one sane and even-handed survey of the whole mission phenomenon.

Guthrie does not hold back in acknowledging problems and perplexities, or even criticisms, faithfully giving voice to both sides. His wide-ranging knowledge and comprehensive, balanced coverage is truly spectacular.

Missions in the Third Millennium is published by Paternoster and available through William Carey Library for a special price of \$10.49 at 1-800-MISSION; wholesale (three copies or more), \$8.99 each.

But what might otherwise have been a dull survey is studded with significant quotes and anecdotes on every page.

Superbly organized, the book has four parts:

- The Home Arena
- The Strategic Arena
- The Overseas Church Arena
- The Global Arena

Few people are acquainted with the vast spectrum of reality he covers.

He reports the words of a businessman-elder who is impatient with his church enlisting the aid of experienced mission agencies in guiding the people they send out.

He reports on the serious drawbacks when young people are sent on short-terms; or when churches become their own

mission agencies; or when national workers are employed from abroad.

He reports easily misunderstood aspects of the huge splash created by the magnificent AD2000 movement.

He comments on the virile reality of overseas leaders whom donors know little or nothing about. He wisely outlines the very real practical problems missionaries have who are supported directly.

Here is a lively, readable, dependable compendium with very impressive balance and caution and yet far-reaching subject matter.

Too bad it does not have an index. But it does have questions for discussion at the end of each of its 22 short chapters.

If you want to do some homework on missions, you could hardly do better than to buy this book and read it cover to cover. ☉