

WORLD

t h e G L S c o n n e c t i o n

reviews



A ministry of
the GARBC

Gospel Literature Services exists to supply Biblical resources worldwide to enable developing Baptist ministries to fulfill the Great Commission. Due to the rising costs of shipping and the enormity of the task, I am issuing a challenge. **It is time to form the GLS TEAM 300.**

This team will consist of individuals, small groups, Sunday School classes, or local churches who commit to underwrite the shipping expenses for \$30 a month. We need 300 team members who will rise up and stand by GLS to accomplish its number-one goal—getting Regular Baptist Sunday School curricula to national churches around the globe.

Almost every week I get requests from pastors who desperately want to build up the believers in their congregations, but who simply do not have any material to help them with the task. We have the material, but not the funds to ship it. Some congregations are willing to translate the material, and others can use it in English. Most of us in North America cannot imagine a culture where there is simply no Christian literature to assist believers on their spiritual journey. While many of us face financial challenges due to our Western lifestyle, we are blessed beyond the wildest dreams of our brothers and sisters in other lands.

Currently 24 individuals and 10 churches are already helping with this need. We are beginning the Team 300 with these 34 charter members. I am praying that across this country God will raise up a band of believers who love Him, love His people, love the lost for which He died, and who will step up to the challenge. Will you consider supporting such a cause? Will you be one of 300 who will use your God-given resources to meet this need? Use the enclosed card and join the team! ■

team
300

Regular Baptist Press
Building Lives by the Book



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Building Lives by the Book



MADE POSSIBLE
BY GLS TEAM 300

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BY GLS TEAM 300

Ministry in South Asia

O'Hare International Airport in Chicago is becoming a familiar place to me. Dr. Mark Jackson and I flew from there on January 16 to visit with and encourage South Asian partners of the GARBC.

The trip focused around several cities in India, as well as Myanmar and Bangladesh. The trip spanned 26 days, covered about 30,000 miles by air, and involved each of us speaking about 18 times.

Myanmar

A personal visit

We first stopped in Myanmar, formerly Burma, where the pioneer missionary Adoniram Judson first arrived in 1812. While in Myanmar, we spent some time with Dr. Go Za Kham. A man in his

seventies, Brother Go Za is known among many of the tribes for his commitment to the Word of God and his love for the Burmese people. He is currently involved with Bibles International in revising a translation of the Burmese Bible. He sat with us for several hours, sharing some of the history and culture of Burma and his evaluation of the challenges facing the Christians there.

Blessed orphans

In the afternoon we visited an orphanage with 44 children. The director and his wife have 10 children of their own. Several of their sons are grown and are college educated. With their theological training they teach the Bible to the orphans. The director has also established a nurse's-aide training school led by his daughter, who is a nurse. Seven of the nursing students who were Buddhists have professed faith in Christ.

Through the wise use of resources and the constant

prayers of the leadership, God continues to supply the needs of this ministry. What the people lack in facilities is more than compensated by the spiritual commitment of the director and his staff.

Birthing a new association

Four pastors traveled two nights and one day in a crowded bus to meet with us and tell us about their ministry in the Chin State (restricted to outside visitors), where believers face opposition from the government. The four men pastored churches in a Baptist convention that had become very liberal. Having determined they could no longer stay within a convention that denies the fundamentals of the faith, the pastors pulled out. The convention retained their church buildings. Several of the churches' families joined their pastors and separated themselves as well. Those

families then formed a nuclei of several new churches. (Their story sounds similar to the history and formation of the GARBC.)

Presently eleven churches have formed the Hokma Baptist Association. The leadership believes that other pastors will follow. Each of the association churches is now two years old, and at least one of them has a weekly attendance of 400. The pastors have asked if the International Partnership of Fundamental Baptist Ministries (IPFBM) could facilitate a leadership conference for pastors and deacons in January 2008. The IPFBM was established to fill this kind of need and to encourage these kinds of men to punch holes in spiritual darkness.

Dr. Jackson and I also attended one of the churches of the Evangelical Baptist Church Association (EBCA), pastored by Brother Khen Pi.

God is wonderfully and marvelously blessing the efforts of godly men and women of Burma who dare to bear the standard

of truth and confront the powers of darkness with the life-changing message of the gospel. I felt humbled and blessed to minister to and be ministered to by those dear Burmese servants of the Lord.

India

Manipur

Our first stop in India was Imphal in Manipur, located in the far northeast. We almost had to leave before we got started. Manipur State is a restricted-access territory that requires travelers to have a special permit. Brother H. C. Stephen, our contact, had purchased permits for us, as well as tickets for the next leg of our journey; however, his arrival at the airport was delayed.

When we arrived in the airport with no permits, no departure tickets, and no contact person, the automatic-rifle-toting security personnel became agitated. After two failed attempts to locate our contact and with no way to contact him, we were given our orders in no uncertain terms: "Either you get back on that plane, which leaves in five

minutes, or we will call the police. You are not allowed to stay here." We were allowed one last escorted attempt to locate our contact, when Ching Boi, the wife of H. C. Stephen, emerged from the crowd and produced the necessary permits. This event was one of several times we saw God intervene in answer to the prayers of many people on our behalf.

Our reason to be in Manipur was to speak at the 57th annual conference of the New Testament Baptist Church Association (NTBCA), an association



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Studying in the dark

We visited a man who provides encouragement to 11 house churches in the surrounding area of Yangon (formerly Rangoon), with some of them running over 40 in attendance. He has established an impressive Bible college with 187 students. The college has acquired property on the outskirts of town and has built a three-story building to house and educate its students. The main drawback is the lack of electricity. The college needs a large generator to provide lighting in the evenings. I am praying that God will lay on someone's heart to provide \$3,000 to help this college trade



prayers of the leadership, God continues to supply the needs of this ministry. What the people lack in facilities is more than compensated by the spiritual commitment of the director and his staff.

The director has put a \$3,000 down payment on an adjoining piece of property with a building. He needs an additional \$5,000 to acquire that building to start a Bible college. Would you like to have a part in a ministry that will train evangelists and church planters in Burma? Adoniram Judson took the gos-



of thirty-one churches. The conference was held in Churachandpur in a temporary tent-like structure. Dr. Jackson and I shared the speaking responsibilities from Wednesday through Saturday. The conferees came from seven tribes, and the evening attendances exceeded 1,500. The music was wonderful, as the various choirs sang throughout the conference. On Saturday the choirs had a competition. Even the orphans from an NTBCA orphanage had a choir.

The NTBCA owns about ten acres on which it built a three-story concrete building to

shelter forty-five orphans; ten more are expected this year. The orphanage includes housing for the children and the houseparents, a kitchen, a dining area, and guest rooms (where we stayed). Every

morning at about 5:45, I brought devotions to the orphans. They rolled out of bed into the cold (about 50° indoors), grabbed their Bibles, and sat down. They all would bow their heads, begin with a silent prayer, and then read a chapter on their own. Most of them read audibly but softly. Their muffled concert was thrilling to hear. The housefather, Brother Haupin, would lead different activities to open the devotional time. I would then speak for fifteen to twenty minutes, and they would conclude



with prayer and announcements. These 45 children have been rescued from the poverty of homelessness and, by God's grace, have the privilege of loving care, comfortable shelter, adequate food, education, and, more than all that, an exposure to the love gift from Heaven, our Savior, Jesus Christ. To date, about 15 have made professions of faith. Praise God for the faithful folks who share God's special concern for the fatherless.

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A new building project of the NTBCA is designed to provide 20 classrooms for 50 students each, a total of 1,000 students. While we were there, preparations were being made to pour the deck for the second floor. Brother Stephen also showed us a pile of stones brought in for the foundation for a new girls' dormitory.

On a separate property, barely a hundred yards down the street, the association has an office, which cares for several auxiliary ministries. On that property is the present school building, where 350 students have maxed out its space. A Baptist church started by Brother Stephen is also located on this property. For the past five years Pastor Siam has pastored that church, while Brother Stephen has been in Delhi starting and bringing to independence a new Baptist church.

The NTBCA church people donate almost 100 percent of the labor for their buildings. All that is needed are funds for building materials. For approximately \$60,000 that school building could be completed. For about \$30,000, the first two floors could be finished, enabling the staff to move the student body into the new facility and begin the Bible college this fall. I simply want to raise a question, Are you holding the resources God has given you with a tightly clenched fist or with an open hand? Do what God wants you to do. Your donation to this project can be marked "Construction Projects."

The churches of the NTBCA depend on GLS for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School materials. The association presented me with a plaque of appreciation to GLS for supplying these essential educational resources. We need an annual *increase* of about \$45,000 just to ship the *existing* requests for materials, which come from all areas of the world.

Delhi

For the next portion of our trip church planter Henry John took us to Dehra Dun. A trip that would usually take about six hours turned out to be eleven hours. The traffic was absolutely horrendous.



Henry John and his dear wife, Molly, are nationals from the Dehra Dun region, they were educated at Faith Baptist Bible College and Seminary in Ankeny, Iowa, and appointed as missionaries with Baptist Mid-Missions. It has been said that for anything to be birthed, someone has to suffer and bear pain. Brother John proves his willingness to pay the price for birthing new churches. He regularly leads eight Bible studies. He is training a team of five men to become church planters. Three of the men have Bible studies going in three areas, one of which is a Muslim community. Brother John has located a ten-acre parcel of ground outside of town. He is presently negotiating a price. The intention is to use half of the acreage to begin an elementary school and to build the Bible college on the other half. The proceeds of the tuition in the day school could help supplement a Bible college.

The Baptist church that Henry planted will be ready in the next six months to call a pastor. Sixty-nine believers have been baptized in the last two years, and twelve more are ready for the next baptismal service. The church has requested Sunday School materials. We need to get our curriculum in a useable CD format so we can assist our partners with their literature needs.

Andhra Pradesh

Our next stop was Hyderabad-Secunderabad in the central region of Andhra Pradesh. Pastor and Mrs. Babu and son, Sebastian, surprised us by meeting us at the airport with a bouquet of flowers. The next morning we were equally surprised by a warm welcome from the student body of the academy in Secunderabad. They wore uniforms and were standing at attention as if on parade. When we appeared at the gate, they broke into extended applause. The students had prepared a special program just for us.

Included in the festivities of the day was the unveiling of the cornerstones for two buildings. The largest project is the first floor addition to the Vimuthi Baptist High School. The other is an addition for the Sunday School and office complex. Approximately \$15,000 is needed to complete the high school addition. Even with their meager income, the believers have a building fund and have put together about \$2,000. Your gift will make a difference. It should be marked "Construction Projects."

While in the Hyderabad area, we also visited the Bharat Bible College and Nazarene Academy (not to be confused with the Nazarene churches in the U.S.). Dr. Samuel Buraga is the director; he gave us a tour of the extensive and exceptional facilities located on twenty-six acres. The academy has 680 students from kindergarten to twelfth grade, and the college enrollment stands at 160. This school is one of the leading Bible colleges in India, with graduates all over the country and region. Their most pressing needs are a college van for \$14,000.

From Hyderabad we flew to Bangalore and stayed with Ken and Mary Waldock, missionaries with Baptist Mid-Missions. Brother Waldock teaches at the Baptist Seminary of South India, a graduate school of theology. We met the fine faculty and had a delightful tour of the six floors



of their rented facilities. The staff is committed to providing a quality education, integrating solid theological training with practical application.

On the other side of Bangalore, we visited the Beacon Baptist Theological College and Seminary led by Samson Satish Divakar. Due to limited facilities, especially dormitory space, this school is at capacity with 43 students. The staff has started a local church and requires its students to serve in a ministry. They have also located land to relocate several miles outside of town, but they will need to sell their existing property.

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Bangladesh

The final leg on this extended trip took us to Chittagong in Bangladesh. We were met by Dr. Jackson's daughter Sheryl, who is the principal of the elementary division of the William Carey Academy.

What a great school God has raised up to educate the upper-middle and professional classes! Some of the poorer families receive scholarships. Dr. Jackson and I visited several of the classes and found them to be well-managed in a friendly yet disciplined atmosphere. Teachers are not able to hold Bible class, but they can be straightforward with the gospel in response to the questions of students.



We had a great time with Sheryl Jackson, who organized our schedule so we could see and meet as many people as possible. She also arranged to take us to Malumghat to visit the ABWE hospital there. We were able to tour the facilities and had lunch with the Archibalds, who have been there for thirty-four years. This hospital is well respected throughout the country, and the staff takes every opportunity to treat spiritual needs as well as physical ones.

Wrap-up

As I look back over this trip and reflect on our wonderful partners, I am humbled to realize the tremendous opportunities that we have as an association of churches. God continues to use missionaries in various roles of church planting, discipling, training, and the like. I am also

greatly aware that our international brothers and sisters are committed to evangelism, discipleship, and sound doctrine and that they are culturally equipped to extend the influence of the gospel far beyond the missionaries' capabilities.

In our country we are blessed with resources, but in some cases, we haven't realized the potential of strategically sharing those resources with leaders and ministries in other nations. If we are stewards and not owners, then we must be willing for the Lord of the harvest to use those resources as He pleases. Local churches of the GARBC can extend their ministry exponentially by partnering with a local church in a developing country. God can use that peer relationship between churches to strengthen both ministries. I would be happy to make referrals. I can be reached by e-mail at chindal@garbc.org.

I am very grateful to all who financially supported and/or prayed for us as we traveled. Our partners abroad express their thanks as well. ■

Digital Impact "Underground"

Online video training is the wave of the future and a powerful tool in our world.

Some Christian brothers in China have sensed the need to introduce more training into the underground church so they can train millions of new believers. These brothers have requested the specific help of GLS to make this happen.

We need your help for this incredible project.

Please pray about how you can become involved. We will be building a system for the Chinese pastors and then will train them to use it. These pastors want to provide training videos that Christians can download from the Web to learn more about the Bible and help them grow in their Christian faith. Their leader has asked me to build the video-editing system and to come and train the pastors to use it. They already have more than 50 hours of training video that they'd like to put on the Web. We need **\$2,300** to build the proper **video-editing and conversion system**. Plus we need an additional **\$2,500** so Amy and I can **go to train the pastors** in using this equipment. Please consider becoming involved with this special project through your prayers and financial support. ■

GLS Tools by Chris Brown

Current International Ministries Projects

International Partnership

- \$15,000—2nd floor of high school in Secunderabad, India
- \$2,000—Per church roof in Haiti
- \$3,000—Generator for Myanmar Bible College
- \$5,000—Building for Bible college in Rangoon, Myanmar
- \$30,000—Two stories of school building in Churachandpur, India

Gospel Literature Services

- \$45,000—Annually for shipping costs through the \$30/mth Adopt-A-Church program
- \$2,000—Way to Joy discipleship book in Bengali
- \$22,000—Unger's Bible Handbook—2nd printing in Bengali
- \$20,000—Start-up costs for printing in NE India
- \$20,000—Start-up costs for printing in NW India
- \$20,000—Olympic Outreach in Beijing

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