



the REAPER

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A background image of a dense cityscape, likely Seoul, South Korea, viewed from a hillside. The foreground is a dark, forested hillside. The city features numerous high-rise buildings and a mix of urban development. The sky is hazy, suggesting a misty or overcast day.

***ENLARGE
OUR VISION!***

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

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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For the latest version of **the Reaper**
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ENLARGE OUR VISION

By Ron Barnes
A letter from the Editor

Ephesians 3:20-21

Several years ago, I went to one of our Branches in Africa to lay the groundwork for a college missions trip, well ahead of the trip, to get “the lay of the land.” I arrived early on a Sunday morning, slept a few hours, then headed for the Sudanese border where we would be sending a team in to do ministry in a refugee camp.

I can survive off little sleep anyways, but the adrenaline from the parade that awaited me as I entered the camp to preach woke me all the way up. They were singing and marching and ushered me into their “stadium” where nearly 8,000 people waited eagerly for the service. I was told there were eight different languages that would be spoken, and so I would need to be patient with my eight translators.

We were barely into the introductions when I noticed a commotion to the left of the stage and saw police officers emerge. My translator, who was the director for our Branch, leaned in and said we needed to go

with them. What happened next was carried out in a language I couldn’t understand, and so I just sat speaking to the Sudanese pastors who accompanied me, not engaging in what was happening.

But as time dragged on, the church members came to the fence near where I was sitting, which I later learned was the UN compound. They were becoming increasingly agitated, asking for the police to let me finish the preaching. I approached the man who seemed to be in charge and assured him that I would be happy to come back to work out whatever the problem was if he would first let me help calm down these agitated church people. With the shouts increasing, he clearly reluctantly allowed us to go back and preach.

After a short time back at the stadium, the police workers corralled us back into the taxi van we came in, this time with armed guards in the van and an additional armed escort vehicle. Thirty minutes later, we found ourselves at yet another police station where angry arguing



Entering the Camp Before the Arrest
— Photo by Haile Teferra

ensued between the first policeman and the one who seemed to be in charge where we just arrived.

In the midst of this, hunger pangs reminded me I hadn’t eaten since the day before. I spotted a store just outside the gate of the police station. No one had really paid any attention to me up to this point, so I felt I wasn’t needed in the discussions and headed out of the gate to the store. I was startled by the yelling and screaming that ensued and turned around, curious about the commotion. But as I turned around, I had machine guns pointing at my head and quickly realized I was the commotion!

My director ran out of the police building with the other police

officials. He tried to de-escalate the situation and informed me that I wasn’t free to leave, that he and I both, in fact, were under arrest. I asked him when he was going to let me in on that piece of information, and he said he was kind of hoping he wouldn’t have to tell me.

Apparently, the charge for me was being in the country based on incorrect information stamped in my passport due to arriving late, and the immigration officer not fixing the date stamp. My colleague told me he tried to explain the error, and that my arrival and departure ticket would make this clear. What was already clear was that this was an attempt by the police chief of the camp, a Muslim, to harass the Christians in the camp and prevent future Christians from attempting to visit. In the meantime, I wouldn’t be released until the next day when a judge would be able to hear the case.

Another police chief eventually arrived—they had called him in on his day off—and apologized for the situation but explained his hands were tied. Once I was placed under arrest, another police department couldn’t undo my arrest, only a judge. He then put into place a concession for me to be held in my hotel room under armed guard; he said it would be too dangerous for me in the jail there.

The next morning, we returned to the jail, where we sat until the judge returned from the refugee



The Christian Police Chief — Photo by Haile Teferra

camp, where he sought information on the case. Upon his return, we were immediately brought into his “courtroom,” where he announced not only was there nothing on which to arrest me, but he also informed us that the corrupt officer was relieved of his job and proceeded to apologize profusely. He then allowed us to explain why we were there to begin with and then shared that he himself was a believer, and was eager to see Source of Light minister in that region and particularly to the refugees in the camp. He said he wanted to take one more step past apologies and try to help ensure this type of thing would not happen again.

He asked when we would return to the capital and arranged a meeting with his friend and former

classmate, who currently oversaw all the immigration offices, including each of the refugee camps.

We did not know what to expect from this meeting. First, the politician’s adult son sat in the meeting so he could show me that my name was on a certificate from a Source of Light course he had completed. Then the politician, also a Christian, offered to us a document that read in English and the local language, “Source of Light International and any of its designees shall be given unfettered access to all ‘National’ refugee camps for the purpose of evangelism and discipleship.”

We were absolutely blown away at this gesture but had no idea the weight it held until a few months later when we attempted to enter the camp with a college team. We watched other NGOs being turned away because of election fraud



University Students Helping Rebuild the Church — Photo by Ron Barnes



Sudanese Bible Study — Photo by Ron Barnes

committed by visitors to the camp. When our turn at the gate came up, we presented our documentation. They compared it to their documentation which read something to the effect that the only allowable visitors to the camp until further notice would be the United Nations, the World Food Program, and Source of Light Ministries International.

When I travel around the globe to the various places God has us serving, by then I’ve done all the preparations, all the planning, all the details that I can imagine I need to arrange, but I’m constantly amazed by the things God sets in place ahead of time for our arrival. I know, I shouldn’t ever be surprised, because God is able to do *exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think*, but I always am.

God paves the way for our ministries and missionaries and is always doing far more than we could have imagined. God has given each of our missionaries amazing opportunities, and this Reaper is dedicated to those amazing ways God is working around the SLM globe, how He continues to expand what we think is possible because of His work ahead of us. We constantly are seeking how to enlarge our vision to match His. We hope this *Reaper* will inspire and encourage you to do the same. 🌿



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

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AFRICA'S GATEWAY AND PRIDE

By Ron Barnes

Two of Africa's largest countries for Source of Light are likewise prominent within Africa itself. God is doing some remarkable things in Africa, and every trip we make reaffirms this.

After an "All Africa Regional SLM Conference," our director for Kenya was deeply moved by what God was doing throughout the continent. As is customary at these conferences, I was meeting individually with each of our directors, and Timothy said, "Ron, I'm not sure we are doing enough." Having just reviewed his annual statistical report, I reassured him that with 60,000 students enrolled in 500 high schools and middle schools around the country, and with nearly 10,000 students making decisions for Christ, he was certainly doing a "lot" by most ministry standards.

He mentioned the churches being started in different countries, the orphanages, and the television and radio ministries, as well as dozens of other things fellow national directors were involved in. He questioned whether he was doing enough. I reminded him that in each country, God has blessed those teams with gifts and open doors that they are responsible to be faithful with, and that they are not in competition with each other, only called to be faithful with what God has given them to do. Then I reminded him

of the impact they have had for almost 30 years.

I reminded him of my trip to the airport in Kenya, where my last clean shirt was one with an SLM logo on it (I usually don't travel with them on to avoid raising issues for entry and departure). At the first checkpoint—the first scan of my bags and of myself with the metal detector—the man who wanded me pointed to the logo and said, "Source of Light, are you with Source of Light? Do you still do the lessons?"

I replied, "Yes, and I'm the president."

He then interrupted the work of each of his coworkers and introduced me. He said, "Do you remember the Bible lessons we used to do in school? This man is the president of Source of Light."

One of the workers replied, "I got saved using those courses," then another and another, until nearly all the security workers agreed they had almost all become Christians and were disciplined by the ministry of Source of Light in Kenya.

But all of this wasn't enough for Timothy. Since then, they have become involved in slum church planting, started a Bible institute, and launched an outreach to law enforcement and

truckers. Yes, Kenya is Africa's "Pride," but within the SLM family, they are our pride and joy! God has richly blessed the ministry of Kenya, and we are inspired by their passion to see their vision continually expanded.

Only a few countries west of Kenya, another equally expansive ministry, considered the "Gateway to Africa," is Ghana. Ghana had been the recipient of many early missionaries long ago, and there is now a façade of Christianity, with Ghanaians professing to be Christ-followers but with little to no evidence of their faith apart from the Bible verses and Christian phrases on signs, buildings, and their cars.

This is what motivates our director, Daniel Sappor, to carry on despite so many odds against him, including his own physical vision. Despite diabetes, years of bad water, and pollution affecting his eyesight, he continues

to battle sickness, age, and hardship to see the vision of Ghana becoming once again a disciple-making country.

He has started two Christian schools, set up Associate Discipleship Schools in hundreds of government schools, created a mission job-training apprenticeship program, and become an influential leader among pastors and Christian leaders. And yet he too asks, "Is it enough?"

On one of my trips there, I met one person, Jane, who answered that question with, "It was more than enough for me." She told me the story of when war broke out in Ghana and the adults fled the country to avoid the danger but left their school-age children at the many boarding schools in the capital, which was commonplace at that time in Ghana. There were literally thousands of middle school and high school students left to fend



Daniel Speaking in One of the Schools — Photo by Ron Barnes



Jane Teaching Children —Photo by Ron Barnes

for themselves with no parents and no teachers. The only people who stayed were the missionaries.

With no supervision, the kids got into mischief, and the missionaries, with no school textbooks, reverted to the only teaching material they had at their disposal: the Source of Light lessons!

Jane said it was through those classes that she learned to read English and first heard the Gospel. She was so thankful that those missionaries stayed and shared the Gospel. She recalled fondly those missionaries and the demonstration of the love of Christ through them. It was through this that she became a Christ-follower. She continued to follow Christ and to volunteer with SLM Ghana, all while earning a PhD in biology. Eventually,

she wrote the biology textbook that public schools in Ghana use—from a Christian perspective.

Regardless of her accolades and influence, I first met her on the SLM compound reading a lesson to slum schoolchildren who were on a break. The love of Christ she received from those early missionaries she now passes on, using the same materials she learned from.

Despite declining health and declining support, Daniel continues to seek creative ways to serve, at times at great sacrifice using his own personal finances. In the past, his big vision was easily caught by others willing to partner with him financially through his travels to the U.S. But he, like almost all our other missionaries in this season, has found himself unable to get approved for a visa to the U.S, caught up in the immigration crackdown that is typical when people abuse the system.

Pray for Daniel, and Timothy as well, that God would provide for each of their fields the means to do “exceedingly and abundantly more” than they could even imagine—even for these leaders with tremendous vision! 🌿



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NEW KIDS COURSES



Statistics are overwhelmingly consistent that the window to reach the lost is when they are children. If the largest and most receptive people group is actually an age rather than a cultural demographic, we need to prioritize evangelizing and discipling kids all around the world.

That is why we are thrilled to now offer new discipleship courses for kids in four age groups:

3-5

6-8

9-12

13-18

Great things about these new lessons:

- Illustrations that are both engaging and culturally appropriate for global use
- Biblical content that grows along with the student
- New booklet form so students receive four lessons at once, which will help with mailing issues and prevent delays
- Much Scripture within the lessons for the many students overseas who have no Bible nor access to one
- Removable activities and test sections, with the same online for download, so groups can reuse the booklets and simply print new activities/tests, creating significant cost savings
- A small evangelistic booklet for all ages that can be given out first in outreaches



**Let's do our part to bring children to Jesus
for of such is the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 19:14).**



— Photo by Gilberto Vanegas

ABOVE AND BEYOND

By Kimberly Thigpen

God's call to duty came over 2,000 years ago. Of the millions to answer that call, a select few have gone above and beyond.

Some of those heroes we claim as partners and friends. Gilberto Vanegas and his family are expanding God's kingdom in Colombia. Soldiers of Christ fight spiritual battles, and the work in Colombia is fighting against Satan's tactics of drug use, abandonment, abuse, and boredom.

Boredom may seem a small weapon?, but its use with kids who carry the ever-present temptation of screens in their pockets is powerful indeed. SLM Colombia is fighting it with soccer balls (footballs, of course, to them). The team passes out flyers in neighborhoods, and the kids who come get to play with helpful coaches and then hear the Word of God while enjoying a snack.

The local church in Colombia is very supportive of the work of the Vanegas team, volunteering with physical help or financial support for ministries such as the rehabilitation center for people who are homeless or addicted to drugs. Gilberto says, "We had the privilege of baptizing four new believers. It was wonderful to hear their powerful testimonies about how they had hit rock bottom living on the streets and how they came to know Jesus through studying the Source of Light courses. One of them is a man who has already completed nine courses and has been studying for about three years. His transformation has been amazing. He must use a wheelchair and undergo weekly dialysis, but his joy in the Lord is powerful."

Another event worth celebrating was the closing ceremony of Explorers 1 for 80 girls age 11-17 who are under state legal protection

"due to mistreatment, abuse, and abandonment." Several of them," says Gilberto, "expressed their desire to give their lives to Christ. We saw many of them very motivated to study the Word. One girl in particular moved us when she said that she had found her true father in God, because she did not know her father and felt very sad, but now she was happy to draw closer to her Heavenly Father."

The Colombia Branch has a prison ministry but struggles with issues getting lessons into inmates. They continue to work while asking prayer for more workers within and without the prison, and favor with the authorities so mail can get through.



Drawing Closer to Her Heavenly Father
— Photo by Gilberto Vanegas

They recently were able to promote SLM courses at a conference of 500 people, ever working to grow their outreach.

And the kingdom expands. God has raised up a Colombian missionary couple to go to the Guasimal region, a location a volunteer had only been able to visit every two or three months. Now, the team will be able to send lessons directly to this missionary couple, who can use them in continued ministry on location.

Jorge is a wonderful example of the spiritual battles that are won. Gilberto shares, "When we began counseling a year ago, he attempted suicide. His third marriage had broken down, and his business was bankrupt. With little enthusiasm, we began to study the Word. His broken emotions prevented him from understanding and concentrating, but he listened and prayed. Little by little, the Holy Spirit worked through the Word within him, and he finally surrendered to Christ and gave his life to Him. This week in our counseling and discipleship session, he clearly explained the Word and rejoiced in his salvation and communion with God. Today he worships with his young daughter, his ex-wife (waiting for the miracle of restoration), his older son and his family, and is sharing the Gospel with others. The miracle in his life is amazing! Hallelujah."

A two-hour flight up and to the left of Colombia is Costa Rica,

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?

where Regional Director Miguel Diaz serves with his wife and one-year-old son. In the years since the Diaz's joined Source of Light, their ministry expanded within Costa Rica and outward to a resistant Communist island, and then to the island of Panama.

The connection with Panama began with a man who moved there from Costa Rica and, according to Miguel, "began taking some courses to share with his church. At that time, he traveled approximately three times a year, bringing the lessons and then sending us the completed assignments so we could review them."

Miguel shares that as time went on, the ministry grew to more churches. "During that period, my wife and I traveled by bus from Costa Rica, with trips lasting 14-17 hours. We brought new lessons, certificates, and the necessary materials to continue the work."

However, "as more churches became interested and God continued opening doors, we realized that we could not cover everything He was allowing to happen." God made it clear a Discipleship Training Branch needed to be established in Panama. "Although our resources were limited to support someone full-time, we trusted that God's resources are not. On one of our trips, we interviewed a friend who was part of one of the churches in



Young Disciples in Panama — Photo by Miguel Diaz

Panama. She was a volunteer in the ministry and a graduate of the Baptist Seminary where we serve as professors. Although she was not in full-time ministry, she had a deep love for serving God. We returned to Costa Rica, developed a plan, and presented it to different churches with the goal of supporting a full-time director in Panama.

"God opened the doors, and at present, there is a full-time director in Panama and eight churches functioning as Associate Discipleship Schools.

"One of the most significant developments has been in Kuna Yala," the indigenous group the Director is from, "where a school opened its doors to teach the courses to children as part of their curriculum. This has been especially impactful, as many of these children had never heard about Jesus or known Who God is, due to their cultural context.

"Among the many experiences we have had, some have also made us smile. On one occasion, we visited



"Many of These Children Had Never Heard About Jesus or Known Who God Is."—Photo by Miguel Diaz

Kuna Yala to see the ministry taking place there. After getting off the boat that took us to the island, we asked where the bathroom was, and we were told, 'Everything you see around you is the bathroom.'

It was a funny and memorable moment, but it also helped us better understand the context in which the ministry operates."

God's heroes would likely say their work isn't praiseworthy. They are doing their "reasonable service" for the King Who deserves all allegiance and effort (Romans 12:1).

But we know that rewards are waiting from the God Who keeps track, Who sees the discouragements and difficulties and honors those who continue on in His name.

To those who go above and beyond the call of duty, getting their strength from the God Who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, what a "Well done" awaits! 🌿



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

How can you help?

Literature needs for the Colombia DTB for this year total \$4,586.
That number represents a lot of lessons!

Support needs for the Director in Panama total \$800 per month
for support and ministry travel.

To invest in either ministry, donate through slmin.org or contact bthigpen@slmin.org.

Certainly, as always, your greatest help would be through sincere, regular prayer.

BIG THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

By Ron Barnes



Samuel and His Adopted Mother
—Photo by Ron Barnes

SLM Brazil recently held a conference for pastors. Speakers included our director for Brazil, our regional director for South America, and myself. At the conclusion of the conference, Samuel, our director for Brazil, invited an older woman to the front, clearly to honor her in some way. She stood beside him, noticeably shorter, though he's just an average height. He spent a good deal of time talking about her, but since it was in Portuguese, I didn't follow the rest.

After the meeting, as people made their way to where the meal had been prepared, I asked Samuel who she

was. He told me first of all, she was the one who volunteered her time to prepare the food for the sessions. But more importantly, she was like a second mother to him and to many of the young people in the church over the years. He went on to tell me she also runs a Source of Light Associate Discipleship School out of that church, despite the fact she can't even read herself!

I no longer had time to ponder how that could even work when she made a beeline to me to give me a hug. Excitedly, she told me how she loves serving the Lord with Source of Light. She was effervescent and bubbly; it was easy to see why young people were attracted to her. She told me she told the Lord many years before that if God would bring her husband to Christ, she would serve Him with all her heart, soul, and mind. She wasn't sure God would grant it. After all, what does a poor, illiterate woman have to offer God?

But God gave her the desire of her heart, and she has since given all she had to offer to serve God, including teaching the SLM courses, which she has had to memorize, to children and youth for almost two decades now. The experience was yet another testimony of God using the simple to confound the wise (See 1 Cor. 1:27.), and God is using this tiny woman exceedingly and abundantly more than even she could have imagined. God is so good. 🌿



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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!

Become a Paper Partner today, go to
slmin.org/donate



MOVING THE MOUNTAINS OF MINISTRY

By Bruce Dare

We have mountains of ministry. We have mountains in ministry. Where should we go, what should we do when our hearts feel overwhelmed? *Have faith in God.*

A subtle error has infiltrated many churches, many organizations, and perhaps even our very own hearts. What's wrong? The idea that we ourselves can move the mountains. If only we had enough faith, if only we did the right tricks, mountains would move. But what did Jesus first say about this? "Have faith in God" (Mark 10:22-24).

C.J.B., Director of SLM Haiti, explains his ministry mountain well: "For over a decade, Haiti has been experiencing and enduring a complex situation—politically, socially, economically, and spiritually. The country is dying a slow death, and all state structures are collapsing. There is no president—the previous one was assassinated in July 2021—and no parliament to legislate, to name just a few examples. The capital and several major provincial cities have been abandoned to armed gangs, who terrorize the population, destroy lives, and sow chaos—to the point of forcing the closure of the country's largest airport and its major roadways.

"In the face of this chaos in Haiti, we have found encouragement in this Scripture: *Thus far the Lord has helped us* (1 Samuel 7:12). Amidst it all, we have witnessed how God is at work in the hearts of our students, and how many hearts have been transformed for His glory. Even though our family experienced the terror of the gangs firsthand—during the kidnapping of my wife from our very home—and suffered the trauma resulting from that harrowing ordeal, we were able to rely on God for everything. This enabled us to continue delivering our 'Paroles Par Poste' (Word by Mail) courses to people who are thirsty for God and seeking hope in Him."

Brian Thompson, North America & Caribbean Regional Director (including Haiti), faces obstacles of lesser physical danger, though no less real. Part of his responsibility



A Box of Lesson Requests at the Largest ADS in North America — Photo by Brian Thompson

includes overseeing the Madison Discipleship School (MDS) here at SLM Headquarters. As in many places, this aspect of ministry has faced substantial decline in students and staff, not to mention the plummeting moral climate and religious interest in our culture. What truth helps him persevere? “I remind myself and the staff that the results are not our job; the labor is. We need to be faithful whether we have 5,000 active students or only 1,000. He has called us to the work, not to explain or justify the numbers. The other thing I remember is the verse that says, *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest* (Matthew 9:38). Our job is to pray for the help, and we trust that God will supply it.”

The traditional correspondence element of MDS ministry continues as

it has since the founding of Source of Light. But change in that has only brought a different *kind* of service. “The database program, for instance, is made available for others to use, but it is developed and maintained by our use and enhancement of it. The ability to aid in the discipleship comes from our team at the Home Office finding new ways the program can make us better at the ministry. Also, people can come to Madison and be trained by those who are veterans at discipleship, and they go back equipped to do the work.”

The same change is true in a different way in Haiti. Due to the national instability, “The costs of shipping lessons from our headquarters in Madison have more than doubled, as have the airfares for transporting the lessons to Port-au-Prince. These challenges have created a shortage

of study materials, and we are no longer able to adequately supply our partner schools.

“Despite these obstacles, we have adopted new strategies to enable our associates to continue their ministry. We now utilize applications such as WhatsApp and email to send lessons in PDF format—complete with study questions—allowing students to print the materials themselves, continue their studies, and complete the curriculum with us.

We firmly believe that any reasonable means are permissible if they enable our students to come to know Jesus Christ, our Divine Savior.”

One of the most difficult outcomes has been the necessary departure of some of their “most capable leaders” or even “one of the pillars” of their

ministry who have been forced into a form of exile to other nations as places of refuge, while others remain in Haiti to carry on. Not unlike persecution in the early church, the work of the Word only spreads. The workers are not lost, just reassigned. These Haitian leaders, to be specific, have now shifted to the broader North America region under Brian’s direction: “It has been exciting to see how God is using something we would call ‘bad’ to spread the ministry of these dedicated Associate Discipleship School directors from Haiti. I have been fielding messages and phone calls from them in their new countries as they see the need for discipleship in their new area. I know that God is using these faithful servants to establish ministries in places like other Caribbean islands (Bahamas and St Kitts), Brazil, Panama, Canada, and even in North



Graduates of All French Courses Offered by SLM Haiti — Photo by C.J.B.



IN AMERICA	IN HAITI
100,000+ Lessons Sent	34,787 Lessons Sent
25,000+ Active Students	25,721 Lessons Graded
8,000+ Certificates Issued	3,131 Certificates Issued
104 Age of Oldest Student	500+ Students Enrolled
3 Age of Youngest Student	373 Students Graduated

Carolina and Florida. We will be able to send them materials as we can, but pray for the financial backing of these ministries to continue to provide the resources for them.”

Sometimes mountains of ministry are to be climbed. Other times, they just clarify the horizon for which we have a vision. As the work of MDS adjusts and retools, taking time for training and looking forward to new materials, “We are asking God to give us 2,000-3,000 new students by the end of the year.” The strategy for Haiti is to strengthen and shorten delivery lines. “We pray that God will provide the funds and resources to enable us to reach 500 students in each of the three major territories of Haiti. In this way, La Source de Lumière (Source of Light) in Haiti could exert a far greater influence—from the dissemination of the Word of God to the transmission of Christian

values—fostering effective spiritual transformation to the glory of God.”

Note “to the glory of God” is not just a meaningless end to a spiritually sensitive sentence. The work is His, the Word is His, and so the glory is His. Mountains moving in ministry does not provide another occasion for us to glory in ourselves but to point to the One Who *ultimately removeth the mountains* (Job 9:5). *Have faith in God*. He can move mountains in a way far beyond what you and I could imagine. But it’s okay to ask. And give. And go!

God is still at work! 🌿



Bruce Dare serves as the Director of Publications at Source of Light. He and his family are grateful God opened this place of ministry full-time in 2021.



HELP WANTED

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

WE NEED:

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

Bindery Assistant: Help as needed (at least quarterly) with lesson/booklet cutting, folding, collating

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

Shipping Specialist: General assistance in warehouse; picking/packing items for shipment

All opportunities could be part-time or full-time but would necessitate close proximity to Madison, GA. Contact hr@slmin.org or bdare@slmin.org for more information.

FRUIT IN THE NORTH ZONE

By Ben Doomy

God is doing a great work in the North Zone of India. For security purposes, we will not name the missionaries or locations, but I will tell you of the ministry. Our missionaries in the North Zone are committed to discipleship, the spiritual growth of people, and helping their practical needs. Many people in this region face difficult circumstances, whether it be poverty, abuse, religious difficulty, or educational challenges.

One program they offer is called Train Up the Child (TUTC). This ministry is to help young people grow to have Christian values and morals in an area that is predominantly Hindu, lawless, and dangerous. Here is what our missionary says about TUTC:

“Our vision for TUTC children goes beyond education. We desire that they grow not only academically, but also in their standard of living, character, and overall lifestyle.

“Many of the children come from very challenging backgrounds. Their parents are often uneducated, and families typically live in a single small room where five or six members share the same space for living, cooking, and sleeping.

In many homes, especially due to the father’s struggles with alcohol, children are exposed to frequent conflict, verbal abuse, and instability. Some are even drawn into menial work at a young age.

“Coming from such environments, these children need more than just schooling—they need hope, guidance, and a sense of purpose. At TUTC, we lovingly teach them that God cares deeply for them and has a hopeful and meaningful future for their lives. We also guide and counsel them to make choices that positively impact both their own lives and the society around them.

“We encourage the children to attend church regularly, especially Sunday school, and each year we joyfully organize Vacation Bible School, which has been a time of great learning and spiritual growth. It is especially encouraging to see that two of the older children have been faithfully attending Sunday school and are now expressing their desire to take baptism.

“We are also grateful to share that TUTC has expanded its work to

Nepal. Looking ahead, our vision is to continue reaching more communities and establish similar initiatives in other areas where the need is great.”

Many families in the region are struggling with finances. Education is expensive, and many women find it hard to help support their families. Our missionaries in the North Zone have found a great way to teach women the skill of sewing as a means to bring income home. Here is how they are helping women in need:

“Many of the women who come to us are from underprivileged backgrounds and have had little or no formal education. They face ongoing financial struggles yet carry a strong desire to learn and support their families. Through our tailoring program, they are given the opportunity to develop

practical skills that enable them to sew, earn, and build a more stable livelihood.

“It is truly encouraging to see that several women who completed the training have already begun their own small businesses, bringing dignity and independence into their lives and homes.

“At present, we are running two tailoring classes. Both of our teachers are deeply committed and compassionate, and they naturally share about the love and hope found in Jesus whenever opportunities arise. Many of the women have responded with open hearts, and it has been a joy to see some of them begin attending church regularly.”

For young people, they offer a three-month basic computer training



A Group from Train Up The Child Delhi — Photo by S.S.



A Train Up The Child Group — Photo by S.S.

program. Many of the young people who attend would not otherwise be able to afford such a course because they come from poor backgrounds. But they come eager to learn and build a better future for themselves.

The computer program has become a valuable opportunity for youth to gain essential computer skills, which are increasingly important in today's world for almost every type of job. Beyond technical training, our missionaries use the time to share about God's love and guide the students with values that shape their lives in a positive way. Students

come for computer training, but they learn something much more valuable: the Gospel!

When it comes to evangelism, the North Zone uses the SLM courses along with personal, door-to-door outreach. Each day, they connect with hundreds of people in the community. While only a few initially respond, those who do are given a Bible course, and the SLM team continues to stay in touch with them and build relationships and offer encouragement.

Over time, they are invited to attend

church gatherings or small Bible study groups where they can grow in their understanding and faith. Our missionaries also encourage church members to share their personal testimonies with others. Real-life stories often touch hearts in a powerful way, making this a very impactful form of outreach. It is a huge decision for a person to choose to attend the Christian church since about 80% of people in this region are Hindu, 12% are Muslim, and only 1% are Christian. Some Christians face persecution, so following Christ is not something to take lightly.

Our missionaries have planted 65 churches across the North Zone. In many villages, they conduct regular Bible studies using correspondence courses. Often, these gatherings begin in a simple way – with just one or two families coming together to learn and grow. As interest grows and more people join, these small groups gradually develop into vibrant fellowships. Wherever there is no church, but a group of around 20 people begins to gather consistently, they prayerfully focus on establishing a new church in that area.

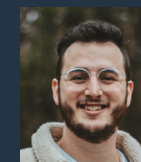
Today, these efforts have led to the growth of both small and large churches, each serving its community in meaningful ways and continuing to reach others with hope and care.

The future vision for the North Zone is to plant at least eight more churches this year to reach areas where there is little or no fellowship. They are hoping to have 5,000 people receive Bible lessons and grow as disciples. It is their desire to start more

TUTC programs, computer training centers, and tailoring classes to help people with their practical and financial needs.

God has been so faithful in using our missionaries that other regions and countries have now started implementing their ministries to the people of their regions. Some of the people they have discipled are now starting churches and replicating what has been done for them to others. This is the model of discipleship! Raise some up so that when they are spiritually grown, they can raise up others.

Please pray for the North Zone. Pray that God would continue to use them to make disciples and preach the Gospel to lost people. Pray that they would continue to train women and young people how to make a living. Praise God that they use their practical training as an opportunity to also share the Gospel and live out the love of Christ for others—the real reason for all they do. The ministry and work is a big task, but our missionaries have big vision for the future! 🌿



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

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

- ◆ Please pray that God will provide \$14,125 for our Director in Mozambique, Paulo Naene, to build a second story on his home to give them a refuge in times of flooding and to provide a place for a Source of Light office.
- ◆ Tim and Melissa Kornbau recently relocated to Madison to serve at Source of Light. Please pray that God will help them in their time of orientation, provide all their needs for future service, and help them thrive in their ministries and settle well into their new home and community.
- ◆ We have missionary candidates who are currently in the planning stages and raising support in anticipation of joining Source of Light Headquarters staff. Please pray that God will bring partners quickly so that they can begin their service and that the partnerships formed will be a blessing to both parties.
- ◆ Source of Light is continually researching topics that need to be addressed in future lesson materials. Currently, they are targeting teenage lesson content. Please pray that God will guide and provide what is needed for our youth.
- ◆ Our Source of Light Print Shop is currently understaffed. Please pray that God will raise up missionaries to fill these positions so that we can stay on schedule with our lesson printing.
- ◆ Please continually pray for our national missionaries who face persecution as they serve. Please pray that God will protect them and give them wisdom on how to handle the situations they encounter. (Read the Praise section to see how God turned a hostile situation into a wonderful opportunity in Uganda!)
- ◆ Two of our newer Branches in Africa, Mozambique and Zambia, need ministry partners to pray with them and support them monthly. Please pray that God will bring support and people who will be a great encouragement to them.
- ◆ Our new Director in Chile, Gabriel Muñoz, wants to be able to serve in prisons, hospitals, and other settings. To do so, he must take a three-month course. Please pray with him that he will be able to take the course and meet all the requirements for successful completion.
- ◆ Our Branch in Odisha, India asks us to pray for a new worker who has been appointed to reach a difficult people group. Please pray that God will provide for this worker's needed support of \$100 a month.
- ◆ Our Branch in Kenya rejoices in what God is doing in a new work that has been established in Tanzania. Please pray that God will provide \$200 a month that is needed for that new work.
- ◆ Please pray for SLM staff at Headquarters and for our staff on fields internationally that God will keep them healthy. We have several staff members at Headquarters who have ongoing health issues or who are recovering from medical procedures. Our Africa staff struggle with tropical diseases as well as common problems such as diabetes. The medical intervention in third-world countries is very expensive for our missionaries. Please pray that God will continually provide for all their needs. Also pray that God keeps our Field Gift Fund healthy so that we can assist them when they face medical emergencies. 🌿

PRaise

◆ Source of Light continually praises the Lord for our faithful donors who give to our stateside and international missionaries' support, our projects, and to our office operation here in Madison.

◆ For our missionaries who have ongoing health problems, and yet continue to serve faithfully, we are thankful. We are also thankful for the strength and grace that God gives to our staff who must cover various roles because of being short of staff in vital areas.

◆ We are thankful for our volunteers who fill in the gaps when help is needed. You can see them working all around Source of Light. We are also thankful for retired staff who we can call on when needed to assist us with proofing or other projects.

◆ The testimonies that we receive from our students are such a blessing and encouragement to us. We are grateful that God is using the Source of Light lessons to impact the lives of our students. We enjoy it when the Madison Discipleship School at HQ rings the bell over the intercom to announce that a student has reported that they have received Christ.

◆ We are thankful for the church partner who contributed \$16,000 this year to our Paper Partners program. That will go a long way to assist with paper costs.

◆ The new missionary home at Source of Light should be completed or near completion and perhaps inhabited by the time this Reaper goes to press. We are grateful for our Operations Department and the host of volunteers who brought this project to fruition. It will serve missionary staff for years to come.

◆ In our Uganda Branch, they were facing persecution from someone.

Their team went to visit the person and presented Christ. The person accepted Christ. Praise the Lord!

◆ We praise the Lord for sending Gabriel Muñoz to serve as the new Director for Source of Light Chile.

◆ Our Branch in Colombia is rejoicing that God has sent them a Colombian missionary couple to work in the region of Guasimal. Previously, they had been sending courses through a church that visited the region every two or three months, but now they will be able to send them directly to this missionary family who will teach the lessons and make better use of them.

◆ We praise the Lord for a huge lesson shipment (29 boxes) that arrived safely in Peru and will provide enough stock for the entire year of 2026.

◆ In the Northeast Zone of India, 20 young people accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior during a one-day youth conference. They were all from non-Christian backgrounds.

◆ Our Branch in Kenya rejoices that in the first quarter of 2026, God enabled them to make 754 school visits, distribute 188,616 lessons, award 1,110 certificates, and that 3,972 professions of faith were reported.

◆ Our Branch in Uganda praises the Lord for a fruitful first quarter in 2026. They were able to distribute lessons in 135 schools, give out 220,573 lessons, award 50,951 certificates, and 24,099 made professions of faith.

◆ Praise the Lord that we can print locally in many of our Africa Branches and avoid shipping costs. 🌿

IN MEMORIAL

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

Alice Kirk by

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brickel

Johnny Connelly by

Ms. Diane Kessluk

Mr. Jim Stucky

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Busenitz

Ms. Grace Barlow

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Williams, Jr.

Mrs. Frances Busenitz

Ms. Nancy Parramore

Mrs. Janice Connelly

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pennington

Sarah Spivey by

Mr. and Mrs. John Cranmer

Myrna Clothier by

Mrs. Claire Smith

Oakdale Baptist Church

Women's 6 SS Class

Melody Zink by

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Ness

Mr. and Mrs. Gail Dimick



Source of light
INTERNATIONAL

Dear Friend,

Let's remember His words...

Lay not up for yourselves treasure on earth ... but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven ... for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Paraphrase Matthew 6:19-21)

... for in heaven we will be glad we did.

Yours for the harvest,

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

Give Online at:
slmin.org/donate

By Phone:
706.342.0397

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

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



Source of light

INTERNATIONAL

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