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INTRODUCTION WHAT IS A CATALYST?

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STEVE RUMPF

Global Outreach Pastor

David George Montalvo Editor-In-Chief / Creative Dir.

Rhodema Cargill Executive Editor

Betty O'Maker Research Assistant

Colleen Ward Associate Editor

Grace Community Church

Global Outreach Ministry 3215 Old Jacksonville Rd. Tyler, TX 75701 903.593.3800

Multi-Site Church http://gcc.org

GO Blog http://go-gcc.org The idea for CATALYST took root years ago when I read a book about discipleship entitled Change Agent. I remembered my college chemistry class and the function and characteristics of a change agent known as a catalyst. I wondered then – and still do – if a witness for Christ isn't a great deal like a catalyst. Then in the 1970's automobiles came out with catalytic converters* and I was sure my thinking was right. "Catalytic Converter" seemed like a good description for Billy Graham.

"Catalysis is the process in which the rate of a chemical reaction is either increased or decreased by means of a chemical substance known as no tast. The catalyst may participate in multiple chemical transformations. Catalysts that speed the reaction are called positive catalysts. Satalysts that show down the reaction are called negative catalysts or inhibitors."

Did you notice words like process, multiple, transformations, positive & negative? And the definition goes on to say, "... the reaction rate depends on the frequency of contact of the reactant..."

"Although catalysts are not consumed by the reaction itself, they may be inhibited, deactivated or destroyed by secondary processes." Sort of reminds me of the big three negative "secondary processes" believers face: The World, the Flesh and the Devil.

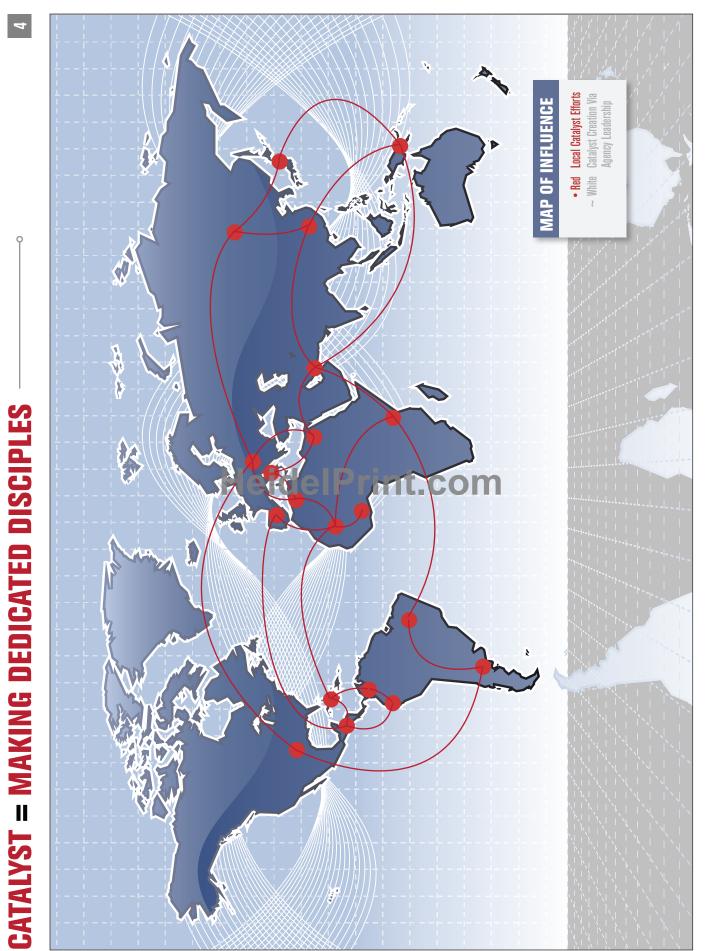
Like most metaphors, this one falls apart at some points. Chemists know that a catalyst is not consumed by the reaction itself. Whew! That is not true for many who testify of the claims of Christ in extremely hostile environments of physical disease and personal dangers. I believe the first missionary said something about being poured out like a drink offering, and having fought a good fight, he finished the race, and kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:6-7).

This booklet is designed for two purposes; to honor and glorify God and to help you as you pray for world evangelization – specifically our missionaries. It is both a 28 Day Devotional and a Missions Directory. It is my hope that you will be well prepared as a catalytic change agent for God.



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"You Must Start Out With The Understanding That The Goal Is The Church As The New Community Of Transformed People That Will Meet The Social Needs Of Societies Where Relationships Are Everything" - Malcolm Hunter

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MICK & JUNE BANDY



Mick and two PNG nationals left early Friday morning for the long journey out to Bougainville for the Vasui II SALT course. The journey starts with a flight in a 5-passenger Cessna 206 from Aiyura to Port Moresby (capital city of PNG).

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First they spent the night in the missionary guesthouse in Port Moresby and then connect with a commercial Air Niugini flight to Buka in the easternmost province of PNG. With their flight arriving late, they rushed to get into a

truck to travel a few miles to the ocean channel. There they threw all of the baggage into a 16-foot motorboat to cross the channel over to the island of Bougainville.

Then they got into a big 4-wheel drive truck and drove 3 hours to the village. The last 11 km. (7 miles) of that trip was an off-road adventure! The driver called it the "worst road in PNG" as he laughed hysterically!

Mick believes that he is correct in his assessment of the road! They forded two rivers, slid over muddy crevices, and slipped down steep embankments – it took an hour to travel the 11 km. And when Mick got there his cell phone worked!

It's a small world after all.

AGENCY / MINISTRY LOCATION

SIL* / Papua New Guinea (PNG)

1ST YR OF ASSIGNMENT

2003

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The S.A.L.T. Project, Which Promotes "Scripture Application & Leadership Training" Around The World.

28 DAY DEVO



When encountering a new culture many Christian workers watch for what has come to be called

the principle of "redemptive analogy"- of finding customs and traditions within a culture that can be used to present the Gospel in an understandable and non-foreign way.

Examples might be: a re-birth ceremony in Ethiopia, a "peace child" in Papua New Guinea or adoption practices in the western world.

Jesus regularly used this communication tool when he said, "The kingdom of God is like..." Read Matthew 13:44. Is it not clear how valuable the kingdom really is?

As you pray today, ask God for insight and creativity for those who are seeking ways to make the "Good News" of Jesus Christ clear and understandable; to open minds through the use of "redemptive analogies."



Unique Missionary Techniques - Help Vaccinate Wild Cattle For Nomadic Herdsmen

* SIL serves as the overseas staff of Wycliffe Bible Translators; it means "Summer Institute of Linguistics."

TIM & TONI GHRIST



My wife met Onyanga while visiting patients following surgery at our evangelistic eye center. Onyanga's left eye had been removed due to an advanced stage A.I.D.'s related cancer.

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She was only 24 years old and had been living on the streets of Mombasa for as long as she could remember.

Onyanga looked ahead to only loneliness and death without family or friends. Toni has a way

of getting close to strangers and soon they were talking, sharing, and singing Christian choruses.

Toni was able to share the Gospel and Onyanga bowed her head and accepted Jesus. A Christian half-way house was found so Onyanga would no longer live on the street.

Toni kept visiting and loving Onyanga so that she began to sing along with the songs and began to say "Bwana Safiwe - Praise the Lord for findin Jesus!"

Pray for Onyanga that however long she has to live, her life will be filled with love and purpose.

AGENCY / MINISTRY LOCATION

Lighthouse for Christ / Kenya

1ST YR OF ASSIGNMENT 1983

Tim And Toni Are Mission Directors Of The Light onse to Christ Mission. Thei

Ministry Emphasis Is An Evangelistic Eye Clinic That Treats 30,000+ Patients A Year, Overseeing The Mission's Bible School, And Assisting In Over 40 Church Plants.

28DAY.ORG



Besides his Gospel and Revelation, the Apostle John wrote three short letters.

TWO

The one chapter of his short third letter contains a clear nugget of truth that underwrites all we set out to do when God calls out someone from our midst for a foreign assignment.

He simply says, "...they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from unbelievers. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth."

This is not one of those man-made "ought to's" that we usually shrink from. Here it is, loud and clear - our responsibility.

Can you imagine a reasonable excuse as to why you or I are exempt?

Ask God for His mind and will as to what kind of support you should provide Grace missionaries.

Pray for Grace Community Church, that we will gladly and generously support all those willing to go.



Nomad To A Grace Missionary - "When You Can Put Your Christian Church On The Back Of A Camel Then I Will Think That Christianity Is Meant For Us Somalis."

DICK & JUDY AMOS



Fifty years ago I preached my first sermon in Tateoka, Japan. I was sent with a team of nationals to hold an evangelistic tent campaign for the purpose of birthing a new church.

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As I spoke through an interpreter to the 45 to 50 people who gathered, I was moved by the responsiveness on their faces and gave an invitation—my first.

Quickly, 20 hands went up. That night, I

realized God was at work in Tateoka despite the dire predictions. A church could be born in that town.

Over the years, Judy and I lost touch with the church, but recently learned that the editor of the national church paper was from Tateoka Church and was the first convert to go into full-time Christian work.

Nine other members of Tateoka Church have also gone into the ministry.

Can you imagine all God has been doing in the many other places Grace Community has supported us as we have sown the Gospel seed?

* OMS was once an acronym for "Oriental Missionary Society."

He's not through yet!

AGENCY / MINISTRY LOCATION

OMS* International / Japan

1ST YR OF ASSIGNMENT Dick, 1958 / Judy, 1967

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Served As OMS Missionaries To Japan For 41 Years Helping Plant Churches. They Continue To Minister In Japan By Encouraging Japanese Pastors.

28 DAY DEVO



Our recent study in the Revelation led us to chapter 5 verse 9. In speaking of Christ Jesus, the

THREE

24 elders say, "...by Your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

The last word "nation" is the Greek word ethnos from which we get our English ethnic, currently thought to be ethnic groups, sometimes called "People Groups" - probably not the geopolitical nations identified today.

So what?

This matters because most of us know that the Gospel of the Kingdom has been preached in every nation of the United Nations, but we are pretty sure that's not true of every "Ethnic Group" within those nations.

Read Jesus' bold statement in Matthew 24:14. Pray appropriately, for we know "the end" has not yet come!

By-the-way... Speaking of the End Times, an appropriate quote from Oswald J. Smith would be: "We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first."



Some Missionaries Live In Communist Asian Countries With No Concept Of A Day Of Rest. The Common Person Gets A Full Half-Day Off Every Month, If Their Boss Allows.





AFRICA DIRECTORY



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JOSHUA & MAGGIE GHRIST

Lighthouse for Christ Mission PO Box 81465 Mombasa GPO 80100 Kenya East Africa

Ghrist4Christ@yahoo.com xanga.com/ghrist4christ

TIM & TONI GHRIST

Lighthouse for Christ P.O. Box 8318 Tyler, TX 75711-8318

tghrist@africamail.com

ROBERT & DEBBIE HALE

÷

10242 SW 115 Street Miami, FL 33176

robert_hale@sil.org

GLEN & KIM STRAUSS

9163 Chisholm Trail Tyler, TX 75703 903.534.5624

straussg@mercyships.org

RESTRICTED NATIONS

Missionaries "S & L"

Missionaries "Him & Her Nurses"



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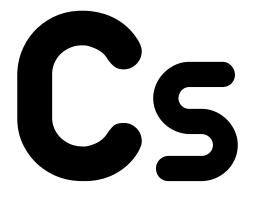
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CENTRAL /SOUTH AMERICA

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DAN & DIANE TRAVIS

Casilla 74 (1896) City Bell Prov. Buenos Aires, Argentina

dant@netverk.com.ar

The Navigators Missions Department 719.598.1212 x2582 img@navigators.org

LES & CAROLYN THOMPSON

14540 SW 136 St. Ste. 200 Miami, FI 33186 305.232.5880

lthompson@logoi.org

SHARON RANALLI

:

Casilla 17-11-4824 Quito, Ecuador, S. A. 903.894.3563

sranalli1@juno.com

FERNANDO & BRENDA LARZABAL

Apartaoo Aereo 85380 Bogota, Columbia

ferlar@kastanet.org

RIC & FRIEDA ESCOBAR

DIRECTORY

P.O. Box 822466 South Florida, FL 33082-2466 954.443.6183

CASEY & RENAE BRYANS

P.O. Box 78 Flint, TX 75762 903.581.8545

Youth World Casilla 17-17-691 Quito, Ecuador

thebryansfamily@gmail.com

NOTES:

:

ricescobar@oci.org

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My love of people and different cultures and my deep calling within to share Christ's love with the lost motivates me to serve.

There is no greater joy than seeing a life transformed by the love of Christ. I do not see myself as a missionary but rather as a follower of Christ sharing His love with my friends and neighbors. It just so happens I live on the other side of the world.

My dear friend Alice is one of those that have been transformed since making a decision to follow Christ. Over the past two years I have seen evidence that the Holy Spirit is alive and at work in her life. She walks with more confidence and peace.

She has been faithful to study God's word and she seeks to understand and learn more



28 DAY DEVO



About 30 years ago I was jolted awake at a conference when the speaker said that the opposite

FIFTEEN

25

of love was not hate but rather indifference.

He went on to say that we could deal with those who hate us, but those who are just plain indifferent are much more difficult – almost impossible – to bring to reconciliation.

Do you suppose that Jesus meant exactly that when He referred to His preference that we were hot or cold, but not lukewarm? Lukewarm is bland, tasteless, unappealing. Sort of like the milk toast my mother made me eat after a bout of the flu.

A care-less, indifferent attitude can gradually settle into our lives as we actually forget about the lost who remain outside of Christ. We just don't care; it's just not our problem.

On this day, make your prayers be toward a change in our hearts. That our indifferent hearts will be made like God's loving heart, the father heart of God.

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CHAD & SERINA HOLLOWELL



We moved to Hungary in 2007 and the Lord used one of our children to open doors for us.

Hungarians stay to themselves and many missionaries find it difficult to make friends. One month after we moved to Hungary, Drew and I were playing in the yard. He heard a child coming down the side walk and ran to say, "Hi!"

He pushed his head through the pickets of the

fence and was then unable to pull it back because of his ears. As I worked to try and free him from his precarious situation the mother and child walked up. I fumbled through telling them that I did not speak Hungarian and the mother lit up. **AGENCY / MINISTRY LOCATION**

She spoke some English and was looking for someone to converse with in English. We began meeting regularly and through my friendship with her, Drew and I have made many other friends. We are praying that one day we can write about their transformation through the redeeming love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I love how the Lord has used our everyday lives and the lives our children to expand his kingdom.

We just have to be available.

AGENCY / MINISTRY LOCATION UWM* / Hungry

1ST YR OF ASSIGNMENT 2002

The Hollowells, Grinnelly, Began, Serving Gendis Gri 2003, As A Result, There Arec C

Now 62 New Churches (Not Buildings In Most Cases) Planted In Remote Villages, 120 Indian Nationals Trained, And Many Other Projects Started. In May, 2007, UWM Asked The Hollowells To Move To Eastern Europe And Take A Regional Leadership Role, Overseeing All Of The Region's Teams In Central And Eastern Europe.

28DAY.ORG



In spite of increased technology and bountiful resources, the poor and the

SIXTEEN

hungry, as in Jesus' day, are still with us. In fact, He plainly told His disciples, "You will always have the poor with you."

Now let's be careful; Jesus did not therefore mean that we should casually dismiss our duty to the unfortunate simply because they are everywhere.

We read in Psalm 140, "I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy."

We have the employing us to accomplish His desire for justice - social justice for the needy? How should we pray about this? Is it appropriate to pray for God to answer a need if we are the answer?

Take some time to intercede for the poor, the homeless, the alcoholic, the destitute, the disenfranchised, the enslaved, the sweatshop worker, the oppressed, the persecuted, the unemployed, the desperate, and anyone else God places on your heart who is needy.

* UWM is an acronym for United World Mission

ANDREW & ANNE SIMS



Anne serves in the USA as Personnel Administrator and in member care. She works with families assigned to a variety of nations and helps them prepare for or return from their varied fields of service. Andrew serves as a translation consultant and trainer for national translators in multiple nations throughout the world. He usually makes three overseas trips per year, each about 4-5 week long. The remainder of the time he is able to work from the US, using internet connections and

AGENCY / MINISTRY LOCATION

Worldwide

1ST YR OF ASSIGNMENT

1980

Administrator And In Member Care.

Andrew Serves As A Translation Consultant

And Trainer For National Translators In

Multiple Nations Throughout The World.

programs to talk and work with national on site translators.

Andrew has seen good progress and production from the teams and national individuals in the translation projects that he facilitates. Teams are drafting well and making good progress in learning the many new skills they need to facilitate this work remotely: like for example learning to use computer laptops on solar power, email and other technologies. It is thrilling to be able to give a people the scriptures for the first time in their own language.

Anne has served in her position for six years now and it seems to be a very comfortable, natural fit for her. She really enjoys and feels blessed in her role caring for those who are

preparing for the field or coming home on furlough. She has seen the Lord work out some very significant role changes and life challenges in their lives and is blessed for the role she has played in helping them to move forward.

28 DAY DEVO



How good it is to be in a familiar place, how comfortable to be back home, how reassuring to find

SEVENTEEN

27

ourselves in a social setting with good friends, how satisfying to have a place.

Jesus encountered Saul – soon to be Paul – on the road to Damascus and told him this, among other things, "... I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

Oh my, a place among those sanctified by faith! St puld we not pat the wooden bench with our hand and say, "Here, come sit with me, Jesus offers you a place with us"?

Today's prayer might include a request to God to use you to open the eyes of those in darkness, that they might turn to light, be freed from the grip of Satan, have their sins forgiven and take their place on the bench with you.

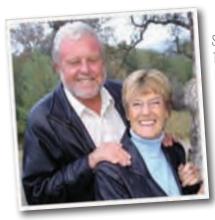
Now, broaden your prayer and pray for the same thing for our missionaries.







MALCOLM & JEAN HUNTER



Six men travelled for 18 days by taxi, trains, Toyota 4 wheel drive, a Russian van, and twice by air to get to one of the most westerly towns in Mongolia.

Why?

The main reason was for the six of us to see how three members of our Nomadic Peoples Network are doing in their outreach to the real herders in that country.

One of them, Scott, had made such progress towards his goal of forming a thriving independent

church that amazed all of us until we saw how he operated. One of his leading members had a large herd of half wild cattle that needed to be vaccinated.

When Scott took us to visit this family, he and another of our travelling team jumped into the corral and wrestled the beasts to the ground by grabbing their horns and tails along with the herdsman and his heroic wife.

This is the sort of ministry that wins the hearts of a Mongolian nomad.

AGENCY / MINISTRY LOCATION

U.S. Center for World Missions / Worldwide

1ST YR OF ASSIGNMENT 1963

Conice of Printy Intra-Icol 1963, Malcolm Began Looking For The

Naicolm Began Looking For The Most Neglected People Groups. He Found These To Be Those Herding Cattle In The Most Arid Lands Of Eritrea. It Was These People Who Subsequently Became The Focus Of His Life's Work. Malcolm Continues In A Consultancy Role.



28DAY.ORG



Renewal. We all need renewal, even missionaries; no, especially missionaries!

EIGHTEEN

The unique stresses and demands of living in a new and radically difference, even hostile culture and the lack of a supporting group of friends, can really lead to spiritual dryness, deadness, silence. Missionaries are not "Super Saints', immune to periods of spiritual drought.

We must support them in prayer.

Remember what Paul said to Titus about our initial renewal? Titus 3: 4-7 "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Well, additional renewal is also a much welcomed gift.

For our missionaries, let's pray the prayer of Lamentations 5:21 "Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old." And while we pray let's do so keeping in mind 3:22, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness, 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'''

THE MBB's OF IRAN

Excerpts From An Article In The Sept/Oct Issue Of MISSIONS FRONTIERS

"The only way we're going to stop them is to kill them." This seems to be the present consensus of Iran's national cabinet concerning the growing Christ-ward movement spreading throughout the nation. Legislation is now being prepared that would make it a capital offense to leave Islam. These strict measures have come about to stem the tide of a growing dissatisfaction with Islam among Persian young people resulting from the Iranian Revolution of 1979.

Today, it seems Iran is on the verge of yet another revolution, ironically caused by the first and with Jesus at the center. The story of how this has come about is perhaps one of the most intriguing examples of God's sovereignty at work to accomplish His unchanging purposes among the nations.

The Only Way Were Going To Stop Them Is To Kill Them." This Seems To Be The Present Consensus Of Iran's National Cabinet Concerning The Growing Christ-Ward Movement Spreading Throughout The Nation. In the early 1960s, just two decades before Iran would become completely closed to mission work, a team of American missionaries began a work among the Persian Armenian community in Tehran. Most of these Armenians were the descendants of a forced exile to Iran in 1604 under the Shah Abbas. Over the centuries they developed a unique culture, dialect, and appearance (don't ask) as they assimilated with their host nation.

The missionanes recognized the potentiar for these Persian Armenians to serve as a "bridge-people" between Islam and Christianity, and so began work among them with this in mind.

This Spirit-led hunch turned out to be correct. By the late 1980s, the number of Persian "MBB's" (Muslim Background Believers) had grown into many thousands. Then in the 1990s, two things converged to turn this momentum into one of the greatest watershed events in the history of Persian Christianity.

The first was a wave of government-organized crackdowns and assassinations of Christian leaders. The result of this was that hundreds of Persian lay leaders rose up to take the place of these martyrs and a nationwide house-church movement was born.

All of this was God's foundation-building for what would come next. In the year 2000, Christian satellite broadcasting began beaming the Gospel to almost every home in Iran. This was made possible by the fact that millions of satellite dishes had been illegally smuggled into Iran by corrupt members of the same government that had outlawed them. The Christian satellite programs became a lifeline for the Church in Iran.

Much more, when the Iranian people learned that the government was trying to scramble the broadcasts, they became an overnight sensation. Recent nationwide surveys reveal that over 70% of the population is watching Christian satellite programs. These same surveys indicate that at least one million have already become believers.

28 DAY DEVO



NINETEEN

29

We read that Ezra "set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach it." Ezra

7:10. Four decisions are to be made to emulate Ezra's leadership commitment:

1. Set our hearts;

2. Study God's Word;

3. Apply and practice what we read; and

4. Teach others what we now know and experience.

Which of the four steps is the hard one for you? Setting your heart – even desiring to study? Or is it the application and practice part?

It seems like we sometimes jump to number 4 and start teaching what we have yet to apply to ourselves. I heard someone say that they could quickly tell the difference between a man who walked closely with the Lord and one who had recently read a good book.

As we pray today, may we focus on the priority of knowing and doing God's Word; that lies at the heart of every missionary endeavor. Pray that our missionaries (name two or three) would find the time in their busy schedules – and a quiet place - to study the Bible and listen to God. The most important thing they have to offer of value to a spiritually dead people can be found through prayer & in the Word of God. nspire Children To Support Missions: Provide Them With A Map Or Poster Materials At Home To Make Their Own Missionary Map





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ANDREW & ANNE SIMS

7103 McCaslan Ln. Waxhaw, NC 28173 704-843-4994 cell

andrew_sims@sil.org

MALCOLM & JEAN HUNTER

P.O. Box 1950 Mariposa, CA 95338

malcolmhunter@sierratel.com

GREG & DENYSE GRIPENTROG

÷

5544 Wells Fargo Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80918-5226

greggripentrog@oci.org

LARRY & JOLENE ALLEN

10226 Hillside Dr. Tyler, TX 75709 903.592.4405 all4allen@juno.com

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ROBBY & ROSE ROBERTS

Via Fuasto Coppi, 3 20090 Pieve Emanuela (MI) Italia robby.roberts@crossworld.org

306 Bala Avenue Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 610.667.7660

CHAD & SERINA HOLLOWELL

H-2030 Erd Thokoly U.27 Hungary

903.253.0469 (Vonage) 36.23.367594 (Home) Ichollowell@pmbx.net

BOB & SYDNEY BIDDULPH

÷

AVDA Valdelasfuentes 42, 1-B 28700 San Sebastian de los Reyes Madrid, Spain

rbiddulph@omsinternational.org

DICK & JUDY AMOS

OMS 170 Vinkaya Drive Morgantown, IN 46160

dijuamos1@yahoo.com

RESTRICTED NATION

Missionary "S" Missionaries "M & M"

Missionaries "L & T"



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SOUTH PACIFIC

DIRECTORY



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VALARIE JOHNSON	NOTES:	NOTES:	NOTES:	
P.O. Box 375 Ukarumpa EHP 444 Papua, New Guinea				
v.johnson@sil.org.pg				
MICK & JUNE BANDY				
P. O. Box 523 Ukarumpa, EHP 444 Papua New Guinea				
m-j.bandy@sil.org.pg				

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BECOME AN AGENT OF WORLD CHANGE

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GRACE

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH ONE CHURCH MANY LOCATIONS MULTI-SITE CHURCH OFFICE 3215 Old Jacksonville Rd. Tyler, Texas 75701

ATHENS CAMPUS - 903.675.3141 LINDALE CAMPUS - 903.882.3323 TYLER CAMPUSES - 903.593.3800

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