



the REAPER

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

PROVERBS 16:3

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:
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the REAPER

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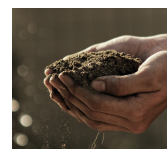
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Gabriel Jimenez
Proverbs 16:3

Corrections & Clarifications

For the latest version of *the Reaper* go to sourcelight.org/reaper

COMMIT THY WORKS UNTO THE LORD

A letter from the Editor

“The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” This is a line from a poem entitled, *To A Mouse, On Turning Her Up in Her Nest with a Plough*, written by Robert Burns.

I’ve done them all: Planning seminars, strategic planning books, webinars, podcasts, and in fact, I’ve been asked to lead and teach quite a few myself. Certainly, there is merit to careful, thoughtful, and strategic thinking, planning, and leadership. After all, it was Jesus Himself who said, “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?” (Luke 14:28 KJV).

Yes, planning is important for any organization, including, ministry. But planning should never crowd out the direction God gives through the Holy Spirit’s work in the life of the believer.

“There are many devices in a man’s heart; nevertheless, the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand” (Proverbs 19:21 KJV).

In our leading we ought to seek to be listening. Listening to the counsel of the Lord, which gives us guidance if we will follow the path which He so often clearly prepares for us.

God has blessed Source of Light with Godly leaders who provided Godly direction, because of a habit of following the “counsel of the Lord,” and not getting ahead of Him (Psalm 33:11).

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

For generations now, almost 70 years, we have sought the counsel of the Lord and committed that “work” to Him; and He has given time and time again the “thoughts” that our leadership has needed for the task. And, we have followed where He has led. In fact, I would go so far as to say every step SLM has taken has been at His direction.

These last few months it has been clear that God has been on the move, prompting potential partners to reach out to share their burden to join with us. These have been “cold contacts” for SLM, not because we haven’t been involved with them, per se, just that we didn’t know them. God has been warming them up for the right season to inquire of SLM, the ministry that impacted them in their lives and their ministries, and how they can now deepen their involvement and partnership.



Ron with Pablo and Dalila, Faithful Peruvian Missionaries. —Photo by Ron Barnes

Recently, the former regional director of a well-known ministry based in the United States decided to move to Spain to follow the Lord’s calling on him and his wife. “Jorge” sensed God calling Him to Spain, but didn’t really understand why and to do what, only that there seemed to be a great need. Responding to the call, he arrived in Spain and after assessing the needs of the country, reflected back to the early days of his own ministry, when he first worked with the discipleship ministry of SLM, and that was exactly what the church in Spain needed.

The resources SLM can provide, with the training and encouragement that comes along in the process, was exactly why Jorge turned to SLM for more than just resources, but to join us as our missionary in Spain.

Another recent illustration of God using the ministry of SLM to open doors we knew nothing of came from a recent trip to Cusco, Peru. At a

pastors’ seminar I heard testimony after testimony of how God used the SLM materials to see these men come to faith, be discipled, and be called into the ministry.

One pastor recalled coming from a church that used the SLM courses. That church also encouraged each of their young people to go to college to prepare for the ministry. This man wasn’t sure he was called to ministry; in fact, even doubted he was. But he honored the wishes of his pastor and attended.

One outreach of the school was to go into nearby villages with the SLM lessons and go door to door handing them out to those who would take them. An elderly lady gladly took one of the lessons, and they promised to return the following week with the next lesson if she completed it.

Week after week they returned to the house of that lady, only to get no



Meeting with Pastors from around Lima, Peru.
—Photo by Ron Barnes

response from knocking at her door. After nearly a month they returned again, this time, to a younger man loading some boxes into a van. They inquired of this young man what happened to the lady and he said sadly that she had passed away in the night a few weeks earlier. Saddened about asking such a difficult question, they offered to help load boxes in the man's van.

As they loaded the boxes, a familiar piece of literature sat on the top of one of the open boxes. It was that SLM lesson. He told the man it was that lesson that he was returning to pick up and was wondering if the son would mind him looking at it. The son agreed. As they looked through the lesson the elderly woman clearly had read it indicated by her personal markings and answers to the questions. To their amazement she had completed the whole lesson. But what was particularly moving was that they discovered the elderly woman had made a decision for Christ the very night she received the lesson. She signed the date. It was also the very night that she passed away.

Within hours of receiving the lesson, that elderly woman was shown the plan of salvation, made a decision to follow Christ, and was taken Home within minutes.

That day, this man knew exactly what God wanted for him to do with his life. He finished Bible College and has been a pastor and church planter for nearly thirty years now. He came to that meeting so he could reconnect with SLM and open new doors in an unreached jungle area using the SLM courses.

These works of God are not just in Peru and Spain. We are currently having similar, almost verbatim discussions with Mozambique, Tanzania, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ireland, Norway, Dominican Republic... and many more.

This issue of the *Reaper* will tell more stories of how God is continuing to use a legacy of committing the work of SLM to the Lord and allowing Him to guide our thoughts and steps as He directs. Continue to pray that we will be faithful to hear and heed.



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

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OPEN DOORS IN ZAMBIA

By Ben Doomy



I got to witness the faithfulness of God, firsthand, in Africa. A missionary who was not with Source of Light (who we will call John) had been using SLM materials for over twenty years. John's mission began in Kenya where he was using the materials for about a year. He continued using the materials in Zambia for a time, until the connection that was supplying the courses had disappeared. While in Zambia, John started a university to train and equip pastors and missionaries. Currently, the university has around one hundred students that are active in ministry while in school (as a requirement). John realized that many local pastors and even the students at his university could benefit by using Source of Light's materials in discipleship. The only problem was, John was not able to get the courses anymore.

John's only option to use Source of Light's materials was to contact the president himself, Ron Barnes. Finally, after pandemic restrictions were lifted, travel to Africa became a

priority, so Ron and I got on a plane and flew to Zambia to meet with John and the university students. Upon arrival, we informed John of the many changes SLM has gone through over the years, because it had been a decade since John used the courses. He was so excited about having the courses in his country that he wanted us to share about SLM with a neighboring orphanage.

This orphanage houses over three hundred children ranging from kindergarten through twelfth grade. This orphanage is also a trade school where the children learn many different trades. These trades range from auto mechanics, carpentry, and brick laying, to sewing and culinary arts. There are two campus pastors at the orphanage who graduated from the local Christian university started by John. The person who runs the orphanage was ecstatic about the idea of using the courses with the children. So much so, that he wanted a neighboring orphanage to use SLM courses as well.



Meeting with Pastors from around Zambia. —Photo by Ben Doomy

Back at the university, John had over twenty local church pastors come to hear a presentation about Source of Light. We gave each church a sample pack of our lessons. Each pastor left with twenty-five courses in discipleship. Many of these pastors have no Biblical training and the SLM courses might be the only training they ever get because they cannot afford further study.

The pastors were overjoyed to have a connection with SLM, and materials to use in their churches. We are praying that God will open the door for Source of Light to start a relationship with Zambia where the courses will either be printed locally or shipped from the home office in Georgia.

God's faithfulness through it all was coming full circle. A man who once had a connection with Source of Light

materials and lost that connection is now able to not only use the materials himself, but the churches, orphanages, and university around him will too. There are many around the world who cannot afford a Bible degree or proper training. We are so grateful for people, churches, and organizations that faithfully give so that these courses can be given at little or no cost around the world.

While in Kenya, the schools were open and our SLM missionaries were excited to have Ron and me speak to the students. The local Source of Light missionaries minister, day in and day out, going into the schools, sharing the Gospel, and giving out the materials. Being a youth pastor, formerly at a small country church in North Carolina, I had never spoken in front of a crowd bigger than one hundred people. The first school

they brought us to, for me to share the Gospel, had over four hundred high school aged students in the



Meeting with Pastors from around Zambia. —Photo by Ben Doomy

auditorium. The Holy Spirit was moving because about seventy-five of those students said they wanted to start a discipleship relationship with God and begin taking SLM materials.

For a few days, the Kenya missionaries took Ron and me to five other high schools to preach and share the Gospel. School after school, over one hundred students began a discipleship relationship and started using SLM materials.

The local missionaries will continue discipling the students by bringing more and more courses for them. Kenya is just one example, but there are men and women all over the world who are faithfully going into

schools and making disciples out of the students.

We are praying that the ministers in Zambia would see fruit and growth from the Source of Light materials. All over the world, there are opportunities such as in Zambia. As the Lord said in Matthew 9:37, "The harvest truly is plenteous." The Lord opens doors and SLM materials are found in countries even where there are no SLM missionaries. Recently, opportunities in Tanzania and Mozambique have arisen where Source of Light could begin a partnership. These countries are hungry for the Gospel. Like Zambia, they want to use the materials and we are excited to get them there. Be in prayer for Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique, that God would provide a way for the materials to be used in these countries. My experience in seeing SLM courses being used around the world is very small, but I know that God can (and does) use Source of Light to equip churches and ministers in discipleship through the courses.



Ben Doomy serves as the Youth Ministries Coordinator and is helping to coordinate the development of the new SLM courses.

THOUGHTS ESTABLISHED, NEW WORKS COMMITTED... TO NEW SLM COURSES

By Ron Barnes

Source of Light has been blessed with resources that God had provided from within as well as from partner ministries. For decades we have created, reproduced, and translated these materials and they have been used by God to see millions of people saved and disciplined.

Over the years, we have seen incredible usage and expansion of the materials globally, yet at the same time, some concerns had come up repeatedly. Artwork needed to be addressed, as much of it was outdated and seemed too monocultural, in that it looked like the characters were generally North American. Along with that, many of the illustrations and stories reflected their North American writers' home culture, more so than the cultures they were usually going into. Over the years, some English terminology and American references were becoming harder to understand cross-culturally.

We also became increasingly concerned about assumptions that have been made in the past in some of the courses, that people understood things like Creation, the Bible, and other fairly basic Christian terminology. In the past, when many of these courses were written, these Christian words and concepts were widely understood in the United States, even among non-Christians. But in this day and age, we cannot make these same assumptions.

In January 2021, the SLM Literature Committee began to meet and pray and seek the Lord's wisdom on all these concerns. The Lord made it clear to each of us it was time to expand into a new line of curriculum that would address each of these concerns, and it was also clear that God had begun to assemble a team that could bring it to pass. In fact, within days of this decision, God had



Many Muslims study the SLM courses.
—Photo by Ron Barnes

provided the finances we anticipated it would take to recruit the necessary help for much of the technical aspects.

We diligently sought the wisdom of the Lord, the wisdom of our collective team, and sought the input and ideas of each of our Branches around the globe. After all, they are the primary motivation for creating any new courses. Each Branch has given good feedback that has helped us begin to frame the new courses.

As of this writing, the first phase of the children's courses has been written and they are going through the various next stages.

The first stage is obviously the writing of the lessons, which follow the outline that the Literature Committee put together according

to the core essential evangelistic and discipleship elements that must be covered through the 4-book, 16-lesson first stage of curriculum.

A-Cultural

Since one of the concerns about the courses was that they often included allusions or references particular to American culture, our goal was to make the courses not appear to clearly reflect or favor one particular culture.

We decided in order to do this, we needed veteran missionaries who had lived abroad extensively, since they are acutely aware of things that would not be understood or would require extra explanation. As the writing progressed, we asked two groups of people to evaluate the age appropriateness and the cultural understandability.

One such test, conducted on the lesson on creation, was in one of the younger children's courses. It used the setting of a little girl named "Nia," not an American name, "John," a very universally used name, and a grandpa, as the main characters, with parents and a grandmother as the supporting cast. They lived next door to each other on a fairly non-descript farm with farm animals, including a grumpy old goat (who they discover later isn't really grumpy after all, just pregnant).

We passed along this story to each of our Branches to evaluate as to its

The majority of the SLM lessons printed in English are sent internationally. The Kenyan students pictured here all take the courses in English. —Photo by Ron Barnes



ability to be understood within each respective culture. The responses might have come across as initially discouraging. One American missionary said it sounded like her upbringing in the Midwest on a farm in the 50's. Another described that it might be too much like their upbringing in Latin America. An Asian team member observed that it would seem that the story was written for their culture.

When some of the results came back to the committee, it raised some eyebrows. But I quickly pointed out that this was exactly the type of feedback we were hoping for. How was it that each respondent came to the conclusion it might be too much about their own country? They were all from different countries, yet reading the same exact story. I explained that creating a “black and white”

or “skeleton” version of the story, their imagination filled in the extra details making it fit their context and culture.

This type of writing takes a lot more work than usual for our writers, but the end result will be far more effective. So far, the reviews and opinions have been overwhelmingly favorable as to the stories and lessons.

We also made the courses extremely systematic and thorough, building each lesson on the previous, making no assumption on what the reader may already know.

The next stage after each of our national Branches reviews the courses is to simultaneously begin to create the illustrations, the characters, the activity pages, and

the follow-up questions and quizzes. This is as crucial a step as the writing. The artwork needs to draw readers to the material, and the activities, the questions, and the quizzes need to reinforce and solidify each lesson.

When all that is done, the courses will be formatted into easily printable formatting and sent on to be translated all around the world.

But this is just phase one. The next phases will include supplement courses and videos to further explain and deepen the students' understanding of the material, get a clearer grasp of the Gospel, and be more deeply disciplined.

Additional phases will include a deeply expanded curriculum for youth, and updated and expanded curriculum for adults, and some special courses created for a specific type of ministry and individual. Some examples include a wide variety of religious cults and sects, law enforcement and military, as well as a large group of existing SLM students, prisoners.

We have been long burdened for these unique testimonies we receive, from people in situations that would be foreign to many of us, but that are routine enough to these special groups to warrant their own curriculum.

A common concern we often hear from inmates, for example, is a fear of

being paroled or set free. They fear life in the real world. They fear not having the strength on the outside that they seem to feel on the “inside.” They need to understand and believe the Word of God when it says, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV).

We are excited that God has assembled a team to help us expand our ministry with new curriculum, and to address more specifically and deeply the needs of our millions of current and future students. But pray with us; it is a monumental task we have undertaken. Pray that God would continue to provide us with the financial resources necessary to continue, with the people resourced with the proper gifting, and that our thoughts will truly be established, as we continue to commit this work unto the Lord!

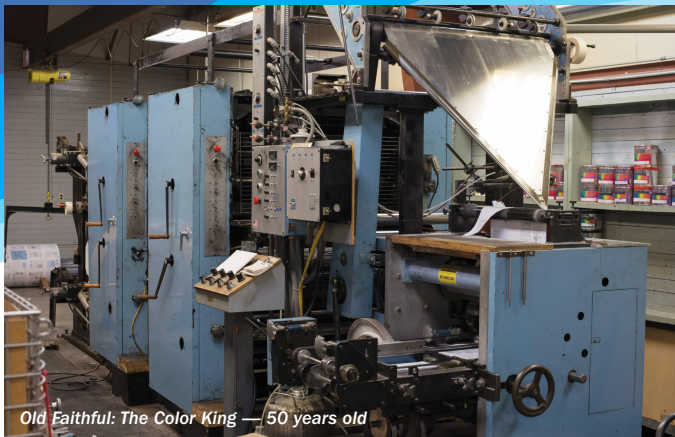


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HOW FAR WILL IT GO?

An Upgrade in Printing



Old Faithful: The Color King — 50 years old

For nearly seventy years now, God has had Source of Light International deeply vested in developing and distributing evangelistic and discipleship materials. We have followed the Lord's leading in this, faithfully, having no idea where it would take us. We had no idea how many would receive the literature or even where exactly they would go.

Over the decades, we have had many "unintended recipients," not unintended by God, but unimagined by SLM. Our "mustard seed" of faith in the printing process has yielded fruit around the globe. Hardly a week goes by when we don't hear another story.

But behind the scenes of all those receiving materials, there is a lot of hard work.

"There is a lad here which hath five barley loaves and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?" (John 6:9 KJV).

Throughout our history, we have always attempted to be good stewards of the resources we had and have asked the Lord to bless us with adequate materials and equipment to provide these lessons, at little or no cost. We continue to operate under the assumption that we are a ministry and not a business,



Matching fund opportunity for the first \$100,000

which is why we continue to offer our materials either free or at a cost that is unsustainable as a business. That is why partners who provide resources for the materials exist, because they have the same vision.

Occasionally, the resources required are more significant, particularly as we need to replace more major equipment. Surprisingly, we have only done this a few times in our history, we are continually asking God to add years of use to each piece of equipment. God has done just that! Just like the five barley loaves and two fish, God has multiplied years of service to the equipment that he has provided. How else can you explain the miracle that is the operation of our King Press, the machine that continues to be our main press?

Our King Press was made in the 1960s! It is older than I am! Yet it is still our main source of production. In recent years (as you can probably imagine),

many upgrades and improvements have been made to the presses on the market, which require less of the operator, less specialization and knowledge, better quality, less waste, and a nicer product. This is why SLM has decided once again that it is time to purchase a new piece of equipment. Pray with us that God would, in 2022, provide the \$500,000 we will need to purchase this new piece of equipment so we can begin the next season of watching God reduplicate the miracle of usage and age for the production of our new lessons and old. We can't wait to see "How Far They Will Go."



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

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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



DTB LITERATURE BUDGETS 2022

DTB LITERATURE	BUDGET FOR YEAR 2022
SOUTH AMERICA	
ARGENTINA	\$2,500
BOLIVIA	\$5,412
BRAZIL	\$2,000
CHILE	\$500
COLOMBIA	\$15,000
GUYANA	\$4,785
MEXICO	\$3,375
PERU	\$2,500
ASIA	
INDIA CZ	\$1,200
INDIA NZ	\$9,000
INDIA NEZ	\$3,600
INDIA ORISSA	\$150
INDIA SZ	\$7,500
INDONESIA	\$1,000
JAPAN	\$1,000
MYANMAR	\$3,000
PAKISTAN	\$1,000
PHILIPPINES	\$13,750
SINGAPORE	\$1,000
EUROPE	
ROMANIA- ENGLISH	\$1,000
AFRICA	
D. R. CONGO	\$2,000
GHANA	\$20,000
IVORY COAST	\$3,549
KENYA	\$10,000
LIBERIA	\$18,000
NIGERIA	\$2,000
S. AFRICA	\$1,000
TOGO	\$6,480
UGANDA	\$34,084
NORTH AMERICA	
CANADA	\$8,400
HAITI	\$5,435
JAMAICA - FTS	\$3,815
JAMAICA - JOY WEBSTER	\$4,000
KANSAS	\$4,145
MDS	\$5,763
NEW MEXICO	\$4,075
TOTALS	\$212,017

THE LEGACY OF EARLY SLM MISSIONARIES IN PERU:

FRONTLINE TESTIMONIES

By Ron Barnes

Rubén Quispe Vásquez – Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Cusco

It was February 1983. I was a teenager, already born-again, discipled with Source of Light lessons. I was very active in the church and ready to do everything I could. I was working during my summer vacations between the fourth and fifth year of secondary school when the missionary Robert Whatley invited me to go to a town called Paucartambo, in the Department of Cusco. The goal was to evangelize the town for two weeks and then return. The material we would use would be Source of Light. I accepted the invitation and went with him. We rented a venue and went out to invite people to come to our special meetings every night. At those meetings, we would introduce them to Fuente de Luz lessons and encourage them to study the seven lessons, and told them that at the end of the seven lessons, they would receive a certificate.

Great was our surprise to see the welcome we had. In one week, we had hundreds of people studying Source of Light lessons, and with what great joy they received their diplomas. Most of these people



Passing the Baton to Enrique Machado.
—Photo by Ron Barnes

continued the next nine lessons, and then the following 23 lessons. They not only came for the lessons, but also attended the evening services.

Three days after the two-week date to return had passed, people were still studying, and others were starting. That night Mr. Whatley called me and said, “Rubén, God has opened doors for us in this town and we must continue with the services and the Fuente de Luz lessons.”

I told him, “Of course, a pastor would be good.”

“We should leave someone in charge,” he told me.

I again said clearly, “Yes.”

He told me, “I’m thinking about you.”

Me? A missionary? I was a high

school student. How was I going to be a missionary? Mr. Whatley told me to take three days and pray asking God to guide me. I told him that I would. Three days later, Mr. Whatley asked me what my decision was and I replied, “I’m staying.”

There began what would be the wonderful and blessed career of serving our beloved Savior Jesus Christ, and by His grace and mercy He still considers me worthy even though I am unworthy of even tying the strap of His shoes.

In Paucartambo, and other neighboring towns, at least six churches have been established as a result of this effort. Thank God for the Fuente de Luz lessons, which are a very useful tool for this work. God continues to bless this ministry to the honor and glory of His Name.

Carlos Panaifo. (Cuzco, Peru)

My family and I live in Yurimaguas, a city in the jungle. I was still a child when I saw my mother studying some Biblical lessons with great dedication.

She taught my eight brothers and me what she learned in those studies. I accepted the Lord Jesus as my Savior. Years passed and the Lord called me to serve Him full time; now I am a pastor of a congregation in Cuzco.

It gave me great joy to attend the Source of Light meeting, and to realize that the lessons my mother studied and taught us about God are

the Source of Light lessons. My wife and I work with college youth and plan to incorporate these materials in our discipleship task.

I want to give thanks to God for the wonderful work of Source of Light. He used this ministry to work in two generations in my family, and I am one result of that. Lord bless you!

Patty Vilchez. (Lima, Peru)

I received Christ as my Savior when I was very little. I watched my father, a pastor, using Source of Light lessons to disciple new converts in the congregation. He told me, “There is nothing like the Source of Light lessons to evangelize with the steps of salvation and to disciple.”

It made a great impact on me when I saw the picture of the Stairs of Salvation in the lesson. As I grew older, I always accompanied my father to collect material from the Source of Light Peru office and was excited to hear the testimonies they shared with us.

Now I always carry with me, wherever I go, several lessons from “A Country Called Heaven,” to evangelize, and I also have a page on social networks where I share the steps of salvation, so that those who still do not know Christ as their Savior can make a decision.

I thank God for these simple lessons with the pure teaching of the Word of God. May God continue to use Source of Light Ministries greatly

to bless all the Peruvian people and people around the world. I had already received Christ as my Savior and did my discipleship with the Source of Light lessons.

Passing the Baton in Peru

God has used the team in Peru for many decades. Testimony after testimony, like the ones you have read in this edition of the Reaper, are just a few examples of God's faithfulness. The Peru ministry has been under the capable leadership of Pablo and Dalila Correa for nearly the entire time SLM has had a Branch in Peru. But recent health setbacks brought both Pablo and Dalila back to the states to deal with some serious health issues.

Thankfully, in the United States near their family, they both received excellent health care and continued the ministry with the help of Enrique Machado. Together they shared the load of continuing the ministry of SLM Peru, even through a pandemic.

Enrique and his wife, Katia, demonstrated a joyful love for the ministry of SLM, receiving nothing in return. Enrique dutifully carried out the responsibilities of the Branch in the Correas absence and the Lord once again made it extremely clear who our next Director should be.

On a recent trip to Peru, the SLM President, Dr. Ron Barnes, and the Correas, challenged Enrique and

Katia with accepting the leadership of the SLM Branch in Peru as the next DTB Director. After much prayer, discussion, and meetings, they committed to take on this new responsibility, with the plan to fully transition in early 2022 after a period of training.

Figuratively and literally, we are in the period of "passing the baton" in Peru. We ask you to pray that God would make a full and smooth transition between the Correas and the Machados, and that individuals and churches here in the United States would support the Machados financially. They are planning on traveling to the United States in 2022. If you would like to have them visit your church, feel free to contact samerica@sourcelight.org, where we can further assist the process.

As for the Correas, they will continue in the role of Spanish-Speaking Regional Director for SLM, traveling back and forth as needed. Continue to pray for them as they carry out these responsibilities.



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.

CONTINUING THROUGH CRISES IN HAITI

- A decade of turmoil in Haiti. –NY Times
- Haiti has declared a "state-of-siege." –CNN
- Criminal violence escalated . . . including attacks on police and arson on civilian homes. –CNN
- Armed gangs control many streets and have taken to kidnaping even schoolchildren and church pastors in the middle of their services. –NY Times

By Kimberly Rae Thigpen

"Haiti has been a chaotic country for over a decade," states Claudy Jean-Baptiste, SLM Regional Director in Haiti. "The country continues to descend into the unknown in disaster and despair, both on the economic and social points, but even more on the political and spiritual points. I have always lived in Haiti and have not seen or experienced the things that I am going through in my life. The country is unrecognizable."

The year 2021 saw the assassination of Haiti's president, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that killed over 2,000 people, and gang violence that reached international attention when a team of American and Canadian missionaries was kidnapped and, at this writing, most are still being held under threat of death for ransom.

The kidnaping occurred in the same commune as Claudy's SLM office.

Claudys says, "We are at odds and helpless in the face of the evils that surround us daily." Schools are closed and whole neighborhoods are left to gangs. He declares his people are imprisoned within their own country.

Source of Light's presence is spread across this turbulent island. Over twenty Associate Directors, who are Haitians, occupy Haiti's major cities. Another thirty associates use SLM lessons in their groups of adults or children.

What happens to our people during times of crisis? One wonderful aspect of partnering with nationals in their own home countries is that they are not evacuated by embassy command

during the time of their culture's greatest need, as many foreign missionaries have been. Claudy and his team remain in country, faithful to God and His calling upon them to reach the people of Haiti.

"By the grace of God, I am doing well despite the situation," Claudy says. He sought to get his family out of the country for their safety but was unable to. "The doors of the universities where I worked are closed because of the incessant crisis in the country. I am in great financial difficulty But we hold on. The family is doing very well. My children go to school when there is no tension in the streets. We can shout 'God has helped us.' We pray for better futures for my children. Their lives are threatened every day and I don't know about their tomorrow. Everything is uncertain at the moment."

And Claudy's partners, our partners? "The Associate Directors of our schools in Haiti are going through the same situations as all of us. They suffer from the country's crises, from unemployment. The earthquake completely destroyed Pastor Marc Henry's church building in the South, and ultimately Pastor Anderson Verger lost his family home. Despite all these crises, they continue to minister in the midst of these excruciating difficulties."

Our partners in Haiti, despite personal risk, continue to shine the Light of the World on a people stumbling in

darkness and losing hope. "Despite the current crises, there are stories and testimonies that encourage us not to let go," says Claudy. "Our graduation activities prove to us how God is still working in the hearts of our students, who have continued to do lessons and send them regularly for correction. For many, the lessons of SLM have led them to see the world differently and keep their distance from gangs and bad things in this dark world. God works even in the most total chaos.

"The sacrifice of our Associate Directors and missionaries in general is a great encouragement to show that we must not abandon our mission despite obstacles."

The dangers require innovative thinking. Right now, gangs have taken control of much of the country's fuel, kidnapping gasoline truck drivers or requiring large payments for permission to pass. "Our movements are extremely limited," Claudy explains. "We are forced to develop other strategies to get the lessons to the associates. The dangers are the gangs on the roads who steal, rape, and kidnap passengers for ransom."

By partnering with nationals, we are spared when crisis occurs—spared in proximity but not in command. God says when one of the members of the Body of Christ suffers, all the members suffer with it (1 Corinthians



Right now, Haiti has the worst kidnapping record per capita in the world.
Credit: Photo by US Navy, Public Domain, Used with Permission.

12:26). We are to Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

We can serve and support God's work in Haiti through giving. Claudy says, "The needs in Haiti are enormous and our expenses are difficult to provide on our own because we are unemployed in a dying country. All forms of solidarity will be well received and appreciated: food, money, health kits, etc."

We can serve by praying. "I would like you to continue praying for Haiti," Claudy requests, "for our Associate Directors, their families and especially for their projects, some of which have been approved by SLM Madison. Pray for peace in Haiti, for a stable and prosperous country. Pray our students may be transformed by the Word of God so that they may benefit their country as honest men and women. Pray for churches and schools in Haiti which are constantly persecuted by gangs."

And one more thing, "Pray for more lessons to arrive in Haiti to reach more people. Currently in our office, our courses are sold out and we have already made requests for new stock."

Jesus once told His followers that, if they had two coats, they should give one to a person who didn't have one (Luke 3:11). The same with food. We who have closets filled with clothing and pantries filled with food, have much to share. We who can meet together without risking our lives, can pray for those who risk much to do the same. What a privilege, to be equipped to be God's goodness and help to His own!



Kimberly Rae Thigpen, is SLM's Literature Coordinator and author of 35 books.

SOMETIMES SUPPORTING A MISSIONARY CAN BE “PUZZLING” IN A GOOD WAY!



By Gwenda Trapp

Brian and Gwenda Trapp served in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Central Africa for 17 years. They established a Branch of Source of Light in the capital city of Kinshasa that is currently being led by Source of Light's National Director, Vedette Nlandu.

After returning to the United States, they were asked to join SLM Headquarters staff in Madison, Georgia. Gwenda uses her administrative abilities and experience from having served in Africa to assist the Africa Regional Director as his Administrative Assistant. Brian, who is a gifted carpenter and handyman, serves in the Operations Department. His skills are a great asset to keeping the facilities operational and the missionary housing repaired and remodeled. They live on campus, so Brian is available for after-hour emergencies as well.

As faith missionaries, Brian and Gwenda are responsible for raising

their own financial and prayer support. They have found it challenging to fill the pulpit at churches as a means of sharing their ministry. Brian will be the first to tell you that he is not a preacher. God did not gift him in that way. He is very valuable to the work of Christ, and he is confident and content in the abilities that God has given him. He used his abilities in the remote interior of Africa to prepare lumber for churches, bridges, and missionary houses. He helped to keep missionary houses functioning in the bustling city of Kinshasa. He also helped to support the ministry in the D.R. Congo through working a job at the American School of Kinshasa, where he supervised a staff of 47 workers to maintain a 42-acre school campus with over 30 residential houses and school buildings.

Congregations that the Trapps have visited over the years have enjoyed Brian's humor as he would share something like, “I went, I returned, now Gwenda will give you the

details.” He has gotten behind the podium and shared, “Moses had his Aaron, and I have my Gwenda. She is going to share with you what has been happening.” While Brian is tremendously gifted in his area of expertise, his carpentry and maintenance skills, his abilities to creatively fix things and improvise (which was especially handy in the middle of Africa), and in his training in the electrical field, there are things that he does not feel comfortable doing. Public speaking is one of those things. Many people don't know this, but though never diagnosed, Brian deals with a dyslexic-like disability. He grew up before educators properly diagnosed and treated this learning disability, so he struggled greatly through school. Gwenda is still his walking dictionary. He loves the talk-to-text feature on his phone, though sometimes people are amused at the texts they receive from him. Brian could comfortably take on the project of building a house, but he would throw in the towel if he had to write a newsletter.

Twenty-nine years ago, when God brought Brian and Gwenda together, He knew that the one would strengthen the other. He put together a couple for His purposes. He put together a support team that recognized their abilities and who came behind them to support them in the work they were called to do. And He gave them creative ideas that would help them to promote their mission and their ministry.

One of those ways has been the Trapp's Annual Puzzle Fundraiser. Using social media as their platform and a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle, God has given the Trapps a means of raising support for their ministry.

They challenge donors each summer to give a donation of a certain amount (depending on their needs for that year) per puzzle piece. As people give, they insert the pieces into the puzzle and take pictures to post on their ministry Facebook page so people can follow the progress. It took some years to gain momentum, but this past year, they went over their goal, raising over \$15,000 toward their annual support. During the time of the fundraiser, Gwenda shares testimonies of how God is at work in the lives of Source of Light students around the world. So, people are seeing how they are investing spiritually in the lives of people through their donations.

It has been a fun fundraiser that people enjoy. It is an interesting way of sharing how God is at work through the ministry of Source of Light, and it is helping the Trapps fulfill God's call in their lives through the faithful donations of His people. It is so encouraging for them to see how God's people are praying and cheering for them to reach their goal each summer. The Trapps are a testimony that we don't all have to be gifted



Brian and Gwenda Trapp has served in DR Congo and now in Madison.
—Photo by Gwenda Trapp



2021 Puzzle Fundraiser. We went over the Top!
—Photo by Gwenda Trapp

in one area to serve in the ministry of Christ. Here at Headquarters, we have people gifted in administration, discipleship, printing, packing, shipping, finances, layout, graphics, and technology (to name just a few). God has put us together, as a team with our myriad of supporters behind us, so that we can “provide the tools to finish the task.” The tools that we provide are these Bible lessons, our paper missionaries that go all over the world.

The Trapp’s Puzzle Fundraiser goes live on Facebook on June 1st and closes officially on August 31st (though late and early donations are never rejected!). Get in on the fun and see how God can use a jigsaw puzzle to make funding missionaries “not so puzzling.” You can follow the

progress of their 6th Annual Puzzle Fundraiser at their Facebook page Trapps at Source of Light Ministries International this summer. Donations for the Fundraiser can be made through Source of Light’s website. There is a scroll down menu under “funds” that has the “Trapp’s Puzzle Fundraiser” as an option, or checks can be sent to Source of Light with a note “for Trapp’s Puzzle Fundraiser.”



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.”

SEEKING MINISTRY PARTNERS

Many of those who work out of the office in Madison find support raising difficult. Our positions just aren’t as “exciting” as a church planter or teacher. But those who work to support these front-line workers make it possible for them to be more effective, more productive, better equipped, better trained, and freer to dedicate more time to the ministry. Home office staff, the ones who make this possible, are the unseen heroes behind the scenes.

Please be in prayer for them as they continue to raise support and consider perhaps how you might participate in their vital ministry.

Contact us at hr@slmin.org or 706.342.0397 for more information.

MISSIONARIES CURRENTLY IN NEED OF SUPPORT:

Ronnie and Bayleigh Barnes—Media Outreach Ministries

Bruce and Danielle Dare—Publication Ministries

Ben and Sophia Doomy—Youth Ministries

Philip and Francis Frasier—Printing Ministries

John and Sally Hensley—Home Office Ministries-Finance

Tom and Connie Nylander—East Asia

Scotte and Beth Ann Staab—Asia/Europe

Brian and Kim Thigpen—Home Office Ministries-Finance / Literature Ministry

Brian and Christine Thompson—North America / Home Office Ministries-Operations

Brian and Gwenda Trapp—Home Office Ministries-Operations / Africa Ministries

Jonathan and Anna Weidman—Home Office Ministries-Operations / Madison Discipleship School

PRAYER

◆ Due to special health needs of he and his wife, Isaiah Bernasko, National Director in the Ivory Coast, needs a reliable vehicle with automatic transmission and air conditioning. He is trusting God to provide the remaining \$5,300 for this need.

◆ Timothy Kyuli, Source of Light Kenya's Director, is concerned with the increase in cost of living. Contributions have not increased to support staff pay increases, so staff salaries have become insufficient to meet their needs. Please pray that God will provide additional support for this Branch so that the needs of the staff can be met.

◆ Be in prayer for Nigeria. Missionaries are burdened about the ongoing threat of kidnapping, banditry, and terrorism in their country. Please pray for their safety and the safety of their coworkers. Also, pray that God will bring peace to their country.

◆ James Byakika, National Director in Uganda, has an open door for taking lessons into many schools. He has a strong team of volunteers who assist him in his ministry. His major challenge is keeping enough literature on the shelves. He needs literature partners for his ministry. His estimated costs for literature in 2022 are over \$33,000. James has a strategic plan for serving many people, but he needs people who will come behind him and help him with the costs involved. Please pray that God will provide the financial partners who will assist him with his literature needs.

◆ One of Source of Light's missionaries, who works in tribal settings in India,

has received threats of bodily harm from those who would like to thwart his work. Please pray for his protection. His ministry also needs support for nine pastors at \$50 a month, and a one-time gift of \$1,500 for a motorcycle for a pastor.

◆ One of our national missionaries in India asks us to pray for their churches, which are facing a lot of persecution. One of the areas where they have a church is under attack and people are trying to illegally take away the church property.

◆ Sandra Vanegas, wife of SLM Colombia Director, Gilberto Vanegas, has some ongoing health issues. Sandra is a very integral part of the work. Please pray that the doctors will have wisdom in diagnosing and treating her, and that they will have the financial resources to cover all the costs of the treatments.

◆ Please pray for our Branches who are transitioning to new leadership, that the transitions will be smooth and that the work will continue uninterrupted and even thrive during this season of change. Please pray for all of our Branch Directors, that God will guide them to the person they can train to take over the work when they are no longer able to do it.

◆ One of our Branches in India operates a tutoring program, Train Up The Child, in North India and Nepal; sponsorships of \$15 per month are needed for participants.

◆ Please pray that God will continually provide the needed resources to keep our Branches well stocked with literature.

PRAISE

◆ Daniel Sappor, Source of Light National Director in Ghana, is grateful for the opportunities they have had to do Board Development recently.

◆ Director Timothy Kyuli in Kenya praises the Lord for the strides their Branch has made in ministry despite the situation with COVID-19.

◆ India SLM missionaries, K & S.J. praise the Lord for providing them with relief funds to help 400 cyclone affected impoverished families in Sagar, Sundarban, and for enabling them to build a brick road to a village church there. They also praise the Lord for seven people who accepted Christ as Savior and Lord.

◆ S & A.S., SLM Missionaries in India, praise the Lord that they were able to resume their Train Up The Child (TUTC) Program that had paused for 16 months due to COVID-19.

◆ Miguel Sanchez, SLM's Discipleship Training Director in Bolivia, disciples people using SLM courses in rural areas of Bolivia. The houses are far apart, and much walking is required. On a recent trip, he was touched by the love of those he ministered to who sent him home loaded with gifts such as chicken, dried meat, flour, and other things.

◆ SLM Missionaries in Colombia are excited for 391 inmates who are faithfully studying the Source of Light courses.

◆ Spanish-Speaking South America Regional Director, Pablo Correa, and his wife rejoice that they were able to return to Peru and encourage those ministering there. Ron Barnes, Source of Light's President, was also able to join them on the trip.

◆ Ron Barnes and Ben Doomy, a new Source of Light missionary, were also

able to visit two of Source of Light's Branches in Africa and a new area that could potentially become a new ministry partner. Despite many COVID tests, they praise the Lord that they were able to fulfill their itinerary as scheduled.

◆ SLM Asia missionaries ministering in Orissa, praise the Lord for how He is enabling them to reach an unreached people group and to train others how to reach out to them as well.

◆ Source of Light headquarters' Operations Department praises the Lord for the volunteers who stepped up to help with a house remodel that needed to be completed quickly.

◆ Source of Light praises the Lord for the Bruce Dare family who has recently joined our ministry here at headquarters. Bruce will be training for work in the Print Shop. This staff position has been a matter of prayer for some time, and it is exciting to see how God has answered.

◆ Joe and Penny Homontowski, SLM missionaries in Canada, praise the Lord that they were able to harvest and sell their wheat crop. The proceeds from the harvest will enable them to fund their ministry for another year.

◆ Brian and Gwenda Trapp, missionaries in Operations and the Field Department at headquarters, praise the Lord for the success of their "5th Annual Puzzle Fundraiser" that shored up their missionary support for the coming year. They praise the Lord for those who gave.

◆ The Africa Field Department is grateful for the Lord's provision of the needed funds to complete or make significant contributions to several projects.

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 Memory of...

- Belle Richards** by
Robert Cole
- Betty Setzer** by
Robert Cole
- Bill Scott** by
Mr. and Mrs. John Cranmer
- Claudia Franklin Phillips** by
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Edward Shoff
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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

By Phone:

706.342.0397

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

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



Source of light

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