



the REAPER

VOL. 70, NO. 3 | Fall 2025

**UNTIL THE WHOLE
WORLD KNOWS**

MATTHEW 24:14

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SOURCE OF LIGHT INTERNATIONAL MADISON, GA



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

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

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

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1011 Mission Road, Madison, Georgia 30650

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Printed in the United States of America, July 2025

the REAPER

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UNTIL THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS

By Ron Barnes
A letter from the Editor

“It can’t be done.”

“That’s never been done here before.”

“It’ll be an uphill battle.”

These are all-too-familiar responses our SLM missionaries receive when they share some of the burdens to minister in places that possess potential challenges. Source of Light has been blessed with people who trust God more than they trust the input of others, and who have faith bigger than your average “mustard seed.”

Whether it’s visiting the front lines of our fields or in the background of



SLM Missionary Introducing Material to His Own Country — Photo by Ron Barnes

the home office, our missionaries are accustomed to (in fact, I’d say it’s in the culture of SLM) to attempt hard or new things, even unusual ways to accomplish things.

In an administrators’ retreat just recently, we were talking about publishing in the days to come, and the youngest man in the room, who happened to be my son, interjected “surely AI [artificial intelligence] could do many of the things we are trying to do, in a fraction of the time it is taking our current prepress production team to accomplish.” And before the end of the day, he sent me a list of a half dozen options that could be researched.

In the past, even I would have been skeptical of such a suggestion, but the possibility of pushing out more new literature in a fraction of the time, embracing technology that is already being used in the business sector, for

the Lord’s work, even though we’ve never done it, is too promising not to investigate. We are already doing so for help with translation, so embracing it in other areas as well, even though it is out of most of our comfort zones, has the potential to revolutionize how we do things at SLM.

But this is only one recent way we are striving to find ways to effectively carry out the Great Commission. Our missionaries constantly run ideas by me, and this edition of *The Reaper* will share many of them with our readers. In fact, some of our National Directors are taking my best material for writing this article, but they were all so worthy of telling their own stories, we decided to allow them to.

But there are still many others, like our newest ministry in Zambia.

Recently, the director of our office and print shop, strategically situated on the campus of Ambassador International University (a Christian university preparing national pastors, evangelists, and missionaries from a number of African countries) has been invited to teach a course on evangelism and discipleship integrated with the use of the SLM courses. He will teach an entire course and then send these future ministers around Africa and around the world with resources to help them be effective disciple-makers. In the process, a number of these students will be assisting in the office and print shop, learning how to set up their own Associate Discipleship Schools and even learning the process of printing on location.

The potential for this type of connection expands the effectiveness of the Source of Light ministry in Zambia, throughout Africa, and in some parts of the world, not open or friendly to the average western missionary.

Another major opportunity is in the largest Communist country in the world. In the last couple of years, we partnered with a ministry that has set up a factory from within the country in order to broadcast internet and radio programming which shares the Gospel and allows for regular discipleship to the readers and listeners. Our communication with them is sporadic intentionally, but they assure me they are confident in scores of people coming to Christ and being fed and growing in their faith.



SLM Administrators Planning Strategy — Photo by Ron Barnes

Is it dangerous? Of course! But how else will “every tribe and nation” hear unless believers are willing to go where they are not welcome, where it is forbidden, even illegal? People like these have heeded the call to go, with no regard to the dangers of persecution and harm. These people are my heroes and the subject of much prayer.

I’ve also recently heard of another ministry outreach of a different Branch to one of the smallest Communist countries, an island. Recently, the person involved has been approached by the authorities of his own country and questioned as to his work there. He has effectively smuggled Bibles and SLM literature, often caught in customs, but to date allowed to continue with his illegal contraband. One would think, as often as he has been caught, perhaps he should be more cautious, maybe take a break. But he told me he will take that break if and when they prohibit him from entering the country. Until then, he will continue!

Another unusual open door is in Nigeria, where our missionary, Bosun Dosunmu (finally a name I can share), has a significant ministry in the prisons in her area. Nigeria is arguably one of the most dangerous places to minister, so imagine ministering to the most dangerous of criminals in that country who are incarcerated. Imagine if some of the most dangerous criminals in one of the most dangerous countries came to Christ, grew in their faith, and then had the unusual opportunity to infiltrate their old circle of colleagues



Recent Radio Opportunity in Chile to Present SLM
— Photo by Guillermo Salazar

and friends with the Gospel, without the fear that most would have to go into those dangerous areas. We have seen this over and over in our ministries around the world and expect that the work of these last two years by Bosun will result in very much the same outcome.

I’m extremely proud of our SLM missionaries who have taken to heart the message of Matthew 24:14, *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations ...*

They attempt to go to the ends of the earth, making disciples, in spite of the naysayers, the dangers, and the persecution ... until the whole world knows. 🌿



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

WALKING THAT DISTANT PATH IN PERU

By Enrique Machado

In my country, Peru, Source of Light lessons have been used commonly in churches and homes. A question resounds permanently in our heads and hearts: “How can we reach more people with the blessing of our materials?” To answer this question, we strive to find ways to make our resources more accessible to all kinds of people in the country.

Spanish Braille ministry

A sample of a lesson printed in Braille, but in English, came to my hands. This was a courtesy from brother Jim Tilson at SLM headquarters. It was the start of my interest in knowing about Spanish Braille ministries in this part of the continent. Searching some information for this, I found that the Bible Society delivers Bibles printed in Braille in

Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Colombia. But in Peru, it is only a future project, and they only distribute Bibles. There is no other material printed in Braille used for the spiritual growth process, the discipleship of believers.

Thanks to God, I found here in Lima the “Blind National Union” where I could print our material, and we have now a way to get our resources ready to use with blind people in Spanish.

As our Literature Coordinator, Kim Thigpen, suggested that I find two or three persons who could “read” this printed version and as I looked for someone who could help, our God led me to Mr. Alfredo Zárate, Director of the “Luis Braille Institute.” He helped me with the reading and made some recommendations to correct the



A Country Called Heaven (Un país que se llama el cielo) Printed in Spanish Braille
— Photo by Enrique Machado

printing, and the door opened to share our materials with the people at this educational institution.

It's not common to see blind people coming to services at churches and hearing a message from the Word of God, but at these two institutions we can find many blind people with their spiritual need, and we are coming closer to them with the blessing of our Lord.

We have also printed a single sheet with the “Five Steps to Heaven” in order to use it as a booklet and an introduction to an evangelistic conversation.

Bounded Lessons as textbook

God gave us the opportunity to contact the school principals at “Colegio Bautista” here in Lima and present SLM and discipleship resources. We



Bounded Lessons for School — Photo by Enrique Machado

told them that our courses would be useful for the religion course. The goal was not only to fulfill a curriculum but to see the students as potential disciples of Christ. This was a new vision for the course, the teachers, and the school. They agreed with that vision and started to use Source of Light lessons with secondary level students. As the students usually use books for

the different topics of the curricula, we found that binding the books of lessons in one textbook was the best way to present and use our material.

This is the third year that this school has participated. Pastor Ricardo Ruiz, who teaches the religion course, is very comfortable using these materials because he himself was also disciplined with them as a new believer at the church.

We are working to contact other Christian schools and present our materials and the SLM vision.

Reaching new areas

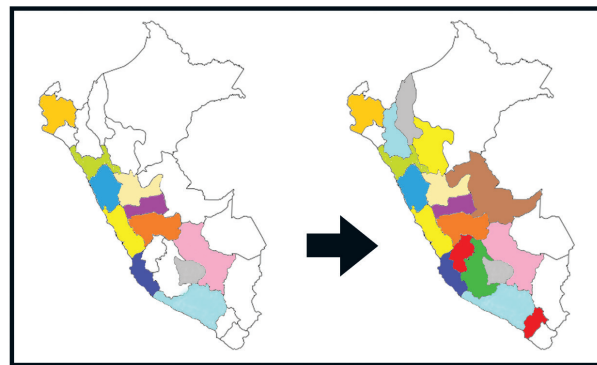
Peru has 24 regions. One of our goals is to have Source of Light lessons used in each of these regions. For this reason, we started to build a directory of churches in the country in order to make contacts and present SLM and our resources.

At this time, we have compiled a list of more than 800 churches. Many of them received information about our discipleship resources. When God provided, we made a visit to different cities and went to these churches presenting ourselves, the ministry, and the material.

Our God has blessed SLM Peru during the last three years. We started with 11 regions where Source of Light resources were used. Now we count 18 regions where at least one church or family uses our materials.

Other fields

We have 67 penitentiary establishments in Peru. We found that there



Growth of Source of Light Presence by Region in Peru Over 3 Years — Graphics by Enrique Machado

is no consistent and permanent work from our churches and missions with prisoners in the country. SLM Peru wants to lead a prison ministry all around the country using our discipleship resources. We look for pastors, churches, or believers willing to serve God with people at these places and also pray that God will open the doors with all the authorization procedures.

The same way as in prisons, we make contact with persons working at some of the 180 hospitals in the country in order to get permission to visit and share the Gospel. With our materials, we have the blessing in our hands. We only have to go towards the people who need it.

SLM Peru is also interested in reaching people that use other languages.

Sign language

An example is working with deaf people. There are some ministries in different parts of the country sharing with and teaching them God's Word. We have contacted some of these

pastors or churches and delivered discipleship lessons that are blessing deaf believers with their spiritual growth. We are interested in developing video classes based on our courses using sign language.

Quechua, Aymara and others

More than three million Peruvians have Quechua as their mother language in the Andean regions of the country, and almost half a million persons speak Aymara. It is necessary to have material in these native languages to reach communities in the interior of the country. Many of them have little educational background and poor reading abilities. This is another reason to prepare audio or video lessons based on SLM courses using these languages.

There are extensive fields to work in Peru, reaching people with the Good News of salvation and introducing them to a process of spiritual maturity with our discipleship resources. There is a big need of servants committed to the Great Commission, willing to extend God's reign here. At SLM Peru, we are walking on that path. Praise the Lord! 🌿



Enrique Machado became the National Director of SLM Peru in 2022. The Discipleship Training Branch was established there in 1975.

STANDING AND SHARING IN HAITI

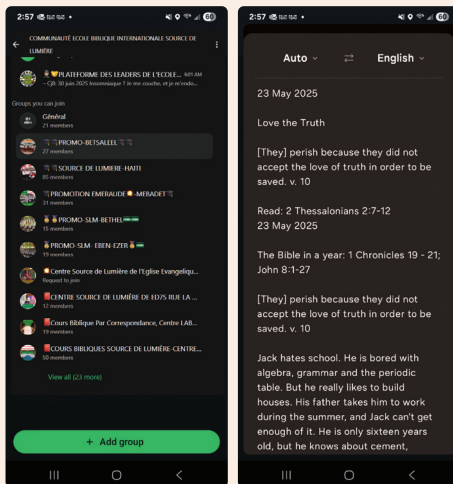
By Brian Thompson

The unstable situation in Haiti affects everyone who lives there. The children cannot regularly go to school because of the random violence. The airport in Port-au-Prince is not able to have any flights from or to the United States, including the missionary aviation agency that we use to send materials to our Haiti Discipleship Training Branch (DTB) there. Our Director must carefully plan any travel based on information of gang violence that is going on in the area. There is unrest in the streets and the sounds of gun violence. However, amid the chaos, the ministry still goes on.

Colossians 3:16—*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11—*Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

This year, the DTB has been trying to be creative to continue discipling people. They have over 20 Associate Discipleship Schools there that are distributing many Bible lessons, but the current crisis creates a distribution issue. To help the discipleship to continue, they have started spreading Bible teaching over WhatsApp. As of the writing of this article, they have created 33 groups that message almost every day. The group leaders post devotionals that promote discipleship and encourage believers. The groups have over 20 members who respond throughout the day to the devotional.



Screenshots of the Haiti DTB Groups and a Devotional Post Translation on WhatsApp —Photos by Brian Thompson

The chat back and forth is a blessing as they encourage one another in their faith. This personal, digital, daily help is such a blessing in these difficult times.

Following the Bible's admonitions is hard enough in good times, let alone during the trials that are escalating in Haiti. The partners we have there are faithful and determined to spread the Gospel despite challenges. Please pray for the struggles in Haiti and most of all for the Christians caught up in this, that they will stand up for Jesus and share the Word as best they can. 🌿



Brian Thompson is the North American Regional Director. He oversees the seven Branch offices in that region while overseeing the Madison Discipleship School. He came to work at SLM after spending 12 years as a church planting missionary in Maine using SLM lessons to help establish the church.



Many church leaders are not used to interactive teaching, where the students are involved in the learning process and are not just lectured to. When we train for 99 Adventures, a new curriculum to Source of Light meant for Sunday school teachers to chronologically teach the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in 99 lessons, we teach how to be an interactive teacher. So an invitation to a post-Soviet country like Romania, still accustomed to a lecture only method of teaching, was the perfect location to learn interactive teaching methods.

Amid the cobblestone streets and castles within sight, Timisoara is a deeply Catholic city. The apostle Andrew preached the Gospel to the people of Romania. However, almost ever since, the country has been a Catholic nation. One missionary I met in Timisoara said that when he first came to the country the people said, "Why do we need a missionary? Andrew already came and preached to us." They were saying they did not need Christian missionaries since they were already a Christian

country. The only problem is, most Timisoara Roman Catholics are cultural "Christians," but do not actually practice or live out true faith. The need for missionaries in Romania is great! This was why our National Director for Romania invited us to host a week of training for pastors and Sunday school teachers.

In March of 2025, the Regional Director of Europe & Asia, Scotte Staab, and I had the opportunity to train in a seminary in Romania. The seminary hosted a children's training module for a week, and we did the teaching. The students of the seminary attended, and local Sunday school teachers were invited to join as well.

Since the seminary students were studying to be pastors, I found it important to share the importance of reaching children with the Gospel within their churches. The students and pastors all worked full-time jobs during the day, so we had to do the training in the evenings, which was their normal class schedule.

We had eight students from the seminary and ten Sunday school teachers from around the city of Timisoara. All the Sunday school teachers were women who had stepped up in their churches to teach the children. Their biggest inspiration for teaching Sunday school was the fact that their children were in those classes. If nobody was going to teach their children, the mothers would!

From the interactions I had with different churches in Romania, it seemed that children's ministry isn't seen as a priority. Pastors oftentimes shepherd multiple churches and don't have time to focus on the children in the church. So children's ministry often looks like childcare, and whoever can watch the kids at the last-minute is the teacher for the week. Sadly, this sounds like a lot of churches in America too.

One of our goals was to provide the attendees with a curriculum to teach their children's classes. 99 Adventures is a great resource for all children's

ministry leaders to use! The leaders of the seminary said that this curriculum and training were the best they have seen in the last 20 years!

The training required them to create a song with hand motions that went along with the lesson they were teaching. The group was split into two teams, and each team had to create their own song. Both groups created a song with multiple verses and a chorus. They only had one day to create and practice the song. There has not been a group that has ever worked so hard on their songs! Everyone was involved and encouraged by the effort they put into the music. After our training, I believe all of the attendees were encouraged to reach their children.

This time of training was also a good opportunity for these different churches to get to know each other and build a relationship. With Scotte and I gone, they can now work together to encourage and bounce ideas off



99 Adventures Training Event — Photo by Ben Doomy



Children at Church with an Orphanage Singing a Song — Photo by Ben Doomy

each other to help grow their children's ministry. We visited two churches one Sunday. The same pastor led both of the churches, which were about 20 minutes away from each other. Every Sunday, he goes into a Gypsy village and preaches at a small church. This church is in a very poor area, but children come walking from all over to attend church by themselves—without their parents. After preaching at the Gypsy church, the pastor drives 20 minutes to the other side of town to preach at a church that has an orphanage. This church has a very big children's ministry! The pastor greatly benefited from our training and the materials we gave him because he immediately knew he had to apply this teaching to the orphanage at his church.

One of the seminary students was a resident at the school; the rest lived elsewhere and commuted. We got to stay with the resident student and spent

a lot of time with him. Not everybody in Timisoara speaks English, and this was a good opportunity for this student to practice his English. Only about half of the students who attended the training speak English. We had an interpreter who translated everything for us. The student told us that he knew God was calling him to be a pastor, so he quit his job and moved across the country to study at the seminary. The week that we were there, he was preparing to preach his first sermon ever. Pray for this student that God would direct him and continue to grow him in his studies.

Scotte plans to go back to Timisoara in the fall of 2025 or spring of 2026 to host the same training but on a larger scale. The students who went through the training in March will be the ones leading and teaching the training this time. This helps to encourage them to learn the curriculum even better. We hope to raise up future trainers in Romania who will host these training events all over the country and invite local pastors and Sunday school teachers to attend. This is the big vision that we have for all our 40+ Branches around the world, but Romania is one of the first countries where we see it being accomplished. Pray for the future 99 Adventures training events that will take place in Timisoara and all over Romania. 🌿



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

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?

TAKING THE MESSAGE TO ALL OF BRAZIL:

How Brazil's DTB Is Using Videos and New Translations to Expand the Reach of the Gospel

By Samuel Milanez

In the ongoing effort to fulfill the Great Commission—*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come* (Matthew 24:14).—the Discipleship Training Branch in Brazil has taken creative steps to share the truths of the Gospel with an ever-growing audience. Two recent initiatives have stood out: the presentation of lessons through video and the careful translation of new materials into Portuguese.

Video Lessons: Clarity, Accessibility, and Invitation

One of the recent strategies has been the use of video to deepen and spread the content of SLM. We have been producing additional video lessons that aim to make the studies even more accessible. These lessons highlight the main points of each lesson and offer clear explanations of biblical passages that might seem

confusing to the audience. They are made available through QR codes attached to the printed materials and, more recently, through a platform on our website that allows students to track their progress.

The impact of this approach has been amplified through an online television program, in partnership with TV Evangélica do Cariri, entitled “*Um Lugar Chamado O Céu*” (A Place Called Heaven). In this one-hour program, we present summaries of each series and its lessons, explain the central themes of each, and invite viewers to dive deeper into the full study materials. This bridge between media and personal discipleship has opened new doors for teaching the Word in homes where it may have never reached before.

Broadcast weekly on YouTube, the official website of the evangelical TV station, and via satellite dish, our program reaches hundreds of people around the world every Thursday. We regularly receive messages of gratitude and requests for study materials, demonstrating that the Word of God is echoing powerfully and effectively.

Unfortunately, many people have lost the good habit of



Screen Capture of the SLM Brazil Television Program
— Photo by Samuel Milanez



Samuel Recording Video Summary of SLM Lessons
— Photo by Samuel Milanez

reading, but this doesn't discourage us—it simply challenges us to find complementary alternatives that support reading and strengthen the students' growth and encouragement. We know that videos will never replace the deep value of written study, but they can serve as a bridge to spark interest and facilitate understanding. Our goal is not for everyone to hear about SLM Brazil but to hear about the great Book given to us by God so that we may know Him. That is why we use videos only as support tools.

Translations That Touch Lives

Another major development for the DTB in Brazil has been the recent translation of two foundational materials for spiritual growth: a children's course and a full 24-lesson course aimed at youth and adults. Both resources were translated from English into Portuguese with great care and respect for the original content.

The process was both intense and collaborative. Four people from churches in the Cariri region initially

volunteered to translate the raw content, ensuring fidelity to the original text. Then, the translated material went through the hands of two others who took on the task of reviewing and editing it—refining grammar, improving flow and consistency, and unifying the language of the translations. Finally, the content underwent a final theological and editorial review to ensure that the message conveyed in Portuguese was clear and faithful to the originals, reflecting the message that God placed in the hearts of the writers.

These materials are eagerly anticipated by several churches in the region which have been waiting for new SLM content for years to strengthen their teaching and discipleship ministries.

This team effort was more than technical—it was spiritual. Every team member saw this task as an act of service to the Kingdom, praying that each translated lesson would become a seed planted in the heart of a new disciple. The sense of mission involved in every stage was a constant reminder that, although we are translating words, we are in fact proclaiming Jesus.

The work is only just beginning. There is still much to be translated, many more videos to be produced, and countless homes to be reached. But the vision remains clear: until the whole world hears. 🌱



Samuel Milanez became the National Director of SLM Brazil in 2018. The DTB was established there in 1982. He also serves as a missionary and Bible teacher in the northeast part of the country.

REACHING AND RESEEDING IN JAMAICA

By Brian Thompson

Sometimes the need is a seed. At other times, the field just needs a good reseed.

Source of Light has been around as a ministry for over 70 years. We started initially by distributing lessons throughout Jamaica. Our Branch in Jamaica had a series of Christian bookstores, and the distribution of Bible

lessons was robust, but things change over time. The Kingston Branch had been heavily invested in passing out lessons in schools, but that stopped as the bookstores began to close. Today, there is still a store in Kingston, and the great desire is to get back to the discipleship ministry that they once had.

This past year, the leadership in Kingston has begun an outreach to see more discipleship take place. Bible study lessons—hundreds of them—were dropped off at churches and schools to obtain new students and partners. The number of graded lessons is going up, and they have new requests for lessons to be distributed. They gained several hundred students and reported 34 salvation decisions in the first quarter this year. God



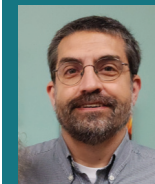
Man Saved Through the Lessons Receives a Certificate — Photo by Delfreda Barrett

is blessing their renewed outreach.

Giving out the Bible lessons has brought more people into contact with the tools that are available from Source of Light. The renewed interest helps keep the Branch running, but keep praying that the students in schools and churches will keep up with their lessons. It is

a wonderful opportunity for the staff to have more lessons to grade, but ask God to provide the volunteers to run the program. There are so many people from all over the world who find themselves in Jamaica, and these Bible lessons are a vital way to reach those people for Christ.

Whether it be here at the home office in Madison or on our home field in Jamaica, we pray that God uses the reaching and reseeded for His glory. 🌱



Brian Thompson is the North American Regional Director. He oversees the seven Branch offices in that region while overseeing the Madison Discipleship School. He came to work at SLM after spending 12 years as a church planting missionary in Maine using SLM lessons to help establish the church.

TRAINING TOMORROW'S LEADERS:

SOURCE OF LIGHT IN THE SEMINARY

By Miguel Diaz

Our Source of Light (SLM) office in Costa Rica is located in the same building where a seminary holds its classes—a strategic blessing that has opened many doors for our ministry. This proximity has allowed us to serve in new ways, including the privilege of teaching and training future Christian leaders.

My wife, Vivi, and I have been volunteer professors at the seminary for the past five years. Our connection to the seminary began even earlier, as the current president was once our pastor. When the professor of Spanish and Composition resigned to go to the mission field, the academic board brought up Vivi's name as a

potential replacement. After several weeks of prayer, she accepted the challenge.

It wasn't an easy start. Shortly after beginning, the COVID-19 pandemic forced all classes online. Vivi had to adapt quickly, reorganizing her teaching methods to a virtual format. After in-person classes resumed, she had to redesign her approach again to meet the needs of a classroom environment. Today, she teaches three different subjects in the seminary's first three years of the academic program.

Two years after Vivi began teaching, I was invited to teach a course on cross-cultural missions. The leadership knew of my experience visiting various regions of Costa Rica and other countries, and they saw an opportunity to connect that experience with the formation of new leaders. I gladly accepted, knowing that teaching is not just about delivering information, but about sharing life—the life of Christ—just as our seminary professors once did for us.

This year, the seminary expanded its academic program from four to five years, opening the door to include a dedicated Source of Light course. This class is more than an introduction to the ministry; it's an in-depth training in the SLM philosophy as one of the most impactful tools for evangelism and discipleship in the country. We currently have 23 students enrolled. By the end of the course, they are equipped to implement these materials in their own churches and to develop strategic plans for evangelizing and discipling others.

The seminary's vision is, *"Enter to learn. Leave to serve."* Source of Light fully supports this philosophy, and it's one of the main reasons we love serving as professors. We consider it a tremendous blessing to be part of this mission. In fact, we often say that we are the ones most privileged by teaching—because whenever we teach, God teaches us first.

It is not a requirement to teach in the seminary in order to maintain the SLM office, but we see it as a God-given opportunity. We're not seeking recognition or position; we simply want to be faithful servants wherever God chooses to place us. If He has opened this door, we want to walk through it with joy and obedience.

Do we enjoy teaching? Absolutely. It's both a challenge and a great joy. Students are always observing and learning—not just the material, but from our lives. That's why we aim to



Studying the Word with Source of Light Lessons — Photo by Miguel Diaz

do more than teach a subject; we strive to reflect the life of Christ in every interaction.

In His grace, God has chosen to use us as part of the team that helps mold His servants. We can only respond, "Here I am, Lord. Use me." This ministry at the seminary has become more than just an academic opportunity; it has become a fertile field for sowing Kingdom vision and multiplying the Gospel's impact throughout Costa Rica, and beyond.

Our prayer is that every student who passes through our classes leaves with a heart ignited for God, a passion for souls, and solid tools to fulfill Christ's call. What began as a strategic office location has become a powerful platform for discipleship and ministry expansion. 🌱



Enter to Learn. Leave to Serve.—Photo by Miguel Diaz



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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE AN ETERNAL FINANCIAL LEGACY?



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Orders Clerk: Data entry, answering inquiries, making invoices, processing payments.

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GO OUT INTO THE STREETS...

By Kimberly Thigpen

Enemies want them to leave. They find a new place and continue on.

Rain interrupts. They stand and use the tarp they had been sitting on as a temporary roof.

Those who think K's street ministry in Kolkata can be deterred haven't met him or the team serving with him.

"It is 8:50 AM here," K writes. "A few people opposed us in two places. But the parents of our children and the local people who attend the roadside fellowship stood for us. So the problem was solved quickly."

In total, there are 20 national missionaries working under Regional Director K in teams of two to four. Of the 20, 14 are unpaid volunteers, serving, "because they love the Lord," K says.

"It costs \$10 every week for a street club including the snacks and transportation of the team. The little children attend the Bible class with interest. We don't give them food. But we buy a very small sweet for each one of them.

"We share the Gospel in an area, then we find some local interested people. We find some children and love them and ask the interested people to find a place for us where 40-50 or where 10-140 people can sit together. They find a place like a roadside, street side, open ground, public place, park, etc. Then we buy some big-size plastic mats that will accommodate all the people."

The plastic tarp-like mats are a temporary floor to sit on instead of the dirt. Children remove their shoes before they step onto the mats to keep them clean.

"During the rain," K shares, "the children hold the plastic mat over them, and after the rain they again sit for Bible class."



Club Meetings During the Day and at Night
— Photos by K



No Rain Cancellations! — Photo by K

“We teach them how to sing for Jesus. Then they sing songs and action songs; the children are taught to worship and give thanks for the answered prayers, then they share a memory verse. After that, our team teaches them from a Bible lesson. Next, our team prays for their problems and distributes sweets, and the time comes to a close. It takes an hour and a half for each street class. They take the Bible lessons to their home, and their parents read them and come to know that we are teaching them good things.

“The teenagers are addicted with drugs, smoking, bad company, and immorality. They are very busy, and they don’t want to wait to listen. Their parents also don’t understand them. They are asked to earn money by any means. But through our street children’s Bible clubs, we get many youths (teens), and they hear the Gospel, and some of them give their lives to the Lord. Some of those youths are helping us to reach out to their friends. This is a tremendous ministry. I enjoy working with the teams and among these people.

“The people will not come to a church. They get confused about coming to a church because they think coming to church means becoming Christians. But attending a roadside fellowship

is very easy for them. The churches are very far from them, so when we take the church fellowship to them, they attend that fellowship happily. A church building cannot accommodate so many people.

“Please pray for the salvation of the children, youths, and the adults, those who attend the weekly roadside fellowship. Please pray for more trained committed teachers who can go to many more new places.” 🌿

Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come. Luke 14:23



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

A Letter From K.

Last Sunday, during our roadside fellowship when all the children, youths and women sat together for fellowship, one man came on a motorcycle and opposed our team.

“Why are you having this religious gathering here in this public place? Previously you had very few children but now you have gathered many people here. You are teaching them the Christian religion and brainwashing these little children. I heard you taught them about Jesus from the Bible. You cannot gather these people here.”

The young people of our fellowship said, “Alright then, we will sit in another place.”

Then some local people told them not to oppose this fellowship. This Sunday, they did not come to oppose us.

KENYA OUTREACH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE KENYA

By Ron Barnes

The ministry of the SLM Branch in Kenya has been extremely effective over a few decades now. Their initial work was among public and private schools, and God had allowed significant fruit to that effort. They have printed the SLM Courses within the country, usually between 500,000 and one million lessons each year. This is a monumental task!

I’ve witnessed firsthand the fruit of their ministry when out and about in Kenya with my SLM logoed shirt. I’ve been stopped numerous times by people, most recently by an airport security officer, who while “wandering” me said, “Source of Light? I got saved in middle school using the Source of Light courses.”

If anything, they are a model of effectiveness in going into schools. But even with all those effective years in ministry, they still felt it wasn’t enough and began seeking how they could expand their ministries. They also sensed, from the Lord perhaps, they have been playing it too safe and that it was time to stretch themselves and seek new avenues of ministry.

Within the last few years, they have effectively begun new church plants as well as ministry to truckers, government



New ADS Directors in Tanzania, Mr. and Mrs. Naulen Sanga — Photo by Timothy Kyuli

offices, and prisons. It was one of those recent opportunities within the prison that led our Director, Timothy Kyuli Mutinda to Mr. and Mrs. Naulen Sanga, who are in the town of Shinyanga, Tanzania.

Seeing the effectiveness of the SLM material, the Sangas inquired as to what it would take to begin its use with their own country of Tanzania. So after a trip to visit Tanzania and to train them how to use the material effectively, it

was clear that the Sangas were aligned with a similar vision as Source of Light, and it was decided to have this ministry in Tanzania become an Associate Discipleship School under the leadership of the Branch in Kenya.

What the team in Kenya, along with countless other SLM Branches, has discovered, is that when they yield themselves to the direction of the Lord and commit themselves to look for new ways to serve, God always answers ... and they rarely need to go search! 🌿



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

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Just go to 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 or slmcourses@slmin.org for more information.

Here is what active students are saying about the courses:

“ ”

I want to learn more about Jesus Christ because He is my Savior, my Caretaker, my Redeemer and everything. This platform is a blessing for me. Amen.”

– Ashfaq

“ ”

Hi. Please pray with me for more grace, wisdom, and understanding as I start my online courses for the first time in my life. Thanks.

– Boakai

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.... For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

1 Peter 2:21, 25



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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 for more information or to request a catalog.

Here is what students taking the Bible Survey course are saying:

“These studies have helped me learn so much. Also, I can feel the Holy Spirit guide me through them. They are great, and y’all were right about the reading. There is a lot to read in them, but that does help me to learn. Thanks for the scholarship. I will not let y’all or the Lord down. God bless all y’all!”

– E. Walker

“Reading God’s Word always brings me closer to Him, but these studies are helping me to better understand the mind of God, and the book, What the Bible Is All About is a Godsend. I am gaining a better picture of the people of Israel, what they were having to go through, and what God was willing to do for His people to ensure their success. Thank you very much.”

– Student

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

PRAYER

- ◆ Please pray for staff at SLM Headquarters who are struggling with ongoing health issues. Also, pray that God will send additional staff to fill in gaps and to train for positions in roles where staff are getting older.
- ◆ Continue to pray for our Print Shop staff as they adjust to new equipment, an increased workload with the return of the printing of *The Reaper* in-house, and the strain of a shortage of staff.
- ◆ Carlos Aranguren in Argentina and Miguel Diaz in Costa Rica have recently been appointed as Regional Directors. Carlos will be overseeing the work in South America, and Miguel in Central America. Please pray for wisdom as these men embrace their new areas of responsibility.
- ◆ Koffi Jeremie Esson has become the new Discipleship Training Branch Director in the Ivory Coast as Isaiah Bernasko has transitioned into retirement. Jeremie was discipled by Isaiah. Jeremie's transition has been very smooth thus far. Please pray for him as he leads SLM Ivory Coast into the future. Also, pray for wisdom for Isaiah Bernasko for future days and for his ongoing health issues.
- ◆ As our new children's lessons are being developed, translated, and readied for print, please pray for our Literature Development Team as all these steps take place. There are a lot of moving pieces with many people involved.
- ◆ Many of our SLM International Field Staff are working on meager financial resources. Please pray that God will raise up financial partners who will pray with them, encourage them, and truly partner with them in their ministries.
- ◆ Constanza, the wife of SLM South America Regional Director, Carlos Aranguren, is struggling with a problem with her eye and is facing surgery. She may need a cornea transplant. Please pray for complete healing.
- ◆ Our Operations Department is currently working on a new house construction on campus at Source of Light Headquarters in Madison. Please pray for the safety of our staff as they work on the project and for wisdom in each detail.
- ◆ We have several International SLM Staff coming to the United States this year to raise support and awareness for their ministries. Please pray that God will open new doors for them to share their ministries, that they will garner new support, and that their trips to the United States will be refreshing and productive.
- ◆ We have been able to set up printing on the field in several of our African Branches. Our West Africa Branches are being supplied with materials through our Branch in Ghana who is overseeing the outsourcing of the printing and the shipping to the various Branches. Several of our other Branches now have their own printing equipment. It is a blessing to be able to print in the country, but the resources are still needed to pay for outsourcing, shipping, print supplies, and the upkeep and replacement of equipment. Please pray that God will continue to raise up Paper Partners who will enable us to continue to get these “paper missionaries” into the hands of people who are hungry for the Gospel. 🌿

PRaise

◆ Source of Light is so grateful for our volunteers, both short-term and long-term. The volunteer teams who came earlier this year were a great help with getting the new house dried in. We have long-term volunteers, and when they must be out, our staff is shuffled about to cover their positions. Though they serve as volunteers, their help is tremendously important to the smooth work of the ministry.

◆ We are grateful for the safety of our Operations Team thus far in the house construction. Several of the men in the Operations Department are dealing with physical limitations which require them to work strategically and at a slower pace than they would like to. But they are grateful for what God is accomplishing through them. They are especially appreciative of the equipment that they have been able to lease that is helping with the work.

◆ We are grateful for the printing opportunities that God has opened for us in Africa. It is enabling us to get materials to the Discipleship Training Branches quicker and saving on shipping costs. Our team in Kenya was struggling with some old printing equipment. God recently provided the funds for them to replace that equipment. It will enable them to produce their materials more quickly, with less frustration, and with fewer costs for equipment repair. We praise the Lord for His provision!

◆ It is a blessing to see God's provision for all the individual missionaries, Discipleship Training Branches, for the printing of literature, and for the many projects that support the work of Source of Light Ministries around the world. Through His people, God is supporting His work of distributing the Good News. We are grateful!

◆ Sewing classes, computer classes, educational children's programs, orphanages, medical assistance, feeding programs, discipleship through Bible courses, church planting, Vacation Bible Schools, Christmas celebrations, dramatic performances, Biblical exhibitions, and radio ministries: we are thankful for these and a myriad of other creative avenues that our Source of Light missionaries utilize to spread the love of Christ, share the Gospel, and support the work of the ministry.

◆ Many Source of Light missionaries serve in areas where Christians are persecuted or where political turmoil and sometimes even political oppression is great. Many serve in poverty and in areas where sickness abounds. We are thankful for God's protection as well as the wisdom and tenacity that He gives for working in these environments. Even missionaries who have had illnesses for many years continue to serve and only want to do more for the Lord. We praise the Lord for such faithful servants.

◆ We are grateful for the students in the Philadelphia Baptist Homeschool Fellowship for a splendid dramatic performance highlighting the ministries of Ira Sankey, D.L. Moody, and Fanny Crosby. An offering was taken after the play that raised over \$4,000 for Source of Light's Braille ministry.

◆ Source of Light's Nigeria Discipleship Training Branch Director, Bosun Dosunmu, was visiting the United States and came to Headquarters for a short visit. We praise the Lord for the opportunity to host Bosun and that she could share in chapel how God is using Source of Light Nigeria. 🌿

IN MEMORIAL

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

Lynn Page by

Mr. and Mrs. David Giles

Dan Slaughter by

Mr. and Mrs. John Hensley

Larry Staab by

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Dowling

Mrs. Priscilla Staab

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Waddel

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Mr. and Mrs. Duane Raysby

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Biggs

Eula Keener by

Mr. and Mrs. John Hensley

Frank Eaton by

Mr. and Mrs. John Hensley

Tom and Mary Rochon by

Mr. and Mrs. John Hensley

Ernest Price by

Mrs. Frances Price

Bob Stucky by

Mrs. Frances Busenitz

Alice Kirk by

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brickel



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

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