

INTERNATIONAL

THINGS
TO COME
MISSION

Harvest

ENTERING ETHIOPIA

SPRING 2024

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A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Ben Anderson, International Director



*Therefore, since we are surrounded
by such a great cloud of witnesses,
let us throw off everything that hinders
and the sin that so easily entangles.
And let us run with perseverance
the race marked out for us.
(Hebrews 12:1)*

When Things to Come Mission came into existence in 1955, I was not yet born. The founding director, Herbert Palmer, left this world the same year I entered it. Throughout a generation of service I have remained aware that this mission is surrounded by what Hebrews calls a great cloud of witnesses. Hebrews 11 is not simply a list of people who had faith, but people whose faith motivated them to please God.

My father, one of the founders of TCM, told me, "It is not what you know that is important. It is what you *do* with what you know that counts." Knowing a truth helps me personally. Acting on that truth changes the world around me. While doing ministry I often think of whether my actions honor my great cloud of witnesses, or whether I am coming up short of the standard they set. Is it right to honor God's people who came before us? Paul quoted Moses, "Honor your father and your mother, which is the first commandment with a promise." In Israel's dispensation, a stubborn, rebellious and disobedient son could be stoned to death. Apostle Paul hoped that the Corinthians recognized and respected his purpose in persuading the world to be reconciled to God. Just as we honor our elders, we want our children to respect us rather than being ashamed of us.

Over the past dozen years I have said goodbye to many of my mentors. I truly would not be where I am without their commitment to urging me to run when I was sitting. I am standing on their shoulders to grow the reach of the grace gospel beyond where they reached. And I pray that one day my shoulders will be strong enough so that the next generation will be able to go to the regions beyond those I have reached. The fields truly are white for harvest and workers are needed..

The five Ecuador martyrs are among the cloud of witnesses for many of us who serve as missionaries, One of them, Jim Elliot, wrote these prophetic words in his diary shortly before his death, "He is no fool who gives that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." My friends, we cannot keep this earthly life, but we can keep forever every soul won for Jesus Christ. ❖

INTRODUCING TCM'S NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



NATHAN BULLOCK



My childhood entailed what would be considered an average middle-class family. My father worked hard to provide, and my mother quit working to stay home. My uncle recently told me she made that decision because my older brother and I were getting out of hand and needed more discipline. Needless to say, she did not spare the rod. Growing up, I loved sports. In high school I played basketball and baseball, with basketball being my favorite sport. My father would take us to church a few times a year, but my mother never went. I believed in God as a child but had not trusted in Christ and His finished work on the cross.

In 1978 we moved to Buford, Georgia where a girl who lived on the street behind me caught my attention. She was a grade behind me in school and we began seeing each other. Her name was Esther Kinman, and she invited me to go with her to church. I began attending Buford First Baptist Church with her. At age 17, I accepted Christ as my Savior, believing He shed His blood and died for me. From age 17 to age 26 there was very little growth in my faith. Finally at 26, I decided to begin studying the Bible in depth, and spiritual growth and understanding excited my soul! Studying and sharing God's Word is my great passion. Loving Christ more every day and bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is my goal. (It is a work in progress.)

After high school, I attended Mercer University of Atlanta and received a Degree in Art. At age 23, I became a professional firefighter at a fire department about 30 minutes north of Atlanta, GA. (So much for that Art degree—the Lord had a different plan.) Being a Firefighter/EMT is a rewarding job because you have the opportunity to help people at their time of greatest need. After 25 ½ years of service it was time to hang up my uniform and retire.

In 1982 I married the girl who had invited me to church with her. My wife, Esther, and I had 5 children. At age 39 she was diagnosed with breast cancer and, after nearly 5 years of treatment, she passed on at age 44. My oldest daughter, Hannah, and I were each holding one of her hands as she took her last breath on earth while lying in our bed. She knew Christ as her Lord and Savior and went home to be with Him on July 24, 2008. That was a glorious day for her, but for me it was the most devastating experience I had ever encountered. She was my high school sweetheart, and we were married for almost 26 years. One of the hardest things was sitting my children down and telling them that their mother had gone to

live in heaven. Only through Christ was there a way to get through such a time of grief and loneliness; but, He was faithful to let me know that He would deliver me one day from my pain. He was and is still faithful!

A friend of mine, Don Kirkpatrick, also worked in the fire service where I had been employed. He was killed in an automobile accident 4 ½ months before Esther died. Sometime after Esther died, I went to visit our Fire Chief, and he told me Don's widow, Lisa, had been to see him and she was still having a hard time. I had known Don for 27 years but had never met his wife. Don's son, Jake, also worked for our fire service. One day I decided to call Jake and ask for Lisa's phone number. My hope was that she could encourage me in my grief, as she was a few months ahead in the journey. I made the call but there was no answer, so I left a voicemail. She called back later the next day, and we began a friendship, sharing our trials on our journey of grief. I knew she was a godly woman because at Don's funeral she shared the testimony of Don's faith in Christ and displayed hers by sharing the gospel as well.

The Lord put Lisa and me together in His own time, and we have been married for 14 years. God chose her to be my wife and a mother to my three children ages 16, 14, and 6, who were still at home when we married. Lisa has been such a Godsend! There is great difficulty in having to step in and raise someone else's children. Sadly, at times the children were resistant. They are all grown now and are blessed by the role Lisa played in raising them. Lisa had one son, Jake (39), so together we have 6 children. My children are: Hannah (also 39), Levi (36), Ethan (30), Leah (28), and Rachel (20). We also have 19 grandchildren together and Number 20 is on the way.



The Lord blessed me with two godly women who loved the Lord. Lisa was sent by the Lord, and she helped raise me up from the ashes of despair. Together we dedicated our lives to serving our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus. I am currently the teaching elder at Grace Bible Fellowship in Gainesville, Georgia, and Lisa teaches a women's group there as well. A

little over 15 years ago, I helped Pastor Tim Lewis start Grace Bible Church in Harlem, GA and taught adult Sunday school there for 5 years. (That church has since moved to Appling, GA.)

I was around age 29 when I learned about “the Mystery” of Ephesians 3:1-9, and the fullness of the Gospel of the Grace of God. My father-in-law, Kirby Kinman, was the one who began sharing this teaching with me. At one time, he was a pastor who went to seminary but became discouraged and left the ministry. One day he decided to read *Acts Dispensationally Considered* to see where author C.R. Stam was wrong. Because he was searching for the truth, Kirby realized Stam was correct in his assessments. Kirby Kinman became a spiritual mentor to me, sharing truth from God’s Word and teaching me about the Mystery revealed to Apostle Paul.



Hannah’s family

Missions has played a significant part in our family. My oldest daughter, Hannah, and her husband, Dan Lee, were missionaries in China for 9 years. They came home because of Covid restrictions. My daughter, Leah, and her husband, Joel Sanders, served with TCM in Kenya for 6 months and are planning to join the Kilgos in Southeast Asia in 2025. One might ask how we could abide our children being missionaries in a foreign country, away from us and other

family members. The answer is simply that you cannot get in the way of what God is doing in the lives of your children. We are honored that God has chosen some of our children to do such work for Him—taking the gospel to regions where people may never have heard the name of Christ. God has never called me to be a missionary, but I know He wants me to support those He has chosen for that task. We all have been called to serve the Lord in some capacity, whether at home or abroad. Those of us in the Body of Christ who are not sent to a foreign mission field are to serve as senders. (Romans 10:15, Acts 13:2,3)

Five years ago, while visiting Joel and Leah Sanders in Indianapolis, I met Don Sommer who invited me to apply to be a TCM Board member. It has been a blessing to serve on the TCM Board and be involved in helping our missionaries obtain what they need in order to serve in their respective countries. Our TCM missionaries inspire me to have a greater passion for missions as I see their commitment to our Savior and their desire for lost souls to come to salvation in Christ. They are so thankful to those who pray for them and give to support their ministries. I asked the Lord how He could use me the most for His glory at this stage in my life, and He placed the Development Director position on my heart. I pray the Lord gives me what I need to fulfill this role and honor Him with my actions. ❖

And He said unto me, “My grace is sufficient for you for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weakness, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

ENTERING ETHIOPIA

By Reagan Mejia Team East Africa Missionary Assigned to Ethiopia

In January 2024 TCM International Director, Ben Anderson, led a survey trip to Ethiopia accompanied by Reagan Mejia (Team East Africa missionary assigned to Ethiopia), Robby Heath (Kenya missionary), and Peter Kagwi (Director of Kenya Church Planting & Missions). They were hosted by Ethiopian Grace believer, Fikresilase Bogale and his wife, Jitu.



As a missionary assigned to Ethiopia, I learned a lot from our one-week survey trip. The people are accommodating to foreigners. If you say, "Selam," the equivalent for the English word "Hello," they will reply, "Selam" with a smile. When we visited

the house of our initial contacts, we felt a warm welcome. They prepared traditional Ethiopian food for us called *injera*, a sour fermented pancake-like flatbread, along with some meat and spices. Afterward, they also roasted coffee beans and prepared traditional Ethiopian coffee. I can say that their food is unique compared to the food from the country where I grew up. Their food, along with their culture, is distinct from other African countries.



While roaming around the capital city, Addis Ababa, I saw that their economy is booming. Visible infrastructure projects, such as the metro, were evident. We observed the construction of business buildings and apartments. They have beautiful parks like the Unity Park and

Ambassadors Park in the metro area near the Palace.

Ethiopian people love to seek wisdom, akin to the Queen of Sheba in the time of Solomon. We experienced this when we visited Abrehot Library (“Enlightenment Library”), the largest public library in Addis Ababa. It is a 4-storey facility, spanning 19,000 square meters, equipped with mile-long shelves housing over a million different books.



The Ethiopian national religion, called Christian Orthodox, is a very ancient religion in Africa, dating back to the 4th century AD. It was timely that during our survey trip, the country



was celebrating their national religious festival of Epiphany. Main roads in the city and all over the country were closed to give way for millions of Ethiopian Christian Orthodox in procession. They carried crosses, relics and banners of Mary. While walking, they sing, chant and say prayers accompanied by drums, and other musical instruments.

I believe their religiosity represents their longing to have a right relationship with the Creator God. They are akin to the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8:27-35, in their consistent prayers and reading their Ethiopian Amharic Bible, yet they do not fully comprehend its complete meaning. They need someone like Philip the Evangelist to teach them about Jesus Christ. They need to be instructed in the Gospel of the Grace of God for salvation so they can come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:3-4).



I am grateful for the survey trip during which we saw the opportunities to preach the gospel. However, several challenges were also evident in bringing the gospel to a different culture. Obtaining visas for my family posed an initial hurdle. We are thankful to the Lord for the open

door provided by the Evangelical Churches Council of Ethiopia, which is willing to grant us work permits as missionaries after fulfilling all necessary requirements.

Secondly, learning the Amharic language, with its 287 symbols and sounds represented by unique alphabet characters is not easy. It requires a significant amount of memorization and practice.



Thirdly, adapting to the local cuisine presents a challenge. Their food differs from what we grew up with. As Filipinos, we are accustomed to eating rice with various vegetables and meat.

Fourthly, the cost of goods in Ethiopia is higher than in Kenya and the Philippines, as are the apartment rentals in the city center, where we aim to reach those strategically positioned by God as influencers. Nonetheless, we trust that the God who called us to Ethiopia will provide for our needs.

Fifthly, transportation in Ethiopia is different from our own country where there are more options. We trust God with all these challenges as we endeavor to bring the Gospel of the Grace of God to Ethiopia. We believe that He is able to make us well and strong in coping with these challenges.



Our first contact in Ethiopia is Mr. Fikresilase Bogale, a near-Grace Believer. He is also an educator. He wrote a letter to TCM International Director, Ben Anderson, about five years ago. I contacted him a year ago and have kept in communication with him and his wife, Jitu, up to the present. We

had a wonderful time together during our one-week visit to Ethiopia. During our trip, he introduced me to some believers (near-Grace) in Ethiopia. I am now connected with those individuals to whom I aim to share the full knowledge of the Grace Message. I am praying that God will lead me to know those faithful men and women



in the country who will someday embrace the Grace Message and soon become part of TCM-Ethiopia.

I am excited to be part of what God is doing in the country of Ethiopia. We clearly see green lights in proclaiming the Gospel of God's Grace in the country. We will begin with one year of intensive language learning and immersion in Ethiopian culture. After a year, our focus will shift to Church Planting for one to two years, along with training faithful Grace Believers to participate in the ministry.



Our goal is to strategically position the church to have access to influencers in the country, including professionals and business owners. We plan to build up the work using methods similar to those of the Apostle Paul, involving preaching the gospel, planting churches, and training faithful men and women

for the work of the ministry. We trust the Lord to provide not only for our financial needs but, more importantly, to bring the right and faithful local people with whom we can work to expand the ministry.

Our orientation months in Kenya have been absolutely important for us. We were able to adjust from Asian culture to East African culture. The weather, the food, the people, the language, and the relationships with Grace Believers made us even stronger and better prepared for Ethiopia. We thank God for the encouragement and guidance that we are receiving from the leaders of Kenya Bible Church, and most especially for the wisdom from our International Director, Ben Anderson. ❖

Reagan and Jemimah Mejia, with their children Keziah and Dale, plan to move to Ethiopia this summer. They are supported as members of Team East Africa as they engage in this pioneering ministry.



A LIVING SACRIFICE

Ben Anderson, TCM International Director

Apostle Paul urged the Romans to present themselves to God as living sacrifices, in contrast to the many dead sacrifices of Israel's dispensation. Darlene Anderson gave her life as a living sacrifice. In 1956 she and her husband, Vernon Anderson, were challenged at a mission conference in Milwaukee by the five young American missionaries martyred while presenting Christ on a lonely riverbank in Ecuador. When the Andersons left the church that night, Vernon took Darlene's hand and asked, "Will you join me on the mission field?" Without hesitation Darlene answered, "YES!" And so began a lifelong journey of trusting God and proclaiming the gospel of God's grace on every inhabited continent.

My missionary trainees have said they are afraid to be interviewed at the end of their training because I might ask them, "Are you ready to die for Christ?" Actually, it is far more difficult to live for Christ every day of our lives, waking every morning and intentionally sacrificing all to live for His purpose. Darlene Anderson exemplified living for Christ. She always showed great interest in the people, sights and events surrounding her. I remember her playing through all the chess games with me from the 1972 championship. She could bake bread (cinnamon rolls, yum!), sew clothes, care for the sick, wash clothes by hand, type letters and booklets, drive her family across America, teach in the Bible school, church and conferences and home school her children long before that was a thing. On Friday nights she made us eat with chopsticks because "one-fourth of the world is Chinese and they need to hear the gospel."

Was it worth their lives? When Vernon and Darlene departed for the Philippines in 1957 they had the names of two pastors written on a scrap of paper who they were to meet with to begin the Grace ministry. Later this April, I will speak at the conference of the Grace Churches in the Philippines. Over 600 are already registered to attend, mostly pastors and church leaders. How does two grow to over 600? Because the Andersons and many other faithful ministers were willing to say with Paul, "I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." Paul was accused of turning the world upside down. I am proud my mother turned her world upside down for Christ.

Now it is our turn. What will we do with our world? Three billion people have never heard the gospel of Christ. God demonstrated His love for them. Will we demonstrate our love? ❖



OH SURE!

Valerie Anderson Wynalda, TCM Office Administrator

A few days after my mom, Darlene Anderson, stepped from our home into her heavenly home, I had "one ball" of ice cream after dinner in honor of her. For the past several years, largely due to my husband Pete's influence, my mom would ask for "one ball" of ice cream every night after dinner. The day before her death she was sedated and slept most of the day, but in the evening, I went into her room and told her it was dinner time. She didn't respond, so I asked her if she'd like some ice cream. She opened her eyes right up and said, very perky, "**Oh sure!**"



Those were the last words my mom ever said to me. Very fitting, really, because a perky "**Oh sure!**" was how she lived her life.



Will you leave your family, your country and everything familiar to go as a missionary to the other side of the world? "**Oh sure!**"



Will you leave the ministry we've established in this country and move to another country to get something going there (a question repeated at least 7 times in the course of her life)? "**Oh sure!**"



Will you leave your overseas ministry after 48 years to move back to the USA and work in the mission home office? "**Oh sure!**"

Will you serve as your husband's caregiver, driver, and even his eyes and voice for the rest of his life? "**Oh sure!**"



Will you leave the final home you shared with Dad and move in with Pete and me? "**Oh sure!**"

Although every one of those things involved immense challenges, my mom invariably rose to the occasion with a perky "**Oh sure!**" attitude.



The day after I fed her that last bowl of ice cream, when the Lord asked her, "Will you leave your life on earth and come live with Me in heaven?" we didn't hear it, but I'm sure she responded with a perky, "**Oh sure!**" ❖

IN THE BEGINNING

Darlene Anderson

Reprinted from Spring 2018 International Harvest



Buh! Buh! The ship's horn announced our arrival January 1st, 1958, after 22 days at sea from California. Suddenly the Philippines becomes home for our family? And where is this place *Ozamiz City*, our destination?

Faith prevails. A young pastor was waiting to take Vernon and me and our daughters, Laurel and Hope, to his home. That evening he fixed a big mosquito net over the wood floor. We 4 crawled under. By morning we had huge red welts where we let the net touch hungry mosquitoes. All was so new.

Especially rice, rice, rice 3 times a day! We boarded an inter-island boat for the big south island of Mindanao. Surprise: our accommodation for 3 days was one army cot each, all cots pushed together on the open deck. How do you sleep in case you touch the next passenger on his cot? And we ate rice all the way.

In Ozamiz City Mr. Garcia found us a house to rent, and we met our new helper, Vicki. She knew how to buy food at the market and cook on the kerosene plate. She fed us corned beef, slabs of fried yams...and rice, of course, almost every meal. Vicki taught us how to hand wash all the clothes, even sheets, in a bucket. At first having a 'helper' troubled me, but Vicki fast became a 'sister' because Vernon was gone with Evangelist Poten, hiking mountains and preaching for days. We could only hope to hear he was safe. One day a thief came demanding money till Vicki ran to Mr. Garcia for help. They think all *Americanos* are rich. Our mailman passed daily. What joy to get a letter which took over 2 months to send and get a reply. One month our treasurer forgot to send us money so we ate bananas for 3 days outside with our pet monkey. The Lord used that for good as it started us looking for a possible Bible school location with money Filipinos shared with us.

Worldwide kids love kids. I had brought one reader, *Dick, Jane & Sally*. Hope learned to read while I roughly taught Laurel Grade 2 with no books.



Hope and Laurel with a water buffalo

Neighbor kids began peeping in all the windows to watch how *Americanos* live, eat, etc. We could only respond with smiles. One young kid passed by leading a huge water buffalo with a small rope--so much for US zoos telling how dangerous they are. Everyone called out: *Laurel! Hope!* when we hiked or rode the bus. When Vicki led us out Saturdays with our big plywood flannel board, kids came running

and ‘oh’ing at the pictures, stories and songs. Once when Vernon was sick, Poten invited me on his evangelistic trip across rough roads and sea. I joined bailing water so our boat stayed on top till we reached Alicia, hiking knee deep in mud with the girls and Vicki. To teach all those kids *The B-I-B-L-E* and the *Wordless Book*...it was beautiful!

The work was growing so fast—12 churches were planted that first year. International Grace Bible Institute (IGBI) was our dream to see more trained workers for the churches. Vernon sent a call back to Milwaukee inviting Joe & Pauline Watkins to come help us begin a Bible school. The Watkins made the sea trip in October and entered the IGBI dream. A plan was made, land bought, lumber ordered for a school at Lupagan village. Men or women made no difference as we sorted and piled up all the lumber dumped by the truck at the Lupagan roadside. The Watkins had a small cottage, and we made the future IGBI building our home, always sleeping under nets, using kerosene lanterns for light and carrying buckets of water from a rickety hand pump. We all ate together at the school using a 2-burner kerosene stove. Rice was familiar by then. All visitors were welcome. Whenever we heard, “*Maayo!*” at the door we opened happily and served them hot evaporated milk (in the Tropics!). Filipinos are outstandingly friendly and love togetherness.



We faced our toughest test in April, 1959. Laurel, who always joined the youth and loved to sing, requested *Lord, I’m Coming Home* at the meeting in front of the school. One week later she transferred to her heavenly home after 3 days of meningitis without good medical care. It was our turn to believe what we preached: resurrection is real. Filipinos were surprised we did not leave their country. No, not for a moment did we entertain that idea. We wanted see the work grow! IGBI opened that June. In July, Pauline Watkins delivered her son...NOT as expected in a hospital, but without running water or electricity, right there in their small bedroom, all of us praying and trying to find help. Male doctors did not deliver babies then, so we raced for a trained midwife. We had tears of joy hearing baby Steve’s cry. **The Lord leads and teaches all the way!** ❖

FOLLOWING ON



JOEL & LEAH SANDERS have been reinstated as TCM missionary candidates to Southeast Asia and plan to resume deputation this September. During their leave of absence (they were unable to enter their target country due to COVID lockdown) they have been serving on the pastoral staff at Community Bible Church in Tipp City, OH. The Sanders will lead a group of 12 from that church (pictured) on a summer mission to Kenya, June 2-21. Pray for safety, health, effective witness and transformation of participants into Senders or Sent.





THE Z FAMILY has joined Team L♡s. They write, "The L♡ people are celebrating their vibrant New Year. It's a joyous time filled with traditions, beliefs and community. People are offering alms

to monks, seeking blessings for the coming year. Additionally, playful water-throwing symbolizes washing away the past and starting fresh. While

we celebrate their rich culture, it's also a wonderful opportunity to share the message of Jesus Christ. We pray for open hearts, where people might someday embrace the true God and find salvation through Jesus. Please keep our mission in L♡s in your prayers as we continue to engage, learn their language and spread the gospel with love and compassion."



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Things to Come Mission prepares people for Jesus Christ's return through the methods of the Apostle Paul by sending missionaries to evangelize, plant churches and train leaders worldwide. Our financial support comes from free will gifts of churches and individuals. Things to Come Mission will disburse gifts as they are designated. When a project is complete, TCM will disburse the gifts in a manner consistent with its mission statement and purpose. As a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization, TCM issues tax-deductible receipts for all donations.



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HOW CAN I HELP?

PRODUCE GRACE LITERATURE & TRACTS

The TCM-Philippines Literature Department needs to purchase a laptop computer and printer to produce gospel tracts, Bible lessons, and other translated materials in Cebuano and Tagalog for local churches to use. The Literature Department is currently translating *Bible Contrasts* (Adams) and *Now That I Believe* (Kurth)



with 40 lessons to accompany them. They also intend to bring 10,000 gospel tracts to distribute during the TCM-Philippines national conference.

NEED: \$900 DESIGNATE GIFTS: PHILIPPINES LITERATURE EQUIPMENT

FACILITATE MISSIONARY TRAINING



TCM does mission according to the methods of Apostle Paul. Paul prepared for 13 years after his conversion to become the great apostle to the Gentiles. In 2 Timothy we read Paul's instruction for his young trainee Timothy. Our missionary training is called Grace Theological Center for Mission (GTCM). This June through July, 12 students will join up in the northern Philippines for missionary training, following the 48 already trained. All instructors are active missionaries. Funds are needed to cover instructors' travel, training supplies and equipment and utilities. **NEED: \$2800. DESIGNATE GIFTS: GTCM**

SPONSOR TEAM MK EDUCATION

TCM Team missionary families are serving in 7 countries. These families can only do their vital work if they have a quality, affordable education option for their children. Regular donations received through TCM are intended to cover their personal living expenses, but do not extend to education expenses for their children. The TCM Team MK Scholarship fund is depleted! This fund typically provides need-based scholarships of up to \$1000 per child in K-12th grade per academic year. TCM currently has 10 Team MKs who qualify for these scholarships. **DESIGNATE GIFTS: TEAM MK SCHOLARSHIP**



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Does **All** Mean **ALL**?

"This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants **all people** to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim.2:3-4)



Over 3 billion people have not heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. Who is ready to say with Isaiah, "Here am I Lord, Send Me!"



Contact TCM at 317-783-0300 or Ben at ben@tcmusa.org for more information about attending or giving for others to attend.