



# the REAPER

VOL. 70, NO. 2 | Summer 2025

## STEWARDS OF OUR LORD

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MATTHEW 25:23

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.

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VOL. 70, NO. 2 | Summer 2025

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**4 Editor's Article:  
Stewards**

**7 2024 At A Glance**

**8 Faithful Stewards  
of People**

**11 Stewarding Grace  
with Mushrooms,  
Fish, and Flowers**

**15 Sadness to Smiles in  
Stewardship**

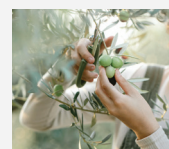
**19 Generational Generosity:  
Planned Giving**

**23 Carry On**

**29 Prayer**

**30 Praise**

**31 In Memorial**



#### On the Cover

Gary Barnes  
Stewards of our Lord  
Matthew 25:23

#### Corrections & Clarifications

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



# STEWARDS

By Ron Barnes  
A letter from the Editor

It's been 13 years since I came to Source of Light, and for 13 years I continue to be amazed at how God is using our simple, humble ministry. We are just a small dot on the map of ministries, yet I am frequently approached about how God is using SLM on such a large scale and how God does so with such a modest budget. I believe one of the keys to the fruit of our ministry is the faithfulness and humility of our missionaries, who serve, not for a paycheck, but out of a firm commitment to the Great Commission.

I remember back to my first trip to Bolivia where our missionary, Miguel Sanchez, who for many years had been under-supported, told me that even though his support was low, even if it went away altogether, he would continue the work of SLM. He said he would find a way to continue it because he is so committed to the work of discipleship SLM is doing. Stewards!

He is not alone. I have seen this sentiment embodied in the ministries of SLM throughout the globe. I work hand-in-hand with a lot of other ministries, and I can tell you

the amount of ministry that is being accomplished through the Source of Light ministries isn't even close to being reflected by the amount of money we receive. Our ministries make a dollar stretch farther than any ministry I know. And I believe it comes from the principle in Matthew 25 of being faithful over a few things, and God giving us much more because of that faithfulness.

***His lord said unto him,  
Well done, good and  
faithful servant; thou  
hast been faithful over  
a few things, I will  
make thee ruler over  
many things: enter thou  
into the joy of thy lord.  
Matthew 25:23***

We are like the middleman in the parable who received the two talents. We aren't the biggest organization out there, but we will surely do our best to be the most faithful with what we have been entrusted. Even down to the operation of the home office, we have watched God bless

wise stewardship of the spending so discipleship will not be hampered by high overhead here in Madison. Our operating expenses through the Global Outreach Fund are extremely modest, and every department carefully spends within reason based on funds on hand and the need.

An example of that can be seen in our Operations Team. For years, they turned old and broken things into useful things for use around the Mission. They have fixed and patched things when there wasn't money, and we have been blessed with a team who knows how to repurpose. In fact, when we got an incredible donation of an entire office building's beautiful, expensive furniture, our people didn't even know how to react. They almost felt guilty! It took some convincing to help them see that God blessed our many years of "making do," being faithful with every little thing we had, and gave us a special gift. And an extra blessing was that during that season, when Covid was forcing people to work and study from home, we were able to bless the people in our community with furniture we no longer needed. People who were already hurting from lack of jobs and funds were extremely grateful. Not a single thing was wasted. Stewards!

But the stewardship I see on the frontlines of our fields around the world is unprecedented. Often, I am invited to participate in meetings or



Miguel Sanchez Heading to Unreached Tribes

conferences where I simply shake my head in awe of how, like the feeding of the 5,000, our missionaries use what meager resources God has provided and pull off only what can be described as "God-sized" acts.

In Mozambique just this past Fall, I was invited to speak at a pastor's conference. Our missionary, Paulo, had been planning for it for quite some time. I raised a little money to help, and the rest came from within the country, one of the poorest countries in the world. So, as we made our way from the airport to the venue, when he told me he just couldn't bear to say no to the extra 200 pastors on top of the 350 we had raised money



Attendees for the Conference in Mozambique  
— Photo by Ron Barnes



SLM Zambia with Their New Duplicator — Photo by Kelvin Chisiza

for, I was seriously concerned. But he wasn't, and God provided! Oh, me of little faith! In fact, it was one of the best conferences I have ever been a part of, and the attendees asked when the next one was. Stewards!

Just last week, I received pictures of our new RISO duplicator being delivered to Zambia and the four office workers who will be helping our director print the lessons. They all stood proudly beside this machine with their SLM logo shirts on, clearly eager to begin using it. Around the office, I didn't see any furniture or decorations, only bare concrete walls, home to our humble office and our humble volunteers and missionary. I know that the \$200 monthly we send to that Branch isn't nearly enough to accomplish all that this new team in

Zambia is accomplishing, but clearly, they persevere and by faith serve the Lord. Stewards!

This edition of the *Summer Reaper* is dedicated to show our readers just a simple cross-section of our ministries and missionaries so that you can get a glimpse of other places around the world, accounts of how God is blessing the humble efforts of our missionaries and how He is using people like you, partners in prayer and support, to see the Great Commission accomplished.

Perhaps, if God should so lead, you could join one of these teams in serving together, praying, or supporting our Source of Light ministries as ... Stewards! 🌿



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



# 2024 AT A GLANCE

Source of Light Ministries International 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.

## 76,490

Represents the number of students making decisions for Christ and beginning a discipling relationship with SLM.

## 1,060

Represents the number of new villages and regions our missionaries entered to help achieve our goal of reaching every nation.

## 244

Represents how many new house groups started by SLM missionaries and full time volunteers.

## 252

Represents the number of new Bible Study groups established by SLM missionaries using the SLM resources.

## 26

Represents the number of new church plants established by SLM missionaries.

### What We Do

Discipleship  
Develop and Distribute  
Bible Resources  
Church Planting  
Evangelism  
Edify Believers

### How We Do It

40 Branches  
166 Missionaries  
854 Full Time Volunteers  
120+ Languages  
2+ Million Lessons sent  
6,840 Associate Schools

Contact us at

[slm@slmin.org](mailto:slm@slmin.org) | (706) 342-0397 | [slmin.org](http://slmin.org)



# FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF PEOPLE

By Ben Doomy

There are many things God has entrusted to us that we need to steward well. When talking about Biblical stewardship, most people's minds go to money. While money is a tool that we need to be good stewards of, there are other things that we need to consider, such as time, resources, relationships, and people. Whenever we come in contact with a person, we have an opportunity to share the truth of the Gospel. We have relationships with people that others do not. We should leverage our relationships as a means to tell the truth of the Gospel. Do not waste the opportunities you have with people when you can share the love of Christ with them.

It is said that the average person will influence anywhere between 10,000

to 80,000 people in his or her lifetime. Some of these interactions will be minimal; some will have significant impact on a person. They range from a passing greeting with a smile to a lifetime relational impact. How often do we take account of every interaction that we have with a person? Do we consider that every person we come in contact with is an opportunity to be a good steward of the hope that we have within us?

Faithful Christ-followers in Ivory Coast knew that they had an obligation to care for those in need. Source of Light missionaries saw the obvious need for spiritual growth as their hearts were burdened for the lost. Everyone was created with an innate desire for God, but many look elsewhere to fill this need. Many villages all over Africa turn to witchcraft as a means to feed their spiritual needs. Thankfully, there are men and women who know the only way to satisfy this desire is with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While reaching the lost with the Gospel, there became an evident need in Ivory Coast for an orphanage.



Participants of Africa Regional Conference in Kenya — Photo by Ben Doomy

So under the leadership of the SLM Director Isaiah Bernasko, one was started in his own home.

There was a young boy who grew up in this orphanage and was learning about God through the Source of Light Bible lessons. The missionaries did not just tend to the physical needs of the boy in this orphanage, but more importantly they cared for his soul. This was an opportunity to disciple and instruct a young boy in the Word of God. When the boy grew up, he became a second pair of hands assisting the director of SLM Ivory Coast. As the director got older and needed help, the boy who grew up in the orphanage was there to assist. He began to learn the ministry of Source of Light and became a vital team member. Now, the current director of Source of Light in Ivory Coast is preparing to retire and this boy who grew up in the orphanage will become the new director.

This is one of many stories of a person who was faithful to steward the people that God had entrusted to him. While I was in Kenya, I had the opportunity to meet the boy who grew up in the orphanage. His name is Jeremie. He was in Kenya with the rest of our Africa directors for a Source of Light training event. I immediately grew a connection with Jeremie because I could tell he was struggling to understand English. His first language is French, and he only knows a little English. So, I got to spend a lot of time working with



Dr. Barnes Presenting Jeremie Officially As the New SLM Ivory Coast Director — Photo by Unknown

him one-on-one to make sure he understood what we were learning for this training.

He shared with me a desire to grow in two areas of his life. The first was that he greatly wanted to grow in his walk with God. He is on fire for the Lord and wants to continue spiritually growing (something all believers should desire). The second was that he wanted to learn English so he could have better communication with the SLM headquarters in Georgia. I encouraged him that there was a way he could grow in his walk with God and learn English at the same time by reading an English Bible. When Jeremie went home to Ivory Coast, he got an English Bible and has been listening to excellent English-speaking pastors and practicing English on a language-learning app. He has made great progress in both of these areas in his life!



Children's Sunday School in Jeremie's Church  
— Photo by Ron Barnes

Jeremie is an example of God's working in a person's life over a period of time. Consider a farmer who prepares his field and plants a seed. The seed takes time to grow and fully mature until it is ripe for harvest. The seed is not automatically mature and ripe the moment the farmer plants the seed; he must water it day in and day out. The Bible compares people in a similar way. 1 Corinthians 3:6-8 says,

*I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

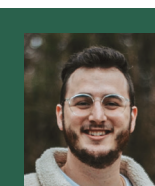
Paul says one man plants the seed (shares the Gospel with someone for the first time), another man waters (continues to share the Gospel and pour life into a person), but God gives the increase (the ultimate work of



Jeremie and His Predecessor, Isaiah Bernasko  
— Photo by Ron Barnes

salvation and regeneration). We are called to be faithful to plant seeds and water them, and God will do the hard work of saving a person and sanctifying them.

This type of investment into people does not always have an immediate response. It relies upon God and His timing. In Jeremie's case, it took 20 years of discipleship and pouring into him before God prepared him to become the new director in Ivory Coast. Consider those around you whom you have influence over. Are you stewarding your time well to pour into them? Understand that every person who comes across your path is an opportunity to plant seeds or water seeds. You never know what your impact on a person's life might be by the grace of God! 🌱



**Ben Doomy** serves as the director of Next Generation Ministries and is helping to coordinate the development of the new SLM courses.

# STEWARDED GRACE

## WITH MUSHROOMS, FISH, AND FLOWERS

By Kimberly Thigpen

Remember in Exodus when Moses tried to convince God to find someone better qualified for the job? God asked Moses what was in his hand. Then he took the simple thing Moses had and turned it into a miracle weapon to deliver an entire nation from slavery to salvation.

1 Peter 4:10 says *we are stewards of the manifold grace of God*. A steward oversees riches—where to save and where to spend, how to use abundant resources best. The grace of God has no end, and He has entrusted His servants with it, instructing us *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another using the ability which God giveth*.

Though the grace of God is an endless treasury, the training and resources to share that grace require plain

ol' earthly money. Where grace is in abundance but money in short supply, what is a team of missionaries and volunteers to do?

In Indonesia, the country of a thousand islands and more Muslims than anywhere in the world, God has gifted their Branch leader with not only ministry sense but good business sense as well.

"We need USD \$1,500 every month for our ministry and family," says Branch Director P "However, often funds coming from our donors are less than this. So, I should do something to provide what we need. One of our efforts is work in micro enterprise."

P has been creative in his business pursuits. Years ago, he and others sold curios to tourists. He grew



Left to Right: Curios Sold to Tourists Helped Pay Ministry Costs, Growing Fish to Fish for Men, Mushrooms Grown in the Dark Helped Provide for Those Carrying the Light — Photos by Ron Barnes





Green Bean Porridge for Sale — Photo by P.

mushrooms in a large, dark, damp room to sell. He raised catfish in tiny ponds and sold them in the market.

None of these ventures were to become rich. On the contrary, P and his wife both left good-paying jobs when they chose to follow Christ in faith. “Before, I worked at an Indonesian international company as a manager,” P shares. “I got a big salary every month, and I didn’t know how to depend on God. Since God called me as His full servant, I must live by faith. Until now, for 17 years, I have lived by faith.”

The businesses P oversees help fund his own family and their ministry, but he also trains other national pastors and missionaries to do business and be more self-supporting. Sometimes, the money he earns goes to others and their ministries due to lack of funds.

These days, P makes and sells “local snacks and local food online. Also, I raise flowers in our greenhouse and sell them online too. Basically, I don’t want to be a burden for other people.” He wants to support his own ministries, “as the Apostle Paul did.”

A day laborer in Indonesia will typically earn around 100,000 to 150,000 rupiah in a day, which is roughly 6 to 10 dollars. This explains why \$1,500 per month can fund an entire ministry and the family that oversees it. P stewards the money he earns and also money given. “Sometimes, if we got more funds from donors, usually I save those funds in the Indonesian stock market and hope those funds can grow significantly.”

Right now, P, his family, and three volunteer workers, who are not paid but “who are just given a love gift if any funds came,” plant churches, train in ministry and discipleship, and distribute lessons for children, teens, and adults. P’s hopes for the future include having enough to expand the ministry to other islands of Indonesia and that his children will continue on in the ministry.

The work in Indonesia started, as is often the case with Source of Light partnerships, with a man called to the ministry of discipleship who needed the right resources. P tells his story:

“In October 2006, God called us from our secular jobs to serve Him full-time. It was a big and difficult change for me and my wife to stop drawing big salaries every month to living by faith and depending on God to provide.

“In February 2008, we attended a three-day retreat at Kaliurang, Yogyakarta. Sixty local pastors attended, and one of the speakers was Pastor Gabriel

Goh. He had attended an SLM seminar in 2007 at Bali. During the retreat, I shared with him the vision God has given me to help other pastors and believers in Indonesia. Basic discipleship including Bible theology and practice is often lacking. He told me that his friend will visit Indonesia to present a seminar on discipleship.

“In June 2008, a representative of SLM visited Indonesia. I was impressed with the courses this representative shared during the seminar and surveyed them carefully. I decided that the SLM materials were an answer to my prayer and my vision for Indonesia. I said that I felt led of God to work with SLM in Indonesia to minister to our peoples. I committed to do whatever was necessary to get this work started. I began by translating the *New Life in Christ 1* course.

“January 2010, we moved to Solo city, central Java (my mother’s home village) and we started printing *New Life in*

*Christ 1* and distributing it around Indonesia, especially at Central Java. I choose this place because many Christians who live in the villages don’t have basic Bible doctrine and know how to live in Christ.”

What was in P’s head was the desire to grow strong followers of Christ in his country. What was in his hand? Whether a coin purse or a catfish, God turned the simple materials he made, grew, saved, and sold into currency for the Gospel.

P is stewarding his gifts. What about us? Do we have earthly treasures we can share so this ministry can expand and more people be discipled? “Please keep praying for us,” P concludes, “and still give us financial support for our ministry in Indonesia.” 🌿



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

*As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

*.... if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

**1 Peter 4:10-11**

To give to the Indonesia Branch, contact [accounting@slmin.org](mailto:accounting@slmin.org).

P’s greenhouse — Photo by P.

# 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?**



Bible Class at El Camino Rehabilitation Center  
— Photo by Gilberto Vanegas

## SADNESS TO SMILES IN STEWARDSHIP

By Gilberto Vanegas and Bruce Dare

It wasn't all smiles at the start for SLM Colombia. "Our first contact with the Source of Light courses was sad," says Director Gilberto of himself and his wife Sandra, "More than 40 years ago, we found some boxes full of courses in a church warehouse, yellowed and moth-eaten. We were deeply saddened by what it meant for those who printed them, those who invested in them, and those who administered them. However, we read some of the courses and were very impressed by the simplicity but Biblical depth of the lessons. We investigated how to get them, and "a missionary began to provide them to us—sometimes originals, sometimes photocopies—for several years."

Their salvaging and stewardship at those small beginnings grew to something more. "Finally, we were able to contact the main office, and after a very nice and patient process, we were authorized as the Branch for Colombia in July, 2019. That represented a great challenge for us from the Lord, and we were grateful to have access especially to material for children that we did not have. In these six years, we have seen the mighty hand of God providing the material, first printed by ourselves and then received from the office in Madison. We have also seen the Lord raising up a team of volunteers here, brothers and sisters very willing to serve the Lord by helping in many





Children from Communities Studying the Bible Together — Photo by Gilberto Vanegas

ways as well as providing resources for the administration, promotion, and distribution of the materials. To this day, we have managed to have 46 Associate Discipleship Schools and expand our coverage to 12 states (out of 32) of our country. It has been exciting to see our beloved God working before us.”

The ministry has been strengthened in keeping with the exponential power of discipleship. New arenas, including “homeschooling networks, children’s Sunday schools, and lately two schools and a hospital for children’s cancer treatment,” and new programs, including a soccer school and youth camp ministry, give additional opportunities. With families, “the Lord has motivated us to encourage and exhort parents to disciple their own children. And, so it has been that five of our grandchildren are being led by their parents with the courses, and they have already received Christ. Hallelujah!”

What have they found most fulfilling in expanding ministry to

adults? “Receiving the report of several inmates from the prisons where courses are sent, and their testimonies of how the Lord has worked in their lives ... Also, the men addicted to drugs converted and transformed by the power of the Word through the ministry of rehabilitation centers of our local church, is a true miracle of God ... we have seen their lives restored through the study of the Word with the Source of Light courses.”

This study is helpful for others who want to continue through great partners of Biblical resources. “We’ve also worked with the courses of Emmaus Worldwide, a biblical training institute for workers and church leaders in general, for more than 30 years ... It has been nice to be able to complement the two schools, SLM as a school of evangelism and discipleship and Emmaus as a training of workers and leaders. We have used all the experience and base of Emmaus to boost the ministry with SLM.” One special annual event for them is the

“SLM-Emmaus student congress where we have about 500 attendees for a day studying one topic. We are able to promote the materials and encourage the students to persevere in the study of the Word.”

Their focus on depth in training is influencing the breadth of outreach, especially the expanding vision to the lesser-reached peoples around them. “For several years we have had a burden ... and the Lord opened doors for us in three indigenous communities in different areas of the country and difficult environments ... youth and adults are studying the Source of Light courses with the help of teachers from their own communities.” A Guahivo man has visited the office several times where they “train him and help him to teach the Word.” They get to “see his joy when he leaves with the courses” along with other supplies. They have already made one trip along the coast among the Wayu where “some brothers continued working with the

courses.” After several requests for a visit to another “very poor and needy community” in the region, they “have been praying and planning a mission trip with the whole team to go ... We pray for guidance and provision from the Lord for this trip.”

The desire to expand is not just limited to their own borders. “We are praying for a pastor friend of ours in Ecuador who wants to have the SLM materials, and we were able to provide him with some. And also in these days, the Lord has given us another challenge: to help a brother who wants to start working with SLM in Venezuela. The challenge is immense since the entrance of Christian material to that country is restricted. But the need there and the opportunities are great in the midst of the crisis faced by the population due to lack of resources and the fear of police persecution. We are willing to send material to the border and coordinate the passage, counting on the Lord’s help. We are waiting



Our Team Visiting the SLM office in Bucaramanga — Photo by Gilberto Vanegas



Bible Conference Students at the Annual Congress — Photo by Gilberto Vanegas

for the Lord's guidance to take this step. We ourselves in the past made a trip by bus, crossing the border and taking Bible courses, going through the military checkpoints, and with the wonderful help of the Lord, we were able to arrive successfully. *Give us, Lord, vision and confidence if it is Your will to do it.*"

"We are deeply grateful to the Lord for the support of our local church where we are full-time workers. Sandra and I, along with our daughter Laura ... currently have 10 volunteer brothers and sisters working with us, some part-time and others a few hours a week ... It is a delight to work as a team, to bring together gifts and skills for the Lord's work, and to rejoice to see each of their lives blessed through service. In particular, one of the volunteers who does outreach" who is a "veterinarian and gifted evangelist, has the desire to dedicate himself full time to the work. He wants to promote, travel, and open new Associate Discipleship Schools in the country and help us expand the ministry throughout Colombia. We have been praying for this for a long time, and we have great expectation of how the Lord is going to answer us."

God has clearly lifted their eyes to cities and countries beyond their

horizon, but their sight has been blurred by a concern closer to home. "The owner of the building where we are has put it up for sale and has asked us to leave. He has offered us the building for sale at a special price, but we do not have the budget to buy it. So, we have to look for another place to lease. At the moment, it is difficult to find a place that fits our budget, since the rents have risen too much due to the economic crisis that our country is going through. The church has completed 25 years since we founded it with the Lord's help, and we have been able to plant two more churches, and one is a result of the prison ministry in a nearby city. We have prayed that the Lord would provide us with a property where we can have the church and office. We trust in the Lord totally and in His sovereign grace."

Though service is sometimes a struggle, and small successes seem to start with suffering, the Lord turns sadness into celebration. "It is wonderful to be part of the SLM family, to have the same vision of fulfilling the task of making disciples, and to bring a smile to the Lord. Thank you, beloved King Jesus!" And He has brought that smile to His stewards, too. 🌿



**Gilberto Vanegas** has served as Colombia's Regional Director since 2019 along with his wife, Sandra and daughter, Laura



**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.



# GENERATIONAL GENEROSITY: PLANNED GIVING

By Brian Thigpen

**"When I realized that I was just a steward, it was easy."**<sup>i</sup>

As of 2024, David Green, the founder of Hobby Lobby, had an estimated net worth of \$14.8 billion according to *Forbes* magazine. However, he is not your usual member of the wealthiest people in America. He was asked the secret to his company's growth. "If you have anything or if I have anything, it's because it's been given to us by our Creator," says Green. "So, I have learned to say, 'Look, this is yours, God. It's all yours. I'm going to give it to you.'"<sup>ii</sup>

Green is an unusual Forbes top-400 member in another way. He plans to leave 90% of his wealth to charity and 10% to his family. He says wealth can be a curse to a family, the children and grandchildren. And

he isn't just planning to give when he's gone. He already has a family practice of giving and training his descendants to do the same. Even his grandchildren are designated a certain amount to give, and they do the research and present their choice. By involving them directly, he is teaching them to be outward-focused, generous, wise in stewardship, and prepared in practical ways to give with prudence as adults.

***But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.***

**1 Chronicles 29:14**



Each one of us are blessed in different ways. We begin with a tithe but have the privilege of stewarding all that we have. Who are we, that we should be able to invest in eternal souls, to give back to the One who gives us breath and life?

Will you give to God's work, and teach those coming after you to do the same? 🌿

### Endnotes

- i. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2022/10/27/hobby-lobby-founder-giving-away-company-wealth/10613377002/>
- ii. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kerryadolan/2023/02/13/this-billionaire-is-a-donor-behind-the-jesus-focused-super-bowl-ads>



**Brian Thigpen** served in Asia and Africa before moving to Madison to join Source of Light as Chief Financial Officer.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE AN ETERNAL FINANCIAL LEGACY?

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Are you ready to serve international missions using your problem-solving skills and attention to detail? Maybe you're not gifted to speak to a large group, but you can enter data, manage files, and have a desire to serve the Lord. If you would enjoy an upbeat office environment and can maintain confidentiality for donors and missionaries, you should contact us about the opportunities below. A willingness to learn processes and technology is needed. We will provide training.

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**Finance Office Staff:** Bookkeeping and filing tasks for various transactions in support of our international ministries.

**Accountant:** Banking, bookkeeping, and facilitation of financial activities in support of our international ministries.

**For more information, please contact Brian Thigpen (CFO) at [bthigpen@slmin.org](mailto:bthigpen@slmin.org).**

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 **Source of light**  
INTERNATIONAL

# CARRY ON

By Danielle Dare

***Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.***

1 Corinthians 4:2

In the year 1971, a group of missionaries in the country of Ghana were visiting schools and sharing the Gospel with children using simple Bible lessons and songs. A 12-year-old boy named Daniel responded in faith to the truth of the Gospel and repented of his sin, trusting Christ to save him. Over the next several years, his faith and obedience to God's Word were tested as he grew as a believer. During these years, he leaned into the teaching of God's Word and found the promise in 1 Thessalonians 5:24 to be true in his life, *Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it*. As Daniel continued to be a student of the Bible through discipleship classes and even correspondence Bible lessons from Source of Light, God began planting the desire in his heart to teach others His Word.

In 1980, Daniel was faced with a choice: a successful career with financial stability or a life of discipling others in the Word of God. To an unbeliever the choice is easy, for without Christ we are bent on creating our own success, especially if we can convince ourselves it is for the good of others to be powerful and thriving in our own endeavors. For the

follower of Christ, however, there is the irrepressible knowledge that we carry the truth and life that must be shared with others, lest they continue in the darkness of their sin. Even when it is hard, even when we disappoint others, we desire stewardship above success.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines stewardship as, "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." God was calling Daniel to be a faithful steward of His Word and the truth that was rooted in his heart, and he



Students of Evangelical Christian Academy in Ghana — Photo by Daniel Sappor





*Daniel Leading Devotional Time with Church Leaders and Teachers — Photo by Daniel Sappor*

obeyed. From his calling to full-time ministry in 1980, Daniel continued to obey the Lord's leading, which eventually brought him to the place in 1996 of accepting an opportunity to lead a Source of Light Branch in Ghana, consisting of 12 separate Associate Discipleship Schools that were at the time run from the Home Office in the USA. From the time of its establishment until now, Source of Light Ghana has grown organically through the daily ebb and flow of consistent outreach to new communities and follow-up with individuals and organizations that are using the materials.

When asked what a typical day in the office looks like for the staff and volunteers, Daniel pointed out several aspects of the ministry there in Ghana, including outreach, lesson and literature coordination and distribution, grading, office work, reports, care over property, raising finances, care for staff, and the ongoing growth of the ministry!

Daniel himself spends much of his time in outreach, attending seminars to network with schools and ministries

that may want to use SLM materials, visiting schools, prisons, churches and camps, providing sample lessons and inviting these organizations to visit the main office in Ghana to fill out an application to receive lessons. The work has grown since the beginning, with a board of directors and a team of staff members and volunteers now in two office locations in two different regions of Ghana working to engage with the students and the organizations using the materials.

The staff faithfully serves in the work they have been given, and they are not forgetful to pray together for God's blessing and provision. They have seen Him supply their needs, and the ministry still continues to grow. As with any healthy organization, hard work



*Lessons Printed in Ghana Being Packed in Container at Office — Photo by Daniel Sappor*

and consistency must be matched with goal setting and a vision for the future. Daniel tells of a plan that has been in place for several years to open a distribution center in a third location this year, which will provide ease of access for outreach and discipleship in the middle region of Ghana. As the ministry broadens regionally, the need is also increasing for more workers to serve in discipleship roles, creative ways to generate income to support the ministry and staff, and a more effective way to meet the demands for literature and Bible distribution.

All faithful stewards desire for the work they have lovingly poured their lives into to continue on for generations. As the ministry continues to grow in a healthy way, there will eventually be a need for a new leader to be discipled into Daniel's role. Will you pray alongside Daniel as he seeks the Lord to provide a faithful man to share the burden and transition into the leadership role of our Branch in Ghana and carry it into the future?

At times, the work that seems unaccomplished, the goals that seem impossible, and the challenges that loom all threaten to discourage us as we serve the Lord, and we wonder if the investments we have made are worthwhile. When we look back from the beginning until now, we see the hand of God in all the details. We know all that has been done has very little to do with us. We begin to understand that before we are faithful and obedient stewards of His work, God is faithful to His promise to complete the work He has begun. So, we trust Him



*Student Rally Led by Ghana Discipleship Training Branch — Photo by Daniel Sappor*

for all that lies ahead. Here at home and all the way in Ghana, we wait on the Lord, and we put into practice consistent acts of obedience. He is already working to accomplish His plan, spreading the Gospel through great and simple ways and calling laborers to serve in the work He is doing. We each are privileged to have a part in His work. He is faithful. He has done the work already, and He will continue to do it. In this hope, we can carry on. 🌿



**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.

# SOURCE OF LIGHT'S BASIC DISCIPLESHIP LESSONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE!



Just go to [www.slmcourses.com](http://www.slmcourses.com) to find the same good content and encouraging interaction. Register there to become a student with us.

**Is online format not for you?** The paper lessons are still being sent out. You can ask to do the courses through correspondence.

Contact Brian Thompson in the Madison Discipleship School at [mds@slmin.org](mailto:mds@slmin.org) or [slmcourses@slmin.org](mailto:slmcourses@slmin.org) for more information.

## Here is what active students are saying about the courses:

“ ”

Please keep sending lessons. It helps me. The Bible lessons help me. I am learning a lot from them. I am so blessed to have you help me with the lessons. I want to say thank you. I am blessed to have them in my life, and it's so important to learn all I can on these lessons!

“ ”

I would like to thank you for an inspirational and helpful Bible study you are providing me. Every time when I open the Bible lessons, read the Scripture, and learn about the words of God, I feel I'm learning and progressing faster and better than before.



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*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15

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Online format not for you? No problem! You can join the many students doing the courses through correspondence.



Contact Brenda Barnes, Director of the Advanced Studies Department, at [training@slmin.org](mailto:training@slmin.org) for more information or to request a catalog.

## Here is what an active WWBI student said on his recent successful completion of our Dispensationalism course:

*This study has shown me just how active God has been throughout history and reassures me for my future. For me, Dispensationalism has been the most edifying study I've ever undertaken. It has spoken to me spiritually more than any I have ever studied. It has strengthened my faith in God and the belief that He is in control of all things: truly omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent. This study has really strengthened my faith at a time when I needed it. I believe God sent this study to me to do just at the right time in my life. Thank you!*

- T. Evans



# 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)**

## PRAYER

- ◆ The postal costs in Haiti for shipping parcels to the locations they serve have increased. Please pray that God will increase contributions for the SLM Haiti Branch so that these additional expenses can be covered. Many of Haiti's students have been displaced due to the insecurity, bringing about the loss of students and lessons. Please pray for the problems with security and that SLM Haiti will be able to reach their students during this critical time.
- ◆ Source of Light Bolivia needs additional ministry funds for travel expenses to visit their Associate Discipleship Schools. They have had a significant drop in income and need the Lord's intervention.
- ◆ Source of Light Uganda needs additional monthly support for their general ministry budget, and \$35,000 is needed to print the literature that is needed for their ministry in 2025.
- ◆ One of our Branches in India, in the Orissa region, sees their workers becoming discouraged because their salaries are so low. They are also in need of additional workers. Persecution is also increasing, which is troublesome for the field staff. Please pray for encouragement in this region.
- ◆ Miquel Sánchez, Source of Light's Director in Bolivia, will no longer be in church ministry in 2025. He will be transitioning into Source of Light ministry fulltime. He is giving up 70% of his income to make this change. Please be in prayer that God will supply all his needs as he steps out on faith to invest more time in the ministry of Source of Light.
- ◆ Please pray that God will provide a new office for Fuente de Luz (Source of Light) Colombia. The building they have been renting with their church is being sold. Please pray that the Lord will direct and provide for a new office.
- ◆ Source of Light Romania has wanted to get the Source of Light lessons online to serve more students for some time. They have students requesting this medium. Please pray that God will provide the personnel and the resources to make this dream a reality. This Branch also needs additional financial resources for the general operating costs of the ministry. They are seeing postage rates increase.
- ◆ Please pray for our Source of Light Branch partners who are getting older. Pray that God will guide them to people in the ministry who they can begin to train to continue the ministry when they move into retirement status.
- ◆ Our Source of Light Branch in Central India is requesting prayer that more Telegu lessons, which are being received very well, will be able to be printed.
- ◆ Source of Light Pakistan requests prayer for 85 newly converted individuals, that they will remain steadfast. This ministry has a goal to plant 100 churches in 2025 and are asking us to pray that God will provide the resources and volunteers to achieve this goal. They are also praying that God will provide Bibles for new converts.
- ◆ The Madison Discipleship School needs a Spanish Coordinator and a Coordinator for Prison Ministries. Please pray as well that the mail will reach its destination and that students' lessons will be returned in a timely manner. 🙏

## PRaise

◆ Source of Light Uganda is rejoicing in God's provisions of the three motorbikes that their ministry needed, for three laptop computers, and for the projector that they were able to purchase. They are also thankful for the training sessions that they were able to conduct at the beginning of the year.

◆ Daniela and Emanuel Steinle are rejoicing that they received their Italian citizenship one month and 10 days after they started the process. This couple will be serving with Source of Light alongside the Vecchiarelli family in Spain. They are excited about how God is going before them to pave the way for their transition to this new ministry.

◆ As 2024 closed out and 2025 opened, Source of Light Costa Rica had many things for which to thank the Lord. God is expanding their children's ministry through the 99 Adventures program, they held their first volunteer congress in Panama with nearly 40 brothers and sisters participating, they had nine course graduations in the "island ministry" this year, another church is joining the network of Associate Discipleship Schools there, and over 300 people in Costa Rica made decisions for Christ through the study of the courses. A special blessing was that after waiting nine years, God answered Costa Rican Director Miquel and his wife Viviana's prayers and blessed them with a son. Welcome to the Source of Light family, Josué!

◆ Source of Light Colombia shared that 2024 was a great year of blessing and progress. SLM has been able to re-enter several prisons that had been closed to them due to the pandemic. They had new students in churches begin their courses, works were opened in two

rehabilitation centers and a home for senior adults, and several indigenous communities are studying the Word of God with the SLM courses.

◆ Source of Light Peru rejoices that new Associate Discipleship Schools are joining each month in different parts of the country. Some of these partnerships are with church associations with 30 to 40 small churches. Source of Light Peru's diverse ministry includes ministry in schools, with deaf people, and with a ministry to the blind through Braille. They are currently making contacts to renew the vision for prison ministry in Peru.

◆ Source of Light is grateful for the many staff who are well past retirement years and some of whom are in poor health, yet they continue to serve faithfully.

◆ Our SLM Missionary in the North Zone of India praises the Lord for more than six thousand non-Christians who attended Christmas programs and heard God's Word for the first time. He also praises the Lord for 33 people who accepted Jesus as their personal Savior.

◆ In the Central Zone of India, our SLM Missionary praises the Lord that many unbelievers are receiving Bible lessons in Telegu and returning them completed.

◆ Don and Elaine Schiffer, missionaries with Follow the Source in Jamaica, praise the Lord for storm damage repairs being completed. A water tank, a roof on a veranda, an office window, and many other things in the office have been repaired. 🙌

## IN MEMORIAL

### GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

**ML and Janet Hillard** by  
St Matthew Church

### GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

**Birne Wiley** by  
Ray and Linda Walker

**Dan Slaughter** by  
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**Dr. William Shade** by  
Ruby Shade

**Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Dix** by  
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**Eula Keener** by  
David Keener  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Keener  
Rev. Donald Powell  
Mr. & Mrs. James Kinard  
Ruby Shade

**Eula Mae & David Keener** by  
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**Louis Harold Crank** by  
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Ruby Shade

**Mr. Hugh Jarrell** by  
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**Newman Betts** by  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Walker  
Mr. & Mrs. John Cranmer

**Will Michael** by  
Mr. & Mrs. John Cranmer



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**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

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