



the REAPER

VOL. 71, NO. 1 | Spring 2026

**THEY THAT SOW
IN TEARS SHALL
REAP IN JOY.**

PSALM 126:5

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SOURCE OF LIGHT INTERNATIONAL MADISON, GA



Source of light

INTERNATIONAL

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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1011 Mission Road, Madison, Georgia 30650

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Printed in the United States of America, January 2026

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On the Cover

Ana Maria

*They that sow in tears shall
reap in joy.*

Psalm 126:5

Corrections & Clarifications

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REAPING IN JOY

By Ron Barnes
A letter from the Editor

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. – Psalm 126:5

“So how do you encourage them?” This was the question I received during the Sunday school hour at a church where I recently spoke about what God is doing around the world in the ministries of SLM. Specifically, they were referring to the discussion about the persecution of Christians in India, including our own missionaries and churches.

It's not the first time I've been asked this question. In fact, it is regularly asked of me by Source of Light missionaries who serve in that part of the world. “How should we respond? What shall we tell our people being persecuted?” These questions are asked every time we meet.

While I feel ill-equipped to answer, never having come close to the type of persecution they and their people are experiencing, I'm glad that the answer doesn't need to come from me, but from the Word of God. They simply need to hear it, again, to be

comforted by the words of God, from THE Word of God, spoken by the person they as leaders look to for comfort, reassurance, and counsel: their shepherd, their leader ... me.

While not faced with death, I do have many of my own experiences of sowing in tears ... but waiting for any sign of fruit. In fact, India happened to be a place where I suffered discouragement during a season.

My family and I served in India about 14 years ago, setting up an internship site there alongside a ministry that on the surface had seen a lot of success but was bleeding workers and burning out missionaries. The internship site allowed us to be on the ground, training future missionaries and working in the local ministry, which allowed me to see inside how the team there was functioning.

In the beginning, the adrenaline kept us motivated, but when it wore off, the reality of the smog, 125-degree temperature, and expectations that

the local leaders placed on the team set in, and it became clear why things weren't going well for recruiting and keeping missionaries and national teammates.

No matter the advice we gave, the national leadership of that team refused to be reasoned with and pressed on with their agenda, convinced that the fruit in their ministry was confirmation of their approach and style.

Their approach was dictatorial and condescending, and they were regularly in the habit of dismissing those who disagreed with them. I tried to tread lightly, to earn their trust, but it was a long summer, and I feared that the internship students would actually be turned off to cross-cultural ministry in the process. I also feared for the young people being raised in the ministry, many of whom were slum children.

The interns focused on this element of the ministry, and so it allowed them to avoid a lot of the interaction with the national team. This was the most rewarding part of the summer, watching these slum children learn and be shown love in the process. It was rewarding having every member of my family involved as well. The team taught computers, sports, Bible, and one of my personal favorites, music, on the flutophone, with my wife, Brenda, as the music teacher.

Each day, the slum children got better and better, which culminated at the end of the summer with a concert in front of their parents, led by the fastest learner in the group, Rahul. Rahul had done so well (not just in music, but in every area, particularly Bible memory) that Brenda taught him to lead the others for the concert.



Ron Teaching Teens Bible — Photo by Ronnie Barnes



He was truly a star student, and the team really bonded to him and felt confident in the direction his life was headed. So, you can imagine our disappointment after having a summer of questionable success and limited fruit in a lot of areas, to learn shortly after that Rahul had been dismissed from the program due to disagreement with the leadership. Yes ... there were tears.



Sophie Serving Chai — Photo by Ronnie Barnes



Ronnie Teaching Computers — Photo by Ron Barnes



Tori Teaching English — Photo by Ronnie Barnes

But imagine my joy, nearly 10 years later, an adult Rahul found me on Facebook. Having seen I had recently been to India, he begged me to meet next time I was in Delhi. A little research revealed that, though he left the one ministry, he found a home in another and has been active for some time. The next time I was in Delhi, I learned that he and others also sent away formed a group that eventually became a church plant, and he was one of the church planters.

He credited “Auntie Brenda” with having confidence in him to believe he was a leader, even though he believed growing up in the slums he would only ever be a servant. And he credited “Uncle Ron” with entrusting to him the Word of God, which he now entrusts to others.

So what DO I tell others, like our persecuted missionaries, when they face doubt, persecution, and questions about their calling? I remind them of stories of faithfulness, that we do the sowing and trust God for someone to do the reaping.

I tell them they are in good company, as many have gone before them who have experienced similar trials and seen the ministry expand during their trials. It is also a sign that the enemy sees their godliness as a threat. That’s an honor!

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
(2 Timothy 3:12)



Rahul Leading the Performance with Auntie Brenda — Photo by Ronnie Barnes

So, count it as joy when you experience these trials. Muster up the strength through faith to carry on in the face of these trials.

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations. (James 1:2)

And if you still struggle to count it joy, Peter takes it a step further in First Peter 3:14:

But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled.

“Happy” in this verse would be better understood as *blessed*, even *envied* are you! You have been chosen for a distinct assignment in a special place during a significant time in India’s history where the church, under persecution, is growing at an incredible pace, one that your predecessors only dreamed of and many gave their lives for, seeing little to no fruit during their ministry, but whose foundations you have been fortunate to build on. So

boldly press on for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).

This is a message our missionaries need to regularly hear, and maybe it’s one that you need to hear as well. We shouldn’t be tempted to avoid the seasons of tears for fear of failure or disappointment, knowing that our investment in giving the Word of God never comes back void! And so, though we may or may not reap what we sow, we can by faith find joy in the reaping, with confidence that we have been blessed with the gift of sowing!

This *Reaper* is testimony to those who have done just that, sown in tears ... and sometimes reaped in joy. 🌾



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



SEEDS SOWN IN HARD PLACES, BY UNKNOWN SOWERS

By Ron Barnes

Venezuela, a once vibrant nation with promise, has for decades now found itself in a precarious balance. Similar to other socialist governments throughout the world, Christians and churches find themselves in a season of the erosion of their hope and even their values. The government entices them with incentives, resources, and even protection - each of these having become increasingly scarce there—seducing them with things that betray the very principles of their faith. And those who oppose these “enticements” face threat, intimidation, and even the closure of their churches.

This fear has driven out many missionaries and pastors over the years and yet, there are a faithful few who, even amid threats and intimidation, continue to sow seeds of the Gospel and even see their fruit!

I'm intrigued when I hear of these heroes of the faith and particularly interested when they just drop by our headquarters for a tour. Recently, a couple walked into the reception area of our offices in Madison and announced they have been serving with Source of Light since 1980 in Venezuela and were wondering if they could have a tour of “our” office. The usual tour guides were traveling that day, and so another administrator gave them the

tour. This administrator asked me to meet with the visitor to hear his story, and I was disappointed to not meet in person. We did, however, connect through email, and he conveyed to me this story:

Dear SLM,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

It was a blessing to receive your note. A million thanks to you for permitting me to be a small part of Source of Light. As noted above, we have been a “part



*Jerry Handing a Certificate to a Student
— Photo by Jerry Alford*

of Source of Light” since 1980, and it has been a fundamental blessing in our ministry.

We are missionaries to Venezuela, South America. Eight churches have started using your materials. From these churches, 12 more churches have started. We have a Venezuelan couple who are serving as missionaries in Spain who have made contact with your representative, Jorge Vecchiarelle. We have a radio station 24/7 in Maracay, Venezuela, and a camp of over 200 acres (the land for the camp was given to us). All works are under the national pastors.

The way I use your courses is as follows: I evangelize, going door to door with a well-illustrated tract. After they receive it, I then offer Lesson One of the course, Way to Heaven or Camino al Cielo.



Carlos Hernandez With Pastor Jerry Now a Missionary to Spain Using the SLM Courses
— Photo by Jerry Alford

1. I tell them the lesson is free.
2. I tell them it is a course on Heaven.
3. I show them a certificate of completion.
4. I tell them there is no obligation.
5. I tell them I will return in one week.

In Venezuela, the post office does not work, so I go weekly to the students.

Most contacts will be surprised that I return and will not have finished the lesson. When I return the next week, most will have completed lesson one.

At each meeting, I present the Gospel, which is the reason for offering the courses. I have the opportunity to be their teacher and friend on every visit. The purpose is evangelism. We have about 50% complete the course and 10% receive salvation and baptism. Then we use your courses for discipleship and learning soul-winning.

Your course is one of the two tools I use to meet people. Some missionaries have tried my system, and it did not work. I think they do it the wrong way. I have done this for over 40 years, and it works.

Thank you.

In Christ, Jerry 🌿



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





FIELD LITERATURE NEEDS

The Source of Light World in Need

For over 70 years, Source of Light has been blessed with generous partners who support our missionaries and our projects. Usually, our countries have contacts who are regular supporters of their ministries, but a handful of our countries have virtually no mailing list and no contacts. We would like to focus on a few of those countries who have literature funds that have seen little to no contributions provided recently but have been helped by our emergency funds to provide their ministries with literature.

We ask for you to prayerfully consider these
SLM Branches in need:

ARGENTINA
\$1,089

PORTUGAL
\$2,402

COSTA RICA
\$10,592

SPAIN
\$2,000

PERU
\$4,174

MOZAMBIQUE
\$2,000

GUYANA
\$2,000

ZAMBIA
\$4,675



GROWTH IN GUYANA

By Ben Doomy

Arthur Chung was appointed as the first president of Guyana in 1970. He was a byproduct of the country's mixed racial history. Being on the northern coast of South America, the land of Guyana is a great entry port into the continent. This is why the country was colonized by the Dutch and then taken over by the British during the 1800s. During these years of British reign, many African and Asian people were brought to Guyana as slaves and mixed in with the native Guyanese. Since the abolition of slavery, Guyana has become a major melting pot of people and cultures. After gaining independence in 1966, a Chinese man was appointed to be the first president, Arthur Chung.

Though Arthur was not a Christian, his sister was a devoted follower of Christ. Emily Chung had a heart for the people of Guyana, and she used the Source of Light lessons to disciple those around her. SLM's partnership with Guyana began in 1971. Emily had a great ministry of students coming to her house to study the Bible through our lessons. Sadly, there was not a successor set in place to run the ministry after Emily. When she passed away, the ministry of SLM in

Guyana was left in the hands of someone who was not as committed to the work.

Many of the Associate Discipleship Schools that Emily had connected with would ask for more lessons from the new Director, but they would not get a response, or the Director was rarely at the office. These schools were discouraged, and many stopped requesting lessons. It was clear that Emily's successor was not the right person



Revival Baptist Church Where Dwayne Pastors and Location of Summer 2026 VBS Mission Trip — Photo by Ben Doomy





Brian Thompson and Ben Doomy Riding in the Church Van to Drop Off Local Children —Photo by Ben Doomy

for this role. There was a man who was on the board of SLM Guyana who saw the problems the ministry was facing, and he too had a heart for the people of Guyana like Emily Chung in years before him. This man stood up and was willing and ready to lead SLM Guyana in the right direction.

His name is Dwayne Daniels, and he is now the National Director in Guyana! He hopes to raise enough support to focus full time on the ministry. Since he is not fully supported, Dwayne juggles several additional roles. He currently works as a school teacher, has a small business in graphic design, and is the pastor of his church and the Director of SLM Guyana. His goal is to be fully supported so he can have full focus on expanding the ministry. Even with the busyness of four jobs, Dwayne has connected with local churches and now has four Associate Schools that use the lessons with around 250 students.

In November 2025, Ron Barnes, Brian Thompson, and I traveled to Guyana to spend time with Dwayne. My goal was to learn about the church and ministry so that in the Summer of 2026, I can bring a team to help Dwayne run a Vacation Bible School. The location of Dwayne's church is in the middle of a densely populated area. There are many children in the surrounding area, so each year they have anywhere from 80-100 children and teens come to their Vacation Bible School. I hope it will be a blessing to bring laborers who will help run the VBS with Dwayne. (For more information on the trip to Guyana in Summer 2026, send me an email – bdoomy@slmin.org.)

During the travel to Guyana, we sat beside a lady who struck up conversation with us. Through the small talk, Ron mentioned that he worked for a ministry that has a Branch in Guyana. When he mentioned that the ministry was



Wire Rack with "New Life in Christ" SLM Lessons
— Photo by Ben Doomy

started by Emily Chung, this lady's eyes grew really big. She said, "When I was a young child, I would go to Miss Chung's house with my older brothers. She had a little stool for me to sit on right beside her while she taught us from those lessons. Those lessons really had a big impact on my life as a young child." This interaction shows us that we do not know the impact that we can have on people's lives. The lady on the plane met with Emily Chung while she was a child some 40+ years ago and still thinks fondly of the impact that Emily and SLM had on her. We may never know the role we play in someone's life when we simply follow the Lord. This lady wanted to encourage us at SLM to keep up the good work because children just like her need to hear the Gospel and be discipled!

I had another interesting interaction with random strangers by our hotel in Guyana. While searching for a good restaurant that was not Kentucky Fried Chicken or Pizza Hut, there was a Chinese restaurant. Waiting in the line, I noticed a wire rack that had free literature for customers to read. On this wire rack were only four pieces of literature: a random magazine and three Source of Light Bible lessons (*New Life in Christ*). These lessons were very old and possibly even from the time of Emily Chung being the Director. I asked the workers at this Chinese restaurant if they knew anything about these Bible lessons, and they told me about the owner who has a couple other restaurants and gives away the Bible lessons. The owner does not know Dwayne, but he is going to connect with the owner to provide new lessons.

Emily Chung was leading the ministry of Guyana in the right direction. Even though there were a few rough years following her, it seems that the work in Guyana is in good hands under the leadership of Dwayne Daniels. God is opening new doors for Dwayne, and we are praying he gets fully supported to put more attention into expanding the ministry in the country. 🌿



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



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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?**

SOURCE OF LIGHT COURSES:

A WAY TO SHOW ACTIVE COMPASSION

By Carlos Aranguren

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd (Matthew 9:36).

The gaze of the Lord Jesus toward the needs of the multitudes was a compassionate gaze. He knew, one by one, each harassed and helpless sheep; He knew their names, their stories, their pain, their misery, their failures, and their needs.

The Lord's concern and compassion for people should move us to do the same as He did. His compassion was not simply an emotion of pity for the condition of people. His compassionate gaze was always active. Those of us who follow Him cannot simply look and lament what we see superficially. The compassion of Christ should move us to action.

We observe at least three actions associated with the Lord's compassion:

- ◆ He had compassion and healed their diseases (Matthew 9:35-36; 14:14).
- ◆ He had compassion and fed them (Mark 8:2).

- ◆ HE HAD COMPASSION AND TAUGHT THEM THE WORD OF GOD (Mark 6:34).

We thank God for the Bible study materials of the Source of Light ministry in Spanish, because they allow us, in a clear way, to reach needy people—broken by their experiences—and to see transformations through the powerful hand of the God who continues to have active compassion for people.

We want to share the ways in which God's power has worked among us in South America and how we have been able, by the grace of the Lord, to show the compassion that once reached us. We will emphasize showing compassion through teaching the Bible, even though, without a doubt in each case, to bring the Word of God, it has also been necessary to show compassion for physical and emotional needs, as Jesus did.

We share the testimony of three people on whom the Lord had compassion and whose lives have been changed forever by the power of His Word through studying the Source of Light courses.



IN BOLIVIA, A MAN WHO RUINED HIS LIFE ENDED UP IN PRISON—AND THERE HE FOUND THE TRUTH.

Tito was a young man who had attended church since childhood with his family and had heard of Christ but had never had a personal encounter with Him. “I knew a little about God, but I did not seek Him. I drifted away and began to do everything I wanted; I thought that giving myself to the world and to carnal desires would allow me to enjoy life.” Tito believed that, being young, he could take risks regardless of the consequences. After years wasted and becoming increasingly entangled in problems

and illicit activities, God broke him, and he ended up in prison. There, through Pastor Miguel Sánchez, our National Director of Source of Light in Bolivia, and Pastor Ariel Fernández, who leads a prison ministry, one of the Source of Light courses reached Tito.

“When I began studying the Bible with the Source of Light materials, I began to know God, to understand why Jesus had come into the world, to understand the purpose for which He had died on the cross. Now I clearly know, thanks to the courses, that He came for me and for everyone—to save us from condemnation, because the wages of sin is death. But everyone who



*Tito (Left) Receiving a Certificate from Pastor Ariel (Right) Having Finished Studying a SLM Course
— Photo by Miguel Sanchez*

believes in Him does not perish but has eternal life. Now I know this very well. I have accepted Him in my heart, and I want to follow Him.”

Tito could have continued down his destructive path and lost his soul forever, but the Lord's compassion moved the hearts of workers who faithfully approached him and shared with him the Word of salvation. Now Tito has life—true life. He follows the Lord and serves Him from where he remains, in prison.

Ministering in prisons is not an easy task. Only the compassionate gaze of the Lord can move hearts to action—to service that draws near and blesses, to work that requires effort, sometimes sacrifice, but that allows us to personally know men in whose hearts God is working and who urgently need to hear the truth that sets free, the Gospel of salvation in Christ.

IN ARGENTINA, A WOMAN WHO STRUGGLED WITH DEEP DEPRESSION, AFTER PASSING THROUGH SEVERAL SECTS, HEARD THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION IN CHRIST—AND HER LIFE CHANGED FOREVER.

Silvina is a woman who endured deep hardships since childhood. She did not know God nor His love. All the pain she carried represented a heavy burden that led her to live without hope and without strength to go on.

She had tried to fill her heart and believed that by getting married

she would experience true love, her life would change, and her suffering would end. After her divorce, depression became stronger and deeper. Loneliness hurt her, and her soul found no peace.

One day, in the midst of a deep depressive episode, she tried to plead with the God she did not know, asking Him to help her. She begged with all her heart: “If You exist, if my life has value to You, hear me and show me the path I should take.”

The next day, she had to accompany her mother to the town hospital. Before entering, she encountered two women handing out pamphlets promoting the teachings of one of the most common sects in South America and the world. She received one of the pamphlets and noticed that it spoke about God, so she decided to go to one of their meetings. Even though she was receiving false information about God, she felt that He had heard her and that He was interested in her life. “I quickly realized that what they taught in that place was not what I was seeking, but my desire to find God grew stronger.”

A few days later, she found an advertisement for another sect in town. “I was seeking God and decided to visit one of their meetings.” After hearing a shallow message and realizing they emphasized people giving them money, Silvina left the meeting and drove to another place that her manicurist had recommended, a church that preaches the Gospel



THE PRINTED WORD... STILL CHANGING LIVES, CONSIDER BECOMING A PAPER PARTNER!



Weighing an average of **1,500** pounds, an **\$1,200** pallet of paper yields **36,000** to **40,000** Bible lessons. A **\$75** box of digital quality paper can produce about **1,250** Bible lessons. Source of Light material is used in Christian and secular schools, church planting, Bible studies, and even prisons around the world. Translations include languages such as French, Spanish, Tagalog, Hindi, and Japanese among several others available in Madison and abroad.

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

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

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Silvina (Right) Studying “A Country Called Heaven” with Constanza (Left) — Photo by Carlos Aranguren

of salvation in Christ. It was nearly noon on a Sunday, and the service was ending. It took effort to find parking, but she wanted to go in and listen. At the end of the service, a woman from the church approached her and spoke to her about Jesus Christ, the Savior. Silvina understood the message of the Good News, and that day, the God she had pleaded with responded—there was nothing more to seek. The answer to all her questions was the Lord Jesus Christ, the true Son of God, the Savior sent.

It was incredible to see the way Silvina desired to grow in her new life. She wanted to read the Bible, study it, know her Savior better; she wanted to serve Him, love Him, live for Him. How could the church help her grow and be nourished as a new believer? Thank God, the church she attended uses the

discipleship materials of Source of Light, and Constanza, the wife of the National Director in Argentina, began discipling Silvina, first with the booklet *Light from the Gospel of John* and then with the course *A Country Called Heaven*.

Silvina wrote as testimony after completing *Light from the Gospel of John*: “I was trapped in sadness and depression; I asked the Lord for help so He would show me the way, because I resisted covering my spiritual pain with more psychiatric medication. The day after I cried out to God, signs came into my life that led me to La Paz Church and to begin this path of surrender and service to our Lord.”

In the midst of darkness and pain, this woman saw the light and is now growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through the Source of Light courses.



Luis After Finishing Study of "New Life in Christ 3" — Photo by Camilo Sierra

IN COLOMBIA, A MAN IN A WHEELCHAIR, AT 58 YEARS OLD, BEGAN TO WALK WITH JESUS (SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY).

Working with people struggling with drug addiction, alcohol, or any other type of dependence is truly challenging. But we believe in the power of the Gospel—the power of Jesus Christ to forgive and restore.

We have experienced it in our own lives, when His love reached us, transformed us, and gave us the hope of eternal life.

It is this love of God that now compels us to share the Word, especially in state rehabilitation centers. One of them is located an hour and a half from our city, Bogotá, Colombia, and is called Centro Las Gaviotas.

There we met Luis. Three years ago, he began attending the voluntary Bible study offered to residents. In a wheelchair due to an accident, he would come behind the group and listen—just listen.

Luis had a difficult life: he had become a thief, fallen into alcohol, and was known for being extremely aggressive and violent. He lost his family and ended up on the streets. He later went through several rehabilitation centers until he arrived there.

Many times, he was encouraged to study the Bible using the Source of Light courses, as the others did, but he refused. We realized he had comprehension and thought-organization difficulties. But the miracle began when, a year and a half ago, he agreed to study. Then we began to see progress. Soon he had clearly understood the plan of salvation, through the illumination of the Holy Spirit and God's Word.

At the same time, the center's medical team began rehabilitation treatment so he could stand, even though they knew he would not be able to walk. Luis, with a better attitude, filled with faith and trust in Jesus, began to take small steps—at the same time he took his first steps in the Christian life. Now he can walk on his own, with the help of a walker.

Six months ago, a baptism course began for new believers to take this important step, and Luis was one of four who completed it and showed understanding of its meaning.

Thus, on November 10, 2025, Luis and three other new believers were baptized. It was a day of victory, great joy, and a powerful testimony to all the residents and staff.

Entrusted by the Lord to continue preaching His Gospel and believing in the power of His Word and the Holy Spirit, we have persevered for 20 years in rehabilitation centers, knowing that against all odds, the Lord has allowed us to see these powerful testimonies for His glory.

—

How does Jesus see people today? How does He see the prisoner, the drunkard, the addict, the depressed, and the sick? His compassion has not changed! Here in South America, we are witnesses of this and will continue to do so, by the grace of the Lord. There are still many lost and wandering sheep for whom the Good Shepherd continues to have compassion—reaching and transforming them. Do not stop praying that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly among us and that we may see more open doors to reach many with the message of the Gospel through the Source of Light courses, with active compassion. 🌿



Carlos Aranguren serves as the Regional Director of South America and the National Director of SLM Argentina. He also works in his local church as a part of the pastoral team.





The SLM Global Outreach Department serves our Source of Light missionaries around the world providing administration, administrative support, counseling, and training. We are seeking experienced missionaries who have served on the field previously who have strong administrative skills in organization, leadership, teaching and training.

WE NEED:

Administrative Assistants who are strong in office administration

Regional Directors with cross-cultural experience to administrate and shepherd national missionaries

Regional PR Representatives to share the SLM vision and needs in each region around the US

Teachers and Trainers who can both teach and organize teachers to deepen the level of education and training for our missionaries and their partners

CONTACT SLM@SLMIN.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION



NOT EASY, BUT WORTH IT

— By Kimberly Thigpen

When Guillermo Salazar's face appears on Zoom for the weekly Source of Light prayer meeting, the smile that rounds his white-bearded cheeks is joyful and easy.

However, there was a season, a long one, when his smile did not appear. His face was lined with burden; his prayer request often the same: pray for him and his wife, Vicky, as they cared for her mother, as age and disease wracked her body and then her mind.

Caretaking is a difficult and often draining ministry. Added to it were their own battles with aging and health problems.

The need for a replacement as National Director of Chile was clear, but no one could be found willing to serve on the proviso of raising their own support rather than being paid. The prayer requests and prayers continued, and the Salazars endured and remained faithful.

That faithfulness has spanned over 46 years.

Guillermo met Vicky in 1975 at Baptist Theological Seminary in Santiago, Chile. One year later, they married.

Guillermo's connection with Source of Light began at age 17. The only course he knew about was *A Country Called Heaven*, but he "liked the way the Gospel was presented" so much, he wrote friends and family to share it.

Two years after their marriage, Guillermo and Vicky met American missionaries Earl and Adele Newell, and began helping them review and send correspondence lessons.

Guillermo was chaplain of a prison from 1977-2010. During that time, he got an idea for an outreach and told it to a journalist he knew with the national newspaper. Guillermo "made known the ministry of Fuente de Luz (Source of Light) and a modern system of delivering the Christian message by



Guillermo and Vicky's Wedding, 1976
— Photo by Guillermo Salazar





Guillermo Speaking on the Radio — Photo by Ron Barnes

telephone. The journalist grasped the message and purpose and published the following in the pages of the journal: THE MISSIONARY TELEPHONE, with a photograph, announcing that one could call and receive a free Bible study. People listened to a recording with an evangelistic message and left their name with a voice message, which was modern for the time.

“Hundreds of people called, but the missionaries did not understand the language well.” The missionaries asked Guillermo and Vicky if they would help them translate what people had said and their addresses. They began grading and mailing lessons. “Shortly after, we were appointed as managers and then as National Director of Fuente de Luz in Chile. It was a blessing, and we have remained in charge ever since.”

A short paragraph covering decades always simplifies what is often a journey roughly strewn with roadblocks, detours, and trials. “We have traveled to the USA more than five times,” Guillermo says, to do “what is

called ‘deputation’ there. It was difficult the first few years. The first months we received personal financial support of 120 dollars per month and 100 for the office.”

Back in Chile, the Salazars were busy in the work. “It was not easy the first years, being in leadership from our youth and being the only evangelical Baptist chaplain in the country.

Vicky sang on the radio, and we did activities in camps. Little by little, we moved forward.”

The ministry was shared through the newspaper, radio, and even television. “Those were beautiful times and of great evangelistic and missionary boom in the country,” though difficult financially. “Some paid some for the lessons ... others gave only an offering, but those who could pay the full cost were mainly the American missionaries.”

There were life frustrations and trials as well, including three major earthquakes “that affected the entire country. Then there were heavy rains, and they affected the house that always served as an office, and hundreds of lessons got wet and had to be destroyed.”



Preaching in the New Church Plant Garage — Photo by Ron Barnes



*Serving the Lord in Good Times and Bad for Nearly 50 years
—Photo by Guillermo Salazar*

Over the years, they've seen interest wane and requests for lessons falter, as churches did not want to send in the required reports, or wanted discipleship via the internet.

"Despite the difficulties, by God's grace, we have seen fruit," Guillermo says. "Children and adults received literature, were instructed by the Word, and baptized. Prisoners who, after being released, persevered and prepared to be guides, pastors, or missionaries."

One example is "Brother Pedro, who belonged to the crime syndicate and today is a missionary in a country in Europe. More than 30 years have passed since he met Christ, and since that date he has never strayed from the Word of the Lord. Pedro married a Brazilian woman, and they now have two children, both of whom are missionaries. We support him in prayer and offerings."

In answer to prayer, God has sent another couple to head the ministry in Chile, allowing Guillermo and Vicky to finally be able to step down.

After "retirement," Guillermo wants to continue working with the new church plant that currently has only 10 members. He wants to see it grow.

"I haven't really thought about resting," he admits, "but I would surely be inclined to travel and take a cruise with my wife sometime, perhaps when we celebrate 50 years of marriage (July 1, 2026). In any case, my wife, Vicky, has been telling me that 'we must slow down' that we have so much activity at 74 years of age. This has worsened after her stroke." She would like them to settle down to only pastoring and

helping a church. Does that count as retirement?

The new church plant is in a tourist area. They currently meet in an adapted garage that they do not have to rent. There is no bathroom, but the house owner lets them use the home bathroom during their meetings. They are hoping for a donated piece of land by a widow to come through, if her children will sign the papers.

The couple who once served with 120 dollars per month has now long supported former students who became ministers of the Gospel both within Chile and in foreign missions.

"I would like to say with clear conscience and freedom what the apostle Paul said: *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith* (2 Timothy 4:7). In addition, I hope to sleep in peace and know that there were footprints that were left for those who come." 🌸



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



MELODY ANN ZINK

(SEPTEMBER 7, 2025)



Melody Ann Zink was born on December 26, 1950, in Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, and entered the presence of her Lord and Savior on September 7, 2025, in Madison, Georgia, at the age of 74.

Melody loved life, and she lived it fully in service to her Savior, Jesus Christ, and to others. She began her career as a Licensed Practical Nurse in Hanover, Pennsylvania, where she cared for others with compassion for six years. She then devoted herself to full-time ministry—first at a camp and church-planting ministry in New York for five years. From there, she served with Bible Impact Ministries in Kansas and Missouri for 20 years, investing in youth through Bible memory and camping programs. For the past 14 years, she joyfully served with Source of Light International here at Headquarters, thrilled to have a part in spreading the Gospel around the world.

Melody was dearly loved by many. Her big hugs, quick wit, and playful sense of humor made her a delight to be around.

She especially loved children and had a way of making each one feel welcomed and treasured. She never met a stranger—remembering names, giving time and attention, and making everyone feel valued.

She enjoyed adventures, evenings of laughter over dinner and board games, and simple pleasures like sacred music, reading, needlework, and of course, another round of her favorite games. Yet above all, she cherished her coworkers, her church family, and the friendships that made life rich and meaningful.

Melody's joy, faith, and love will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Today, we give thanks for the life of our precious Melody—whose laughter, love, and faith will live on in our hearts till we see her again. 🌿



GREGORY JOHN MILLER

(AUGUST 1, 2025)

Dr. Gregory John Miller of Louisville, KY entered the presence of his Lord on August 1, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was age 83, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Reading, PA in 1942, Greg was the beloved son of John and Amy Miller. In his youth, Greg was impacted by hearing about Jesus' sacrifice for our sins and the redemption we have through Him, so he gave his life to Christ. From that moment, he lived his life for the glory of God.

Gregory and his wife, Christine, celebrated their 61st anniversary, having been blessed by the Lord with four children. Together they served the Lord in mission outreach in the Amazon and Mato Grosso regions of Brazil for 30 years.

Greg previously worked for 13 years as an art instructor in Berks County, PA. In over 48 years as an ordained minister, he taught and preached in the US and traveled worldwide, promoting global missions. Since 1977, Greg and his wife have served with Crossworld, working in church plants and with theological

education. During the last 18 years, they served in Madison as the Field Director until they retired, then established an Associate Discipleship School with Bible correspondence courses by Source of Light. This provided Bible studies to 250 incarcerated men and women monthly, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to reaching others with the message of hope found only in the Gospel.

Gregory was a gifted artist known for his paintings, sketches, and sculptures—his creativity a defining characteristic reflecting his imaginative spirit. Known for his cheerful humor, Greg readily lightened the moment with a fitting story. Perhaps his greatest gift in life was helping people achieve their roles within the Body of Christ. No matter who they were, Greg saw great potential in each person he met. Greg's kindness, integrity, and unwavering faith is his legacy to all who had the privilege of knowing him. He walked with Jesus, his friend and Savior. 🌿



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
slmin.org/donate

PRAYER

◆ Source of Light Kenya requests prayer that the churches in Kenya will embrace discipleship and make it a part of their budgets. They share that many Christians in Kenya have no depth in the Word of God making them easy targets for cults and the occult.

◆ Source of Light Ghana shares that their rate of growth is outpacing their income. This has created a huge deficit. They request prayer that God will bring more prayer partners and financial donors their way to enable them to sustain their growth.

◆ One of our India Branches requests prayers for the safety of their workers amidst severe persecution in their state.

◆ Our Branch in Peru requests prayer for 17 girls at an orphanage in Huancaayo, Junín, who are being disciplined with the Source of Light courses.

◆ Source of Light Brazil's Director, Samuel Milanez, asks that we pray for his church, the Redenção congregation, his television broadcast, the children's ministry at Esperança School, and their Associate Discipleship Schools.

◆ Please pray that God will provide more willing and faithful volunteers to grade lessons and assist with the distribution of lessons in Guyana.

◆ Please pray for the recovery efforts in Western Jamaica following Hurricane Melissa.

◆ Our Branch in Togo asks us to pray as they plan to plant a church in the difficult village of Agome. They also need funding for their radio broadcast (\$300 a month). Please pray that God will provide partners to assist them in this very fruitful ministry.

◆ Source of Light Uganda asks us to pray that God will increase their Discipleship Training Branch's monthly donations by

\$416 a month. Part of this increase will pay someone to operate the printer. This will free up time for James who is currently managing the printing himself.

◆ Brian Thompson, Director of the Madison Discipleship School, expresses their need for additional qualified help. They need a Spanish Coordinator and a Prison Coordinator.

◆ Jim Tilson, Director of Source of Light's Braille Department, shares that the Braille embossers are beginning to show their high usage over many years. Please pray that God will provide the resources to replace worn equipment. Also, please continue to pray that God will send someone for Jim to train to lead the Braille Department when he retires.

◆ Please pray that God will provide the \$177,570 that is needed for literature in our Source of Light Branches in 2026.

◆ Portugal is praying that God will provide \$11,600 that is needed for a reliable vehicle to deliver materials and serve their Associate Discipleship Schools throughout Portugal.

◆ Source of Light Headquarters is praying for additional staff at Headquarters. We have several candidates who are making preparations to come. One couple will need to raise their support. Please pray that God will provide the partners they will need in the years to come. Pray also that God will touch the hearts of more people to come and fill other needed positions.

◆ Please pray for our Branches who need prayer and financial support. They have effective ministries but are operating with very little resources. Please pray that God will provide for these Branches and bring encouraging partners to support them. 🌸



PRAISE

◆ Source of Light Bolivia's Director, Miguel Sanchez, reports that in 2025 the Lord gave him opportunities to make several mission trips to share the Source of Light materials. He traveled to Santa Cruz, visiting small rural villages, and reported that it was a joy to see how the believers rejoiced as they learned more about God through the lessons. He shares that among the Guaraní people, there are now 14 villages using the material with about 230 students.

◆ The New Mexico Source of Light Branch is rejoicing that God has sent Mark and Gail Beach to their ministry. Mark and Gail became the new ministry leaders for the Branch in January of 2026, replacing Darryl and Joan Evans who recently retired. This is a big answer to prayer!

◆ Our Source of Light Branch in Argentina is thankful for the arrival of a small lesson shipment and for counsel received on how to avoid problems in the future and receive shipments most economically.

◆ Source of Light's apprenticeship program at Headquarters has seen renewed interest. A new catalog has been printed, and the program is being promoted for a class in August of 2026.

◆ Source of Light's Braille Department has finished the translation of the *NTS-Galatians* course. They are now working on the course, *Know and Grow*.

◆ Faustino and Virgie Espinas, missionaries with Source of Light in the Philippines, share that every time they open God's Word with a student, they are reminded of His unchanging faithfulness. In the 2026 school year, many of their students accepted Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. They report that some of these students have shown changes in their lives through attending

church services and activities. The Espinases are also thankful that their health has been restored after months of illness.

◆ The Source of Light Philippines Branch is praising the Lord for the successful development of their two-year Bible institute curriculum that is built from the adult lessons of Source of Light.

◆ Tina Hidalgo, a missionary with Source of Light Philippines, praises the Lord for His protection during a trip to critical areas. She reports that it was a joy to see God's work in that area and to encourage fellow laborers in the faith.

◆ Abelardo and Connie Panga, who serve with Source of Light in the Philippines, praise the Lord for the strength He gives. They share, "the ministry continues with joy in our hearts as we fulfill the Great Commission, hand in hand with the Source of Light materials. From nursery to adults, our Sunday school is thriving because of these lessons."

◆ Source of Light Portugal rejoices that even though the timeframe for planting Baptist Bible Church in Cartaxo was set for 10 years, God has graciously allowed them to achieve the goal in seven years. A Sunday school ministry in Cartaxo has also been started using the Source of Light materials for curriculum.

◆ Source of Light Spain praises the Lord that a church in Castellbisbal city has requested Source of Light materials.

◆ The India North Zone Branch of Source of Light praises the Lord for a new church plant in Kathmandu, Nepal. 🌿

IN MEMORIAL

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Marvin and Betty Ingalsbe by
Mrs. Frances Busenitz

Dottie Stiles by
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Pastor Butch and Cindy Lee by
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Mr. and Mrs. David Parris

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Mr. and Mrs. Edward Raettitg
Mr. and Mrs. John Cranmer
Mrs. Mary Eaton



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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