



# the REAPER

VOL. 68, NO. 3 | Fall 2023



HOW WILL  
THEY HEAR?

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ROMANS 10:14

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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1011 Mission Road, Madison, Georgia 30650

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Printed in the United States of America, July 2023

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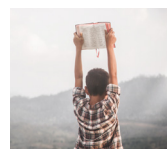
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**Corrections & Clarifications**

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

# HOW WILL THEY HEAR?

Written By Ron Barnes

The Philippines Branch of Source of Light International recently celebrated their 43rd anniversary. It was a blessing for my wife and I to finally be back. Our trip was initially scheduled for April 2020 when the pandemic closed the borders and, until recently, prevented travel to the country.

The Philippines holds a special place in both our hearts. When we were in college, we made trips as a part of two different musical teams. Both of us, after having been impacted by the needs we saw for the Gospel, committed to go wherever the Lord would lead us, as missionaries. We knew each other then but weren't even really friends, just acquaintances. So, it's interesting how God would take us both there, put missions on our hearts there, eventually bring us together, send us as missionaries around the world, and then give us the opportunity to revisit 30 years later.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and spending time with our missionaries. Getting to know them, their ministries, and their stories was inspiring. Many

of them have served with SLM for decades now and have stories about how the early missionaries who came after World War II had a profound impact on the Philippines and on them personally.

One retired missionary recalled his first encounter in “the province” with just such an American missionary. He said the missionary came to his province and visited with his family when he was a very young boy. He was enamored with this “Joe,” since he had never seen a white person before (Joe was the nickname given Americans during the war, named after GI Joe). He said his dad hung onto every word this missionary shared.

He recalled his father shouting at one point, “This is it! This is what I've been looking for, longing for!” He said his life, his family's life, and that remote village were changed forever when the Gospel came with that missionary.

Soon after, he became acquainted with the SLM lessons, and it was then the real spiritual growth began and soon after a church was



Missionary and Staff Retreat in Baguio City with a Visit to Our Senior Missionary, Charlie Notarte. — Photo by Luke Serrano

established. During this time, this now-retired missionary felt the same call that those who came to his village must have had. Who would go if not him? How would the thousands of other unreached villages hear if someone didn't leave the comfort of their village to be a messenger of the Gospel? That is why he committed his whole life going where others have “never heard.”

**“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14).**

The 43rd anniversary of “PhilSOL” was an excellent time for SLM administrators to recast that vision and to challenge the dozens of missionaries and volunteers to keep pursuing the Great Commission. These men and women serve faithfully and sacrificially through the provinces with a wide range of ministries.

The team has been involved with Bible studies, church plants, and literature distribution throughout the country.

They have reached into every aspect of Filipino culture and life. They lead Bible studies and outreaches in the workplace, factories, prisons, police stations, and in government at local and national levels. In fact, two men I sat with at the anniversary were both part of the President's cabinet. The president has asked our missionary, who has ministered to these men, to consider a cabinet position himself within his government.

God has greatly used these missionaries and the generous support of financial partners here in the US, who have supported the literature ministry of the Philippines this entire time. But as time has gone on, with the untimely passing of two former directors and the retiring of the most experienced SLM missionaries, we are recognizing a need to retool and retrain, which started at the conference and was greatly welcomed. Our newer missionaries and board members are hungry for additional training, so we plan in the coming year to “refit” the Branch with training on every level (board, administration, use of materials, and translation)



Source of Light, Philippines, Staff and Board Receiving Training. — Photo by Ron Barnes

and attempt to bolster their finances with additional partnerships from the US. Be in prayer over this. We are excited about what God is doing in the Philippines.

We are also excited that in 2023, we will begin adding new countries like Portugal, Mozambique, Cuba, and a few other possibilities, but we have a lot of work that must go into retooling our already existing Branches who are aging and in need of new leaders.

The task of the Great Commission is still not complete, and Source of Light aims to continue to be just a small part of seeing it through. In this *Reaper* you will hear about the steps SLM will be taking in the years to come with new ministries, new literature printed on new presses, new methods of literature delivery, new leaders, new countries, and making sure our existing ministry personnel are well trained and better prepared to face the challenges of this and future generations.

There are generations of people who still have no one to call on in their lostness! No name to believe in, have faith in. They have still never heard the name of Jesus, and Source of Light aims to, with your help, go to the remaining places as the herald, the messenger, the preacher of Good News! We hope that you will join us and find out how in this edition of *The Reaper*. 🌿

**“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”**  
**ROMANS 10:14 (KJV)**



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

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

# HOPE AND LONGING IN PORTUGAL

By Kimberly Thigpen

Two core concepts within Portugal's culture are called “Sebastianismo” and “saudade.” Sebastianismo is a sense of hope that something will happen while also feeling it never will. Saudade is similar, a missing or longing for something that is distant or unattainable.

Nowhere are these two concepts more emergent than in Catholicism, the religion of Portugal's inception, history, and national identity. Portugal did not even allow religious freedom until 1974. Over 80% of its population currently regard themselves as Catholic, though most are non-practicing.

Portugal is famous for religious shrines and pilgrimages, the most popular being a pilgrimage to the village of Fatima, where legend has it that the Virgin Mary appeared to some children back in 1917. Since that time, those who have visited, hoping for healing, number in the hundreds of thousands.

Hope for healing, but not really expecting it. Longing for heaven, but not seeking the truth of how to get there. How will they turn from the idols and shrines if they don't know that they should? How can they turn to true salvation with no one to tell them the Way?

God's plan to bring the Gospel to Portugal includes Source of Light and a Brazilian man named Adil Bispo dos

Reis. Source of Light's connection to the Portuguese language dates back to when Adil was born 61 years ago. The first record of translation into Portuguese was in 1961. Over the years, requests to translate into Portuguese have come from believers in Cyprus, Australia, Azores, Brazil, and the United States.

SLM's connection to Adil is also long-standing, though no one at Headquarters knew it.

Saved at age 23, Adil was compelled to study at seminary and enrolled at a Baptist Bible Institute. He states, “I understood the importance of deepening my study of the Word of God in an internal seminary where I would be able to study languages, original ideas, and better prepare myself to be an organizer and church planter. So, I went to the seminary one year and two months after being regenerated and having read the entire Bible almost three times.”



Church Choir Directed by Erica — Photo by Adil Reis

After graduation, Adil and his new wife, Erica, returned to his hometown church, where he became Assistant Pastor and helped plant two churches. He also became a father.

Only three years later, he was called to pastor a small, struggling church. He remembers, “We went in to minister... understanding it to be God’s will, due to the fact that with 24 years of existence it had only 36 members, very few children, not being able to support the pastor and being located right in front of the Temple of the Church of the Mormons.”

Adil and Erica had three more children, he became a professor at a seminary, and he partnered with other ministers to plant three new churches in three different cities.

Another church needed help. Adil says the church “had been without a pastor for years and it was, among us pastors, a very challenging and difficult ministry because of some situations that occurred and existed in it. My wife and I, after a good time of prayer and conversation between us, understood that it was God’s direction to face the challenge, because the Lord had placed in our hearts the desire to help the church that He had bought with His own blood (Acts 20:28).”

During his time at the second difficult church, he planted three more churches. Also, at that church was a young man named Wesley, who would marry and become a missionary to Portugal.

God had a third tough church situation ready for Adil. As he was becoming Dean and then Rector of the seminary where he taught, God called him to take the pastorate of a church which was, as he says, “going through a process of division among the members and had no condition to support a pastor.”



Adil and His Wife, Erica and Their Son, Lucas Adriel Reis. — Photo by Adil Reis

He did not take every offer, praying over each one with his wife and discerning God’s will and direction. All of this was in Brazil, but even back in seminary, Adil and Erica had talked of being missionaries to Portugal. When Wesley, missionary to Portugal, came to speak at their missionary conference and heard of their heart for that country, as Adil says, he “wasted no time, challenging us to get to know the Portuguese field and be missionaries working together with him and his family.”

Wesley’s advice was taken. Adil says, “We took a trip in 2016 to get to know the Portuguese mission field and, after three months of prayer and meditation, we understood that it was God’s will to be missionaries on the South Bank of Portugal.”



Home for Hospitality Ministry. — Photo by Adil Reis

They raised over 80% of their support in one year, and in early 2017, traveled to Portugal as missionaries. Adil says, “Since we arrived, we have helped with the restructuring of a small Baptist church which currently has 30 members.” They’ve also started another congregation in another city.

“Our ministry,” Adil says, “has been with personal evangelism, discipleship, counseling, preaching, and church planting, in addition to hospitality. My wife and daughter work with children and women’s ministry. My son and son-in-law help with teaching and music for young people.”

Portugal is not an easy field. Adil says, “Here we have many challenges, because people are materialistic, individualist, selfish, consumerist, and do not want to know about the things of God and spiritual things. They are religious, but not spiritual.”

Where is Source of Light in this story? All through it. Adil says, “When I was still studying at the Baptist seminary,

I got to know the Fonte de Luz [Source of Light] ministry” through a missionary there. “I started to use the courses in every church I worked for. I am now a missionary, and God has put it in my heart to establish a partnership between my missionary agency, Brazil Gospel Fellowship Mission, and SLM International to evangelize and edify brothers and sisters who live here in Portugal.”

Source of Light is honored and grateful to partner with this incredibly effective veteran missionary and his family. May God change the longing without hope of Portugal’s Sebastianismo and saudade into the everlasting hope God longs for them to have through faith in His Son. 🌿



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

# IS CUBA CLOSED?

By Miguel Diaz & Dalila Correa

“Closed” and “Communist” might be good words to describe Cuba in the recent past, but Source of Light partners are praying that its opening not merely be a government posture but rather have a Gospel priority.



A Cuban Gentleman, Despite His Visual Impairment and Advanced Age, Has Successfully Completed “The Life of Christ” Course 2 and Has Just Started Course 3. — Photo by Miguel Diaz

SLM’s first contact in Cuba was made by Manuel Lopez, a former Source of Light missionary, who made a first trip to Cuba in 2005 after contacting a retired pastor there and bringing Source of Light material into the country. An 80-year-old Cuban, with tears in his eyes, praised God in gratitude for having SLM lessons in his hands to help him know more about Him.

For the next three years, Cuba was receiving the Source of Light lessons and distributing them with much gratitude,

but for various reasons, later contact with them was lost.

Our merciful God, who knows there are people in Cuba who need to hear His message, brought up a young faithful couple who were already serving Him in Costa Rica, Miguel Diaz and his wife, Vivi (as told by Dalila Correa).

## From Miguel:

The first time we visited Cuba was in 2017 when we took the “A Country Called Heaven” course with us. God provided a person who had the love and willingness to help, Judith F. After interrogation by Cuban immigration for three hours at the airport, we finally managed to bring in 500 SLM lessons, which children, youth, and adults used. Soon the lessons were out of stock. A better strategy for them to have the courses would be to have a printer, so after receiving a donation we made a second trip in 2018. We took a printer and trained Judith how to print brochures and distribute them to the students in three different churches. We sent all the supplies they needed. However, this printer only worked for three years and broke down. We prayed to God to supply a new printer this year, and He did answer our prayer.

We were unable to make any trips during the pandemic. We needed to return to train the pastors who were using Source of Light courses, to encourage the volunteer sister once again, and to meet with a new pastor who had requested our materials. Thanks to SLM International, we were able to take a new printer and supplies for more students to continue learning the Word of God. We were also able to bring in donations of medicines and food to share with pastors of the churches associated with the ministry. Glory to God for this!

In Cuba, it is almost impossible to find or buy equipment and printing materials. Currently, they are experiencing an even greater scarcity due to their political system. It is also challenging to import courses. However, despite restrictions on our last trip, we managed to bring in 480 lessons.

Cuba has a great thirst for learning about Jesus. People can help by praying and giving to the ministry. We plan to travel once a year to strengthen and meet the printing needs. We would like to take two more printers with us. The people in Cuba need to study the Word of God as there are no churches like ours. It is a country with restrictions, and they are not allowed to have frequent gatherings to study the Word of God together. Source of Light courses enable them to be discipled and learn more about the Word of God from their own homes.

Our volunteer, sister Judith, lives in a small house in Cuba, in an extremely poor neighborhood where there is often no electricity or water. We would like to help with a monthly donation so she can

rent a better place where she can have a dignified house and space to conduct the ministry.

By praying and financial support, we can make a significant impact in reaching out and serving the people of Cuba. We aim to expand the distribution of courses on a larger scale to reach students of all ages, children, youth, and adults. Our dream is to have at least ten churches in Cuba by the end of this year that can have access to our SLM courses. Currently, we have four churches involved in the ministry.

Small beginnings are fragile but can grow into magnificent displays of God’s glory. Cuba is not closed to His Word. 🌿



Meeting with Pastors and Leaders Who Will Be Using the Courses in the Near Future. — Photo by Miguel Diaz



**Dalila Correa** has served with Source of Light for 45 years with her husband, Pablo, mostly in Peru but now based out of Colorado serving the entire region of Latin America.



**Miguel Diaz** serves as the Director for SLM Costa Rica, which was officially introduced as a DTB in 2022. He and his wife, Viviana, left careers in engineering and journalism to serve full-time in ministry.

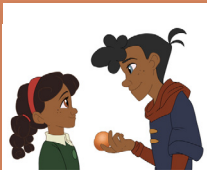
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These lessons will be our most cross-cultural yet, with feedback not only from qualified editors but also all our Discipleship Training Branches worldwide. Beautifully illustrated, culturally relevant, with Biblical discipleship in stages that grow with the students, we look forward to seeing God use these new lessons as He has the old, to guide children into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Look for the first completed course by the end of 2023!**

## PRESSING ON WITH PRINTING

By Bruce Dare

"I appreciate the men who prayerfully selected the Color King press for our shop. It has been my privilege to run it for nearly 30 years, and it has proven to be ideal for the two-color Bible lessons. As we advance into four-color work, I hope we will be just as in tune with the Lord as our forebears were when selecting a new press for the future." These are the thoughts of Philip Fraiser, the now sole pressman at Source of Light, words you might expect from a man about his machine, the instrument he has used to produce many millions of Bible lessons. This legacy made it difficult for us to consider something different, knowing that the time to move on was overdue but so settled on the rhythm and precision we had enjoyed for decades. Yes, the Color King press was factory rebuilt upon installation, but that was back in the 1980s, first made in the 1960s. Certain parts were getting worn beyond adjustment. The original manufacturer doing occasional service and providing critical parts seemed to be going out of business. A similar fate feels inevitable across the entire roll-fed segment of the printing industry. But primarily, apart from age and use, the press could only do what in its day was high grade but these days just isn't much of a thing: two colors. One of the ageless aspects of print ministry is the truth in black and white, ink seen with the eyes put on paper held in the hands. But it often literally takes more color to communicate well.



*Philip Fraiser and Crew Evaluating Efficiency with a Sheeter Attachment for the Color King Press. — Photo by SLM Archives*

The time was right to propel SLM's printing toward the next generation of literature, to procure equipment that would support not only the cost-efficient values that are a part of our heritage but also a current-culture vision for the future. We wished to do so not merely with a barely functional four-color machine that would likewise be near the end of its wear. What we prayed for—and what many of you gave toward—was an impressive press. One that produces quality pieces with more visual clarity, less manual adjustment, and better efficiency so as to reach more people using less material. Our goal is to be able to produce more up-to-date—and thereby less distracting—lessons but still in a way that would serve our worldwide Branches and partnering ministries at a cost as next to nothing as possible. There were so many factors to consider. How would God lead us?



SLM Press Search Team at Christian Light Publications Evaluating Their Printing & Finishing Equipment. — Photo by Bruce Dare

The process began years ago when the former long-term volunteer Director of Publications, Hugh Jarrell, did significant research into the general kind and cost of our next machine, gleaned information on the options available and aspects avoidable. The specific search began with what we knew, trying to evaluate machines that were most like their predecessor but with full-color capability and the technology needed to make print runs less demanding. Especially following a visit to another Christian publication ministry in Virginia, the result was clarity. As might be only described as a “conversion,” the team, and especially Philip, became convinced that a sheet-fed machine was our future. We began to embrace our trend toward shorter print runs, needing more flexibility with paper stock and product finishing. A pivot was communicated to old and new brokers of used equipment which resulted in a visit to nearby Alabama where we found a lower-budget but seemingly well-maintained machine. It appeared to us to be the right direction, having the resources for a full refurbish, but a second visit uncovered unexpected critical dysfunctions of the press that were concerning.

This press seemed to maybe be the one for us. It was the best we could come up with what we knew. We each had thoughts as to how this might go and opinions about what was right. God had something different in mind. “A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9). Basically, concurrent to the inspection that went sideways and a decision to discontinue with that Man Roland press, we were being introduced to a Ryobi machine that is about 10 years newer and half as used. It was as if God was telling us that we had tried but He had a much better option. This press came back with a “beautiful” inspection, and the seller put dollar figures behind his sympathy toward our mission. Nevertheless, the cost was near the other end of our budget and left us little space, especially for the finishing equipment that could be bundled with the press. Would it ever be possible to get both with the funds God had provided for this project? May it be that God could at once and with two pieces of equipment revolutionize the publication situation at Source of Light?

It was a big ask, but one that He was leading us to make. In the end, it is what God did. He gave us favor in circumstances that resulted in acquiring a dream press with a bonus booklet-maker, everything we would need to publish the new materials He is guiding us to produce (see page 12). Both machines for the original cost of the press and for near the exact amount of funds raised. And is it not fitting that a global discipleship literature ministry



Chris Manley from Graphco Talking Through Pre-Install Details for the Ryobi Press. — Photo by Dan Winder

based in the United States continue with a press from Poland and finishing equipment from Canada, all originally manufactured in Japan? We are grateful for God’s clear blessing and to all who were a part. Speaking of that, if you face some regret for not giving toward the press, it’s not too late. You could still be part of this new foundation—literally as in the concrete floor—as we customize our shop space and purchase various items to rightly transition our operation.

So, it’s been a beautiful thing so far. The faithfulness of the big blue machine in the corner and the staff that went before who have been a part of reaching and training countless persons around the globe in the Gospel. The hope and call of a newer gray press on the opposite end and the people who will get it going. We could use some help with that. Would you pray how God might lead you to join in (see page 27)? Our materials cannot be read if they are not printed

and delivered. The world cannot believe if the Gospel is not shared. We’re ready for what God has for us and seek to be faithful as we press on. **Are you?** 🌿



Source of Light’s Next Press at Its Original Location in Poland. — Photo by RMGT Italy



**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.



# 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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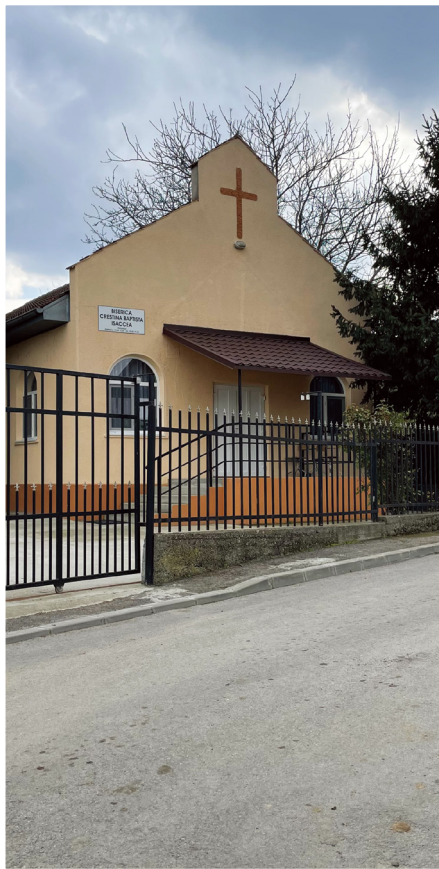


# GLOBAL OUTREACH FUND



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

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



The 10-Member Baptist Church of Issacea Who Hosted Thousands of Refugees As They Arrived. —Photo by Ron Barnes

# Ukraine Update

By Ron Barnes

The overwhelming love and support that was directed towards those affected by the conflict in Ukraine through SLM has been wonderful. Many through SLM gave to respond to the needs that have been caused by this war, and many lives have been touched as a result. I got to see and hear firsthand how God used the funds sent to those affected, and it is both heartbreaking and encouraging.

I stood at the dock along the Danube River in Isaccea, Romania, imagining what it would have been like in those first days of the invasion of Ukraine in February of 2022. Just three months before then, construction of the dock and border crossing had been completed, and a ferry service started to speed up the time it would take to get across the river. This new border crossing reduced the time it took to get to the nearest border by 12 hours. As the war started, not knowing what lay ahead, people made their way to this border, women and children, no men. The men were required to stay back to fight for their country.

Weary, hungry, disoriented, many in shock, traumatized by witnessing the bombing of their cities and homes and the killing and injuring of their loved ones, 1,000 women and children at a time, Ukrainian refugees wandered down the two-kilometer stretch between the port and the village of Isaccea.

As they began to pour into the village by the thousands in the early days, there was little to no government response or action. But in that little village, at the intersection where the road to the port comes into the village, is a little 10-member Baptist church. Believers from that little church and neighboring sister churches made their way to the area and sprang into action.

They provided housing and meals, warm accommodations in churches and in their own homes, then helped refugees on to wherever they needed to go next. In the beginning, it was their own resources they used, from their own pockets without any outside help or aid. That sacrifice and generosity in itself is exactly what we should expect from Christians. But the fact that historically the Ukrainians looked down on, made fun of, and viewed the Romanians as their poor “Gypsy neighbors” made these Romanians’ offer of generosity and sacrifice even more Christlike. Even the non-Christian Romanians were so moved by the Christians’ response to the crisis, they also participated in the aid.

**“Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it**

**unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”**

**Matthew 25:37–40 (KJV)**

As I sat hearing the stories of those who gave sacrificially throughout the crisis, and who still were giving, I couldn’t help but think of this passage, where the Word of God reminds us that all we do, all we have, at any given time, we should be ready to offer to Christ and to those He sends along our path, as though it were He Himself.

Following the months of evacuations of the women and children, the efforts of these Romanian believers we partnered with shifted to sending resources into Ukraine—by the truck and vanload. This group focused on hard-hit Kherson, where a bombed-out Baptist church, with a missing roof covered only with a blue tarp stands as the only church remaining in the city. From there they distribute medicine, goods and food to neighbors, believers and unbelievers, and it serves as a warm place to stay with donated generators that SLM provided through the coldest months of the winter.

These men and women at times put themselves in the line of fire to get relief to this abandoned city and carry vehicle loads of those necessities of greatest need. I heard story after story of the thankfulness these Ukrainians—and their Romanian helpers—gave for those from the “West” who gave and continue to give in this time of need.



Photo by Marjan Blan

We received this update recently from another partner, one I will visit soon in Erd, Hungary—sent by Missionary Beth Hafer and Pastor Zsolt Forizs, former ministry partners during the Barnes’ ministry in Hungary:

“When we talked about the money that you were sending, I told you that we thought we would be receiving a container filled with requested supplies but that would then be available for longer-term storage of the goods that we send to the border every 10-14 days. We thought that the money you sent would go toward purchasing those supplies that we send on into Ukraine. So far, the container from World Help has not yet materialized. However, we have still been sending the supplies, and we recently received a donated empty container that we can use for the longer-term storage.

“In the meantime, buying fuel has become more complicated in Hungary. We have a cap on gas prices, but beginning in August, they started adding restrictions to that. For quite a while, the fixed price was for every kind of vehicle driving in Hungary. Then they restricted it to only Hungarian-registered vehicles. Then they restricted it to only personal,

Hungarian-registered vehicles. This caused a problem for us, because we have three large, loaned vehicles that we use constantly for refugee ministry: a passenger van from a dealership, a passenger van from a sister ministry, and a cargo van. These are considered ‘business’ vehicles so do not qualify for the lower fuel price. We also have fuel credit cards that we have been using to tank up personal vehicles being used for refugee ministry. However, filling personal vehicles with the credit card is no longer good, because the cards are in the church’s name, and therefore business cards that are charged the full (nearly double) price for gas.”

**“We do our best to use the funds as economically, judicially, and conscientiously as we can. and Hungarians are really good at stretching it as far as possible!”**

“Here in Erd, a suburb of Budapest, we have had a little lull in the numbers of people coming through and staying with us in the past few weeks. We’re continuing the regular purchasing and delivery of the material supplies into Ukraine and have sent over a generator to a church so that people can come

and shelter there (heating one larger location to accommodate more people, rather than trying to supply lots of small generators to individuals, because those are becoming more and more scarce and it’s less efficient).

“We’re also talking about how to meet needs and minister spiritually to Ukrainian refugees who may be staying in our area longer-term, with the goal of establishing communities of faith among the refugees.

“Regarding refugee ministry needs, we are continually purchasing food, supplies, etc. for taking care of the people who stay with us, as well as purchasing train, plane, and bus tickets to help them travel on to their long-term destinations.

“We also have another special situation. We had a precious family of believers from Mariupol that stayed with us for a couple months while obtaining their visas to go to the US. While they were here, the lady’s father came for a visit. He is a deacon in one of the larger Mariupol Baptist churches, one of only one pastor and four other deacons remaining in the city out of the 20 Mariupol Baptist churches. He has chosen, with his wife, to remain in Mariupol. It is impossible for people in that region to travel outside of the Russian-occupied regions into the rest of Ukraine to seek help, supplies, or finances, so he actually had to travel out to Russia through Belarus to Poland and from there to Budapest. We were able to give them funds to take back. We were also able to set up bank accounts here so he can travel out to another country

(for example Georgia or Poland) that has working ATMs and pull out the funds to carry back and use in the Mariupol area. It sounds a bit complicated, but this is one way that we can facilitate sending help to one of the most challenging, hardest to reach, and needy areas.”

On the ground, our missionaries and partners have wisely used the funds, which I have now seen firsthand, and we are seeing fruit from the testimonies of those who have reached back out to those who ministered to them in a time of their greatest need. Many have come to Christ and have written to thank all who contributed to the task of loving them like Christ, feeding them and clothing them, and who more than just shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they embodied it! 🌿



One of the Brave Volunteers Who Continues to Carry Van Loads of Relief Into the Most Dangerous Parts of Ukraine. — Photo by Ron Barnes



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

Follow me [@RonBarnesJr](#)

# THE TECHNICAL SIDE OF THINGS

By Ron Barnes

The SLM home office has been blessed over the years with generous donations of equipment to help run it, but that donated equipment has approached the end of its life. At the same time, this older equipment hasn't been able to handle many of the newer innovations that have become pretty much standard in the workplace environment and are not only more robust, but the total cost of ownership can be significantly less.

Enabling us to take advantage of the newer technology is faster Internet that is now available at the home office. Some of this equipment will need to be purchased and installed in stages, but an example of our desire is the installation of a new VOIP (voice over internet protocol) phone system which

would allow for cheaper phone bills at the home office and phone calls from abroad like they were local. It would give office staff multiple options for forwarding and answering phone calls, the ability to set and change personalized voicemail, and it will allow those who travel or work remotely to receive phone calls to their cellular phone.

To fully utilize the VOIP, we need to change out our antiquated network connections to newer switches which will run 10 times faster than the current equipment. A breakdown of the equipment we are asking God to provide are below:

- ◆ **Dell Network Server (with software licenses): \$16,000**
- ◆ **VOIP Server (with headsets): \$7,000**
- ◆ **Network switches throughout building: \$6,000**

Please pray that God would provide these resources to the Technology Upgrade Fund so we can move forward and expand the capabilities of the home office. 🌿



Server at Source of Light Headquarters in Madison, GA. — Photo by Ronnie Barnes

# OBEDIENCE OVER OBSTACLES IN KENYA

By Danielle Dare

## What comes to mind when you think of Kenya?

You see a canvas of orange sunsets blending into a landscape of grasslands and exotic wildlife, perhaps. If you are in business you may reflect on Nairobi, boasting a unique clashing of modern skyline and safari adventure. For most of us, this African country half a world away is as unfamiliar and distant as an old geography lesson, television show, or untouchable dream vacation. For Timothy Kyuli and the staff of Source of Light; however, Kenya is home, life, and vocation. The day in and day out that we all experience is in some way similar for us and them: adverse weather, political unrest, illness, pervasive

false religion, and financial stress due to inflation and poverty. However, there are certain factors which make these roadblocks seem extreme and almost impossible to navigate in the daily work and ministry in Kenya. Alternate flooding and drought create problems of travel and crop production. Potential government attention and pushback toward religion is intimidating. Violence due to political uprising makes a normal commute too dangerous and results in loss with the destruction of personal property. Financial strain due to the economy with rising fuel, paper, and ink costs make production more difficult, creating the need for additional partners and student sponsors.



Dusty Scene along Busy Kenyan Valley Road. — Photo by Bruce Dare

Despite these and other challenges, our team there is faithful and committed, and has been for over three decades, to the work God has called them to. It is inspiring to learn of the ways these brothers and sisters intentionally pursue opportunities to expand the reach of the Gospel, even as those opportunities may be disguised as setbacks. If you were to walk into the office on a given workday, you might hear the steady hum of the Risograph machine, the unexpectedly cost-efficient way that Kenya is able to print the Bible lessons that are used in schools, prisons, and churches around the country. Several staff members keep busy maintaining connection and accountability with the many locations where the materials are used. God continues to open doors into new places of ministry, especially in high schools, where resources are needed to reach more students. Other staff faithfully care for the inner workings and organization of the ministry, planning, crunching numbers, and using tools like spreadsheets, keyboards, and telephones to keep the ministry running smoothly.

What had started as only a correspondence discipleship program existing between SLM staff and students has grown into a much more thorough ministry of dedicated servants of the Lord determined to press through challenges and embrace a new approach. The focus turned to schools and now has a large physical presence in over 500 schools as an official part of their organized curriculum. During the last several years, when strict health regulations threatened

to terminate the work inside schools, SLM teams have continually been welcomed to remain as other programs and ministries have been restricted. As communities in Kenya have continued to face ramifications of the pandemic as well as related financial tension and mounting political strife, they are vulnerable to anything that would offer them a glimmer of hope. Many in certain regions have been led astray by influential cult groups being used by Satan to create deception and even death through their dangerous practice. Not only has this ensnared many people, but it has also drawn skepticism from the government, making the work of any church or ministry more difficult.



*David Kavita Prepares Paper to Load into Risograph Machine with National Director Timothy Kyuli. — Photo by Bruce Dare*

Not allowing these hurdles to discourage them, the Branch staff is embracing the importance of continual obedience in sharing the truth and shining as the light in the darkness. Trusting in God’s protection and provision, SLM has continued to boldly expand their reach in schools and through youth rallies, offering leadership training alongside local authorities who

offer special instruction. It is the hope of the missionaries that more young people will become strong leaders in their communities, living lives of integrity and bringing honor to God. In addition to school-aged children, representatives of the mission have made visits to a local prison, sharing small gifts and teaching the Bible. It is a joy to have an open door to share the hope of redemption and true freedom with the prisoners even as they remain in physical restraint due to the consequences of being slaves of sin. While many have been receptive to the good news of the Gospel and the hope it brings in the midst of turmoil, there are doors yet closed to the attempts of believers to convey the truth. As in other areas of difficulty, this does not halt the work that must go on. Together with another ministry, Source of Light Kenya participated in a special training for church leaders with a focus on equipping individuals for intentional evangelism in specific people groups. Following the example of Jesus, they are committed to their calling of gathering the harvest of souls who are waiting to hear. The news of the Gospel must be told.

We should be moved by the ways our partners in Kenya have remained focused on the task they have received of the Lord. They have answered the question, “How shall they hear?” with a determined obedience. While it would be easy and perhaps even understandable to offer excuses for why they cannot continue or to only expend a minimum of what is required, they go forth wholeheartedly. They understand the time is now. The challenges only mask what is truly an open door. They trust God to provide for the work He has called them to and equipped them for. How might their boldness propel us to do the same in our work in spreading the Gospel? The question burns in our minds and begs our answer, our obedience. “How shall they hear?” How will you meet your challenges, seeing through them “that the fields are white for harvest?” (John 4:35). 🌿



**Danielle Dare** is married to Bruce, Director of Publications at SLM. She spends her time caring for their three children and assists at the mission as she is able.



*SLM Kenya Team Pictured with Ron Barnes and Bruce Dare. — Photo by Gracehouse*

# REMEMBERING DONN BOOHER

By Bruce Dare



Donn Booher never wanted to curl or shrivel up in a rocking chair late in life. So he didn't. Even at 87 years old, he drove the short distance to the mission, kindly escorted his wife, Donna, to the second floor, then went down the back stairs and kept walking and working in his duties as essentially the sole picker and packer in the Shipping Department at Source of Light. He took a long lunch and loved his weekly golf outing but otherwise worked a normal job, often being the one whose hands were the last to touch materials that were then opened around the world by individuals eager to receive and distribute them.

Donn was born on January 13, 1936, in Pennsylvania but moved as a child and lived most of his life in Florida. After serving in the military, he worked as a telegrapher then in management at a phone company before operating a print shop with his son. He trusted Christ at age 36, following an invitation by his eye doctor to a Bible study, after which he hosted many Bible studies and later served with New Tribes Mission. He genuinely loved the Lord, as he would often mention in prayer alongside the simple request for God "to go before us in our work." His heart longed for his family to trust in Christ. He was always cheered

by successful deliveries overseas and interested in new developments at SLM.

After a brief illness, Donn went home to be with the Lord on February 28, 2023. Anyone who met him was endeared by his kindness. Anyone who worked with him would enjoy his way. Though experienced at much more, Donn fulfilled a simple role at Source of Light. But that putting paper on carts and filling and taping boxes was a keenly critical part of our work. Without it, our lessons would not have moved, and the Word would not have been heard. It is this work for which he—though more just Donn himself—is greatly missed. 🌿



Donn Working a Favorite Activity at the Folder.  
— Photo by Bruce Dare

# JOIN THE MISSION



Whether you can offer weekday mornings as a volunteer or prefer a non-typical missionary career, we just might have a place for you. Non-negotiable requirements include a heart to serve, a mind to learn, and two hands to help, but see below more specific needs in the Publications Department:

## **SHIPPING SPECIALIST**

General assistance in warehouse; picking/packing items for shipment

## **ORDERS CLERK**

Data entry, answering inquiries, making invoices, processing payments

## **PRESSMAN APPRENTICE**

Train/assist in running & maintaining printing presses and finishing equipment

## **BRaille ASSISTANT**

Train/assist in producing & packaging materials for Braille discipleship ministry

**ALL OPPORTUNITIES COULD BE PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME BUT WOULD  
NECESSITATE CLOSE PROXIMITY TO MADISON, GEORGIA.  
CONTACT [HR@SLMIN.ORG](mailto:HR@SLMIN.ORG) OR [BDARE@SLMIN.ORG](mailto:BDARE@SLMIN.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

## PRAYER

◆ Continue to pray for a full recovery from a stroke for Philip Thang, Source of Light's missionary in Myanmar. He is making significant progress and is now able to do some exercises and walk. The ministry in Myanmar is also in critical need of a vehicle. With the ongoing civil war, it is difficult to do outreach in rural areas without transportation.

◆ God is expanding the work of Source of Light, and our literature is in high demand. In many areas we serve, financial resources are limited and the cost of literature must be subsidized. Please pray that God will continually keep our Paper Partners account (the account we pull from for literature needs) healthy so that we can keep the lessons flowing to people who are eager to receive them.

◆ Our home office staff rejoices to see Philip Fraiser back in the Print Shop. Philip had a heart attack. Pray that he will regain his strength and fully recover.

◆ Please pray for comfort, care, and guidance for Donna Booher, Ruby Shade, and LaVon Jarrell. These are missionaries or previous missionaries of Source of Light who have recently lost spouses.

◆ Continue to pray for our Literature Committee and those developing the new Source of Light courses. Special prayer is requested as well for those who will be doing the translation of the materials for use internationally. Pray that we will find just the right people to do the translations and that the work will be quality work that can be used effectively for many years. Pray

for Source of Light's transition to a more up-to-date press for our Print Shop. It has taken some time to do the research and find just the right press. Our Print Shop will need modifications to install the press. Please pray that God will bring just the right assistance needed and the resources to get the new press up and running and for the safety of all who will be doing the installation.

◆ Serrano Nestor has recently been installed as the new Branch Director for the SLM Branch in the Philippines—PhilSOL. Please pray for Nestor as he is trained in this new role.

◆ A lesson shipment was delivered to Brazzaville, Congo, that should have gone to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Even though these countries are neighbors, it has been months and the materials have still not reached their destination. Please pray that God will get these lessons rerouted and to their proper destination soon so that they can get into the hands of students.

◆ Many of our International Branches are working with extreme obstacles—civil war, political corruption, violence, religious persecution, or the lack of resources. Please pray for their patience, safety, provision, and for wisdom in how to work in these trying situations.

◆ We have lost some precious staff at Source of Light's International Headquarters in Madison, and many of our current staff are facing challenging health issues. Please pray that God will provide staff to ease the load of people who have multiple responsibilities.

## PRAISE

◆ D.W. in the India Central Zone was excited to share on the final day of their Vacation Bible School that they had a total attendance of 275. They had 50 teachers and volunteers to assist them in the event.

◆ Gilberto Vanegas, our Colombia Branch Director, reports that a recent mission trip to Guasimal was a big success. They were able to share the Gospel with many people. They had donations of soccer balls, playground games, surprises for the children, and resources for transportation. It was a blessing to the team that traveled and to the people in that area. They have also established Associate Discipleship Schools in Guasimal and in Cuatrobocas. During the mission trip, they were able to visit the city of Cartagena where they have an Associate Discipleship School. A group from this area assisted with the activities in Guasimal. The Colombia Branch is also rejoicing that a prison which had been closed to them since the pandemic has recently approved them to continue ministering there.

◆ Takuji Yamazaki, our SLM missionary in Japan, is rejoicing that after extensive treatment, he has been told that his cancer is in remission. His doctors will continue to monitor the situation through regular check-ups. He gives thanks for the best physician—Jesus Christ.

◆ We praise the Lord for our PhilSOL Branch (Source of Light Branch in the Philippines) that celebrated 43 years of service on May 6, 2023.

◆ Our West Africa SLM Branches are rejoicing as a huge order that was sent from headquarters and routed through Ghana is now in hand. With the shipping

crisis that resulted from COVID-19, they have been waiting for quite some time for these materials. James Byakika in Uganda is also rejoicing that his shelves are well stocked for the rest of the year.

◆ We praise the Lord that in our Branches in Asia, despite persecution, we are seeing many souls come to Christ and much literature is being distributed to hungry souls.

◆ We praise the Lord for the many people who are coming to Christ in Uganda. We also praise the Lord for how the team in Uganda is working hard to establish discipleship groups so that the new believers can grow in Christ. Massive amounts of literature are being distributed in Uganda, and we see God bringing in a harvest of souls.

◆ Madison Discipleship School (MDS) has recently struggled with getting lessons into some prisons due to increasing restrictions. However, Brian Thompson, the MDS Director, shared that they have been able to reach some prison officials to arrange for the students to get their lessons even in very restrictive facilities. This is a big answer to prayer.

◆ Our missionaries, Steve and Jessica Bastow, in our Kansas Branch, work in a Weekday Bible School Program with public school students. They recently shared that they had their end of the year programs and that they were a great encouragement.

◆ Our New Mexico Branch, directed by Darryl and Joan Evans, is rejoicing in God's provision of new computer equipment and printers.

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

## IN MEMORIAL

### GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

#### Donn Booher by

Paul and Tamaria Alexander  
Doug and Ronda Wyler  
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#### Alice Kirk by

Robert and Patricia Brickel

#### Suzanne Saunders by

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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,

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

Give Online at:

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

By Phone:

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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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