

# International FOCUS Ministries

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2004

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## Dear Mission Partner:

The book of Obadiah comprises twenty-one verses. This little book of the prophet deals with the Judgment of Edom and the restoration of Israel. It is the shortest of the Old Testament prophecies, but within its brief compass are some arresting words which stand out in bold relief: 'THOU STOODEST ON THE OTHER SIDE...' (v.11).

These words suggest the unenviable position of anyone, nation, church, or individual, standing on the opposite side of the right and just cause by refusing to be committed to the highest and the best under God.

History furnishes examples of this as the prophet reminds us. Esau and Jacob were brothers, and the story of their feud is well known. By bartered birthright and profane life the former takes the way of the flesh as against the latter in his way of faith. When Esau has become Edom, a nation, he does violence to Jacob, and in the day of Israel's struggle Edom stands aloof and subsequently becomes one of their enemies. Edom is un-brotherly by neutrality and takes advantage of the spoil

Other instances, almost like a rogue's gallery can be cited from the Scriptures. Think of Israel flirting with false godlings and being uncertain about the God of Moses and Joshua, or halting between two opinions at Mount Carmel before Elijah and found on the other side with Baal worship. Achan was guilty of this when he hid the stuff in his tent and implicated a whole nation under God's Judgment. Balaam was proved a weak and false prophet by his intrigue with the other side. When Peter denied his Lord by the fire, he was on the other side. Even the apostle Paul stood aloof when as Saul of Tarsus he consented to the death of Stephen. Added to this list of aloofers, would be Annas and Caiaphas, Pilot, Herod, Judas, the

betrayer of his Master, Ananias and Sapphira, liars-Demas, who forsook apostleship for love the world. All these stood on the other side.

In the dramatic story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) our Lord points out the glaring sin of neutrality and non-commitment in the priest and Levite who PASSED BY ON THE OTHER SIDE and failed to minister to a soul in desperate need.

Individuals today are the same as yesterday. Human nature has not changed. Quite frequently we are shocked by local reports of rape, robbery, and physical assault on women, girls and children, while witnesses stand aloof and do nothing. This happened some months ago to our precious friend and co-laborer Dr. Bronkhorst in South Africa. People stood and observed as robbers mugged this 86 year old man, knocking him to the ground attempting to rob him. But God delivered him! Thank God the Angel of the Lord was not standing aloof but was on hand to deliver him. More tragic than this, however, is the fact that many Christians are standing ON THE OTHER SIDE uncommitted, uninvolved, while multiplied thousands of souls are perishing under the assault of Satan and the kingdom of darkness.

Every commodity on earth has its worth. But who can estimate the worth of a soul? Who can fix its price? All earth's fabulous billions are not enough to buy a soul. Made in the image of God, the soul is ageless and of priceless value to God.

Not just the soul of a great president, priest, preacher, prophet, or other noble figures of history, but the soul of a dying baby in the bony arms of an unheard of, unknown, unseen starving mother on the back side of an African desert or some other remote area of the world.

It is wicked to be ON THE OTHER SIDE of compassion and commitment and fail to reach these precious souls with the Gospel of Christ.

Strange, there is no heavenly reward promised those who amass a fortune, or build an empire, or capture the plaudits of men.

But the Word of God reads clearly, "He that winneth souls is wise---and they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever". (Prov. 11:30, Daniel 12:3).

Thank God, we don't have to be neutral. We don't have to stand aloof on the other side. We don't have to be a mediocre Christian. Andrew Murray once said, "In the missionary problem there are three great factors: The world in its sin and misery; Christ in his dying love; the Church as the link between the two." What a privilege and opportunity God has given us to reach the unsaved masses. This is our finest hour for world evangelization. You have an opportunity to be part of this mighty army God is raising up today to evangelize the world and bring the King back.

Through your faithful prayers and partnership support you are helping us exult the King and establish the Kingdom. It is always an inspiration to hear from you because your letters are a "life-line" to so many that look to this ministry for support. I look forward to hearing from you.

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## MALABAR THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE UPDATE

We are in the final stage of construction of phase one of our building plan-- a beautiful four story building for our kitchen-dinning room, class rooms, library, offices, dorm rooms and two guest quarters. The roof has been delayed due to a workers and truckers strike. Pray this will be settled soon so we can obtain our materials.

The projected cost of this project was \$40,000.00. Currently we need only \$10,000.00 to bring this phase to its completion. It is vitally necessary



Photos: Above and upper left show the Phase One construction.



that we complete this right away so we can get on with the business of training men and women for ministry. In addition to theological training we are training elementary school teachers and other vocational skills to prepare our workers to evangelize and plant churches in the 700 villages around our school that need the Gospel!

Dear friends, I need YOU to help me help them! Will you prayerfully consider making the best donation possible to help us finish this project? Whatever size gift you can send will be a blessing for time and eternity, and I will be ever so grateful.

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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSIONS OVERSEAS SHOR TERM (MOST)

- There will be three training modules scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Oct 1-2; 15-16; 29-30. 2004, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- I will be teaching Friday and Saturday mornings October 1,2

### DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR SHORT TERM MISSION TRAINING EXPERIENCE.

Please contact Dr. Doug Chatham at (404) 627-2681 or [doug.chatham@beulah.org](mailto:doug.chatham@beulah.org)

### OUR WEBSITE IS READY

It can be found at...

[www.missioncentral.net](http://www.missioncentral.net)

or

[www.internationalfocusministries.net](http://www.internationalfocusministries.net)

Partners in Harvest,  
Harley and Donna Fiddler



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