

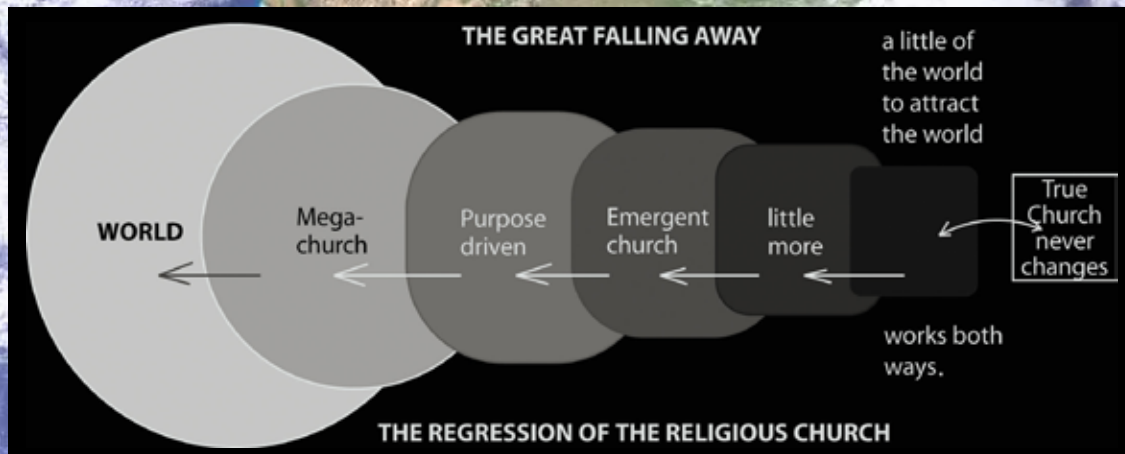
SHIELD OF FAITH MISSION INTERNATIONAL

# SFMI Prayer/News UPDATE

Fulfilling the Great Commission Through Establishing New Testament Churches

## The Church and the World

They are not of the world, even as I am  
not of the world.  
John 17:16



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# Editorial Notes

Among the many things that the Lord promised in His Word, two stand out. First, He said that He would keep His promises to Israel. He would reestablish her in the land given to her and rescue her when Satan incites the world against her. The end result is the reconciliation and restoration of a godly remnant. Replacement Theology, or the teaching that “The Church is Israel,” denies these promises and destroys the hope that God’s promises are true. If the Jews can’t be preserved in Israel, Satan will have shown that God cannot keep His promises.

Second, if the gospel is not preached to the ends of the earth, Satan’s purpose is also served. Jesus said, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14). Jesus gave five specific “Great Commission” scriptures: Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47, John 20:21, Acts 1:8. All speak of sending, going, and teaching (making disciples) of “every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” (Revelation 5:9). The direct implication is that God has given His people a message of “good news” that can be taken to the world. If the gospel is compromised, it ceases to address man’s true need. If it isn’t the gospel that is going forth, but rather good deeds and a watered-down version of the gospel, this also voids God’s promise and destroys the hope of His return in triumph.

Romans 1:16 tells us that the gospel “is the power of God to salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” One of the premises of the Emerging Church movement is that the “old ways” don’t work. If this is true, then the “old ways” must have been somehow corrupted because the Bible says: “In the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of

preaching to save them that believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21). God intended for His people to preach the Word. Isaiah tells us very specifically that the Word will not return unto Him “void,” but that “it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

Hebrews states: “The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

Any approach that minimizes Scripture, the Word of God, strips God’s people of hope. Satan always unearths and presents the same moldy question to humanity, “Yea, hath God said?” (Genesis 3:1). The consequences of questioning God’s Word are always detrimental to the hope of man. Prominent Emerging Church leader Brian McLaren has stated, “First, I think our future is more about the Christian way of life than it is about a rigid and polemicized system of belief. Second, I think our future is mission-oriented—meaning that *we focus on forming disciples who advance God’s mission in their daily lives* [emphasis added].”

Although McLaren speaks often of “making disciples” and of “mission,” he can’t be speaking of the biblical method because his approach has removed the “hope of the gospel” (Colossians 1:23). Abandoning the certainty of the Scriptures, he not surprisingly seeks other sources of spiritual nourishment: “I think our future will also require us to join humbly and charitably with people of other faiths—Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, secularists, and others—in pursuit of peace, environmental stewardship, and justice for all people, things that matter greatly to the heart of God.” Some may focus on these “good things,” and there may be some “good” in these pursuits, but where is the gospel?

This issue, beginning with Dick’s article, focuses on these needful things.

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# Beware Lest Any Man Spoil You



By Dick York

“Beware lest any man *spoil* you through philosophy and vain deceit after the rudiments of this world and not after Christ.” (Colossians 2: 8)

This is a serious warning and it was given because Paul foresaw the challenge that the church, and not only the church at Colosse, would face in time to come. We must be alert because we are now facing the challenge. The spoiling has begun. Following is a dictionary definition of *spoil*.

**Spoil** = **1.** to impair or destroy the value, usefulness or beauty of; **2.** to take property by force; to plunder.

Many years ago, but within my lifetime, there was a war going on between communism and the free world. During WWII the Western allies joined forces with their communist enemy to defeat Nazi Germany, which the communists were willing to do because it was consistent with the Marxist philosophy that justifies feigning friendship with the enemy you intend to destroy in order to annihilate a common foe. To them—and apparently to us as well—joining hands with the enemy as a matter of pragmatism was acceptable; and, of course, it seemed to work but at a terrible price for that portion of the world that was ceded to the communists as their share of the spoils. They were subjugated to communist oppression, and we did not escape without damage either; we were forever changed by infiltration of our friendly enemy’s destructive doctrine. During the time of our alliance, we learned a few things from our “friends.” Even the church learned a few things; and since they worked so well for the communists, being pragmatic, we thought they might work equally well for us.

The idea of multiplying cell groups was something that seemed to work well. Small groups, organized allegedly for some other purpose, were used to recruit and indoctrinate workers for the

communist cause of subverting the nations in which they operated. To adopt the appearance of the targeted enemy in order to subvert them with the infectious philosophy that would bring them into captivity seemed to be a brilliant strategy. It worked well: “spoil (plunder) them by spoiling (corrupting) them;” plunder them by corrupting them. It was in that way that the increasing influence of communism was generated in the free world. Why would that strategy not work in a good way for the gospel?

Because of its effectiveness, the method was considered by some to be an effective way for the church to accomplish its goal. And what was that goal? In the West, and especially in the United States, the goal for many generations was to fulfill the commission given by our Lord to evangelize the world; however, in recent years that vision has morphed into a vision for “Church growth,” which has become the dominant obsession of modern Christianity. Many of the prominent religious pace-setters have been deceived into thinking that this new direction is somehow related to the great commission. Growing the church by any means, therefore, has replaced the vision of making disciples in all nations and teaching them to observe all things whatsoever the Lord has commanded us. To accomplish this new objective, it was supposed that believers could start small groups for a variety of purposes attractive to the world and subtly inject the gospel or, better yet, bring activities into the church that would attract the world and package the gospel as something with worldly appeal. It seemed to have some good results; the perpetrators could point to the many decisions for Christ that have been recorded, vindicating the idea that if we participate in that which is attractive to the world, the world will reciprocate by participating in the church and thereby swell its numbers.

Unfortunately, that is exactly what has happened; the world’s participation in the

church has resulted in an increasingly worldly church where true conversion has been traded for “decisions for Christ,” superficially altering some externals but falling short of regeneration. In spite of some of the seemingly solid testimonies that have come out of this compromise with the world, here is some of what is wrong with it.

First of all, it is unbiblical; making the gospel, or the church that preaches the gospel, attractive to the flesh is something foreign to the scriptures. Of Jesus the prophet Isaiah said, “He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him” (Isaiah 53: 2,3). Also the tabernacle that was pitched in the wilderness and represented Christ in his church was filled with extravagant beauty on the inside but covered over with unattractive badger skins. What the world could see from the outside and what was seen by the eyes of him that was within were entirely different. All of the beauty and majesty of Christ is only visible from within. So it is with the gospel; all that appeals to the flesh and is loved by the world defiles the sanctuary of God and is so contrary to holiness that the two are never seen together: “the flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh and these two are contrary the one to the other so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” (Galatians 5:17). In other words, if we walk in the flesh, we cannot do the things of the spirit and vice versa. Darkness and light do not co-exist.

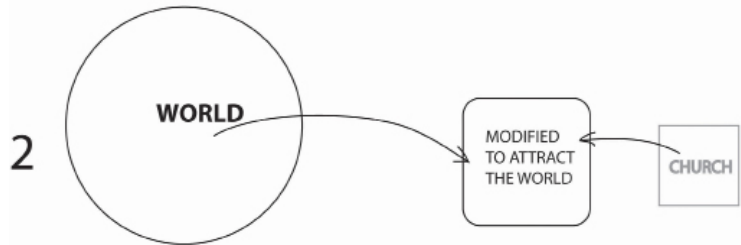
Following is a diagram to illustrate the folly of appealing to the flesh to attract the world to the church to hear the gospel.



The circle on the left represents the world, the square on the right the church. They are so dissimilar that they are foreign to one another. For this reason, as the flesh and the spirit are contrary, so are the church and the world. If, therefore, we

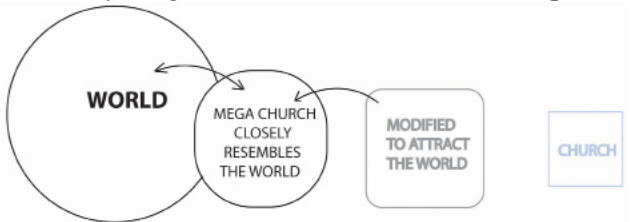
seek to make a union, since we cannot alter the world, to attract the sinner, all the changes will have to be made in the church.

So let’s modify our church to include something more attractive to the flesh, something the world enjoys in order to draw those who



need to hear the gospel. Ah, that worked well; new people came to church, but they brought their world with them. The only thing changed, therefore, was the church; it has now been altered; while we were drawing sinners from the world toward the church, we were also drawing unstable saints from the church back to the world from which they had been delivered. We moved the church a little closer to the world while the scripture is saying, “Come out from among them and be ye separate.”

What is truly the church is no longer recognized by the newly compromised “church” to be anything but an outdated relic from the past,



labeled “old fashioned, out-of-touch, judgmental, cultish, even heretical” because it no longer looks like what the world now thinks of as a “normal” church. In the eyes of the modern, popular church movement the biblical New Testament church can be ignored because they think it has all but disappeared and, in their mind, so it should because it has not adjusted with the times. It is even probable that someday, in time to come, the prophesied persecution of the saints will come from the “church” that has merged with the world. This is the great falling away.

The world’s methods are not what God uses to build his church. Morality, prosperity, health and temporal happiness for everyone is not the

goal of the gospel; God's glory is the objective; the other things may follow, but it is not about us. It is about him, the end result being man in the image of God inhabiting his eternal kingdom. What is true of trees is true of people and of programs: *every tree brings forth fruit after its own kind*. Be not deceived, God is not mocked; he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption. The work of the Spirit of God is not philosophical, intellectual or emotional; it is supernatural. Jesus said that it is the Spirit that convinces men of sin, righteousness and judgment. It is God that draws individuals to Himself and gives them repentance. We know that if a rotten apple is introduced into a barrel of healthy apples, soon all of the apples will be corrupted; but if we put a good apple into a barrel of rotten apples, we soon realize that the principle does not work inversely: the apples will not turn good. For several generations the church meeting has increasingly been turned into a means of evangelism. Instead of the church going to the world to evangelize, the world has been invited to the church to be evangelized. Although many have been saved—or at least Christianized—the church itself has not been made stronger, more mature or holier. Many, perhaps a majority, within the church have been stunted from birth, never becoming reproductive. As church organizations have grown bigger and mega-churches proliferate, the influence of the church for righteousness has become commensurately weaker.

There is only one solution to the sin problem in the world: the word of God preached without compromise through Spirit-filled lives. It does not appeal to the flesh; it convicts of sin, warns of judgment, induces repentance and produces righteousness. It will not change the world that is already condemned, but it will rescue repentant sinners from the judgment pronounced upon their sin and give them the abundant life that is theirs through the gospel. It is the seed that impregnates the soul with life from above and produces a new


birth. That which is born of God is a new creature who can now see the beauty of the tabernacle from the inside; the life is changed, therefore the perspective is changed. There is no need now to bring the corruption of the world into the church to satisfy the flesh that has been put to death through the cross; old things have passed away, behold all things are become new; and the church is comprised of saints who do not need to be evangelized but edified to be enabled to manifest the life of Christ to a desperately needy world. Those who come to the light of Christ are added by the Lord to the church to be nourished and equipped for every good work.

If you believe that the world's music, the world's entertainment and the world's language are useful tools in rescuing sinners from the world's condemnation, then use them in the world's venue. Don't make them a part of the program and bring them into the congregation of the saints. Those

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are some of the things from which we have been delivered. Now we are gathered in a new place, in a new atmosphere to behold the glory of the Lord that can be seen only from within. We are here to be edified and equipped, not entertained and distracted. It is our intent to worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth, to embrace holiness

and to be armed to do battle with the enemy that seeks to steal and to kill and destroy. We recognize that he is a deceiver whose intent is to "spoil" the church by offering to help us "evangelize" the world, to contribute his "rotten apple" in order to pollute the sanctuary. Be not deceived. Come out from among them and be ye separate.

From that secure platform we are to go out in the power of holiness (grace) to evangelize the world where we find it, to convert the sinner where he is, and to bring him, as a new creature, into the safety and holiness of the assembly to be built up and made a soldier of the cross. Separation is not isolation, but it is essential to the waging of war against the world which is totally committed to war against the church. Without holiness no man shall see the Lord. 



# Lukewarmness

By Jim Lucas

## Confusion of Faces.

*O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.*

*O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him.<sup>1</sup>*

Righteousness belongeth unto God but unto us confusion of faces. Even we who have been imputed the righteousness of Christ by faith, when we forget who we are and sin willfully, sow confusion. The longer we continue in disobedience the greater the confusion will be. A calloused conscience and failure to exercise our God-given spiritual senses bring depravity of soul and an inability to readily discern the voice of the Holy Spirit.

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.<sup>2</sup>*

Luke-warmness causes us to tolerate things a Spirit-filled person would reject. It also causes us to forget the pit from which we have come. Our doctrine is well ingrained; we fully know that we are accepted in Christ. Even when we are aware that we have been walking on the edge, we insist that we are righteous; and when we encounter a professing believer and think that he is a little further out than we are, we have plenty to say about his “disgraceful ways. This is much like the,

*Pharisee (who) stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice*

*in the week; I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.<sup>3</sup>*

Have we forgotten what Christ taught us?

*But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.<sup>4</sup>*

## Further warning;

*Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.<sup>5</sup>*

Should I consider myself to be righteous even when I continue in sin? God forbid! If I am sinning quite regularly, I must be a sinner. If I am judging others for their sins but tolerating my own, I am a self-righteous hypocrite.

If Jesus did not come to save the righteous but to save sinners, then there is hope for me because the truth is, I am prone to sin. Remember what the Apostle John said,

*If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.<sup>6</sup>*

For this reason I take great courage and comfort in Daniel’s prayer of confession. He understood that his people had rebelled, and Daniel didn’t forget his own shortcomings. He realized the gravity of disobedience and the consequences

it had brought upon them, which was this shame or “confusion of faces.” However, he did not despair because he knew that “*to the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him.*”<sup>7</sup>

A sinner who has come to repentance and has found the mercies of God and by faith in God’s promises has been imputed the righteousness of God even though he should fall has hope in God’s mercy. Beloved whenever we find ourselves in this confusion of faces, let us not be in despair; neither should we deny our sinful state or try to justify ourselves with the failures of our brothers in Christ, but let us cast ourselves on the mercies of our Lord and Savior for faithful is he that has promised. “*If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful, he cannot deny himself.*”<sup>8</sup>

All believers, at one time or another, suffer with failures; and all of us are prone to sin for in this flesh dwelleth no good thing. “*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.*”<sup>9</sup> Christ in us is our hope of glory.<sup>10</sup> We are prone to sin but not slaves to sin.

*God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*<sup>11</sup>

The love of Christ Jesus has made us all bond slaves to Him. Even though we are prone to sin, we will not continue in sin. We love Him who first loved us and we willingly surrender ourselves to our new Master, and our Lord Jesus has promised He will never leave us nor forsake us.

### **We forget that we are dead to sin.**

*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father; even so we also should walk in newness of life.*<sup>12</sup>

We need to remember our baptism. Baptism isn’t for our Heavenly Father to remember those who have died with Christ, but it is like a tombstone placed there to remind *us* of our death and

burial, even to remind us that we are now risen from the dead and alive in Christ Jesus.


*For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him....*<sup>13</sup>

We are free *from* sin not free *to* sin; we cannot continue to sin because we have become the servants (slaves) of righteousness. We now are enabled to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily. Grace has been given to us, my beloved.

*Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*<sup>14</sup>

Sin stinks; so do dead people. That is why we are baptized (buried). If we remember and continue in the faith of the finished work of Calvary, we shall maintain the beautiful fragrance of holiness and righteousness. Then we will not have “confusion of faces.”

### **Endnotes**

- 1 Daniel 9: 7,9
- 2 Hebrews 5: 14
- 3 Luke 18: 11-14
- 4 Matthew 9: 13
- 5 Matthew 18: 10-11
- 6 1 John 1: 8-10
- 7 Daniel 9: 8
- 8 2 Timothy 2: 13
- 9 2 Corinthians 4: 7
- 10 see Colossians 1: 27
- 11 Romans 6: 17-18
- 12 Romans 6: 3,4
- 13 Romans 6: 6-8
- 14 Romans 6:9-14, see also Romans 6:3-23 

# Go Ye into All the World

By Richard McDaniel

In Oregon we grow blueberries. I would like to use the blueberry patch as an illustration. Picture, if you will, a vast field of blueberries. Part of it lies in the lowlands, part of it along the river banks; and from there it stretches out into the highlands and goes as far as the eye can see. The harvest time has come, and the farmer is in need of laborers. He hires many and equips each one with everything necessary to do the job. For such a large operation there are a multitude of tasks. Not everyone goes out to pick the berries, but some are there to furnish the pickers. Though the jobs may vary, there are two things that everyone has in common. First, they all have a commitment to the farmer to harvest his crop and are all working towards that end. Second, they are all in the field. The farmer requires them to live in the field, and there they pitch their tents.

At the break of day they receive their assignments. The farmer sends his field boss to line everyone out. He hands out the equipment and gives everyone their assignments. The majority of the encampment lies in the lowlands and on the near side of the river. Blueberries are planted in rows, and most of the workers are clustered around the rows where the access is easy. The farmer is not content with that however. He wants his harvest to have a representation of every row in his vast field. To that end the field boss begins to disburse them. He sends some to the far side of the river to work the outer shores and some on up the hillsides. Every row must be worked he says. There are some parts of the field, particularly in the outermost parts, where there has never been a harvest and the labor will be more intensive before a harvest can be achieved. To these parts special teams are commissioned. They are equipped for a variety of duties. Those on the special teams are called “sent ones.”

I want to use this illustration to picture the Lord’s work on earth. We can think of the farmer as the Lord Jesus. He spoke of the fields that are white unto harvest. In explaining the parable of the wheat and the tares, Jesus said, “the field is the world.” In our illustration, the farmer places those that come to him on his field. His field is vast, and there are many rows split up into sections; but it is all “the field.” Sometimes we hear missionaries speaking about “coming off the field.” Or someone else will talk about how they are not called to “go to the field.” If the field is the world, as Jesus said, how can we come off of it or not go into it? Jesus speaks of His disciples, both then and now, as being in the world but not of the world. The only release from the field comes when a disciple passes away. We are sojourners in this world—temporary residents like

those workers who pitch their tents in the field.

In the blueberry patch there are those who have been hired and set in the field, but they never seem to get around to doing much work. They do what they need to get by. You will find them congregating together in groups and talking about how worthy and kindhearted the farmer is and about the big banquet he will put on at the end and about a lot of other things, but they don’t engage much in the labor of the work. Like unto this, there are the Lord’s disciples who are in the field by virtue of being alive in the world but are not active in labor. Far too often this is the case and is the reason why Jesus said to pray for laborers to enter the harvest.

The field boss in our illustration is the one who disburses the equipment and gives out the assignments. The laborers are supplied by what they are given, not by what they already have. The field boss is fully aware of every situation. He sees the ones who seek to avoid the labor. There are things which grieve him in the attitudes and conduct of his workers. Sometimes he has to correct and discipline. He gives warning that after the harvest banquet there will be a handing out of awards and all labor will be rewarded. In like manner the Holy Spirit equips the saints unto the work of the Lord with spiritual gifts and ministries. He hands them out at His discretion and then instructs the saints where to go and what to do. The Spirit is grieved at the apathy and disobedience of the saints. He exercises correction and discipline and informs us through the Word of the judgment seat of Christ, at which time all faithfulness will be rewarded.

In this story, the farmer said that every row must be worked and commissioned the laborers to the task. His representative, the field boss, selected certain ones out of the labor pool, equipped them, formed them into teams, and called them “sent ones.” Compare this with what God has commanded. Our Lord Jesus said, “Go ye into **all** the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” This is a call to expand our horizons beyond our small portion of the world and seek to reach the whole world with the Gospel. Jesus said in Matthew 24:14, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” We will all know when this has been accomplished because the Lord will no longer need our labors in the harvest field and the church will go to be with our Lord forever. That will be the day “when that which is perfect is come” as it says in I Corinthians 13:10. There will then be no more need for the spiritual gifts and ministries. In

*Continued on back cover*



# 2012 Memorial Day Conference



We're obviously getting closer to the ultimate, perfect conference. How do I know? Because we heard it again this year, "Best conference ever!" How long can that go on before we reach the zenith?

So, what made this Memorial Day Conference so memorable? One factor was Brother Dun Gordy filling the slot as our main speaker; his love for the Lord, commitment to missions, and lifetime of rich experiences combined with his southern witticisms made for an impressive and encouraging experience. We were challenged once again with the imperative to obey.



Missionary reports gave us a fresh awareness of what is going on right now and the need for prayer as we labor together around the world. It seems that God spoke clearly to some of the participants in the conference, and we look for God to add to his workforce of laborers as a direct result.

Be aware that the next gathering will be the annual Labor Day weekend conference in Cusick, Washington; always well attended and always a blessing to all who attend, we expect God to meet with us again this year to instruct us further. You will find the registration

form and required release form in this issue of the Update. Please fill them in and mail them as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, the 2012 Memorial Day Conference CDs are now available. Please contact the office to order. 📞



# Missionary News

## **U.S.A. for Jesus**

**Jim and Fran Lucas**

**Editor: This news is after the fact for some items, but Illinois, Indiana, and Idaho are still ahead.**

Beloved Prayer Warriors,

The next outreach took place in Greenville, South Carolina, starting the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May and going until the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. For those who would like to join in, we will be fasting and praying the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> of May. Right after we finish in South Carolina then we will, Lord willing, do another ten-day outreach in North Carolina. I will be posting more information on that later.

I also have good news to announce. By the time you read this, a team will have done an outreach in Couer dAlene, Idaho. It will be headed up by Frank Stangel. It will take place June 22-July 1. Let us uphold this and the results in prayer. They would welcome any labor of love that you are able to give during these days by joining in with the evangelism. Anybody wanting more information concerning the outreach in Couer dAlene, Idaho, please call Frank Stangel at 509-879-1932 or e-mail frankstangel@msn.com.

For information concerning the outreaches that are planned in the Carolinas, Illinois and Indiana, please call 479-270-8434 or e-mail james@usaforjesus.org.

Laborers welcome!

*In Christ,*

*James and Fran Lucas* 

## **Quebec**

**Francois & Nohemi Marcoux**

Dear Praying Friends,

A Bible Expo was held in a mall in Jonquiere from May 10-13. The previous Bible Expo we had in Chicoutimi was encouraging as usual, just as it is every day that we can freely share the Gospel message through the Exhibit and hand out free literature to those interested. We have Bible Expos lined up for this summer in a few places in Quebec already, thanks to the good hand of our God.

Our weekly Bible study with our Mexican friends (approx 10 that attend) that we have been

having for more than a year now is producing its fruit. Some in the group have manifestly shown genuine saving faith in the Lord Jesus and His work. Some have openly disavowed Roman Catholic teachings and upheld the Bible in these meetings and in their everyday lives. That is very encouraging to us. Please pray for Joel and Paty (daughter Karol), Miguel, Cuauhtemoc and Fernanda (son Maximiliano and daughter Ximena), Silvia (daughter Fernanda), Olga.

Also, there is a brother from Germany that Marcel met last year during a Bible Expo who wants to reproduce the Expo in Germany. He has translated most of the material into German, but Marcel says he needs help in making the furniture and models. Pray for direction as to how this can be achieved. Also please pray for the reproduction of a permanent Bible Expo for Mexico, which is in progress.

*Thank you.*

*Francois and Nohemi Marcoux  
Marcel and Mireille Ouellet* 

## **Glendo, Wyoming**

**Mike and Faith Ball**

Dear ones in Christ,

This is a follow-up report on my “holy week” trip to Mexico to encourage the brethren to preach the gospel in other towns.

Austin joined me and three of the brethren from Loreto. The first day we went to Pinos, about an hour and fifteen minutes from Loreto. Arriving at the plaza Monday morning we divided up and began to share Christ with the people sitting around, offering them the gospel of John and the book of Romans. We found them very receptive and willing to listen. We met there a brother, Jaime, who told us that there is no congregation of believers in Pinos, a town of nearly twenty thousand.

Tuesday, we went with Jaime to Salinas, San Luis Potosi, a town of about forty thousand. We made contact with Jaime’s friend, a pastor working in Salinas. Jaime also invited us to join him on Friday to preach in the street market in Villa Hidalgo, another municipio between Pinos and Aguascalientes.

Nine of us went to Salinas; some had never

been involved in group evangelism. Chava closed his taco stand so he could join us. The men who joined us had never done this before so we paired up. Juan Manuel enjoyed that so much that the rest of the day he was on his own, preaching to people as he found them in the plaza. The purpose of this trip was not just to evangelize but to encourage them in our absence to preach and make disciples outside of their own communities. Pinos seemed to be a good place for that since there was no congregation of believers there. I thought it good to go back to Pinos on Wednesday and prayed that God would lead us to a contact for a follow-up Bible study. The Lord answered our prayers, and a young couple asked Javier and Tonio to come back on Sunday to visit in their home.

I invited more of the congregation to join us on Friday to preach in the street market; twenty-six of us went out including women and children. I was greatly encouraged by the excitement and interest of the brethren to continue to preach and disciple in Pinos. One of the brothers, Juan Jose, expressed a desire to do this on a full-time basis, leaving the church in Loreto to dedicate his time to outreach.

Before I left on this trip, I had asked the Lord that if He wanted us to move back to Loreto, He would speak to one or more of the men to do precisely that. The first evening I was there, Juan Jose mentioned this desire in his heart. I've taken this as an answer from the Lord, so we are planning to move back to Loreto by the end of the year.

The purpose would be to train Juan Jose and family to come alongside these men as they begin to make disciples in another town and to be a practical help to them in taking this new step. Juan Jose and family are not quite ready to be sent out by the church to full-time work, so we would desire to be used of the Lord to help prepare them for this. We are also planning a trip in July for the whole family. Brother Jaime who preaches in Pinos invited the congregation to join him in an evangelistic outreach there the last week of July; we would like to be there for that. We also might be fixing up a house into which we may be able to move.

We are asking the Lord what to do with our trailer house. We do not know what T.J. will be doing for sure.

As for family news, the homeschool year is winding down; Viana, Angelina, and Chantel are finishing up the last of their material. Chantel is finishing her junior year in high school and has also been working babysitting full-time.

**SFMI Update**

Borden just finished his junior year at the University of Wyoming. Feilynn is attending the training program with Shield of Faith and will finish the first part of December.

God's blessings on you all as you continue to seek Him,  
*Mike and  
Faith and family*

Mike Ball  
mikeball@bigfoot.com  
P.O. Box 334  
Glendo, WY 82213  
307-735-7368 🌎

### **Hungary Kaylene Ball**

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for praying, especially a couple of weeks ago. The Lord really visibly renewed my strength, and the week with the girls was great. The girls did all the real "labor" that week as they taught and planned for Bible studies and kids' clubs. They had prepared well beforehand which helped make the short trip fruitful. It was great! In Abda we had about 15 come including a mom who has since come to Bible study after the team left. On Friday afternoon, several students from Abda came to my flat for the first time for another Bible study. They enjoyed getting to know the girls. It was wonderful to have my sister and friends here and to see the Lord using them in the lives of the people I've grown to love in Hungary.

Now I am looking at finishing up at the school as well as wrapping up the Bible study at my flat. I am still visiting the Children's Home when I can. What started out as a great challenge has been a huge blessing as we have seen the attitudes of the kids at least soften. They ask questions and seem excited when we come.

Please be in prayer that my remaining time here would be well used and also for preparation for good byes. I don't anticipate that to be very easy for me. The Lord has really encouraged me through your prayers and gifts. I stand absolutely amazed at how the Lord provides for whatever He calls me to do. Before I even make a need known, it's been met. This must be what its like to be a daughter of a King.

*Love in Christ,  
Kaylene Ball* 🌎

## **Maguey, Mexico** **Daniel and Mari Fontanez**

### **A Shout in the Silence**

“By terrible things in righteousness [awesome deeds] wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea” (Psalm 65:5).

The Lord encouraged me with this Psalm as I was washing dishes and praying one afternoon. I was telling God that my prayer life wasn't what it should be and asking how to proceed with the work in Maguey. The next day during my Bible reading/study/devotional time I read this Psalm. The words of verse two (O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come) and verse five just stood out to me. It was as though the Lord was giving me a promise through these verses that He would hear my prayer and answer by awesome deeds. It was so encouraging that I want to pass it along to you. I suggest that as you pray for us, you also declare this promise and feel free to use it in your own needs. As you pray for God to bless His work in the Highlands and in your own life, remember to ask God to answer by *awesome deeds* and expect Him to do it. So, the following are awesome deeds God has answered us by and that we're expecting of Him.

### **Maguey**

Because of Psalm 65 the team at Maguey has committed itself to more prayer. Right after our Bible Study on Mondays we divide into trios. Each person has written down three persons he/she knows, has regular contact with and wants to see saved. We exchange names and begin praying for their salvation. These prayer triplets have also provided great fellowship as we share burdens and pray for each other. We have also committed to a prayer walk the last Wednesday of each month. Our first one was in April a few days before our Children's Day Outreach. As a result we had at least one hundred thirty kids and about thirty adults listening to the Gospel.

It was truly awesome because I drove through the community 15 minutes before the event and I only saw two kids in the streets when usually there are hundreds. Before we were even thirty minutes into the outreach, we had a full house. Praise the Lord! Sadly we have seen a steady attendance decline in the Kids' Club. So please continue to pray.

## **Tototlan**

Since the Health Fair at the beginning of the year we have had three evangelistic Bible studies faithfully continue, four people come to faith in Jesus and two people baptized. At the Health Fair's spiritual health class a number of people expressed interested in learning more about the Bible, so we visited them the next week and arranged five evangelistic Bible studies of which three have survived. Mari's aunt Luz gave her life to Christ at the Health Fair. About a month ago, two sisters, Karina and Lupe, gave their lives to Christ after a series of ten Bible studies (pray for their mom; the enemy has been busy trying to distract her). Just a week ago, Juana gave her life to Christ. Eduardo, Mari's youngest brother and Janeth, Luz's daughter got baptized. Glory to God!

In Tototlan pray especially for Isabel, Mari's niece, who has a serious sin to repent of and Janeth, Mari's cousin who is confronting a possible divorce.

### **Leadership Training**

Continue to pray for elder training which is well on it's way. Steve Montgomery and I have put together the classes that will begin (Lord willing) the first Saturday of June, and we have a list of six men whom we have invited to this training. Please pray for us, teachers and students, as we will be meeting every Saturday and one Friday a month for six months.

### **A New Roof**

We still don't have a new roof, and it's already time to start with homeschooling. We have considered moving but haven't found an adequate house. Please intercede on our behalf.

### **Mari's Health**


Mari is healthy. She has one last appointment this week to make sure that she is in fact all better. Thank you for praying.

### **Mexican Visa**

I have my first Mexican Visa! Alleluia! I have to renew it every year, but by the third renewal I can apply for a permanent residence. God has answered us!

Thanks again for sharing our burdens.

*Lord bless you.*

*Fontanez Family* 

## **Nigeria, West Africa** **Nathaniel Abimbola**

Beloved,

Grace be unto you and peace be multiplied in Jesus' name. We give glory to God who

bestows on us His loving-kindness. Missionary Conference annual program is coming up in August 2012 at Owode Egba Federal Youth Camp.

The heartbeat of God is to see that the remaining unreached tribes of the nations experience the joy of Jesus' complete work of Salvation. We appreciate the part you have graciously taken for the upliftment of God's Kingdom and glory.

God bless you as you join us in prayerfully working towards this Conference. Shalom.

*In Him,*

*Nathaniel Abimbola.*

*Ethnos Christian Missions* 

### **Nigeria, West Africa** **Johnson Bako**

Sir,

Calvary greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

How are you doing and [how is] the work of the ministry progressing? Hopefully fine.

I will like to express my appreciation to you for the past Prayer/News Update which I received in the past years, but it has stopped since 2006 due to the lack of renewal of my post office box since I left my station to another for the past five years; but now that I am back at Jimeta-Yola the box was renewed, so I felt it necessary to write you to include my name on your mailing lists to continue receiving the materials because it is helpful and edifying in the ministry of the New Testament church.


[I] Feel encouraged that we have other people practicing the same thing we are doing; this gives us a sense of belonging and fellowship.

I will also like you to pray for me as I begin evangelism and discipleship in our hospital, clinics and community. Health evangelism as the Lord has given me open doors in the health sector.

Recently we had a local annual conference, and I presented a paper on reviving the work of missions which was well received; and I have many responses especially among health workers.

I will.....to drop my pen here and hoping to hearing from you.

*Yours faithfully*

*Johnson Bako* 

### **India**

#### **Samuel Singh**

My dear loving Brother Dick and Shield of Faith.

Greetings to you, your family and your church fellowship in Jesus name.

First I want to give you Good news that I am much better as I can say now that God healed me fifty percent and my arthritis not given me much pain, and this is the result of your Prayers. So thank you very much for your Prayers. Yes I know He is going to heal me completely very soon so continue pray.

Monsoon started in Bombay, and this year I am sure God is going to protect my house as well my church people houses also because you are praying. Hallelujah.


Yes, we have finished Chembur church repairing work, and the day we completed the work, and the next day very heavy rain came; and for that also I am very much thank God for that for protecting His CON and for that also I am very much thankful to God and to you for your prayers.

I baptised four people on the 27th of May 2012 which you have received photographs also, and now another Baptism will be on the 29th in July 2012. Both of our churches are gloryfying God's name in the slums of Bombay, and for that I must thank you for your prayers.

Children's schools are going to start from 15th of this month, and God has arranged everything for them and for that also I must thank you for your prayers. I am sure God will arrange food and all other problems at the time of monsoon for His people who live in the slums of Bombay.

Greetings from my family and from our churches in India. We love you,

*God Bless, Your Brother in christ,*

*Pastor Samuel Singh* 

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Please Note: The Update is sent free upon request to all wishing to receive it. The cost of \$9 per year per subscriber for this Update is covered by the freewill offerings of God's people. The Update is also available by email. Please send your request to [sfmi@sfmiusa.org](mailto:sfmi@sfmiusa.org).

Please contact us if you are receiving duplicate copies or if there are recipient or address changes.

# Labor Day Weekend Conference 2012

## Shield of Faith Mission International

Riverview Bible Camp, 408771 SR 20, Cusick, WA 99119  
 Friday, August 31 – Monday, September 3, 2012

**Registrars: Brian Martell / Peggy Martell**

**Mailing address: 2 Baxter Lane, Kettle Falls, WA 99141**

**Phone: 1-509-738-3041**  
**email: bkmartell@hotmail.com**

Here's how it works: Arrivals begin at 4:00 p.m., Friday, August 31. The first meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. There will be no meal served Friday night. Please feel free to bring snacks. Saturday morning is our first meal, and Monday lunch is our last meal. We have spaces available for RVs. There are family cabins and lodging for others. **Bring your own bedding.** Riverview Bible Camp is a non-smoking facility. **Pets are not allowed.** Copy as many forms as you need. **Mail completed forms to Brian Martell.** We look forward to seeing you this year. Register early! **Please Take Note and Read:** Everyone registering for this 2010 Spokane labor Day Conference must sign a release form required by Riverview Bible Camp for each person. **You must have a release form in order to be on the grounds.**

### Family Registration

**Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home Phone:** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work Phone:** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

### Please include infants

**Spouse:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Child:</b> _____	<b>Age:</b> _____	<b>Child:</b> _____	<b>Age:</b> _____
<b>Child:</b> _____	<b>Age:</b> _____	<b>Child:</b> _____	<b>Age:</b> _____
<b>Child:</b> _____	<b>Age:</b> _____	<b>Child:</b> _____	<b>Age:</b> _____
<b>Child:</b> _____	<b>Age:</b> _____	<b>Child:</b> _____	<b>Age:</b> _____
<b>Child:</b> _____	<b>Age:</b> _____	<b>Child:</b> _____	<b>Age:</b> _____
<b>Child:</b> _____	<b>Age:</b> _____	<b>Child:</b> _____	<b>Age:</b> _____

### Circle Choices

<b>Nights staying over:</b>	<b>FridayNight</b>	<b>Saturday Night</b>	<b>Sunday Night</b>
<b>Sleeping arrangements needed:</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Tent</b>	<b>RV</b>
<b>Meals:</b>	<b>Saturday breakfast</b>	<b>Sunday Breakfast</b>	<b>Monday Breakfast</b>
	<b>Saturday Lunch</b>	<b>Sunday Lunch</b>	<b>Monday Lunch</b>
	<b>Saturday Dinner</b>	<b>Sunday Dinner</b>	

**Special needs:**

**RELEASE AND ARBITRATION AGREEMENT (Must be signed by all attendees)**

In consideration of and RIVERVIEW BIBLE CAMP & RETREAT MINISTRIES, I for myself, or the minor child named below, forever waive, release and discharge «Name», RIVERVIEW BIBLE CAMP & RETREAT MINISTRIES (and its parent corporation) from any/all injuries, claims, disputes, liabilities, or actions resulting from «Name» or RIVERVIEW providing services for me and for my benefit regardless of location for the dates identified above. I attest and verify that I have full knowledge of the risks and dangers involved; that I assume such risks, and that I will assume and pay my own medical and emergency expenses, in the event of an accident, illness or other incapacity, regardless of whether I have authorized such expenses.

Any controversy arising out of, connected to, or relating to any matters herein of the transactions between me and the above named parties or on behalf of the minor child named below, of this Release/Waiver, or the breach thereof, including, but not limited to any claims of violations of Federal and/or State Law, as well as any common law claims shall be settled by arbitration through Christian Conciliation Services; and in accordance with this paragraph a judgment based upon the arbitrator's award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof in accordance with the provisions of R.C.W. 7.04. This agreement shall be construed and interpreted under the laws of the State of Washington. **I HAVE READ THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE CAREFULLY, AND UNDERSTAND IT.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Participant's Name Birthdate: MO DAY YEAR

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Must have Parent/Guardian Signature if participant named above is under 18)**

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Print Participant's Name Birthdate: MO DAY YEAR

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Must have Parent/Guardian Signature if participant named above is under 18)**

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*Go Ye into All the World, continued from page 8*

the meantime we must labor for the Lord. This is the responsibility of the whole church.

In the church we also have “sent ones.” The word *apostle* is taken from the Greek word *apostolos*. It means “one sent forth.” There are three categories of apostles in the Bible. Christ Jesus is the “Apostle of our profession.” He was sent by the Father. The Lord Jesus had twelve that he sent out as His apostles. Then there are those that are sent out by the Holy Spirit as Paul and Barnabas were in Acts 13:2. The Scriptures name others also that were sent out by the Holy Spirit such as Silas, John Mark, Titus, and Timothy to name a few of them. These men are typical of the apostles mentioned in Ephesians 4:11, which is the apostolic ministry still in use today. The ministry of the apostle sent by the Holy Spirit is to work as a pioneer in the bringing of the gospel into new territories. He does not build upon another man’s foundation but builds anew upon the foundation of the Lord Jesus. His work is diverse in that it encompasses evangelism, teaching, preaching, and pastoring. The Holy Spirit endows him with multiple gifts and sometimes with signs and wonders accompanying his ministry. He surges ahead and opens up new doors for others in the church to follow. Perhaps it sounds to you like the work of a missionary.

Missionary is a word we get from the Latin

*missionarius* which means “sent one.” In the Latin it is the equivalent of the Greek word, *apostolos*. I wonder how many of those who today we call missionaries would fit the job description of an apostle? In the usage of the word it has in fact come to mean something far broader than an apostle. Some missionaries are indeed apostles, but the majority of them probably are not. They are teachers or pastors or evangelists or in various ministries of helps and service.

Where do you and I fit into this picture? Some have said that we fulfill the “Great Commission” by doing one of three things. Take your pick. One is to pray for the work of missions; two is to give to support the work of missions; three is to go “to the field” and do the work of missions. There is an unstated feeling that if I do “one” and “two,” my obligation is fulfilled. That excuses me from “going.” Although all three of these things are important, I do not believe we can choose from these options. What I’ve attempted to point out through this message is that Christ has sent every believer into the field of labor. I do not see the “going” as exclusive to the apostles. The “going” is for all of us. The apostolic calling is for the “going” into the unworked parts of the field. I have been in the field since I was born again. How God wants to use me in the field is up to Him. Most important is that we have vision today of the work both here at home and abroad and are available to God at His command to do His