



# the REAPER

VOL. 66, NO. 2 | Summer 2021

**COMMIT THY WORKS UNTO THE LORD, AND  
THY THOUGHTS SHALL BE ESTABLISHED.**

---

*PROVERBS 16:3*



# Source of light

INTERNATIONAL

Source of Light Ministries International is an independent, faith mission that exists to bring people of every nation, language, and ethnicity into a mature relationship with Jesus Christ and into fellowship with a local church family.

SLM is a world-wide, disciple making, church planting ministry that uses the medium of Bible lessons for all ages in both printed and electronic format to achieve its goals. The International Headquarters in Madison, Georgia, its Discipleship Training Branches (DTB), and Associate Discipleship Schools (ADS), distribute lessons throughout the world.

Representatives and Missionaries of SLM are available to present the ministry to churches, missionary conferences, and other groups. Contact the **SLM PR OFFICE** for scheduling.

For information visit us at:  
[www.sourcelight.org](http://www.sourcelight.org)  
or call 800.776.1207

*the REAPER* is published by Source of Light Ministries International, Inc. and is free of charge to subscribers. Write or call to be placed on the mailing list.

### Change of Address or Subscription

If your address has changed or you are no longer interested in receiving *the REAPER*, please contact us using the postal or email address on the back cover of this magazine.

Copyright © 2021

Source of Light Ministries International, Inc.  
1011 Mission Road, Madison, Georgia 30650

All rights reserved including the rights to reproduce this publication or any parts thereof in any form without the express written permission of Source of Light.

Printed in the United States of America, April 2021

### *the REAPER*

Dr. Ronald J. Barnes Jr.  
*Editor*

Brenda Barnes  
*Assistant Editor*

Eula Keener  
Melody Zink  
Betty Ingalsbe  
Kimberly Thigpen  
Ray Walker  
*Reaper Staff*

Joel Cockrell  
*Graphic Designer*

Ron Barnes III  
*Photographer*

Michael Ventrello  
*Prepress*

### Board of Directors

Dr. Paul Seger, *Chairman*  
Dr. R.J. Sans, *Vice Chairman*  
Jim Thompson, *Secretary*  
Darwin Blandon, *Treasurer*  
Don Lowry  
E.B. Shoff  
David Meyer  
Steve Woody  
Dr. B.H. Struthers  
Doug Truax

### Administrator's Cabinet

Dr. Ronald J. Barnes Jr.  
*President & CEO*  
Brian Thigpen  
*Chief Financial Officer*  
Phil Winder  
*Director of Operations*  
Dr. Ronald J. Barnes Jr.  
*Director of Global Outreach*  
Hugh Jarrell  
*Director of Publications*  
Brian Thompson  
*Regional Director - North America*  
Pablo Correa  
*Regional Director - South America*  
Scottie Staab  
*Regional Director - Europe & Asia*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>4</b>	<b>Editor's Article Looking Back</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Ivory Coast Orphanage Matching Gift Project</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Looking Back Recollections of SLM's Founders</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Global Input on the SLM New Course Development</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Seeking His Will, Following His Lead, Looking Forward</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Ministry Without Limits</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>A Project Called Mundialito</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Missionary Spotlights</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>"Socially" Connected in Brazil</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Prayer &amp; Praise</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Surviving Covid... Financially</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Memorials</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Moving Forward: SLM Asia</b>		



### On the Cover

Daniela Izotenko  
Proverbs 16:3

### Corrections & Clarifications

For the latest version of *the Reaper* go to [sourcelight.org/reaper](http://sourcelight.org/reaper)

## Purpose and Mission:

Source of Light Ministries International exists to bring people of every nation, language, and ethnicity into a mature relationship with Jesus Christ and into fellowship with a local church family.

### Letter from the Editor

Over the past 68 years, God has blessed the ministry of Source of Light and expanded its influence to hundreds of countries. He has expanded the reach of our lessons into parts of the world conventional missionaries have never gone. He has expanded the vision of our founders and early missionaries beyond the use of the literature for evangelism and discipleship, into church planting, advanced theological and Bible training, prison ministries, children's ministries, military and police outreach, slum ministry, and so much more.

God has blessed us with a wonderfully gifted, yet diverse team of missionaries who serve effectively in a variety of capacities with excellence, integrity, and godliness all around the globe. They serve selflessly and courageously, at times in some of the hardest soil and conditions imaginable. Each plays a necessary and significant role in achieving the overall SLM strategy of making disciples of every nation, language, and ethnicity.

Each of us at SLM serve with a common goal and unite under the same vision, given to us as we seek

the will of God, then follow His lead! Proverbs 16:3 exhorts us to, "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established."

We want our thoughts to be established by the Lord, so that in every detail of how we serve Him, we honor and glorify Him. We want every one of our "works" to matter, and God has given us an expanded vision for the future as we have sought His guidance.

This Summer Edition of the *Reaper* will share both some of the expanded territory and vision God has given us, as well as testimonies and stories of how our missionaries will and are doing this on the frontlines. It is our earnest desire that the theme of this *Reaper*, "Seeking His Will, Following His Lead," and the stories herein, will motivate and challenge you to pray and partner with us to accomplish together the Great Commission.



After years of serving as a church planting missionary, **Dr. Ronald J. Barnes Jr.** now serves as the President & CEO for SLM.

Follow me @RonBarnesJr

Early SLM Staff in the Print Shop



# Looking Back

Recollections of SLM's founders, from an article in the *Reaper* in 1967

## "PRINCIPLES IN GOD'S LEADING"

The passing of time has a dramatic way of changing one's perspective, and I have become very conscious of this as I have reflected on the early days of the Source of Light Mission, and especially as I have reviewed my own role in those events.

Although the day-to-day activities were considered to be under God's control, their successful consummation seemed to depend a great deal on the dedication and ability of those who were involved. These activities did not appear at that time to be necessarily interrelated, but were rather ends within themselves.

Now, however, events of those early years seem to be very definitely interwoven. And the role of all of us who were involved appears to be less significant in the light of an apparent working out of an overall divine plan. Isolated events and situations that then appeared to be individual hurdles to be cleared, now appear to have been related situations that established the pattern for SLM's ministry through the years.

Charles Gilmore and I went to Jamaica to distribute Gospels of John that were already there waiting, having been prayed in and provided through Cam Thompson. We were immediately concerned that there was no follow-up of those who received the Gospels. As we prayed, we felt that this could be best accomplished through a Bible correspondence course in the absence of a corps of field workers to do personal follow-up. The cults were very effectively using Bible correspondence courses in this way.

We were unable to locate a Bible course that we felt would meet the particular need that we envisioned. Therefore, we decided to write one ourselves. Several efforts were scrapped, and the course that we finally developed was a simple course on the way of salvation in the Gospel of John, which was based principally on an outline taken from the Christian



*George Webster and Family in the 80's*

Worker's New Testament. Since many of those who received the Gospel of John would have only that portion of Scripture, the course was limited to that Book. Our goal was to lead those who took the course to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The course was written, five hundred copies were mimeographed, and Charles and I left for Jamaica. With the help of George DaCosta, a Jamaican (or rather we helped him), the Gospels were distributed. An announcement was included in each Gospel offering a free Bible correspondence course to anyone who would send in the coupon. Bette and Eleanor (our wives) had stayed

at home and sent out the courses as the requests came in. By the time Charles and I returned home, all of the first five hundred courses had been sent out and there were five hundred requests waiting. By the time those requests were filled, the first courses were back, asking for the next course that had not yet been written.



*SLM Founders and Early SLM Staff*

All of these events seemed to transpire as a natural course of events. We simply entered into opportunities as they developed. Although we had adopted the name Source of Light Mission (taking the name from a radio broadcast that Charles and Bette Gilmore had in Pennsylvania before moving to Georgia), we had not at this time, as I recall, set out to start a mission. We had just responded to Cam Thompson's plea for help in distributing Gospels and following up the contacts that developed through the distributions. The tremendous response to the Gospel distribution and the recurring requests for other

courses kept pushing us into a continuing and expanding ministry. It seemed apparent that what we had rather innocently, if I may use the term, "blundered" into, had very rapidly developed into a ministry that was far beyond the capabilities of the two couples with which it had started. We then sought the help and guidance of others. A council was formed, including Brother E. C. Sheehan and Cam Thompson, and the mission was officially incorporated. The work developed like a spiral, with one event growing out of another and continuing right on to its present world-wide outreach through the Bible correspondence courses in many different languages.

The first Bible correspondence courses were almost solely Scripture. The Scripture speaks for itself. I often heard Cam Thompson say that no better tract has ever been written than the Gospel of John; so why not concentrate our efforts in getting a Gospel of John to every person as quickly as possible? Cam's motto, "God's Word to every home in Latin America with a MAXIMUM of prayer and a MINIMUM of red tape," was an outgrowth of this conviction. God has greatly used His Word in the courses. Because of their strong biblical basis, the courses have had wide appeal and wide usage by many groups, crossing many denominational bounds, because the Bible is not a sectarian book.

At perhaps no time was it more apparent that this work was of the

Lord and not of man than when both of the founding families were taken out of the work and yet it continued to grow, perhaps even with greater strides than before. But the principles under which SLM would operate were established in those very early years, often by circumstances engineered by the Lord Himself. Adherence to the principles set by the Lord in the beginning of the work is probably one of the principle keys to the phenomenal growth of the Mission through the years. Faithful adherence to these principles in the years ahead will guarantee that the Source of Light Mission will continue to grow as it has in the past and give an increasing light in the darkness ahead.

God has used many people in providing for His work through SLM and for those who have been associated with SLM through the years. Each one has learned dependence upon Him out of sheer necessity. Most of the time there was no other option. Praise the Lord for the circumstances which He engineers and for His great faithfulness in those circumstances not only to supply our needs, but to teach us utter dependence upon Him for His provision and direction.

From the Archives of SLM

# Seeking His Will, Following His Lead, Looking Forward

*“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established”  
(Proverbs 16:3).*

Letter from the Editor

Nine years ago, during my first week on the job as CEO of SLM, I sat in front of all the SLM missionaries in Madison and began to lay out the vision for that year on a PowerPoint. I showed them a slide of a tree with the roots, trunk, and branches all visible. Then, as I drew their attention to the branches of the tree as it grew and grew with new ministries and branches, I finished the presentation with a question: “What had gone missing since that first slide?” Not a single person could answer my question.

When I created the presentation, I added more and more exciting things to the branch part of the tree, drawing attention to the top, distracting them from me slowly making the roots disappear out of sight. I said SLM had seen such growth over the previous years, I feared if we didn’t pay more attention to the root system of SLM, that like a tree with rotten, weak, or shallow roots, it wouldn’t take much to upend us.

So, each year for many years, we have done just that. We have strengthened our administrative skills, our accounting, our accountability, our training, and our resources significantly. Each year we, as a leadership, set goals for that year in areas we wanted to see growth and strength, and God has richly blessed us.

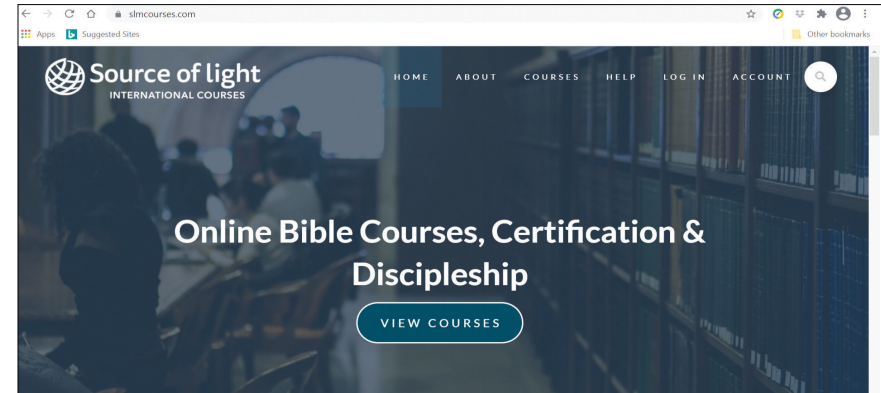
As we approached 2021, having spent much of 2020 with more time to dedicate to those last tasks, we determined that in 2021 we needed to be talking about a long-range vision beyond the next year, and begin to seek and pray for some long-term direction.

God has given us a broader vision for ministry, doing mostly the same type of things, just on a broader scale and utilizing the tools and resources that this season in history has made available and has made us aware of.

## Electronic Expansion

This past year has revealed to us the doors that are opened in getting the Gospel into the hands of the unreached and unsaved, as well as

of the Bible to the next level and possibly earn an Associate’s Degree of Christian Ministry, so they can be better equipped for the ministry God has called them to.



an opportunity to disciple them with better, more regular communication, and the ability to provide even more resources, electronically.

Our “Basic” lessons went online and have been utilized by each of our United States Branches. Now that training is complete, we expect this to expand our reach exponentially. At the same time, our Portuguese and Spanish lessons are going online soon, followed by many other languages, which will be utilized throughout the world on those online platforms through [slmcourses.com](https://slmcourses.com).

At the same time, we have offered the advanced courses, our Bible college program, called World Wide Bible Institute at <https://www.bionline.org>, for students to take their knowledge

We have also begun to use quite effectively the video conferencing tools now widely available and inexpensive to host and participate in conferences, seminars, training, and accountability. I have sat in meeting after meeting these last few months where our missionaries have expressed that they have never felt so close, so loved by the SLM staff and administration, who through video conferencing have been able to listen, pray, counsel, and encourage them. Many now meet weekly on Zoom or Whatsapp for fellowship, prayer, counsel, and meetings.

What we have learned through the pandemic is that it is possible to accomplish a great deal through electronic means. With a little

creativity, we believe we can use these new digital tools in relationship building, teaching, training, and a multitude of other tasks, which we believe we can use to expand our Gospel outreach and fulfill our desire to make disciples.

We have seen evidence of this already in many of our restricted access countries. Previously, it has been difficult to get seekers and new believers to come to an actual church building for fear of the dangers associated with living under Muslim, Hindu, and oppressive religions and governments.



Our missionaries have found great success in “getting them in the door” virtually, then seeing them saved and disciplined until they are strong enough in their faith to take the step to attend in person. Some of our missionaries are seeing three-fold growth in church attendance via the internet and are already seeing their in-person congregations grow.

### **Passing the Batons**

Another area we aim to tackle in this next season at SLM is mentoring and training the next generation of leadership around the globe. As many of our Branch Directors are growing older, we want to ensure that the ministry of SLM will continue seamlessly, with plenty of room for one “relay team” member to smoothly pass the baton to the next runner.

We plan to seek out and train this next generation of leaders with a deliberate and well-established plan of training. Pray for God to raise up this next generation of leaders.



### **Grafting in New Branches**

As our ministries have expanded in our Branches around the world, we have established schools in many neighboring countries which are begging to join us officially as Branches. We have established works in the Caribbean, Uruguay, Burkina Faso, Benin, Tanzania, Zambia, Lebanon, Ireland, and Cuba

that are ready to start officially, if they can raise the necessary funds to run a Branch. Please pray that in the coming years, between local (national) support, micro-enterprise, and the support of churches and friends in the United States, we would see each of these schools serving as full time, fully grafted Branches of SLM.

### **New Press**

While the exact details of which final machine we will need to buy aren't finalized, we do know that in order to make courses in the best quality we can while keeping the costs to the missionary and schools low, we still need to print “in-house.”



We need a machine that wasn't built in the 60's, one that you don't need to have a mechanic and an engineer to keep running, and one that will provide less wear and tear on the operator and press men, while providing a top quality image. After all, how effective is a piece of literature that no one takes due to its low quality? With the presses we have had these many years, we have

always produced the best quality product we could, but it is time to upgrade, likely to a machine that will cost between \$400,000–\$500,000. Would you pray with us that God would provide?

### **New Courses**

As time has passed, we have determined the need to develop and expand our own line of courses. As we have expanded into more diverse cultures, we have come to the conclusion we must write courses that can more easily and effectively cross not just languages, but also cultures, and deal with a variety of new topics.



God has assembled a wonderful team of editors with excellent editing skills, as well as international and cross-cultural experience, and we have secured designers and artists who can illustrate and design the courses. We also have a few skilled writers, but are still praying God will provide a few more gifted writers who can offer their time and expertise in writing the courses.

With the new courses, we hope to be thorough and clear in our presentation of the Gospel, systematic in our discipleship, leaving no stone unturned, and extensive in our offerings, so that we are dealing with some of the current challenges people are facing in life, and yet focused on the same values of simplicity, understandability, and a commitment to the prolific and accurate use and application of Scripture.

Also of extreme importance, we want to have the courses illustrated in a way that would attract the attention of potential readers with its art, and draw them into the message of the courses, without distraction sometimes seen in western designs.

Yes, this is a tall order, but we believe God will provide the financial resources, probably about \$100,000 to complete it, and the volunteers and staff to see it through. Please pray that the Lord of the harvest will raise up laborers... which leads to our final push and vision for the future....

#### **New Partners and New Missionaries**

We need new partners and missionaries. With an expanded vision, there will be expanded needs. Would you pray that God would provide many new supporters of the Global Outreach Fund, which is how this project will be funded? Would you also be in prayer for the expanded needs we will have for volunteers and missionaries to come serve in our office in Madison, as well

as around the globe? We need office help, administrators, print shop staff, IT help, maintenance staff, and much more.

**Perhaps you know of someone who is looking to serve, someone who is looking for a change, someone who is approaching retirement, or a missionary needing a new place to serve.**

**Would you let them know about the needs of SLM and have them contact us at:**

**[hr@slmin.org](mailto:hr@slmin.org)**

**Or at 706.342.0397**

**Yes, we at Source of Light are on a mission, we invite you to join us, "Seeking His Will, Following His Lead, and Looking Forward."**



After years of serving as a church planting missionary, **Dr. Ronald J. Barnes Jr.** now serves as the President & CEO for SLM.

Follow me  [@RonBarnesJr](https://twitter.com/RonBarnesJr)

## **A Project Called "Mundialito," the Little World Cup**

*by Sandra Patricia Alfaro*

Shortly into our lockdown and thrust into the world of online connections, as a ministry we began to seek how we could use this virtuality to benefit evangelism, discipleship of children, and affect families. We who work with children agree that the important thing is for children to come to know Christ, be firmly grounded in biblical principles, and be able to imitate the correct pattern established by Jesus in His Word.

We set our hearts to hear the voice of God and share the ideas of the heart with our pastor, colleagues, leaders, and our ministry teams, to know their advice and receive their support. How can we gather the children under our influence, from church, Bible clubs, family, sports, schools, and etc. to play, eat, share, and teach about the one who died for them?

After much counsel, prayer, and with the participation of nine countries, 13 delegations, almost 500 children, one coordinator per delegation, and 12 leaders of discipleship to mentor each child, an idea was born... Mundialito!

We gathered by Zoom for four Saturdays to enjoy dynamic teaching, sing praises, have refreshments, play,

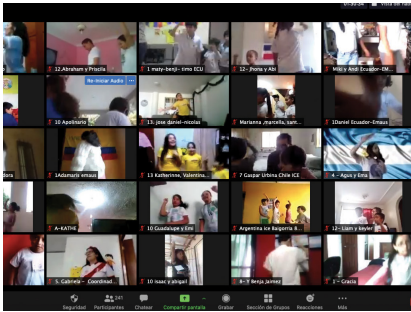
and set challenges for the following week, along with a devotional from the age-appropriate SLM courses that each discipling leader would tutor.

Preparing the worship with themes relevant to the core teaching, using mimes, music, and choreography, was very exciting and inspiring for the team. Seeing the children through the cameras singing and praising God, and being encouraged by their teachers, was one of our best rewards.

Each week we had teaching based on the life of Joseph (from Genesis 37–50), prepared and prerecorded themes full of emotion, with illustrations of interest to all children, interviews of soccer players, play acting, and interactive games.

We met seven weeks before the World Cup to arrange delegations to send each child, each house, and each family: a snack for every Saturday, the implements for games and activities, a Bible, Source of Light courses, and a t-shirt that would identify their country or church, and thus, give them a sense of belonging and competence.

This work of discipling the leaders was essential for the encouragement and follow-up of each participating child. Their task during the four weeks would be to help his/her disciple meet the challenges, learn verses, and do the devotional, developing the Source of Light courses together with his parents. There were two lessons per week to complete. This discipler's



All the Team Players on Zoom – Photo by Laura Vanegas

support would be essential during the virtual meetings.

Through the challenges that were assigned for the week, we managed to get the families to work together and share the Word, by making billboards, posting verses and family photos on social networks, games at home, and other activities, allowing the child to testify of Christ to others.

Seeing impacted children, affected families, and churches motivated to fulfill the command to “go and make disciples,” challenged us to continue seeking God’s will and to glorify His name.

Now the challenge is to persevere in continuing to teach the children through the Source of Light discipleship program, and other activities that allow us to see their growth and development in knowing Christ.

### Testimonies from the World Cup

“Today, four years ago for the third time, God tore a piece of my heart by taking our third child,” wrote the mother of one of the boys from



Team Colombia – Photo by Laura Vanegas

Argentina. “I have so many questions that I may never find answers to this side of eternity. But today, I could cry out Ebenezer; His plans for His children are for good and not for evil. I have understood that I do not need to understand, but to trust.” After one of the family memorization challenges from Jeremiah 29:11, this mother was finally reconciled to God, after several years of spiritual confusion and anguish.

Florence, a discipling leader, had the privilege of seeing the conversion of two girls after having studied a Source of Light lesson, Melody and Noraly, whose parents are not believers.



**Sandra Patricia Alfaro** is married and has three children and five grandchildren. She has walked with Christ forty-three years, and her passion is teaching children. She is a family counselor and member of the SLM Colombia team.

## Socially Connected in Brazil

by Samuel Milanez

Locked at home recently, the Brazilian population was looking for ways to entertain themselves and found the answer on social media. But how much really useful stuff do we have on social media today? We had a choice to accept the little we had, or to provide something useful ourselves. We understand that technology is not an enemy of faith; although it can be a distraction. There is no doubt that it is also an excellent tool for the propagation of the Word of God, especially in the current moment in which we live.

The usefulness of these digital tools became very important for us who serve at SLM Brazil. One of the activities that brought SLM Brazil students closer together was the live broadcasts made on YouTube and Facebook presenting each of the lessons of the course, “The Life of Christ.” There were some positive results of this activity. The first was that several people who still did not know our material now had access to it. The second was that some people who had studied with us in the past thought that we were no longer working, but then came back to us to request courses for their families and churches. Finally, we had explanations about each lesson

available on social media, which was very important. Now, when the student has doubts, he can access and watch the presentation of the lesson. Remarkably, several people started asking us if we had all the courses available in videos on social networks.

In response to these requests, we decided that for the following seven weeks we would present a lesson a week from the seven lessons in the TMC1 series—“A Place Called Heaven.” In the eighth week, we did a daily broadcast on Facebook and YouTube presenting two lessons from the TMC2 series—“The Life of Christ.” Some videos had more than 1,000 viewers! Since then we have started using Instagram as well.

For the future, we will continue to do what has already worked, and continue to improve ourselves in the use of these online tools so that we can reach more people with quality content.



Article by Samuel Milanez Director of SLM Brazil (Left) and Sérgio Cosmo Rodrigues CoDirector (Center) Pictured in a Training Session



# Surviving COVID... Financially

Long before anyone had ever even heard of COVID, God put on the heart of a dear lady we'll call Miss X, to name SLM as a beneficiary in her will should anything ever happen to her. She knew many people at SLM, loved the work and ministry of SLM, and decided to let one of her last wishes be to see it continue with help from a final gift from her estate plan.

She would have had no idea that a decade later, when she went to be with the Lord, SLM would have gone into 2020 with less than average end of the year giving in 2019, which would have made things tight for SLM through the rest of 2020. She would have had no idea that her gift would make it possible to ride out a pandemic, where we saw less than average giving to our Global Outreach

Fund. While God was good in many ways through our donors to our missionaries and projects, had it not been for Miss X's generous gift which we received at the beginning of the pandemic, things would have been tough for SLM.

But praise to be to Jehovah Jireh, Who provided for our need long before we ever even knew we would have one, through the planned giving of a dear saint and partner of SLM who included us in her will.

Would you consider including SLM in your will as you make plans for your future? Annually, these types of gifts are necessary to expand our ministry to reach the potential for the great big vision God has given us at SLM.

*Would you consider helping us survive and thrive in our future challenges? For more information, or if we can help you navigate this, please contact our CFO Brian Thigpen at 706.342.0397 or through email at [bthigpen@slmin.org](mailto:bthigpen@slmin.org).*

# GLOBAL OUTREACH FUND



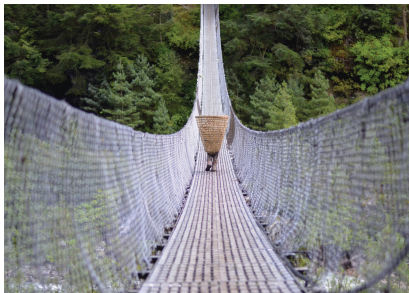
Source of Light International in Madison, Georgia operates and ministers to each of its missionaries without any administrative fees charged. We rely solely on gifts and regular donations in the same way as any of our missionaries, purely by faith. In order to continue to operate this way, we are asking God, by faith, to raise up new individuals, churches, and foundations to support the work of the home office through the Global Outreach Fund.

**Would you prayerfully consider partnering with SLM through the Global Outreach Fund?**

# Moving Forward: SLM Asia

by Kim Thigpen

One definition of the word forward is, “onward so as to make progress; toward a successful conclusion.” Source of Light’s Branches and schools around the world are looking forward toward the future. We see potential in new ideas, utilizing the open doors created through advancing technology. We look with hope at how God will expand His kingdom through us—onward, with progress, toward a successful conclusion.



Upward bridge in Nepal – Photo by Kim Thigpen

Hemanth in the South Zone of India looks toward Christian counseling as a new outreach opportunity. They have already created a video called (English translation) Career Guidance and Motivational Talk from Successful Christian People from India and Around the World. He says, “We are expecting at least 50

students plus their parents in every city. This effort will help us to become what they call ‘Life Coaches’ in all areas of their lives.”



A rambutan seller. Cultural Note: The word rambutan means “hairy” – Photo by Kim Thigpen

Purwoko in Indonesia envisions helping people start small businesses. “Through a small business,” he says, “they are very happy to get other income, and also this is the way we share the Gospel with them.”

Karunakar in Northeast India has hopes for the children who come to Children Clubs for Bible lessons. “When they are growing and going to high school,” Karunakar states, “they don’t want to sit with the little children. So, we can start youth clubs for them, inviting only the youth and their friends. They will come to youth club happily. We need to print special youth lessons contextualized—culturally effective—for their salvation.”

He also sees potential in women leaders, who can work specifically to reach women. “They can go two by two to reach out to the women in their communities with a set of ‘New Life 1’ specially written for

the women, taking their problems, dreams, and salvation in Christ into account. We are working among the children in slums and villages. Many



Women in segregated societies desperately need women missionaries – Photo by EvelienDM

of their mothers, sisters, aunts and cousins want to come to WOMEN’S meetings.... In our culture, if the women visit a family, they will be accepted with honor. These women leaders can reach the women and children, and wives can reach their husbands.”

“So, we can reach the families as per the teachings of our Lord Jesus, ‘And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it’ (Matthew 10:12–13a).”

“Particularly in segregated cultures, ministry from women to women is significant. In some cultures, the void between married couples is so strong, even if a man comes to faith in Christ, he might not tell his wife about it, because the relationship is not such that they would ever share something so personal. Women in these societies desperately need women missionaries.”

Sanjeeb, in the North Zone of India, is already using social work as an avenue for the Gospel. He says, “True religion according to James is also



India teens at the Festival of Colors – Photo by Khusein Rustamov

to look after widows and orphans. TUTC (Train Up the Child) started with the aim of providing secular education to poor children, giving them stationeries (paper supplies for school), and bags completely free of charge.”

“We also started creating social awareness among people on abortion, AIDS, smoking, and liquor as well as many other addictions that young people face. Many women who are believers have never thought that abortion is wrong and it is murder. They see their financial situation and then think of aborting the baby which was unplanned. They don’t trust the Lord Who is our Provider. There are many children in our church who would not have been alive today.”

“In India, smoking and drinking liquor is common. It is their way of life. It is mostly taken by the poor sections of the society. They take cheap quality

liquor, end up in the hospital, fight with their families and spend a major part of their income for these things. Our aim is to make them aware of the dangers to their health and the effect of strained relationships with their family members. Many people have been delivered from this addiction, and they have put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

“Many youths also are addicted to pornography, have eating disorders, and phone addiction. Again, we make them aware of these things which are bad even for their spiritual life.”

“Many people are not aware of AIDS and how they need to be careful. We have made a booklet with pictures to show people, which gives them a better understanding.”

“We care for them and our love for them impacts them. Not only is there a turning point in their lives, by changing their bad habits, but it has also resulted in open doors for us to share the Gospel.”

“Manoj Rajtha is our evangelist in Himachal Pradesh. His father was a heavy drunkard. In almost every report, he would ask us to pray for his father. His drinking problem affected his family and his ministry. His father even made Manoj vacate his house and wouldn't talk to any believers. Today he is a believer,

actively involved in the church. His transformation was a big testimony to the people of their village.”



Manoj Rajtha's father playing the drums  
- Photo by Sanjeeb

“TUTC has been a good opportunity, not just to educate the children in studies, but also to educate them in good behavior, good habits, obedience to parents, etc. We have many opportunities to share from the Bible with the children when they attend the Sunday School and church service. Ayush not only attends church but actively participates by helping in changing songs in the laptop. He has also learned the songs by heart and sometimes sings with other TUTC children in church. Ayush does not know the Lord yet, but he is aware of what it means to know the Lord, and we believe he will eventually make a decision. We are sowing seeds and these seeds will surely bear fruit.”



**Kimberly Thigpen,**  
author of 35 books under the name Kimberly Rae, is the wife of SLM's Chief Financial Officer.

## Ivory Coast Orphanage Matching Gift Project

For many years, the problem of uncared-for orphans has been on the heart of Isaiah Bernasko and his wife, Mensah. Sickness, poverty, war, and unwanted pregnancies have left the country of Ivory Coast with heartbreaking numbers of homeless and uncared-for children.

Churches have attempted to care for the orphans in their communities, and personally, Isaiah and Mensah have welcomed dozens of children into their own home through the years.

But God put it in their hearts to build an orphanage in their village and start a small pig farming business

that could help sustain it. The farm would not only provide ongoing income for the orphanage, but also give those children a head start on life through a trade. This could even help them with finances to continue their education. A job and small farm would help them meet those needs.

A generous donor heard of this need. She wants to encourage the funding of this orphanage by offering a matching gift, to see this much needed project gain momentum for its worthy cause.

**Would you consider a gift towards the matching gift of \$35,000 to help the Ivory Coast reach its goal of \$70,000?**

# Global Input on the SLM New Course Development

by Kim Thigpen

Many of our partners' hopes for the future center around the much-anticipated online courses, as well as creating new print courses. Recently, we contacted fields around the world to ask for feedback regarding the courses they currently have, and what they would like to see happen in future work. As we develop new courses, they are giving important insights into the needs around the world, and how we can meet those needs most effectively.

Samuel in Brazil would like to see a QR code on the back of lessons, so readers could do their test questions online. The answers would go to a missionary, who could then develop a relationship via the Internet.

Sandra Vanegas in Colombia would like lessons to be sized so their children can collect them over time, and when finished, have the entire set of lessons compiled into a folder/book to keep. This would provide a full set of lessons for the student to re-study over time or pass on to other students or their own children one day.

Countries have requested material for their Sunday Schools, to train and disciple children through the churches. Colombia requested a course that takes children through the Bible from beginning to end. We're working on that right now!

Sergei in Brazil, along with many other fields, would like to see the test section of the lessons separate from the course booklet. They have people asking for courses for their entire family, or groups, or a student would like to be able to pass along the course once they have completed it. If we were able to give those students one course booklet and multiple tests, we would be able to print and provide more lessons for less cost, allowing our schools to expand their outreach without needing to raise more funds.

Rowley here in Madison wants to see courses that include creation and the basic truth of the existence of God. Seeing how our country has changed, and many no longer attend church as a child or are taught Bible stories, we can no longer assume a basic knowledge of key Biblical concepts, such as God as the Creator, the existence of Heaven or hell, or God interacting with His creation as taught in the Old Testament stories.

Abraham in the Philippines would like to see teacher's manuals for courses, and visual aids for in-person learning.

Our fields want to contextualize courses to fit their cultures. A teen



School children in Indonesia  
- Photo by Kim Thigpen

course that might address dating here in the United States should be changed for a culture where the dating concept is inappropriate. If we want our courses to minister in a culture where girls showing any part of the arm is deemed immodest, we need to create graphics that will not hinder the Gospel message in any way, certainly not by having images that come across as unholy.

Many of our countries are happy with the idea of having a short, appealing but inexpensive pamphlet to give to people recommending and introducing Source of Light. At this point, many give out a first lesson of a course as a way to introduce SLM, but then for those who do not end up taking the course, the remaining lessons are at risk of being wasted.

Our fields want to be able to offer courses online. Many of them already have apps and digital social options in place where they can reach people and disciple them through the Internet, if they had the courses to offer. Were we able to present print, PDF, or interactive



- Photo by Jess Foami

online options, their mission fields could expand in ways that would have been impossible throughout most of history, even twenty or thirty years ago. For example, if we hear of an exchange student or a person from Nepal going to college in the United States, we could connect them to our partner who oversees Nepalese lessons, and he could take lessons online, developing a relationship with a believer from his home country who knows his heart language.



**Kimberly Thigpen**, author of 35 books under the name Kimberly Rae, is the wife of SLM's Chief Financial Officer.

# MINISTRY WITHOUT LIMITS

Pastor Jorge Ovando, Director of SLM Argentina

**“But the word of God is not bound”  
(2 Timothy 2:9 KJV).**

One of our dreams and prayers was always to take the Gospel as far as possible and to the whole world. Now, due to the pandemic, a large and effective door has been opened to us through Zoom communications, YouTube Channel, Instagram, WhatsApp, video calls and also Online Radio on the internet, all day long. All these are here to stay; therefore, we must learn to use them effectively, and make the most of them for the preaching of the Gospel. In Argentina, we worked to use the tools we had, ending 2020 having done:

1,073 videos for the students of our Christian School and Kindergarten.

4 Virtual Christian Camps for 360 children, adolescents, and youth.

3 Virtual Conferences for 342 women, children, adolescents, and young people.

68 videos for teaching children on our YouTube channel: Winners Club or “Club de Vencedores”.

54 Videos of Ministerial Training Workshops on my YouTube channel: Jorge Ovando.

Many Bible Courses made available on audio.

And almost a hundred encounters through Zoom with leaders and pastors from different countries and places in Argentina.



Virtual classes on Zoom – Photo by Jorge Ovando

You know, that the pandemic negatively affected many people. Fear, the routine of confinement, coexistence, having to give up important daily necessities, and other problems affected many with

discouragement and depression. However, we stand up to make a difference, as Paul teaches us: “I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22). This verse has been our motto since the pandemic began.

Really, we understand that the doors of the world are open for us. Through Radio Online on the internet, all people can listen to online radio on their smartphone while out and about, and even have the option to pause and then continue from where they left off. Listening to online radio is free, and without the usual radio advertisements. We promote the activities of our ministry, and share music and messages long and short.

**Now we are preparing people to be on the radio live. The radio is a good tool that we can use to train our school students in media. Two good testimonies of this time are:**

**“An Argentine resident in Italy was separated from his wife by quarantine and fell into depression. He received the daily Instagram videos from us and that brought him out of depression.”**

**“Our prayer meetings through Zoom every evening at 9 helped maintain the motivation and faith of those who always participate, and now, several of them have emerged as new leaders.”**

After a homiletics course we conducted, 45 new preachers began sharing short biblical messages on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. Forty-five messages, supervised and approved by pastors, are distributed weekly to all areas that the networks allow. In addition, several of these messages are replaced, so the number of people who can see and hear them is unlimited. As all of this is just beginning, we are very happy and excited about the fruits that we believe will be unimaginable.

We are permanently encouraging ourselves to prepare and to serve better according to the new possibilities. We hope to reverse all the old paradigms of doing things only in the presence of others, and start doing it through a camera, or webcam, or a microphone, but knowing that one is reaching the whole world without limit.



Pastor Jorge Ovando is the Director of SLM Argentina.

## MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

### *Enrique Machado, in his own words*

My sister, Dalila, led me into Sunday school in the Baptist Bible Church in Rímac, Lima, Peru, when I was five years old. At nine years old, I made the decision to accept Christ as my Savior.

As a teenager, I helped Pablo and Dalila Correa some weeks in the office of SLM, unboxing lessons, putting them into shelves, correcting exams, and sending lessons to students by mail. Some years later, I was able to travel with Pablo to some provinces in Peru, where he was invited to preach and present the SLM ministry.

I'm involved with this ministry not only by familiar causes (because of family), but for the will of our God.

*What is one of your favorite things to do in ministry?*

To help others to grow up with faith in our Lord. To help servants and congregations with courses and lessons that bless so many people around the world. I'm sure that SLM courses help people to be near the Word of God.

*What is something hard about serving the Lord where you are?*

Distances. We work along the whole country. SLM in Peru has contact with congregations in all regions of our country. But it's difficult to get reports or feedback from our associates.

*Why is it worth it?*

There are so many congregations and people with real hunger for the Word of God whom our ministry can help, that it encourages me to serve the Lord in SLM.

*What is something you would like people to pray for?*

These days are crucial times for Peruvian people. We are facing the worst results in the battle against the pandemic and soon we have to choose new political authorities. Every day we notice how bad the behavior was of the last ones.

I'm proud to be part of a ministry that I'm sure our God founded and uses to bless thousands of people, families, and congregations around the world.



Enrique Machado

## MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

### *Spotlight Daniel Mailu, in his own words*

I had been feeling insecure and unfulfilled for a long time. Then a pastor friend invited me to a church service. I heard the Gospel and I made a decision for the Lord. Since then, I am secure in Christ and fulfilled as I make Christ known.

Doing ministry started with a desire to see students' lives transformed while I was a high school teacher. Before long, the school principal appointed me as the teacher in charge of the Christian fellowship.

In God's divine plan, one thing led to another, and in the year 2003, Source of Light came to Mombasa, a town in the coastal region of Kenya. My school became the first school to start taking Source of Light lessons in that region. I became one of their missionaries.... Before I left Mombasa for Nairobi last year, I had 40 schools with over 3,500 students taking our lessons. I give God all the glory for how far He has brought me.

My favorite part of the ministry is to share the Gospel and see a man or a woman coming to the Lord.

My family is part of the ministry. They are in total support of what I do. They pray and encourage me. My sons accompany me during school vacation when I do a lot of youth camps. My wife has Bible lessons with the women every Sunday and leads a home Bible study every Wednesday. She is also involved in home-based care and encouragement of terminally ill patients. One of the hardest things in ministry is my family being away from me. I only join them on weekends.

The sacrifice is worth it because I know that my labor in the Lord is not in vain.

### **Prayer Requests**

***More open doors for ministry in our current stations.***

***For God to touch people to provide more support for our missionaries***

***I am very passionate about student ministry. I therefore ask for the Lord's enablement to reach all the schools in our 47 counties.***



Daniel Mailu

## PRAYER

- ◆ The SLM ministry in the North Zone of India, led by S.S., has a burden to start churches in the states of Rajasthan and Jammu. They are praying that God will provide the finances and committed leaders so they can begin these works.
- ◆ K.J., who works with SLM in the Northeast Zone of India, is praying that God will provide the funds to print 30,000 copies of the booklet, “Who is Jesus Christ?”
- ◆ SLM Uganda is raising funds to build a facility for their ministry. The facility will have an office and will provide storage that is needed for a microenterprise. All the funds have been raised for the microenterprise, and all that remains to be raised for the building fund is \$4,000. They are praying that God will provide so they can get their office built. This will save money that is currently going out in rent, and it will enable them to get their ministry-supporting business up and running.
- ◆ Please pray that God will provide the \$400 that is needed to fund the graduation ceremony for the 40 women inmates in Haiti who have completed all the SLM courses. *(See more on this in the praise section.)*
- ◆ The current crisis with COVID-19 has left many wives widowed in the ministerial community in Peru. These pastors’ wives and families are left with no support. Please pray that God will provide for their needs.
- ◆ Dwayne Daniels, Director of SLM Guyana, is very grateful God answered their prayer and allowed them to start a ministry with the police officers. Please pray that this ministry will grow and become more productive. Pray also that the police officers will begin attending church.

- ◆ Cristian Oprea is ministering on very limited resources in Romania. Please pray that God will provide additional funding for his ministry, and a vehicle that is needed for ministry.
- ◆ The SLM ministry in the Philippines is currently trusting God to provide \$65,000 for an office building.
- ◆ Sandra Vanegas, the SLM Colombia Director’s wife, has been very ill. Please pray that God will give wisdom to the doctors treating her and that she will recover soon. She is an integral part of the ministry in Colombia.
- ◆ Many of Source of Light’s International Branches need additional ministry support. Please pray that God will burden people’s hearts to partner with these ministries monthly, so their needs will be met.
- ◆ As Source of Light attempts to meet the needs of its International partners, there is always a need for more funds to print lessons here at Headquarters and to ship lessons to the fields. Please pray that God will provide the financial partners to meet these needs.
- ◆ Please pray for Administration at Source of Light as they look to the future concerning developing new courses that are relevant to the needs of those we serve.
- ◆ Please pray that God will guide our Directors in preparing someone to replace them, when necessary, for future SLM ministry.

## PRAISE

- ◆ The SLM ministry in Colombia held a virtual children’s camp during this COVID-19 crisis. They saw God work through the songs, memory verses, and teachings on the life of Joseph.
- ◆ SLM Haiti has 40 women prisoners who have completed all the SLM courses. As is the practice of SLM Haiti, they will participate in a full cap and gown graduation ceremony. It is a big accomplishment for these ladies. They eagerly await their graduation.
- ◆ Each year many people travel to the Gangasagar River in India. They do this annual pilgrimage because they believe that a dip in the river will cleanse them of their sins. K.J.’s SLM Team seizes this opportunity to share the Gospel with these crowds of people who are lost. This year, they were able to minister to 7,798 people on pilgrimage.
- ◆ Isaiah Bernasko, serving with SLM in the Ivory Coast, was recently challenged to begin thinking about who would lead the ministry after him. He saw leadership potential in one young man, Jeremiah. He has begun training Jeremiah for leadership in the future. Jeremiah has been serving as his assistant and is proving to be a great help.
- ◆ SLM Ghana could not operate as they normally would in schools, due to the situation with COVID-19, so they started an outreach to children at home. They delivered lessons to 105 children and have seen 37 salvation decisions through this effort.
- ◆ Despite threatening phone calls from those who oppose the Gospel, Dodla Wilson, a national missionary in the Central Zone of India, continues his ministry to tribal villages. He recently reported that three new churches have been started in these villages.
- ◆ Miguel Sanchez, who directs the ministry in Bolivia, shared that he is thankful for the Source of Light material. He calls the materials his “ministry partner.” He says, “the material goes with me and it fills me with joy as I teach it. I see the grateful eyes of the brothers, because the Gospel is presented with clarity through the lessons.”
- ◆ Many of Source of Light’s National Directors are bi-vocational. Miguel Sanchez, is tri-vocational. He pastors two churches part-time, and directs the ministry of SLM Bolivia. He is grateful for how God is using him and providing for him through the ministries that God has given him.
- ◆ K.J. praises the Lord for four girls from their children’s club, Riya, Jaya, Anvesa, and Anjali, who have become believers. They are attending church regularly, and recently participated in an outreach where they distributed New Testaments and Bible lessons to many homes in their community. They are witnessing to their friends.
- ◆ H.P. who ministers as the SLM National Director in the South Zone of India, hosted Zoom meetings with 75 people. Eight of those people committed their lives to Christ. In the area of Kolar, their ministry taught the course “Practical Christian Living” to 18 students; six of these students came to know the Lord.
- ◆ Brian Thompson, Director of the Madison Discipleship School, rejoices that 200 students came to know Christ through their ministry in 2020.

# THE PRINTED WORD... STILL CHANGING LIVES, CONSIDER BECOMING A PAPER PARTNER!



PARTNERSHIP

Unity  
Teamwork  
Community

Weighing up to **1,100** pounds, an **\$800** roll of paper yields **18,000 to 20,000** Bible lessons. A **\$50** box of digital quality paper can produce about **1,250** Bible lessons. Source of Light material is used in Christian and secular schools, church planting, Bible studies, and even prisons around the world. Translations include languages such as French, Spanish, Tagalog, Hindi, and Japanese among several others available in Madison and abroad.

One of SLM's goals is to enable our international missionaries to produce the lessons on their own soil. However, many cannot because of the high cost of paper. Your generous gift will reach people in the United States and overseas.

Consider a donation with the ultimate return on investment...  
...an investment which yields eternal results!

Become a Paper Partner today, go to  
[sourcelight.org/donate](http://sourcelight.org/donate)



## IN MEMORIAL

### Gifts in Memory of...

Gene Smith by  
Donald and Dorthea Minnich

Joy Webster by  
Carolyn Speller  
Jessie Seven  
Eula Keener  
Tom and Mary Rochon

Noah Van Hook by  
Rebecca Van Hook

Herb Pollard by  
Joy Hardy

Sue Yother by  
Hoyt Yother

Lelia Gilliam by  
Mr. and Mrs. David Sanford

Glen Barrow by  
Sharon Barrow

George Palmer by  
Ray and Linda Walker

Larry Jackson by  
Ray and Linda Walker

Dr. Abraham Vallega by  
Ray and Linda Walker

Bob Cornwell by  
Eula Keener

J. P. Whitley by  
Eula Keener

Ronald Brischetto by  
Betty Brischetto

Louis Crank by  
Frances Crank

Ruthie Cornwell by  
Glenda Massengale



Source of light  
INTERNATIONAL

*Dear Friend,*

*Let's remember His words...*

Lay not up for yourselves treasure on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven... for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Paraphrase Matthew 6:19-21)

*...for in heaven we will be glad we did.*

*Yours for the harvest,*

Dr. Ronald J. Barnes, Jr.  
President & CEO

**Give Online at:**

[sourcelight.org/donate](http://sourcelight.org/donate)

**By Phone:**

**706.342.0397**

Each gift will be used as preferred with the understanding that when any need is met, the remaining gifts will be used where most needed. Gifts are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

***We are grateful to you for being a part of the ministry of Source of Light through your prayers and financial support.***





**Source of light**

INTERNATIONAL

1011 Mission Road  
Madison, GA 30650-4908

p. 706.342.0397

f. 706.342.9072

e. [slm@sourcelight.org](mailto:slm@sourcelight.org)

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 33  
MADISON, GA

**Current Resident or**

