

International FOCUS Ministries

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A Common Dilemma in World Missions

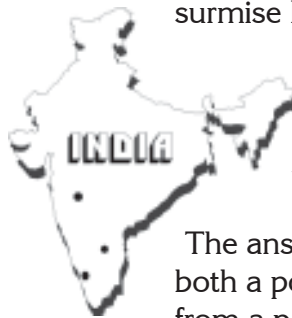
Every missionary and missions organization of which I am acquainted faces a similar dilemma — the lack of financial support! I read about it in the letters, magazines and other forms of communication that come to me from our missionaries the world over. I hear about it and my heart literally aches as I listen to weary workers explain and share this common plight with me in personal counsel. I see it on every mission trip, whether it is to Asia, Europe, former USSR, Africa, South and Central America or here in the USA.

It is unimaginable all that could be accomplished if only the necessary funds were available. Millions of un-reached souls could be reached with the gospel of Christ. Thousands of national ministers and workers could be trained for many areas of service. Multiplied thousands of new churches could be planted in both the reached and un-reached areas of the globe. The Bible could be translated into the languages of hundreds of remaining languages that are without the Word of God. Food, water, shelter, medical aid, and education could be provided for the teeming millions merely existing on the brink of starvation, poverty, ignorance, illness, and extinction. The list could go on and on of the many noble and worthy things that could be accomplished in the Name of our Lord IF ONLY THERE WERE AVAILABLE FUNDS!

Satan knows that nothing cripples and impedes the compassionate work of missionaries like insufficient funds and resources, and so he puts

forth a relentless effort to sabotage and destroy the “supply-line” of mission funding. It is a sobering reality that the vast majority of Christians and Churches in America have turned their interest and support inwardly upon themselves to the neglect of the Great Commission of our Lord. One can only surmise by their actions IT IS TIME TO STOP

SUPPORTING MISSIONS! BUT IS IT, REALLY? CONSIDER WITH ME THIS QUESTION: WHEN SHOULD WE STOP SUPPORTING MISSIONS?



The answer to this vitally important question has both a positive and negative response. First, from a positive point of view, we can stop supporting missions:

When we have finished the task of the Great Commission and every nation, people group, and every individual has heard a presentation of the saving love and grace of Jesus Christ in such a way as to either accept or reject Him.

- When the Church of Jesus Christ has been planted among every people group of the earth and each Church is totally self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating.
- When there can be a witness of the salvation of Jesus Christ from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues to stand before the throne and the Lamb- (Revelation 7:9)
- When according to Matthew 24:14, the end shall come!

From the negative point of view, we can stop supporting missions:

- ❑ If we no longer believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the ONLY God and Savior of mankind.
- ❑ If we no longer believe all men are lost and need to be saved.
- ❑ If we no longer believe the Bible is THE INFAL-LIBLE WORD of God.
- ❑ If we no longer believe the Great Commission is a mandate for ALL Christians.
- ❑ If we no longer believe in the exclusiveness of Christianity as a result of the Name of Jesus Christ, and the power of His Gospel to save.
- ❑ If we believe ALL religions are essentially the same—just different paths to salvation and eternal life to all its adherents.
- ❑ If we believe Christianity is a ‘western’ religion only.
- ❑ If we no longer love Jesus because He said, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

My dear friends, **WE CANNOT CEASE NOR LET UP IN OUR SUPPORT OF WORLD MISSIONS AND EVANGELIZATION!** This supreme task must be done. It can be done. It will be done if we let God have His way with our lives, money, and time.

We must give missions its rightful place!

The supreme mission of the Church is missions! **Missions is** the center not the circumference of the work of God. **Missions is** the main issue not the side issue. **Missions must** be the heart, not the appendix. **Missions must** be the work and not just a branch of the work. **Missions is** not to be included into the church program... **IT IS THE PROGRAM!**

The gravity of the hour, the greatness of the need, and the urgency of the opportunity

should impel us to action! May God help us to out-give the past and out-do the present and give our utmost for His highest for the outreach of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Let us repent of our casual and calloused attitude toward the mil-lions of unloved, unsought, untold, and unsaved people for whom Jesus died! Let us take the brakes off of our serving and sharing. Let us pray, give, and go for God while we have the strength, resources, and opportunities to do so!

The Bible says, “God loves a cheerful giver” and “It is more blessed to give than to receive”. There is no joy like the joy of giving! Oh for the day when all Christians will realize that giving to mis-sions is not an obligation, but an opportunity, not a duty but a privilege! May the words of the late Jim Elliot who gave his life to reach the Waorani (Auca) Indians of Ecuador inspire you to become a giver: “He is no fool who is willing to give up what he cannot keep, in order to gain what he cannot lose.”

**MALABAR
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE UPDATE**

Wonderful progress is being made in the building construction of phase one of our MTC building program. Phase one consists of four floors accommodating a kitchen-dinning hall, class-rooms, library, two guest quarters, offices and faculty lounge. The fourth floor was recently set and work is now being done to finalize the roof, walls, electric and plumbing. When I returned home from India in March we needed \$20,000 to complete this phase of the project. I am happy to report that now we are down to only \$11,000 to finish the job.



Photo: There are now four floors like these completed. Roof is currently being finished.

Eleven years ago Focus Ministries raised the money to purchase the property and house to begin this ministry. We have seen amazing progress and growth over these years. The director has recently earned his Ph.D. degree. Four members of our full time faculty have earned Masters degrees, while others have Bachelors degrees. We have as many as eight pastors who are highly qualified to teach come and share on a part time basis. The school now offers a second degree in elementary education for the English medium students. We are currently operating three elementary schools in various areas where our graduates have planted new churches and schools. This has been an amazing approach to reach Muslims in this highly populated Muslim area as well as many Hindus.



Photo: Harley Fiddler teaching MTC class on the first floor of the new building.

**MTC is NOT a seed scattering ministry,
but a seed-planting ministry**



Photo: One of the three elementary schools where both Muslim and Hindu children are enrolled.



Photo: Nearly 1000 spiritually hungry pastors and Christian workers receiving training from Rev. Harley M. Fiddler

PLANT A SEED TODAY...PRODUCE A LEADER TOMORROW

We are building lives and leadership that is impacting this vast area of India and producing lasting and eternal fruit. Your investment to help us with this project will bear eternal dividends. Can I count on you to help me to help them? Will you prayerfully make the most generous gift you can to help me reach this goal of \$11,000.00 to complete this crucial and needy project. Once this project is completed we can concentrate on planting more schools in this area of 700 villages that need schools. Whatever amount you can give will be a precious blessing and I will be forever grateful to you.

“He who wins souls is wise”

Proverbs 11:30

There is NO higher purpose for any Christian to pursue than BRINGING PEOPLE TO JESUS! There is no greater joy one can experience than the joy of leading a soul to Christ. The essential purpose for the baptism in the Holy Spirit is to have power to be a witness to Jesus Christ and win souls.

Researchers, like Barna and others, tell us that “soul-winning” is one of the most neglected ministries among all Christians in America. How tragic that less than 2% of all Christians ever win another person to Jesus Christ!

How ABOUT YOU? Are you telling others about Jesus and what He has done for you? Are you bringing people to Jesus? Have you ever tried? Let me encourage and challenge you to give it a try! Believe me, a miracle awaits you.

**All of our mission efforts are focused on one thing...
Winning SOULS!**



Winning Souls in AFRICA: Altar filled with seekers as Harley calls people to Christ (2004).



Winning Souls in THE UKRAINE: Harley praying for people's salvation and healing.



AFRICA: Harley leading a group of young people to Christ (2003).



Winning Souls in JAPAN: Children accepting Jesus as their Savior.

It truly is harvest time and it is so exciting to be part of this "last day" ingathering of the largest number of souls the world has ever witnessed!

Dear friends, I am convinced that in God's kingdom you cannot lose by giving (see Matt. 6:38). For however much time we have left, Donna and I want to give more, go more, and do more to win souls and train others to do the same! We truly want our latter years to count more than our former for the cause of Christ and lost souls. We want to thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support without which it would not be possible for us to do this ministry of outreach to the un-reached.

We pray for you often and ask that God will cause you to always abound and increase in His abundant resources for your every need.

Until next time we want to remind you we love you and we are praying that the God of all grace and abundance will richly bless and keep you.

Your Partners in Harvest,

Harley and Donna Fiddler



Partners in Harvest