



# the REAPER

VOL. 66, NO. 4 | Winter 2021

**“EVERY GOOD GIFT AND EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE,  
AND COMETH DOWN FROM THE FATHER OF LIGHTS, WITH  
WHOM IS NO VARIABLENESS, NEITHER SHADOW OF TURNING.”**

**JAMES 1:17**

---

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.

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, October 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*  
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*



the **REAPER**  
VOL. 66, NO. 4 | Winter 2021

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>4 Every Perfect Gift is From Above—Editor's Article</b>	<b>21 From Floods to Floodgates—Nepal</b>
<b>7 Leaving a Legacy</b>	<b>23 A Lighthouse and a Storehouse—Guyana</b>
<b>9 A Building for the Future—Uganda</b>	<b>25 Harvest as Microenterprise, Expanding the Ministry in Canada</b>
<b>12 A New Office for Brazil in 2022</b>	<b>27 Dirty Business in Ivory Coast</b>
<b>13 The Power of Paper in Peru... Through Our Paper Partners</b>	<b>28 Prayer</b>
<b>18 Good Things Come to Those Who Wait...if They are Waiting on the Lord</b>	<b>29 Praise</b>
<b>20 New Wheels For Europe In 2022</b>	<b>31 Memorials</b>



**On the Cover**

Food hampers for the needy—Nico Smit  
JAMES 1:17

**Corrections & Clarifications**

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

# EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE

A letter from the Editor



The trials that society has faced these last couple of years have shaken each of us. We have lost more trust in the government, if that were even possible, in medicine, in news media, in social media, and even in each other. In trying times like these, where we have been shaken to the core, many have faltered, many have become discouraged, and the next wave of pandemic very well may be one of mental health.

Christians too have been adversely affected during this time; many have even begun to question God. Has He been the One to bring all this about?

James, in a reaction to a similar concern he heard from the Jewish Christian community scattered outside of Palestine, sensed a growing belief that somehow God

Himself was responsible for bringing these evils, trials, and temptations.

He wrote his defense, employing a play on words from a proverb common in Hellenistic writings: “every gift is good and every present perfect.” It is the English equivalent of, “don’t look a gift horse in the mouth,” which is intended to mean that one should not find fault with something that has been given as a gift.

But understand, while using the play on words, it wasn’t exactly what James was trying to say. It was rather poetic, and intended to draw their attention, close enough to be picked up on its familiarity, but distinct enough with the shifting of the word in order to draw attention to it.

LEFT: Bihar India – Photo by Tory Doughty

BELOW: Photo by Tory Doughty



His version was: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

**Both “good” and “perfect” invoke elements of sacrifice. “Good” meaning the best, most excellent gifts, and “perfect” meaning those gifts without any blemish. James was reminding us, and his initial audience, that God initiates only those things which are good, and good for us, in fact, the very best He has to offer.**

This will never change (“with whom is no variableness”). It was true in James’ time, before James’ time, and it is true today. God never ceases to stop; He can’t stop. He is the Father

of lights; there is never a shadow on His day, and “neither shadow of turning,” the rotation of the earth, moon, and stars. He put them into place, into motion, but He Himself is never affected by them. His good work goes on and on, unceasingly, and His love for us should never be in question.

God loves us. He is not the kind of God who uses evil to get us to do what He wants us to do. Evil is responsible for evil, not God. God is only capable of that which is good and perfect and is the giver of those kinds of gifts.

Perhaps this is not the typical Christmas greeting one might usually send this time of year. Nonetheless, it seems necessary to address the context of gift giving, and how good and perfect God’s gifts always are.

2021 was a year that God blessed the Source of Light Global Ministries with incredible gifts from partners of our ministry. These gifts allowed for the expansion of the SLM ministry exponentially. We saw many gifts to the Paper Partners Project, which allowed us to restock and send more literature to Branches, including significant costs associated with the challenges associated with shipping issues. In spite of significant increases in costs, God has allowed us to provide considerably more literature.

We have also seen many gifts providing for the needs of transportation for our missionaries.



Photo by Tory Doughty

Many of these frontline workers need vehicles that can take them, literally, to the end of the earth. Most of the “ends” don’t have paved roads, or even roads at all. But many 2021 gifts were allocated to meet these specific transportation needs.

Additional large gifts allowed for the building of SLM Branch offices, churches, and properties, plus protection for those properties. These gifts paved the way for long-term presence in these countries, providing a central place where people can go for help and resources. They will keep costs down for the Branches who have in the past paid rent. Many will house “micro-enterprises” that will create income for the ministry within the country, lowering dependence, and allowing for expansion of ministries.

Many times, when people give to SLM, they do so because they see the need. Most will never truly know the long-term impact their gift made on our ministries. Their gift impacts more than just an immediate need, but rather, it’s the seed for future fruit and ministries that will far outlive any of us.

SLM is fully and intentionally engaged in carrying out the Great Commission, making disciples all around the world. Every donation is carefully scrutinized and accounted for so that we can assure each of you, and more importantly the Lord, that every gift counted.

So, as we approach the time of the year where we are all thinking about gifts and gift giving, I pray that God would use those gifts, particularly ones given for the carrying out of the Great Commission, exponentially. That God would take those gifts, like He has been known to do, and multiply them for His glory, and for the expansion of His Kingdom.

God bless you, cheerful givers! Thank you for all you do in prayer and support of this ministry. We hope that this Thanksgiving and Christmas Winter edition of the *Reaper* will bring you encouragement from the stories of how God’s good and perfect gifts have been used here at SLM.



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

# LEAVING A LEGACY

I remember having a meeting with an older missionary a few years ago in my office. She was an acquaintance of mine and we were just catching up. She told me how she had faithfully served the Lord for many years and that, as she begins to prepare for retirement, she was seeking out what her legacy will be.

Honestly, I didn’t really know what to say. The whole conversation seemed to be rather self-indulging. I couldn’t imagine a scenario where God was glorified with one of His servants trying to find a way to “leave their mark” on a ministry. It’s true, good or bad, we all leave our marks on a ministry, but setting out to make sure someone remembered our contribution intentionally just seemed inappropriate.

I walked this missionary to the room adjacent to my office and pointed to the wall of portraits. Each picture depicts the former SLM Directors since its founding. Most had short tenures as director, except for my grandfather, Glenn Dix, who was Director for 39 years. The rest were seven years or less. I’m up to 10 already, but I don’t have a picture up yet. All left their mark on SLM, some

more profound than others due to the length of their leadership, but not one seemed preoccupied with being recognized.

I shared with this missionary that my goal and ambition is that I be faithful to the task God has presented me with. That if I am a “success” at the end of my life, that not I, but a group of faithful disciples will be effectively leading SLM and ministries around the world, and that the real work of discipleship is being carried out by those I have invested my time in.

I have no desire that people remember me when I am gone, but I hope that the way I spent my life would have an ongoing impact. I love to get calls from people with a similar desire. Not all of us have been called to serve as missionaries; some God has called to make it possible for others to serve.

Occasionally, people call SLM looking to make sure that the hard work they invested in for years before retirement will be made available to SLM after their passing. They desire that their last gift, would be a lasting gift, one that would continue to further the ministry they have

partnered with for many years. Brian Thigpen, our CFO, and I love to meet these people, sometimes for the very first time. It comes as such an encouragement to us, and as a relief to those who needed some advice.

Every year that I have been here, such a gift, through the passing of one of our partners, has made it possible for SLM to meet its fiduciary obligations as well as meeting the needs of our missionaries. They have also made substantial headway on, if not completely funding, a project.

Just a few months ago, I got off the phone with a dear and generous supporter of many of our Branches, Ms. “C.” She loved for my wife, Brenda, and I to visit and tell her all that God was doing. It made her so sad that COVID prevented us from seeing her, and taking her out to her favorite fancy restaurant, the Chick-fil-A Dwarf House in town, but she was very frail. So, I would call often,

particularly on a long drive, and just catch up.

A month earlier, I called and we talked about a country in South America that was facing some challenges. We had to cut it short as she wasn’t feeling well. Less than a month later, her attorney called and informed us of her passing and of a gift she was leaving to SLM.

When her gift arrived, I knew exactly where she would have wanted to invest her last treasure on earth, and she fully funded the building of a Branch office that we had discussed in our last call.

She, like many others, will have a legacy in the fabric of the tapestry of the ministry of SLM, one strand among many, but each thread contributing to the whole. Thank you, Ms. “C,” and the many others over our history for giving such “good and perfect” gifts.



Almost finished!  
– Photo by James Byakika

## A BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE — UGANDA

by Kimberly Rae Thigpen

Imagine you heard from a friend about a wonderful ministry that goes into schools with lessons that share the Good News of Jesus Christ. You’re the principal of a school in Uganda, and feel excited about your students having the opportunity to learn their value to God. You go to the address your friend gave you, but no, Source of Light is not there.

You search, ask people, and finally find their new location. After welcoming them to your school, a year passes. You share about SLM with a pastor you know who is starting a discipleship ministry. That pastor goes to the address you gave. Source of Light is not there. No one knows where they moved this time. The pastor moves on. You wonder, if the missionaries stop bringing lessons to your school, will you ever find them to be able to get more?

This has been James Byakika’s problem in Uganda. He has led the SLM Uganda DTB for ten years, but high cost of rent (and likely increased cost to renew) has forced their office to change locations nearly each of those years. “Many people would like to come to our offices,” James says, “but sometimes they come and find out that we had changed the place, so we lose them.”

A house on shifting sands is unstable. So is a ministry in changing locations.

The solution? Their own building, and not just an office. SLM Uganda proposed to build a multi-purpose building, with enough room for:

### **A long-term office location**

This would mean no rent payments! Also, they wouldn’t have to move and disrupt the ministry work, losing connections and referrals.

### **Home for the Director**

This would also save on rent, lowering support needs. And of course,

JOIN US!

WE’D LOVE TO SHOW YOU HOW TO BECOME A PART OF THE LEGACY.

Email us at [bthigpen@slmin.org](mailto:bthigpen@slmin.org) or [rbarnes@slmin.org](mailto:rbarnes@slmin.org), or call us at 706-342-0397.



School children with SLM certificates  
– Photo by James Byakika

having the Director living at headquarters has multiple benefits—no transportation cost, on location even when things are shut down due to Covid or social unrest, accessible beyond standard business hours, etc.

### Place for their micro-enterprise

Many ministries would like to create some kind of small business to fill in support needs. Ambitious perspective might even imagine a ministry being fully self-sustaining. Such micro-enterprises are a joy to see, and often provide needed jobs or job training as a way to build relationships with seekers.

James’ vision extends even beyond this building, hoping for an extension someday where they can host SLM meetings and conferences. Currently, they set up chairs in tents.

Over this past year and more, much of “normal” life has been anything but. Delays, prices skyrocketing, and changes in the exchange rate from dollars to Uganda shillings all built up barriers to overcome.

**Highest exchange rate of 2020: \$1 = 3,878 shillings**

**Lowest exchange rate of 2020: \$1 = 3,607 shillings**

**Current exchange rate: \$1 = 3,534 shillings**

God is not limited by earthly things. He summoned His children, and they gave. James states, “It was by the grace of God that we had the people and the churches who gave us the support. The churches and some individuals from the United States willingly and with love gave us the funds. God provided us with \$27,895 to purchase land and build the house.” Hallelujah!

The construction of the new house/office building has been completed. At this point, what is left is installing the electricity, getting water to the house, and putting in pit latrines. These things will cost about \$7,880 total. James will “continue to pray to God to provide the funds.”

What a blessing to have a firm location for this great work. “Many people have been transformed,” James says about the work in Uganda, “and have become agents of change in the towns and villages they live in.” Did Covid cause problems for their work? “Covid really has caused problems, but yet it has been a blessing, because we have been reaching the people in their homes, where the parents have been reading the lessons with their children, and some of the parents got saved. We praise God for that. I request that you continue to pray for them to stand firm in the Lord.”

For me, personally, when I hear news from James, I think of the months I lived in Uganda, a place of great beauty and wonderful culture. I see the faces of the schoolchildren doing motions as they sing about prayer: “Telephone to Jesus every day—hallo!” A visit to one of their schools is an experience not soon forgotten. Uniformed children with short-cropped hair, in tight, organized lines of hundreds, beam smiles of joy and welcome to visitors. SLM having the open door to bring Bible lessons into

public schools around the country is a privilege that should never be taken for granted. Such freedom may not last; these school doors may not remain open. While they do, may God’s people join hands with the national workers there and reach as many as possible. These children are the future of Uganda. Would God that tomorrow’s leaders be His own!

Having a headquarters for ministry will help the work in Uganda in many ways. We praise God with James for all the ways God provided what was needed. In His time, this building will be ready for use for the glory of God and growth of His kingdom.

The building could carry the same dedication James himself gives: “I pledge and commit myself to work for the Lord to reach the people with the Gospel of Christ, because I was called to do His work in Uganda.”



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



## A New Office for Brazil in 2022

Source of Light Brazil is one of our longest running and most established ministries at SLM. In recent years, leadership setbacks prevented the growth of the ministry with regards to the establishment of the Branch, but under the leadership of Samuel Milanez, the Branch is back on track.

Hundreds of Associate Schools have been using the materials over the years, many of which are churches that have very well-established discipleship programs, dependent on the Brazil Branch.

SLM Brazil has had a very generous partnership with a seminary in Cariri, Brazil, and they have hosted our very large office. Many students

have been trained in the use of the materials, which has made for a wonderful expansion throughout the country as these students have taken SLM resources with them.

But SLM Brazil really has a need to have its own facility and housing for our director. A generous offer has been made by a foundation through the seminary to make a property available for free to our ministry, and we would like to raise \$40,000 to build.

God has been so good to SLM in 2021, with so many generous gifts. We look forward to God providing for another building for SLM in Brazil during 2022.

# The Power of Paper in Peru...

## Through Our Paper Partners

by Dalila Correa

What a great privilege and blessing it is to serve our God, and at the same time a huge responsibility to be able to fulfill the call and the assigned task in the best possible way, to give Him all the honor and glory.

Source of Light Peru had been facing difficult situations since 2017. Serious illnesses in our staff, loss of a faithful helper, and personal illnesses in 2019 made us make the decision to stay in the United States to take care of our health. God, in His mercy, provided a person to remain in Peru with SLM Peru. Enrique Machado, who had traveled with us to the interior when promoting the literature several times when he was younger, has studied the lessons himself since his teenage years. Now, as an adult, he was willing to help part time with SLM Peru.

Enrique, with great enthusiasm, prepared sample packages and started visiting churches that did not know about our material. He spent hours preparing updated information and documents to promote the use of SLM literature, such as filling orders of the Associate Discipleship Schools (ADS). Soon he was running

out of material, so he submitted a very large request to Headquarters, as he did not have enough stock to supply the requests.

At the same time the pandemic appeared, and we all are aware of how this affected the entire world. Peru was the first country in Latin America to suffer this impact. Given the large number of infections and deaths, the churches could not congregate, but they needed to continue with the preaching of the Word of God and discipleship. An imminent urgency for people to know the message of salvation through His Word was obvious. Many people left this world without the security of eternal life. Our other DTBs in Latin America were facing the same need of Source of Light literature, to supply the requests and needs they were facing in their own countries. The Word of God is the tool that He has given us, and we must share it with people, so they can be added to the kingdom of God. (See Isaiah 55:10-11.)

Enrique, as the leader of the ministry in Peru, began to receive phone calls from diverse districts of Lima, as



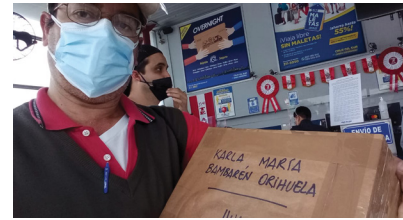
Comunidad Cristiana Amor de Dios, Christian Community God's Love  
 - Photo by Coordinator, Francisco Criollo.  
 This is one of two groups that started taking Source of Light studies in September.

well as cities in the interior of the country, with interest in receiving our lessons to learn more about the Word of God. Pastors and other Christians requested information to receive and be able to use Source of Light materials in their churches and communities. Some of them had been disciplined with our lessons, others by reference, and even some through our Facebook page, and are now pastoring a congregation. They testified to the effectiveness of the Source of Light lessons in the discipleship work and the teaching of sound doctrine.

At this stage, we were facing two difficulties. First was the lack of lesson material in the office. As SLM began to share times of prayer, by Zoom, with all the missionaries around the world, we were praying to our Heavenly Father to supply the needed literature. It was a time where we cried out to God for direction and His divine intervention.

We rejoiced and gave thanks to God when Madison confirmed that the shipments of lessons were on their way to three of our DTBs in the region, Peru included. We praise God and at the same time are deeply grateful for each of the Paper Partners that God touched, who provided what was needed to make it possible to ship the materials to us.

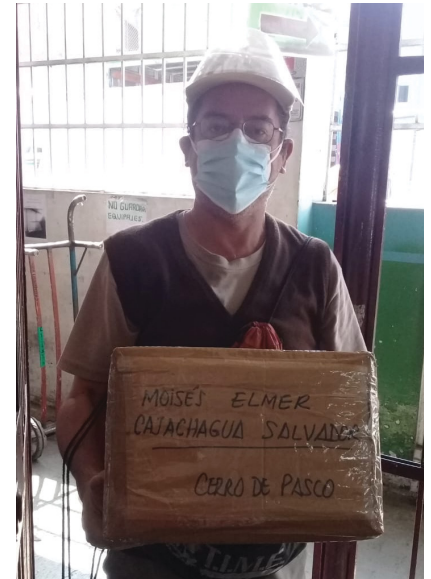
The second difficulty was the shutdown of the countries to send materials to the interior, since the whole countries were closed. In Peru, intercity bus service was stopped. At the same time, there were very strict restrictions on moving around the city. Meanwhile, we remained in continuous prayer so that the shipment would arrive in Peru soon and could be removed from customs without complications, and since now the political situation was added to the existing health circumstances. We kept praying for protection for Enrique, who tried to supply the



Enrique on another day shipped a box to Cerro de Pasco in Pasco - Photo by Agent at bus station.

order requests in Lima with the few lessons that he had on the shelves. He felt frustrated when answering the phone calls or emails, for not having enough material in the office to supply the orders. Keeping the most rigorous care and protocol, he traveled by bicycle at the beginning to deliver the lessons, and then by bus, as he had to do too much paperwork to get around in his own car and without the certainty that he would get permission. But he was confident that God would lead and protect him. "Up to now God has taken care of me, and He will continue to do so because He has promised. I will continue with all due care, and protocol, but I must fulfill the task placed in my hands."

Obstacles arose to remove the boxes of lessons from customs, so we kept crying out to God, and He again answered our prayers. The Source of Light shipment was cleared from Customs and transported to the office. God continues protecting Enrique, who is now distributing the lessons to different parts of the city and all regions in the country. "God works in many ways in people's lives, and one of these is through



Enrique at the bus station to deliver a box to the city of Huancayo, in Junin. This is the central mountains. - Photo by Agent

Source of Light," are Enrique's words. We must add,

**"through all the prayers and Paper Partners that make it possible for us to provide the tools to bring people into a mature relationship with Jesus Christ and into a local church family."**



**Dalila Correa** has ministered with her husband, Pablo, in Peru for nearly 40 years. Though now living in Colorado, they travel frequently to Peru, especially now as the ministry in Lima is in a process of reorganization.



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



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 US 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)



RIGHT: Truck being dedicated to the Lord  
– Photo by Daniel Sappor

## Good things come to those who wait...if they are waiting on the Lord.

by Gwenda L. Trapp



**“The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD” (Lamentations 3:25–26).**

One of the hardest disciplines to develop is that of waiting. Especially when we have what we perceive is an urgent need. We may be tempted to just pull out the credit card or take out a loan instead of waiting on God to provide.

Source of Light challenges their national missionaries to walk by faith and to avoid accruing debt. There are times when they must operate without the day-to-day conveniences that many of us assume. They continue to minister—often in rural areas where roads are poor, and infrastructure is lacking. They are perfecting the discipline of waiting on God.

In Daniel Sappor’s December 2020 Christmas newsletter, a festively decorated, brand-new Nissan hard-body pickup was pictured. People were standing around the truck. They were dedicating it to the Lord for His service. The vehicle is fitted for the Lord’s work in Ghana. It has a double cab, dual airbags, air conditioning,

power steering, power windows, anti-lock brakes—all the things we as Americans would appreciate if we visited Daniel Sappor!

But if someone had just read that quarter’s newsletter, without knowing the history, they would not understand the significance of this event. They might assume that his ministry has reserves laid up just for the occasion when they might need such a vehicle. But that is not the case.

On February 22, 2012, Daniel Sappor submitted a project request for a vehicle. Source of Light requires that a missionary do this as a first step before sharing a need with donors. The funds were distributed for the truck on September 23, 2020—Eight years later! What were they doing all that time? They were waiting on the Lord. They were praying. They were repairing their vehicle that had served them for 20 years. And in the end, when the old vehicle expired, they were using public transport.

But they were not idly waiting. Look at the work they were doing. They were running a school, working with rural pastors, doing COVID-19 relief, distributing Bible lessons—not only



Home outreach children – Photo by Daniel Sappor

in their country—but they were acting as a hub receiving lessons from the United States to distribute to Togo, Ivory Coast, and Nigeria. They were not only trusting God for a vehicle. During this time, they were also promoting needs of pastors and teachers, student sponsorships, and repairs needed in their main office to prevent it from flooding. They were helping a village church with a building project, helping their school to get a school bus and to drill a well to provide safe drinking water for the students.

### HERE IS A BIT OF THE TIMELINE FOR THEIR WAIT:

- ◆ Feb 22, 2012 – Original request submitted at Headquarters.
- ◆ 2013 Spring Reaper: “God provided for the repair of his vehicle.”
- ◆ 2014 Winter Reaper: “Funds were received to repair their aging vehicle.”
- ◆ 2018 Fall Reaper shared one of Ghana’s most urgent needs: “a replacement truck with 4WD to replace the one they’ve driven for 20 years.”

◆ 2019 Spring Reaper: “A reliable pickup to transport supplies to the fields is urgently needed.”

◆ 2019 Winter Reaper: “Daniel Sappor’s ministry in Ghana is in critical need of a truck for travel and transporting materials to their various ministries.”

◆ 2020 Fall Reaper: “For more than a year, the work in Ghana has not had an official vehicle for the ministry. Director Daniel Sappor reports that a vehicle is needed for travels and distribution of materials.”

◆ September 23, 2020 – Funds sent to Ghana from Headquarters.

◆ 2021 Spring Reaper: “SLM Ghana has been praying that God would provide the funds for a **used pickup truck**. God recently answered their prayers with a donation that enabled them to buy a **new pickup**. It will be a great tool in their ministry.”

**What a gracious God we have! After all the waiting, when they would have settled for a sturdy used vehicle, God gave them the best!**



**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.”



## NEW WHEELS FOR EUROPE IN 2022

SLM has struggled with keeping the European Branches and schools established. Interest from the early days, particularly during and right after the fall of communism, was particularly high. But capitalism, atheism, postmodernism, and apathy have slowly caused less and less interest in the Gospel.

Cristian Oprea has been the sole full-time SLM missionary in Europe, primarily focused on Romania. But his vision is far broader, throughout Eastern, Central, and Western Europe.

**There is so much work to be done and his desire is to share and promote the ministry and the use of our courses with churches and ministries throughout Europe.**

The roads he travels are mostly paved, but getting there is still a problem. The miles he has put on his car have taken a toll and it is long

overdue for replacement. He has his eye on a Ford Mondeo, which is more like a station wagon for luggage and materials, but which still has good fuel economy. He informs us that a reasonably good used one goes for about \$21,000, and that is our prayer going into 2022. We pray that God would bless him and his efforts to reach Europe, that God would raise up a team to join him, and that those wheels we trust God to provide will allow for a great revival in Europe. Join us in praying and by partnering with Cristian Oprea and SLM Romania.

## FROM FLOODS TO FLOODGATES — NEPAL

by Sanjeeb Sahu



*Destruction caused in Melamchi.  
– Photo by Arjun Shrestha*

Sindhupalchowk was the hardest-hit district by the 2015 earthquake and has since become more prone to landslides. On June 11th, the monsoon arrived, and with it came a disaster of a flash flood on June 15th. In Pemathang, there are two mountains with a valley. There was a landslide on both the mountains and the debris accumulated in the valley below for two to three days. It suddenly erupted and all the debris of sand, water, and wood started sliding downwards. Our evangelist, Arjun Shrestha, did not know what was happening. People saw that the river water was rising. On June 15th, everyone was inside their houses when someone noticed the mixture of sand and wood coming towards the river and city. There was such a panic that Arjun said that he had no time to think.

Everyone ran for their lives and went to higher ground. Arjun saw the muddy water pressing towards the bridge near his house and later it was totally destroyed. That whole night, no one slept. Some were crying,



*Destruction caused in Melamchi.  
– Photo by Arjun Shrestha*

some were searching for their loved ones, and the army with sirens was shouting, “Go away, Go away!” Arjun lives on the third floor. The first two floors were completely submerged in mud and water.

Our church is situated in a higher area, so Arjun and his family took shelter there. He gave shelter to around 40 people, both believers as well as non-believers. We praise God that none of our believers died, but they lost their homes and all their possessions. In Helambu area, around 40 people died. A church we had visited once there was totally destroyed.

I will never forget the evening when we were finally able to contact Arjun. He came outside and cried

a lot. It was hard for me to see his pathetic situation. He said, "I am crying in front of you. But I maintain a strong composure in front of my family and others." He needed to be strong for others.

I contacted Ron Barnes, our General Director, and we praise God that he raised a generous donation for the purpose of helping these people. The funds were sent to Arjun and he immediately purchased some dry rations from shops which were not destroyed by the flood. He has distributed dry rations, vessels, gas stoves, blankets, mattresses, and mosquito nets to many people in need. He purchased aluminium sheets and gave them to people, as they needed protection from rains. He also gave monetary help to many.

The locals formed a committee and collected money and hired bulldozers to remove mud and sand from the buildings and clean the houses. But no one stays in the low-lying areas of Melamchi anymore. Exactly a month after the first flash flood, there was another flood which destroyed more houses. The people are living in tents or have gone to their relatives' places. There is still the danger of more flooding. Everything is not normal yet. People are discouraged. All their documents, things, money lies under the mud. They have lost everything.

Just before this happened, we had written in our update that a new church was started in Ratamata

village. They were worshiping near a house with no roof over their heads. We sent a Project Request to our Source of Light office for the need to build a small room for this purpose. We are so thankful that this urgent crisis which raised awareness of this need led to money being raised for building a church in Ratamata village.

Arjun has started church services even in the middle of the covid crisis. They have two shifts, 8–10 a.m. and 11 a.m.–2 p.m. About eight people who received shelter from Arjun are now coming to the church.

Please pray for Arjun Shrestha, the believers, and others in Melamchi. We would like to plant more churches. Pray our believers may not be discouraged but be strong in the Lord, share the good news to others, and comfort them. This place needs more evangelists and \$100 monthly support per evangelist to share the Gospel.

We have watched God provide even more than we could have imagined, when it was needed the most. In a time of flood, God opened the floodgates of His blessing.



**Sanjeeb Sahu** has served full time as a missionary and church planter with SLM in North India and Nepal since 1989.

## THE VISION FOR GUYANA: A LIGHTHOUSE AND A STOREHOUSE

by Ron Barnes

The Guyana Branch was founded by a Godly woman by the name of Emily Chung. God greatly used Emily during her tenure and she was instrumental in making SLM a household name for Gospel literature. She was the sister of the first president of Guyana and that relationship opened many doors.

She had access to many schools and churches, and the momentum of her ministry carried over for many years. But her sudden death left the Branch for many years without a full-time Director who could focus significant time on the SLM ministry. The facility she used fell into disarray until eventually the property was no longer accessible to SLM and our partners. Many people were disappointed to find it so difficult to get access to our materials.

But God raised up a man. He himself had been significantly discipled using the courses growing up, so much so that he sought out how to serve the SLM Branch. For many years he served as a board member until he eventually, after having spent some time hearing the concern from the SLM Director, Ron Barnes, approached SLM about joining and resuming the Branch as its next Director. He is a



The current rented church building.  
– Photo by Ron Barnes

church planter, teacher, and now the SLM Director and has already seen many improvements to the work.

SLM's desire and strategy would be to establish a church and an office in Guyana, used as a model for encouraging church-based discipleship schools throughout the country. While we have not been able to find the exact property we desire, centrally located and easily accessible, our prayer is that God would provide \$40,000 to see these works established. From this property, our desire is to be a lighthouse and a storehouse for evangelism, discipleship, church ministries, and literature distribution.

Please be in prayer that God would be preparing just the right location at the right price, and then for God to once again meet the need!



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)

## MORE OF GOD'S GOOD GIFTS OF 2021

## HARVEST AS MICROENTERPRISE, EXPANDING THE MINISTRY IN CANADA

by Penny Homontowski

Right: The Canola Fields in Full Blossom – Photo by Penny Homontowski

*“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).*

God sent us to Canada through Source of Light Ministries International in 2005. He has been providing through many different avenues since we've come. We were sponsored by Western Tract Mission in order to come to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Western Tract Mission was already using the Mailbox Club materials and we ran that part of the ministry for them. They provided office space, storage, and postage. In 2015, Western Tract Mission changed their objective in the ministry, and we were asked if we would want to continue running the Mailbox Club. We were excited to continue that ministry.

We moved everything into our home and established a non-profit ministry. We converted two bedrooms to offices and put shelves in our bedroom for the materials. Money was donated to build a storage area in our friend's Quonset building.

It was a twenty-minute drive from our home to get materials needed to fill orders. We were excited how God had worked out all the details and supplied postage through two fundraisers each year.

God had different plans for us and our ministry. Three years later, He provided a bigger house and a separate office building in a small town north of Saskatoon. The previous owners had converted their two-car garage into office space for her business. We did have to add shelving, heat, flooring, and insulation (because our winters could go as low as -50 degrees). Everything was going well, and the fundraisers were providing enough money to keep the office running smoothly and pay for postage. Then, in March 2020, covid hit and everything changed. We were not able to do fundraisers to run the mission.

God gave Joe an idea of how to raise money for the mission. We live on the prairies where one of the main



Picture of Our Office inside – Photo by Joe Homontowski

industries is growing crops, like oats, wheat, canola, and flax, just to name a few. Joe asked one of our board members, who is a farmer, what he thought of the idea of renting a field and planting a crop to raise money. A week later, they talked again. He had been renting 60 acres from a Christian man who had enjoyed helping missions for years. He had already purchased the canola seed for the field and was willing to use it and be reimbursed from the harvest.

God answered our prayers. One of our friends, who is now a board member, was led by God to raise \$5,000 for the fertilizer and whatever else was needed for the canola field. Joe didn't have to do anything. The farmer took the responsibility of planting, spraying, harvesting, and selling the crop. After it was all planted and growing, God supplied a great growing year, and the harvest was much more than what the farmer expected. He was predicting 50 bushels an acre, but Joe prayed for 55. We praise the Lord for answered prayers; it was 55 bushels!! The usual price



Harvesting the Crop – Photo by Penny Homontowski

for canola was about \$10 a bushel but God gave us \$11.25 a bushel. Praise the Lord for His provision.

***“Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ephesians 3:20).***

We praise God, even though it was a difficult year and a half, our lessons have increased tremendously since everyone was stuck at home! The salvations have doubled since 2019 and there are more trusting Christ as Savior already this year. We are excited to know that we are in God's will and doing His work in Canada.

***“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).***



**Penny Homontowski** is married to Joe the DTB Director. They have been missionaries to Canada for SLM since 2005.

## DIRTY BUSINESS IN IVORY COAST

In recent years, as a part of the long-term strategy of SLM, we have aimed to help Branches come up with a way to become less dependent on foreign income. We do believe churches and individuals ought to have an ongoing role in supporting those who carry out the Great Commission, but we have sought to find ways that more can be done locally to support these ministries, diversifying income as well as allowing for expansion of the ministries.

So, when SLM was presented with an idea by Isaiah Bernasko to start a micro-enterprise of establishing a pig farm, we were interested to help him develop a plan. Even more intriguing, was the idea of it being used to support his orphanage as well as future orphanages he desires to establish.

The idea has a lot of potential. It not only includes the ability for an orphanage to provide food and money for itself, but it also gives the older children the ability to learn a trade, and it would give these children a head start in life by having “seed” animals to start their own farms as adults.

Most of these fund-raising efforts fail due to lack of training on how to successfully run and manage a business. These initial investments are given out of the kindness and generosity of donors, but without

enough planning and training. Another reason they fail, is because people trying to help hope that some unique foreign business and product will “take off” in a foreign country, and it rarely does.

But pig farms are something Ivory Coast has and needs more of. Pigs grow well there, and Ivorian farmers know how to care for them. It is an excellent source of income for a ministry. So, you ask, “Then why isn't everyone doing it?” Well, the answer is simple, money. Not everyone has the initial resources to get started. The initial investment is steep for an Ivorian; we anticipate \$13,000 in this case. But with that initial investment, additional farming training, business training, and financial accountability, this business of pig farming has great potential to support the SLM ministry, individual orphanages, and help the orphans get the head start on adulthood they didn't get in their childhood. These young people are given the Gospel throughout their childhood, and many have gone on to become pastors and church planters, serving with the SLM Branch.

Please pray for God to provide the resources to get this “Dirty Business” in Ivory Coast off the ground.

## PRAYER

◆ Cristian Oprea, ministering with Source of Light in Europe, needs additional monthly support for his ministry to cover regular office expenses and to add an additional staff person to help serve the growing student base. This SLM Branch is also in need of a ministry vehicle (\$21,000 is needed for this purchase).

◆ Pastor B., who serves with SLM Pakistan, is praying that God will provide \$21,990 that is needed to purchase transportation for their ministry.

◆ Pastor W., Director of SLM in Central India, needs an additional \$450 a month to support nine local pastors at \$50 per month. He asks us to pray for his safety as he ministers. He has received threatening phone calls from people trying to prevent him from entering tribal villages. One of these tribal villages needs a simple structure to meet in for worship. Such a structure could be built for about \$750.

◆ H. P. asks prayer that the Rapha COVID-19 Care Facility will be fully functional for treating patients and that additional funding will come in for the work and maintenance of the center.

◆ Daniel Sappor's DTB in Ghana has been struggling over a land dispute in the Tamale area where he ministers. There is an urgent need to fence in the property that SLM Ghana owns in that area. Fencing is viewed as a real "proof of ownership" in this country. This has been a need for some time. Those disputing ownership have seized five acres of the land and insisted that SLM Ghana pay an additional amount to secure the remaining property. They have paid what

was requested, but the remaining property will be more secure if it is fenced with a block wall. SLM Ghana needs \$10,000 to build this fence. Please pray that God provides this need quickly so that future problems with these land chiefs will be avoided.

◆ The SLM Field Gift Fund enables Headquarters to help our national missionaries with urgent needs. Most of our Branches serve with very limited resources. When an unexpected need arises, such as an urgent medical need, they are leaning on the Lord to meet the expenses incurred. The Field Gift Fund is often able to relieve the stress and provide resources to help in these times of crisis. Please pray that this fund will be replenished regularly as funds needed are distributed.

◆ Two of our Branches, Brazil and Ghana, are currently going through re-registration processes of their ministries with the government. Please pray that everything will go smoothly.

◆ In India, our lessons are printed locally. There is an ongoing need for resources to print Bible lessons. Please pray that the funds for printing in India will always be able to sustain the demand, so that literature urgently needed will be readily available.

◆ Our South America Regional Director, Pablo Correa, and his wife, Dalila, have done a fabulous job rejuvenating comradeship among our South American missionaries. Pablo is currently going through cancer treatments. Please pray for his complete recovery.

## PRAISE

◆ K. J., who serves in India, praises the Lord that God provided the funds for relief supplies for 640 families who were affected by the cyclone at Sundarban.

◆ S. S. and A. S., serving in India with SLM, praise the Lord that they were able to provide food for more than 5,000 people during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

◆ Sika Yawo, Source of Light National Director in Togo, praises the Lord for financial support that was provided for the medical treatment for Lucie when she recently had a stroke. He is thankful for Lucie's healing and for how he saw God use his family in the ministry in Togo even during this trying season.

◆ Pastor B. in Pakistan praises the Lord that funds were provided so his wife's brothers' family could receive the treatment they needed for severe burns that resulted from a house fire.

◆ Our SLM Branch in Ghana has experienced some urgent financial needs over the last year that took them by surprise. But we know that nothing takes our loving Father by surprise! All the non-profit organizations were required to re-register with the government, costing \$1,500. God provided all that was needed. Also, the ownership of one of the SLM properties was being threatened in Ghana. Five acres of land was taken from the ministry and additional funds were required to secure the remaining acres. God has provided for that need as well.

◆ Source of Light praises the Lord for Mr. Y., a Source of Light representative in Singapore. For over 15 years, Mr. Y. has used Source of Light materials in his ministry. His location enables him to easily take a flight of about an hour

and reach many neighboring countries that are very sensitive to the Gospel. We praise the Lord for how God is using him.

◆ The infrastructure is very poor in Haiti regarding electricity. Early in 2021, God provided for and enabled our SLM national missionary in Haiti to install solar power to his home so they could have access to electricity. Several months later, hurricane Elsa hit Haiti, and wind blew the solar panels off the roof. We praise the Lord that they were able to be reinstalled and are still functioning well.

◆ Source of Light praises the Lord for the progress that is being made in making Source of Light Bible courses available online. Recently SLM completed setting up the domain to host Portuguese courses. Our Source of Light Brazil missionary, Samuel Milanez Pereira, is excited about the potential that this will bring for serving new students. Samuel also praises the Lord for providing a camera, microphone, and LED lights that were needed for preparing SLM resources for the internet.

◆ S. P., Source of Light's national missionary at the Odisha Branch in India, uses tailoring schools as a means of sharing the Gospel. Recently, they were presenting certificates to the students. One girl shared, "Here, I have learned about Jesus."

◆ There have been urgent needs recently in Africa, and at that time, God provided a donor who had "Africa on his mind." What a blessing that God knows our needs and answers even before we ask!

# 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?**

## IN MEMORIAL

### *Gifts in Honor of...*

Byron and Sheila Shupp by  
Gary and Joanne Silverman

Chaplain B. H. (Hap) Struthers by  
Ed Gundersen

Chaplain Jerry Conner by  
Patricia Wood

Ray Walker by  
Henry and Lois Lazenby

### *Gifts in Memory of...*

Jack Stiles by  
Selene Kaelin

Gene Smith by  
Donald and Dorothea Minnich

Ethel (Penny) Storms by  
Ray and Linda Walker

John (Buddy) Terry by  
Eula Keener

Janice Cranmer by  
Alan and Esta Thatcher,  
Jeff and Joy Johnston,  
Margaret Lacey

Marian Shoff by  
Eula Keener, Ray and Girtrue Talley,  
Kay Frazier, Phillip and Sarah Monk,  
Glee Banner, Robert Doom,  
Nichols Family, Stephen Morris,  
Sharon Henry,  
John and Susan Cranmer,  
Ray and Linda Walker,  
Marvin and Betty Ingalsbe,  
Fran Busentiz, Susan Miller

Ernest E. Grant, Jr. by  
Ae Chon Grant

Gertrud Puppel by  
Art Schultz

Marvin Hammonds by  
John and Susan Cranmer

Dale Seay by  
John and Susan Cranmer

JoAnn Edinfield by  
John and Susan Cranmer

Howard Sebastian by  
Marvin and Betty Ingalsbe,  
Ray and Linda Walker

Sam and Jeanne Stucky by  
Fran Busenitz



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,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald J. Barnes, Jr.".

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 preferenced 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@sourcecelight.org](mailto:slm@sourcecelight.org)

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

**Current Resident or**

