



the REAPER

VOL. 68, NO. 2 | Summer 2023

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

MATTHEW 28:19

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.

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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.

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1011 Mission Road, Madison, Georgia 30650

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Printed in the United States of America, April 2023

the REAPER

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Teach
MATTHEW 28:19

Corrections & Clarifications

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

GO

...AND TEACH!

A letter from the Editor

Recently I had the privilege to speak at the 43rd anniversary of PHILSOL, the Philippines Branch of Source of Light International. In our interaction back and forth leading up to the conference, I shared with the recently appointed director that not only was it an honor and privilege for me to do so, but also that the Philippines holds a special place in both my wife's and my heart. While attending university, we both took separate trips there, and it was there that both of us determined if God were to call us to carry out the Great Commission

as missionaries, maybe even to the Philippines, we would surrender to go!

It was interesting that back then, before we were even dating, God put the Great Commission on both our hearts in such a profound way, that when the time came for us as a couple to come together and put into action what we had on our hearts many years before, we were ready.

We have had the privilege now for just over 30 years together to make disciples and teach in dozens of countries, baptizing hundreds of people, and starting and growing churches of believers around the world. Truthfully, there isn't anything special about Brenda and me, any of us for that matter. We are simply clay in a Master Potter's hand. Thirty years later we are still committed to yielding ourselves to be useful in carrying out the Great Commission.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy

Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20).

The Great Commission is just as applicable today as it was when Jesus uttered those words, and as undermanned as Jesus predicted in Matthew 9:37, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."

The Great Commission is so named because when Jesus shared it with His disciples, He didn't just mean "those" disciples; He meant it was imperative for all disciples! Anyone who bears the name of Jesus, who has accepted His free gift of salvation, is to in turn share it with others.

The problem is, salvation alone isn't what Jesus implored His disciples to share, but rather it should be followed by teaching, discipling in the Word of God. When salvation is followed by teaching it leads to a maturity that then compels believers to share and gives them confidence in knowing they know what to share. That is fulfilling the Great Commission! And that's why we often fall short of carrying it out ... too few commit to discipleship, to "teaching all things." It takes time and intentionality!

Source of Light for 70 years now has been deeply committed to carrying out the full Great Commission of evangelizing and discipling! Our resources have been developed as tools to ensure that those who have used our materials or have come to faith through our ministries are then more fully taught the Scripture and disciplined in their faith. Teaching is the key word for disciple-making, and we have dedicated ourselves at SLM to this task.

This *Reaper* is dedicated to the "teaching" element of our ministries throughout the world. In this edition, we will introduce some of the key resources and how they are used in people's lives. And we will share story after story about changed lives as a result. Even though we are just a dot on the map of ministries out there today, I believe Source of Light to be one of the most effective disciple-making ministries you will find. Proof lies in the stories you will find in this edition of *The Reaper*.

There are testimonies constantly pouring into SLM from people whose lives have been so impacted that they too are carrying out the Great Commission. But I love the spontaneous stories, like that of "Wilfred," the airport security scanner in Nairobi International Airport, who, upon recognizing my shirt logo, commented as he scanned me with the wand, "I got saved using those Source of Light courses. I use them with my church!" He was a pleasant reminder that disciples reproduce themselves... as the Great Commission intended. He is



Dr. Barnes Speaking at the 35th PHILSOL Anniversary — Photo by Tory Hawks



Ron in the Philippines in 1990

THE GREAT OMISSION

- ◆ 95% of all Christians have never won a soul to Christ.
- ◆ 85% of all Christians do not consistently witness for Christ.
- ◆ Less than 2% are involved in the ministry of evangelism.
- ◆ 71% do not give toward the financing of the Great Commission.
- ◆ 72% of Christians have never been discipled

... IS THERE A CORRELATION?

"Street Level Evangelism, Where is the Space for the Local Evangelist," by Michael Parrott, Acts Evangelism, Spokane, WA, 1993, pp. 9-11. Christian adults who are not being discipled, December 22, 2020-January 18, 2021. Source: Barna Group



Ron and Wilfred at Nairobi Airport — Photo by Ron Barnes

not the first one to see the logo on my shirt in some foreign country and then make a similar comment.

But I especially love the testimonies that take discipleship one more step, fully completing the imperative of the Great Commission, teaching ALL nations. Those early missionaries I met over 30 years ago from SLM in the Philippines produced disciples who themselves have become missionaries around the world, some serving with SLM and others continuing to use the SLM resources on their field of service.

It is our desire that this version of *The Reaper* will challenge and encourage you in your sphere of influence, in the nation God has called you to, to make disciples, teaching all nations as the Lord directs you, and that you will consider how you too may participate in helping the ministry of Source of Light International around the globe.

SLM ADVANCED STUDIES FOR ADVANCED TRAINING

By Brenda Barnes



Formerly Buddhists, in July 2022 These New Believers Were Baptized and Are Now Studying WWBI Christian Growth Course. — Photo by Ps James Yar Kot

Following a simple half-day training seminar based off one of the Source of Light college-level courses, an Ethiopian pastor approached Dr. Barnes and asked if he would mind waiting for “just a few minutes.” Dr. Barnes agreed, and the team of us sat waiting in the minibus while this Ethiopian pastor sprinted into the distance until all we could see was a cloud of dust and then nothing.

We sat waiting until in the distance the cloud appeared again, and the runner came closer and closer. We saw he was carrying something in his hand straight out in front of him. The closer he got, we realized it was an old cell phone, definitely obsolete in the United States.

He said through the translator that when someone offers something of extreme value, you return your most valued possession. The translator said that this poor village pastor had almost no money, so this phone was likely the only thing of value he even owned. The translator then translated this man’s own words.

He told Dr. Barnes that for the first time in his life, for the only time in his ministry, something happened that he always dreamed of: someone came to train him in the Bible. A real teacher, a real Bible professor! He said that he never thought it would be possible for such a poor remote village pastor to receive this kind of training, and that he will never forget what he was taught and never forget the time that American

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, FOR THE ONLY TIME IN HIS MINISTRY, SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT HE ALWAYS DREAMED OF: SOMEONE CAME TO TRAIN HIM IN THE BIBLE.



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



Students Taking WWBI in Kachin. —Photo by P.Y.

pastor came to teach him and his fellow pastors the Word of God.

Sadly, this pastor's situation is not that unique. Somewhere between 80 and 90 percent of pastors around the globe have no Bible training, which is why Source of Light has put significant time and effort in developing resources for advanced Bible training at a Bible college or institute level.

The Advanced Studies Department at Source of Light offers two tracks of college, institute, or seminary level courses available for ministries, churches, institutes, and colleges to utilize in their desire to disciple and train leaders. Not only do we have a functioning online and correspondence institute out of the Madison, Georgia, office, but we make these courses available to you for your local ministry, for your training, and discipleship goals.

The first track is the EZRA Institute. This track of study is elective style with courses on books of the Bible and special topics, but also practical courses to grow students in their development like *The Christian Home*, *Personal Bible Study* and

Preaching. Some courses have additional textbooks, and some include the textbook in the study guide. This track of study has 41 courses available.

The second track of study is the World Wide Bible Institute (WWBI). This curriculum is systematic and designed for the 30 courses to be taken in order so that the student is fully equipped for life and ministry. The courses are divided into steps that build on each other, leading the student to a successful understanding of the information presented. No additional textbooks are needed, except the Bible of course.

For churches and institutes, these courses are sold individually or in packages from the headquarters in Madison, Georgia, at minimal expense, or we have options to download, copy and print them yourself. These courses are self-teaching courses designed so that students can work at home and at their own pace. The courses are respected among a number of Bible colleges which easily extend transfer credits.

Biblical training is so very important in our ministries and in our churches. With churches streamlining and cutting back on opportunities for people of all ages to be at church to learn, there is now a huge deficit. People and churches are suffering because they cannot discern truth or know how to live the Christian life and cannot hold their pastoral care accountable. Even here in America, there is a lack of Biblical training in pastoral staff, and the church is suffering. This serious lack of training has been happening in churches in the last decade, and the next generation

coming up hasn't been trained or even exposed to a deeper understanding of the Word as much as in previous generations, and they are suffering.

Starting an institute in your church is easy, and we can train you. You do not have to be as official as an institute that offers a degree, but you can start one no matter how many students you have. The goal is to learn the Word of God, not receive a degree. Even if you only have one person who desires to study, it is well worth the investment. You can use the materials in your small group, Sunday school classes, ladies' and men's groups, college and career classes, and specifically with your church leaders. Missionaries can train other leaders with it; ministries in which you disciple others, such as an Associate Discipleship School, can broaden their discipleship and training possibilities. If you have a SLM ADS with students who finish all the adult basic courses we offer and want to continue to study, you can offer these courses to them and keep them studying.



A Student Receiving a Certificate for a Course in Kachin. —Photo by P.Y.

Ministries around the globe utilize the courses, including the United States, the Philippines, Myanmar, Singapore, Puerto Rico, Africa, Ethiopia, and Fiji in 2023, just to name a few. They are being used to train pastors, used in ADSs and churches to train their lay people, in prison ministry, with teens, adults, and with the blind. (Yes, that's right, it is available in braille.) Nearly half of our SLM Branches are functioning as an institute/college or seminary. There are currently 6,280 students enrolled in courses in English, Bengali, Burmese, and Spanish.

Read what our missionaries and their students are saying about the Ezra and WWBI material:

We use the material in a correspondence way. The students are able to do the courses at their own pace and at home. This has been the most effective for us.
– South Africa

The number of members from our church that want to dig deeper in the Bible than is offered in Sunday school is encouraging.
– Altoona, Pennsylvania

The courses are used in a correspondence Bible institute/Bible college that is mainly focused on inmates, although we do have a few Ugandan pastors taking courses. Since our students really like the courses, word-of-mouth has been the most effective way that our institution has grown. The motto of our educational institution is "Changing Lives through the Word of God." We love to hear about how the inmates are being changed to bring glory to God.

We have received contact from inmates about marriages being restored, inmates evangelizing other inmates, inmates using what they have learned from the curriculum to lead Bible studies in prison, and people being more faithful in their relationship with God. – South Carolina

... this person is studying God's Word, and this is transforming his life. – Puerto Rico

This is a wonderful course for the leaders to be equipped for God's work. – India

Our small Bible school is not only helping our own people/Bible students in our church, but also when we extended it to other believers from other churches, their pastors have allowed their Bible students to enroll also, and it has been helping them to be trained as they serve the Lord in their respective churches. – Philippines

In-person meetings did not work well due to lockdowns, but the online meetings worked well. – Zambia

WWBI has been a great tool in the training of men for the ministry. In 2021, Mr. Mthimkulu graduated, and the Lord has used him to start a church plant. Mr. Mthimkulu is a testimony to how God can use a man that is in his 60's, working a job, and making time to study using WWBI. He would wake up early in the morning and do his studies before going to work. On the weekends he would hold a Bible study in languages of IsiZulu and Sesotho (two of the eleven languages spoken in South Africa). Since May 2022, he has been holding Sunday church services in a new church plant – Robert Marsh

As a new believer of Christ who was just idling for some years, I must say the Lord used these studies to show the importance of being involved in the growing of His church. This, to me, echoed the need for laborers. I feel I have a wonderful program in the WWBI studies to be ready for the Master's use. 2 Timothy 2:21 – Thabo Nkuna (in the second year of his studies)

My experience with the studies has been one of extreme growth in the knowledge of Jesus Christ my Savior and spiritually, because I have to read a lot of God's Word. What challenged me greatly was the Bible Study Methods. It opened my eyes to see how much I need to prepare before presenting God's truth and that I do not need to be like someone else, but I can be myself by using a method that is best for me. – Lebohang Manqutu (in his last year of studies)

In 2023, we will add additional courses. Many will be online at wwbionline.org. We will also be adding WWBI courses in Spanish online to be fully available by 2024, followed by additional languages beyond that.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN STARTING AN INSTITUTE OR BROADENING YOUR TRAINING GOALS IN YOUR PARTICULAR MINISTRY AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE THESE COURSES, PLEASE CONTACT BRENDA BARNES AT TRAINING@SLMIN.ORG.



Brenda Barnes has served as a missionary in Hungary and the Czech Republic and serves at SLM as the Director of Advanced Studies and the WWBI Registrar.

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.

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 **Source of light**
INTERNATIONAL

OUR PRISON MINISTRY

By Susan Scott

As Jesus ascended into heaven, He commanded His disciples to go and make disciples. They were to teach all nations—people from all countries, cultures, and lifestyles. Perhaps you have never thought of it, but there is just such a conglomeration of people in our prisons today. You can go to one facility and find people from any number of countries. These clusters of people could be called an unreached people group. They feel forgotten and alone.

Prisons are common across our land, each with their unique set of circumstances, yet they all are filled with sadness, loneliness, guilt, depression, violence, and hopelessness. How they long to be set free! This is such a reminder of why Jesus came! He said, “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to . . . preach deliverance to the captives.” (Luke 4:18). Source of Light lessons send the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ into the prisons where we cannot go!

There are eight prisons in Kansas, and we have had students in all of them. One prison is in the community where we go to church. We work closely with an Associate Discipleship School out of our local church. Their school includes a prison ministry that

helps distribute and teach lessons at the correctional facility. Other jail and prison ministries have found the Source of Light lessons very helpful to teach the way of salvation and discipleship. We also have chaplains in jails and prisons who offer the courses to inmates.

You may wonder if these simple lessons are really effective in a digital age. We received a letter from a prison guard, and I will paraphrase what she said. *“Your lessons are powerful. I wish you could see the women in this facility. They come in angry and bitter. Then they start doing the lessons and their lives completely change. It is such a testimony to those around them. Others ask questions and want to know what made the difference in their lives. It doesn’t take long, and they ask if they can take the lessons too. Keep sending those lessons! Even the other guards have seen the difference and want a piece of the action.”*

Whether volunteers are sharing the lessons in-person or inmates are reading lessons in their cells, teaching is happening. Through teaching we are reaching out externally to minister to prisoners with the ultimate goal of them placing their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and growing spiritually.

The lessons are a tool to present the truth of the Gospel. Then the Spirit of God takes our efforts and internally applies His Word, teaching and making true disciples. It is the Spirit of God that touches men’s hearts, bringing conviction of sin and an abundance of spiritual fruit. We are the vessel, and God brings the increase.

For example, a list of Kansas prisons includes a federal prison at Fort Leavenworth. A section of this prison holds the country’s most dangerous military criminals. In 2010, the person responsible for leaked government documents to Wiki Leaks was sentenced to serve there. Another well-known inmate is the person responsible for the Afghan, Kandahar Massacre in 2012. Other very dangerous, violent inmates are also housed there.

We had a legendary student in Leavenworth. He was a Sioux Indian named Frank Flying Horse. He had already trusted Christ as his Savior when he started taking the Source

of Light lessons. He wanted to teach and evangelize other inmates and was checking to see if our materials were appropriate. After taking all our lessons, he immediately began enrolling students and sharing lessons with other inmates. He taught the lessons to several groups within the prison. In one of his letters, he requested urgent prayer. There was a large population of Muslims in the prison who asked him to address their group and explain why he believed Christianity! Though trembling on the inside, he was able to present Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of mankind.

Shortly after addressing the Muslims, Frank began experiencing kidney failure. He needed dialysis three times a week, so he was transported to a prison hospital in Springfield, Missouri. Frank began teaching the Source of Light lessons and leading people to Christ. There were a lot of Indians at this facility, and they had their own sweat lodge for Indian rites. Frank shared Christ with an Indian named Ben Begay. Ben was a Navaho



Indian and not at all interested in the Gospel. Inmates come and go in the facilities, and soon Ben was transferred out.

For reasons known only to the prison board, it was decided that Frank would be transferred to a prison in New York. This large prison in Otisville did not have the necessary medical equipment to provide dialysis. Frank was transported three times a week to another facility 70 miles one way. Why? At Otisville there were very few Indians. In fact, as far as Frank could assess, there was only ONE other Indian at the prison. Frank was curious and began searching for a way to meet this Indian. Guess who it was? Ben Begay! Frank began witnessing to him again, and Ben came around to trust Christ as his personal Savior! Then once again, Ben was transferred out. Frank continued teaching the lessons using both Spanish and English. His efforts were rewarded with many trusting Christ as their Savior. Frank even began reaping fruit in Puerto Rico! Many of the inmates he led



Prisoners in Africa Hearing the Gospel — Photo by Sika Yawo

to the Lord had family in prison in Puerto Rico. Lessons were requested and students in Puerto Rico began coming to Christ! By this time, the prison authorities realized their mistake in bringing Frank to Otisville and decided to transfer him back to the prison hospital in Springfield, Missouri.

In Springfield, Frank began working in the geriatric ward which was also the AIDS section. Frank was a faithful, loving witness to them with no regard for his own health or safety. How could he do this? As he shared his testimony, he said he had no fear; he knew where he was going. They needed someone to tell them about Jesus, and that's what he did until the day he died.

Frank Flying Horse was our prison missionary for over eight years. He traveled where we could not go. The Source of Light lessons flew back and forth in the mail, encouraging, healing the broken-hearted, and proclaiming liberty to captives. This was Jesus' mission and continues to be ours today.



Susan Scott is married to Leon Scott, director of the Kansas Branch of SLM. She works for a Christian radio station and is primary caregiver for her father.

GOING & GROWING IN GHANA

By Bruce Dare & Daniel Sappor

Mission. Calling. Vocation. Only slight nuances of difference are present among these terms, especially when it comes to Gospel work. What we do should be something that God told us to, which then becomes the goal. The same subtle similarities apply to the words “teaching” and “training,” especially as they relate to the Great Commission. We are told to go and make disciples. The larger part of this discipleship is to learn, and to learn how to cause others to learn. We not only go, but we also grow as we go and help others to grow. The specific outworking or practical application of this process can take different forms, as illustrated by ministries of our Discipleship Training Branch in Ghana, West Africa.

One success story of this is the Evangelical Christian Academy (ECA), an Associate Discipleship School located at Tefle in the Volta region of Ghana. Instruction there, of course, spans many different subjects, but as National Director Daniel Sappor explains, Source of Light “lessons are used for one hour every Friday in each classroom. The teachers have been trained to teach the materials. After teaching one lesson, the children in the classroom are given the lessons to take home and work on over the weekend. They then return them on Monday for grading. Many of the parents

are taking interest in the lessons and are reading them as well. Not only are we reaching the children at school, but we are also reaching the parents at home.” Over time, this inadvertent outcome has actually born fruit. One “parent testified that he had secretly taken the Mailbox Club lesson that his child brought home and read it. He said that his faith is growing through it.” That’s the power of our “paper missionaries,” as they teach and train not only the original recipient but any eyes that will see them.

Daniel’s vision “is to extend what is going on at ECA to other privately-owned schools and challenge them to place the ‘Mailbox Club Hour’ in their school timetable for a weekly teaching of the lessons in each class.” The Branch would “organize a special training for teachers in these schools. As these teachers are trained in how to effectively teach the lesson and lead a child to Christ, once every week we are fulfilling the Great Commission and multiplying ourselves, as Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2.”

“AND THE THINGS THAT THOU HAST HEARD OF ME AMONG MANY WITNESSES, THE SAME COMMIT THOU TO FAITHFUL MEN, WHO SHALL BE ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS ALSO.” (2 TIMOTHY 2:2)



Students Awarded Certificates for Completing SLM Courses — Photos by Daniel Sappor

The effect for SLM and purpose of the concept is not limited to the schools. “In addition to teaching the lessons in their classrooms, these teachers will take the training received and the lessons to the churches they are coming from. Eventually these churches will love to operate an Associate Discipleship School and start using the lessons.”

As with any effort, growing ministry requires more servants willing to go. The personnel needed to fully implement the above plan has been lacking, but God has brought an experienced worker who has the school outreach on his heart, to partner with SLM Ghana in getting a weekly teaching

curriculum established in schools. The end result would be exponentially more teachers trained, children reached, and parents who come to a saving knowledge of Christ through the children. Pray with us that God will do this work!

Creative means can also be seen in a newer ministry at SLM Ghana, the “Missions and Job Training” program. Again, from Daniel: “We are providing training using the SLM Bible courses, and we have selected a few young men and women who we are assisting financially in apprenticeships to learn a variety of trades. We have 20 young men and women from four different communities in this program.” While



Participants upon Completing the ‘Missions & Job Training’ Program. — Photos by Daniel Sappor



Students at the Evangelical Christian Academy in Ghana. — Photos by Daniel Sappor

learning practical trades such as electrical and tailoring, they are disciplined and study Source of Light courses, such as “Exploring God’s Word” as well as “Know & Grow,” with the hope that they will go and bear fruit that will remain.

One of the students gave this testimony: “We thank God for the Source of Light work in Ghana, ... for our prayer partners who pray for us as well as those who give that we can benefit from the program ... Each month we meet for the program, and we are taken through the Mailbox Club lessons which have touched our lives. Through these lessons we have better understanding of the Word of God.” At a recent graduation, a participant was given a portion of “seed capital for starting a small business in the area in which she was trained. The pastor of the Bible Baptist church in that region shared that the community was moved by the donation and that some people have started attending the church that the graduate attends.” Glory to God!

A few months ago, the Branch saw a connection not only of these two ministries but also of the mission-vocation and teaching-training interplay. Teachers

from ECA as well as participants in the Missions and Job Training joined together on “successful outreach trips to seven surrounding villages” after having studied the SLM course, “Fishers of Men.” Without doubt, Jesus uses a perfect illustration for our understanding. He taught men who were trained to fish how to make disciples of all nations and teach them how to fish too. As we learn and do our “normal” jobs as unto the Lord, we can participate in God’s saving of people and showing them how to follow as disciples of Jesus. As our colleagues in Ghana continue their mission, they train others who then seek out still others so that the Gospel, as well as the glory of God, will spread to the uttermost parts of the earth. As you go ... grow. And teach others also.



Bruce Dare serves as the Director of Publications at Source of Light. He and his family are grateful God opened this place of ministry full-time in 2021.



Daniel Sappor has been the National Director of SLM Ghana for 26 years. Previous to that since 1980, he and his wife, Gifty, ran an Associate Discipleship School.

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?

REACHING THE RESISTANT

By Kimberly Thigpen

“S.” and “B.” stand in the Indian home, wearing Indian clothes, with their Indian skin and hair, speaking an Indian language. Still, from the moment they are seen, it is clear to everyone in the village that they are different. Separate. Foreign.

Why? Because this village is Muslim, and S. and B. are Christian. It shows.

“Most of the evangelists and pastors and others are working only among the Hindus,” S. states about his area. “My God has given me a burden to work among the Muslims because there is no one working among the Muslims in O*. I have work in West Bengal. There are many people working among the Muslims there, and they have planted many churches and also in other parts of India. But in O*, few are working among the Muslim people. So, this is my vision.”



Sharing the Gospel (Notice the Clothing Differences) — Photo by B.

S. has used SLM lessons in ministry for many years. Back in 2008, “We got a few lessons from different courses,” he says, “and when we sent those lessons, the people didn’t get them through postage. It was a great hinderance. We were really wondering why these lessons are not getting to our students. One day standing in the road, the Lord burdened me that there are so many Muslim people, and they have not heard the gospel.”

This was not a welcome call. “God, please, please, don’t ask me to share the gospel with the Muslim people,” S. prayed. “They won’t listen.”

God did not remove His summons. “Somehow,” S. says, “God gave me a burden and love for the Muslim people.”

He was not the only one. God also called B. For a full year, each prayed. They partnered in 2020.

S. started a relationship-building ministry teaching tailoring skills to Muslim women. He says, “They ask for prayer for their needs. God does miraculous things and solves the problems of these needy people. Slowly, slowly, things are increasing. We want to give systematic, correct



Bridge-Building through Free Medical Camp
— Photo by B.

teaching on the Bible so they will know what is actually true.”

In 2021, S. and B. organized a vision-casting meeting for pastors who might be interested in working among Muslim communities. Their first Zoom meeting had 14 different pastors. Of them, 10 are currently working with Muslims.

They did another vision-casting meeting. This time, 100 pastors joined. Thirty-five of them were interested in taking training to reach Muslims.

For months, all workers interested, including S. and B., have been taught over Zoom by a qualified ethnic ministry on how to develop relationships, what the correct greeting is, what to do and not to do, etc. For the past five months, S. and B. have been working on a syllabus for the India pastor training.

The training is almost finished. They are planning to have four seekers meetings in secret places in different districts. This would be meetings for Muslims who are seeking the truth and willing to risk learning more.

God has provided another help to S. and B., a Muslim-background believer. This man was once an Imam, a Muslim priest. As S. says, “Because we are new and maybe make mistakes, he will be with us. Our guys don’t know Arabic. He can share the Gospel to this people. To share the Gospel, we need to learn their language and the Arabic language also.”

S. shares that they had a seekers conference around six years ago, which 32 Muslims attended. The former Imam came and shared the Gospel. “He gave an altar call. You would be surprised to see. Most of them raised their hands. Most of them, they prayed. I was really amazed to see this.”

But S. had no way to follow up. They tried going to the communities, “but there was no liberty to share the Gospel with their whole house.” The women disappeared and families were not open to them. The former Imam serves in another area of the country. S. and B. are praying for a Muslim-background believing couple to come work full-time with them.



Building Relationships through the Tailoring Program — Photo by B.

While they wait for that answer, God is providing material. B. shares, “We got one specialty tract. After making friends, when they show interest, we have a special New Testament also.” The materials are created in the color and look associated with their religious culture, appealing to them rather than seeming foreign. They have access to materials but need funding to buy or print more. “Slowly this work has grown.”

Currently, there are six total tailoring projects under their care. “Source of Light is providing for only two projects,” B. shares. “The other four projects, we are not able to fund them, only provide the machines.” Believers are serving in this work voluntarily. “We need money for the teachers, 5,000 rupees per month [61 dollars].”

At Christmas, they had a caroling service, and 250 women came. “They are listening to the Gospel, also believing,” S. says, “but are resisting to accept Jesus.”

One tailoring project is in the area where S. lives. “Many girls are growing in Jesus,” he says, “but no one is available to follow up with them.”

B. and his family, who lived 250 miles away, left his successful pharmacy business to be full-time missionaries with SLM. B.’s wife has taken the training and knows tailoring. He says, “She will be a great help to follow up with the families. We both can go and follow up.”



Literature Written and Designed to be Effective among Muslims — Photo by B.

It was not easy. Their young adult children had to change schools. Like any missionary, he needs support, around 30,000 rupees per month (about \$375 for a family of four). This choice to rely on God’s provision, leaving the world’s provision behind, is one of many aspects of work among Muslims that requires courage.

S. says, “This is my desire and my sincere prayer. I want to see our work expand and many, many people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. And we want to plant many churches. We need your prayers, brothers and sisters.”

*** Undisclosed location of S.’s work**



Vision-Casting Meeting for Those Interested in Working with Muslims — Photo by B.



Kimberly Rae Thigpen is a homeschool mom, teacher, and author. She serves as SLM’s Literature Coordinator.

A VISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SLM

By Ben Doomy

Most Christians in America, approximately 85%, come to faith in Jesus before the age of 18. This means that only 15% of believers come to faith after the age of 18. As a former youth pastor, I feel the urgency for students to learn about Jesus and come to a saving faith.

Our greatest need in life is the salvation that only comes through Jesus Christ. The good news is that students are hungry for the truth and are seeking answers to the questions that they are wrestling with. The Bible lessons we have created are being used, not only to evangelize (sharing the Gospel), but to disciple believers after they have been saved. We want to see people come to Jesus and then grow deep in their relationship with Him.

As we look around the world, many of our Branches are going into schools, and the students are on fire for God. I had the privilege of going into a few high schools in Kenya in 2021 to preach. In each school, the students were singing with enthusiasm and listening to every word I said. I could feel the deep desire within those students to know more about God and to worship Him.

At Source of Light, we are currently creating new Bible lessons for children and teenagers. Our hope in creating new lessons is that students will have a deeper relationship with their Creator, more knowledge of their Savior, and a testimony that will bring glory to God. Since the majority of believers are saved before the age of 18, we see the importance of teaching students what God's Word says.

Jesus commands us in the Great Commission to teach disciples to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you (Matthew 28:20). That is exactly what our Bible lessons are created for: to teach what the Word of God has said.

As the Youth Ministries Coordinator, my vision for children and teenagers is first that they would use our Bible lessons. If a non-believer begins taking our Bible lessons, they will hear the Gospel and be given the opportunity to make a decision for salvation. Most of the time, a student will only continue in our lessons if they have truly accepted Jesus, because they want to grow in their relationship with Him. Our new lessons will follow a track that will progress like stepping stones upward in discipleship.

Secondly, my vision for focusing on children and youth is to create beneficial supplemental articles, videos, activities, and more. Our Bible lessons fit a certain booklet size that can only hold a limited number of words or pictures. Therefore, since there is so much more that could be said on any given topic, our goal is to create supplemental content that we can put on our website for students who want to go deeper into the lesson that they are learning. For example, if we mention Creation in a lesson but do not go deeper into all of the intricacies of the Creation story, we might create an article on our website for them to visit that will have all of Creation explained. We might also have printable coloring pages that go with a lesson for students to download from the website. The possibilities are endless for supplemental content, and the exciting thing is it would all be free. No one would have to pay for shipping or printing, and the student would have unlimited access to it.

Thirdly, I want to see summer camps, orphanages, homeschool conventions, Vacation Bible Schools, youth events, or Sunday school ministries using our Bible lessons as their curriculum for teaching students. I hope to travel around the world showing different ministries and churches how they can utilize our lessons within their contexts. I grew up going to the same summer camp every year, and they would have breakout sessions where each youth group would go through lessons together. I want to see that happening with Source of Light's Bible lessons. My goal is to contact as many ministries as possible and get them involved in what God is doing at SLM.

Many of our Branches have various projects or needs for a group of people to assist with. I would love to take a youth group or college ministry from the United States to another country to serve (and to serve with)



High School Students in Kenya Where SLM Missionaries Disciple the Students with the Bible Lessons. — Photo by Ben Doomy



Students in Kenya Hearing the Word of God. Missionaries with SLM Regularly Go into Schools Such As This One and Are Discipling the Students As They Go through Our Bible Lessons. — Photo by Ben Doomy

our international missionaries. One of the things that God used in drawing me into missions was going on trips around the world and seeing how God was working internationally. I know that there are people in the United States who need to see what missions looks like globally, and who knows how God could use that in their own lives for His glory.

Although I am only one person with so much reach, our international missionaries are the hands and feet of Jesus. Day in and day out, our missionaries are pouring their lives out for children, teens, and adults. They are going into schools, churches, and they have their own relationships with people that they are giving Bible lessons to. They correspond with their students and disciple them. God is using the collective of missionaries around the world to reach the lost and disciple the believers. I am excited to

see how God will use our new Bible lessons around the world and to hear of the testimonies of people being saved and growing closer to God.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF SLM TO YOUTH AND CHILDREN, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONNECT YOUR MINISTRY, CONTACT BEN DOOMY AT BDOOMY@SLMIN.ORG OR (706) 342-0397.



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



REMEMBERING BILL SHADE

By Ron Barnes

Dr. Bill (William K.) Shade, 88, of Corry, Pennsylvania, entered into the presence of the Lord on Sunday, January 1, 2023. He was the husband of his loving and dedicated wife, Ruby L. (Sizemore) Shade for 67 years.

Dr. Bill was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, on August 22, 1934. While attending Philadelphia Bible Institute, he met Ruby, a classmate from Southeastern Kentucky. After graduation they married, and Dr. Bill transferred to Wheaton College. The Lord then led them to Southeastern Kentucky where they were missionaries with Scripture Memory Mountain Mission for eight years. He pastored the McRoberts Missionary Baptist Church and traveled to public schools to hold chapel services. It was here he began a radio ministry and wrote the "Through the Bible Correspondence Courses."

In December 1964 they moved from Kentucky to York, Pennsylvania, where they began the Grace and Truth Evangelistic Association. Upon hearing about the rising violence among the youth of the city and the lack of resources available, they launched Teen Encounter, which included three homes for resident

teens, weekly teen rallies, Bible clubs in the schools, and a camping ministry. During those years, they also expanded the radio ministry and began the World Wide Bible Institute.

In 1975, they founded Camp of the Nations in Northeast Pennsylvania, and after 20 years of very fruitful ministry there, it was turned over to Arrowhead Ministries in 1996 where that vision continues as Rock Mountain Bible Camp. That same year, Dr. Bill was invited to join Source of Light Ministries International in Madison, Georgia, to continue his teaching and evangelistic ministries as he moved closer to retirement.

But in February of 2005, when the need for leadership once again arose, Dr. Bill was asked to become the General Director. In the seven years of his leadership, he and Ruby travelled the globe. This continued even after Bill stepped down from being General Director as he continued as Director of Advanced Studies until June 2019 when he officially retired. Though Bill moved to Corry to be closer to family, he maintained his itinerate Bible teaching ministry as well as authored six published books.

REMEMBERING HUGH JARRELL

By Kimberly Thigpen



Hugh and LaVon Jarrell were successful in the business world for many years, starting and running their own business. When the time came, they sold their business and set out in an RV to travel and enjoy retirement. Their “retirement” ended up including ministry. A lot of ministry.

Prior to Source of Light, the Jarrells spent over six years volunteering in other ministries. They were heavily involved in prison outreach. Hugh’s musical abilities were a great blessing in the prisons, at Source of Light, and in the church where they were members.

When Hugh and LaVon stopped by SLM to volunteer for a short time, Hugh’s diverse business skills made him the perfect person to revitalize the Publications Department. He got it up and running again, but there was no qualified person to take over, so they stayed. For years.

Whenever the Jarrells thought of leaving for full-time retirement again, Hugh couldn’t help but ask, “Where else would I be as needed in what I’m qualified to do as here?”

Hugh was easily recognized by his smile, his whistle, his piano playing, or his laid-back approach to problem solving.

He led his department when a leader was lacking, stayed until it could stand without him, and passed it along to one he had trained.

SLM missionaries have good things to say about Hugh. “His industry and thriftiness contributed to Source of Light in ways that will benefit the mission for years to come.” “He was a very good neighbor.” “Always willing to lend a helping hand.” “He looked for ways to improve everything.” “He understood people.” He was “fun-loving and enjoyed being around people,” was “even-tempered,” a “master negotiator,” and “the more you knew him, the more you appreciated him.”

Hugh made a big difference. He is missed at Source of Light.

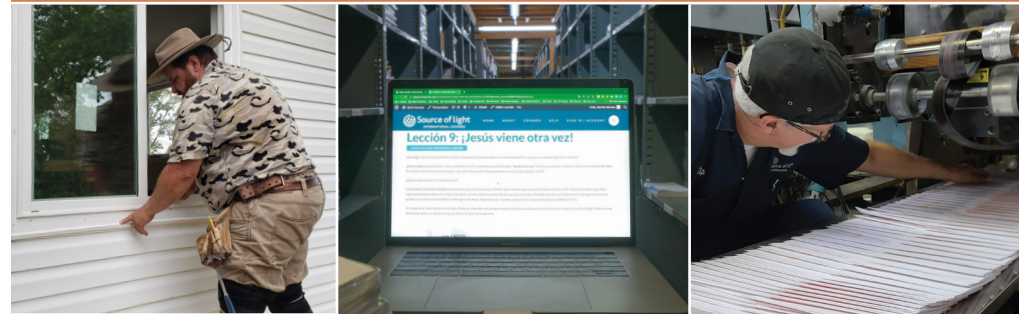


Working a Tabletop Folder in the Print Shop
—Photo by Ronnie Barnes

LOOKING FOR A CHANGE?

CONSIDER SERVING WITH SLM IN
MADISON

COME SPEND A DAY, A MONTH, OR A YEAR WITH US



An expanding ministry means expanding needs and expanding opportunities in Madison. We are seeking work teams, visitors, retirees, and experienced missionaries. Every skill level is welcome—what we are seeking most is willingness.

CONTACT HR@SLMIN.ORG TO FIND OUT HOW TO GET STARTED.

SLM IS LOOKING FOR:

- ◆ Receptionists
- ◆ Landscaping
- ◆ Web design
- ◆ Hostess
- ◆ Accountant
- ◆ IT
- ◆ Housekeeping
- ◆ Finance clerk
- ◆ Social media influencers
- ◆ Maintenance
- ◆ Data entry
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Mechanic
- ◆ Office administration
- ◆ Graphic designer
- ◆ Small engine repair
- ◆ Administrative assistants
- ◆ Pressman
- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Chaplain
- ◆ Prepress
- ◆ Carpentry
- ◆ Discipleship
- ◆ Orders clerk

PRAYER

- ◆ The Madison Discipleship School (MDS) needs a Spanish coordinator to effectively minister to the Hispanic community. MDS also asks us to pray that they will be able to send lessons directly to prison addresses. Postal service privileges have been abused in one state particularly, which has resulted in very strict restrictions for our students in those facilities.
- ◆ The Operations Department at SLM's Madison, Georgia Headquarters has several needs. Some of the mission vehicles need to be replaced. Our parking lot is nearly 40 years old and needs to be refurbished. We also need a volunteer receptionist for our front desk.
- ◆ The need is ongoing for resources for printing materials. SLM Headquarters supplies many of the materials that are used internationally. Finances are always needed to keep the presses running and to keep our "paper missionaries" (as we like to call our materials) moving from Madison to the fields abroad. Please pray that the resources will always be available to promptly meet the needs of our International Branches.
- ◆ The SLM Print Shop is currently researching the options for a new press for Source of Light Headquarters in Madison. It is a big decision. Much effort is being made, and many prayers are being offered to ensure that the press chosen will be a blessing for years to come. Please pray with us.
- ◆ Please pray that God will bring relief from the violence that is terrorizing people in Nigeria and Togo.
- ◆ Our National Director in Myanmar, Philip Thang, the wife of our Director in Colombia,

Sandra Vanegas, the Director of the Madison Discipleship School in Madison, Brian Thompson, SLM Missionary in the Philippines, Charlie Notarte, and SLM's National Director in the D.R. Congo, Vedette Nlandu, are dealing with serious ongoing health concerns and need prayer.

- ◆ Many of our South American countries are experiencing political unrest. Please pray that God will bring peace in these situations.
- ◆ Please pray for protection for our Asian partners and affiliates who work in areas where the persecution of believers is intense.
- ◆ Brian and Gwenda Trapp, Missionaries at SLM Headquarters, do a Puzzle Fundraiser each year for their personal support. To help the national missionaries in the areas where Gwenda serves, they encourage matching donations that will go to these fields. Last year they had one matching donation of \$10,000 that was a tremendous blessing to the fields in Africa, Brazil, and Guyana. That donor has agreed to do the same match again. Please pray with the Trapps that God will give a second donor match this year so that the ministry funds for these fields will continue to grow.
- ◆ The Braille Department at Source of Light needs an additional new embosser. New ones print much faster than the older models. Please pray that God will provide the \$4,100 that is needed for this purchase.
- ◆ We have several Branches that are reporting large numbers of decisions for Christ. Pray that God will provide the workers and make strategic plans successful to disciple these many new believers.

PRAISE

- ◆ Jim Tilson, who heads up Source of Light's braille Department, shared that Margaret, a blind student in her late 80's, is thrilled that she has been able to systematically study God's Word for the first time in her life. Margaret is doing the Source of Light Bible lessons in braille. Jim also shares that one of the two new braille embossers needed has been paid for and will be arriving at Headquarters soon.
- ◆ Our shipments are moving again. The problem with shipping globally caused great delays in us being able to get lessons to the fields. We praise the Lord that things are getting better now. We also praise the Lord for a door that has opened to print some of our materials overseas in an area where there is high demand.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for His provision of over \$30,000 for Uganda's literature needs for 2023. This Branch is strategically working with massive amounts of literature, and God has provided for them to carry on their efforts in 2023.
- ◆ Our Northeast Branch in India was able to distribute 70,000 Bibles in January to people making the pilgrimage to the Gangasagar River.
- ◆ In the South Zone of India, they have completed and are using the mid-sized Tabernacle to share the Gospel. "The Tabernacle Project" uses a model of the Old Testament Tabernacle to point people to Christ. This mid-sized Tabernacle was designed to be used inside large churches so that they would not be disturbed by antagonists of other faiths who were objecting to the use of the Tabernacle model in open areas.
- ◆ Praise the Lord for two new Discipleship Training Branches that have been added to Source of Light International: Costa Rica and Spain.
- ◆ In the North Zone of India, a new tailoring class has been started, with a goal of presenting the Gospel. Fifteen of the students who have joined the class are not Christians. This SLM Branch recently distributed 200 blankets to homeless people. They started a new computer class for their Train up the Child program which is striving to minister to unevangelized children through educational assistance. Five new fellowship groups have been started, and a new church was started in Nepal. They were also able to distribute over 300 Bibles.
- ◆ One of Source of Light's partner churches has a burden to raise funds for the purchase of Bibles. Funding for 1,044 Bibles was distributed among five of our Africa ministries last year through this project. We have heard exciting testimonies of people who have received a Bible who have never had one. One gentleman who received one is using it to host a Bible study in his home.
- ◆ Source of Light is tremendously blessed by the work of our volunteers. This year several groups of volunteers are scheduled to visit Source of Light Headquarters in Madison. They will assist in grounds and maintenance, accounting, Madison Discipleship School, and the Print Shop. Our volunteers provide hundreds of man hours annually.

FIELD GIFT FUND



The Field Gift Fund is set aside for the emergency needs of the Source of Light fields and missionaries. The fund seeks out the fields of which have little to no income, and provides enough money for them to get by with. It also provides a “safety net” for these fields in case of emergencies, natural disasters or unexpected health issues. It has been a source of hope and encouragement to the fields on many occasions.

Would you prayerfully consider partnering with SLM through this Field Outreach Fund Campaign? There are many ways to help.

To partner with us today, go to
sourcelight.org/donate

IN MEMORIAL

GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

Dr. and Mrs. B. H. (Hap) Struthers by
Laura Farthing

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

Dr. Bill Shade by
Rhonda Formanek,
Donald Martin, Claire Smith,
June Lippy, Fran Busenitz,
Edward and Beverly Mallonee,
Don and Betty Lowry,
Chambersburg Bible Church,
John and Susan Cranmer,
Genevieve Zuch, Sewell Church,
Eula Keener, Bernice Petticoffer

Hugh Jarrell by
George and Linda Alexander,
Fran Busenitz, Eula Keener,
John and Susan Cranmer

Herb Pollard by
Sylvia Pollard

Ed Sweeney by
John and Susan Cranmer

Andy Sixsmith by
John and Susan Cranmer

Louise Baringer by
Sarah Jane Silver

Donn Booher by
Eula Keener

Peggy Walker by
Ray and Linda Walker

Glenn and Joyce Dix by
Ella Kendall, Kenneth Shriver

Katherine Thatcher by
Alan and Esta Thatcher

Jeanne Hasty by
David and Allene Giles

Louis Harold Crank by
Frances Crank

Paul and Barbara Allen by
Carole Hansen



Source of light
INTERNATIONAL

Dear Friend,

Let's remember His words...

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

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

Yours for the harvest,

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

Give Online at:

sourcelight.org/donate

By Phone:

706.342.0397

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

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



Source of light

INTERNATIONAL

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