

# MISSIONARY HERALD



A PUBLICATION OF EVANGELISTIC FAITH MISSIONS

VOLUME 98 ■ NUMBER 9 ■ SEPTEMBER 2011



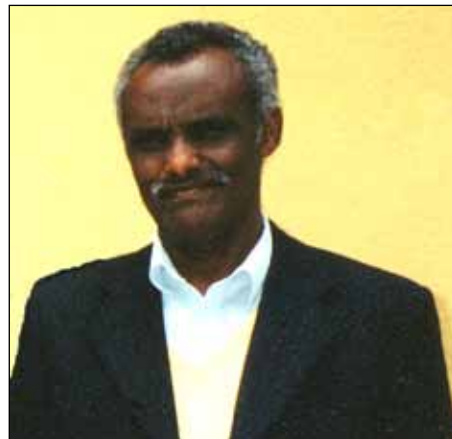
## New Director Elected in Eritrea

By Ronald and Anna Smith

The Faith Church of Christ conference convened in June 2011 in the town of Decamere. Tekie Goitom was elected to be the new director of the work of Faith Missions in Eritrea.

In the past Tekie has filled a number of positions. During the 1990s he was pastor of the Massawa church. Massawa is known as the hottest seaport in the world. He also has been a teacher, has served as director of the orphanage and later as director of the high school, and has been the assistant director. His most recent responsibility was pastoring the Asmara church which now has thirteen churches because our churches have been closed by the government since May 2002. His wife, Zufan, has stood by him faithfully.

Tekie is dedicated and spiritual as well as a humble man. He willingly has filled any position the national committee asked of him. This is his first time to fill the position of field director. Pray for Tekie Goitom as he assumes his new responsibilities.



New leader in Eritrea, Tekie Goitom

**COVER PHOTO:** Rex McDowell presenting Mary E. Gaunce Missionary Scholarship to Marjorie Alexander

## Change of Leadership in Sudan

By Ronald and Anna Smith

For the past several years Bereket Tsegai, an Eritrean living in Sudan, has been working among the Eritreans who have fled to Sudan from the political and religious oppression that exists in Eritrea. He has spearheaded outreach ministries into the Eritrean communities in Khartoum. In addition, he has endeavored to minister to these Eritreans in other ways such as job training and computer classes. However, Bereket was separated from his family because his wife and sons were living in Germany due to the physical problems of one of the sons. Recently Bereket felt he should join his family in Germany.



Rev and Mrs. Ogbasselassie working in Sudan

The Eritrean believers in Sudan then elected Ogbasselassie Haile, who had been assisting Bereket, to be their leader. Ogbasselassie graduated from Faith Missions' Bible school in Eritrea. He also attended the university in Asmara, the capital of Eritrea. Following his graduation from the university, he taught in Faith Missions' high school for five years and then served as principal for three years. In 2006 he obtained permission to leave his home country. Since that time he has traveled to several countries in Africa where he ministered as an evangelist and Bible teacher. He and his wife, Feven, have three sons.

Ogbasselassie needs wisdom and help from God as he takes on the responsibilities of leadership among the Eritrean believers in Sudan. Please pray for God to help him in this position.

### MISSIONARY HERALD

(USPS 353-460)

A wholesome monthly magazine published in the interest of aggressive, world-wide missionary work

Subscription only \$2.00 per year

Published by **Evangelistic Faith Missions**  
168 Ikerd Lane  
P. O. Box 609

Bedford, Indiana 47421-0609

Periodical postage paid at Bedford, Indiana 47421

All business communications, manuscripts, exchanges, subscriptions, etc., should be addressed to:

**Evangelistic Faith Missions, P. O. Box 609, Bedford, Indiana 47421-0609**

Telephone: 812-275-7531

Office hours: M - F, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. local time

Website: [www.efm-missions.org](http://www.efm-missions.org)

**Please advise us of any change of address,** sending us both your old and new addresses.

**MISSIONARY WORK IN BOLIVIA, COSTA RICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, and KOREA, plus Hispanic Outreach in the USA**

**Please send all offerings to Evangelistic Faith Missions,** at the above address. We cable and deposit funds monthly for each mission field and missionary.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND OFFERINGS DIRECTLY TO THE MISSIONARIES; the possibility of losing money in foreign mail is high.

In the event that Evangelistic Faith Missions receives more donations than are required for any project or ministry, EFM reserves the right to use the excess funds in other areas of need.

**Donations are tax deductible**

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to EFM, P. O. Box 609, Bedford, IN 47421-0609

# Letters from Scholarship Recipients

Dear Scholarship Contributors,

Thank you so much for honoring me with the Yocum Memorial Missionary Scholarship. It means a lot to me, and I see it as a gift from God which enables me to continue my education and prepare myself for missions. I plan on finishing my years at Penn View Bible Institute, where I am currently a sophomore in the Hispanic Studies Program, and then if God wills I will travel to Peru as a missionary teacher. Before I graduate I would like to add either child evangelism or elementary education studies to further help me do the work I feel God has called me to.

Once again, I would like to say thank you so much for the scholarship. It is a true blessing.

Jennifer McMillan



Dear Gaunce Family,

What a tremendous privilege--and responsibility--to be entrusted with the opportunities the Mary E. Gaunce Missionary Scholarship has afforded me! I am sincerely grateful for the interest and generosity that motivate this scholarship, and I am honored to have received it. Thank you so much; may our heavenly Father continue to bless you and prosper this ministry.

I am encouraged as I look towards my last two years in the Hispanic Studies Program here at Penn View Bible Institute, and I covet the prayers of God's people. I do not simply desire these prayers for myself and other missions-minded students currently preparing in our Bible colleges, but for the fervency and efficacy of the ministries that will--and do-- come as a result of young people who have been trained and are thoroughly dedicated to Christ. We are in a world that is both new to us and very desperate for our message. We would certainly be lost without the promise our Sender gave us, saying: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Thank you again for your generosity and ministry!  
Sincerely grateful,  
Marjorie R. Alexander




# Gifts of Life Insurance

By Donald G. Smith Jr., M.D.

Our lives go through different phases and each phase has different financial needs. Often during midlife we need to ensure that family members are taken care of in the event of catastrophe, so life insurance policies are purchased to

perform that task. The need for a life insurance policy may change as the phases of life change. If you have a life insurance policy that is no longer needed for its original purpose, then it is possible it can be converted into a donation. It is

very likely this type of donation can result in state, federal, and even estate tax savings.

You may contact Evangelistic Faith Missions at (812) 275-7531 to find out more about donating in this manner to the Lord's work. 

## SEPTEMBER OFFER

# Lord, Take Control of Me

by Bill and Crystal Kellogg

Thanks to all of our Christian family who urged us to produce a CD and those who shared our excitement as we kept them up to date on our progress. All this encouraged us to finally get it done! Most of all, we thank God! We have seen His hand in this project from start to finish.

Not long ago, we were approached by a saint of God in the church parking lot after singing "Lord, Take control of Me." She related how she received the baptism of the Holy Spirit while listening as God helped us perform that song! Soon after that, cancer claimed her body, but she is now enjoying the eternal reward of letting the Lord Jesus take control of her life! Our desire is that all the songs on this recording will glorify God and have an eternal impact on those that listen.

Crystal and I promise each of you that we will see you in the morning in that land beyond the river; the blessed promised land! —Bill Kellogg

Lord, Take Control of Me  
Stand

The Blood Is Still There

He's My Comfort

Here Am I

He Grew the Tree

All of Me

Merciful to Me

He's Closer than a Friend

We're Not Strangers Anymore

Watchman Nee (a true story!)

Oh, Blessed Promised Land



**For a gift of \$20.00 or more for the ministry of Evangelistic Faith Missions**

*This offer ends September 30, 2011*

YES, I would like to receive the CD **Lord, Take Control of Me.**

Enclosed is my offering of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the general fund of Evangelistic Faith Missions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Evangelistic Faith Missions, P. O. Box 609, Bedford, Indiana 47421**

# The Value of Teaching Children

By Sarah Robberts



I was saved when I was only three years old. My parents took my spiritual instruction seriously, and brought me to a saving knowledge of Christ at an early age. My daughter Larissa was saved when she was about two and a half years old. We were in a church service here in Honduras, and at altar call time, I explained to her that the people who were going forward were asking Jesus to forgive them for the bad things that they had done and were asking Him to come into their hearts. Later that evening, I was telling my husband, Zack, what I had told Larissa, and she piped up, "I did that."

"You did what?"

"I asked Jesus into my heart."

Ever since then, Larissa has been sensitive not to do things that would "make Jesus sad." When she has to be corrected, she accepts the correction and makes

amends. I am certain that she is on her way to heaven as well.

My own experience is sufficient to convince me that very young children CAN be saved! When a young child comes to Christ, it is not just a soul, but a whole life that is saved, as that person will now have the opportunity to live his or her entire life for Jesus. There will be no deep scars later from a life of sin. What a wonderful opportunity!

It is for this reason that I believe strongly in reaching children for Christ. A large part of my ministry here in Honduras is training Sunday school teachers, supporting the Sunday schools in various ways, and holding children's meetings. This is also the reason behind our Sunday school material project. We are trying to produce quality Sunday school material that will lead children to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

I was reminded recently of how beautiful it is when children come to Jesus. I had been invited to hold a weekend children's meeting at our church in Rio Blanco. Our theme was "I Will Live So God Can Use Me," and I used the Bible story of Gideon. In the Saturday night meeting, I shared the gospel, and asked if there was anyone who wanted to come and pray to accept Jesus as his or her Savior. Ten children came forward and I led them in a sinner's prayer. Afterwards, we sang our theme song "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me." One of the little boys who had just prayed was on the front row, singing his heart out and beaming, a radiant smile lighting up his little face! I left the service that night with a full heart. I was reminded of why I am here, doing what I am doing. My purpose for living is to fill heaven with worshippers, young and old! 🙏



Some of the children of the Rio Blanco Church with Larissa and Eleyna Robberts.

# Big Grapes or Big Giants?

J. Stevan Manley

There is a very interesting story recorded in Numbers 13:17-33. Let me give some of the highlights. Moses sent spies to check out the land of Canaan. They were to evaluate the land and observe whether the people were strong or weak, few or many. Did the land provide abundantly in food and wood? Their leader told them to bring of the fruit of the land when they returned. They reported that the land flowed with milk and honey and showed him fruit that they brought back with them. Nevertheless, ten of the twelve spies were fearful of the gigantic people and compared themselves to grasshoppers. Caleb, on the other hand, said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." The men had evaluated their enemy in comparison to their God.



Many years later Mark wrote these words in Mark 16:15-16: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." There are some striking comparisons between the command of Moses to Caleb and his fellow scouts and the command of Jesus to take the gospel into all the world. Let us look at some of those comparisons.

**What was the fruit like?** The land of Canaan was a very fruitful land. The Bible says, "And they came unto the brook Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates and of the figs." Those were some grapes! I do not know what those Israeli scouts were expecting, but those grapes were like nothing they had ever seen before. Think of it, grapes that were attached to a staff and carried between grown men! Those were mighty big grapes.

Come with me to the spiritual land of Canaan and read about the fruit that is found there. It is recorded in Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law." When we receive the grace of God in salvation we begin to bear the fruit of the Spirit. We are no longer fulfilling the desires of the flesh but are walking in the Spirit. I was greatly touched by the words of Warren Wiersbe who said, "We must remember that this fruit is produced to be eaten, not to be admired and put on display. People around us are starving for love, joy, peace, and all the other graces of the Spirit. When they find them in our lives, they know that we have something they lack. We do not bear fruit for our own consumption; we bear fruit that others might be fed and helped, and that Christ might be glorified." (The Bible Exposition Commentary Vol. 1, p. 720). It makes for spiritual hunger when a needy soul comes in contact with a fruitful follower of Jesus Christ. The spiritual mouth begins to water and the desire for the fruit of the Spirit

becomes intense. Canaan was a land of plenty. It was a fruitful and a desirable land.

**What were the people like?** Although the land was flowing with milk and honey and the grapes may have been as big as golf balls, there were giants in the land. Moses was concerned about the inhabitants of the land. What was it going to take to move these folks out so the children of Israel could move in? Those who brought back an evil report said: "The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight" (Numbers 13:32-33). These giants were much larger than the Israelites. We must never underestimate the enemy. However, we must never underestimate the power of Almighty God. Caleb and Joshua had a big God for big giants. Numbers 14:8-9 says: "If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the LORD is with us; fear them not." Caleb and Joshua had faith in an all powerful God. They believed that God could give His people victory over giants. They believed God could give them power to possess the land of promise.

The Spirit-filled disciples faced difficulties in advancing with the gospel. There were giants of evil in the land that would have stopped the spread of the gospel if they would have allowed them to do so, but those faithful souls turned to God in believing prayer. Read Acts 4:29-31,33: "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the work of God with boldness. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all." Rest assured not everyone will appreciate your faith and your zeal for doing what God desires of you, but obedience is always the right pathway to pursue.

**What happened when people disobeyed God?** When the Israelites refused to enter the land of promise and rout the giants and drink the grape juice from Eshcol, they wandered in the barren, bleak wilderness for forty years. Those doubters bleached their bones in the wilderness, wandering until a new generation rose up that trusted God. Two gray headed men,

*Continued on page 11*

# Corruption and Missions (Part Three)

Donald G. Smith Jr., M.D.

In the first two installments on corruption, it was shown that corruption is very prevalent in the countries where Evangelistic Faith Missions has a presence and that there is a cost incurred by this problem. In this third and final article of the series, I wish to share some observations and conclusions from personal experience. These do not have the strength of statistical analysis, but may provide another view of this problem. Research and analysis of corruption have been focused on government and international business. Even though there may not be a body of research available, it does not take a giant leap of faith or logic to believe that corruption in these countries filters down to the grass roots of the smallest communities. Indeed that is exactly what missionaries have witnessed in a wide array of countries and cultures over the past several decades. In many third world countries there is a culture of corruption. This insidious infiltration of corruption into the very fiber of a culture has definite effects on the interactions of the people in the church and who interface with the church. It is this aspect of missionary experience that I wish to discuss in this article.

When corruption is the norm in a culture and ethical behavior is rare then the populace comes to believe that it is the norm for all people with whom they encounter and interact. When a foreigner comes on the scene, whether for business, altruism, or evangelism there is a natural suspicion because this individual usually has greater individual wealth and resources than the average individual in that setting. The national people assume that the foreigner is just as corrupt as everyone they know. Unfortunately there are times when they are correct - especially when the foreigner is there for secular business reasons. However, until the missionary or mission establishes a track record on a local level, it is viewed the same way. This is particularly true if there is any type of business in which the missionary is involved. For instance, in Honduras Evangelistic Faith Missions runs a clinic in San Luis with which most of our readers are familiar. Even though there are symbolic prices that the people have to pay, the mission has to fund this clinic to keep it running. The local people do not always understand that and are suspicious that the *gringo* (American) is making a profit from the symbolic prices that are being paid. In their minds he is getting rich from their misery. Time, consistent Christian living, and God's grace eventually help ameliorate this tendency, but it does not completely go away. They project their life experiences of ubiquitous corruption onto the missionary.


Additionally, when something is ingrained in the culture, it is very hard to purge its effects completely, even after someone becomes a believer. This is seen when an individual rises within the church structure and attains a level of authority or has access to church moneys. Even though the individual may not embezzle or steal outright, there is still a sense of entitlement that goes with the position. This arises from his life experiences



and what he has seen. Particularly at the outset of new mission works, nationals have not had the opportunity to see dedicated sacrificial Christian service modeled for them. Rather, all the people in leadership roles have used their position to personal advantage. Christian ethics are not all learned overnight. One of the disappointments in missionary work is that some of the most promising converts easily are led into sin by the

temptations of position and relatively small amounts of money. The converse of this is true as well and some of the greatest victories on the mission field are seen when believers grow in grace and incorporate Christian ethics into their personal belief systems and family cultures.

The third area to be discussed is the effect of corruption on the missionary. Missionary fatigue, discouragement, and disillusionment are multifactorial in their causation. It is my opinion that corruption and its ensuring costs - both monetary and emotional - have a deleterious affect on missionaries. The unnecessary government bureaucracy, the extra lawyer fees, police stops with their senseless harassment, and the traps that I unknowingly fell into all took their toll on my psychological well being while on the mission field. One story will suffice to illustrate the type of dilemma that arises. I went into the Sears store in San Pedro Sula shortly after we arrived in Honduras. A Honduran teenager was with me who was the son of one of the church people; however, I spoke very little Spanish at the time and he did not speak any English. I only needed to buy fans to use in the house. While I was looking at the fans one of the store employees approached me. By his dress and interactions with the other employees at the cash registers, it was obvious he was a manager. He wrote on a piece of paper a sale price at which I could purchase the fans. He told the Honduran teenager where to meet him out back to get the fans from the warehouse. What at first seemed like a great deal turned out to be a shady deal. He did not have me pay at the cash register but out back when the fans were delivered. By the time I realized that he had cheated Sears, I already had the fans and was at a complete loss as to how to proceed. In our culture if there is any question of wrong doing you demand to see the management. I did not have the Spanish skills to demand anything or to explain anything, and furthermore, it was the manager who was in on the scam. I felt that somehow I had been an accomplice to a crime, and I was very discouraged that I could not recognize what was happening and extricate myself from the situation.

There is real monetary cost to working in an environment of corruption, but there are also spiritual and psychological costs as well. In the long run these are probably more difficult to deal with and have longer lasting effects on both nationals and missionaries. Hopefully this three-part series has given you some extra reasons to hold all our missionaries up in prayer. They need it for many reasons and corruption is one of them. 

# When the Death Angel Visits Honduras

By Hannah McDowell, Short-term Missionary

Working in our San Luis clinic in Honduras has given me a unique chance to experience the opposite extremes of human existence. I have shared in the exuberant thrill of welcoming a new life bursting with vitality and potential into the world. I have also given comfort during the heart-wrenching sorrow that accompanies the departure of a loved one, whether young or old, into eternity. The emotions that accompany both of these events are similar among countries the world over, but the customs connected with each can vary widely.

Take, for instance, a visit by the Death Angel. In Honduras, as in other Central American countries, burials must take place within twenty-four hours of a person's death. There is no time to sit down together to thoroughly discuss and carefully plan the arrangements, then have the details of the funeral announced in newspapers and church services several days ahead of time so people can know well enough in advance to make plans to attend. Here in the rural areas a call to the local radio station this morning may be the only way to get the word out that you need to come to Grandma Rosa's wake tonight to pay your last respects, as by this time tomorrow she will be in the ground.

Even if the family knows that the departed member was a believer in Jesus, the natural sadness felt with their loss is compounded by the stress and pressure that is an inevitable product of crowding an overwhelming multitude of absolutely essential things to do into a few short hours. There is no such thing as the body being taken to a funeral home where it can be professionally prepared by non-emotionally involved strangers. If there is any "embalming" done at all, someone must make a trip to buy a large quantity of formaldehyde and inject it via 10cc syringes (likely purchased at our clinic) into the corpse's abdomen. Then the body will be lovingly washed and dressed. A beautifully embroidered white dress needs to be purchased for a

woman or a plain white shirt for a man. The house must be cleaned and readied for the wake, and food and drinks must be prepared for the expected guests who will come and go throughout the entire night. A coffin needs to be chosen and the living room of the home cleared of all other furniture except for two wooden sawhorses set up in the center to hold the coffin, with as many chairs as are available placed around the perimeter of the room. A large plastic tub needs to be procured, filled with bags of ice, and set on cement blocks under the coffin to help keep the corpse's temperature down and to slow decay.

The intense whirl of feverish activity largely subsides when everything is prepared, but then follows a night without sleep as friends and relatives gather at the home for the funeral service. Visitors file in and out of the house in a steady stream, pausing to peer through the narrow glass pane in the lid of the simple wooden-box coffin before greeting the assembled family. People mill around in the yard; uncomprehending small children dash in and out, laughing and shouting; and an occasional inquisitive dog may meander through the room, snuffling casually at this or that one's shoes.

By daybreak, everyone is exhausted, but there is still the burial to get through. If the family lives within a mile or two of the cemetery, the coffin will probably be carried the entire distance by a dozen or more pallbearers, who alternate taking turns with each other for this honor, switching places smoothly without pausing in their steady walk. For a longer distance, the coffin is transported in a pickup truck, which creeps along slowly enough for the long line of people streaming behind to keep up, several of whom keep a steadying hand on the cargo sticking out the back of the truck.

It is no wonder that the whole process frays nerves to the snapping point, and our clinic staff can expect to treat at least one or two hysterical patients at some point during or after every funeral.

There is a lot of strain even for families who know that their Christian loved one is enjoying being in heaven with Jesus. For those who have no such assurance, death can be an occasion of profound despair, tolerable only by means of trying to drown one's sorrows in alcohol. I remember years ago in Costa Rica watching a man in drunken woe throw himself into the open grave of his mother and cling to her casket, sobbing wretchedly. Another similar occasion took place this summer when I walked into the back door of the clinic for an evening shift and heard a slurred male voice moaning loudly, "*Mi querida suegra. Oh, mi querida suegra!*" ("My dear mother-in-law. Oh, my dear mother-in-law!")

Maribel, one of our nurses, was coming out of the medication room with two syringes in her hand, and at my inquiring look, informed me that Angelita, the clinic cleaning lady's mother, had died early that morning. I was saddened to hear the news, but not surprised; I had thought the afternoon before when she was there for a medical procedure how incredibly frail and weak she appeared. Now she was with Jesus and no longer suffering. My first reaction was to wonder how her family was handling it, and whether I would have a chance to go to the house to give my sympathy and show support. Obviously, since it had happened that morning, the wake was currently in progress, and I would be here at the clinic all night. My next reaction as I walked into the general ward was a kind of amazed shock at the number of people who had managed to pack themselves into the room, and that it sure did not smell like all of them were using deodorant!

One of Angelita's daughters was standing by the wall near the foot of the bed, biting her lip and fighting tears as she helplessly watched the thrashing form of her husband. Just a few days before, after the umpteenth time she had come to buy more pain and nausea medication, I had prayer with her, asking God to touch her mother, and give strength and com-

fort to those who were caring for her. I went to her now and hugged her, and she clung desperately to me in the midst of a constant flow of people entering and leaving the room.

Several pairs of willing hands flopped the man first to one side, then to the other to receive the needles Maribel wielded. The Valium and Dolofor did their work, and not long afterwards the grieving son-in-law was carried out, quiet and meek as a rather bedraggled lamb.

I did have a chance to go to Angeli-ta's home the next morning after I got off work, and sat with the family for nearly an hour before the interment. People were still coming and going, though not in droves as they had been the night before. At one point her oldest sister came into the room and up to the coffin, sealed closed by clear two-inch wide tape, wrapped around the entire seam where the lid met the bed. Laying her head down on the glass pane, she began to sob loudly, asking no one in particular how she was going to make it without her. Seven women rushed to cluster around her, led her to a chair and hovered anxiously over her. One of the women reached for a tiny bottle and began splashing its contents onto the sister's face. Two others massaged her arms. Yet another began vigorously rubbing her chest in circles over her heart. Several of them were talking at once, offering soothing words of comfort. After a few minutes of their combined ministrations, the sister's sobs quieted, and she slumped in her chair, staring straight ahead of her as if in a stupor.

**RIGHT: Graves of the poor people; BELOW: Burial vaults above ground.**

Not long afterward, a similar scenario was repeated with a grieving teenaged granddaughter, complete with the splashing in the face of the bottle's contents (flower water, I later was told), vigorous chest rub over the heart, arm massage, and multi-voiced words of comfort. I sat quietly and respectfully through it all. Our North American culture and inbred reticence do not give us the "luxury" of spilling our feelings so publicly and with such abandon. Were we to do so, people would be embarrassed and uncomfortable. Here, it is a normal and accepted part of the grieving process, and it gives everyone not only a vent for their sorrow, but the chance to give and receive loving support.

Of course, there are times when part of the family cannot be present for the occasion, and misses the opportunity for the comfort of shared grief. In the rare cases when a baby who is born in the clinic does not survive, the mother may not be present for the funeral if she is not physically able to be discharged soon enough. I will never forget the premature infant I delivered a few years ago who lived only a few hours before giving up the struggle

to breathe. His fifteen-year-old mother and her husband were too poor to need to debate over which coffin they would like for their son. My heart broke when the baby's father asked me for a cardboard box, into which the tiny body was gently placed. The sobbing mother took one last look at his face before the lid was folded down and her firstborn was carried up the dirt road for the burial she could not attend.

Without a doubt, that baby's grave was a quickly dug hole on a bit of land donated by the municipality for the extremely poor. Perhaps it had a crude homemade wooden cross to mark the spot. But those who can afford to buy a grave plot in the local cemetery will use it to provide burial for many family members by a tiered system of vaults. The first coffin is placed in a cement-lined hole in the ground just deep enough to hold it. Three more cement vaults will be built on top, the ends left open to receive the coffins to come. As each vault is filled, the end is cemented closed. Thus, in the same amount of space that a cemetery in your town would have three people buried, Honduran cemeteries will have twelve.



Yes, a visit from the Death Angel in Honduras sets in motion a whirl of activity for pagan and Christian alike. It brings either the desolate anguish of an eternity without Christ or the reassuring comfort of knowing that a loved one is rejoicing in the joys of heaven. Pray for those who are working to spread the good news of a Savior who died that men and women and boys and girls in Honduras, as well as around the world, might not perish but have eternal life! 🙏

# The Providence of God

By David Middleton

**M**y plans were to go to a service that night. I was prepared to preach and sensed much of the presence of the Lord. Although I was quite tired, I planned to go anyway to be able to help our church in Kilometer 26 on the highway to the north. With the church now built, but not finished, the pastor is trying to rebuild the work, since she did not have an ideal place to hold services during the building process. Had I gone, I would have missed seeing God work in an emergency for one of our Haitians.

After speaking with the pastor, it was planned for me to go the next week. She wanted to have more time to invite people and have a good group there. It looked like I would have the night free, but we do not always know how God is planning our future and our time. I want always to be ready for His will. Experiencing His planning can be thrilling!

Later in the evening I received a desperate call from one of our Haitian men. He has not been able to get his immigration papers properly completed and had been detained. The call did not give me the full information I needed. He was speaking Spanish, but the phone conversation was not real clear. As far as his location, he told me he was at Kilometer 9. I did not know where I might find him. It is a large area besides being a hub for transport.

As I prepared to leave, I asked my wife, Marilyn, to call another Haitian to accompany me. Since he did not answer his phone, she decided to call Jason, another one of our Haitian Christians. The Lord made that arrangement. Jason had been Manuel's neighbor in Haiti and knew him well. He was able to call him by cell phone and talk to him in his own language, giving us a clearer message.

As I went to meet Jason at a nearby gas station, I asked the Lord to work out His will concerning everything. I then left it in His hands.

I had decided to wear my sport jacket and a tie, as the Dominicans give more respect to people in formal dress. I did not have time to don a suit.

Once we knew where Manuel was located, I could not find a parking place nearby, so I had to drive a distance and return on foot. We walked past buses, and someone called, "Pastor." I did not understand the rest of what he said. It was dark and I could not see who he was. Concerned that they might transport Manuel to another location before I could arrive, made me con-

tinue on my way. As a result, the one who called, "Pastor," came running to us. I then recognized him as someone I knew from Kilometer 32. He had served as our cook one time when I and others were working on surveying the land.

He asked why we were there. I really never expected any help from him, but he took us to a couple officers standing on the sidewalk. He spoke to them but I could not catch what he said. One officer reached out and took my hand telling me to get out of the street. The next words I heard were, "Who is it you are looking for?" They then took us to a bus and asked for Manuel's last name in order to call him. He eventually came forward once



David Middleton with his friend Jason

he realized they were calling his name. He picked up his bags and stepped off the bus, a free man!

Jason was precisely the one I needed to help find and identify Manuel. We had to park far from the bus because God wanted us to walk past my friend who is the one who made the request for Manuel's release. Before I could open my mouth, God had everything all solved. He had taken charge from the beginning and showed me that He could do it without my help.

My friend from the Kilometer 32 decided to ride with us to where Manuel lives to make sure all was well, in case another officer met us before we reached his home. God had every detail under His control. This will give Manuel an extension of time to get his papers arranged. We expect to see him in service again on Sunday. Thank God for His goodness and watchful care over us! We also want to thank you for your continued prayers. God knows we definitely need them! 🙏

## BIG GRAPES OR BIG GIANTS?

*Continued from page 6*

Caleb and Joshua, kept the faith through those decades of wandering in the wilderness. Eventually, they were a part of the advancing Israeli army that took the promised land. As senior citizens they drank grape juice from those huge grapes of Eshcol and chased giants off of mountains and inhabited the land of promise.

In these days, many are losing their faith in Almighty God. They are giving in to an evil heart of unbelief and doubting God's ability for this present age. Thus churches are closing. Camp meetings are dying. It seems that there are not many like Joshua and Caleb who keep on believing God in spite of the doubtful crowd they have to travel with through the wilderness. We should pray for a repeat of the prophecy of Joel: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." Oh, God, make it so today!

**What lesson can we learn today?** The lesson for us to learn today is that we can make a choice to enjoy big grapes or run from big giants. Many have lost their faith in Almighty God. I do not mean people are not going to church. I do not mean that they are not saying prayers. It does seem that many people are only seeing big giants and have lost sight of the big grapes. God is able for this challenging hour. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). His Word says in Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." I believe it is still possible to see new people saved. I believe that today believers can be filled with the Holy Spirit. I believe we can gain ground in answer to the prayer of faith. Yes, there are giants in the land, but God is able to give us victory over our giants. God is able to help us to possess our spiritual heritage. God is desirous of us bearing the fruit of the spirit and making those we come in contact with thirsty for some of our spiritual Eshcol grape juice. 🍷

## IN MEMORY

IN MEMORY OF	FROM
Emma Adams	Mr. George Adams
Emma Adams	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Adams
Betty Colburn	Mrs. Joanne Adams
George Colburn	Mrs. Joanne Adams
Emma Adams	Mr. Shelby Adams
Kenneth Avery, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Avery
Alfred Newman	Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Avery
Mr. and Mrs. John Poff	Ms. Helen Beard
Ruth Blaize	Mr. Ralph Blaize
Ruth Blaize	Miss Sharon Blaize
Rev. Victor Glenn	Mr. Patrick Boccagno
Mary Frances Cottingham	Mr. Eugene Cottingham
Dr. and Mrs. Dale Yocum	Mr. and Mrs. Tim Daniel
Pearl Schappell	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Flail
Elizabeth Boyer	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Flail
Arlene Ginter	Mr. Charles Ginter
Daniel Stafford	Mr. Kenneth Hembree

Rev. Donald Hughes	Mrs. Grace Hughes
Deborah Hughes Deitsch	Mrs. Grace Hughes
Paul Kunselman, Jr.	Ms. Janet Kunselman
Maggie Lewis	Mr. Ira Lewis
Tom Warlitrner III	Mrs. Toynette Martin
Marlin Straub	Miss Irene Maurer
Rose Tadros	Miss Irene Maurer
Edwin D. Jones	Mrs. Carol Mohl-Jones
Doris Maurer Schmidt	Mrs. Lydia Moser
Our Loved Ones	Mrs. Mary Moyer
Pauline Raub	Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Raub
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Triplett	Ms. Annette Triplett
Katherine Palmer	Ms. Annette Triplett
Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Rice	Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Van Horn
Martha Trotzke	Mrs. Martha Walter
J. B. and Neda Turney	Ms. Carolyn Walters
Jack Jarrett	Mrs. Ada Weidman
Judy Williams	Mrs. Ada Weidman
Nancy Davis	Mrs. Ada Weidman
Russell and Margart Lambert	Mrs. Ada Weidman
Charles and Lillian Arnold	Mr. and Mrs. Donald White
Rev. L. W. Barbee	Mr. and Mrs. Harry Williams

## IN HONOR

IN HONOR OF	FROM
Irene Maurer	Dr. and Mrs. Richard Albright
Anita Brechbill	Mr. and Mrs. George Bissinger
Faith Hemmeter	Mr. and Mrs. Araia Hadgu
Irene Maurer	Mr. and Mrs. Araia Hadgu
Isabelle Henry	Miss Irene Maurer
Pauline Steele	Miss Irene Maurer
Frank B. Schmidt	Mrs. Lydia Moser
Jesus Christ	Mr. Thomas Pettis

## Consider Honoring a Living Loved One or the Memory of a Loved One. . . with Your Gift to EFM

Use the form below. Return it to EFM. We will publish the name of the person or persons you choose to honor. In addition to the honor you bestow on your loved one(s), your gift in their honor will carry the love of Christ and the power of His Word to persons on faraway mission fields.

**Mail This Form To:**

**EFM, P. O. Box 609, Bedford, IN 47421**

Dear EFM Friends: The enclosed gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
is being sent to honor \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of person(s) to be honored)

This is a MEMORIAL   
This HONORS one(s) who are LIVING   
(Please check one of the above.)

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



# Evangelistic Faith Missions

“The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

## Searching for the lost by

(More notes at [www.efm-missions.org/prayer](http://www.efm-missions.org/prayer))

### Presenting our pleas.

#### Bolivia

- Workers are needed – pastors for the churches and a missionary family.
- Ask God for His continued help to the Elmer Sánchez family.

#### Cuba

- May God give the encouragement and help of the Spirit to the believers.

#### Dominican Republic

- Several young people expressed interest in being Christians during a Vacation Bible School. Pray for them to get established in a walk with God.
- There will be a gathering of the churches for special fasting and prayer near the end of September.
- Angel Gabriel, an orphan boy, has a heart murmur.

#### Egypt

- The believers desire God’s protection during these days of political uncertainty.
- Ask God to supply the finances for the ongoing building projects of new churches.

#### Eritrea/Sudan

- Pray for harmony among the leaders of the Eritrean work in Sudan.
- The new national leader in Eritrea wants God’s anointing on his life and ministry.

#### Guatemala

- The national church leaders will have a special assembly this month to plan for the future of the Bible institute.
- Pray for God’s protection as the first round of national elections will take place in September. Over twenty candidates have been killed since January.

#### Honduras

- An electronic X-ray machine, an EKG machine, and IV pumps are needed for the clinic in San Luis.

#### USA Hispanic Ministries

- The congregation in Hyde Park, MA, is facing some difficulties in the development of the work. Pray that the devil will not be able to block this endeavor.
- The Hispanic believers are asking God for direction for starting more churches.

#### Homeland

- May the recipients of the missionary scholarships stay focused on their calls.

### Welcoming His responses.

#### Bolivia

- The Elmer Sánchez family is thanking God for His protection from serious illnesses, robberies, and accidents.
- The churches are seeing growth and progress.

#### Dominican Republic

- God protected Fernando and Randy from serious injury when they had a motorcycle accident. God is using this to speak to their hearts.
- A man sought God during the funeral of another man who had been saved recently.
- The youth group in K-32 is growing, and they in turn are witnessing to their families.

#### Egypt

- Ten churches have been started in Egypt so far this year.

#### Eritrea/Sudan

- Three mothers were baptized, and two believers were united in marriage.
- Fifty-four believers recently partook of the Lord’s Supper.
- Finances are being supplied for the ongoing ministry.

#### Guatemala

- Praise God for a large number of applications for kindergarten for the new school year.
- God helped in a national church leadership assembly in August.

#### Honduras

- An oxygen machine that had been misplaced in Honduras has been found.
- The ultrasound machine is being put to good use in the clinic in San Luis.
- Daniel and Tiffany Melton are thanking God for His help during their deputation travels.

#### USA Hispanic Ministries

- The Stamford, CT, congregation saw five new people saved in July.
- In August the congregation in Trenton, NJ, celebrated the second anniversary of their youth organization. They are thankful for the way God is using their young people.

#### Homeland

- Leroy and Myrtle Adams have enjoyed God’s help and protection during their travels.