



# Ferguson Report



Vol. 5 No. 7

*“Go ye unto all the world”*

July 2008

## Looking in the Eye

As I began to write this issue of the newsletter I thought about the unique situation I'm in at the present. All of you know that we are now in the hurricane season; and you know very well what is often referred to as the “eye” of the hurricane – the very small and calm central area of the hurricane surrounded by the rest of the powerful storm. Well, that image of a calm center surrounded by ferocious activity somewhat describes my situation right now.

The months of March thru June were literally filled with classes to be taught in four of our extension schools. And then the middle of August will begin another frenzied series of trips including Peru, Denver, Nigeria, Ukraine, and Tanzania that will last until December. So, at the present I'm somewhat “calm” in this “eye” of mid-July to mid-August time period making preparations for these future events. But, as I reflect a little more, things have been anything but “calm” around here.

Our daughter Sarah just got married. Of course, that wasn't a chore at all—just ask Mary. You do know I'm being facetious. Mary and I are visiting churches where I have an opportunity to give a report of the work in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. If you are a current supporter of this work and would like me to give a report to your congregation please let me know. As always, if your congregation is not now supporting this work but you would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to contact me. This continues to be an exciting & effective work of the Lord's kingdom.

Our boys, Seth and Nathan have been practically absent all summer long as they've been “scouting” cotton, beans, etc. for farmers in Haywood and surrounding counties. That means they literally walk farm fields all day long spot checking for insects, weeds, and the general condition of crops. They're out of the house before daylight and often don't return home until nearly dark. They've both lost weight, gotten dark tans, and cherish their sleep. I told Seth they look like pictures I've seen of WWII soldiers at Iwo Jima – lean, dark, and exhausted. It's been good for them, and gives them a good summer income. But with school just around the corner, their scouting is

basically coming to an end. I suppose one of these days they will be able to stick out their chests with pride and continue the old tradition when speaking to their own kids, *“You kids now-a-days don't know what hard work is like I used to do...”* ☺

Many of you already know that I've started writing a “daily devotional” series that is sent out by email during the week days. This is my first attempt to write a daily series like this. So far, the responses have been favorable, and I plan to continue writing them as time allows. There will likely be those times while I'm in another country that it will be impossible to write a daily article. Like most preachers, teachers, and writers I don't claim originality always for the content, and have borrowed from ideas I remembered as well as from previous studies. If you are interested in being put on my devo email list just let me know. Howell

## Thank You!

In last month's newsletter I made a plea to churches or individuals in behalf of our extension schools for miscellaneous student and office supplies. A wonderful group of very sweet ladies from the North Jackson Sunday morning ladies' Bible class quickly jumped on the opportunity to help meet the challenge. As of today, they have donated and purchased spiral notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, dry-erase markers, folders and other items to help meet the student class needs of the Chimala Bible College and CSMT School of Biblical Studies.

And just yesterday, I got an email from one of the North Jackson ladies saying she had visited the Bear Valley Bible Institute and North Jackson mission's web sites to learn more about Chimala. Her conclusion was, *“I want those ceiling fans!?”* She's talking about fans for one of the classrooms at the Chimala Bible College. She also wants to donate some college books she used as a student at Freed-Hardeman College. What a great blessing these ladies are to our task of training men to teach their own people the gospel of Christ and faithfully lead them in the pathways of righteousness. Thank-you North Jackson ladies for your service to God and your love for souls!

Howell

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Please send all contributions  
to:

**WESTSIDE CHURCH  
OF  
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3235 HWY 54 WEST  
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(731) 772-3810

***“Ferguson Mission”***

Monthly commitments and one-time  
donations still needed

**Bear Valley Bible Institute of  
Denver**

A work of the Bear Valley Church of  
Christ, 2707 S. Lamar St, Denver,  
CO  
80227 (303) 986-5800

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## What Is A Missionary?

*“Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, because they went forth for His name’s sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth” (3 John 5-8).*

A missionary is someone who has “gone forth on behalf of the Name.” The body of Christ consists of many members with different functions.

The church of Christ has a great mission: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15, 16).

Since these words have been spoken, thousands of Christians have left their home country to tell the good news about Jesus Christ. Often they must learn a new language, always they must adapt to a new culture.

“For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall

they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!’” (Romans 10:13-15).

Just as vital to the spread of the gospel are the hundreds of thousands of Christians who have sent the few who were willing to go. Most missionaries can testify that much of their support comes from people who have little themselves. Because they love God and man, they sacrifice that the gospel of peace might go forth into all the world.

The work of missionaries is built on the faith of the faithful.  
Roy Davidson

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The above short article describes the simple yet highly effective method of taking the gospel into all the world. There are those who GO and there are those who SEND. Both are important. Neither is greater than the other. Without the “senders” the “goers” cannot go. Without the “goers” the “senders” have no representatives of their charity. Many of you reading this letter have been faithful in your support of this work from “day one.” You have not faltered nor doubted through the ups and downs that are characteristic of mission work. You can be sure your sacrifice and faith is not forgotten nor taken for granted. Thank you.  
Howell