

# WORLD

the **GLS** connection  
**reviews**



A ministry of  
the GARBC

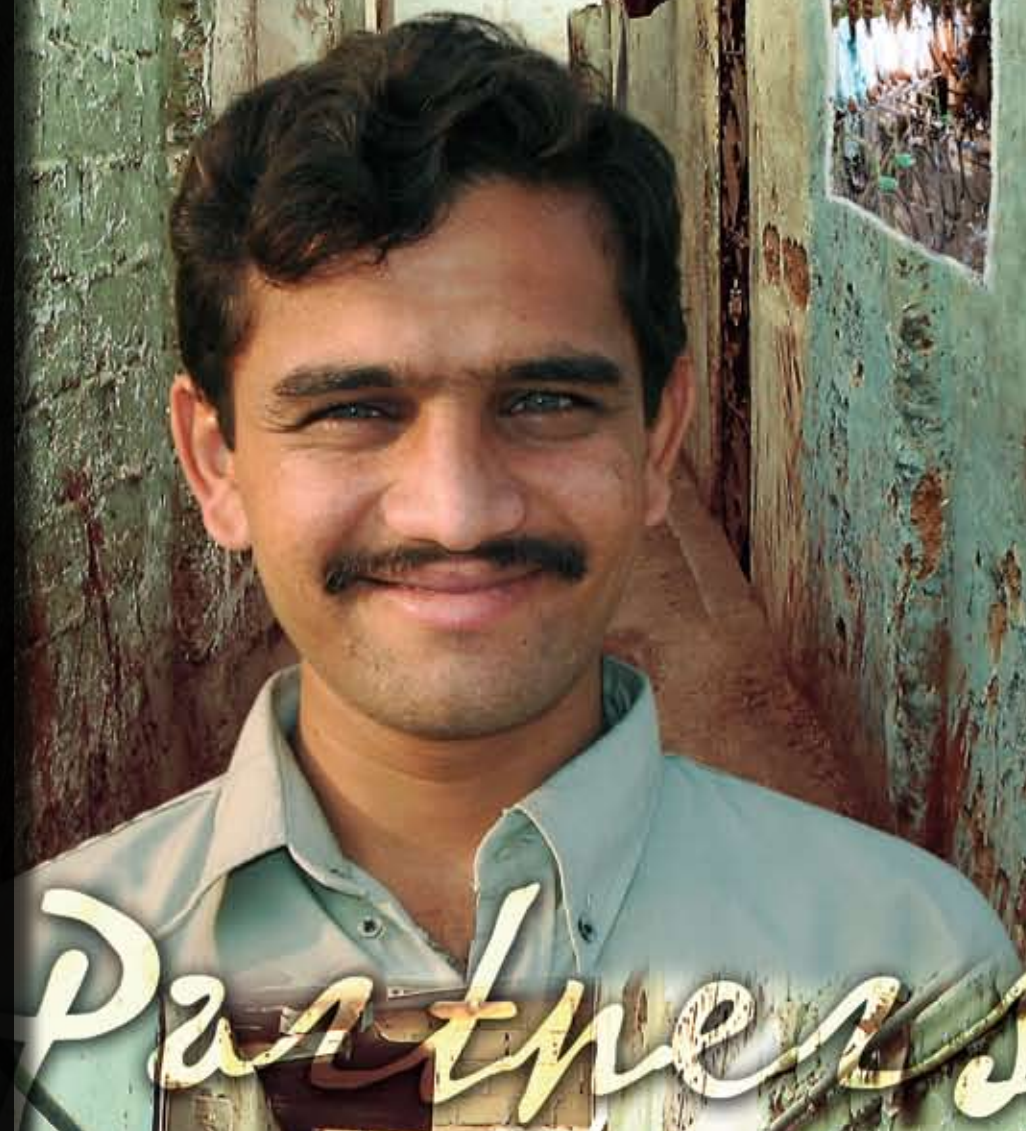
The International Partnership of Fundamental Baptist Ministries, like Gospel Literature Services, is part of the international ministries of the GARBC. This partnership has created a global link among associations of independent Baptist churches worldwide. The purpose of the partnership ultimately is to strengthen the Body of Christ by strengthening local churches. Our vision is that each local church will have resources to fulfill the Great Commission in its cultural context. God has wonderfully brought together fifty-one associations as a vehicle for encouragement, edification, and creative avenues for assisting one another.

One of our partners is Faith Baptist Ministries in Hyderabad, India. It is an association of independent Baptist churches. Dr. Samuel Borra serves as the director. He explained that many of the fellowshipping pastors serve outlying villages and slums and that their only means of travel is by foot.

One of the goals of the IPFBM is to encourage one another by sharing resources. The partnership does not revolve around financial assistance, since the funds are limited no matter who a partner might be. Nevertheless, at times it is possible to meet some specific needs.

As an expression of the partnership, the GARBC was able to assist Faith Baptist Ministries with a special gift to enable it to provide seven bicycles for its pastors and a motorbike for the traveling evangelist. The pictures tell the story. Eternity will reveal the results.

As we think creatively, God will surely show us how we can contribute to the fulfillment of the Great Commission in lands where we may never be able to visit. On the other hand, God may allow us to develop a relationship with a congregation of believers situated in another culture who share our faith and perhaps can teach us some things about the cost of commitment. ■





# Ministry in Kenya

Kenya, situated on the eastern coast of Africa, is a picturesque landscape of rolling hills, mountains, and fields of various crops. While crops of rice, tea, coffee, sugarcane, and corn abound, many of the people eke out a living.



### The bad news

After Deb and I spent sixteen days in the country, our conversations with local people confirmed what seemed obvious: the Kenyan government appears to be corrupt and has little regard for the welfare of its people. In spite of Kenya's vast natural resources, very little opportunity exists for the people to get ahead. Poverty is accentuated by joblessness, crime, AIDS, and a general lack of infrastructure necessary for progress. During our brief visit, Deb and I experienced frequent power outages and were occasionally without water. Not even the Kenyans drink the tap water, as it is unsafe. Most people have to walk some distance to get drinkable water. The vast majority live in substandard houses of mud, homemade blocks, and tin roofs. Only the main roads have hard surfaces—and many of them are crumbling and potholed. Since few of the people outside the capital city of Nairobi have vehicles, they depend on public transportation, taxis, and bicycles. The most common form of mass transportation is the fourteen-seat taxi-van called a matatu. And either the matatu drivers were taught by New York City taxi drivers or vice versa!

### The good news

The Kenyan people are a beautiful people with wonderful smiles and warm, welcoming greetings. Though Deb and I were informed that we should not venture out of the compound after dark, we never felt threatened. Even walking along the streets, we were treated with respect. The roadways were lined with people selling their wares, whether in the city or in the outlying villages. Free public education is available to children of elementary age; however, class size ranges from eighty to one hundred children. After capacity is reached, only those who are able to pay may attend. For the most part the masses are adequately clothed; women are modest and tend to dress up on Sundays. One of the great social challenges across the country is the many orphaned children. Many Kenyan families take in orphaned children because no one else is available to care for them. Pastor David Ossoyi and his wife, Esther, who were the main contacts for our trip, care for thirty-nine orphaned children.



### Meeting the missionaries

Upon arrival in Nairobi on Monday evening, December 4, Deb and I were greeted by ABWE missionaries Russell and Mary Huff and Judy Andre. During our time with them, we had lunch with Russ and Barbara Stockton, veteran ABWE church planters. On Wednesday we flew to Nanyuki, where we visited another ABWE couple, Tom and Paula Doak. We enjoyed ministering to a group of orphans with candy and gospel bracelets. Though the Doaks' town is located on the equator, from their front yard we could see Mount Kenya, the second highest mountain in Africa, with its snowcap and glacier. We were surprised to see a snowy site so near the equator.



### Adventures

One high-adventure experience in African air travel is contending with animals on the ground. As our plane approached the gravel-and-grass airstrip, Deb and I peered over the pilot's shoulder through the windshield. What we saw was both startling and frightening. A small herd of African waterbuck, looking like reindeer, grazed on the airstrip! We first thought the pilot would try to dodge them, but at the last minute he pulled the airplane up. Our departure on that same airstrip was equally exciting. The pilot revved up the engine in preparation for takeoff, when suddenly a giraffe appeared and loped right in front of the plane. It was a sight we shall never forget.

### Fellowship around God's Word

Our primary reason for the trip was to meet with the Independent Faith Baptist Churches of Kenya. We were asked to preach and teach at their annual Lake Region Conference in Suna Migori. We learned from our driver that the town's name means "slapping mosquitoes" in Swahili. We also experienced the slapping! The five-day conference was held under a tent on the grounds of Faith Baptist Church in Migori, pastored by David Ossoyi. What a choice servant of God he is! Approximately one hundred people gathered for each session—along with a few chickens that frequently wandered through the tent. Since it was Kenya's rainy season, we contended with the rain falling onto the tent, pooling, and then dripping through the canvas.

During the conference's general sessions, I spoke five times on the conference theme, "Reflecting God among the Nations." In addition I conducted a three-day workshop on the integrity of a pastor, while Deb spoke three times to the ladies.



### A final word

Once again Deb and I visited a developing country where we found a dedicated group of God's people who have very few resources with which to live or minister. Their commitment to the Lord brought us great blessing. We look forward to the day when every tongue and every nation will gather around God's throne and join their voices in praise to God. ■

We also enjoyed ministering to two of the association's churches on Sundays. While this Kenyan association is dealing with some doctrinal variation, Pastor Ossoyi, serving as its general director, is committed to sound doctrine and practice.

On Thursday we were glad to be welcomed by Stephen and Edna Muindi and their three children. They are a Kenyan family serving with Baptist Mid-Missions. They recently returned to the country after completing their studies at Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, Iowa.

It was so humbling that thirteen people and their elderly pastor walked three days from the neighboring country of Tanzania to attend the conference. We can't help but praise the Lord for that kind of commitment to hear God's Word and fellowship with other believers.

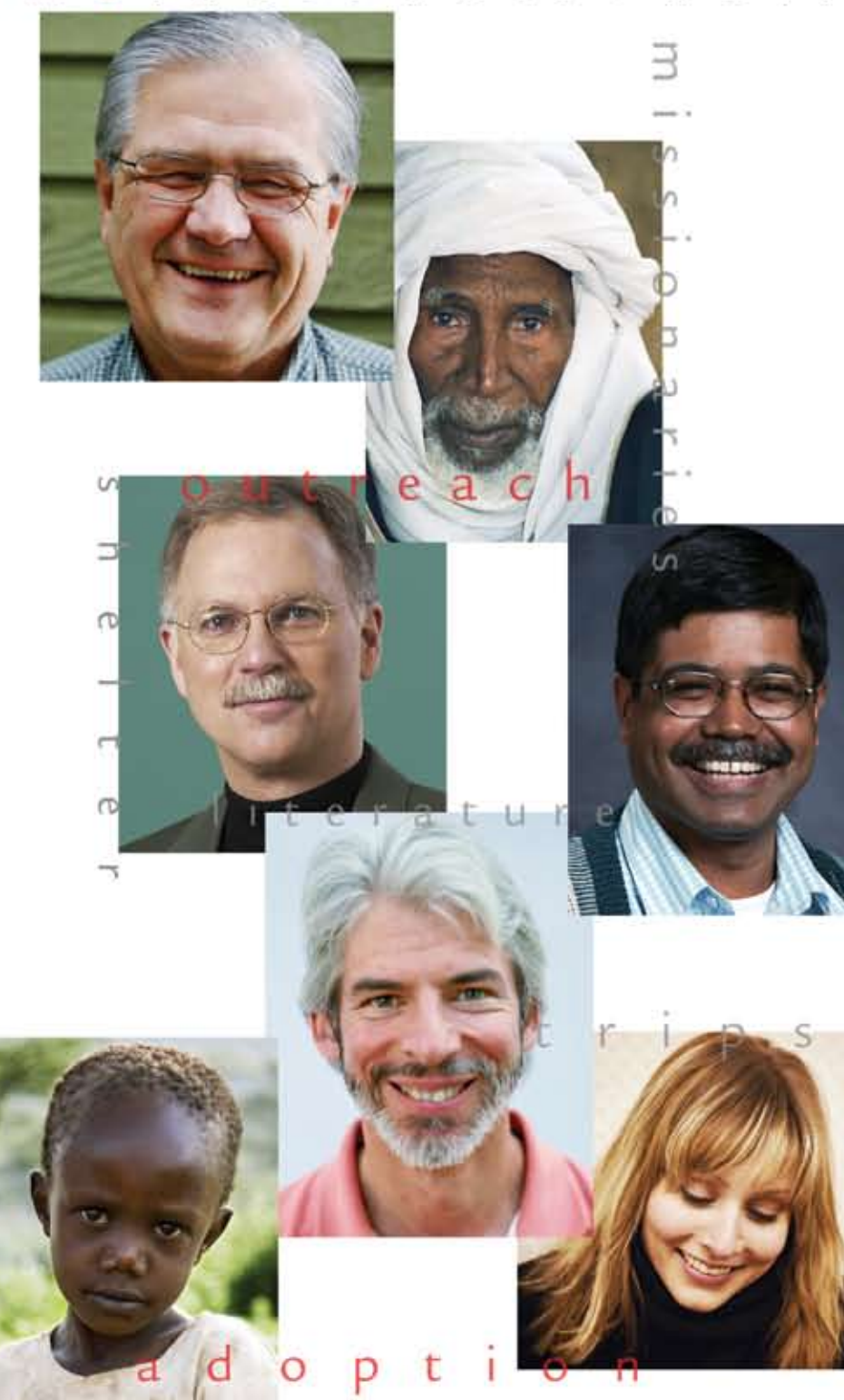
At the last session of the conference, many people were recognized for their work, and Deb and I were presented with wonderful African gifts of appreciation. After the conference, we met with a representative group of the association's leaders to discuss how the International Partnership of Fundamental Baptist Ministries and Gospel Literature Services might assist them in the future.

l i n k i n g a r m s i n t e r n a t i o n a l l y

Meeting with ministry leaders in other parts of the world enhances my realization that believers in America are simply unaware of the needs of our brothers and sisters elsewhere. On the other hand, perhaps the opposite might be true and we've experienced sensory overload. We may have seen so many missionary pictures and heard so many challenges that we have become numb.

### What to do?

We can hardly be charged with not caring, for we give generously to missions. It could be that the challenges to give have come from so many different parts of the world that we simply do not know where to begin. In the present state, we give as the opportunities arise, pray when impressed to do so, and let the missionaries do the international outreach. Could we do more? Of course! There is always more we could do. The better question is, Is there more we should do? Each one of us must answer that question before the Lord. Are you willing to be challenged?



p r a y e r



### Serving in poverty

My last two trips to developing countries gave me opportunities to visit pastors, preach in some of their churches, and meet some of their congregations. My first reaction was inward and emotional. People everywhere need the Lord. God is doing His work of transforming lives by the power of the gospel in the most remote parts of the world. What a mighty God we serve! Almost equally as powerful is the impact of meeting precious believers who live under incredibly primitive conditions yet have a tremendous desire to do more for the Lord.

Many of the men of God who are pastoring churches serve the Lord without even minimal income. You might wonder, Why doesn't the church take care of its pastor? Pastor Ossoyi of Faith Baptist Church in Migori, Kenya, receives no salary. Of the approximately one hundred people who attend, only one man and three women have jobs. It is not that the people are lazy; they work hard to eke out an existence,

but they get no paychecks. They bring offerings to the church, but they are not in the form of money. Until recently, Pastor Ossoyi walked everywhere (IPFBM purchased a bicycle for him). He and his wife care for thirty-nine orphans on the church property. They have no beds, no mattresses, no blankets, no mosquito nets; they sleep on mats on the dirt floor. A onetime gift of \$2,500 could provide all of the above for these orphans. Pastor Ossoyi is simply one example of a multitude of dedicated pastors.

### A new roof and some curriculum

I preached in several churches in Haiti. One evening I preached while a storm raged outside. The tin roof on the building leaked in about thirty places. People moved around to try to stay dry. I was preaching by candlelight, because there was no electricity and no money for kerosene for the generator. A new tin roof for a building like that could be purchased for about \$2,000. Many of the churches in the association in Haiti have needs relative to their meeting places.

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**Adopt-a-Website**

One of the most-used technical tools of our day is the Web site. Web sites are used to communicate, distribute, coordinate, and publish information. We at GLS desire to help missionaries and national pastors use Web sites to publish the good news of Jesus Christ's gift of salvation, distribute digital literature to help believers reach out to others, coordinate events for outreach or spiritual growth in their communities, and communicate with supporters as they see what is happening around the world.

I recently completed building a Web site for a church-planting missionary in the Czech Republic. He desperately needed this tool to publish the gospel, distribute digital literature to believers, coordinate outreach events, and communicate with supporters. You can view the site at [www.abweczech.org](http://www.abweczech.org).

GLS is looking for people to sponsor Web sites such as this one so missionaries do not have to pay for them out of their support funds. The costs involved in such a Web site include hosting, setup, e-mail, and tech support. For \$15 a month you can completely give this powerful tool to a specific missionary or to one who is waiting for a sponsor.

Go to [www.glsonline.org/adopt-a-website](http://www.glsonline.org/adopt-a-website) for more information. It is amazing to watch God provide the support to meet each need.

Digital Impact is the media ministry of GLS, helping equip and train missionaries and national pastors with technology to reach the world with the gospel. ■

**Your involvement in ministry worldwide**

Gospel Literature Services is the international literature-distribution arm of Regular Baptist Press. We send approximately one million dollars' worth of material annually to over two hundred places worldwide. These ministries receive this material free of charge. Wherever the local economy cannot adequately sustain a pastor and the needs of the church, we come alongside to provide educational literature. With shipping costs escalating, GLS is falling behind. We need to raise an additional \$4,000 a month to meet the current need. That is a need that could be underwritten by local church budgets.

In addition to sending American missionaries, another approach to the Great Commission is to help international churches build up the Body of Christ right where they live. They do not need to do deputation, relocate their families, learn a language and culture, or come home for furlough. The investment goes directly to the point of need. Missionaries are certainly needed in some parts of the world, but helping local churches in a foreign culture is a more direct way for an American church or individual to become involved in international ministry.

**Adopt a sister — a sister church!**

The primary reason that American churches are unaware of the specific needs in other places is the lack of direct communication. Missionaries talk about needs,

and publications refer to some needs, but most of the information of necessity is generic. With the current advantages of technology, a local church could easily have a close sister relationship with an international church and its pastor. Specific needs could be communicated and become intelligent prayer requests and local church projects. At an appropriate time, the American pastor could be sent to personally visit the church. What an impact such a trip would have on the pastor in America, and what a blessing it would be for the international church.

If your church would be interested in more information, I would be happy to provide the contact information to begin such a relationship.

Individuals have also accepted the challenge of direct involvement in international outreach. GLS has engaged many individuals in supporting the shipping of literature through the \$30-a-month Adopt-a-Church program. The check is made out to Gospel Literature Services and marked "Adopt-a-Church." Some prefer to donate online.

**Seventy more**

The Adopt-a-Church program provides strategically for the building up of local churches around the world. If seventy additional individuals across our Fellowship would make this commitment, that alone would provide half the funds needed to continue this important outreach. Would you pray about personally being involved? Check out the Web site, [www.glsonline.org](http://www.glsonline.org). ■

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As director of GLS, I discuss with our international pastors what literature they have for teaching the various ages in their churches. Without exception, they are working with almost nothing. Typically the Sunday School has children of all ages in one room and the youth and adults in another. The teachers are doing their best to teach Bible lessons, but they have neither curriculum nor any help in methods of teaching. Praise God for their commitment to the next generation, but their effectiveness would be greatly enhanced by a systematic approach. Putting Biblical educational literature into their hands would greatly strengthen these believers and, in turn, strengthen their churches.

**Current International Ministries Projects**

**2008 Beijing Summer Olympics — Revised Project Estimate: \$20,000**

When the world comes together in Beijing for the 2008 Summer Olympics, GLS will be present. Our focus will be the evangelistic opportunities presented by the foreign visitors. A small but focused group will be on the grounds, taking every opportunity presented by the Holy Spirit.

**Pan-American Games Evangelistic Outreach — Cost: \$10,000**

Partnering with Baptist Mid-Missions missionaries, GLS will provide 50,000 booklets to spread the gospel at another worldwide athletic event.

**Printing Project: Discipleship Book in Bengali — Cost: \$2,000**

GLS is partnering with ABWE missionaries in Bangladesh to publish a booklet titled, *The Way to Joy*. Producing follow-up (discipleship) materials in such a needy land is the lifeline to establishing healthy local churches.

**GLS Asia Joint Printing Projects — Initial Print Run: \$20,000**

A donor has promised a matching gift of \$10,000. This new joint venture will help to produce Christian literature for the Pacific Rim.

