
Abide

Volume 1, Issue 4

August–September 2001

Go YE into ALL the world and preach the gospel
to EVERY creature. . .

MARK 16:15

2000 years later. . .



The Unfinished Task



Our Mission Statement:

The reason for publishing this journal is to encourage youth to mature in the Lord. We desire all to be challenged to seek the reality of God in their own lives. We hope you will see, by the testimony of other youths, a Christian life that radiates the power of God. God's desire for all of us is much more than to escape Hell. It is for us to live a victorious life by abiding in Christ. All material for this publication will be edited with this goal in mind. The Editors

In Upcoming Issues . . .

We are planning issues on the following topics:

Missions At Home

Abiding At Home

Total Surrender

Total Commitment

At this time, we plan to run these themes in this order, but if our readers desire an issue on a different topic, or submit material for an issue planned for a later date, we are willing to switch themes. Reader *feedback* is important!

Help Us Reduce Costs!

You can help us reduce expenses if you would be willing to receive *Abide* via e-mail. You would be able to read it on-screen or print it out. It will look just like the snail-mailed version. Additionally, you could easily e-mail it to friends, or print out copies for them. Please e-mail us if you would like to participate. You will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat reader (free download).

Submissions:

We want stuff from you! If you would like to submit a testimony, a hymn history, an article you have written, or some material you have read, please contact us using any of the options in the left column.

If possible, please have material typed out. We suggest these approximate maximum word counts:

Testimonies—3000 words or 3.5 pages typed.

Book Review—1200 words, about 1.5 pages typed.

Articles or biographical sketches—up to 5000 words, 7 pages typed.

Hymn History or story—700 words or one page typed.

If you decide to submit anything, please realize that we will probably have to edit your article. We will consider all submissions, although we reserve the right to select and edit them. We will try to clear all changes with you before printing.

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Have you noticed the artwork? We appreciate the youth that have created our cover art. Our goal to provide an outlet for your vision includes art. Feel free to contact us if you would like to contribute in this way.

The Journal is provided free of charge to anyone who requests it. It is supported by God and the people He moves to donate financially. All Praise be to God!

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The Unfinished Task-Tyler Griffin

The year is 2001. As we view the world at large and then scan through the Christian church, the sight is overwhelming. Do you see it? Let's take a closer look.

The Place? Bogotá, Columbia. A young girl totters along the edge of a street in the slums. Her clothing is in tatters and she has no shoes. One look into her face explains her faltering steps. Her eyes have a faraway look—she is totally drugged. It helps deaden reality. She reaches a pile of garbage, and we turn to look away. Wait! That bit of tomato juice in the bottom of a rusty can and those few chicken bones are her only source of food for the day. Let's follow her to her home. *Home?* Yes, that's right. That sewer drain is the entrance to her home. She will consider herself fortunate if she can find a couple of rags that have washed down the sewer. She can bundle these up on the damp cement and try to sleep. "Surely, this is a rare case!" you say. A closer look reveals the opposite. She is one of more than 30 million homeless orphans who share the same or worse fate as her. Many of them are spread throughout the cities of South America. Approximately eight million live in Brazil alone. Though her state seems sad now, it is nothing compared to the destruction and misery at the end of the road she is on—hell. Her only hope to escape this final end is Christ, but who will share Christ with her? Let's look some more...



they would not harm his wife and son. Just as the rest of the Beja tribe, they live in constant fear and dread of evil spirits. Numbering over 1.5 million, they roam the desert land in constant search of enough water and grazing land for their animals. Because of the difficulty of their language, few outsiders have learned it, and their language has never been written. Without God's Word in their language, very few have ever accepted Christ. They are only one people group among hundreds without God's Word in their language, and they remain *largely unreached by the gospel...*

Next stop: India—The young Hindu boy shakes his brother awake. "Wake up! It's almost dawn and the holy men have already smeared ash on themselves and started for the river! It will soon be time for us to go." The boys were soon caught in the vast crowds of people who were slipping, pushing, sliding, and dodging sacred cows and wandering goats on their way down to the sacred river. When the boys reached the water, they eagerly started pouring water over themselves in hopes that, like countless other Hindu pilgrims, their sin would be washed away by the waters flow. Oh, if they knew that only the blood of Christ has the power to cleanse us from sin...

The place? Indiana, USA. A young Christian family is having supper together and discussing the day's events. The father is talking now: "Well family, I have some good news. The price of the new van I wanted to purchase has been marked down, so I am planning to buy it tomorrow. We won't have to scrunch in the minivan much longer!"

Daughter: "Mother, must I eat this broccoli! We've eaten it for 2 weeks straight!"

Mother: "Try to eat it. I'm sorry we've had it so much lately, but we have such a surplus in the garden. It seems wasteful to throw it out, especially when some people don't have enough to eat! John, that's great news about the van! Oh, the minister called today and wondered if you would be interested in going with a group this winter to Venezuela, to help build a new orphanage."

Father: "Well, that certainly sounds interesting, but I am afraid I won't be able to afford the plane ticket or the time off work. It takes a lot to support a grow-



Next place: Northeast Sudan, Northern Africa. The wild looking man threw yet another stick on the blazing fire. His long frizzy hair stood out in all directions while he fearfully gazed through the lengthening shadows. His wife lay in the hot, dark house made of woven mat-

ting, a short distance from the fire. She was holding their baby son who had been born 39 days before. Only one more day and her husband would be allowed to see their son for the first time, according to the custom of their people. He had kept the fire going night and day to frighten evil spirits away so that

ing family. I sure do wish them well though.

Mother: "I'm sure the minister will understand."

Our last stop—Rural Iowa. A 21-year-old young man is struggling with his future. His father has been expecting him to take over the family farm, but he is struggling with the conviction that God is calling him to go as a missionary to Africa. As he weighs it in the balance, the thought of taking over the farm and raising a family with a comfortable lifestyle definitely has an appeal...

Dear friends, as you read this, my desire is not that you would feel an emotional burden to care for these poor heathen's physical needs. Rather, I hope it will wake you up to the reality that there are *millions* of lost souls still untouched by the effects of the gospel. The illustration I gave of the young family and the young man are not meant to cast judgment upon anyone—for the things they were thinking and doing are not wrong in themselves. It is only meant to wake us up to the reality that, while we are focused on the material needs around us, there is a dying world with its perishing *billions* who remain untouched by the Gospel. I also do not mean to give you a *burden to go* without a **calling from God**. For unless He calls us, He will not give us the determination, clarity in presenting the gospel, or power and unction of the Holy Spirit to meet the great spiritual needs of the unreached people groups. This is the burden of my heart: that you would catch a vision of the fields that are ripe unto harvest, and that you would respond to that vision by casting your life and future plans on the altar and asking God what place you can fill in the **Unfinished Task**. TJG

**The world death rate is 9 per thousand.
That equals 55,482,075 deaths per year.
That equals 152,006 deaths per day.
That equals 6334 deaths per hour.
That equals 106 deaths per minute.**

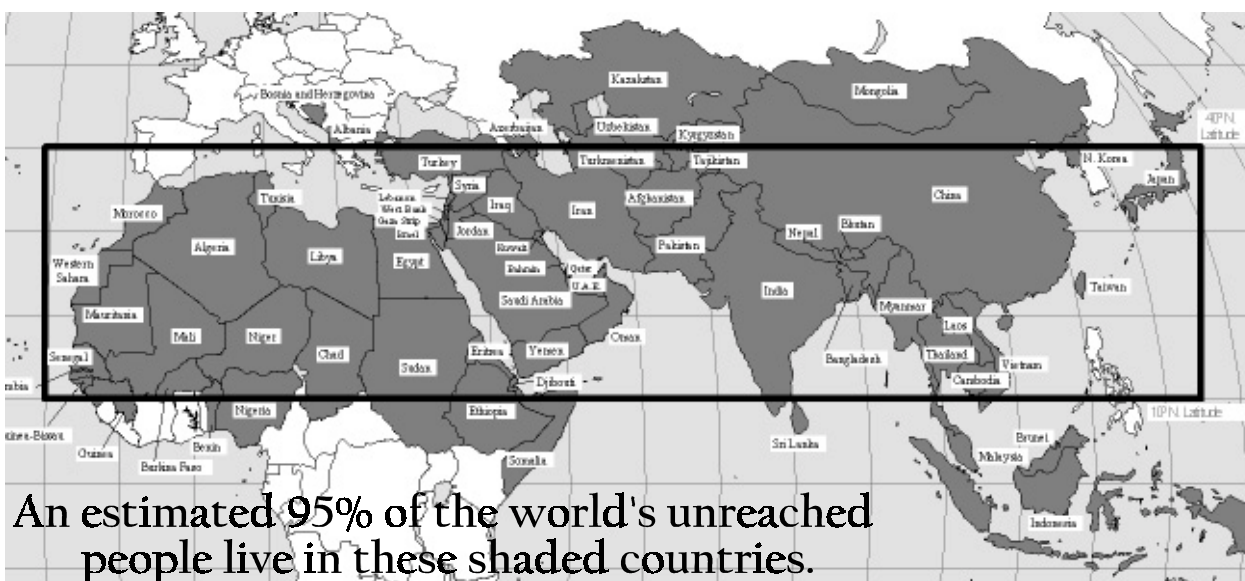
That equals 1.76 deaths per second.

**Let's put that into better perspective:
Take your pulse. Put two fingers on the
palm side of your wrist or on your
Adam's apple. Each pulse stands for 2
lives that have ceased.**

**Forty-five percent of Americans claim to
be born-again. Don't think that the rate
is any better across the globe. 45% Some
may say that's great, but remember: That
means about *one soul per second* is sent
into eternity—without Christ.**

**An estimated 3.6 BILLION people have
never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
The average American hears the gospel
92 times per year.**

**Isn't it time we did something about
that? The command comes clearly across
the echoes of time: "Go into all the world
and preach the Gospel to every creature.
You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria, and to
the end of the earth." Will you?**



The Unreached Window

James Hudson Taylor: The Christian & Missions

While studying Hudson Taylor's life, I have realized that Hudson was not dedicated to the cause of missions in China, nor the cause of missions worldwide. He was dedicated to the cause of Christ. Yes, he was a man who accomplished much for missions, and he was the foremost proponent of missions for many years, but his goal was to bring people—any people—to a deep and rich relationship with Jesus Christ. In this, the first of several issues that will focus on missions, I wish to share several truths that I think are vital to our ability to be good missionaries.

What are missions? Many people try to associate the word *missions* with a society or far-away place. *Mission* merely means *sent to accomplish a given task*. The word comes from the Latin word *mittere* meaning *to send*. It is obvious that we have been sent. Jesus' last words to His disciples (which includes us!) were "*Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.*"

We can draw several insights from this:

We have been sent out to bring glory to God. Another word that is closely related to mission is remit. Remit means to send back (Latin *re-* means back). When we reach the lost and hurting souls that fill this earth, we are remitting to God, or sending back, our love and devotion. What a beautiful picture!

We are missionaries to all humans—not just ones who have never heard the Gospel, not just ones who live faraway—all living persons. You are a missionary for good or for bad to your little siblings, your relatives, your friends, and your neighbors. The fields that surround us are also ripe for harvest. A voyage across the ocean does not make any man a soul winner.¹

Even in missions, we must guard our hearts. Missions are not an end of themselves. The ultimate goal of missions is to bring glory to God. Converting sinners to saints who praise God does this. Zealously witnessing of God's wondrous love and mercy towards man also does this. Keep in mind that we are not to be focused on missions. We are to be involved, and we are to have a heart that is eager to win souls. However, soul-winning should not and cannot be our focus if we wish to remain in perfect fellowship with Christ. Perfect fellowship with Christ should and must be our focus. Oswald Cham-



China? Yes, China. Then go for Me to China. Your prayer is answered, your conditions are accepted. All you ask and more, far more, shall be given.

bers, an evangelist and theologian mightily used by God, says: "The 'soul-saving passion' as an aim must cease and merge into the passion for Christ, revealing itself in holiness in all human relationships.' In other words, soul winning is not something we *do*, it is something we *are* twenty-four hours a day, and we live for souls because we love Christ."²

I realize that this may be like throwing cold water on a hot fire. I don't want in any way to discourage you from the mission field. I believe we are commanded to be involved. It is our destiny, if I may be so bold. I am simply trying to remind zealous soul-winners that it is easy to become so involved in God's work that we lose sight of God Himself. This happens to so many Christians in the United States, and it can easily happen to missionaries in Africa, Asia, or South America.

By now, I trust that you are all excited to be missionaries, and eager to keep your focus on Christ. With that attitude, much can be learned from the life of Hudson Taylor.

Although Hudson was born into a family with a rich spiritual heritage, he did not commit himself to God at the age or in the way that many would think. At

the age of fifteen, he began working outside his home. Fellow workers provided the perfect environment for his unyielded soul to gain enough strength to cast off his spiritual training. God graciously intervened and sent a severe soreness into Hudson's eyes that forced him to quit his job and return home.

For the next two years, Hudson lived a life of acting. He worked and lived at home, but inwardly looked forward to the time that he could leave and enjoy the pleasures of the world. One day, after finishing his work by noon, Hudson went into the library to look for a book to pass the afternoon hours. He noticed a little Gospel tract and, remembering that this kind always began with a clever story, he decided to read the tract until he got to the sermon at the end.

About the time that Hudson was going into the library to read, his mother, who was visiting friends some seventy or eighty miles off, felt a sudden urge to pray for Hudson. She excused herself from her hosts and went into her room. There, she prayed for Hudson for several hours, pleading with God to save his soul. Finally, she felt that her prayer had been answered—and it had been!

While reading the tract, Hudson was struck by the phrase “the finished work of Christ.” With his corrupt and critical mind, he began a mental debate with the author of the tract:

“Why does the author use this expression?” I questioned. “Why not say the atoning or propitiatory work of Christ?”

Immediately the words “It is finished” suggested themselves to my mind.

“What was finished?”

And I at once replied, “A full and perfect atonement and satisfaction for sin. The debt was paid for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.”

Then came the further thought, “If the whole work was finished and the whole debt paid, what is there left for me to do?”

And with this dawned the joyful conviction, as light was flashed into my soul by the Holy Spirit, that there was nothing in the world to be done but to fall down on one's knees and accepting this Savior and His Salvation praise Him forevermore.³

Unknown to Hudson was that a month before his conversion, his sister felt that God wanted her to pray for Hudson's salvation until it occurred. She would faithfully intercede for Hudson's salvation three times a day.

Pause here and think of what it was that made it possible for this wonderful experience to occur. Was it not his mother's prolonged prayers and his sister's dedicated intercession? Do you really think that Hudson Taylor would have been the spiritual man that he was without those prayers? Certainly, God could have brought Hudson to a place of repentance and conversion; but would it have been too late for Hudson to accomplish what God had called him to do? Never underestimate what God can do through your prayers. The world may never have known Hudson Taylor as a hero of the faith had it not been for his loving mother and dedicated sister.

Hudson was desperate for God to be real. He so wanted God to break the power of sin in his life and set him free from the old, fleshly man.

“From this moment, Hudson was never the same” would seem to be the correct words to say now, but that was not true. Within six months, Hudson was suffering from depression and doubt. Had God really saved him? Why was there no peace? Why couldn't he have victory over the sin in his life? Why was God so distant? Hudson was desperate for God to be real. He so wanted God to break the power of sin in his life and set him free from the old, fleshly man. He wanted to be more than saved for a home in heaven, he wanted to be sanctified for a work on earth.

One evening, he felt more troubled than usual. He went to his room and fell down before his bed, crying and begging God to give him spiritual life. As he prayed, he felt that God was waiting for Hudson to yield some area of his life. Hudson began to think whether there was anything he was consciously holding back from God. He couldn't think of anything, so he cried out to the Lord and promised again that he would do whatever God wanted, if only the Lord would give him peace and victory. As he prayed, he realized that he had not really under-

stood what that promise meant. It meant giving up all plans for marriage, career, home life, children, ministry, etc. It meant being dead to **all** plans and thoughts save what God desired. Hudson struggled momentarily, then made the decision that we all have to make sometime: To consciously take ones plans, desires, and life—his very being—and pour it on the altar as a **willing** sacrifice of love and thanksgiving.

When Hudson gave up his all in all, God came down and met him there. Heaven opened up. The power of sin was crushed in Hudson, never to rise again. Oh, Hudson was not perfect, but no account (and there are literally hundreds) has ever even suggested that Hudson was ever bound by another sin for the rest of his life. Hudson says it this way:

He wanted souls. He knew the eternal value of one soul—Chinese or English. Hudson wanted to bring souls to Christ. Do we know the worth of a soul?

“Never shall I forget the feeling that came over me then. I felt I was in the presence of God, entering into covenant with the Almighty. I felt as though I wished to withdraw my promise, but could not. Something seemed to say ‘Your prayer is answered, your conditions are accepted.’ And from that time the conviction never left me that I was called to China.”⁴

“China? Yes, *China*. “Then Go for Me to China.” Your prayer is answered; your conditions are accepted. All you ask and more, far more, shall be given...“*For to this end have I appeared unto thee, to appoint thee a minister and a witness...that they may turn from darkness into light.*” From that hour his mind was made up. His pursuits and studies were all engaged in with reference to this object, and whatever difficulties presented themselves his purpose never wavered.”⁵

Hudson was only 17 ½ when this happened. He had been converted only eight months. Can any of us, who have been converted years longer than that, say we have the burden and call that Hudson had? Are we as dedicated to Christ as we ought?

The rest, they say, is His Story. I want to emphasize several more things about Hudson Taylor’s youth and his advice to us.

1. Even though he was extremely busy studying and preparing for China, he used *every* opportunity he could to preach, minister, and evangelize. This is a challenge to us. Do we grasp the opportunities that God gives us?
2. Hudson spent every Sunday in the slums. After worship service in the morning, it was off to witness and preach in every tavern and on every street corner that was available. He wanted souls. He knew the eternal value of one soul—Chinese or English. Hudson wanted to bring souls to Christ. Do we know the worth of a soul? One man can kill millions—Adolf Hitler. One woman can destroy an entire generation—Margaret Sanger. One man can lead millions to Christ—D. L. Moody. One woman can save a generation—Amy Carmichael. Learn to prize any soul that can be saved.

3. Even though he knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that he was called to China, he still was involved in local ministry. He didn’t do this to prepare for China, he did it because there were souls around him that needed to be saved. Do we view our life right now as *preparation* or as a *mission field* of its own? See Lisa Weaver’s testimony on page 9.

At the national Perth Conference of all Christian denominations in 1865, Hudson delivered a message that was remembered for decades. Before he gave the message, he was an unknown missionary to China, whose health had force him back to England seven years earlier. For seven years, Hudson had labored with God to find a message to give to youth. Here is the most powerful part of that message:

“It will not do to say that you have no special call to go to China (or any mission field). With these facts before you, you need rather to ascertain whether you have a special call to stay at home. If in the sight of God you cannot say you are sure that you have a special call to stay at home, why are you disobeying the Savior’s plain command to go? Why are you refusing to come to the help of the Lord against the mighty? If, however, it is perfectly clear that duty—not inclination, not pleasure, not business—detains you at home, are you laboring in prayer for these needy ones as you might? Is your influence used to advance the cause of God among them? Are your means as largely employed as they should be in

It is no use singing as we often do: “Waft, waft ye winds the story.” The winds will never waft the story; but they may waft us.

helping forward their salvation? Shall we say that the way was not open? At any rate, it is open now. Before the next Perth Conference twelve millions more, in China, will have passed forever beyond our reach. What are we doing to bring them the tidings of Redeeming Love? It is no use singing as we often do: “*Waft, waft ye winds the story.*” The winds will never waft the story; but they may waft us.

The Lord Jesus commands us—‘Go.’”⁶

¹ *Hudson Taylor: The Growth of a Soul*
by Dr. & Mrs. Howard Taylor
part 2, chapter 7, page 86

² *Victorious Christians You Should Know*
by Warren Wiersbe
chapter 9, page 58

³ *A Retrospect*
J. Hudson Taylor
chapter 1, page 12

⁴ *Hudson Taylor: The Growth of a Soul*
by Dr. & Mrs. Howard Taylor
part 2, chapter 6, page 78

⁵ *ibid*
part 2, chapter 6, page 79

⁶ *Hudson Taylor: The Growth of a Work of God*
by Dr. & Mrs. Howard Taylor
part 1, chapter 1, page 8

Looking for a Book to Read?

I highly recommend that *every* youth read the two volume set on the life of Hudson Taylor. Written by his son Howard Taylor, these books breathe the life and witness of an amazing man and the Godly men and women that surrounded him.

These books cost as much as \$80 per set. However, you can get this set for \$15 + shipping by contacting IBLP. Please mention Abide Journal when ordering. They accept major credit cards by phone.

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The Eternal Purpose of God

The eternal purpose of God is to call out from every kindred, tongue, people and nation, a multitude redeemed by the blood of His Lamb slain from the foundation of the world; over whom He will crown His Son, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, King of Kings and Lord of Lords forever. This is the passion of the heart of God that cannot be quenched, the obsession of His mind that cannot be denied, the vision of His eyes from eternity past into eternity future that will not dim, and the destination to which He has committed His omnipotent, immutable, eternal being; a destination He will not abandon.

When did that passion which cannot be quenched begin in the heart of God? That obsession that cannot be denied, that vision that cannot dim, that destination of the being of God that He will not and cannot abandon? Since God is both eternal and immutable, whatever is true in Him now has been true of Him from eternity past and will be true of Him through eternity future.

Revelation 5:9, 22:16–19

Psalms 2:1–12

This material comes from Dr. G. Darrel Champlin. Dr. Champlin and his family are now fifth generation missionaries to countries across the globe. Taken from “The Eternal Purpose of God.”

Ready to do His Will!-Lisa Weaver

I would like to share with you a bit of God's dealings with my heart in the area of service. I hope it may be a blessing.

Since I was very young, I have felt God calling me to a mission field somewhere for Him. I would sing with longing, "Ready to go, Ready to stay, Ready my place to fill. Ready for service, lowly or great, Ready to do His will" with my heart's eyes fixed on some faraway place, where the heathen were dying without news of Him. Every Mission's Conference would stir my heart's desire anew. Inwardly, I was a bit like a young horse, tugging at the reins, crying "Well, we've been here long enough, let us be up and going!" But God, who has an infinitely wise way of directing our circumstances, was already preparing for me. He knew just what lessons I needed to learn.

Last fall, Dad asked me to teach at the small school we started and I agreed, not really knowing all that was to come to pass. I felt a bit unprepared, and I was frustrated at first. I definitely wasn't looking at teaching school as my mission field.

After a while, Dad asked me to stop helping in the Lancaster Children's Ministry. One of his reasons being that I could spend more time teaching school. To me, it seemed as if my last place of service had disappeared around the corner, and I was left with nothing but a burning heart.

As I cried out to God to give me a place to serve, God began to open my eyes. He showed me needs around me that I hadn't really noticed. It wasn't as if I was altogether unaware that they existed, but God started to bring them into focus.

I started to see my school teaching as a way to serve. Other things came into focus: Needs in our family...burdened down mothers at church...young girls who might be blessed by my friendship...those around me who desperately needed someone to care enough to disciple them and point them heavenwards. He showed me that I was not just on a training ground, but even then I was on a mission field where He had placed me.

Suddenly, I had more places to serve than I could fill—and I had been pleading with God to give me one while they were right there around me! When I completely yielded my vision for missions to God, I told Him that I was willing to do whatever He de-

sired—no matter where it was, and no matter how insignificant the task. Oh, the freedom that came from knowing for sure that I was in the center of God's will. It eliminated the struggling, straining, and tugging of my heart.

If you know that you can trust Him to bring your vision to pass, and trust that His ways and timings are always best, then there is rest. "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day."

God began to open my eyes. He showed me the needs around me that I hadn't really noticed.

How true this has been in my life! Only a short while after I had surrendered my "Isaac," God gave it back to me. Dad came to me one day and told me that an opportunity had come up for me to serve in Haiti. Furthermore, he said that he and Mom had been talking it over and decided that they were open to having me go. I was totally amazed—God had worked it out so perfectly!

You can trust Him. Count on it! Is not our God the one who knows the end from the beginning? Psalms 37:5 says. "Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."

I pray my testimony may be a blessing and an encouragement to some of you. You can trust Him with your vision. He is certainly worthy of your trust, but will you trust Him? No, He may not give you exactly what you wanted, but He will give you something far better.

Oh trust Him! Open your eyes, and get busy where He has placed you. He is more than able to look after your future. Remember, if you haven't learned to serve here, how can you way over there? You will never be across the ocean what you are not at your home.

Lisa Weaver, is currently serving in Haiti. She lives in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania with her family.

The Ninety and Nine-Elizabeth Douglas Clephane



*There were ninety and nine that safely lay
In the shelter of the fold,
But one was out on the hills away,
Far off from the gates of gold;
Away on the mountains wild and bare,
Away from the tender Shepherd's care,
Away from the tender Shepherd's care.*

*"Lord, Thou hast here Thy ninety and nine;
Are they not enough for Thee?"
But the Shepherd made answer:
"This of Mine Has wandered away from Me;
And although the road be rough and steep
I go to the desert to find My sheep,
I go to the desert to find My sheep.*

*But none of the ransomed ever knew
How deep was the waters crossed;
Or how dark was the night
That the Lord passed thro'
Ere He found His sheep that was lost.
Out in the desert He heard its cry-
Sick and helpless, and ready to die,
Sick and helpless, and ready to die.*

*"Lord, whence are those blood-drops all the way
That mark out the mountain's track?"
Thee were shed for one who had gone astray,
Ere the Shepherd could bring him back.
"Lord, whence are Thy hands so rent and torn?"
"They're pierced tonight by many a thorn,
They're pierced tonight by many a thorn.*

*But all through the mountains thunder-riv'n,
And up from the rocky steep,
There rose a cry to the gate of Heav'n,
"Rejoice I have found My sheep!"
And the angels echoed around the throne,
"Rejoice for the Lord brings back His own!
"Rejoice for the Lord brings back His own!"*

—Elizabeth Cecilia Douglas Clephane

Elizabeth Cecilia Douglas Clephane was the third daughter of the sheriff of Fife (shire?), Scotland, Andrew Clephane—a devoted Christian. Elizabeth was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on June 18, 1830, but spent most of her short, invalid life in Melrose, Scotland. She was orphaned early in life and so could sympathize with those in sorrow so much that she earned the name "Sunbeam." She was short and shy; she enjoyed reading, loved poetry, and was a good scholar.

In 1868, a friend asked her to write a poem for *The Children's Hour* magazine. Elizabeth wrote *There Were Ninety and Nine*. Another factor that probably contributed to its message was that a brother of hers was a wanderer in the world and a wanderer from the truth. Elizabeth never saw her poem published because she died in 1869.

In 1874, during one of their Britain campaigns, D.L. Moody and Ira Sankey were traveling from Glasgow, Scotland, to a meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland. As they boarded the train, Mr. Moody was given the mail and Mr. Sankey bought a penny newspaper. On the train, Mr. Sankey opened the paper and read for a while. He was about to throw it down when his eye was attracted to a poem in one corner. Mr. Sankey read and liked the poem. He started to read it to Mr. Moody, but he was busy reading a letter he had received and was not paying attention. So Mr. Sankey tore the poem from the paper and put it in his vest pocket.

One afternoon during the meetings, Mr. Moody, and the guest speaker, Dr. Horatius Bonar, generally regarded as the greatest of evangelical Scottish preachers and hymn writers, spoke on the Good Shepherd. (Horatius Bonar wrote 600 hymn texts, and his wife also wrote *Fade, Fade Each Earthly Joy*)

Mr. Sankey knew that he would have to sing an appropriate song to close the service. He reached into his pocket for a piece of paper to write down some titles. He pulled out the poem. It was *The Ninety and Nine*. Mr. Sankey reread it. He later said, "A voice seemed to say to me 'Sing that hymn.' 'But I have no music,' I replied. But again the voice insisted 'Sing that hymn!' It was then that I heard Mr. Moody say, 'And now, Mr. Sankey will sing.' I arose, went over,

(Continued on page 12)

A Place To Grow-Shawn Halteman

"I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water."
Isaiah 41:18

My family came to Ghana, West Africa, in 1997. I was 13 years old. I came to Ghana considering it more an adventure than a mission to reach lost souls. It was somewhat hard to leave all of our friends and family behind. It took me awhile to get involved because I had left part of my heart behind in America, but with time, I got to know other people and friends, and America faded into the background.

One of the things that hit our family when we first came was sickness. Not long after we came to Ghana my Dad contracted a very bad case of malaria mixed with another sickness. There was a question in our minds if he would pull through. This was a great growing experience for our whole family. We didn't know whether or not we would keep our Dad or lose him. But no matter the outcome, we had to give him totally to God. We thank God that He gave him back his health.

The people here in Ghana are very straight forward, telling us just what they think. With my background, I was not used to this. When I first started to mingle with the people, the things that they said or the way they acted toward me were sometimes hurtful, thus causing bad feelings toward that person. I had to deal with that, and learn not to let what people said spoil my day.

One of the greatest things that happened in my life since our family came to Ghana was that I realized that I was a rotten sinner without hope. I came to Jesus for salvation. My outlook in life changed. People were not just people. I saw people with souls going straight to hell. I am reminded of a story:

There was a man that brought a whole herd of pigs to the butcher shop. One man asked him how he managed to bring all of these pigs to the butcher shop. He replied, "It was very easy. You see, I had a sack of corn under my arm. I would get handfuls out and drop the corn behind me the whole way to the butcher shop. The pigs kept following me and ate it up as I went. They didn't know where they were going. They just followed me right in through the door

of the butcher shop, and the door closed behind them." How true this is today! Multitudes follow right after Satan, devouring all he has to offer, not realizing where they are going—until it is too late, and the door shuts behind them.

Another thing we have to deal with all the time is the spiritual oppression of the Islamic religion in the community where we live. It's a walk of faith. Many times we don't feel God's presence in a real way, but we have to keep going by faith and not by sight. At times it's a great challenge to keep going, but God steps down, splits the clouds, and gives us another burst of energy.

**Here in Ghana, people around us
are dying because of curses and
tricks of Satan. We don't have to
fear, for we have a Savior!**

I remember some time ago we were going to a somewhat distant village for a funeral. When we got several miles out of town, the heaviness in my heart suddenly lifted. It was as if a heavy weight had fallen off. It was like the feeling many people have after they repent—free, light, and awed by God. If I would have gotten out of the car, I could have put a line across the road where the cloud of oppression stopped. As we were coming back from the funeral and nearing town, it happened again. But this time it was the opposite—the weight came back with the feeling of oppression. The reason I'm writing this is that I want you to all realize that Satan is real! He is fighting for the souls of men! In America, he might be doing it in more hidden ways, but he is still fighting! I praise and thank the Lord for the protection we have in Jesus. Here in Ghana, people around us are dying because of curses and tricks of Satan. But we don't have to fear, for we have a Savior!

It is rewarding here in Ghana to see many answers to prayer. Each time a prayer is answered, our hearts receive more faith for the next problem. One such answer to prayer is greater victory over the oppression. I want to thank and praise God for weakening the cloud of oppression over this city of Tamale. This happened after our "Prayer Partners"

joined us for ten days of fasting and prayer. God answered those prayers! I'm trusting Him to one day completely drive the oppression away.

Being in the center of God's will is such a beautiful place to be. I want to stay there always, no matter where it might lead me. Right now it is here in Tamale among the many Muslims. Truly the land is very dry and parched, but I believe God will bring springs of water in the midst of this spiritual desert here in Tamale.

I want to encourage all of you to always stay in the center of God's will! No matter where it might lead you, or what it might cause you to go through. It is the best place to be. If you're not sure what it is, *find out!* God is faithful and will show you what His will is for your life right now. Don't worry about ten years from now. He will make that clear when you need to know. Get His will about today, the present time of your life. If you already know, then thank God for it, and follow after Him. Keep your personal relationship with Christ alive! When you start cooling down, Satan won't waste any time and he will quickly stick his foot into your life. Keep staying strong for Jesus in this wicked world that we live in! When we see Christ, all the trials of this life will seem as nothing.

Shawn Halteman lives in Ghana. His sister Andrea has a testimony on the next page.

Seeking Reality

Are you seeking things that will pass away?
Or seeking things that forever will stay?
Seeking for glory, might, riches and fame?
Or seeking honor to bring to His name?

Seeking things that may be stolen or rust?
Lo, He brings all those empty things to dust.
Lay up for yourselves much treasure above,
Abide in Jesus, and walk in His love.

Are you seeking for fun, pleasure or play?
Or seeking in heaven your treasure to lay?
Will you please yourself in all that you do?
Knowing your Maker's blood was shed for you?
Think you are rich and in your strong city?
Yet you are nothing, e'en though you are pretty.
Cast your cares all on Him, give all to God—
With a crown you will tread the Heav'nly sod.

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Hymn History continued...

and sat down at the organ. As I touched the keys there came to me note by note, the tune that is sung today. I must admit that as I finished the first stanza I wondered if the melody would stay with me for the remaining stanzas, but God was good. Nothing changed, not a single note. When I had finished, Mr. Moody came and leaned over the little organ. I could see tears in his eyes and I heard him say, 'Where in the world did you get that?' At the moment I could not reply for to me, also, it had been an unusual experience."¹

Later, at a meeting in Melrose, Mr. Sankey again sang this song. Elizabeth, who had been dead for five years, had two sisters in the congregation. One of these sisters later wrote Ira Sankey, "I am happy that Elizabeth's poem has found a place in the service of the One she loved and tried to serve."¹

Elizabeth Clephane also wrote a few other hymns, one of which is *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*—probably her most well known.

As a note of coincidence, Ira Sankey was born in Edinburgh, Pennsylvania. AR

Just like all of God's work,
missions are not built on systems,
but on the lives of individuals
who have surrendered
their all to Him.

Gospel for Asia, Volume 21, Number 4

Do not say you are inadequate
for the task: God does not
call the qualified, He qualifies
the called.

Many are called, few answer.

My Grace is sufficient for you.

Assorted

God's School For Me-Andrea Halteman

"The things that are impossible with men, are possible with God!"

"God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to all good work."

I would like to share with you a little of what God has done in my life since we moved here to Ghana, West Africa. I am the second born of four children in our family. Since moving to Ghana, our dear native sister, Afishetu, has been living with us, and she has become a part of our family as well.

We moved to Ghana in 1997 when I was 15. The move to another country was very hard for me. The thought of leaving my closest friends to go into the unknown was something I fought against. My parents had felt a calling for Africa for a while, but I thought it would never happen. When it came about that we were supposed to go, it was hard for me! I'm

I knew that if He was calling us, He would give us the grace to live it out.

not sure I was totally yielded to it until we had lived in Ghana for a while. I had the idea, "I'm going to have to live here for now, but I won't put my heart into it and

in three years we can go home." After God worked in my heart, I was able to come to the place of giving up my desires and found a real peace here. I quickly found myself getting involved in the work and enjoying it! Even now, I look back in amazement at the way God changed my heart.

From that point on, it has been a very concentrated school of learning. I'm still learning so much and have not at all arrived. I feel unworthy to be a missionary because of all the areas God had to change in me. I think of the stubbornness of my own heart in the past and all that God has had to do and is still doing to make me more useable for Him. I'm sharing this so you know it wasn't all glamorous for me from the beginning and to tell you of the work God has done in my life.

The biggest things God has had to teach me are trusting in Him, finding my all in Him, and knowing that God has a purpose in everything that comes my way. There have been times over the last years where I was tempted to feel angry at God. God has

been continually breaking me and taking away many of the things I held on to as dear in my life. I got to the place of throwing myself into the work and so loving it. I loved to see souls in darkness, full of evil, juju, and unhappiness get totally changed around. Their faces would change, and I could see the difference. We became very close to the people who were saved, and I especially became very attached.

My next lesson was coming. These Christians were from Muslim homes and faced much persecution. I felt like I had to hang on to them. I went through much worry and fear, wondering if they would stay faithful to God through the persecution. I tried to give them to God, but I was so afraid we would lose them. Sometimes the persecution was very hot and people even threatened our family. I loved these dear ones so much, and it was hard to give them to God. It was a constant struggle of trusting God for their lives and giving them into God's care. It came to a time when some of these dear ones turned back because of misunderstandings, persecution, and possibly because they fell into sin. I was totally hurt and shattered! I felt almost angry with God that He would allow this to happen after we had prayed so much for them.

My second lesson came: I had put my security in my surroundings and in people! It was the same reason why it was so hard for me to leave America in the first place. By this time, my friendships in America were getting farther away, and I was not as attached to them. One by one as different of our dear ones here in Ghana turned back, I felt God had taken all my props out from under me. God was bringing me to the place where only HE would be my joy and happiness. People may let you down, but our heavenly Father is always there for us. It took me awhile to get back up on my feet, and since then, it has been harder for me to trust people. Now sometimes it feels like there are so many people against us, but oh, the joy of knowing I belong to the Creator of this world. I have so much more to learn in these areas, but through everything it has brought me closer to the Lord than I have ever been before. I know I can't make it, unless I find my help in Him. My devotional time with the Lord has become so important to me. I'm learning to pray about little things and give them to the Lord. God is also teaching me to

have faith and trust in Him. I see God answering prayers over and over again. Sometimes everything looks dark, but there is GOD, and He always gives us a reason to go on. We are still praying for those who have gone back into sin, and I believe God is going to bring some of them back to Himself.

God has us all in His school, and where God has you at this time is His school for you.

Another thing God is impressing upon my heart is the reality of the spiritual battle we are in. The evil powers in Ghana are much more evident. For example, yesterday we were at a funeral. After they carried the body out, some of the young girls were supposed to carry water for the men. As the one girl put the container of water on her head, her pot full of water started turning, moving her whole head with it. Her head was jerked back and forth uncontrollably as the water spilt out. The women around there quickly came to get the container off of her head, but they were too late to save the water—it was all spilt. This happens when someone dies, and the evil spirit that was on that person goes to a grandchild or relative. When that happens, they usually cannot carry water on their heads for quite some time after the funeral. This is what these people are used to. They think it's the spirit of the loved one who died, but we know it's evil spirits that are transferred from one to the other.

I know evil is also in America, but it's more hidden and comes out in different ways. Satan knows those who are serious, sold out, totally surrendered, full of God's spirit, and know how to pray. He and all his demons fear those kinds of Christians. He tries to hinder their work as much as he can. He also knows those who aren't Christians, and they don't have any protection from evil. We have been hearing testimonies of people that have come out of terrible evil situations. When they were in it, they were sent to destroy churches that were hot and on fire. I'm convinced the devil is angry at the work we are doing here and will try all he can to get those who are serious to turn back. We live in the middle of a Muslim area, and evil is all around. We feel and see many attacks on our family, but God is God! We see Jesus Christ winning and Satan being defeated. It takes a

walk with God—not allowing even small sin in our lives. Satan will try to get his foot in our hearts in a small way. Before long, we can see him doing so much damage.

Through all of this, God has been opening my eyes to the need of prayer. When I see the great need for prayer, I know I really need to grow in the area of interceding and doing spiritual warfare. It's something I want God to help me in and teach me. Prayer is so powerful and the devil hates the Christian who prays.

God has us all in His school, and where God has you at this time is His school for you. The battle is real everywhere you go. When the school you are in seems difficult, remember God is preparing you for a work in the future, and He allows these things so you are better cut out for His plan. I'm still learning the lesson of trusting God and realizing everything that comes my way is for God's purpose in my life! God is a real friend and wants to walk with you step by step. He cares about all of the things you face everyday. Maybe He wants to prepare you now for a work He has for you later. Stay in His school. That way, when the time comes to do that work, God will be able to use you.

God has been doing so much in my life to make me into the missionary He wants me to be. He has many different ways of teaching us, and He knows what we are ready for and what we can handle. I'm very happy to be in the work of the Lord here in Ghana, and thank God through the tough lessons that He has made me a better person for the future. To God be all the glory! If it wasn't for God, I would still be very self-centered and going my own way, but He is a God of love and mercy! May God bless each one of you as you find His will for your life and as you learn in His school.

The Will of God will never lead you where the Grace of God cannot keep you.

George Mueller

He that wins souls is wise.

Proverbs 10:30b

Insights From Our Readers

Question: *I am trying to walk separated from the world. My relatives and acquaintances don't seem to understand, and I feel so alone. What can I do?*

I know what this feels like. I went through a time in my life when it didn't seem like there was any like-minded youth who lived close to me. I learned several lessons that have helped me.

1. Brothers and sisters can be wonderful friends. They also can give you many opportunities to learn how to disciple.

2. Many times, like-minded youth are the ones you think aren't like you at all. For example, one of my best friends now lived near me for years, but I never took time to develop the relationship because I thought we didn't have similar interests. Physically, we didn't, but I have found that spiritually, we both are seeking Christ. What a friendship we have now!

3. Concerning relatives, I can't worry about what their expectations are for me. I must care about what the Lord would have me do. Worldly relatives won't understand why "I am throwing my life away." I must remember that I am not throwing it away, I am storing it up for eternity. *"For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."* 2 Corinthians 4:18b

4. Lastly, and most importantly, I must look to Jesus and realize that only He can give me the total fulfillment of my desires for friendship. Hudson Taylor said that we as youth should be married to Christ. I can't relate to that having never been married, but I know that Jesus can be everything I need if I let Him.

Well, I hope this helps someone. It seems so basic, but the challenge is to take this mental information, and make it your heart's goal. Praise God!

—**Josiah Rocke**

Question for Next Issue: *My old friends don't understand that I am seeking different things now. I want to be able to reach them, but I don't know how to turn our conversations to spiritual things. Can anyone give me some ideas?*

Am I a soldier of the Cross?

Am I a soldier of the Cross,
A follower of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His name?
Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease,
While others fight to win the prize,
And sailed through bloody seas?
Are there no foes for me to face?
Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world a friend to grace,
To help me on to God?
Sure I must fight if I would reign;
Increase my courage, Lord;
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by Thy Word.

—Isaac Watts

- **Focus next issue: Missions at Home**
We want to focus more on the work we can accomplish without going to a foreign land.

Anguish for the Lost

David Brainerd had a call to preach the Gospel to the unreached Native Americans. Here is an entry in his prayer journal. See the anguish he felt over their lost condition.

"In Prayer I was exceedingly enlarged and my soul was as much drawn out as ever I remember it to have been in my life, or near. I was in such anguish and pleaded with so much earnestness and importunity that when I rose from my knees, I felt extremely weak and overcome—I could scarcely walk straight. My joints were loosed, the sweat ran down my face and body, and nature seemed as if it would dissolve...in my fervent supplications for the poor Indians. I knew they were met together to worship devils and not God. This made me cry earnestly that God would now appear and help me...My soul pleaded long."

—David Brainerd July 21, 1744

How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”

Romans 10:14–15

In This Issue...

Missions Abroad—Reaching the Unreached

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