



# the REAPER

VOL. 69, NO. 2 | Summer 2024



**ARISE,  
GO,  
PREACH!**

---

**JONAH 3:2**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SOURCE OF LIGHT INTERNATIONAL MADISON, GA

**Source of Light Ministries International** is an independent, faith mission that exists to bring people of every nation, language, and ethnicity into a mature relationship with Jesus Christ and into fellowship with a local church family.

**SLM** is a world-wide, disciple making, church planting ministry that uses the medium of Bible lessons for all ages in both printed and electronic format to achieve its goals. The International Headquarters in Madison, Georgia, its Discipleship Training Branches (DTB), and Associate Discipleship Schools (ADS), distribute lessons throughout the world.

**Representatives and Missionaries** of SLM are available to present the ministry to churches, missionary conferences, and other groups. Contact the **SLM PR OFFICE** for scheduling.

For information visit us at:  
**[www.sourcelight.org](http://www.sourcelight.org)**  
or call **800.776.1207**

**the REAPER** is published by Source of Light Ministries International, Inc. and is free of charge to subscribers. Write or call to be placed on the mailing list.

#### Change of Address or Subscription

If your address has changed or you are no longer interested in receiving **the REAPER**, please contact us using the postal or email address on the back cover of this magazine.

Copyright © 2024

Source of Light Ministries International, Inc.  
1011 Mission Road, Madison, Georgia 30650

*All rights reserved including the rights to reproduce this publication or any parts thereof in any form without the express written permission of Source of Light.*

Printed in the United States of America, April 2024

#### the REAPER

Dr. Ronald J. Barnes Jr.  
*Editor*

Bruce Dare  
*Assistant Editor*

Brenda Barnes  
Melody Zink  
Betty Ingalsbe  
Kimberly Thigpen  
Ray Walker  
Shirley Rice  
*Reaper Staff*

Sarah Cook  
*Graphic Designer*

Ron Barnes III  
*Photographer*

Michael Ventrello  
*Prepress*

#### Board of Directors

Dr. Paul Seger, *Chairman*  
Dr. R.J. Sans, *Vice Chairman*  
Jim Thompson, *Secretary*  
Darwin Blandon, *Treasurer*  
Steve Woody  
Dr. B.H. Struthers  
Doug Truax  
Don Lowry  
Jay Reber

#### Administrator's Cabinet

Dr. Ronald J. Barnes Jr.  
*President & CEO*  
Brian Thigpen  
*Chief Financial Officer*  
Phil Winder  
*Director of Operations*  
Bruce Dare  
*Director of Publications*  
Brian Thompson  
*Regional Director - North America*  
Pablo Correa  
*Regional Director - Latin America*  
Scotte Staab  
*Regional Director - Europe & Asia*  
Tom N.  
*Regional Director - East Asia*  
Dr. Ronald J. Barnes Jr.  
*Regional Director - Africa*

# the REAPER

VOL. 69, NO. 2 | Summer 2024

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**4 Editor's Article**

**21 Newest Missionaries**

**10 Pure and Undefined Religion**

**23 Schedule a Missionary**

**13 Get on Your Feet**

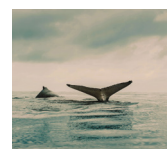
**24 Stay Home and Still Go?**

**18 It's Friday, and He's Finished**

**28 Prayer**

**19 Serving in Their 70s and Still Going Strong**

**29 Praise**



#### On the Cover

Derek Liang  
*Arise, Go, Preach!*

#### Corrections & Clarifications

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



# ARISE, GO, PREACH

By Ron Barnes  
A letter from the Editor

Jonah wasn't eager to answer God's call to preach to Israel's enemies, particularly as a devout, patriotic Israelite. Even his time in the belly of a fish was preferable to what God was asking him to do. But when God commands us to get out of our comfort zone and go do what He is asking us to do, we ought to go with a certainty that He will guide and pave the way, even if that way includes obstacles.

Here at Source of Light are countless stories of people whom God has called to go where it is hard, where there is persecution, sometimes even to their own enemies. We even know that many resisted the initial call of God, but eventually turned to Him in obedience. Their lives are consumed, and they are fulfilled, even in the midst of trials to "Go and Preach." Each of them made a commitment at some time in their lives that it was their time to "Arise," and perhaps after reading the stories in this *Reaper*, you will be inspired that it is your time.

One such story that has inspired me over and over has been the following account of my first trip to Togo:

Many years ago, I visited the Source of Light Branch in Togo for the first time. It was my first introduction to Togo, to our director Sika, and to the broad ministries that SLM had in the country. Sika was eager for me to "see it all," so we embarked on



The View As We Arrived — Photo by Ron Barnes

three days of speaking, teaching, preaching, and travel on some of Africa's worst roads. With us we had a translator and some of the evangelists who work with SLM.

Though the travel was rough, the long rides allowed for me to hear all that God was doing in Togo. Each evangelist had his own stories, and it was fun to be introduced to some of the very same characters they described.

I met former witch doctors turned church planters, prisoners turned evangelists, and orphans turned preachers. Each day was event-filled, and by the third day I was exhausted and energized at the same time. This last day too was packed with preaching at three prisons, ending the day at a village where we would

be preaching the inauguration sermon for the first church planted in that village. Fulfilling that honor was something I knew I could muster up the strength to see through with the Lord's help.

But as the day went on, it seemed everything was working against us. Flat tires, detours, and even at one point forgetting our translator IN the prison. Apparently, after I preached, he had recognized an old friend in the prison and began talking to him and didn't notice we had made our way out. It wasn't until the guys in the van began to talk again in French that we realized we didn't have our translator.

Once our translator was back in the van, they resumed their stories, and I was moved by the challenges,

which I had now seen firsthand, that these partners face daily. Some of it was pretty intimidating for even me, a seasoned veteran missionary. I was preaching inches away from prisoners in maximum security prisons. No guards inside, only standing on the walls surrounding the prison. Fleas and lice so thick it seemed like it was a layer of hair on their nearly naked bodies. In heat and humidity over 100 degrees F.

The people we were meeting—even outside the prison—were former murderers, witchdoctors, Muslim persecutors of Christians. It was a strange mixture of fear and amazement of God working in the hardest of people and in the hardest imaginable of situations.

A couple of them told me of what they considered to be the hardest place to reach, a place that I'll call "Fio" for safety reasons. It seemed like in between every few stories,



OCC Shoeboxes Being Handed Out  
— Photo by Ron Barnes

"Fio" would come up again. These men were burdened for the village.

So far, they had tried a few times to infiltrate considerable resistance in that village. The first two attempts of door-to-door evangelism and street preaching resulted in both teams being beaten nearly to death, with a threat that if they ever came back, they would "finish the job."

But these threats only made these evangelists more resolved to reach Fio. They were confident that, despite the threat, God had called them to go preach.

They decided on another approach through education. Since there was no school in the village or anywhere nearby, they set up a small school to teach the children. The teacher would be a Christian, earn the respect of the town leaders, and then pave the way for trust of the school's associates. The only curriculum they had was the SLM courses and a few other meager textbooks. In time, the village began to see a change in the children, and they continued to become more trusting of our people.

I was amazed at the story, particularly since it dominated most of that third day's discussion. We were all feeling a little anxious because we were running late getting to that last scheduled meeting, where they had asked me to preach the inaugural message in this unreached village. I try not to be anxious when

I travel, I'm on their schedule. So I wasn't too anxious until we got off the paved road and drove past a road sign directing us down a dirt road which indicated we were headed to Fio.

Suddenly my anxiety began to surface, and I took a moment to bow my head and talk to the Lord. At first, I didn't have much to say, but as I heard the excitement grow around me, I felt the Lord calm me down, and I told Him simply, "If they can do this, so can I."

We pulled up beside the makeshift outdoor tent where at least 150 people sat and stood, and I was rushed right to the stage, lined with town chiefs and council so tight that where I stood the back of my legs touched the front of theirs. These were the exact same individuals who beat and threatened our missionaries in the past.

First, they passed out some Operation Christmas Child gifts to the children, and then I was invited to preach. Having been given ample time to speak, I was able to clearly and thoroughly present the Gospel. I then turned things over to our director Sika to give whatever invitation he saw fit, and over 30 people gave their lives to Christ. He then announced and invited those new Christians and anyone else who wished to attend, that at the same time one week from that day, Bethania Baptist Church would be launched ... and it continues to grow until this very day.

Understand, this story isn't about me; it's about heroes of the faith who despite great danger and persecution, "arise, go, and preach."

Sika and the SLM team in Togo continue to arise, go, and preach every day. They minister in schools, orphanages, prisons, churches and even hospitals, in some of the hardest conditions, in sickness and in health.

I saw Sika a few months ago when we met together in Nairobi for an all-Africa SLM directors conference. He was his usual jovial, playful, enthusiastic self, and we enjoyed our time together as well as with the other directors.

But within days he began to experience setback after setback. He initially had some pain in his finger and hand, which a local hospital attempted to treat, but the pain and infection grew so severe, he went to a



Preaching to a Packed Crowd  
— Photo by Ron Barnes





Prisoners Listening Intently —Photo by Ron Barnes

mission hospital many hours away to seek better treatment.

By the time he arrived, not only was his finger and hand in jeopardy, but now even his life. This infection attacked his whole body, and there was a season of incredible pain and questions about if he could even recover.

During the same time, while in the hospital, he learned that his wife became ill due to smoke inhalation. They run a booth at a market in Lome, which they use to support themselves and the orphanage that they run out of their home. She was working the booth when the fire broke out. The booth was destroyed, and she needed significant medical treatment, but she survived.

In spite of all the resistance during that season, Sika wrote me via WhatsApp, “Dear rev Ron, Greetings from Togo. Grateful for prayers for my wife, family, our finances and



Ron and Evangelists Speaking to Prisoners — Photo by Ron Barnes

me. God is good and has been good to me because God allowed me to avoid the worst, amputating my arm or dying from the rapid spread of the infection. It’s really serious, but when it was more serious, I asked God, ‘Don’t take me now. I need to do more. I will go if it is your will, but let me continue to serve.’ In other words, God still gave me time to serve Him. Please continue to pray for me. The pain is less than before, but it exists. The pain is persistent despite the almost complete healing. But praise to God, I still serve Him.”

The next message I received was that when he got back from his hospital checkup, he planned to go purchase a van that would help him reach even more remote villages with his team of church planters and evangelists with the money so graciously provided by a US foundation. Then he would like to talk more about a church planting and pastors conference he would like me to speak at when



Students Receiving Completion Certificates — Photo by Ron Barnes

God provides the resources (about \$8,000), with an accompanying trip to Burkino Faso and Benin.

Working through his pain, through the danger and challenges, he continues to be focused on preaching the Gospel and making disciples.

His is no small vision, and these setbacks have not slowed him down. Besides his ministry throughout Togo, he has been persistent in traveling to Burkino Faso and Benin. He tells me the need is great and the doors are wide open. To date, God has not provided the resources (about \$500 a month per country) for us to have full-time workers in both those needy fields, so he himself has committed to go until we have resources for full-time workers.

Sika has faith, and so do I, that until God provides the extra resources

and laborers, we will continue to go and preach . . . until others arise to join us! 🌟

**“Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.”**

**JONAH 3:2 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

# PURE AND UNDEFILED RELIGION

By Kimberly Thigpen

**MATURE CONTENT WARNING**  
due to thematic subject of the worst  
kind of trafficking.

She is 13 years old. She has spent her childhood in poverty, raised in a culture that values sons who can carry on the family name and take care of parents in old age. Her world has a high rate of infanticide, even a medical system that helps give excuses to end the lives of pre-born baby girls, unwanted, unvalued. Girls go to their husband's families, and dowries must be paid. What family wants girls?

All this, she does not know. She accompanies her father to the market, naïve and very young. When her father tells her that a new “aunt” will take her to buy new clothes, she goes, unaware of what awaits her. Her family, her village, will never see her again.

She does not remain naïve for long.

The term trafficking brings to mind abduction or coercion, horrible terms both, but not nearly so painful as parents selling their own child to the temple for money or giving her away in hopes that her lifetime in the most horrific kind of slavery will gain them favor with the gods.

James 1:27 says, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

This girl encountered defiled religion, one that preys upon the vulnerable and innocent, one that destroys rather than heals, one that leads to death rather than life. Most girls are offered from the low classes, a terrible irony as those in that class are not allowed into the temples. If they were, and saw, perhaps their willingness to offer their own would lessen.

***She is one of so very, very many.***

Temple prostitution, using women and girls as objects of worship or “blessing” from the gods, and deceiving people into believing it somehow to be holy, is bathing in sewage and being declared clean. These women and children are given over to the gods as sacrifices, offered on an altar of immorality and spiritual death, but not allowed to die.

The one true God desires living sacrifices, but offerings of choice rather than force, with an eternally significant word that separates defiled religion from undefiled.

“...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy...” Romans 12:1.

Holy, by definition, means to be set apart for a sacred purpose. These innocents are set apart but for the unholy of purposes, to be used by the highest priest, then the other priests, then anyone until by age 20 or 30, they look like old women, no longer of worth to the temple that stole their value outside its walls. By then, the children they bore

within these caverns of hell, without education or any hope of connection or acceptance in the outside world, have no future but to follow the same pain-filled path, and the cycle continues.

How would such a girl ever become free? Fiercely guarded, hidden behind underground coverups, unimaginable horrors ready if she were to attempt escape and then fail, the girl may try once, but those who own her will make certain she regrets it.

Even if she were to succeed, what life would await an ostracized fugitive? A life in hiding, with no education, no skills, stunted development from the trauma she has endured. How is she to buy food when no job is available to her other than the one she escaped?

She is told a better future awaits her in the next life, if she endures this one without resisting the system that is destroying her body and soul. Perhaps in her next life she will be born a man, able to make choices, able to live free.

But what if one day, as she walks along the few allowed pathways to the market, someone slips a tiny paper into her hands? The person says nothing, does nothing to draw attention, does not look at her as endless others have. She finds a secluded place and reads a message that shoots her heart rate high in fear mixed with a terrible hope. Could it be real? Is it a trap? Could the phone number really be to someone who could help her escape?

A Source of Light Branch Director in this country partners with a ministry rescuing and helping victims of the evil

of temple prostitution, and their children. The deep need for secrecy requires us to abstain from sharing even the most basic specifics of country, religion, or any names. But the little he was able to share, his voice choked with tears, is an evil so entrenched in culture and protected by the corrupt, it seems a miracle that any woman or child is ever able to escape. “It is demonic,” our national partner says with conviction. “Very, very demonic.”

A miracle, yes indeed, that men called to rise and go, do. They are evangelists, but willing to stand silently and wait for those like that 13-year-old girl who needs to hear the Gospel but cannot until and unless they are set free.

These who willingly face incredible risk have rescued, at last record, “seven or eight women out of that horror,” according to our national partner, who himself only knows vague details, since the smallest accidental slip of information could destroy their entire work and land the missionaries in prison without bail. He is able to share some good news: “They hear the Gospel, get saved, sing in church, such a lovely thing to see.”

This ministry has an orphanage with 43 children. A dozen of them are children of the prostitutes. The orphanage is very secret.





Our national partner is helping the orphanage with some money for food, at present enough to feed the 43 orphans for 5-6 days. He would love to do more.

Some of the women's children were rescued with them, and they are free together. "They are so excited. They don't need songbooks. They will just sing their hearts out. Just clap hands and sing, that's the music that they have. Doesn't matter if they are on the right key or not."

Rescued women need a way to survive, but what can they do? With no education, some are unable to do the simplest things like reading the sign on the bus to know where to get on and off.

Had he unlimited funds, the Branch Director would like to buy sewing machines for them and teach them to make quilts or dresses or other things to sell.

The children need schooling. An education could break the cycle and give them a future and a hope outside their mothers' "business."

So many of the women have AIDS. They need medicine.

They need a kitchen. Right now, the area where they prepare food does not have a decent roof. Lizards crawl around and might fall and end up in the food. They would love a tin shed kitchen, nothing fancy that would draw attention.

Whatever money God provides must be handed over in cash, another layer of secrecy as a bank transfer or receipt could put them in danger.

They need prayer for protection, for provision, and for wisdom. When those

43 orphans reach college age, the forms want to know, "What is your father's name?" What will they do? What name will not reveal the past and put the entire ministry and their own lives at risk?

The orphanage cannot give new names to the children, but they bring them under the orphanage name. Thankfully, that has not been questioned as of yet.

The physical needs are important, but as the Branch Director expresses, within and beyond any social work, they are "always concerned about the spiritual welfare." How precious it is to know that this ministry can teach these rejected, abandoned, and abused women and children that the one true God and Creator of all things offers to welcome them into His great family. Any who receive Him are called by His name, sons and daughters of the Most High.

This, yes, is pure and undefiled religion, available and free, but how can it be accepted unless it is offered, and how can it be offered unless there are those willing to rise and go?

Please pray. Pray that God will call more to rise and pray, rise and give, rise and go. Ask God which He is calling you to, and then obey with all your heart. It may make the difference of a woman or child being taken from an unholy temple and brought with love and joy to the One in the Holiest of Holies. 🌿



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

# GET ON YOUR FEET

By Bruce Dare

**But rise and stand on your feet ...** So started the call of the Apostle Paul, which he testified before King Agrippa. After Jesus confronted Paul and told him the truth, this was the first command: a simple, physical act that each of us does daily. At least we expect to. His testimony continued: "...for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness..." (Acts 26:16).

The staff at the headquarters of Source of Light have such a call to ministry. Some are on their second or fifth chapter of missionary service; many are in a non-wasted-life retirement mode. Certain among us have seriously wondered if they would be able to keep going the next day, as in literally get out of bed, feet on the floor, and make it to work. They weren't assured they could actually stand up and walk into the building to serve. What got them going? No need to have me tell you. Read it in their own words:

"On February 18th last year, I probably had a mild heart attack. On February 22nd, I definitely had full-blown cardiac arrest! By God's grace, I was in our local ER when I collapsed and died. Revived after 18 minutes of CPR and defibrillation, I was life flighted up to Athens, Georgia where a stent was inserted in the circumflex artery. All the medical professionals involved literally saved my life!

For several months afterwards, I felt so weak, I could barely climb stairs. A slow lap around our street was exhausting, and I thought my regular work and exercise routines were gone forever. But God! Through great encouragement from family and friends, I have gradually recovered what I lost and more! I still get emotional thinking about what God brought me through and His amazing grace.

I intend to continue printing for Him as long as I can. I remember



Pressman Philip Fraiser with Our New Ryobi Press  
— Photo by Dan Winder

1 Timothy 1:12 which says, “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.”

### Philip Fraiser, Publications

“The last few years have been challenging physically for me. It started with just feeling sick but got worse. The more the doctors found, the worse I was feeling. I had leukemia along with issues with joint pain. I had three rounds of chemotherapy, one every year. I have had COVID-19 twice. I wanted to work, but it was difficult because I was so sick and tired all the time.

One of my former mission directors used to say, ‘Get up; get out; get something done.’ I hear his voice along with the Holy Spirit urging. I found it was important to get up even on the mornings I didn’t think I could. When it is a struggle, it helps to lean on the commitments that have been made and agree with God that they are not negotiable. My choices in life directed me to follow that higher calling and not



Brian Thompson Trains a Volunteer in MDS  
— Photo by Carla Wills

give in to lethargy. I have thought many times about 1 Samuel 17:29 before David faced Goliath. He asked, Is there not a cause? I believe that while we still have students who do not know Jesus as their Savior, there is a cause to keep getting up for.”

### Brian Thompson, Madison Discipleship School

“For more than 37 years I have served the Lord at Source of Light. Thirty-four of those years were with good health. The past three have been a challenge, but I thought if I can get to the office, I can sit at my desk and accomplish something for the Lord. If I resign from Source of Light, I can sit in my chair at home and read or play games on the computer.

“I was living alone after my husband died. By coming to the office, I had fellowship with my SLM family. For me, the choice was easy. Many of those days I did have to put forth a great deal of effort, but it also brought great joy. I have served in a number of areas, but these challenging years have been in the Accounting Department, an



Eula Keener at Her Desk One Final Time  
— Photo by Brian Thigpen

area I love to work in. My coworkers in the department have been a delight to work with. I have recently trained my replacement as my health has deteriorated to the point that I can no longer make it to the office. I had asked the Lord to show me when it was time, and He did. God can use imperfect, unhealthy servants.”

### Eula Keener, Accounting

“Life has a way of dealing things far beyond our wildest imagination! When all else fails, there’s . . . ‘But God!’

I was born into a pastor-evangelist-missionary home. Realizing I was a sinner by birth and needed Jesus to save me, I vividly remember making that life-changing decision just before my fourth birthday in April of 1941. I’ve survived the traumas of a broken home, broken bones, a serious spinal injury, being dragged 45 feet under a land-scaping trailer, the loss of four grandchildren and two husbands (the latest being Donn A., who served in Shipping here). For my first 21 years I traveled with my evangelistic, musical Spurr family all over the US,



Donna Booher Serving as Administrative Assistant to the Director of Operations — Photo by Brian Thigpen

then for 53 years as wife to ‘Pastor Ron’ Merrill, six years as a volunteer at Wycliffe Bible Translators, two at New Tribes Mission, and now over five at SLM. God has more than proven Himself sovereign and faithful!

Now having 58 of my offspring serving the Lord all around the world, I am indebted to God for His unfailing promises. At age 87, my mobility, eyesight, and hearing present daily challenges, but with the help of my electric wheelchair, I choose to ‘go’ with my boots on, joyfully serving the Lord. I’m determined that I will muster up all my strength to ‘Arise and go!’”

### Donna Booher, Operations

Many of us simply weren’t sure if or when these folks would be able to work. By God’s grace, they kept coming in. Before any of us take that first step, we need to get on our feet. Where are yours? 🌻



**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 **\$75** box of digital quality paper can produce about **1,250** Bible lessons. Source of Light material is used in Christian and secular schools, church planting, Bible studies, and even prisons around the world. Translations include languages such as French, Spanish, Tagalog, Hindi, and Japanese among several others available in Madison and abroad.

One of SLM's goals is to enable our international missionaries to produce the lessons on their own soil. However, many cannot because of the high cost of paper. Your generous gift will reach people in the US and overseas.

Consider a donation with the ultimate return on investment...  
...an investment which yields eternal results!

Become a paper partner today, go to  
**[sourcelight.org/donate](https://sourcelight.org/donate)**



# 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?**



## IT'S FRIDAY, AND HE'S FINISHED

By Phil Winder

At 90 years of age, he certainly had a lot of “finished work” that he could reflect on. God has used Don and his wife, Carolyn, mightily over the years. Carolyn has served as our receptionist for the last few years. God has used them in missions their entire lives.

Don and Carolyn will never be finished until they see Jesus; they're just that kind of folk. They will be serving, giving, and volunteering wherever their travels take them. When they leave to spend time with family in distant states, they will leave two very big holes for us here at Source of Light. We will need a full-time receptionist (or a couple of part-time ones) and a landscaper to help keep our 25-acre campus looking good.

Thanks, Don and Carolyn, for serving and finishing this season of your lives well. Thank you for being faithful, dedicated vessels that God has used and will continue to use. Enjoy your travels. 🌿

***If you feel God is calling you to step up and fill one of these two vital roles within our Operations Team, please call or email Phil Winder at (706) 342-0397 or [pwinder@slmin.org](mailto:pwinder@slmin.org). I'd love to talk to you about how you can serve at Source of Light.***



**Phil Winder** serves as the Director of Operations & Volunteers at Source of Light.

From my second story office window, I have a vantage point of looking out over our 25-acre campus. A few months back I glanced out of my window to see Don Darrow walking from our maintenance shop towards his home. It's Friday, and he's finished.

When I reflected on what I had just noticed, I was reminded of what Don had recently told me. He said, “I'm turning 90 in January, and I'm going to stop mowing and do some traveling.” As I saw him walk across the campus today, I noticed him glancing at his finished work, looking back on what he had accomplished this week.



## SERVING IN THEIR 70S *AND STILL GOING STRONG*

By Brenda Barnes

As the last household item was strategically loaded on the moving van, there was a rush of emotions for Merle and Shirley Rice as they closed the door of their family home for the previous 37 years one last time. They never dreamed or imagined that God would move them at this stage in their lives.

They, like most people around the age of 70, preferred consistency, routine, familiarity, and their stuff that they have had for a lifetime. But they sensed that God was giving them the opportunity to give those things to Him and serve Him with the next stage of their lives.

As they drove the 15 hours to Madison, Georgia, in between the grief of saying goodbye, they also were dreaming of what opportunities God had for them in the days ahead. They both had a desire to volunteer in any capacity at Source of Light Ministries from then

until God led otherwise. Both of them had careers and were very successful in their positions throughout their lives. Did Source of Light need a couple who have been saved and growing in the Lord for 60 years and whose life experiences were in store management and engineering? The answer was yes! It is amazing how their skills and expertise are utilized and needed. What a blessing to have willing hearts to serve wherever needed.

Shirley now serves as the assistant to the Director of Advanced Studies. She is not paid, and yet she devotes many hours a week to her tasks. Her role is very rewarding as she is a part of each stage it takes to get a course into the hands of a student who is studying God's Word with us in the World Wide Bible Institute or the Ezra Institute. Those tasks like proofing courses, binding courses, grading, responding to student requests, filing orders and so much more are a thrill to do when she gets to witness the successful completion of a course and read the heartfelt notes of appreciation written by students.

Would you consider being willing to allow God to use you, no matter your age? God can use you and your skills at Source of Light. 🌿



**Brenda Barnes** has served as a missionary in Hungary and the Czech Republic as a teacher and discipler as well as having home schooled all three of her children. She serves at SLM as the Director of the Advanced Studies Department, WWBI Registrar, Reaper staff, and Hospitality Coordinator.



# HELP ON THE HOMEFRONT

Source of Light is blessed to have partners who are concerned and burdened to partner with missionaries and projects around the globe. But sometimes the needs right here at our home office get neglected. We tend to get as much use as we can out of our resources, but occasionally the lifespan of this equipment has run its course. Two such current projects we have are below:

- **Vehicles:** Our fleet of vehicles has reached its limit, and so we are looking for two things: \$20,000 for a specific type of van that would suit our needs and either funds or a donation of a small, midsize car or SUV.

- **VOIP Phone System:** Our phone system lacks significant elements that have become standard in the current work environment and thus we are looking to upgrade to a more functional system employing greater reliability and usefulness. The system to replace our current one is estimated to cost \$10,000.



## NEWEST MISSIONARIES

INTRODUCING SOME OF OUR NEWEST AND YOUNGEST MISSIONARIES!



Kelvin & Anita

“Since the time I graduated from college, there has been a growing passion to teach the Word of God. I told myself that even if I was going to lead a church, my main area of service would be discipleship. Source of Light came at the right time. One of the biggest influences is that SLM provides an opportunity to do ministry in a variety of ways. Also, I was influenced by its core mandate which is discipleship. Very few or no ministries take that biblical mandate and do the Great Commission.

The use of literature to do discipleship excites me a lot. Source of Light International stands out uncompromisingly on the Great Commission to change people's lives. God is using Source of Light to reach and disciple thousands of people around the globe through the printed page.”

**Zambia – Kelvin Chisiza**



Paulo & Julia

“What most influenced me to consider Source of Light was the principle of bringing people of all nations, languages, and ethnicities into a relationship with Jesus and connected to a local church. I always wanted to contribute to seeing my people, the Mozambican people, have a relationship with Jesus. Julia and I have a huge passion for church planting, discipleship, and training.

There is no other joy that can surpass seeing men and women surrender to Christ, abandon tradition, witchcraft, wicked lifestyles and more. Families that were about to collapse re-establish themselves; those who were already without hope see their hope restored; young people who begin to dream of a transformed future; children who grow up in an environment of father and mother who truly love each other and

care about their children. For those who thought that prison was the end of everything, Jesus gives another opportunity to start over. We want to see the transformation of lives both in urban and peripheral areas as well as in villages and towns.”

#### Mozambique – Paulo Naene



Ben & Sophie

“My passion has always been to teach students about God and see young people grow in their relationships with Him. Source of Light was appealing to me because of the broad reach that the organization has. My small contributions to the organization play a role in seeing thousands of students around the world learn about God. I might never meet any of the students who are growing in their relationship with God through SLM, but I know that our materials are having eternal impact on many lives.

From the busy cities to the most dangerous jungles, people are using SLM lessons, being saved, and being disciplined for Jesus Christ. One day I’ll get to meet these people in heaven and hear the stories of what Source of

Light meant to them. Their stories will have nothing to do with me but everything to do with the goodness of God!”

#### Headquarters – Ben Doomy



Miguel & Viviana

“The current society feels lost, without direction. Many people do not know how to lead their families, educate their children, or govern a country. This is like a fire in my heart, driving me to do something and witness significant changes in my generation. Long ago, God was preparing my heart to understand the importance of the Bible and its impact on people. I am convinced that no one can achieve lasting positive changes in a life without the Word of God. I wanted to be used by God, close to His living and effective Word (Hebrews 4:12).

God opened doors for me to serve in a ministry with these characteristics that I felt God was calling me to: Fuente de Luz (Source of Light). Here, I see how God impacts the lives of children, youth, and adults through the study of His Word. I am not worthy to be considered by God, but I am happy to do it. More than a ministry, this has become my life.”

#### Costa Rica – Miguel Diaz



## SCHEDULE A MISSIONARY

By Ron Barnes

Those who read the *Reaper* do so because they love the ministry of Source of Light and the *Reaper* helps keep them informed. But an even better way to stay informed and be up-to-date with the ministry is to have an SLM missionary come to visit. Our missionaries live throughout the country and are available to visit you, your church, your Sunday school class, or any event or conference you think would benefit from in-person exposure to Source of Light and its international ministries. Often, these missionaries can be accompanied by one of our national missionaries straight from the field.

If you would like to schedule a missionary for your event or service, either call (706) 342-0397 or email [rbarnes@slmin.org](mailto:rbarnes@slmin.org). We would love to come make our passion for serving yours! 🌿



# STAY HOME AND STILL GO?

By Rowley Hayner

One of the most rewarding experiences we can have as Christians is to participate in the spiritual growth of another believer. To see a brother or sister in Christ blossom into a vibrant and effective witness for the Lord Jesus is a wonderful experience. This is the calling that God has given to each of us! In the Great Commission, Jesus commands His disciples to “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).

Most of us have experienced meeting a believer who was saved through an evangelistic outreach but who never grew in their faith, sometimes for many years, because they were not disciplined. This is the main focus of ministry here at Source of Light! We have developed a ministry plan that gives churches, Christian organizations, and individuals an approach and the tools to effectively participate in Christian discipleship. Our approach includes developing Associate Discipleship Schools that use Bible correspondence courses to promote spiritual growth in both newborn and mature believers.

How does this work? First, Source of Light Ministries has available over 30 courses for individuals, ages 4 to 99. We produce these lessons which are available to students FREE of charge.

To get started, we provide those interested with informational materials and an application that they can complete to establish an Associate Discipleship School (ADS). When this application is returned to us, it goes through an approval process. Once approved, we will work with the coordinator/director of the Associate Discipleship School to assist them in getting set up for ministry operations. We have training videos available as well as an instructional guide for discipleship school ministry. Where possible, we can provide personalized training either on site or at our home office in Madison, Georgia. The next step is to place an order for the appropriate Bible lessons.

## **The basic operation of an Associate Discipleship school involves:**

- 1. Enrolling students for Bible lessons**
- 2. Mailing out the lessons to the students**
- 3. Receiving quizzes from the students when lessons are completed**
- 4. Grading quizzes and maintaining records for the students**
- 5. Mailing out the next lessons with comments/notes of encouragement to the students**

## **We take an active role in discipling each student.**

The ADS ministries come in all shapes and sizes. We have the following and more:

- 1. Individuals who facilitate a small group study.**
- 2. Churches that use our Bible lessons for their Sunday school program.**
- 3. Individuals who are active in prison ministry.**
- 4. Pregnancy care facilities that use our lessons to disciple their clients.**

These are some of the many types of ADS ministries we have both here in North America and worldwide. Each of our ADS partners assist us with covering the costs to produce the Bible lessons. This is how we're able to make the lessons FREE of charge to the students.

An important part of success with ADS ministry involves developing both



Bible Ministry Staff: Ana (Spanish Lessons), Judy Hill, Jim (Longtime Member), Betty (Raymond Hill's Wife) — Photo by Rowley Hayner

financial and prayer partners for the ministry. This is particularly necessary for an Associate Discipleship School that is expanding their outreach. As most of us know, ministry does cost something. Also, we're reminded in the book of James that “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16b).

A step of faith with discipleship ministry will always lead to blessing. We have enjoyed so many wonderful testimonies of God's amazing grace with the Associate Discipleship ministries.

Here are several examples:

**Ellenwood, GA:** In early 2016, Raymond Hill, burdened for the souls of Atlanta, Georgia, began his ADS, Faith Bible Ministry, with SLM. He established the school with a focus primarily on prison ministry. In addition to the Bible correspondence ministry, he also developed a ministry to the homeless in Atlanta. In August 2020, the Lord called Raymond home, which left a huge hole in the ministry. Raymond's sister-in-law, Judy, who had been helping out, sensed the Lord calling her to the ministry. With the Lord's direction and Judy's willing heart, this ministry continues to impact not only Atlanta, but also prisons throughout the nation. At one point this past year, Faith Bible Ministries had students in every state of this nation. Recently, Judy received a response from one of the prisoners returning his completed test. He shared this thought about his imprisonment: “I didn't get arrested; I got rescued.” This is how much God's Word impacts lives!



Becky Holland Does Follow-Up with Summer Campers in Western New York  
— Photo by Rowley Hayner

**Rushford, NY:** There's a very faithful Associate Discipleship School for children in the Western part of New York State. The ministry was started in 1997 by a housewife, Becky Holland, who has really made a difference in the lives of younger children.

Becky shares how it all began: "I fell in love with these lessons for kids when I worked in the office at a summer camp back in the '70s. Had I been able to afford the lessons and postage, I would have begged the camp to let me take that ministry with me . . . Then in 1997, we had a representative [of SLM] come to our church, and he was able to get me signed up with my own 'school.'

Each year, Becky is given the names and addresses of the campers who attend the summer camp. The Camp offers the children coupons for each lesson that they mail to Becky. They can then redeem the coupons at their camp store the following summer.

Twenty-seven years later, Becky continues to invest the Gospel in lives of young children. She currently has about 20 active students which increases to over 30 during the summer months due to the summer camp ministry.

These are just a couple of examples of Associate Discipleship School ministry here in North America. God has blessed and used it to change literally millions of lives! Perhaps this type of ministry is the perfect fit for you and your situation. Take some time and pray about it. We'd be glad to help get you started. What could be more fulfilling than impacting lives for eternity! 🙌

*If you would like to know more about the Associate Discipleship School ministry with Source of Light contact SLM headquarters by phone: (706) 342-0397 or email a request for information to [orders@slmin.org](mailto:orders@slmin.org).*



**Rowley Hayner** serves as the North America ADS Coordinator and supervises the Orders Department. Previously, he and his wife, Sandy, served in short-term missions in Alaska, Jamaica, and South Africa.



# LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SERVE?

## HELP WANTED at the SLM Madison Discipleship School

We are seeking willing people, volunteer or career, for the following:

**Spanish Coordinator** – bilingual (English, Spanish) who can work in the office 25-40 hours per week. Responsibilities involve grading, recording, and managing discipleship for our Spanish-speaking students. Person needs to be spiritually mature and ready for the responsibility of encouraging and helping new and growing Christians.

**Prison Coordinator** – discipling prisoners, grading, corresponding to students' needs, and helping keep track of the facilities that our students are in. We need a person willing to talk with Department of Corrections officials and facility workers to arrange agreements to see our lessons abide by restrictions for the students to consistently receive them.

**Teachers and people who can do light office work**  
– stamping, labeling, and data entry.

**CONTACT BRIAN THOMPSON AT [BTHOMPSON@SLMIN.ORG](mailto:BTHOMPSON@SLMIN.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**





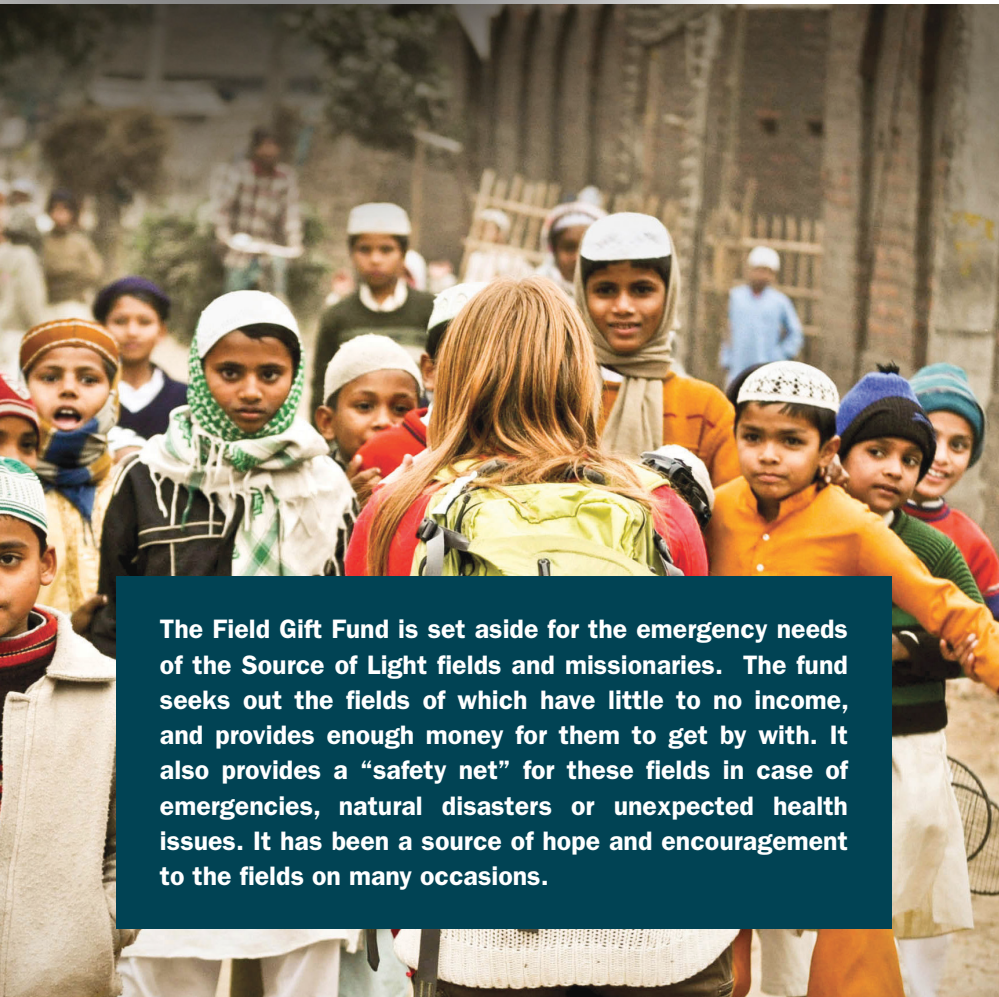
## PRAYER

- ◆ Source of Light India missionary “KJ” requests prayer that the many people who recently received Bible lessons and New Testaments will come to faith in Christ.
- ◆ Source of Light Ministries Headquarters in Madison, Georgia needs individuals who are committed to raising their own support or who have their own sources of income to join our ministry team. We have vacancies in the Print Shop, Shipping, Finance Department, Operations Department, Global Outreach Department, and in the Madison Discipleship School. Please pray that God will continue to replenish staff as positions become vacant so that we can continue to operate and serve our ministries abroad that continue to expand and grow.
- ◆ Please pray for the staff in our Print Shop as they continue to become proficient in the use of newly upgraded printing equipment. Pray for wisdom as they look toward future purchases needed for additional equipment and upgrades that will keep the Print Shop running smoothly and efficiently.
- ◆ Pray for our international partners whose support is affected by lack of a good base, poor economy, or exchange rates that devalue the money they receive. Pray that God will provide in additional ways beyond what they could even “ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20) so that their ministries can grow and flourish.
- ◆ As our ministries expand worldwide, there is a constant need to print more, translate more, and create new resources. As we strive to meet these needs, please pray that God will provide the financial resources, the committed people, and the wisdom to effectively oversee these processes in a way that will be honoring to God and bring much fruit.
- ◆ Please pray for our international partners who are serving in very volatile areas and are at risk of persecution. Pray that the Lord will give them wisdom in how to minister in these situations and that they will be steadfast even amid hardship. Pray for Headquarters staff to have wisdom in how to publicize their needs without jeopardizing their safety.
- ◆ Pray that God continues to ease the restrictions that were placed on prisons during the season of COVID.
- ◆ Many of our home office staff struggle with illnesses. Pray that God will strengthen them to be able to do their tasks as they work within their limits. Some must work in isolation, not even able to come into the office at times. Pray that God will keep them encouraged.
- ◆ As Source of Light introduces new resources that become available, pray for our home office staff as they train our partners in using these resources. Pray that they will be used effectively to expand the reach of the Gospel and that those saved will be disciplined to mature faith.
- ◆ Many of our international missionaries are planning trips to the United States now that the COVID restrictions have been lifted. It looks like the fall of 2024 will be a busy time here at Headquarters as we host these partners. Please pray that we will find churches or individuals who will host groups in their homes so that these committed servants can share their ministries. May they be encouraged by our gracious hospitality.

## PRAISE

- ◆ India Source of Light missionary “KJ” is thanking the Lord that they were able to distribute over 70,000 New Testaments to lost people who were participating in an annual religious pilgrimage.
- ◆ Source of Light praises the Lord for the giftings and abilities that God has given our missionaries. Marvin Ingalsbe, who serves in the Operations Department is over 80. His expertise has been especially helpful in the Print Shop as parts have to be made to repair machinery or engineered to perform specific tasks.
- ◆ Source of Light praises the Lord for the open doors that we have in schools to distribute Bible lessons to students in some of the countries where we serve. These students have the opportunity to hear the Gospel, accept Christ at an early age, and be disciplined through the lessons.
- ◆ Our missionary in Chile, Guillermo Salazar, is praising the Lord for encouragement God has given him. He has had prisoners who were converted when they were in prison write or call him to thank him for sharing the Gospel with them. Some of these men are now pastors; others are missionaries. Not all are leaders, but they are all Christians.
- ◆ The situation with COVID brought restrictions that made it especially challenging to get our Bible lessons into prisons. We praise the Lord that we see these restrictions being lifted in some of the areas where we serve. This enables us to resume getting lessons to our students.
- ◆ Source of Light is grateful for partnerships that enable us to provide Bibles for ministry. Many people who have never had a copy of God’s Word are now able to read the Bible in their own language due to these partnerships.
- ◆ We praise the Lord for how God continues to use our staff even after they have left Source of Light and move into retirement status. Some are local and still offer their services to do editing and proofing. Some have moved away but still actively minister in their home churches or in community prison ministry.
- ◆ Many of our Headquarters’ personnel have moved to Madison after having served for years abroad as foreign missionaries. They continue to serve in their later years at Headquarters until they feel the need to relocate and be near family. We are so grateful for our seasoned staff who are a great testimony of faithfulness. They contribute greatly to the ministry here at the Madison office.
- ◆ Source of Light is so thankful for our financial partners who give faithfully month after month and for those who pray faithfully for our ministries here in Madison and around the world. We see God doing amazing things and we are grateful to all of those behind-the-scenes partners who are upholding us.
- ◆ We are praising the Lord for new resources that have become available to Source of Light that provide more opportunities to share the Word of God both here in America and abroad. We are hearing good reports from people who have begun utilizing these materials.
- ◆ Our missionaries are thankful for and cheered by the thoughtful gifts and words of encouragement that surprise and bless them.

# 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](https://sourcelight.org/donate)**

## IN MEMORIAL

### ***GIFTS IN HONOR OF...***

**Beatrice Brewer Stanley** by  
William and Janice Blanchard

### ***GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...***

**Carolyn Dare** by  
Doris Peraino  
Harry Salmon

**Bill Shade** by  
Mainland Baptist Church  
Ruby Shade

**John Ozley** by  
Ms. Vi of Sewell Church

**Michael Malcom** by  
Ms. Vi of Sewell Church

**D Joyce F Brady** by  
Yvonne Schick

**Louis Harold Crank** by  
Frances Crank

**Mary Ann Gorton** by  
Clair Gorton



**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](https://sourcelight.org/donate)**

**By Phone:**

**706.342.0397**

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

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





**Source of light**

INTERNATIONAL

1011 Mission Road  
Madison, GA 30650-4908

p. 706.342.0397

f. 706.342.9072

e. [slm@sourcecelight.org](mailto:slm@sourcecelight.org)

Current Resident or

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

