

GLOBAL MISSIONS

Spring 2005

Taking God's Word to God's People

What Is Global Missions?

Welcome to the first issue of Global Missions, a publication of missionary news around the world. Over the past few years, many of you have received various missionary updates from Believers' Christian Fellowship and from Brother Barry Coffey of Christian Fellowship Ministries in Virginia. Occasionally, these updates were repetitive and, at times, sporadic. Now we are combining these updates into a single quarterly newsletter to keep you regularly informed of what is happening on the world-wide mission field.

We have chosen the name Global Missions first, because this update will cover the spread of the Gospel in nations around the world and the many people who are involved. Secondly, Global Missions is intended to bring two parts of the globe together – the missions field and those who contribute toward the Mission work. We understand that we have a responsibility to be good stewards, both of financial resources that are entrusted to us as well as of information. It is our responsibility to keep those who have faithfully supported missions over the years informed of how that support is ministering to the Bride around the world.

We realize that we do not have a corner on missions. We contribute a small part, and numerous others are doing the same. It is our desire to put our shoulder to the wheel with them and work until the last elect-seed is found.

In fact, it is impossible to work alone. First, it takes faithful contributors in order to send missionaries, support translators and ministers, pay for printing, computers, church buildings, and other expenses. Many individuals and churches have made it possible with their giving to spread the Message throughout the earth.

Secondly, good men are necessary to take the Message to the world. For ten years now, Brother Lonnie Jenkins and Brother Barry Coffey have traveled together holding meetings in a variety of places. Other ministers and churches have also been very involved both in ministry and financial support. It takes men at home, as well, to help in administrative ways.

at BCF

For example, a team of people

help in the oversight of day-to-day details. Someone makes sure that contributions go where needed or stipulated. Another maintains contact with Believers and missionaries in far-flung corners of the world, while someone else communicates the testimonies and needs of the mission field through forums such as the internet or newsletters like this one.

Finally, we need recipients, those people who are beneficiaries of the first two groups. They are

those who have received the Message. They include men who become pastors, teachers, evangelists or apostles. They include men who become deacons and trustees, and people who become church musicians, tape librarians, and Sunday school teachers. They include families whose lives will be changed by the washing of the water of the Word.

This last group also has responsibilities. They must be good stewards of what they have been given. They must take what they have received and give it back out to their countrymen and those in surrounding nations. And the cycle of giving, preaching, and receiving begins again.

That is what Global Missions is about.





A Look Back, A Look Ahead

For many years, BCF has been involved in world-wide missions in various ways- sometimes alone while at other times as a partner with other ministries. Whatever the case, the goal has been the same: teach the people to look to Christ rather than the visiting missionary, and encourage each new group to grow into a thriving, functioning body.

Now as this new update is launched, it seems appropriate to take a look at the history of BCF's outreach as well as at plans for the future.

A Look Back...

BCF missions has its roots in the early trips made to many nations by Brother Lonnie Jenkins beginning with his first trip to Pakistan in 1973. In those days, Brother Lonnie worked out of Tucson, Arizona, where he owned a plant nursery and landscaping business. He worked during the spring, summer, and fall months, setting aside money for the missionary trips he would make in the winter.

By 1977, the part-time missionary work had turned full-time. He traveled to India, Pakistan, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zaire, Brazil, South Africa, and all over Europe introducing end-time truth, helping to start churches, and encouraging believers in the Word.

In 1982, Brother Lonnie made his first trip to Malawi, where he, along with Brother Harold Hildebrandt of Canada and

other pioneers shared the Message with the first Believers in that nation. Then in 1986, he and Brother John Sacher introduced this end-time gospel in South Korea, following up on a trip made previously by Brother Reg Searle of New Zealand.

While BCF has continued to work in Pakistan, Malawi, South Korea and many other countries, by the nineties the focus became the Russian-speaking nations. When the Soviet Union crumbled, it became clear that a door had been opened through which we could reach God's elect. We desired to meet the handful Believers scattered throughout this vast land, who had been reading the few messages that had been translated and given out at great peril by brothers from nearby nations and from within the Soviet Union. Today it is no longer a handful of Believers, but well over one

hundred groups of believers, most having an elder or pastor already in place.

From that first trip to Pakistan in 1973, Brother Lonnie's method has been the same: introduce the Message in a new nation, return to strengthen the brethren, then, once the work is established, turn it over to others and break new ground in the next place. Now it is a tremendous blessing to be able to look over the last thirty years and see how the Lord has seen fit to bless that work.



Bro. Ed Byskal and Bro. Lonnie Jenkins in India in 1978

BCF Missions Team

Over the past decade BCF missions has undergone subtle



Pakistan
1973



New Zealand
1976



Bro. Jeff
India
1978



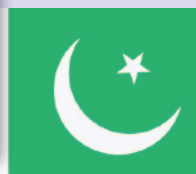
Malawi
1982



Norway
1980



South Korea
1986



1980



1990

changes. In the mid nineties, without our realization, a regular team began to develop. Brother Barry Coffey became an integral part of BCF's outreach. Since 1994 he has traveled many times with Brother Lonnie to conduct meetings in Russian-speaking lands as well as other nations. In addition, he has contributed financially and helped Brother Lonnie with correspondence and answering doctrinal questions asked by foreign brothers. Brother Barry's assistance and support has simply become indispensable.

Several years after Brother Barry joined us, Brother Eugene Braun and Brother Jason Watkins also began to work with us. Both of them have been a part of a number of conventions in Russian-speaking lands, and their local churches contribute monetarily to the work.

Together, this team has watched as the Message spread rapidly across the former Soviet Union, with churches springing up everywhere. There have been seven conventions in Ukraine, youth camps in Lithuania, and a family camp in Russia. But most importantly, godly, solid local ministers have risen up to take the Message to their own people.



Bro. Lonnie at the 2003 Ministers' Convention, 2003

Transition

As many of you know, late last summer Brother Lonnie suddenly became ill and was diagnosed as having four major blockages in his heart. He immediately underwent bypass surgery and, by God's grace, has recovered and is again ministering.

As a result of this event, the BCF missionary team has undergone a transition. While Brother Lonnie is still a very active and important member of the team, Brother Barry has stepped up (at Brother Lonnie's request) to take a leading role in BCF's continuing missionary work.

A Look Ahead...

In looking ahead, we see three areas on which to focus. One of these is continuance of the work in Russia. In the spring, Brother Barry will be in Donetsk, Ukraine for another ministers' convention, and later this year he will preach at the annual convention in Alushta hosted by the local church and attended by believers from across the former Soviet Union.



Brothers in Donetsk with printed books

We will also be looking at several aspects of the Russian printing operation. Until now we supported printing operations in both Vilnius, Lithuania and Donetsk, Ukraine. As we go to press, BCF and Bibleway of Cloverdale have split the cost of a press to be placed in Donetsk. This reduces the cost of each sermon by half. So, since books can be printed more cheaply in Donetsk than in Lithuania, it seems wise to do so. Once the books are printed in Donetsk they will be shipped to Lithuania and Latvia, saving money to use elsewhere. Financing the printing in Ukraine will continue as before.

In addition to the need for Message books in the Russian language, the churches in these nations also need tracts on basic Bible subjects. Because tracts are inexpensive and very easily distributed they make excellent outreach tools. We already have a number of tracts covering topics such as Baptism, the Godhead, and the Original Sin. They will be printed with a blank space so that local churches may put

1990

Poland, Bro. Lonnie & Bro. Nicholai (2nd left) of Lithuania
1990



Return to Korea
1999



2000

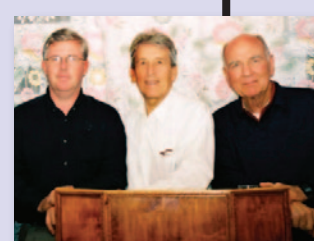
Alushta Ukraine
2003



Bro. Barry begins to travel with Bro. Lonnie
1994



First Ukrainian Convention
2000



their address on them and hand them out to people in their area.

Another printing project the Russian-speaking brothers are working on is a special, large, one-time printing of the Revelation of Jesus Christ series. The books will be printed on a commercial printing press, bound similarly to our own version, and distributed to all of the Russian-speaking nations either by mail or by hand. The estimated cost of this project is \$30,000. So far, about half of that amount has been raised for this very necessary task.

New Nations

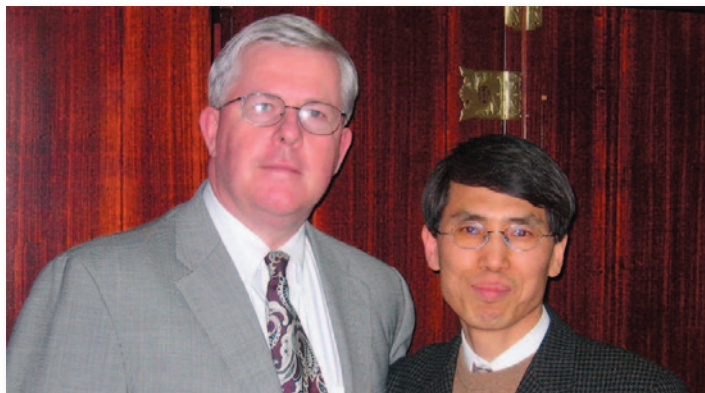
A second area of focus will be reaching out to Muslim nations with the Gospel. The Lord seems to have opened a few doors to these lands, specifically in the nation of Uzbekistan where Brother Lonnie has been invited to do a one-time radio and TV broadcast.

This is all very exciting. We know from experience that if the Message can be planted in Uzbekistan, a few zealous believers from that nation will take this Truth to other nations that we as Westerners would find very difficult, if not impossible, to enter.

At the same time we are pursuing another means of reaching these people, and that is through satellite broadcasts. Since 1997 BCF has been on the air in Iceland with positive feedback, and it looks like we will be able to expand that method of outreach.

Maintaining Existing Work

Finally, the transition we have experienced here at BCF offers



Bro. Barry and Bro. Suh in South Korea

us the perfect opportunity to look back at the missionary work that has been done over the last thirty years. This would give us a chance to see how well a nation such as Pakistan, Malawi, or South Korea is doing or to see if some place needs more attention or resources.

Brother Barry has just returned from South Korea where he got a first-hand look at the message printing/distribution process and saw what ways we can be of assistance to the Believers there. He also plans to visit Portugal, Ukraine (twice), South Korea (again), Uzbekistan, and Iceland.

It is our desire to give any help possible to the Saints in these nations as they labor among their fellow countrymen.

Our commitment to the missions field remains strong. We will continue to preach the Message in new places as well as find ways to better communicate with, help and support those we have worked with through the years.

Testimony from Siberia

*A*t the end of last year, Brother Guido Vanbrabant from Belgium was in Siberia for meetings and he sent us this testimony.



Bro. Guido and Sis. Ksenia

On an earlier trip to Siberia a few years ago, he met a lady in her eighties, named Ksenia, who had been a life-long Baptist. She told Brother Guido some testimonies of God's protection in her life. Once she was under a train, and the engineer

was sure that she had been killed. But when he stopped the train, she crawled out with a few scratches on her hand.

Soon after testifying to Brother Guido, Sister Ksenia was baptized. A year later, Brother Guido visited again, and he went to her home where she was dying from a stroke. Her body was paralyzed, and she was unable to see. However, she was happy for Brother Guido's visit, and they prayed together. As Brother Guido left he thought, "It won't be long before our sister is with the Lord." But that evening, the sister's daughter came to the service and said that her mother's blindness was gone.

Instead of dying, Sister Ksenia began to recover, and now, two years later, she is still alive and living with her daughter.

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