




# the REAPER

VOL. 66, NO. 3 | Fall 2021



**BUT HE, DESIRING TO JUSTIFY HIMSELF, SAID  
TO JESUS, "AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?"**

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*LUKE 10:29*

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SOURCE OF LIGHT INTERNATIONAL MADISON, GA

**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.

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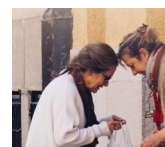
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>4</b>	<b>And Who is My Neighbor?</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>WWBI Update: Reaching the Burmese in Singapore</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>The Rapha Project – SLM’s Response to the COVID Crisis in India</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Spotlight – The Doomys</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Transformed By God’s Grace</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Spotlight – The Hayners</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Freedom Beyond Release</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Prayer and Praise</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>The Good “Neighbor”</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Memorials</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Our “Neighbors” in Argentina</b>		



#### On the Cover

Salamanca, Spain by Beth Macdonald  
Luke 10:29

#### Corrections & Clarifications

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



# AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

*Letter from the Editor*

Berti was a student in our first English outreach in Hungary. He was a grumpy old man who never prepared, never participated, and always seemed uninterested in the English lessons and the Bible devotional I would share during each class. In fact, he was usually a distraction in the classes and my teacher would often complain. I was often tempted to give him his money back because he wasn't learning, but worse, he was preventing the others from learning. They too would complain to me about him, saying he was "the hardest, meanest, grumpiest Hungarian man" they knew.

But I let him stay in the classes. Even though he still wasn't really learning, and still disruptive, I sensed the classes were good for him. If nothing else, it was a social outlet. He continued in the classes for the following four years. Despite showing absolutely no interest in the Gospel, I intentionally continued to plant seeds in his life, physical and emotional deposits in his "spiritual bank account."

One day, I found myself meeting with our national partner, at a coffee shop down the road from my home, when I

got a phone call from my wife. Brenda told me Berti was sitting at our gate in his car crying and wanted to know if I was home. I shared this with my partner, and we were both shocked. He too knew him well. The "hardest, meanest, grumpiest Hungarian" was



*Berti and other students practicing their English – Photo by Ronnie Barnes*

sitting in my driveway crying. So of course, my partner said, "Let's go!"

We sped home and found him exactly as described. This proud man sat in melted, teary pieces in my driveway. We brought him in my house and tried to pry what was wrong out of him. He told us of the story of leaving our English graduation party "on cloud nine" and called his estranged son in an attempt to begin to reconcile with him. He had heard my message on the "prodigal son" that night and decided maybe it was time to start

straightening out things with his own son. He invited his son to visit the next day, but his son rejected his invitation and denounced that he was even his father. Berti sat devastated, drinking through the night, and decided that he would end his life.

Knowing that if he killed himself in his home, because he was a recluse with few to no friends, someone probably wouldn't find him there for quite some time, so he decided to overdose in his car at the end of his driveway, in a busy neighborhood where someone was sure to find him.



*Students listening to Ron at "Big Group Bible Time" – Photo by Ronnie Barnes*

He drank some more, swallowed a handful of drugs, and fell asleep. Then, to his dismay, he awoke. He looked at his phone; he had been there for three days. The fact that he laid there out in the open for three days and no one bothered to check on him, compounded with the fact that he couldn't even kill himself right, sent him deeper into despair. He was truly at the lowest point of his life and began to drink again and create additional scenarios in his mind that would guarantee his successful suicide.

Then he remembered my words from the graduation, the same words I said to my students every week in my devotional during the English classes. I told them they might not believe what I have to share, but they can believe this: God loves them, and so do I, and we will both be there whenever they need to call on us. This was something I shared every week, something he had heard for years and years.

That day, Berti came to Christ. He was at the end of his rope and sometimes that is what it takes in the heart of men to yield themselves



*Students attentively studying English in our English Outreach – Photo by Ronnie Barnes*

to Christ. This is why we invest the long days, weeks, months, and even years into loving people with no guarantee of seeing fruit. Why we will love them even when it's hard. Why we invest time and resources having people see the Light of the World reflected through us in tangible ways of ministry, meeting their physical and emotional needs, sometimes before we are able to minister to their greatest of needs, spiritual. Our hope is that all that investment in loving them will not "return void."

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, notice Jesus didn't say anything about seeing the fruit from conversion when the lawyer asked what he must do to inherit eternal life.

The lawyer himself correctly answered, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself" (Luke 10:27 KJV).

**Jesus addressed the obvious need of loving Him first and foremost, but additionally to love our neighbors like we love ourselves. Ironically, as much as we may deny it, there is really no one that we love more than ourselves. Jesus said to love others this same way.**

Source of Light's ministry is in the "business" of seeing people become mature disciples of Jesus Christ. But often it necessitates a significant amount of "loving our neighbors" with intentionality and sincerity. Many of our missionaries are planting and watering seeds in some of the hardest soil in the world over years, even decades, and see "fruit" only sporadically.

They are in good company. During history, many "heroes of the faith" saw little or no fruit throughout their ministry. It was decades of being "Good Samaritans" that future generations of missionaries,

evangelists, and pastors built their platforms of ministry on, reaping the benefits of years and years of their predecessors loving their neighbors.

This *Reaper* is dedicated to the lives and stories of missionaries who have committed their lives to years of blood, sweat, and tears, and have acted as the Good Samaritan in ways others have benefited from. This *Reaper* will tell the stories and testimonies of our missionaries who have loved their neighbors in tangible ways, feeding, clothing, and providing for their medical needs.

Some stories in this edition will reveal the fruit of their labors, and others we may never know the outcome of, other than the writers themselves answered the call to go, to demonstrate His love, and to be the Best Samaritan they could possibly be.

**"But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29 KJV).**



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

# THE RAPHA PROJECT

## SLM's Response to the COVID Crisis in India

**But a certain Samaritan... when he saw him, he had compassion on him... bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine... and took care of him (Luke 10:33-34 KJV).**

As the crisis in India began to unfold last April, I cried out to God, feeling helpless watching many Indians I have come to know and love personally over the years, succumb to COVID. In the beginning, the United States' news had little to say, but as the magnitude of the crisis became more evident, it began to be the top news even in the United States.

It was heart wrenching to me to think that the lack of medical attention, oxygen, and simply beds inside a hospital were creating a crisis that the country has never seen before. People were dying in lines outside medical facilities while waiting until a bed "opened up" to be treated. Once inside the doors, they had a

fighting chance for recovery, but if left untreated, their lives were in grave danger.

I watched, horrified as the very parks I had done outreach and evangelism in were being used as temporary morgues and crematoriums. God, what would you have us do? We aren't a medical mission, but do we still have some sort of obligation?

After a few days of asking God what we should do, I received a phone call from a Source of Light missionary kid, studying here in the United States. His grandfather and his father have been SLM missionaries for many years and I have come to know him well as he has grown up.

He shared with me a desire to spearhead a project to address some of these very same concerns I had and he had already done a significant amount of work laying the foundation for a speedy response. For such a young man, it was bold and ambitious, and as we began to

interact back and forth, I sensed he was on the right track, with just a little guidance.

Very quickly, he was able to set up committees of leadership in the United States and on the ground in India, overseeing the project from a variety of vantage points and responsibilities. Within days, the Lord put together a strategy, plan, workers, doctors, and funds to see this effort started.

While this is meant to be a temporary project of SLM, focused on meeting the physical and medical needs of the affected communities during the worst of the pandemic, our desire is to leave the facilities in the hands of an ongoing medical ministry in India for continual use in their ministries.

But further, our hope is that in historically Muslim and Hindu stronghold communities, those treated will remember the love and compassion shown to them by the Christian Samaritans at SLM through the Rapha Health Center. Pray with us!



Rapha Health Center

## RAPHA PROJECT UPDATE - AS OF JULY 2021

We waited for the last possible moment to submit the latest, most up-to-date information, for submission for this Fall Reaper. As one can imagine, with an ever-emerging pandemic and trying to work within the constraints of lockdowns, things change literally moment to moment.

In the end, we believe the team God has assembled with the doctors, nurses, consultants, and staff, has come up with an amazing plan for what will likely be the third wave of the COVID crisis in India. The second wave lasted almost 2 months, and due to strict lockdowns, the spread slowed, but only temporarily. What doctors have learned is that the third wave will hit our target areas extremely hard, once again overwhelming the current hospitals. This trend has started in other regions just within the last week and is likely to hit our region at the beginning of July.

With this in mind, we decided to postpone the first phase of opening only one floor of the hospital, which will make the final two floors easier to finish before the next wave. This will allow us to fully stock the hospital, prep and train the workers, doctors, and staff, and fully test the construction that has

been accomplished to refurbish the building.

The doctors and staff are eager to get to work, to be able to once again feel useful, particularly against this plague that has sieged their country and overwhelmed their colleagues in the medical field. But they are also glad to have adequate time to prepare, and without the noise and dust of the construction. They will have plenty of other things to worry about without having to deal with the construction.

Our local SLM team of missionaries and volunteers are also staging to be able to provide food and encouragement to those who visit the hospital. God has been providing the resources needed to begin this first hospital project through generous partners and through believers on the ground offering their time and their own meager resources to chip in wherever needed.

We have also been blessed to provide jobs for people who have been without work due to the COVID crisis. One such example was a 17-year veteran of the Indian Air force, Paul Machery, who lost his job due to COVID. He comes to us with 15 years of experience in administration and facility management and was a clear choice to be the hospitals Facility and Procurement Manager. He and his wife were extremely grateful to join our team, particularly since his wife also lost her job as a teacher. With a home loan, two children, and live-in

parents, finally having a job was the answer to prayer they needed.

We have many similar stories from people who have joined this team, and we look forward to watching God use them all.

Once again, remember us in prayer. Source of Light is not first a medical ministry, but we undertake certain projects and outreaches in an attempt to be “salt and light” in the community, and our ultimate goal is to carry out our overall ministry vision and purpose of making disciples of all nations. We hope and pray that those who we have ministered to physically will remember the love of Christ that was demonstrated to them in their time of need, like that Samaritan. And that the seeds planted in this time of plague in India, in some of the hardest soil for the Gospel, would bring forth fruit.

We don't know for sure what this next wave will bring to the Rapha Project in Bangalore, India, but we will be ready and looking forward to whatever and whoever the Lord brings down our path. Particularly to those who have “fallen into the hands of robbers,” we will strive to be Good Neighbors.



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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## OBJECTIVE

- ◆ The intent is to quickly set up a facility in Bangalore to provide immediate relief to a taxed medical system
- ◆ We are also looking to setup temporary 20-bed "Covid Care Centers" with oxygen in 3 rural areas in South India that are most impacted and have no access to medical services
- ◆ Assist local pastors who are impacted with Covid

## PROJECT TIME-FRAME AND GROWTH

- ◆ Objective is to keep the Bangalore facility open for 3–4 months
- ◆ Depending on funding received, we would like to open similar facilities in other rural areas in South India where medical facilities are severely limited
- ◆ Our partners have the capability to quickly set up temporary facilities within 2 weeks

## CURRENT COVID SITUATION – INDIA – AS OF JUNE 2021

- ◆ Active Cases: 3.7M
- ◆ Total Deaths: 254K
- ◆ Other Considerations:
  - ◆ Daily new cases: 360K–400K (18 day average)
  - ◆ Percentage of Indian population living in villages: 65.53% (World Bank Collection of Development Indicators)



## FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- ◆ It is our commitment to ensure complete transparency and accounting of all funds received and disbursed
- ◆ We have a Certified Accountant with 34 years of experience who is donating his time and expertise to maintain our financials and ensure compliance with local laws
- ◆ We will be providing regular updates to our partners and donors



## FACILITY DETAILS

We have secured a wing of a local hospital that has not been in operations for a couple of years. It has the following

- ◆ 150 Beds
- ◆ Oxygen generators that can supply to all 150 beds
- ◆ 4 ventilators with more being negotiated
- ◆ Walls need a new coat of paint and deep cleaning/sanitization
- ◆ Need to arrange for food service to patients and families on site



## STAFFING DETAILS

- ◆ Number of Beds – 150
- ◆ Number of Physicians – 15
- ◆ Number of Nurses – 30
- ◆ Number of Supporting Medical Staff – 37
- ◆ Other staff: 40 (security/maintenance, housekeeping, reception, IT)



## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

We expect to serve between 400–450 patients a month who need urgent and critical care such as oxygen



# Transformed By God's Grace

by Ron Barnes

I am Rolando Huidobro Chagray, a Peruvian from the city of Huacho, north of Lima.



Rough Living on the Streets in Peru – Photo by Ron Barnes

I started using drugs when I was 11 years old, because I lived in a neighborhood where most people were drug users. This area was known as “the little ravine of Huacho,” because it is close to the sea.

I used marijuana, cocaine, and some generic drugs. For that reason, I did not finish my studies, and only have an elementary school education.

At age 12, I left my home to live on the streets, because my mother mistreated me, and I had no money for drugs. I would just come back for Mother's Day or Christmas, but each time I would steal everything I could. Of course, my mother didn't want to see me anymore. And that's

how I got more and more into drugs, committing illegal acts, stealing for vice. I saw very ugly things.

When I turned 18 years old, I decided to leave my family and travel to Lima, the capital. I got into a hole, a place where people only meet to continue drugging. That is why my life no longer made sense. I walked the streets like crazy, bathed every six months. I got tuberculosis and lost a lung. When I was 33, all my family and friends were leaving me, but they told me about Casa Nacer, a rehabilitation center. I actually went there to hide, because the police were looking for me for selling drugs and robbery.

At Nacer, they told me about Christ and that He could change my life. I had an encounter with the Lord. They disciplined me with the lessons from Source of Light. With these lessons, I learned how to follow the Lord, and when I put them into practice, my life was transformed. I currently attend Manantial de Vida Church, in Puente Piedra, and have been for 17 years. Now, I am in charge of the ministry of the restoration house, where I was born again. That is why I believe that only God can transform the life of a drug addict.



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# Freedom Beyond Release

by Kimberly Rae Thigpen

“Since the 1980s, incarceration rates have risen substantially in most countries, tripling in the United States and nearly doubling in many European countries.”

Prisons are a vast and diverse mission field. Those who live in these contained sub-cultures come from different backgrounds, different levels of education, and a multitude of differing beliefs, fears, and barriers to abundant life.

Source of Light is active within this tremendously large mission field. Our missionaries evangelize and disciple many, many men and women behind bars. They help them learn about Christ, come to know Christ, and then grow in Christ. Letters are sent in from prisoners, along with lessons, sharing difficulties, dangers, and regrets. They send prayer requests for upcoming parole meetings, fears of life after release, and spiritual and emotional needs as they wait.

And if released, what then? A chosen faith in Christ does not mean an immediate transfer to a lifestyle of good and godly choices.

The website, [www.iwf.org](http://www.iwf.org), in an article about how important rehabilitation programs are, states that, “Often, former inmates find themselves in a world very different from the one they left years before. Without a job, money, or connections, it's hard to imagine anyone truly succeeding in rebuilding their life. This is why rehabilitation programs before and after release are so important.”

Cristian Oprea, Director of Source of Light Romania (SLM Romania), along with a group of Christians from his local church, visited Codlea Prison in Romania back in 1999. They handed out enrollment coupons to inmates, and copies of “Light from the Gospel of John.” From that point, the prisoners shared the coupons with other inmates. The outreach spread, because of the frequent transfer of prisoners from one location to another. “And so,” as Cristian says, “they came to know other people, in the prison, and they gave the information about the Bible courses to others.”

That day, twenty-one years ago, was life-changing for Cristian. Since then, he has longed to create a rehabilitation program for released prisoners. The Source of Light team in Romania currently has ministries in correspondence lessons, with civilians and prisoners, and a translation ministry. His goal for the center, he states, is that it should “be started as an educational and trade site apprenticeship, where they can

be trained in skills” such as tailoring, cosmetology, carpentry, plumbing, and driving.

The team would like to be able to house sixteen released inmates who have completed the Bible courses via correspondence through SLM Romania International. He plans to divide them into two tracks, where they will be taught two of the skills listed. They will also continue in Biblical classes, “for them to grow in Christian maturity, like a Bible school.” He expects rehabilitation to take around six months, or as long as needed for the participating person to be trained in their skill.

Studies, at least in the United States, show that “more than half of prisoners have been incarcerated more than once. For many people, breaking the cycle of incarceration is extremely difficult. Prison conditions and limited re-entry support, both during and after incarceration, make it very challenging to adjust to normal life.”

After all these years, no rehabilitation center has been developed for the inmates of Codlea. Released prisoners need reeducating, and a way to function again in society. Cristian says, “The main benefit of this project is their social reintegration. The second benefit is their spiritual growth and the influence which they can have in the society.”

Statistics agree that rehabilitation and reeducation works. According to

the Vera Institute of Justice, “inmates who participated in correctional education programs were 43 percent less likely to return to prison within three years of release than those who did not participate.”

A March 2021 article by the Doha Declaration claims: “Increasingly the world over, the concept of rehabilitation is winning ground over that of punishment when dealing with prisoners. Penitentiaries around the globe are striving to effect change by providing inmates with opportunities during their sentence, so that they can more easily be reintegrated into society and become, once again, active and fulfilled members of their communities.”

However appealing the ideal sounds or the statistics claim, for many locations, rehabilitation will only happen with outside volunteers, people willing to give of their time, finances, and resources to help released prisoners. Characteristics such as compassion, integrity, and unconditional love are deeply valuable in such endeavors, and those characteristics live within each follower of Jesus Christ, as part of Christ Himself.

The Romanian team’s vision is not easy to accomplish, as proven by over twenty years of dream without reality. Though the project will benefit society and likely be appreciated, it will not be an easy or inexpensive process. “To succeed, this project needs a piece of land which must be granted

by the City Hall of Brasov or Sacele, a city near Brasov,” explains Cristian. The Romanian Branch will need land, money, furniture for classrooms, materials for dormitories, etc.

For prisoners to have an option that will help them transition from the prison to outside society, and also nurture their faith in Christ, much is needed. The most important element is prayer.

Many seek to offer circumstantial solutions, but the only true solution must be an eternal one. Christ offers abundant life, not just for now, but forever. How wonderful it would be to see reformed prisoners, trained in an occupation, free from the cycle of crime and repeat incarceration, and equipped to reach others around them with the ultimate freedom of Jesus Christ.

How can God’s people pray? Cristian’s request is simple: that this project will be realized. “It is my hope to see this dream become a reality. It is my life’s project. And I am praying for this.”



**Kimberly Rae Thigpen**, author of 35 books, is married to SLM’s CFO, Brian Thigpen, and currently homeschools their two children.

## STUDENT LETTERS

### Colombia

“There is no greater joy than hearing your children or grandchildren say that they want to accept Christ as Savior.” These are the words of Gilberto Vanegas. My grandchildren José Daniel (nine) and Ana Lucía (seven), after studying the Source of Light lesson, expressed that they wanted to receive Jesus as Savior. What a great blessing it is for me, and my family, to serve our Lord with the ministry of Fuente de Luz.”



# PLANNED GIVING WITH SLM

Americans are among the most generous people in the world. Charitable giving topped \$400 billion last year. About 80% came from individuals like you, and much of that annual giving occurs at the end of the year.

At Source of Light we strive to impact the maximum number of lives as effectively and efficiently as possible to the glory of God. If this is your desire as well, there are several ways to reduce tax liability while increasing kingdom impact through giving. Consider the following suggestions as you review your opportunities for eternal investment this year:

- **Regarding non-cash assets (stocks, real estate, business, etc.), the “Give then Sell” approach can reduce or eliminate income taxes. This approach may allow the family to receive more AND give more to ministry while paying less taxes.**
- **If you are 70 ½ or older and have a traditional IRA, you are required to make minimum withdrawals (RMD) from your account. Any portion gifted through a Charitable IRA Rollover is income tax free, even if you do not itemize.**
- **Charitable gifts are generally deductible up to 60% of adjusted gross income (non-cash up to 30%). However, larger gifts can be carried over for five years.**
- **Some employers offer a “matching fund” program to a nonprofit organization. These businesses will match your gift, doubling your impact.**

In Luke 12:13–21 someone in a crowd asked Jesus about his family inheritance. While at a missions conference recently, one presenter shared a quote that could sum up Jesus’ response. “Do your giving while you’re living, so you’re knowing where it’s going.” How we live our lives today impacts how those around us live tomorrow.

*This information is not intended as legal or tax advice.  
For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.*

# 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?**

# THE GOOD “NEIGHBOR”

by Gwenda L. Trapp

Sika Yawo was raised in the village of Sika-Kondji, near the Togo/Benin border. Sika was not a Christian when he left home. He had placed all his confidence in his father an employee of the state and a traveling journalist. Christians had preached to him, but he ignored them. In August of 1988, his dad passed away. In his despair, Jesus met him. Sika surrendered his life to Christ, was completely changed, and had renewed hope. Sika went to Bible school and eventually became the National Director for Source of Light (SLM) Ministries in Togo.

In 2008, as Sika Yawo and his SLM team were ministering to remote villages on the Togo/Benin border, they witnessed a particular need. Many children had been left orphaned due to problems with AIDs, cholera, poverty, and the inability to access good medical help. In every village, they were met with appeals for help from the villagers who had taken on the care of the children.

They were especially burdened for the orphaned children of Sika-Kondji, where Sika had grown up. The SLM Togo team began helping the families who were caring for the children by

providing school supplies, rice, and clothing for the children as they were able. About half of the village of Sika-Kondji was evangelized; the rest of the villagers were idol worshippers. Pastor Sika’s team visited the orphans regularly, and on these visits, they realized that the orphans were being treated more like servants than family members. For many of the impoverished children, whose lives were shadowed by superstition



Sika and Lucie Yawo – Photo by Sika Yawo

and gloom, the visits from the SLM staff were their only ray of sunshine.

The SLM team wanted to do more to help the children. They desired to care for them in an environment where they could learn how to love

and serve God. The idea for an orphanage for these children was born; it was called “The Joseph Project.” It was implemented in stages. Land was cleared, and corn and peanuts were planted in 2009. Their intent was to train the orphans in skills that would help them be able to support themselves. They had a good corn harvest, but the night before the peanuts were to be harvested, the Mono River flooded and destroyed their first peanut crop. Crops and homes of many of the villagers, and even some lives, were lost. However, the corn that had been harvested was a tremendous blessing to the orphans and their host families. They continued the gardening project and in time began growing cassava, beans, vegetables, and peppers.



The SLM Togo Orphanage – Photo by Sika Yawo

Gradually, buildings were erected. Initially, they served orphans from 10 different villages. As many as 22 children lived in the orphanage at one time. Currently, they have 16. The children range in age from

seven to 17. Recently, a set of twins was abandoned in the village; they are 19 months old. Though the orphanage cannot care for children that age, they are assisting with their care and trying to find parents in the village who will adopt them. Because of the work of the SLM Togo team, and other Christians who contributed to the humanitarian effort, many unevangelized people in these villages developed an eagerness to hear the Gospel. The orphanage began using the Source of Light Bible lessons with the children in their care. A pastor does devotions with the children. Bethania Biblical Baptist Church was established at the orphanage. The church ministers to the orphans and about 50 villagers.



Bible Class at the Orphanage – Photo by Sika Yawo

Some of the older orphans expressed a desire to do apprenticeships rather than proceed with formal education. The Joseph Project has worked hard to find the resources to make this possible. They currently have

children studying welding, sewing, and hairdressing. Besides treating the orphans for the ever-present malaria, stomachaches, headaches, infections, and wounds, some of the children came to them with major health issues that require ongoing treatment. Five of the orphans have AIDs and must be followed up on monthly. So, even though they have the garden, there are needs for school supplies, uniforms, school fees, and these medical needs. They are constantly challenged to provide nutrition-rich foods to prevent malnutrition. Sika shares that the children have food that will fill them up, but it does not provide the nutritional values that the children really need. Additional monthly support is needed to meet these needs.

The Joseph Project could house up to 40 children, but the financial resources to adequately provide for them prohibits them from taking in any more children.

People who are known as “good neighbors,” like Source of Light’s missionary, Sika Yawo, and his wife Lucie, are often sought out in times of crisis. Recently, a young girl sought refuge with Sika’s family when she discovered that her family was planning to sell her into sex trafficking and ship her abroad. They had already destroyed her identity and falsified her documents. Sika and Lucie found themselves in a very sensitive situation as they tried to

help, get her some urgently needed medical help, and restore her identity. She was torn between her family and the terrible situation in which she found herself. Her family, of course, was not happy that their plot was foiled, and retaliated with threats of bodily harm to Sika. It has been a stressful season for this missionary couple.

Sika has gained respect in his home village of Sika-Kondji. When the former chief passed away, the village elders wanted Sika to become the new chief. He did not feel that this was God’s leading, so he refused. Sika, burdened for the lost people of Togo, tenaciously goes to villages that are hostile to the Gospel, where other pastors have been driven away. Sika desires that these villagers will come to know Christ and be brought out of darkness into the light.



**Gwenda Trapp** is the Administrative Assistant for the Regional Director of Africa. She and her family served in DR Congo for many years. To our teams in Africa, she is known affectionately as “Mama Africa.”

# OUR “NEIGHBORS” IN ARGENTINA

by Ron Barnes

While many people her age are looking to retire, Graciela Guerrero has asked God to make her continually useful. She came to SLM a couple of years ago from another mission agency upon the recommendation of her home church, First Baptist Church of Atlanta.

God has given Graciela the gift of evangelizing and a heart for people, particularly in Central and South America, and she has spent significant amounts of time in Mexico and Argentina. In fact, burdened to return to Argentina, she ventured there at the beginning of the COVID pandemic.

She was forced to quarantine after her arrival, but as soon as her quarantine was over, and in spite of the risks of COVID, she and others from our partner church began to visit widows, the sick, and those in need.

Technically, people were supposed to “stay-in-place” but with so much need in their community, Graciela and her friend Marina, went door to door seeking to talk to people, pray with them, and find ways to serve them.

Because of the fear of COVID and the isolation many were facing, people were open to these strangers, and open to the answers to life that they had to offer with the Gospel. Attending to their immediate needs of jackets, blankets, and clothing, as well as their nutritional needs of fruits, vegetables, meats, bread, and non-perishable foods, the salt and light that shone through these two single women laid the groundwork for the church to follow up.

In partnership with the church, when Graciela and Marina discovered a need, they worked together to meet that necessity.

**When they discovered a twelve-year-old boy sleeping on the floor covered with insects and spiders, they came up with a bed for him.**

**Upon discovering a young woman had committed suicide, the church provided food for the family for her funeral.**



After the home of a mother with small children was burglarized and vandalized by robbers, the church replaced the door, and encouraged the family by replenishing their cupboard. They even sought to encourage the kids by making them a wagon filled with their own goodies.



Graciela and the Food Distribution Trailer  
– Photo by Graciela Guerrero

“Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”  
(Luke 10:36-37 KJV)



The new door – Photo by Graciela Guerrero

These are just a few of the ways Graciela, Marina, and the church demonstrated the love of God. They put “deposits in their community’s emotional bank account” so that the trust they established as Good Samaritans will be in the forefront of the people’s minds when they are ready to seek spiritual answers to life.

Pray for this little community in Argentina, predominantly Catholic, that one day the light they saw reflected in the lives of that small group of Christians would shine in their lives as well.



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

## RECENT UPDATE LETTER FROM S. Y. REACHING THE BURMESE IN SINGAPORE

Hi Dr. Ron Barnes.

*Greetings in Jesus' Name!*

Over the last three years, I have actively promoted WWBI to my contacts in Yangon, Myanmar. I am happy that nine of our students in Yangon have completed WWBI Semester 1 in Burmese recently. On January 16, 2021, we held a simple ceremony to award each of them a Certificate in Christian Ministry. Pray that they will progress to study WWBI Semester 2 courses.

*2 Timothy 2:15; Colossians 1:28*

**Sincerely,**

**S. Y.**



Burmese World Wide Bible Institute Students – Photo by S.Y.

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## SARASWATI: A TESTIMONY OF GOD'S GRACE

By S.S. in India

Saraswati Mizar lives in Nepal in Sindhupalchowk, Melamchi. She is 38 years old. She was involved in idol worship, going to temples and bringing garland made out of flowers for the idols, fasting, going on pilgrimages and involved in



On the right, Saraswati Mizar - Photo by S.S.

witchcraft. She was very religious and used to worship idols daily. Her profession was to make liquor at home and sell it to her customers. Her husband Subah Mizar and she herself would drink liquor every day. At night she would dance and entertain her customers. Fights between her and her husband were very common and he would beat her badly. Their children were also going astray and she was discouraged. There was no peace and lots of sorrow. One day she tried to commit suicide but her husband saved her. Her life went on like that. One day her youngest son Kishan became very sick. He stopped eating and he became very weak. He used to bleed

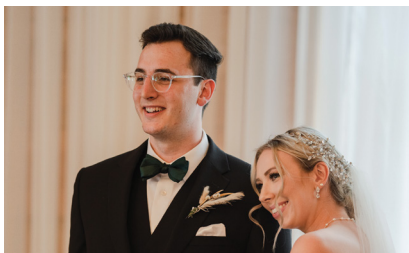
from his mouth. They admitted him to the hospital and the family also performed witchcraft. They spent a lot of money but instead of getting better he became worse. One family whose head was Vikram, from their village, were going to church. Their pastor, Arjun Shrestha, our evangelist, would visit Vikram's house for fellowship. Saraswati had heard that Vikram used to be so sick but by prayers he was healed. She decided to go to that fellowship thinking, Who knows by prayers my son would be healed too. So, she started attending fellowships in her village and church. The believers fasted and prayed for her family and for Kishan, within three months, he started eating food and was completely healed. First, he accepted Jesus and then the whole family accepted Jesus as their Savior. They threw away all their idols, stopped making liquor, and started farming and keeping animals. Now the whole family is happy. Without hesitation, they pray and share the Gospel with others. Both Saraswati and her husband took baptism. Kishan now studies in Katmandu. Her daughters study in the village. Her children want to serve the Lord and she is very happy when they say this. Pray for this family, that they may grow in their spiritual life and also be a blessing to others.



## MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

**Ben Doomy**

By Kimberly Thigpen



Wedding Day April 11, 2021 – Photo by Ronnie Barnes

Once upon a time (2017) at Piedmont International University, Ben Doomy and Sophie Barnes became good friends. Sophie returned to Georgia after college, where she worked with church youth. Ben served as a youth pastor in North Carolina. The two dated long distance until they married on April 11, 2021.

### **Ben, how did you come to Christ?**

I came to know Christ at a youth camp in middle school. The Lord called me to full-time ministry when I was in eighth grade and that's when I decided to go to Bible college to be a youth pastor.

### **What is your dream ministry someday?**

I would enjoy getting to travel and preach at different churches around the world!

### **What led you to SLM?**

When the pandemic started, I had to learn how to record, edit, and share our church's Sunday sermons. I really enjoyed creating new videos and learning new things, so Ron (SLM CEO and Sophie's father) offered me the opportunity to create new media for Source of Light.

### **What are your main responsibilities?**

To design, format, and create new books and online training that will be used around the world.

### **Do you see this as a temporary position or possibly long term?**

I'll be here at Source of Light doing anything I can until the Lord has other plans for me!

Seeing how God has used me to impact other people's lives for His glory has motivated me to serve Him with all of my life. From being a youth pastor and shepherding students to serving at SLM, I want to do whatever I can to serve others and honor God! Romans 8:28 has always encouraged me that no matter what, God works all things for good. I don't have to worry or wonder if God will provide or take care of me; I know that He is in control of it all!



**Kimberly Rae Thigpen**, author of 35 books, is married to SLM's CFO, Brian Thigpen, and currently homeschools their two children.

## MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

**Rowley and Sandy Hayner**



The Hayner Family in the 80s – Photo by Sears Photography Center

*Rowley Hayner, a former Restaurant Manager then a professional in Information Systems, and Sandy, one of ten children and former nurse, think of themselves as "late bloomers." Here's their story in their own words.*

We came to Christ in our mid-adult years.

Our first meeting was at a discotheque, during the days of John Travolta and the Bee Gees. We enjoyed dancing in our early days together. The Lord saved us out of that scene and into a life of amazing grace.

After becoming Christians, we looked for a good Bible-believing church, then got involved. We participated in a mission trip to the Navajo Reservation in Arizona. As a result

of that trip, Rowley sensed the Lord leading him toward mission work.

Our first exposure to Source of Light Ministries was on two mission trips with Don and Elaine Schiffer, missionaries in Jamaica. In March 2018, we made our first volunteer trip to Madison, Georgia, and as the saying goes, "the rest is history."

Currently, Rowley's primary focus is supervising and assisting in the Order Department. He also supervises the establishment and maintenance of Associate Discipleship Schools in North America. Sandy has been working in the Madison Discipleship School.

Handling the lessons as they come in and go out is getting a glimpse of how the Lord is changing lives, confirming that SLM is making a difference. Additionally, the sweet friendships, and oneness in Christ we experience with the SLM team as we serve together, is truly a wonderful blessing. *God is good . . . very good!*

*We both have a desire to serve the Lord until He calls us home. Source of Light has a wonderful ministry here in the United States, which allows us to be available to our children and grandchildren. We have really been blessed to serve here.*

*It is a great work of God and a place where you can utilize your gifts . . . no matter what age!*



## PRAYER

- ◆ Daniel Sappor, the National Director in Ghana, asks us to pray that God will provide the additional \$2,500 needed to finalize the property documents on a piece of ministry property. There is an urgent need to get a fence around that SLM property in Ghana. Ten thousand dollars is needed for this fencing project. Please pray that the paperwork will be finalized, and the fence will be completed quickly. Five acres of the property have already been seized and ownership of the remaining land is being threatened. It is urgent that these things be completed quickly to protect the assets of the ministry.
- ◆ The National Director for our SLM Branch in the Philippines recently went to be with the Lord. Please pray for this Branch as they transition to new leadership.
- ◆ Please pray for the health of our South America Regional Director, Pablo Correa. He has been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray that God will give wisdom to his doctors and that Pablo will receive the best treatment possible.
- ◆ Transporting literature from one place to another is an integral part of the ministry of many of our Branch Directors. They also travel frequently to remote locations for evangelization or follow-up ministry. Currently there are several of our fields that need transportation. In India, K.J. needs a ministry vehicle, D.W. needs two motorbikes for two village pastors, and S.S. needs a four-wheel-drive jeep that can travel easily in remote areas. In Europe, Romania's ministry faces limitations because of transportation, and another vehicle is needed in Africa for Ghana. Please pray that God will provide sturdy, reliable, safe, and comfortable (air conditioning for the areas that are oppressively hot) transport. May they have the right resources to do the important work they are doing!
- ◆ As we receive prayer needs monthly, one of the needs most frequently expressed is additional ministry funds. Even small gifts of \$10, \$25, or \$50 a month can make a difference to many of our fields. Please pray that God raises up additional support for our national field staff.
- ◆ Our Nigerian Branch asks us to pray for the security situation in their country. The people are living in fear, afraid of making a journey of even 20 kilometers because of kidnappers. On some occasions, they collect ransoms and still kill their victims. Please pray that God will resolve this situation.
- ◆ Please pray for P.T. who ministers with Source of Light in Myanmar. This has been a very trying time with much political unrest. Please pray that his family, orphanage, and ministry will be provided with their day-to-day needs at this time when it is often dangerous to venture out of their homes.
- ◆ Many of our fields have been hit very hard with COVID-19. Some countries are forcing people to vaccinate, and the people are leery about doing so. They see that the vaccines are not being properly stored and administered, and people are getting seriously ill with side effects. Pray that God will give wisdom in all these matters.
- ◆ Phil Winder, director of operations asks prayer for volunteers who can help serve in maintenance, remodeling, landscaping, small engine repair, plumbing, and a variety of other various jobs. His department is also in need of a scissor lift, work vehicles, and fleet vehicles to replace our aging fleet. Phil is setting up work teams for the coming months. If your church is looking to make a trip, please contact Phil at pwinder@slmin.org or call him at 706-342-0397.

## PRAISE

- ◆ The ministry in Uganda has received all the funding needed to build an office. They have been renting and have had to relocate several times when the property owner demanded higher rent. The new facility will also house a microenterprise. The Lord has provided for the microenterprise, the property has already been purchased, and the building project has been started.
- ◆ The ministry in Liberia has recently received the money they needed to register their ministry with the government as a non-profit.
- ◆ The country of Myanmar has been in serious political upheaval. We praise the Lord for how God has protected and provided for SLM Missionary P.T., his family, and for the children in the orphanage.
- ◆ Togo praises the Lord for a recent contribution for the work of the orphanage. It will be a great help.
- ◆ God provided the D.R. Congo with funding for a new electric typewriter for their office. They also received funding to help with school fees for the office staff's children.
- ◆ For some time, the church at Abbeykro, that Isaiah Bernasko in the Ivory Coast pastors, has needed to do some roofing work. God has provided the money to buy the metal roofing needed for that project. God also provided money toward the purchase of a sturdy vehicle that they need for traveling to remote areas where they minister. Isaiah has also identified a young man who he is mentoring to take over for him when needed.
- ◆ The West African Branches are grateful that they have received their new lesson stock. Daniel Sappor receives the lessons in Ghana and then they are transported over land to the neighboring countries. God provided \$750.00 that helped to get the lessons from Ghana to Nigeria.
- ◆ The Branch in Kenya has been praying for three motorbikes. God has provided one of the motorbikes needed.
- ◆ The SLM Romania Branch rejoices that their student enrollment has increased to over 600 students.
- ◆ Miguel Sanchez reported that three members from one family recently came to Christ.
- ◆ S.S., who is the SLM Branch Director in North India, recently shared in a monthly report that they were able to hold eight discipleship training meetings for new believers, have three leadership trainings, visit 33 new villages where they were able to share the Gospel, and 21 people accepted the Lord.
- ◆ Source of Light rejoices in how God has given the National Directors wisdom and creativity in ministry during this challenging season of COVID-19. We praise the Lord for how He continues to encourage people during these difficult days through the ministry of Source of Light, and for all the faithful donors who partner with us to help in the ministry.
- ◆ Some of the areas where we serve have been hit particularly hard and have seen the loss of many ministry associates during this time. We are grateful for the Regional Directors who God has placed in positions at Source of Light to inspire our National Directors, listen to, and pray with them during these difficult times. It is an encouragement to them as they go about serving in their various areas of the world.

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

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