



THE VISIONARY

AUGUST 2015

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TO FOLLOW JESUS

by Doug Lucas, Founder and President, Team Expansion

“What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” (Mark 8:36)

When Jesus spoke these words, he had to have imagined the myriad of witnesses who would, in the future, be willing to lay it all on the line for following Him. We’ve all imagined ourselves in a situation in which an enemy of the faith would ask us to deny our Savior. Many of us have wondered if we would have what it takes to stand up for Him with courage even when our very existence is threatened. Recently, a Team Expansion worker in West Africa heard firsthand from a newly-baptized believer exactly what it can mean to be a disciple of Jesus. “My friends all left me. My community, my parents and even my wife called me a blasphemer when I gave up Islam to worship Jesus. They believe I’m



A woman celebrates after her baptism in Ghana

disobeying Allah. But I’m following Christ.” This new disciple went on to say, “God has made me his servant and using me to win more souls in His kingdom. I am sure of my salvation in Christ. I am not ashamed of the Gospel.”

his entire tribe, the Gonja of Ghana, West Africa. Pray for Terry and Amy, who lead the team that brought Moses to Christ. Ask the Lord to multiply their efforts among the 1.5 million individuals in Moses’ region who have virtually no access to the Good News of Jesus. Pray that others would have the courage that young Moses has to follow Christ’s leading regardless of what it costs.

Please pray for this new follower, whose name is Moses. Imagine if you were in his shoes: Would you have what it takes to stand strong? Ask God to use Moses mightily among

FIELD HIGHLIGHT Spain

by Sheri Lucas

One form of ministry and outreach that I have wanted to try to do has been giving out cards that I have made to different people in the street, at a shop, or at a restaurant in Granada. However, up until this month I had never been able to do it.

One day I needed to go to the immigration office. I was getting ready to leave when an image of a cafe came into my mind. I felt like God was calling me to go and give a card to a lady who worked there. Honestly I was tired that day and I didn’t feel like it, but after lot of struggling and complaining, I went.

I started making the card while I ate. It said things like, “God has a purpose and plan for your life. You’re a blessing to others. You’re loved by God.”

Finally I finished the card and my food and I went up to pay and to give the lady her card. I gathered my courage and handed it to her. Her eyes lit up and she asked me, “How did you know it was my birthday today?! You just gave me a birthday card!”

She then went around telling others. They were just amazed as we were! God is definitely moving and doing awesome things here in Spain. Please pray for more opportunities like this one!

CHANGED LIVES: *Cuba*

For decades we've had Team Expansion workers going into Cuba thanks to a partnership with White Fields Evangelism. As you can imagine the government has not allowed us to work openly and the house church network we work with is "underground."

Nevertheless, God is doing amazing things in Cuba!

When Fidel Castro took over back in 1959 his government closed churches and persecuted the believers. The churches all declined. But over the last 20 years the church has been growing vigorously and now over 8% of the Island is considered evangelical and there is only one least-reached people group there.

Our worker, who had been primarily involved on the western side of the island, reports:

PLEASE COME DOWN AND HELP ME AS SOON AS YOU CAN!

When I left Cuba in May plans were made to return in October.

However, two weeks later, "A" from (a certain town), emailed me and said he has some 200 people in three groups that he is working with in the eastern part of the island.

He asked that I return soon, as there are so many to teach, and many who have not been immersed into Christ.

We're praising God that He is raising up His Church in Cuba!

PRAY WITH US

- Praise God for a successful two weeks of Jonathan Training. Ask that those who participated will put into practice the strategy of planting churches that plant churches.
- Thank God that plans are moving forward for a major donor campaign in November. Ask God to give both Team Expansion and Prodonos, led by Chris Jefferson, wisdom as logistics and planning are in process.
- Ask God's blessings on the upcoming September 18-19 Unleashed: Extraordinary Prayer for the Harvest weekend at Emerald Hills. Pray that this weekend will impact sixty participants who desire to make a difference in God's Kingdom through prayer. Pray that the results of this weekend will include Christians who will be devoted to prayer more than ever before.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

July 2015

International Services/Emerald Hills	
Balance 07-01-15	\$12,314.74
Receipts	\$33,204.65
Expenses	\$26,171.02
Balance 07-31-15	\$19,348.37
RECEIPTS	
Adventist Frontier Missions	400.00
Andover Christian Church	600.00
Application Fee	75.00
Centre Pointe Christian Church	375.00
Coastal Community Christian Church	150.00
College Heights Christian Church	100.00
Cranston Christian Fellowship	200.00
Crossroads Christian Church, IN	12,500.00
Fern Creek Christian Church	400.00
First Christian Church, Sullivan	200.00
First Christian World Outreach	200.00
Indian Creek Christian Church, Indianapol	1,000.00
Individuals	1,778.00
Northwest Christian Church	200.00
Shively Christian Church	750.00
Team Expansion Workers	14,126.65
Wilmington Church of Christ	150.00
TOTAL	\$33,204.65
EXPENSES	
Fund Transfer to Op. Reserve	700.00
Education	893.00
Office*	22,48.86
For More Recruits**	1,000.00
Banking Fees***	1,093.16
TOTAL	\$26,171.02

*Includes mortgage payment for Emerald Hills

**Includes rent for exhibit space at conventions and other mobilization efforts

*** These fees cover the costs of online giving for donors who want to give toward our various field workers' ministries.

Balance owed to First Cap Bank: \$1.11 million
\$104,900 in Operational Reserve Fund