

Front Cover

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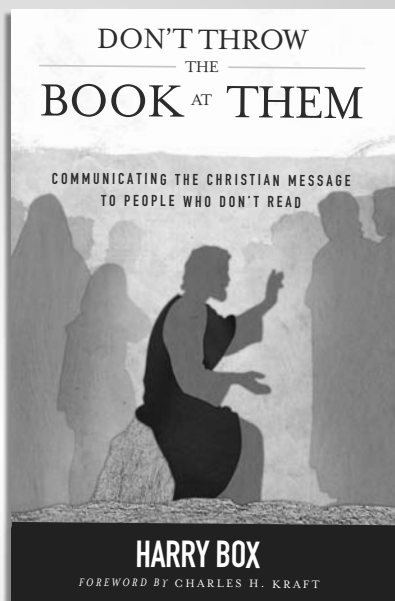
NEW BOOK

Don't Throw the Book at Them

Communicating the Christian Message to People Who Don't Read

Don't Throw the Book at Them addresses one of the most vital issues in contemporary missions. It is a manual for cross-cultural missionaries and national church leaders ministering in societies based on oral rather than written communication. Harry Box, former missionary and researcher in Papua New Guinea and among the Aborigines of Central Australia, explains the distinct characteristics of oral societies, how they differ from literacy-oriented societies, Jesus' ministry to oral communicators, and why effective presentation of the Christian message demands that Western Christians change their approach to orality. The book goes beyond case studies and analysis, allowing the reader to develop a detailed plan for communication.

Harry Box comes originally from Melbourne, Australia, and holds graduate degrees in missiology from Fuller Theological Seminary's School of Intercultural Studies. His research has focused on communicating to oral, event-oriented people. Harry's experience includes fifteen years in Papua New Guinea recording gospel messages in some of the eight hundred languages of that country, working among the Aborigines of Central Australia, training cross-cultural missionaries, and lecturing in missiology at theological institutions. Harry and his wife, Carole, have two sons, Darren and Kingsley.



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Harry Box, Author

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What is the Global Prayer Digest?

The *Global Prayer Digest* is a unique devotion-al booklet. Each day it gives a glimpse of what God is doing around the world and what still remains to be done. Daily prayer for that still-unfinished task is at the heart of the Adopt-A-People move-ment. Condensed missionary stories, biblical challenges, urgent reports, and exciting descriptions of unreached peo-ple provide a digest of rich fuel for your own times of prayer for the world.

Become a Daily World Christian

The *Global Prayer Digest* is a key tool in a movement to help fulfill Christ's com-mission to make disciples of all the peo-ples of the earth. This movement involves a daily discipline of learning, praying, and giving to help reach the world's nearly 10,000 unreached people groups. Un-reached peoples are those groups which do not yet have a strong church in their own cultural and social setting.

Myanmar, Mothers and the Frontier Fellowship Movement

The Frontier Fellowship Movement is an adaptation of a custom among tribal Christians in Burma (now called Myanmar) and elsewhere. As the mother in each family prepares meals for her family, she sets aside a hand-ful of rice in a special container, and prays for their church's missionaries to unreached people groups. Rice from families in the church is sold to support their frontier missionaries.

Loose Change Adds Up!

In adapting the Burma Plan to our culture, we have simply substituted loose change for rice and have added this educational and inspirational *Global Prayer Digest*. One person's loose change will average about \$100 per year exclusively for frontier missions! When the national goal of one million Adopt-A-People Prayer Partners is reached, that will mean \$100 million more per year for the frontiers!

Devotional Ideas

How can you make the most of this prayer digest:

- Some people use it as a supplement to their regular devotional time.
- Others enjoy reading and praying around the dinner table with the entire family.
- We encourage you to gather monthly with other Christ friends who are involved in this movement.
- Join the "Frontier Fellowship movement" (left), a version of the Burma Plan, to financially support frontier missions.

Every day at the top of the page you'll find the name of an unreached people group for which to pray. The small maps will help you locate the day's feature.



Dear Praying Friends,

Happy New Year! This is a time when we make new promises and commitments, but often break them by the time February rolls by. We try to read the entire Bible, start an exercise program, or get rid of a bad habit.

One good habit we want to keep is praying daily for an unreached people group through the *GPD*. God honors and blesses us as we do our part to fulfill the Great Commission. For that reason the late missionary statesman, Ralph Winter and his wife, Roberta, developed the *GPD* in 1982. Each month we take a region of the world and tell prayer warriors about their culture and how we can pray for them. Did you know that we often use stories that illustrate something about the beliefs or cultures of unreached people groups, but they may not be things that actually happened? Starting this month we will indicate this in our prayer entries. That is my new year's resolution!

Unfortunately, the unreached people groups in eastern and southern Africa have not made New Year's resolutions to stop fighting one another or to seek the Prince of Peace. For that reason, we will need to pray diligently for them. Will you resolve to give this issue away to another intercessor when you are done? The bowls of incense are not yet full!

Blessings in 2015!

A handwritten signature of Keith Carey in cursive script. The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Keith Carey, editor, *GPD*

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Pray for a Discipleship-Making Movement Among Every People in Southern and Eastern Africa!



East Africa's Three Biggest Challenges

— by Keith Carey



In 2006 the United Nations published a document that said that the biggest challenges facing East Africa were AIDS, land tenure issues, and climate change. I had hoped to focus this *GPD* issue on these three prayer challenges, but not every people group that we will pray for this month is necessarily facing one of these problems.

You will notice that we are using a list of topics that the UN came up with nine years ago. Many of the articles that deal with them are old, which hopefully means that there is progress in these areas. At the same time these are all problems that will not go away completely. And the Lord has answers that will help the peoples of Africa if they will only obey His ways.

AIDS: Still the Scourge, But...

According to a 2006 AIDS Epidemic Update, Sub-Saharan Africa bears the brunt of the global AIDS epidemic, with the “epicenter” of the problem being in the countries in southern

Africa. The good news is that access to medical treatment has saved an estimated 790,000 lives in Sub-Saharan Africa between 2004-2006.

The bad news is that since the AIDS epidemic is centered in primarily “Christian” countries such as Lesotho, what does this say about the depth of Christianity in that part of the world? It’s true that in Southern Africa, it’s very common for husbands to be away from their wives for long periods of time, and that is a recipe for problems. The local cultural norms allow men to visit houses of prostitution, and biblical teachings are ignored. AIDS is one sad consequence, and it affects this entire region. An October 2003 article in *The Lancet*, said that the AIDS epidemic has left so many sick or dead parents in some parts of Southern Africa that it is very difficult for people to harvest enough food. (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140673603145485>).

The Lord has answers! What if there were efforts to disciple African men to obey scriptural commands to be faithful and loving towards their wives? What would happen if men from “Christianized” people groups decided to learn, teach, and obey what the Bible says about male-female relationships? The results would be revolutionary, and God would be glorified.

Land Tenure: The Present Looks Like the Past

Africa is a rich continent. They have tremendous resources in terms of mineral and agricultural wealth. Yet economic growth and a reduction of poverty eludes them. According to a November 4, 2013 article in a World Bank publication called, “This is Africa,” the gap between the rich and the poor is vast in this part of the world. Land administration is almost non-existent; only about 10 percent of Africa’s rural land is registered. The remaining land is undocumented and informally administered. The result is that the poor are vulnerable to wealthier people who can grab or claim their land. In today’s world international corporations are making bigger inroads into the African continent, so we can expect to see more of this in the years to come.

It is very common for women to be breadwinners for their families either because they have no husband or because the husband works elsewhere. Seventy percent of the farming population is women, and they are usually not given the chance to own the land they farm. These women are easy prey for land grabbers.

Even in the cities undocumented land and property is a problem. Today there is a dramatic shift of the population from rural areas to cities. As this trend continues, Africans will need to find a way to document property ownership for people in the cities as well as for those in rural areas.

Pastoral people and especially nomads are also vulnerable to land grabbers. Many of these people have used the same land for hundreds of years but they have no formal documentation. Nomads often live on the poorest lands which no one else can use. But this isn't always the case. Land grabbers can take whatever land they find useful, even if it has been used "part time" by nomadic communities.

In the world, greed has no limit. The strong will take what they can from the weak. The result is that poverty becomes devastating. But the Lord has answers! The Bible teaches the importance of fairness and justice for everyone, even the weak. Wouldn't it be revolutionary if the peoples of Africa obeyed these teachings instead of taking what they can get for their families and friends at the expense of those who don't have the power to protect themselves?



Janjaweed predators watching for their prey

Climate Changes: The Most Devastating Blow

Many parts of eastern Africa have been in a state of almost constant drought for decades. There are various reasons for this. Climate changes are happening all over the world, and Africa is getting the brunt of it. Much of this is beyond the control of the average African farmer.

However, there are things people do that make the situation worse. There are many armed conflicts on the African continent, which force refugees to live a hand-to-mouth existence. For example, refugees commonly use scarce wood and plant materials as fuel for fire. A little bit of smoke does little harm, but this situation causes bad situations to become worse. First of all, the smoke

adds to air quality problems. Secondly, and more importantly, as trees and shrubs are uprooted for fires, nothing holds the rich topsoil in place when the wind or heavy rains come. Soil erosion is the result, and farm yields decrease. When there is less grassland for livestock, overgrazing is a real possibility. Without the grass to hold the soil in place, erosion will happen, and the ground will become less productive for many years.

Ecosystems can repair themselves over time, but if the situation persists, the environment will become permanently damaged. What was once productive land becomes degraded or useless for plant life. This process is called desertification. An ecosystem which once was useful for growing food can no longer do so.

How long does this take? We don't know for sure, but what we call drought cycles are lasting longer times than they did in the past. The peoples of Africa are primarily farmers, and they are very vulnerable to these climatic changes.

(<http://www.greenfacts.org/en/desertification/1-2/2-consequences-desertification.htm#1>)

Typically people think that the answer comes from outside resources. We have been sending in outside resource for decades, and the result has been a greater dependency and a lack of local initiative. Instead of using local resources, Africans have been taught to wait for outside resources. The African people are very strong and capable. With the strength and genius God gave them, they can produce creative answers that will provide them with economic and spiritual answers for the 21st century.

Let's Pray!

- Pray for the Lord to raise up godly African leaders who will serve their people by seeking Him for guidance and use His answers to improve the lot of their communities.
- Pray for the peoples of Africa to develop their own sustainable answers to their problems, which will glorify God and give them the abundant life He wants for them.
- Pray for a revival to hit East Africa in such a way that it will transform their communities and greatly improve their economies.

Day 1

Genesis 4:7, ESV

If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.

Sin wants to have us! Own us! Make us obey! How do the people of Africa learn to rule over sin? The same way anyone else must do it; by the power of the Holy Spirit. That power only comes from submitting to the Lord.

Pray that the peoples of East Africa will understand that there is no choice but to submit and surrender to Jesus if they want to overcome the sin that causes death and misery in their communities.

Missionary Biography, Rose Shimati

(This is the story of a girl who grew up in South Africa and later became a missionary to Muslim women in England, as told by David Bliss.)

“My name is Rose Shimati. I was born in the mid-1940s in South Africa. My house was just four walls made of mud brick. My mother was a godly woman who practiced the love of Christ. It was through her training and the township churches that I came to know about the Lord.

“But I wasn’t interested in my mother’s faith, and did many things that upset her. Like many young women in the townships, I thought nothing of having relationships with men, and eventually found myself the mother of two boys although I was not married. My mother, who was always very gentle and loving towards me, asked me to hear an evangelist. As the minister preached that night, I was convicted of sin and turned my life over to Christ. When I told my mother, she said I should go to Bible school. I was about 28 or 29 at that time.

“Some time later, I left home for a Zulu language Bible College which was hundreds of kilometers from my home. Even though I couldn’t speak Zulu, the Lord helped me, and I was able to learn enough of the language to take my exams in Zulu, getting good marks.”

Pray for the Holy Spirit to grant wisdom and understanding to today’s African workers who must learn biblical concepts in a foreign language.—AL

Missionary Biography, continued

Day 2

Ephesians 4:24, ESV

“While studying at this school, I was employed in the school library. One day, leafing through a magazine, I was arrested by an article about Mozambique. My father, who was dead, had been related to a tribe called the Shangaan people of Mozambique, and I could speak their language.

“One day someone came to speak to the students about missions. We students did not consider taking the gospel to others and becoming missionaries ourselves. But David Bliss, the American minister who spoke to us about missions, used the country of Mozambique as an example of where work could be done among unreached peoples.

“My heart was touched when Mr. Bliss spoke of Mozambique, and I asked him if he meant that there were openings in his mission for people who wanted to work inside Mozambique. Mr. Bliss said that they had a training program I could attend. And that’s how I got started.

“I joined with Operation Mobilization (OM) and other young people in South Africa who were working with Mozambican refugees who had escaped to South Africa, beginning in 1985. These were all animistic people who had never heard the name of Jesus. Now, after years of work, there are several churches among these refugees, with their own pastors.”

Pray for the Holy Spirit to direct African workers to the unreached peoples of their continent.—AL

And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

For what did God create us? He wants us to be truly righteous and holy. We cannot settle for the false righteousness that tries to fool the public by performing rituals and not letting the Lord transform us from the inside out.

Pray that many from Africa will tire of false righteousness and seek the true righteousness and holiness that comes from being submitted to Christ.

Missionary Biography, continued

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Cultures can continually move downward if they allow sin to have full reign. But they also have the opportunity to move heavenward when they are spiritually refreshed with a revival. Did you know that many of the most spectacular revivals came out of East Africa? (See *Revival Fire*, by Wesley Duewel). A pastor I know from Uganda describes people weeping and repenting when they heard the Word of God in the 1970s! It can happen again today!

Pray for the Lord to refresh East Africa this decade with a revival that will result in seeing Jesus worshipped among all peoples in their region.

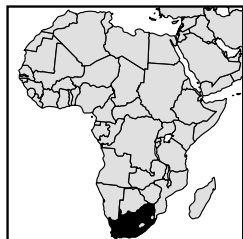
“God has opened an opportunity for me to work with Muslims. In 1989, OM invited me to go to London to help in an evangelistic campaign called Love Europe. There I saw for the first time Muslim women who had come from Africa to live in London. My heart was truly drawn to these Muslim women who came from many different countries. There is no one to meet them when they arrive in London. When I saw how lost they seemed, the Lord touched my heart and said, “I want you to come back here and work full time among these Muslim people.”

“So I’m working in London now, with OM. We go to Hyde Park and talk to Muslims and go door to door in the areas where we know Muslims live. Sometimes we just sit in a coffee bar and invite people who show interest in God to talk with us. With these contacts, we set up one-on-one Bible studies. In this way, we are getting to know Muslim women.

“The work is hard. There is a mood, an attitude, in London that makes it very hard to develop close relationships. But God is giving us the courage each day to contact the Muslim women, to work closely with them, and to share the gospel. I am not discouraged, because I believe I am where God wants me to be.” (From an interview with David Bliss, missionary to South Africa).

Pray for the Lord to use His African children as His ambassadors in Africa and beyond.—AL

Jews in South Africa



Moses felt like he'd been on a long journey traveling from one Jewish bookstore to another in his hometown of Johannesburg, seeking God's truth. He'd visited many synagogues and heard the teachings of many rabbis. Still he couldn't find rest for his soul. Moses found the commandments of the Old Testament to be a real burden. There was no way he could obey them all.

The above story was hypothetical. There are 92,000 Jews living in South Africa. The first Jews arrived in that country in 1841. Jews figured prominently in the settlement of South Africa. More Jews arrived after 1900, most of them from Lithuania. Jews were considered to be "White" during the days of apartheid. Today most South African Jews live affluent lives, but they lack something money can't buy. They have not yet come to realize that Jesus Christ is the long awaited Messiah that the Old Testament prophets had predicted would one day come.

Pray for the safety of the Jewish community in South Africa. Anti-Semitism is on the rise. Ask God to raise up faithful workers to take the message of salvation to this people group. Pray that the Jews of South Africa would come to see Jesus Christ in a new light.—WK

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

When Jesus addresses this Jewish audience, He is presuming that they understand a couple of things about God that most Gentile peoples do not. They understand that God is a living person who is able to hear our prayers and reward us according to His lovingkindness and provision. Many unreached peoples do not have such an understanding of God. They imagine Him to be far less than a loving father.

Pray that the people groups we intercede for this month will understand the loving father heart of God.

Day 5

Genesis 4:3-4, ESV

In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering. . . .

Cultures all around the world understand that blood is the only remedy for sin. However, they usually don't understand that the only blood that can pay for sin is the blood of God's only Son, Jesus Christ. The difference between accepting His blood and depending on the blood of livestock is vast!

Pray that the Cape Malays will learn to put their faith in the blood of Christ to save them from sin.

Cape Malays in South Africa



A Cape Malay woman

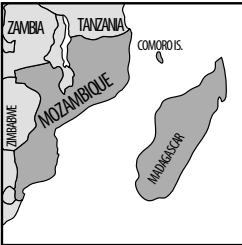
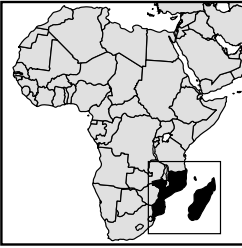
Ibrahim drove a cab in Cape Town, South Africa. He was Cape Malay and he felt like a slave, even though his people had been free for over a hundred years. Why couldn't he stop drinking and smoking? Like most Cape Malays, he was

a Muslim. Going to the mosque didn't help him conquer his vices. There had to be a better way! This is a hypothetical example, but people like Ibrahim are common among the Cape Malays in South Africa.

The first Cape Malays arrived as slaves in South Africa in 1654 during the days when the Dutch ruled this part of Africa. They came from what is now Indonesia. Slavery continued after the British conquest of South Africa in 1815. Most Cape Malay slaves didn't win their freedom until the late 1800s. There are 176,000 Cape Malays living in South Africa today. This people group has lost contact with their ancestors in Indonesia. They no longer speak any of the languages of their ancestors. Most now speak Afrikaans.

Ask God to lead a mission agency to target this people group for outreach. Pray that God would break the hold that Islam has on the Cape Malays of South Africa. Pray that the eyes of their hearts will be opened so that they will understand that Jesus has the answers to their spiritual problems.—WK

Ndzwani People of the Comoro Islands



A person living on the Comoro Islands might attend a mosque on Friday, but feel no guilt about using charms from witch doctors on other days of the week. Witchcraft blends comfortably with Islam on the Comoro Islands. Most members of the Ndzwani people group see no contradiction between the two. They know that Allah is the sovereign creator, but they think that other

spiritual forces must be dealt with for practical, day-to-day needs. Allah is too distant to deal with such matters.

The Comoro Islands are located in the Indian Ocean, not far from Madagascar. These islands were settled by immigrants from Africa and South Asia. Inter-marriage between various immigrant groups created the people groups that exist on the Comoro Islands today. Most Ndzwani people are Muslim, but they follow the teachings of the Qur'an very loosely.

Ask God to break the hold that witchcraft and folk Islam have on the Ndzwani. Poverty and disease are also serious problems for this people group. Pray that God would lead Christian development workers and doctors to reach out to this people group with the message of salvation and practical ways to take care of their needs. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give the Ndzwani people a desire to seek and find spiritual truth. Pray that there will soon be a discipleship-making movement among this people group.—WK

Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

Joseph could have tried to take the credit for interpreting Pharaoh's dream, but he did not. Instead, he gave glory to the Sovereign One. The result was that Pharaoh praised the God of Heaven! (See Genesis 41:39). Believers in Africa are abundantly blessed with faith that God can do anything. Many are blessed by God with spiritual gifts that can be shared with the unreached peoples.

Pray that such believers will give God the glory so that unbelievers will also bless the Lord.

And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

A dwelling of the Holy Spirit—that is what we are! And it is what God wants the Ngazidja people to be as well. There are many in the world who are fearful of having any spirit dwell within them. This may not be a surprise given that they are familiar with wicked spirits that come to harm them.

Pray that many from the Ngazidja people will understand that the Holy Spirit comes to give them His light to guide them. Pray that they will know that the Holy Spirit is a helper.

Ngazidja People of the Comoro Islands

“Get out and don’t come back!” yelled the father at his teenage son. With tears in his brown eyes, the boy ran out of the house and into the lush jungles that grow on the Comoro Islands. He took his Bible portions with him and wondered what to do next. He now had no place to live. Perhaps the foreigner who told him the truth about Jesus Christ would be willing to help him. People who look to Christ rather than the teachings of Mohammed are not welcome among the Ngazidja people group of the Comoro Islands.

The Ngazidja are one of the main people groups that live on the Comoro Islands. Like most Comorian peoples, the Ngazidja were formed by the intermarriage of various immigrant groups from Africa and South Asia. Most Comorians are Muslims, but the Ngazidja are more devout than most.

Ask God to protect the small number of followers of Jesus Christ among the Ngazidja people. They face significant persecution. Pray for faithful workers who will reach out to this people group with the message of salvation and also disciple those who have come to believe in Jesus Christ. May this people group come to see Jesus Christ as the true source of salvation.—WK

Bushi people in Mayotte and Madagascar

Day 8

Matthew 6:10, ESV



Like many societies today the Bushi people have tension between the older and younger generations. The older members of society are devoted to traditional Islamic practices, including five

daily prayer times, fasting, and regularly attending the mosque. Younger members are less concerned about these things; instead they are in pursuit of material possessions and seeking a prosperous Western lifestyle. There is still some sense of community in the smaller villages, but even this is changing.

In all age groups, there is a strong devotion to a mix of Islamic beliefs and spirits, known as djinns, which they turn to for their daily needs. These spirits keep the Bushi people in fear, and they try hard not to displease these spirits.

One area where they live, Mayotte, is an island located between northern Madagascar and northern Mozambique (see map on day 11). They occupy the entire island, as well as certain areas in Madagascar.

The Bushi are somewhat better off than many of their African neighbors. The French government has invested a great deal in the economy of Mayotte, and so the Bushi have better access to education and health care than many African communities.

Pray that believers in Jesus will be burdened to bring the gospel to the Bushi people. Pray that both the older and younger generations will see their need for Jesus.—JR

Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Are you hungry to see God's will being done on earth? A desire to see God's will done is what it takes to have our prayers answered. Self-centered prayers are not what God wants from us. Do you think that having the Bushi people reached for Christ is part of God's will?

If you answer is yes, then pray fervently for the Bushi people today. May His will be done among the Bushi people as it is in heaven. May they live the abundant life that Jesus came for them to enjoy (See John 10:10).

Day 9

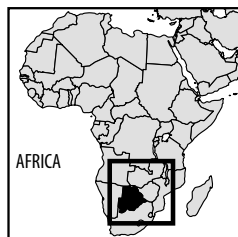
Isaiah 58:10, NIV

If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

There is significant overlap between the unreached people groups without a church in their midst and the hungry half of the world without adequate physical and material resources. Isaiah reminds us that the people of God are called not only to spend their money to feed the hungry, but also to spend themselves, to pour out their lives in sacrificial service. That service cannot be a mere token. It must satisfy the needs of the oppressed.

Pray that our Gracious Father will teach us to spend ourselves on behalf of those who are desperately hungry both for bread and the Bread of Life.

Vadoma People in Zimbabwe



A commonly used nickname for the Vadoma people is “two toed” or “ostrich foot.” This is due to the physical condition many of them suffer from called ectrodactyly, which is a condition where the middle three toes are absent, and the two outer toes are turned inward. This is because of a chromosome mutation, and it has affected the Vadoma people for many years, partly because of a tribal law that

forbids the Vadoma to marry outside their group.

The Vadoma have little contact with the majority Bantu peoples in Zimbabwe. They speak their own dialect of the majority Shona language and keep a low profile among other nearby tribes. Most of them live in rugged areas, such as the Zambezi River Valley where they live off the land by hunting, fishing, trapping, and by gathering honey, wild fruits, and roots. Zimbabwe’s government has made efforts to assimilate the Vadoma people into the rest of Zimbabwe’s society by providing health clinics and schools, but so far, the Vadoma have not been convinced that integration is in their best interest. There are some followers of Christ among them, but most from this people group adhere to tribal beliefs.

Pray that the Church will be able to connect with the Vadoma people in a respectful way so that they will not reject Christ.—JR

Koti People of Mozambique

Day 10

Genesis 33:4, ESV

Create International



“Grandfather,” Yoli’s nine-year-old voice piped up. “Why don’t we speak the Mukhawa language like my friend does?” His eyes narrowed as grandfather replied, “We despise their language! When these 12 islands were settled the people were only Mukawa, but Arab traders took our women as wives and we became

the Kotis. We now have our own language and ways, and they are no longer the same as the Mukhawas. Don’t you speak their backward language!”

Yoli winced at his grandfather’s stern reply, but he was too full of questions to stop. “Grandfather, why don’t you come to church with us? We learn that Jesus is God.” “Yes, I’ve heard that Jesus was a good man. You follow him. I will stay with the old ways.”

Although nearly half of the 65,000 Koti people call themselves Christian, all except about 0.2 percent do not understand that Jesus is the Son of God and has died for them to save them from the consequences of their sin. They only follow Jesus as an example of good living.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will move in these islands near Mozambique and call harvesters to go to the Koti people with the wonderful gift God has for them through Jesus. Pray that their hearts will be wide open and accept Jesus and they will joyfully share the news with their friends and neighbors.—PE

But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

Jacob had fervently sought the Lord regarding the strained relationship he had with his brother, Esau, who at one time wanted to kill him. Now, given the opportunity to kill Jacob, Esau embraced his brother! What an answer to prayer! Could our prayers bring reconciliation between the Mukawa and Koti peoples?

Pray for reconciliation between families, clans, and people groups who are at odds with one another in Africa. Pray that the Lord will get the glory for restoring people to one another.

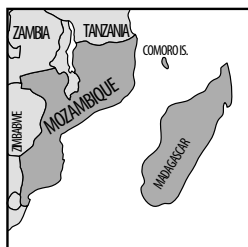
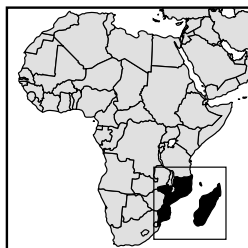
For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.

Imagine yourself trying to do what is right by obeying a set of religious laws. You have no relationship with the lawgiver. There is no guarantee in this life or the life to come. Every time you break the law, there will be eternal consequences. Does this sound appealing?

It is what many of the unreached people groups face their entire lives.

Pray for unreached peoples like the Brahmins to crave the grace and love that only come from embracing the Savior.

Hindu Brahmins in Mozambique



Abjini smoothed her expensive sari and glanced out the window at the festivities in the garden. It would soon be time to descend the sweeping stairs and greet Chandran who would be her husband. First she set a bit of milk before one of her favorite gods. Then she placed flowers before other carved figures displayed on a large wall in her home. Abjini felt no particular regard for these figures; it

was merely a way of life and perhaps might bring her good luck on her wedding day.

Abjini and Chandran are Brahmins. Abjini is a physician and Chandran is an engineer. This couple is very modern. Unlike traditional Brahmins, they will serve all meats except beef at their wedding along with a variety of wines. They still believe in reincarnation and try to be good people.

Of the 27,100 Hindu Brahmins in Mozambique there are none that we know of who follow Christ. However, the JESUS Film and many Christian helps are available in the Hindi language, which many of them speak.

Pray that believers will work and live among these unreached people and form warm relationships that will allow them opportunities to share the gospel. Pray for these Brahmins to crave a relationship with God, not another religion. Pray that the Holy Spirit will quicken Brahmin souls to see the truth of the gospel.—PE

Chinese in Angola

Day 12

Genesis 26:14, ESV

Lin Su threw her hard hat in the air to celebrate the completion of the railroad line in Angola. One of about 200,000 Chinese engineers and construction workers who have moved to Angola to build hospitals, bridges, roads, and buildings, they are part of a move by China to capitalize on the riches Angola is generating through oil. Angola is now China's largest supplier of crude oil.

One project is a "ghost city" of 750 eight-story apartment buildings, complete with a dozen empty schools and plenty of unfilled retail buildings. Each apartment is selling for about \$250,000; the average income in Angola is little more than \$5,000 per year. (See *Business Insider*, July 3, 2012).

There are so many Chinese people in this African country that road signs are sometimes in Mandarin as well as Angolan languages. Less than two percent of the Chinese immigrant workers follow Christ.

Pray that Chinese believers would be fruitful in planting seeds among their countrymen as well as Angolans they meet. Pray that the Chinese-Angolan alliance may be used by God to further His kingdom. Pray that the hearts of Chinese people living and working in Angola will not remain as empty as their "ghost cities," but be filled with the love of God as they learn of Him and accept Him into their lives and hearts. Pray that faithful prayer warriors will pray without ceasing for the Chinese in Angola.—PE

He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him.

Isaac could have used his wealth to bless his Philistine neighbors. He could have used his influence to tell them that it was the Lord who gave him the abundant harvests. Instead, he lived apart from them, and their fleshly jealousy prompted them to vandalize Isaac's wells. Could this have been avoided?

Pray that those wealthy in land and resources in Africa will be merciful and just with those less fortunate.

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

Missionary statesman

Ralph Winter observed that throughout history when the people of God have failed to share the gospel with the peoples around them, He has often brought these peoples to the gospel—sometimes even with great force. Israel’s idolatry and their selfish failure to take the good news to their neighbors led to the takeover of Jerusalem. God has brought unreached peoples to within reach of the Church, most often not as military conquerors but as refugees, students, and businessmen. Are we willing to share with them our spiritual and material abundance?

Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to respond to wonderful opportunities for ministry to newcomers in our own communities.

Gujaratis in Rwanda

The aroma of cardamom, coriander, and turmeric hung heavily in the dimly lit restaurant. Arriving at the farthest corner, the host gestured to the Gujarati entourage to take their seats. Handing them long menus, he said, “Your waiter will be with you shortly. Enjoy the best Gujarati food in Rwanda!”

Originally from the Indian subcontinent, today a large number of Gujaratis live in other countries including Rwanda. Expatriate Gujaratis in Rwanda are predominantly from wealthier castes and have been able to maintain a lifestyle of comfort. Gujaratis are reputed to be resourceful businessmen; consequently, they successfully emigrate and thrive around the world. Yet, they still retain strong cultural and religious ties with Gujarat. The majority of Gujaratis are Hindus; although there is a significant number of Muslims among them.

According to the Joshua Project, “In many countries where there are Gujarati communities, there are no missionary agencies focusing on this people group. The Bible is available in their language, but the Gujarati must see Christianity lived out. Only then will they understand that true freedom and peace are found in Jesus Christ alone.”

Pray for Gujaratis in Rwanda to make the acquaintance of followers of Christ who will lead them to the freedom and peace that He offers.—EJD

Arabs in Rwanda

Day 14

Genesis 3:1, ESV

Ibrahim slid out of bed as quietly as possible. He did not wish to wake up his wife who had not come home from work till after he had gone to sleep. He stole to the window on tiptoe and moved the curtain ever so slightly and beheld Kigali, Rwanda before the break of dawn. From his vantage point, it appeared as a hill of tiled roofs with a smattering of tall buildings. He would soon be getting ready to go to work as a financial consultant in one of those tall buildings.

As he knotted his tie, he thought about how his life is a far cry from the Bedouin life of his ancestors. His great-grandfather would have been part of a tribe, while he is a Rwandan national. His great-grandmother would have stayed at home and tended the young ones, while his wife works the late shift at the city hospital.

Arabs have been strong adherents of the tenets of Islam since the seventh century. According to the Joshua Project, “Fundamentalist Muslims are very outspoken against Christianity. Much prayer is needed to break down the barriers that separate them from Jesus. Resources in the various Arabic dialects are available; however, a greater effort must be made to effectively minister to them.”

Pray for the softening of hearts and minds of the Arabs in Rwanda so that they are able to receive the love and forgiveness, of the Savior.—EJD

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

Satan was sowing seeds of doubt in Eve’s mind. She personally knew the God who created the trees, etc., but she chose to believe a lie. This is much easier to do than we may think. How many of us have doubted that God cares for fallen humanity? Isn’t it easy to fall into the trap of believing that He is not concerned about the nations that do not yet call on His Name?

Pray that when words of doubt about God’s character come to the Arabs in Rwanda, they will ignore them and believe God’s promises.

The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done.

This is the kind of problem we would want to have! There was too much being brought into the Lord's storehouse.

The people of Israel were so touched by God's deliverance that they were willing to give their all for the tabernacle.

Are we willing to do the same to ensure that missionaries are fully funded to reach the unreached?

Pray that we will have generous hearts that will fund to overflowing, efforts to get the gospel to the unreached Hindus, Muslims, and Buddhists.

Swahili Peoples in Rwanda

Baraka, a Swahili businessman, made quite an entrance, his long, white, cotton robe billowing behind him. As shop assistants stood with heads slightly bent as if honoring royalty, he walked the long aisle to his private office tucked behind the ornately decorated walls. He had inherited this flourishing jewelry business from his father. "Today I am meeting some possible clients from Congo," he bellowed to his timid assistant.

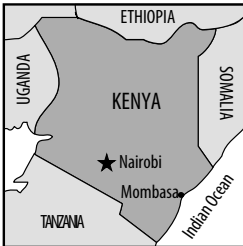
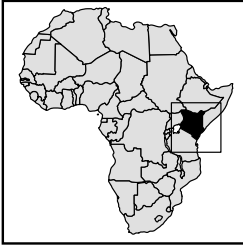
Swahili means, "coast," but the word also refers to several people groups who share a common culture, language, and religion. Swahilis boast of a history that is thousands of years old. Their ancestry comprises early inhabitants of the East African coast, Cushites, Bantu-speakers from northern Congo, and migrants from Persia and the Indian subcontinent. Today the Swahili live in eastern Africa and the Persian Gulf countries.

Since their very beginning, the Swahili economy has been driven by trade and commerce. They traded spices, slaves, ivory, gold, and grain. Today many upper class Swahilis own businesses, while most lower class Swahilis are farmers.

Islam plays a large role in their daily activities. Every rule is dictated by Islamic tradition, from rules regarding the food they eat and the clothes they wear to societal rules concerning marriage and divorce. Even though Christian resources are available in their language, there are very few Swahili believers.

Pray that God would raise up believers who are sensitive to Muslim cultures to work among the Swahili peoples.—EJD

Omani Arabs in Kenya and Tanzania



Ahmed, an Omani Arab, was hurrying through the narrow alleys of a marketplace in Mombasa, Kenya. He enjoyed the aromatic smoke of burning frankincense that rose up from the shiny braziers along the streets. Usually he would stop and enjoy a cup of thick, spicy coffee with a friend, but not today! He was on his way to see the beautiful wooden door that had been completed for his new house. Although his house was small

and simple he thought this door would make it look like a palace. The door would have an image of a date tree, a symbol of prosperity. He remembered how he and his wife spent many hours deciding which verses from the Qur'an they wanted carved on the door. Surely, Allah will be pleased with them as the door would be their symbol of hospitality.

Both in Kenyan and Tanzania, Omani Arabs were vital in the successful opposition to the oppressive Portuguese who controlled the area in the 1500s. Since that time Omani Arabs have resided in these countries maintaining their conservative Islamic way of life, colorful traditions, and working primarily in small businesses. Today there are about 23,000 in Kenya and 70,000 in Tanzania.

Pray that the believers in Tanzania and Kenya will be wise and Holy Spirit-driven in the way they reach out to the Omani Arabs.—PD

Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth?

Moses' complaint to the Lord about his responsibility to the children of Israel sounds almost comical, but it comes from the heart of one who loved God and God's people. Love brings a responsibility and a burden which had become overwhelming to Moses. Do you sometimes feel this way about your burden for the unreached? If so, why not pray that the Lord raise up others to help carry the burden, just as He did for Moses.

Pray that 2015 will be a year the Lord multiplies the number of intercessors for unreached people groups!

Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

Today the Ndengereko people persecute and drive out followers of Christ. But we know from Revelation 5:9-10 that there will come a day when some from this hardened people group will worship before the throne of the King of kings. These Ndengereko believers will sing a new song to the Lord, joining some from every tribe, tongue, and nation throughout the earth!

Pray with faith that the Lord will use your prayers to speed the day when this will happen.

Ndengereko People in Tanzania

(This story is intended to illustrate the beliefs and attitudes of this people group)

Tired, hungry, and desirous of talking with some Ndengereko people, a Christian couple arrived in a Tanzanian village where they sat down at a small eatery. On entering two Ndengereko women brought them some water so they could wash their hands. This was followed with large plates of rice, spicy beef, and vegetables. The couple invited the women to sit with them and to tell them about their lives. One woman mentioned her daughter loved music and could sing like a bird. When asked if there were any Christians in their village the women hesitated, looked serious and said, “No one is Christian. We are all good Muslims. Once there was a building used by some Christians, but it has been torn down.”

There are over 110,000 Ndengereko Muslims living on the beautiful coastline of Tanzania. Hard workers, they maintain their living through farming, small businesses, and serving as guides in some of Tanzania’s spectacular national reserves. For some, their Islamic beliefs are intertwined with folk religion. Unfortunately, Ndengerekos who decide to follow Christ usually face persecution.

Pray that God will prepare His children to patiently befriend the Ndengerekos so they will want to hear gospel stories and come to follow Jesus. Pray that the hard barriers in reaching these people will be broken so they can be free to sing a new song to the Lord.—PD

Aweer (aka, Boni) People in Kenya

(This story is intended to illustrate the beliefs and attitudes of this people group)

“**A**ll my people know is how to live in the forest.” Cheka Mohammed, headman of the Boni people, was speaking to an environmental worker who was learning about problems the Boni people are facing due to the deforestation around their villages. The headman continued, “You asked if we have had opportunities to learn and develop new skills for living. I’m the headman, and I have never seen the inside of a classroom. When the government made us move to villages in the 1960s, they built a small school for us, but we were never encouraged to attend. We only wanted to live off the land and the forest. There are so many challenges, and I pray Allah and the gods will protect us and give us answers.”

There are five villages located next to the Boni-Lungi Forest in the Lamu Region of Kenya. This is home to several thousand Boni people. With the development of a new Lamu Port near their villages they are faced with new challenges and changes.

The Boni people combine some parts of Islam with traditional religious beliefs. There are very few followers of Christ among them.

Pray that God will bring believers to lead them into a new way of life that is centered on Him as their Lord, helper, and comforter as they struggle to meet the new challenges of the 21st century.—PD

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

We all remember this blessing, don’t we? It’s a standard blessing, remembered by Jews and Christians alike. Though the context is actually a priestly blessing on the children of Israel, it could also be a prayer for the unreached peoples who don’t know the God of Israel. Why not pray this prayer for the Boni people who need Him?

Pray now for the nations to accept the blessings of the Lord and turn from all their false gods that lead them astray. Pray that they will turn to the One whose face shines upon His loving children!

Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike.

In this verse, the Israelis were ordered to do what no nation would do: show fairness to the alien. What kind of message did that give to the people who came to live in the land ruled by Jehovah? It clearly meant that there is a higher standard of morals which the rest of the world knew nothing about!

Pray that you and your nation will demonstrate godly justice and mercy to the unreached aliens, so that God may be glorified and praised among people that do not know Him.

Somali Ajuran People of Kenya and Somalia



“Once again the Ajuran Somalis are fighting in the eastern province of Wajir. The problems seem to have returned because there is a lack of rain and not enough grazing land for their animals. To make matters worse, other nomadic herders are using the same land.”

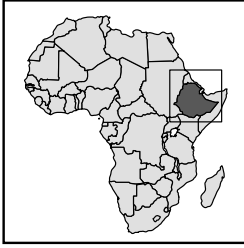
Mohammad, a Kenyan government official, was dismayed as he read the report from one of his field workers. He continued to read, “One Ajuran clan leader I talked to said, ‘When something happens they immediately want revenge.’ Thankfully, most Ajuran clans have made peace with each other. They are a proud people who believe they must gain back honor. It is beginning to affect the well-being of the children, women, and older people. The government cannot ignore the problem or it will be out of hand again.”

Like the rest of the Somali tribes living in northern Kenya, the estimated 70,000 Ajurans have traditionally lived a nomadic life. They ruled many years ago in Somalia before being conquered by other tribes. This was the reason they migrated to Kenya.

The majority of Ajurans are culturally Islamic, but they have little knowledge about their religion. There have been a few that have accepted Jesus, but the fear of persecution and rejection prevent them from listening to believers.

Pray that Christ's followers will go to the Ajurans as ambassadors of the Prince of Peace who transforms angry hearts.—PD

Jimma Oromo People of Ethiopia



According to the Joshua Project (joshuaproject.net), the various Oromo people groups are the largest, most widely dispersed groups in Ethiopia. Today the Jimma Oromo are mostly herdsmen, but they have a strong warrior tradition. Boys learn to ride horses and fight at an early age. Joshua Project comments, “Virility and male attributes are considered desirable, with bravery and war skills being stressed.” In the past, a male

suitor proved his virility by presenting to his bride a human body part from a person he had killed. Today parts of large fierce animals are acceptable offerings. Despite the emphasis on warrior skills, peace within the group is prized. Tokuma or identity with the group is important as well as cooperation in working situations. A man’s status is determined by the number of livestock he owns and by the number of children he has produced.

About 90 percent of the three million Oromo people are Muslims. They are considered among the least-reached, though some Oromo subgroups are reached with the gospel. The Bible in their language was completed in 1995, although it uses an alphabet different than the one currently being taught.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare the way for Ethiopian believers to share Jesus with the Jimma Oromo people.—JWS (The Jimma Oromo are also very musical as you will see and hear on various YouTube videos. Go to YouTube and type in “Jimma Oromo”).

To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

God never intended for it to be this way. But because of sin, life would become difficult. Through the centuries women have endured not only pain but sometimes death when they have given birth. Women have suffered from husbands who “rule” unjustly over their families.

Pray that as Jimma Oromo women endure the tragedies brought on by a sinful world, they will be driven to seek and find the One who has the answers. Pray that they will seek His kingdom.

Day 21

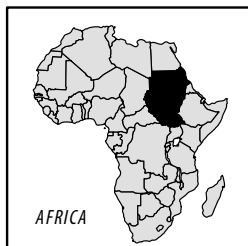
Genesis 12:1, ESV

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

Abraham lived a life much like the Dar Hamid tribes do today. Herding people depend on their livestock and the people they know in their communities. But God gave Abram the terrifying command to leave his family, and everything he knew, and go to a place he did not know! It will take people with faith like Abram to reach nomadic peoples like the Dar Hamid. Will you pray for such people?

Pray for the Lord to raise up and thrust out people to reach the Dar Hamid tribes with the God of Abram.

Dar Hamid Peoples of Sudan



Sipping his camel-milk tea, the nomad stared wearily into the desert and decided not to pray. Unlike the others in his tribe, he had been faithful to pray five times a day, but he did not even understand his religion. Life had become much harder, so he reasoned that Allah did not care if he prayed.

The Dar Hamid is a group of 19 tribes in Sudan, not to be confused with the nation of South Sudan. Having

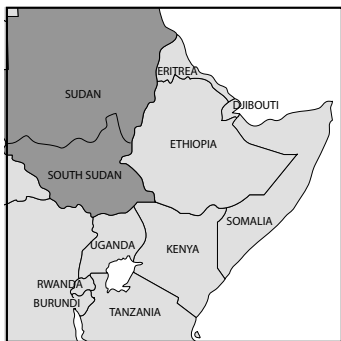
800,000 members, they roam the desert looking for food or water. While older generations remember when the land and livestock prospered, only drought and famine occur these days. Almost 60 years ago, the Sudanese government had drilled wells in the desert to allow for more livestock, but desertification resulted and herds diminished, making matters worse.

Sunni Islam is the dominant religion of the Dar Hamid. Few know how to read or write, and they know little about Islam. They do believe in magic, however. The written word is treated as magical. This allows great opportunity for them to be reached by God's Word! Their understanding of the Word is possible because the JESUS Film and gospel recordings are also available. Currently only one percent claim to follow Christ.

Pray that they will encounter the Word, and Jesus, the One who is the Word. Pray for God's mercy for the food and water insecurity they endure.—LR

Yazeed Dar Hamid People

Day 22
Psalms 37:4



The Yazeed fakir worked steadily at his craft. He was proud to be a fakir, or holy man. But even he wondered how luck from the amulet he made could come from his hands. The only luck he saw was when a nomad traded a camel

for one of his trinkets. From a camel he could get milk, meat, hide hair material, and mobility.

Numbering 432,000, the Yazeed are only found in northern Sudan. They belong to the larger Dar Hamid group, consisting of 19 tribes led by a single chief called a *nazir*. These nomads dwell in camel hair tents and search the desert for vegetation. They raise various kinds of livestock, but they rely most heavily on camels. The Yazeed used to enjoy large herds, but most have lost their livestock as drought set in. This forced many to leave their homes. Usually seen carrying a gun or sword, the Yazeed nomads learn from an early age to be vigilant defenders of their land and livestock.

The isolated nomadic Yazeed know only Sunni Islam, but they only barely know it. Animism is often mixed with their Muslim beliefs. There are no followers of Christ among them.

Pray that they will have dreams and visions of the true Holy Man, Jesus the Son of God. Pray that they will meet South Sudanese Christian refugees fleeing north who will share God's love for them.—LR

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.

This is one of the Bible's most quoted verses, yet one of the hardest ones to live up to. We delight ourselves in the Lord. We want Him to give us the desires of our hearts. But we often forget that unless we delight ourselves in Him enough to want what He wants, we will settle for the self-centered desires of our hearts. One of the desires of His heart is to see the nations streaming to His kingdom. Is that the desire of your heart?

Pray that the Holy Spirit will prompt you to desire what He wants for the nations.

And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him, and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.

Does God's blessing always result in a good harvest? No. But there are many times in Scripture where God blesses someone by making them wealthy and their possessions abundant. What can a wealthy person do to honor the Lord? It is clear that when someone has wealth, they have opportunities that others lack. Giving money directly to projects is one possibility, but so is using their time for His purposes. A wealthy person has much more influence than others.

Pray that the Lord will prompt the wealthy to follow Christ more closely.

Messiria Baggara People of Sudan

(This story is intended to illustrate the attitudes of this people group.)

When both men had finished loading their AK-47s, they sat quietly in the small cluster of trees overlooking the river. "Do you think they will come?" the first man asked. He was younger and had never been involved in a battle. "They will come," the other man assured him and added, "Then we will do what we must to protect what is ours." The younger man objected, "But the river belongs to the land. It should be shared." Glaring at him, the older man replied, "The Nuba people do not know how to share, so we must convince them that the river belongs to us." With that he sneered and patted his rifle.

The Messiria people of Sudan are nomadic herdsman who often fight for the water their cattle require. This struggle with other peoples for resources has sometimes resulted in the slaughter of entire Messiria camps.

Reaching this people group with the gospel has been a challenge because of their nomadic lifestyle and their Islamic faith. They are nearly all Muslims, and many even make the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Pray for the Lord to raise up workers who will go to the Messiria and share Christ in ways that will be understood and accepted. Pray for the hearts of the Messiria to be soft and ready to hear and receive Him. Ask God to establish His Church among them.—CL

Rizeigat Baggara People of Sudan

Day 24

Exodus 23:4-5, ESV

(This story is intended to illustrate the needs and attitudes of this people group.)

“**F**ather, I want to join the Janjaweed, just like you did.” The man shook his head at his 13-year-old son and replied, “Times have changed.” The boy persisted. “But I want to join the fight!” His father replied, “The fight you need to join is the fight to feed and water our camels. Our people are no longer supporting the Janjaweed militias, son. The government refuses to look after our interests. So we must look after our own needs instead of joining a militia that only helps them.”

Until recently, the Rizeigat made up most of the Janjaweed, a militia that attacks civilians in the Sudanese region of Darfur. But a lack of support from the Sudanese government and the fact that the Rizeigat were not invited to be part of the peace process with South Sudan has changed things.

The Rizeigat are believed to be 100 percent Muslim. The New Testament is available in their language, but their nomadic lifestyle and the region in which they reside make reaching them with the gospel very difficult.

Pray for God to provide laborers to take the good news to this remote harvest field. Ask Him to prepare the hearts of the Rizeigat people to receive the gift of His Son. Pray for many Rizeigat to put their faith in Christ and for them to become witnesses to other tribes in the region.—CL

If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall bring it back to him. If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him.

What can be a better way of reconciling with one's enemy than to help him in his time of need! One must get beyond what their flesh tells them to do if they are going to reach out to an enemy like this. But in the end, God is glorified, and enemies become friends.

Pray that the Rizeigat Baggara people will turn their hearts to Christ in such an amazing way that God can use them to draw their enemies into the kingdom of God.

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so.

A perfect planet! That is what God gave to mankind before the fall. Since that time we have caused ecological and political problems that have left the poor poorer, and the rich are sometimes more jaded with unjust gain. The only answer to this is the extension of God's kingdom, resulting in people obeying the Holy One out of love-filled hearts.

Pray for His kingdom to come to the Kimr/Gimr people, so that their communities can be defined by holiness and righteousness.

Kimr/Gimr People of Sudan

Fighting broke out again at Katayla, Sudan. People died; families fled. It happens so frequently that it hardly seems like news any more. Repeatedly the Gimr/Kimr tribe has signed peace agreements with their neighbors, but within weeks, one side claims the other violated the pact. The offended group attacks. Hostilities flare again.

Land holds ultimate value on the southern edge of the encroaching Sahara Desert. And when the arid Sahara threatens the Gimr's traditional land, they feel justified in defending it. When the government awarded that same traditional land to rival neighbors, the Gimr people fight to retain access.

Who are the Gimr people? One representative, Abkar Al Toum, said that they have no connections to any of the rebel or bandit groups in the region. Those things work to destabilize the nation. Instead he said, "The Gimr are peaceful people and we are ready to take part in the peace process in Darfur and in Sudan."

The Gimr tribe adheres to Islam. They mix this loyalty with pre-Islamic traditional animistic rituals. Out of approximately 164,000 people, fewer than two percent testify to faith in Christ.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal the light of Christ to Gimr leaders. Pray that compassionate ministries will reach this region with the message of Jesus and with practical ways for them to find essential water for their land. Pray that those who follow Jesus will remain steadfast through the turmoil.—GEC

Rufaa (aka, Rufaiyin) People of Sudan

Day 26

Ephesians 3:16-17a, ESV

One of the surprising facts about Sudan is the diversity of its people. Most Sudanese in the north consider themselves to be Arabic, although many are a mixture of several ethnicities. Not much is known about the Rufaa people of Sudan. They are one of the many “Arabized” groups living in the northern part of the country. Most are subsistence farmers, but only five percent of the land is arable and suitable for farming. Since water is scarce, rural communities in Sudan are usually clustered near sources of water.

Sudan’s leaders proudly boast that they are leading the Islamic revolution in Africa. They have used this boast as a tool to strengthen their personal control of the economy and their political power. The tragic cost has resulted in more than a million people killed, a devastated economy, and a country divided.

The Rufaa people are almost exclusively Sunni Muslim. Sunni Islam in Sudan has been characterized by the formation of *tariqas*, or Muslim religious brotherhoods. The world has seen in other countries how dangerous these “brotherhoods” can become.

Let us pray for the leaders of these Muslim villages and brotherhoods to have visions of Jesus as has happened in other African countries recently. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to prepare their hearts to receive the gospel when they hear it. Pray for the Rufaa people to hear and respond positively to Christian radio programs broadcast in their area. Finally, pray for boldness of new believers.—JS

...that according to the riches of his glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...

One of the greatest things that we receive from the Holy Spirit is inner, spiritual power to obey. When Christ dwells in our hearts, we are able to lovingly obey Him in supernatural ways. This is a time when Christians in Sudan need to be willing and able to have Christ’s strength in their inner beings.

Pray for the believers in Sudan to understand that internal self-control comes from the work of the Holy Spirit. Pray that they will have this internal power as they face persecution and abuse at the hands of evil men.

...I will overthrow what I have built and uproot what I have planted... Should you then seek great things for yourself? Seek them not.

God admonishes us, as He did Jeremiah's scribe Baruch, to abandon selfish ambition, which prevents us from spending our lives on what is most important. Most people spend their lives pursuing either things or accomplishments. It is nothing less than tragic when believers chase personal aspirations to the neglect of the clearly-revealed purposes of God. In light of what God is doing and wants to do among the nations, can we possibly justify seeking great things for ourselves?

Pray to yield your aspirations, ambitions, and dreams to His perfect will.

Hawawir Dar Hamid People of Sudan

From the recently built roads in Sudan, one can still see nomads traveling across the desert. The Hawawir are an African people of Semitic origin, dwelling in the Bayuda Desert. This subgroup of the Dar Hamid owns large herds of oxen, sheep, and camels. They are led by a single chief. Because they are a nomadic people, they live in camps. They have a complex system of migration. While the Hawawir men move across the desert with their camel herds, the women and children stay home.

The women tend the gardens and the small boys work in the fields, herding house camels and preventing goats and sheep from entering the cultivated land. Because life in the desert is very dangerous, all of the Hawawir men wear sheathed daggers on their left arms. Most carry swords and all carry either shotguns or rifles. They must sleep lightly at night to protect themselves and their tribes from bandits.

Traditionally, all 19 Dar Hamid subgroups have been Sunni Muslims. However, most are not religious and they know very little about Islam.

Pray for compassionate missionaries who are willing to embrace the Hawawir culture and endure the harsh, nomadic lifestyle with them. Pray that believing teachers will go to this group since most of the population cannot read. Pray for a movement of the Holy Spirit among the Dar Hamid.—JS

Ama Niyaman Nubian People of Sudan and Egypt

If you see the front of a home colorfully painted with geometric designs, it is a Nubian home. It is also very spacious, able to accommodate the extended family. The Niyaman, also known as Nubians, were Christians until the 6th century. Then the process of Islamization began. The Nubians consist of seven non-Arab Muslim tribes that originated in the Nubia region, an area between Aswan in southern Egypt and Dongola in northern Sudan. For centuries, this territory was a crossroads between Egypt and the African tribal kingdoms. The construction of the Aswan Dam along the Nile River resulted in flooding many Nubian villages, forcing most of them to resettle north of Aswan in what is called New Nubia.

Traditionally the Nubians were agriculturist, but their lives have changed quite a bit since the dam was built in the 1950s. The literacy rate among Nubians is high in comparison with their rural Egyptian neighbors. Primary and secondary schools have been set up in New Nubia, and there are also teacher-training facilities in the area. In addition to education, radio and television are other ways in which socialization takes place among the Nubians.

Ask the Lord to save key leaders among the Nubians who will boldly declare the gospel. Pray for cooperation among mission agencies that are ministering to the Nubians. Pray that strong local churches will be planted in the Nubian community.—JS

See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel . . . and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts. . .

There are many ways that the Holy Spirit can move in an individual. He can give anyone supernatural skills to do just about anything. In this case, He gave Bezalel the ability to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver, and bronze. The question is, will we use the gifts God gives us for His purposes, or for our own?

Pray that we will use whatever gift He has given us to serve Him, no matter what.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

It is way too easy for Muslims to listen to the wrong voices. There is an abundance of people in the Muslim World who equate spirituality with militancy. What a seductive teaching! They believe they can be spiritual while oppressing those who have less power. How will they discern truth from error?

Pray for spiritual discernment for the peoples of Sudan that will result in them questioning Islamic militants and seeking true spirituality. Pray that they will seek and find the love of Christ.

Masalit People of Sudan



A destroyed village

Since 2003, over 480,000 people have died, and 2.8 million have been displaced as a result of attacks by marauding militias in the Darfur Region of Sudan and Chad. The traditional agricultural life of the Masalit has been destroyed. Until the killing started, the peoples of this remote, inhospitable desert region were not on the international radar screen. While tensions between ethnic groups have existed for generations, until the 1970s they were resolved through traditional methods of conflict resolution.

In February 2003, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) rebel groups were formed by members of the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit peoples to demand reparation for the marginalization of Darfur. In response, a largely Arab guerilla force called the Janjaweed was created to attack civilian populations from these tribes. Janjaweed attacks make villages uninhabitable with their scorched earth campaigns. The violence has mushroomed into a dire humanitarian crisis. The current conflict has forced the Masalit to flee their ancestral lands. The conflict in Darfur was called a “humanitarian emergency of catastrophic proportions,” by former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Ask God to divinely protect aid workers who are trying to save the lives of the Masalit. Ask God to raise up a triumphant church among the Masalit people in spite of their dire situation. Pray that Christian workers among them will be able to identify with the Masalit and gain their trust as they share Christ with them in word and deed.—JS

Afar People of Ethiopia

Day 30
Ephesians 3:17b-19, ESV

Reynolds



Afar Woman

Why would people use government-built housing for their livestock instead of living in it themselves? If you don't know, ask someone from the unreached Afar people. In a vain effort to get these nomads to settle down, the Ethiopian

government offered them permanent homes. But who wants to live in a permanent home when you can live free and move about as you wish? The simple nomadic life allows one to enjoy today and forget about tomorrow.

It would be counter-productive for any government to try to forcibly settle the 1,759,000 Afar people. According to the Joshua Project web site, "They are a proud people, emphasizing a man's strength and bravery." The Afar people have learned to adapt to one of the earth's hottest and driest climates.

This is a Muslim culture that has developed sensitive views towards outsiders who are assumed to be as intrusive and invasive as the government. How does the gospel penetrate this folk Islamic culture? So far the Holy Spirit has taught workers to go in as listeners, respectful of the needs and values of these people. They have submitted themselves to clan leadership, but they have done so while serving as ambassadors of Christ, living out the gospel through community development and giving the gospel through the telling of stories from the Bible.

Pray that the emerging discipleship movements among the Afar will continue to grow and flourish, resulting in Christ-like character development in every Afar community.—KC

...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

How does one comprehend the love of the Lord if they view Him, as most Muslims do, as a commander, but not as a father? Such knowledge is almost too great for the human mind to comprehend! Yet the Holy Spirit reveals His ways to all who are open to truth.

Pray that the Afar people will be given the strength and faith to know the love of Christ the Savior.

...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

Notice that the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, is the only offensive weapon listed in this passage. The others are about protection, but this one is about advancing against the enemy. Think what will happen when the Bath peoples have access to this offensive weapon!

Pray for the peoples of southwestern Ethiopia to embrace God's Word as the guide to their lives. Pray that they will be encouraged when they find themselves advancing spiritually.

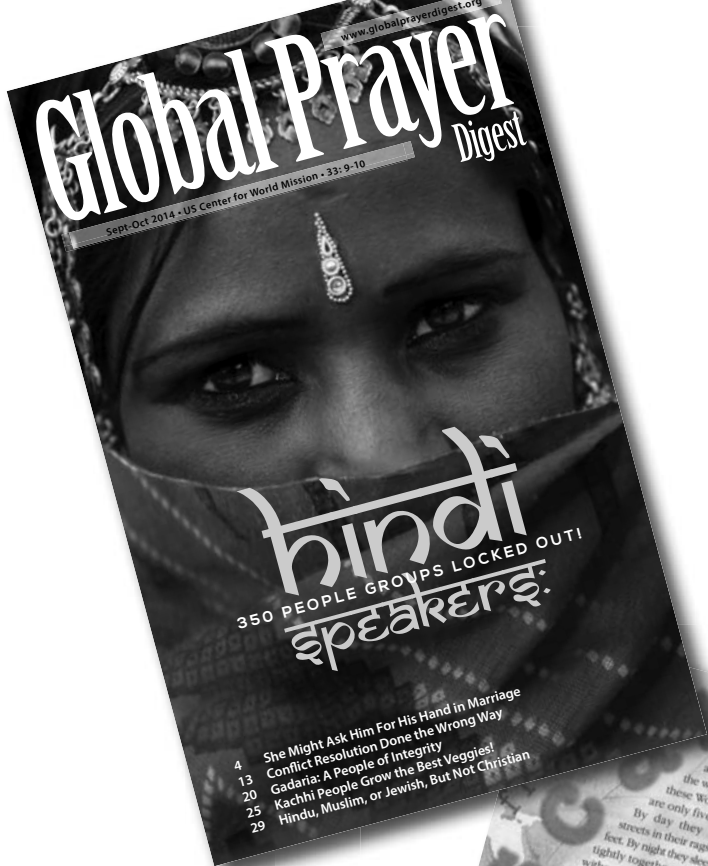
Did you know that *GPD* readers have prayed for the Tsamais, the Banna, and the related Hammar peoples nine times since 1988? We have prayed for spiritual hunger and a desire to find the Father. We have prayed for African evangelists to reach these tribes, and for the few believers among them to reach out to others in their communities.

In partnership with the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church, the Seed Company (theseedcompany.org/) is producing materials that these evangelists can use. These tribes speak languages from the Bath cluster. None of these languages contain written Scriptures. The peoples do not read, but spread information through oral means like stories and skits. The Seed Company is producing a series of 30-40 Bible-based stories that can be used by evangelists. They are also producing training materials that can be used to train story-telling evangelists who are willing to go in His Name. In time these will result in discipleship groups. Since the Banna and the Hammar have basically the same language, the JESUS Film that is now being produced will be useful for both groups.

How will the people respond? Through the last 30 years, both foreign and Ethiopian workers have gone to these tribes with encouraging, but limited results. Now is the time for a great harvest! The nations are waiting!

Pray for God's powerful anointing for the evangelists who go to these tribes. Pray for Him to raise up evangelists, church planters, and disciplers for every district in southwestern Ethiopia.—KC

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Dear Praying Friends,

This issue started out as an attempt to feature the work of God in the midst of the chaos in West Africa. As you have seen from recent issues of the *GPD*, we often pray for problem areas of the world. In fact, next month we will pray for Ukraine

for the first time.

To be honest, we did not find many glowing examples of God rescuing the people in West Africa from diseases like Ebola, or from the various civil wars that continue to rage in places like Nigeria and Central African Republic (CAR). Certainly God is at work, but He allows us to have a free will. What will we do with that free will? Will we disobey God and make our problems worse, or will we surrender to Him and welcome His intervention in our communities?

Thirty-three years ago this month, I was faced with the same dilemma. I was directing my own life as if I had the best answers to my problems. I was in a career I couldn't stand, and I was miserable. It was time to allow the One who created me to give me direction. The unreached people groups can do the same if they will hear the gospel message and yield to God's will as an alternative to self will. Let's pray that the unreached people groups in West Africa will allow Him to direct their paths. Then we will see the actions of God in a powerful way.

In Christ,

Keith Carey

Keith Carey, Managing Editor, *GPD*

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Pray for God to Bring His Order to the Unreached in West Africa



Despite Disease, Civil War, and Suffering, God is at Work in West Africa!

—by Keith Carey



Photo Credit : IMB

As I write this in late September 2014, West Africa is facing three major threats. The first one is the spread of the Ebola virus, which seems to be growing daily. At the time of this writing, it has killed more than 4000 people. The second threat is the Boko Haram movement which has emerged in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country. This Islamic terrorist group wants to force its way of life on the nation which will cause more death, destruction, and poverty. The Central African Republic (CAR) is suffering from a fight between two opposing rebel groups, the Seleka, and the Anti-Balaka. West Africa appears to be a region without the mercy of God. Yet we know that God is at work everywhere, despite whatever effort Satan throws in the way of the people.

The Ebola Virus

Named after a river where the virus was first discovered, Ebola has plagued the peoples of West Africa off and on since 1976. At this

time (2014) the countries most affected are Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. A September 5th 2014 article in the *BBC News* adds that the capital cities of these countries are the major centers of the Ebola outbreak. That puts a larger number of people at risk.

No one knows for sure how Ebola began. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it probably came about through contact between mankind and wild animals. The local people sometimes use primates and fruit bats as a source of meat. It then spreads from human to human through bodily fluids. Those who handle people who die from Ebola and the medical workers who try to treat them are especially vulnerable. Ebola causes internal and external bleeding. As it spreads throughout the body, it damages the immune system and organs. Eventually it causes the levels of blood-clotting cells to drop leading to severe, uncontrollable bleeding.

The only good news about this tragic disease is that today only about half of the victims die, which is lower than in previous epidemics. The blood of those who survive can possibly be used to help save those who suffer from Ebola, and at this time there are two experimental vaccines that might save lives. For the first time there is some promise of finding a cure, according to a September 17th article in *BBC News*.

Boko Haram: Trying to Take Nigeria Back in Time

Between July 2009 and June 2014, Boko Haram terrorists killed more than 5,000 people in Nigeria, according to *Wikipedia*.

Boko Haram was founded as a Sunni Muslim sect influenced by Saudi Arabia's Wahhabis. They advocate a strict form of sharia law, and they hope to establish Nigeria as an Islamic state. According to the November 2013 edition of *National Geographic*, their name, Boko Haram, is a combination of Hausa and Arabic for "Western Education is forbidden." Their original leader, Mohammed Yusuf, decried Nigeria's misrule before Nigeria's government executed him in 2009. His death set off a killing rampage by Boko Haram that began in Nigeria's northeastern states. According to a September 2, 2014 article in *BBC News*, members are affected by the verse in the Qur'an which states, "Anyone who is not governed by what Allah has revealed is among the transgressors." Boko Haram members have used this verse as an excuse to kill Christians and Muslims who don't go along with their agenda. The killing is becoming international. Open

Doors reports that Boko Haram members kidnapped and killed Pastor Jean Marcel Kesvere of the Lutheran Brethren Church in Cameroon. They have attacked Christians many other times, especially those who dared to live in predominantly Muslim northern Nigeria.

In April of last year Boko Haram members kidnapped 276 female students. Fifty of them escaped, and these terrorists have threatened to sell the other women as slaves. Open Doors says that women who have escaped report that there are daily rapes. These teenagers and young women were among Nigeria's best students. Boko Haram has serious issues with women who rise above being docile housewives and mothers.

National Geographic tells us that most Boko Haram members are from the Kanuri people, though their Hausa-inspired name indicates members of that huge Hausa tribe are also part of Boko Haram.

Battle of the Bullies in the CAR

The Central African Republic (CAR) is in a region noted for violence, and this unsavory tradition is alive and well today.

The current problems started when the Seleka rebels participated in a government coup that put Michel Djotodia into power in March of 2013. Djotodia, the first Muslim president of the CAR, ostensibly sent a letter to Saudi Arabian leaders stating that he intended to install sharia law in the CAR. After he seized power, the Muslim fighters "ran wild across the country," according to *Wikipedia*. They plundered, killed and raped mainly Christians in a country that is 80 percent Christian. Djotodia disbanded them, but their reign of terror continued.

Initially to protect themselves, the Christian-animistic peoples of CAR formed anti-balaka militias. Some say that anti-balaka means "anti-machete" "anti-sword" or "anti-bullet." Others, according to a Feb. 12, 2014 article in *IRIN Humanitarian News*, say that the term refers to invincibility, a power they claim because of the charms they wear around their necks.

As you would easily guess, the anti-balaka fighters quickly morphed into a vigilante group intent on revenge. Just as their enemies torment innocent Christians and animists, they torment innocent Muslims. Their goal is to drive Muslims out of the CAR. One of anti-balaka's best assets is the Seleka's tendency to fight amongst themselves. According to an August 26, 2014 article

in *Reuters*, the Seleka fighters are mostly from either the Goula or the Fulani tribes, which fight one another for lucrative roadblocks where they can extort money from unarmed people.

How Can God Be in the Midst of Such Chaos and Tragedy?

In thinking about how God could allow all of this pain and suffering in West Africa, I was having trouble coming up with answers. But Asia Harvest recently published a two-part piece called, “God’s Solution to Terrorism.” I will briefly summarize some of their points in the rest of this article. To read the entire article, go to: asiaharvest.org/august-2014-e-bulletin/

We know that God is moving in West Africa; but He is allowing Satan to cause misery. The devil has his people doing his bidding to kill, steal, and destroy. People following Satan, not God, are to be blamed for the carnage we see today. Asia Harvest points out that the terrorists are confused. They think that what God calls darkness is light, and what God calls light is darkness.

God is at work extending His kingdom in West Africa, and despite the problems, the Church is growing in numbers and lives are being transformed. Transformed lives shine light in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it (see John 1:5). When militant Muslims see transformed lives, it shows them that their solutions transform nothing. In shame-based cultures the people feel unbearable shame when their own religious zeal and dedication lead to greater wickedness rather than spiritual transformation. The shame of realizing their ancestors have believed a lie is also very hard to bear. They can choose to be transformed themselves, or force others to retain centuries of evil traditions. They try to extinguish the light of love and kindness by lashing out at God’s people. Many people chose the selfish, cruel path, and we see the results through terrorism today.

What is the answer for God’s people? Asia Harvest emphasizes that we cannot lose heart or give in to fear. “Be of good courage” or “fear not” is in the Bible 366 times. God is on the throne, and He will have the victory!

Let’s Pray!

- *Pray that believers in West Africa will not give in to fear, but instead shine Christ’s light in a dark world.*
- *Pray for spiritual transformation and depth that will bring God’s kingdom to chaotic situations.*

Day 1

Daniel 1:19, NIV

The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.

Daniel and his friends served the Lord as trainees for civil service positions. They were among the first tentmakers working in positions of useful service among foreign nations, while also serving as representatives of the Most High God. Today, when many countries have closed their doors to career missionaries, God is using other job titles to place His chosen vessels in needy areas. People with skills in the oil industry, for example, can work in Muslim regions of Nigeria. Those with medical skills can live just about anywhere. The possibilities are endless!

Pray that our Heavenly Father will bless 21st century tentmakers who serve Him in nations around the world.

Missionary Biography, Adam McCall

Adam McCall, a non-believing Englishman and architect, spent seven years in Africa surveying African landscape and completing two years of civil service. He worked for the South African government. He returned to England in 1878 with the intention of going back to Africa to photograph the Zambezi Region. God had other ideas! Back in his hometown of Leicester, McCall turned his life over to Christ. With all his heart he prayed, "Show me what You want me to do. Your will be done!" McCall resolved to dedicate the rest of his life to spreading the gospel. Little did he know at that time how short his life would be.

McCall immediately contacted the Livingstone Inland Mission, an organization dedicated to sending missionaries into the vast Congo Valley. McCall spent the next 12 months juggling a crash course of medicine and theology. By 1880, he had gathered a missionary team that included four other men that he had met during his year of study. The men boarded a cargo ship and arrived in Africa at Banana, a town located at the mouth of the Congo River. From there, they footslogged 100 miles to Yellala Falls. Their plan was to build a supply base before departing to bushwhack through a 232-mile zone to Stanley Pool, an area where the Congo River widens and has an island. The missionaries intended to accomplish all this before the start of the rainy season!

Pray for the Lord to direct zealous workers with His wisdom and power.—VA

Missionary Biography, Continued

Day 2

Joshua 10:13a, ESV

By September, McCall and his men were still in Yellala Falls awaiting the goods and lumber required to complete construction of the supply base. Several attempts to travel to Stanley Pool during the rainy season failed due to the inability of their donkeys to navigate jungle terrain or river crossings.

By October McCall suffered a severe flare up of his liver. Then came the rains.

Inundated with rain, flooding rivers, and ill health, McCall and his crew decided to set up camp in Bemba where they busied themselves with construction and language studies. By February, more bad news came; a tornado had destroyed one of their supply stations.

McCall set sail for England where he hoped to regain his ever-worsening health. As his ship left the harbor, McCall, ill but overflowing with hope, looked out over the terrain of Banana, writing in his journal, “May God preserve and protect our beloved mission and all our dear brethren till I come back!”

The mail steamer whisking McCall back to the shores of England was delayed once again. The steamer, intended to be a non-stop mode of transportation, stopped at port after port, making frequent cargo stops all along the route turning the three-week journey into six weeks. Meanwhile, McCall’s frail health continued to decline. News of his worsening condition reached his mother and brother back in England by telegraph.

Pray for the Lord to keep His hand of protection on those who risk all for His sake.—VA

And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.

God is in charge of time. He can make the sun stand still, if He wants to, though we only see this happening once in the Bible. What should we think when we read about a missionary whose health failed while on board an exceptionally long boat ride? Do we blame God for the delays? Do we blame Satan? Or do we think that God allows random events to cause misfortunes? Whatever your theology may be on these issues, God is still sovereign.

Please pray that the events that He is orchestrating in West Africa will extend His glory. Pray for the Lord to give us faith that He will do whatever is best to extend His kingdom throughout the earth.

And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim, king of Judah, into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylon.

The unthinkable has occurred: Israel is overthrown and looted! But in Daniel we also see something exciting happening. Throughout this book, which contains so many exciting stories and strange prophecies, one message is trumpeted loud and clear: God is still on the throne! Five times in succeeding chapters the power of God is displayed in causing the most powerful leader in the world to acknowledge Yahweh's sovereignty in the affairs of men and nations.

Pray that the Lord will teach us to see His sovereign hand behind the affairs of men and nations.

Missionary Biography, Continued

Upon hearing the news that their beloved son and brother's health was failing, Adam McCall's family raced against time to be reunited with him before his passing. They took the Garth Castle, a steamer that would bring them to Madeira where Adam lay sick. Soon they received another telegram stating that Adam, now gravely ill, had only hours left to live. They journeyed onward in hopes to wish their loved one well before leaving for his heavenly home.

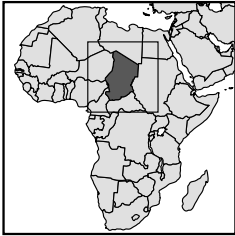
Then a storm broke out mid-journey, churning into a hurricane-like tempest. For 36 hours, the Garth Castle buoyed atop the raging whitecaps, the fires to its engines extinguished. The storm extended the four-day journey into six days. Ultimately, the ship weathered the storm and docked in Madeira on November 25. By the time they arrived several days behind schedule, their loved one had gone to be with his Lord.

The year was 1881, a mere 21 months after his missionary career had begun, thus eerily fulfilling McCall's unintentionally-prophetic prayer, "If it please You to take myself instead of the work that I would do for You, what is that to me? Your will be done."

Pray for all missionaries and dedicated Christians that will do the will of God on the mission field. His kingdom come, His will be done on earth as it is in heaven!—VA

(From, Drumbeats That Changed the World, by Joseph F. Conley)

Maba (aka, Mabangi) People of Chad



“Mama Nya, why do some of our people say we should not look up at a tree?” Youssef, a Maba boy asked his grandmother. She answered, “There is an old proverb of our people that says, ‘if too many people look at the tree it may die or not produce fruit. Let me teach you some of our other proverbs. ‘The monkey who sleeps does not eat the beans.’ Laughing, Youssef asked, “what does that mean?” Nya

replied, “if you sleep all the time, you will miss out on everything. Those who are absent are always wrong. It is far better to be at events when they happen to avoid losing out on an opportunity. Also never forget, ‘Even the little squash has its seeds.’ This means a child like you also has ideas to share. I want you to share your thoughts with me. Be sure to ask your father questions about Allah. This will make you become a worthy Maba man, and Allah will be pleased!”

The dry region of northern Chad is home to about 181,000 Maba. They live primarily by growing millet and herding goats. They are Islamic, and presently there are no known followers of Christ among them.

Pray that God will break down spiritual barriers so that the Maba will come to know the true and living God.—PD

(This story is intended to illustrate the beliefs of this people group.)

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

Many people groups have proverbs which can help communicate wisdom and valuable insight into their culture. Could sharing the proverbs of Solomon be a good way to introduce the Maba people to the God of the Bible? A believer who shares proverbs could open the door to the Word of God to the Maba people and build credibility.

Pray for believers to use creative means to help unreached people understand that the Bible is worth reading. Pray that the Maba will seek more of God's wisdom when they are introduced to it.

Day 5

Habakkuk 1:6, NIV

I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own.

God revealed to Habakkuk that He would soon use the vicious Babylonians as His instrument of punishment for the degenerate nation of Judah. It still seems today that often God is silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves (Habakkuk 1:13). But as we watch the ebb and flow of international affairs through the centuries, we can be confident that God is wisely and fairly working out His purposes until the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).

Praise the Father that His Word will indeed be fulfilled so that all West African people groups may have a chance to experience His love and sovereign grace.

Bilala People of Chad

Bakhit, a Bilala shaman proudly told a visitor, “If you bring me a crazy person, I swear I will cure him. I’ve done it many times. Allah has given me many powers. People seek my help on everything from curing illnesses to knowing who may be guilty of stealing. The people trust me because I’m a faithful Muslim who seeks answers in the Qur’an and the books approved by Allah’s servants.”

Suddenly, as if in a trance, Bakhit began to sing verses in Arabic from the Qur’an. His eyes rolled back, and he began to jerk his head from side to side. After a few minutes he came to and said, “The spirits have given me an answer to what I was seeking. You must go now, I need to pray and prepare to help a sick man who will soon be here.”

The 257,000 Naba speaking Bilala people live in northern Chad. Most likely they have Arab ancestors, but acquired African customs through intermarriage. They identify as Muslims, but many incorporate ancestral practices into their worship. Bilala shamans are known for their spiritual powers. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the JESUS Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings are available.

Pray that God will touch hearts to open the way for these people to know Him soon. Pray that gospel recordings will be distributed widely in their communities.—PD

(This story is intended to illustrate the beliefs of this people group.)

Buduma People of Chad

Day 6

Matthew 8:10, RSV

Large papyrus reed boats paddle alongside 80 or more cattle swimming in shallow water to a nearby island. Extra wide horns gradually curve up to an unusual length, making these cattle unique. The “boat cowboys” will not eat these animals; they depend on this herd for dairy products as well as for trading with other tribes. In the background smaller papyrus reed boats carry fishermen. They provide some of the food supply for the Buduma people.

The Buduma live on a series of islands in Lake Chad, a large body of water which borders Chad, Nigeria, Niger, and Mali. For centuries the Buduma were isolated from other people groups. It is believed that they have retained their traditional religious practices, although one source lists them as 95 percent Muslim.

Today Lake Chad is slowly shrinking. As it dries up, new islands appear. This attracts new groups of people to relocate to the lake. But each new group taxes the resources of the lake even more.

In this fragile context we find good news and bad news: The bad news—the environment cannot hold much more pressure from humans; the good news—the Buduma people have begun to interact with the new people who are moving nearby. This gives believers in the new groups the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with the Buduma.

Pray that the few Buduma believers who now exist will share the love of Jesus with their people. Pray that agencies working with the Buduma will show the Spirit of Christ in their service. Pray that more media tools such as radio will become available in the Buduma language.—GEC

When Jesus heard him, he marveled and said to those who followed Him, “Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.”

Jesus marveled at the Roman centurion’s faith that simply recognized His authority over everything! When the Roman centurion, acting under the authority of Caesar, said to his 100 soldiers “Jump!” they would ask “How high?” So in verses 5–13 of Matthew 8 we see the centurion recognizing in Jesus a far greater authority than Caesar’s: an authority which tells demons to go and corpses to rise. This Roman refused Jesus’ offer to come to his home, asking Jesus merely to give the command to free his servant from his sick condition. Jesus labeled the centurion’s recognition of His authority as faith, and his servant was instantly healed!

Pray that the Buduma people will recognize the authority of Jesus Christ to make order out of chaos.

That evening they brought to Him many who were possessed with demons; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, “He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

See what Jesus is doing here? He is freeing people from their chaotic lives by taking their infirmities and bearing their diseases and making them whole. In their wholeness they can live an abundant life and extend His kingdom to those who are under the chaotic bondage of the enemy of mankind.

Pray that the harvesters God is sending to the Dangaleat will understand how He clears out the chaotic mess created by the enemy when He heals the afflicted. Pray that these workers and the Dangaleat people will recognize God’s power and willingness to give them abundant life.

Dangaleat People in Chad

Four different people groups live near each other in the stone mountains of south central Chad. Collectively they are called the “Hadjeray,” which can be translated “of the stones or mountains.” These tribes came to this forbidding setting to escape invasions from neighboring groups. They remain fiercely independent, resisting outside influences.

One of these groups is the Dangaleat people with a population of about 87,000. Tradition limits their educational options. While they uniformly claim Islam as their religion, they hold a common belief in *margais*, which are invisible spirits that control the natural elements. Another part of their culture involves female circumcision.

At this time foreign corporations have come to the nation of Chad, opening opportunities for local jobs alongside expatriates. Occasionally a few Dangaleat men will seek employment in N’Djamena, the capital city. Imagine now, a young man from the Dangaleat group is working alongside a follower of Christ at one of these corporations. Picture the young man learning about Jesus for the first time from this believer. Now if you can imagine that, surely our God who can do more than we can imagine, has already pictured this.

Pray that foreign followers of Christ will follow the Holy Spirit’s leading to witness to Dangaleat people they meet in Chad. Pray that the Holy Spirit will create a spiritual hunger and thirst in the hearts of Dangaleat people as they encounter outside influences.—GEC

Bagirmi (aka, Barma) People of Chad

Create International



Can you imagine a community where families are small because of the high rate of divorce and sterility is widespread because of venereal disease? Husbands are typically much older than their wives so that additional family problems emerge. This is the situation for the

100,000 Bagirmi (aka, Barma) people of Chad.

Although many of their family lives seem to have problems, their work lives seem to go along well. Teamwork is their specialty; they commonly organize village-wide “work parties” where everyone works together for the benefit of the whole village. Each village will consist of between 50 and 1,000 people. They rely on fishing and farming for their livelihood. Men work the large fields of millet and sorghum, while the women tend the vegetable plots.

The Bagirmi are Muslims and are deeply involved in their cultural traditions. They are highly resistant to the gospel, and Chad is not hospitable to missionaries. Each village has a mosque, and many have schools where boys study the Qur’an. They have no Bible in their language, no JESUS Film, and no Christian broadcasting in their country. However, they do have some gospel recordings. Only a handful of Christ-followers exist among the Barma.

Pray that the few believers among them will live godly lives and draw many to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that God will send Christian broadcasting in their language and increase the distribution of gospel recordings. Ask the Lord to send His Holy Spirit to convict the Bagirmi of their need for a Savior.—JWS

And He said to them, “Why are you afraid, O men of little faith?” Then He rose and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.” And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and sea obey Him?”

Just as happens in West Africa and elsewhere in today’s world, natural disasters can easily lead to death and destruction. Jesus showed His power over the wind and the waves by calming them and allowing His disciples to travel in safety.

Pray that the Bagirmi people will understand and believe in the goodness of the Lord. Pray that they will repent of their sins when they hear of His gospel. Pray that their unsettled souls will be stilled by the Savior.

Day 9

Genesis 1:6, ESV

And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

When God first created the Earth, He gave us clean, abundant water. There was order in creation. It was not until the fall of man that our greed destroyed what He created to be good. The land dried up, and the search for necessary water has been a life and death struggle for many people groups for centuries.

Pray that the Tuareg peoples will understand that with God there is order and abundance.

Air Tuareg People of Niger

The Tuareg man and his camel were happy to be at a place they called a "home well area." They anticipated getting their fill of water and pasture. The man's brow furrowed as he thought about the daunting nine-month dry season ahead in the Sahara Desert. The uranium mining was depleting the underground water sources. In 20 years the groundwater sources probably will be exhausted and the nomadic Tuaregs will no longer be able to survive in the desert. The mines pollute the waters as well, causing illness, cancer, stillbirths, and genetic defects.

Today we will focus our prayers on the 335,000 Air Tuaregs found only in Niger. Although they call themselves Kel Tamasheq, others call them Tuaregs, an Arabic word meaning "the abandoned of God." While God has not abandoned them, their government has forgotten their needs; these disenfranchised nomads are using their knowledge of desert hideouts to fight Niger's government. In recent years militant Muslims has armed and influenced them.

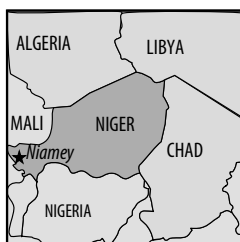
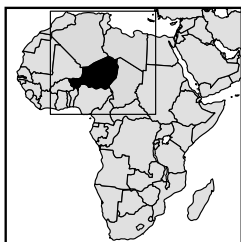
A strategic attack of prayer is needed to increase the small number of Tuaregs who follow Jesus.

Pray that the Air Tuaregs will find healthy water, and especially the Living Water of Jesus. Ask God to change the hearts of the uranium miners to value the Air Tuaregs more than money.—LR

Asben Tuareg People of Niger

Day 10

Deuteronomy 21:13b, NIV



“**W**ith all due respect,” stated the elderly Asben Tuareg woman, “If we break camp this close to the dry season, we will be taking a big chance. We know there are water holes a couple of miles from our next camp, but so many of the women are late in pregnancy that they cannot fetch it. Are any of you men willing to fetch the water for a couple of months?” Everyone chuckled and the men looked sheepishly at one another. There was a long

pause. Finally the oldest man said, “She is right. Our donkeys and camels are already slowing down from fatigue. Let’s stay where we are.” The other women beamed, happy that they were in the Asben Tuareg tribe where women are honored and heard.

The Asben Tuaregs of Niger number about 234,000. They are vulnerable to joining Islamic militant groups that are terrorizing this region. There are only a handful of followers of Christ among the Asben Tuaregs. Bible translations and gospel recordings are available, but the Asben Tuaregs are difficult to reach geographically and religiously. Their identity is deeply rooted in Islamic traditions.

Pray that a radio ministry will be developed to reach the areas where Asben Tuareg nomads dwell. Pray that God will raise up tenacious believers to live among them and show them the way to Christ through His word. Pray that they will resist joining Islamic militant groups.—LR

After she has lived in your house and mourned her father and mother for a full month, then you may go to her and be her husband and she shall be your wife.

We often remember the all-out assaults on the Caananite peoples, but forget the mercy that God demanded of His children. In this situation, after the Israelites had conquered a nation, they were expected to show mercy, not brutality, to the women they captured. I would not even want to describe what people normally did to the women and children they captured during that time period. But God demanded a much higher standard from His children.

Pray that even in times of war God’s children will demonstrate mercy in such a way that the nations will be drawn to the Lord.

And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

Famines, wars, natural disasters. Different people have different ideas about God's role when tragedy strikes. Some say that Satan is behind tragedies. Other believers point out that God will turn it all into good (see Romans 8:28). But all of us know and understand that God is in control. In fact, in the situation we are reading about in Genesis 45:7, God had used the tragedies of Joseph's life to save lives.

Pray that when the peoples of West Africa deal with disasters, they will turn their hearts to the true and living God who gives comfort to those who seek Him.

Mamara Senoufo People of Mali

Other than being adjacent to each other in western Africa, what do Mali, Burkina Faso, and Cote d'Ivoire have in common? All of them are home to Senoufo tribes! The Senoufos are made up of a number of groups who moved south to Mali and Cote d'Ivoire in the 15th and 16th centuries. The Mamara are one of the Senoufo tribes. They number over a million people. Although European imperialists in the 19th century divided the Senoufo peoples between Mali, Burkina Faso, and Cote d'Ivoire, these divisions have not yet given rise to Senoufo nationalism in the region.

The Senoufos are an agrarian people raising corn and millet that they store in large village granaries. Other foods are dried rice and peanuts. Being a champion farmer can give fame to oneself and one's community, even though the fields are worked collectively.

Within the community there is the extended family. It is patriarchal; sons and wives live with the father's family. Polygamy and arranged marriages are common. Decisions are communal because the community good comes before a family's good or an individual's good. This is particularly important in terms of religious change. Only the community as a whole can make that change.

The Mamara Senoufo practice folk Islam or follow traditional animistic religion. The JESUS Film is available in Senoufo, and some follow Jesus.

Pray that whole Mamara Senoufo villages will come to faith in Jesus. Pray for outreach to Mamara villages that have no witness of Christ.—TP

Red Bobo People of Mali

Day 12

James 1:5-6, NIV

A people divided? That could be said about the Red Bobo people of Mali. They can be Christian, Muslim, or animistic. The animists among them worship Wura, a chief god, whom they believe created the world. Beneath him are Dwo, the god of new life and rebirth and Soxo the god of wildness and lightning. They believe that Dwo is a go-between man and nature.

In the late 19th century some of the Red Bobo felt abandoned by their god, so they began to adopt the religion of a neighboring group. Then they were divided up by country and by name; Some people live in Burkina Faso as well as Mali and call themselves Bwa or Bwaba. Is that chaotic enough for you?

All the groups work as farmers in communities that lack central authority over their towns. Each community has a council of elders. They farm products such as cotton, rice, millet, and yams. They share cultural traits with a number of their neighbors. We know that God loves each one of them, and wants them to turn to Him.

Pray that the Red Bobo people will become disillusioned with animism and Islam and turn to Jesus for rebirth and spiritual transformation. Pray for workers to show that Jesus is God's mediator between God and man, and that He is essential for salvation. Pray that the oldest village males may hear the gospel and believe it.—TP

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

Today we are praying for a people who blend different religious traditions, and even have several different names. Some have adopted the gods of a neighboring tribe. They are a people divided!

Pray that the Red Bobo people will find unity and purpose in following the king of Kings.

... two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. ... Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance ... And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters.

The demons had to obey Him; He alone is sovereign! A whole community had to circumvent the tombs, and two men were at the "mercy" of demons. Then and now God knows how to make order out of a chaotic situation.

Pray that the Duungooma Samogho people will hear about the true and living God who can rescue them from chaos and tragedy. Pray that they will turn their lives over to Him.

Duungooma Samogho People of Mali

Remember the phrase "stuck between a rock and a hard place"? That describes today's people group. They live in a hot dry climate and suffer from sleeping sickness and river blindness. The latter illness is because the river that runs through their territory is full of parasites. Therefore, they cannot escape the heat by bathing in the river for fear of sickness.

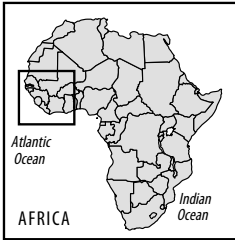
The Duungooma Samogho people speak three different languages and number some 122,000 people. They farm grains, peanuts, cotton, ginger, mangos, and vegetables. They also raise chickens and livestock. The household is the basic economic unit. However, everyone's agricultural products are stored village-wide in some 100 granaries per village. The headman is in charge of the entire village. Samogho society is patrilineal; both the eldest son and the father's younger brother inherit the property. Society is also patrilocal, meaning that one lives with one's father's people. It is also polygamous.

Most of the Duungooma Samogho follow traditional African folk religion. Both Islam and Christianity are minority faiths. They worship a creator god via spirit mediators in idols kept in household shrines. Ancestor worship is also important.

Although they apparently have no Bible in any of their languages, they are not without a witness to Jesus. In addition to Lori Price, a woman who is an independent missionary and supported by her own board, the Mennonite Mission Network and the International Mission Board also have missionaries among them.

Pray that this people group will respond to the ministries of these missionaries. Pray for discernment on the part of missionaries and local believers as they give out the gospel. Pray for dreams and visions of Jesus. As there is a drought, pray that they will get adequate rain.—TP

Jola-Fonyi People of Guinea-Bissau and Senegal



(This story is intended to illustrate things about the culture and beliefs of the people group.)

“Now you are Jola?” The crowd laughed, and gave their Chinese visitor a valuable lion-skin coat to go along with the square Muslim hat they had already put on his head. He gave them an awkward smile, and bowed slightly to show his gratitude. Soon they all sat down to a huge meal of squash, greens, rice, manioc, and goat stew.



During the meal the Chinese visitor asked, “Why are you treating me so well?” His host quipped, “Don’t take it personally. We like to treat our guests like they are kings. When you return to China, be sure to send some of your friends to come to our village. We will do the same for them.”

The Jola-Fonyi people are noted for being relaxed, charming, and friendly with strangers. But life is not easy for these people, especially those that live in the Senegal’s Casamance Region where guerilla warfare exists. The inhabitants fear violent men, and according to their religion, they also must appease spirit beings. While fetishism dominates their spiritual lives, they still try to appease Allah by claiming to be Muslims. What confusion! With such chaos and false doctrine in their lives, these people desperately need to hear the gospel.

Pray that God will also send believers with medical skills to go to the Jola-Fonyi people as they have no readily accessible medical care. —KC

Be careful to obey all the law...that you may be successful wherever you go.

The Lord’s instructions to Joshua were very clear: do it My way, just like I told Moses. God’s ways bring order and good fruit. Our ways might not. Not only are God’s presence and power essential for success in His work, but we must also act according to God’s revealed will. It is easy to fall into the trap of substituting human wisdom and understanding for obedience to God’s Word.

Pray that the Lord will protect the Jola-Fonyi people from trying to work problems out in their own way and depending on their own wisdom and experience. Pray for His ways to be made clear to them.

Day 15

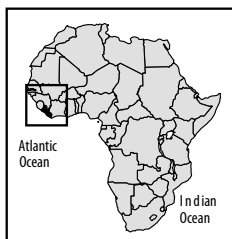
Ruth 1:3-4a, NIV

Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth.

Out of one of the most discouraging scenes in history, God was planning a glorious finale. Ruth, a foreigner who grew up worshipping idols, was to become an ancestor of our Lord. We may look at unreached peoples today and wonder how God can ever bring repentance and redemption to them. Yet He sees what they will be like when they come to Him.

Ask God to give you enough love for unreached peoples that you will remember to pray for their salvation every day.

Mano People of Guinea and Liberia



An Internet cafe; what a great place to get acquainted with the rest of the world! Bulano and Woolah just arrived in Conakry, Guinea, West Africa, and their web searching already led them to a website with something in their language. It was a story of 10 young women who were supposed to be bridesmaids. But they had to wait for the bridegroom to come for the marriage to begin. By the time the groom arrived, five of

the bridesmaids had run out of oil for their lamps, so they had wandered away to buy more oil. When they returned it was too late; the door was shut and they had missed the marriage ceremony.

"What does this mean?" Bulano asked his friend. Woolah replied, "It has to do with being ready. The story-teller said at the end that most of us are not ready for the Day of Judgment. If we aren't ready each day, we might be too late, just like those young ladies."

The 323,000 Mano people of Guinea and Liberia live primarily in rural areas, but increasingly, rural people have access to the Internet. Global Recordings Network posts short messages on the Internet in the Mano language so they have a chance to hear about the Lord. They also have a New Testament in both the print and audio forms of their language.

Pray that these resources will become widely available to the folk Islamic Mano people. Pray that many evangelists and missionaries will reach out to the Mano villages in Guinea.—KC

Gola People of Sierra Leone and Liberia

Day 16

Matthew 13:4, NIV

Hoisting the reed basket high above her head, the Gola woman deftly shook it. The wind blew away the chaff as the heavy grain cascaded onto the little mound of wheat at her feet. Her husband was planting the next season's crops, and her daughters were shooing away the birds that were swooping down to try to eat the newly planted seeds. Her son who used to work on the farm was now living in the city seeking out a more comfortable life as a clerk or a banker.

Farming is the primary occupation for a large number of the Gola people. At the time of the harvest the first crops are offered to the gods; during a cycle of drought, sacrifices are made to the rain god. Over one-fifth of the Gola people follow traditional religion. The religious belief of the remaining Gola is Sunni Islam.

According to the Joshua Project, "The Gola need evangelistic materials translated into their language to effectively reach them with the message of salvation. Bible teachings via Christian radio and television broadcasts, additional long-term missionaries, and evangelistic materials are needed. Also there are a small number of Gola believers, and they need discipleship training.

*Pray for the production and distribution of these tools.
Pray that God would meet the spiritual needs of the Gola people through intercessors and other dedicated Christian workers.—EJD*

As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

Just about any farming people group in the developing world is familiar with what they need to do to raise their crops. An abundance of seed can conceivably result in fat birds and no crops if they don't take care to drive the birds away. Likewise, we must nurture the Word that God plants in us or it will be removed by Satan (see vs. 19). The message is clear, but will hearts be willing to accept it? This is where prayer comes in!

Pray that when unreached peoples like the Gola hear the Word, they will treat this "seed" as a treasure and not allow it to be snatched away.

But the Prince of the Persian Kingdom resisted me 21 days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

Though God is sovereign, we can't forget that we have an enemy who is always trying to interfere with His work among the nations. In this instance God's angel was delayed by an unclean spiritual power. In other cases, Satan's legions are busy convincing people that they don't need God, that their traditional ways are enough. Many times this kind of "advice" results in decisions which lead to high infant mortality, sexually-transmitted diseases, and poverty.

Pray that the Loko people will listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and reject the voices that keep them away from their loving Heavenly Father.

Loko People of Sierra Leone



Create International

Isac, the young Loko man paced the open ground in front of his home—a circular hut with wooden walls and a conical roof made of thatch. Indoors his wife tried to cradle to sleep their newborn who wiggled fitfully. Isac hunched his wiry figure

to enter the house. He walked toward his wife who held the baby and felt her burning forehead. The fever showed no signs of letting up. They had tried every remedy prescribed by the witch doctors, but nothing worked. The hospital was far away and the nurse would not be visiting for at least another four days.

The infant mortality rate among the Loko people is among the highest in Africa with 145 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. There are not enough medical personnel and facilities to meet the health needs of the people.

A large number of the Loko people hold traditional beliefs and practice ethnic religions. Among the remaining people, many are Muslims. There is a small community of Loko people who follow Jesus.

According to the Joshua Project, "Considerable effort is being made to reach the Loko, and leadership development and discipleship materials for new believers are essential in order to continue the growth of the Church among this people group."

Pray that the Lord would send missionaries to bring the gospel and medical care to the Loko people. Pray also that the Loko believers would boldly and lovingly share the gospel with their families and friends.—EJD

Wolof People of Senegal



Cortimila

Wolof Elder

“We are very concerned about you, son.” The old man said, slowly shaking his head. “Why is that, father?” The son knew the answer, but he wanted to be respectful. “To be Wolof is to be a family,” explained the father. “I have a family, father. You are my family.” The old man

was shaking his head again. “When will you take a second wife? We are not poor. By having only one wife, you make us look bad.” “Times are changing, father,” explained the son. The old man replied with clenched teeth, “Tradition never changes. You shame us until you have more wives and more children.”

The Wolof people of Senegal consider extended family to be a source of pride. Having multiple wives and many children is equated with wealth and high standing in their society.

Islam is also central to Wolof culture. Most Wolof belong to a Marabout Brotherhood—a group that follows holy men who are believed to possess supernatural powers. Marabouts teach, bless, and act as an intermediary between the living and the dead. Loyalty to the Islamic brotherhoods is a great obstacle to evangelism.

Pray for the Lord to continue sending believers to the Wolof. Ask Him to give them wisdom and effective strategies for sharing the good news. Pray for many Wolof people to put their faith in Christ rather than the teachings and blessings of the marabouts.—CL

“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

Gideon thought that since he was from a small, weak clan that God could not use him. It’s true that being from a clan with low status could hinder his work. But throughout church history God has used people of low status to win the lost to His kingdom. For example, William Carey, the father of the modern Protestant mission movement, was a shoe repairman from a poor family.

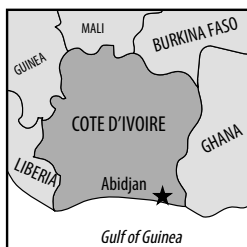
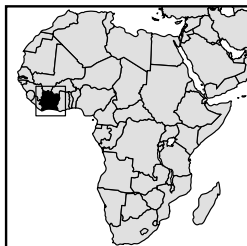
Pray that we as prayer warriors can see ourselves and the world through God’s eyes. Pray that we will clearly understand what God wants to do through us. Pray that He will raise up many believers to go to the small, isolated people groups, as well as to the prominent ones like the Wolofs who dominate Senegal.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light: and there was light."

As I'm looking at our glassy-smooth lake, I see the wind blowing patterns on it, like God's beautiful finger-painting. He takes voids and creates light. He takes chaos and creates a whole world. Then He takes fallen people like us and recreates us to look like Him.

Pray that He will use the chaos in the world in West Africa coming from disease and war to give the peoples a hunger and thirst for God's righteousness. Pray that the Dyimini Senoufo people will see in those believers He is sending to them, the image of the One Who will make them into His likeness.

Dyimini Senoufo People of Cote D'Ivoire



(This story is intended to illustrate the attitudes of the people group.)

Moussa was very excited, but also very nervous as he walked toward his home in a Dyimini Senoufo village. He was trying to think of what he would tell his parents. He had been secretly going to listen to a foreigner talk about someone named Jesus. This Jesus, he had realized from the start, was very

different from anything or anyone he had ever heard of. Islam taught strict rules that had to be followed. The religion of his grandparents taught of spirits and witchcraft. But this Jesus was different. And what this Jesus had done was unthinkable: He had given up His life so that others could know God. And He had risen from the dead!

Moussa had listened to this story for several weeks until finally he could stand it no longer. He knew that Jesus was (as the man had said) the way, the truth and the life. So he decided to follow Jesus all the rest of his life. But now he had to figure out how to tell his parents.

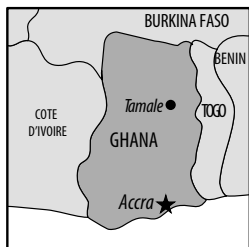
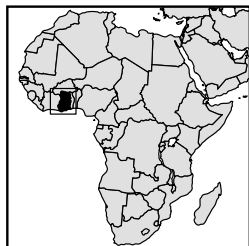
To the Senoufo peoples everything revolves around community. There are no individuals, only groups; the family, the village, the tribe. Making decisions that oppose the views of the larger community is a dangerous practice that puts the individual at risk of being shunned or excommunicated.

Pray for entire Dyimini Senoufo communities to decide together to follow Jesus.—CL

Gonja People of Ghana

Day 20

Exodus 8:22, ESV



A Gonja family worked the field using wooden hoes and other simple tools. A boy set aside his hoe and wiped his brow. “I wish I could go to school,” he commented. His father stopped hoeing for a moment and glanced at him. “We don’t have any money. That’s why you can’t go to school.” The boy picked up his hoe and resumed working. He thought that perhaps praying to a god might get him into

school. But to which god should he pray? Perhaps he should pray to one of the nature spirits his people worshipped? Or maybe Allah, the god of the Muslims, would hear him? These were the only gods he had ever heard of.

The above hypothetical story illustrates the plight of the Gonja people. They live by farming and grow just barely enough food to feed themselves. Children work the fields beside their parents. Most Gonja have never gone to school. They can’t read or write in any language. The Gonja worship Allah and a variety of nature spirits. Only a few members of this people group have become followers of Christ.

Ask God to lead a mission agency to reach out to the Gonja. Pray that God would break the hold that poverty and illiteracy has on this people group. There is an open door for Christian teachers to share the message of salvation with them. May the Gonja come to see that Christ is better than Allah or the nature spirits they currently worship.—WK

But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.

The Gonja people are in a state of spiritual confusion over which god is in control and which one is worthy of their devotion and prayers. There are the traditional gods, and there is Allah, the god of the Muslims. There is also the Christian God who is kind and loves them.

Pray that before this decade is over the Gonja people will know what the Israelis and the Egyptians found out thousands of years ago, that Jehovah is truly the provider for all.

There was hail, and there was fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail; it was very heavy hail such as had never been seen in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

Those who read the book of Exodus know that God was in control, not only regarding who would be hit by the hail, but He was also in control of who would not have their fields destroyed by hailstones. No other god can make the claim of the God of Israel!

Pray that the Mamprusi people will understand that the God of the Bible is sovereign, and that He alone is worthy of their worship.

Mamprusi People of Ghana

(This story is intended to illustrate the attitudes and beliefs of the people group.)

People gathered in the central clearing surrounded by huts to hear a Mamprusi elder tell a story they all knew well. “In the dark days Prince Gbewah led our ancestors out of a land of turmoil and chaos to the land we now live in. He knew our people would be safe in northern Ghana.” One man said, “Let’s thank Allah for our good fortune.” “No, let’s thank Naa-wuni,” said another man. “Alarmed, the elder waved his hands to signal for silence. “Let’s not argue. Thank whatever god you believe in.”

Hundreds of years ago the Mamprusi fled a dying empire and settled in northern Ghana. The leader of that exodus, Prince Gbewah, was probably a real person. The Mamprusi still pray at his tomb. During the 1700s this people group organized an army to protect their trade in slaves and goods. Over the years Muslim missionaries brought Islam to the Mamprusi. But most Mamprusi still worship a pantheon of nature spirits who are led by a high god called Naa-wuni. Only 14 percent of the Mamprusi are Muslims. Polygamy is common among Muslim converts. In recent years Christian missionaries have convinced a few Mamprusi people to follow Jesus.

Ask God to lead many faithful workers to reach out to the Mamprusi. Pray that the Bible will soon be completely translated into their language. So far only the books of Genesis and Luke have been translated.—WK

Wala People of Ghana

Day 22

Exodus 15:19, ESV

(This story is intended to illustrate the attitudes and beliefs of the people group.)

Every Friday afternoon the Wala elders leave their fields to pray at the hut that serves as a mosque. They bow toward Mecca and chant their prayers to Allah. Recently after the prayer service one of the elders asked the man walking next to him, “Why aren’t our prayers being answered? Are we doing something wrong?” “I don’t know,” answered the other elder. The men returned to the fields, looking more tired than before.

Hundreds of years ago the Wala people left Mali to settle in northern Ghana. They were already Muslims by then. In Mali this people group developed a reputation as teachers of the Qur’an and as devout prayer warriors. That tradition continues to this day. The Wala are one of the most resistant people groups to the gospel in West Africa. Many Christian missionaries have been chased out of Wala villages over the year. The Wala people look like peaceful farmers, but they are also skilled archers who shoot poisoned arrows.

Ask God to break the hold that Islam has on the Wala of Ghana. Power encounters will probably be needed. Pray that this people group will come to see Jesus Christ as the Son of God and not just a prophet. Ask God to protect the missionaries that reach out to this people group. Pray that the Lord will also protect the small number of Wala who have become followers of Jesus Christ.—WK

For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea.

God can do this to any nation at any time. The One who created 300 sextillion stars can easily change situations normally governed by the laws of nature. However, He has chosen to gain our allegiance through his grace, mercy, and love rather than by force.

Pray that the Wala people will be swayed by the Holy Spirit to follow the One who loves them, and He wants them to escape judgment on the final day.

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if He does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Whatever Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego wanted for themselves had to be greatly compromised when their nation, Israel, was conquered by the Babylonians. But when the Babylonian king gave orders that everyone would be required to worship a certain idol, they told him that they would disobey this direct order. Their willingness to obey God rather than man led to a situation where God delivered them, and the king was in awe of Daniel's God, the One who rules all of us.

Pray that when the Anufo people come to know the Lord, they will make Him central for all their hopes and dreams.

Anufo People of Ghana, Togo, and Benin

It is sad not to get what you hoped for. But wishes that come true are like eating fruit from the tree of life (Proverbs 13:12, New Century Version).

Many who live in West Africa have visions and dreams of what their life could become. So often these dreams never come to fruition. Disease, war, famine, and illiteracy never seem to leave these regions.

The Anufo people derive their name from one of the regions they have dwelt in for centuries, an area in present day Cote d'Ivoire. Along with the Ndenyi people, they were brought together into a new people group with a mixed language and culture.

Life for the Anufo is a daily battle against poor soil. They bring their produce to local markets six days a week in an attempt to buy and sell each other's goods.

The church has seen some growth recently among the Anufo people; but still more than 75 per cent of this group are devoted to ethnic religions. Islam also has a strong grip on many of them. The good news is that in 2007 the Anufo New Testament was made available in their language for the first time.

Pray that Anufo hearts and minds will open up to the gospel. Pray that with the Anufo New Testament being available in their language, workers will have success in reaching them for the Lord. Pray that Anufo hopes and dreams will be fulfilled through knowing Jesus.—JR

Maguzawa Hausa People of Nigeria

Day 24

Daniel 6:10, NIV

Understanding a people group requires understanding their past. The Maguzawa people of Nigeria share a long history with another people group, the Hausa; the Maguzawa are actually a subgroup of this large tribe. They essentially differ from the Hausa only in their religious views and practices and in their social organization. The name “Maguzawa” means “those who run away from Islam,” and they have generally continued to do this even after many years of fighting jihad warriors who are trying to force Islam on them. The terrorist group, Boko Haram, is based in Nigeria, and they are but the latest attempt of elements of the Hausa trying to subjugate the Maguzawa.

Prior to having Islam forced on them, the Hausa were known to worship multiple gods. These gods have come to be known in the West as “genies,” due to the blending of long-held Maguzawa beliefs and the Islamic influences.

Those among the Maguzawa who have professed faith in Jesus face strong, continual pressure and outright persecution to return to their multiple gods or to become Muslim. Reports have stated that those who follow Christ must hold meetings under trees in the open because they are not allowed to use buildings.

Pray that the Lord would build His church more strongly among the Maguzawa. Pray that the Maguzawa believers in Jesus will experience and exhibit His love, peace, and strength no matter what circumstances come their way.—JR

Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed... just as he had done before.

We don't know why the Maguzawa people are so resistant to converting to Islam. Most likely they want to maintain their own culture and religion rather than adopt something imposed on them by outsiders. Probably they would view following Christ in the same way: something for other people, not themselves. They are not alone in thinking this way. A key objection to the gospel is not Jesus Himself; it's the fact that they hear about Him from people outside their community.

Pray that when the Maguzawa people hear about Jesus, their spirits will be enlightened to follow Him. Pray that they will understand His worth in such a way that they will forsake all other religions.

As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. . . . The court was seated, and the books were opened.

As we consider the Great Commission task before us, we absolutely must keep the end in mind. Despite persecution and suffering, there will come a day when Christ will stand as judge over those who chose to trust and obey Him and those who chose to disregard and disobey Him. Those who chose His ways will not be judged, but be carried away to His home with many rooms (see John 14:2). We are inviting those who are heading towards judgment and destruction to join us in being saved from His judgment!

*Pray that we as Christ's followers will remember that He is worthy of it all!
Pray that we will keep the end in sight and delight in it.*

Guduf (aka, Gudupe) People of Nigeria

The day begins as they typically do with sweltering heat. Morning prayers are underway with Allah and other various gods being addressed including “mother earth.” A dominant belief among the Guduf people is that the earth birthed all “supernatural” beings including thunder, lightning, crocodiles, and various inanimate objects.

The crops of millet and cotton are tended by the men while the women go to work forming clay pots, tending small gardens, and caring for the children. Children are expected to take care of small animals as well as aid their parents and older siblings in household duties.

The Guduf people are a segment of the larger Kirdi cluster of people groups that are scattered across northern Cameroon, southeastern Nigeria, and southwestern Chad. Guduf homes are found along the Nigeria-Chad border. They are made of mud brick with thatched roofs. Their lives have seen very little modernization or change.

Each specific community has its own “therapist-diviner” or medicine man, who supplies various medicines. Along with performing minor surgical operations, he also intercedes with the spirits on the community’s behalf. Fear is a strong motivating factor in the lives of the Guduf. Very few of the Guduf have professed faith in Jesus.

Pray that barriers to sharing the gospel will begin coming down. Pray that the Guduf will begin seeking for something better than their traditional gods and customs. Pray that the church will go to the Guduf people and tell them about the hope they can have through the loving Savior.—JR

Global Recordings Network (GRN) work in Nigeria

“Is someone meeting you here? It’s not safe! I’m afraid for you!” These frightening words were uttered by a Nigerian woman who was meeting a Global Recordings Network (GRN) worker in the Lagos Airport in Nigeria. She had good reason to warn him about danger. In just a matter of days a bomb exploded in a bus park in Abuja killing many. In the north of Nigeria Boko Haram kidnapped 200 schoolgirls. Nigeria is experiencing increasing violence from Muslim extremist groups.

But in the midst of the evil, God is at work and is blessing the efforts of GRN! The Nigerian GRN staff is a group of very dedicated young men. Almost all of them must have additional jobs or businesses that help provide for their needs. In addition, three of the team are doing Bible college study on the weekends.

The team regularly distributes tapes and cassettes to individuals and villages. They show films and witness to people. They sometimes take a medical team to a village and provide free care. In many so called “Christian” villages the Christianity has been so infected by the influence of traditional African religion that it is hardly recognizable, so the witness, teaching, and distribution of the gospel tapes by GRN is essential.

Pray for peace and growth for the Nigerian church. Pray for God to protect the GRN team and its ministry of recording in various Nigerian languages and distribution of the tapes.—JS

So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Scholars have estimated that Daniel was about 90 years old—toward the end of his lifetime of civil service to successful regimes—when he experienced God’s miraculous protection in the lion’s den. God honored Daniel’s faith and obedience and used him to bless Babylonians, Chaldeans, Medes, and Persians. We may confidently expect to enjoy fellowship together around the throne of God with members of each of these ancient peoples! Daniel was faithful to his mission. Will Daniel be able to enjoy fellowship at that same gathering with representatives of other people groups because we too have been faithful to the task to which the Lord calls us?

Pray that God will give us the perseverance to serve well like Daniel.

Surely the nations are like a drop in the bucket. . . . Before Him all the nations are as nothing; they are regarded by Him as worthless and less than nothing.

How immense is this earth! Yet Isaiah asserts that when we stand before the One who created the Universe, the earth dwindles to comparative insignificance. What perspective this fact gives to God's people! We are so easily overawed by the scope of the Great Commission that our resolve weakens and our courage fails. But God is greater than His commission, greater than His earth, greater than any obstacles the Church will face. And though His power regards the nations as worthless and less than nothing, His love regards them as infinitely precious and worthy of the death of His Son.

Pray that our Almighty God will lead members of the MANI network to fix their eyes on Him so that they will act in faith when they see chaos in this sin-infested planet.

Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI)

If you look at a map of Africa in relation to the other continents, you will notice what a huge body of land Africa is. Its geography is very diverse: mainly Saharan desert in the north; tropical rain forests in the center; and vast savannahs and plains in the south. So too, the people within a country often differ from region to region. For example, Nigeria's north is populated mainly by Muslims, while the south is mainly Christian; but there are even tribal differences in Muslim and Christian communities. How do we share Christ with such a variety of peoples and cultures?

The Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI) seeks to reach all of Africa with the gospel message. Their goal is to get all African missionaries to work together and focus on promoting African national efforts. They want to mobilize the resources of the body of Christ in Africa for the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Thus, MANI is acting as an umbrella organization that combines Christian resources to reach the unreached.

A meeting in Jerusalem in 2001 gave birth to the "Jerusalem Declaration" that the African Church "is of age and ready to accept the challenge of completing the task in Africa, and that Africa should become an active partner in global evangelization."

Pray for a spirit of cooperation and unity of vision led by the Holy Spirit to pervade all of the strategies developed by MANI members as they seek to take the gospel message to every corner of Africa.—JS

Perspectives Class for French Speakers

Day 28

Zephaniah 3:9, NIV

Create International



Few people realize that a great portion of Africa is French speaking. Most of the countries of northwestern, western, and central Africa were once ruled by France and still use French as a trade language for those with a higher education.

Ninety percent of all French speaking Evangelicals live in Africa, and half of Africa's nearly 1,000 least-reached people groups are found in these French-speaking countries.

The mission potential for the African French-speaking world is great. Key leaders from Africa and other continents are currently asking for the translation of proven missionary mobilization resources into French so that they can train and teach dedicated Christians to spread the gospel in their areas. "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement," a course founded by the U.S. Center for World Mission to encourage strong dedicated believers to get involved with the Great Commission, is poised to meet that need. A professional team is currently being assembled to start a mammoth 450,000 word 580 page translation of the international version of the Perspectives Course into French (<http://www.perspectivesglobal.org/>).

Pray for the Lord to raise up the right people to coordinate this project and bring it to full term. Pray for accurate translation work. Pray that this material will be readily accepted and used by French-speaking African believers. Pray that this new resource for French-speaking countries will contribute to the discipling of believers in these nations.—JS

Then will I purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the Name of the Lord and serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

A little over 100 years ago most of the African continent was inhabited by what we now call unreached people groups. Today, we are witnessing African believers going throughout their formerly "dark" continent to take the Light to the world! One of the tools which they will soon have is the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course which is now being translated into French. This course will give the brethren in West Africa a greater knowledge of their part in the Great Commission.

Pray that God will send dedicated Christ filled teachers to present the Perspectives course in a bold, clear way to the students who will carry the good news to French-speaking Africa.

A Deep Mystery of Faith - West Africa

*God bless all the Christians in oppressed lands,
holy saints beautiful beyond description,
passionate disciples worthy of the Month of Love,
who, in the heart and midst of poverty
infinitely more searing
than the worst destitution
seen in our own
materialistic continent,
periodic famines
of biblical proportions,
plagues like Ebola,
savage atrocities
like those of the hate-possessed fanatics
called Boko Haram,
and general corruption
that can only be called
demonic
in its ghastly intensity,
and even continued
slavery,
in these modern times,
and other agonies
too numerous and obscene to even
name at all,
shine and explode with God's deep joy,
and even have time to fashion,
swirling multicolored folk arts
to sell in our elegant galleries –
as observed right here –
Africans also teach us taste.
What is the secret of such unimaginable faith?
Will they soon send missionaries
to show us such a Christ?
We can only hope so and pray.*

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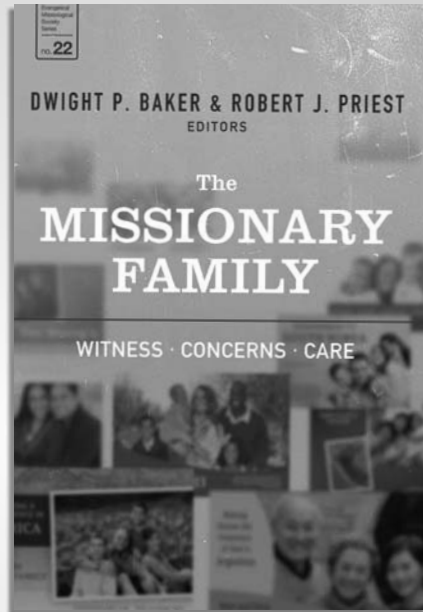
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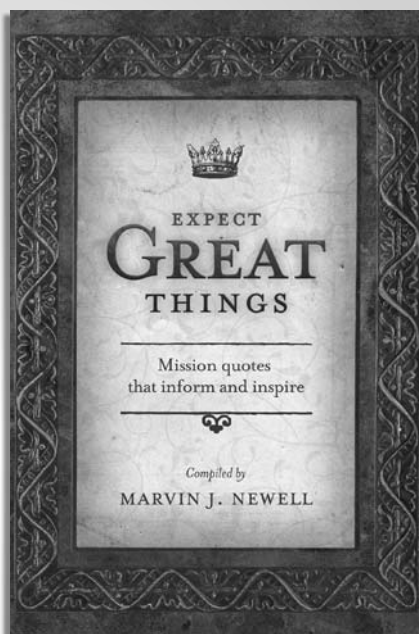
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Marvin Newell is Senior Vice President of Missio Nexus, a network that connects evangelical mission agencies, churches and training centers across North America. Previously he served as a missionary to Indonesia, a mission administrator, a professor of missions, and director of a missions association.

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Marvin Newell, Editor

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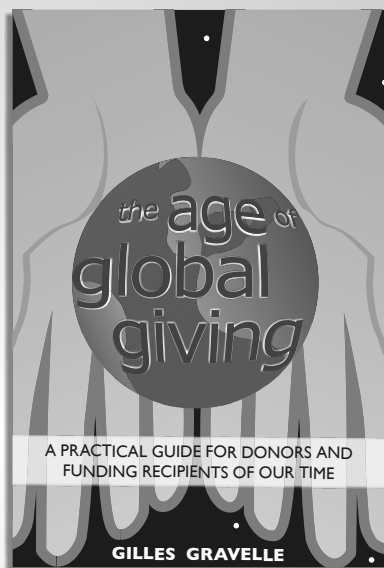
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Gilles Gravelle is the director of research and innovation with The Seed Company. With over thirty years of international experience in mission work and ten years as a mission strategy researcher and writer, Gilles has a unique understanding of both mission work and philanthropy. He earned a PhD in linguistics and translation from Free University, Amsterdam. He and his wife reside in Southern California.



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