

NEWS FROM THE FIELDS



FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

By Paul Braun

The darker the room, the more brightly the light will shine.

I'll always remember growing up in Congo (DRC). My missionary parents would often take my two brothers and me with them on weekend evangelism trips. Sometimes, when the village had no church, I could feel an oppressive darkness, a claustrophobic heaviness. I was always happy to return home to Kinkonzi, the mission station on a

hill, with its huge church, a Bible Institute with 50 men preparing for ministry, an elementary school with hundreds of Congolese students all dressed in uniform, and a busy hospital and nurses-training school. Kinkonzi seemed full of light to me. There was loud, happy singing! There were joyful conversations with much laughter, people enjoying the richness of Christian community. What a wonderful contrast

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Save the date to attend a celebration dinner!
Lexington, KY: Sat, July 9 | Bellville, OH: Mon, July 11

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SAVING LIGHT



By Steve Liversedge

Is anything faster than light? I would imagine that the only correct answer would be God, because He is omnipresent. Before a ray of light begins its one-second journey of 186,000 miles, God is already there. All the reflected and refracted angles of light happen within His hands. After all, it was God who said at creation, “Let there be light.”

When Jesus said that He was the light of the world, He chose the greatest thing known to man to describe Himself. Astoundingly, He also said that we are the light of the world. It makes sense, though, when you think of what we are called: Christians, which means “Little Christs,” and as such, “Little Lights.” What Jesus is, we should be, as He fills us with His Holy Spirit. Christ in us is our hope of glory (Col. 1:27). It’s how we enter His Kingdom and how we are able to “shine as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:15).

The Bible is full of light when it talks about God, Jesus, and believers. 1 John 1:5 says, “...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” In Acts 13:47 Luke writes, “For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

With over 40% of the world still living in darkness, we need to let our lights burn ever brighter for the sake of those looking for the way. As our ministry partners shine the light in very dark places, multitudes are responding from Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim communities.

I have a special memory from an early Great Commission Challenge Camp. We were in Bihar, India sharing with about 400 young people. All of a sudden the lights went out. Immediately, pinpricks of cell phone light filled the auditorium. To me, that

moment illustrated the mission of ER: thousands of trained disciples, young and old, sharing the light with strategies from the traditional to the most modern. More are seeing the light and being drawn to Christ than ever before.

Dwight L. Moody was a famous 19th century preacher. One evening he spoke about a shipwreck on Lake Erie. The ship had been trying to enter Cleveland harbor on a very dark and tempestuous night. It became apparent that while the main lighthouse was beaming brightly, the lower lights had gone out. Sadly, the ship crashed on the rocks and many lives were lost. In that service was hymn writer Philip Bliss, who was inspired to write, “Let the Lower Lights Be Burning.”

Moody’s and Bliss’s challenge is our challenge today. Have our lower lights gone out, or are they burning brightly, with wicks trimmed, sending a beam across land and sea to those who are seeking or struggling, or have never heard the gospel?

Let the Lower Lights Be Burning

*Brightly beams our Father’s mercy, from His lighthouse evermore;
But to us He gives the keeping, of the lights along the shore.
Let the lower lights be burning! Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman you may rescue, you may save.*

*Dark the night of sin has settled, loud the angry billows roar;
Eager eyes are watching, longing for the lights along the shore.
Let the lower lights be burning! Send a gleam across the wave!
Eager eyes are watching, longing for the lights along the shore.*

*Trim your feeble lamp my brother, some poor sailor tempest tossed,
Trying now to make the harbor in the darkness may be lost.
Let the lower lights be burning! Send a gleam across the wave!
Trying now to make the harbor, some poor sailor may be lost.*

(continued from p. 1)

Kinkonzi provided to the spiritual darkness and oppression of those unchurched villages!

God said to Saul (later called Paul) on the road to Damascus: “... I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me” (Acts 26:17b-18).

God still sends us to take the light of His salvation and love to those living in spiritual darkness! In 1 Peter 2:9 we read: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

ER has partners working in some of the darkest corners of the globe, brightly shining God’s light. From the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh to the hundreds of unreached people groups in north India, to the Pygmy Bible School in the forests of Cameroon, our partners are making disciples who are making more disciples.

May the Lord continue to lead and bless us all with strength and wisdom to shine Christ’s light in the darkness, and to turn those from darkness to His amazing light!

“I AM SENDING YOU TO THEM TO OPEN THEIR EYES AND TURN THEM FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT...”

BECAUSE YOU GAVE



Our ministry partners overseas were able to train 35,000 disciple-makers last year.



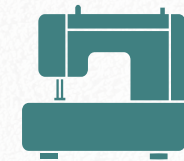
We were able to send over \$70,000 in humanitarian support to those suffering due to pandemic lockdowns.



When little Sylvie, the daughter of our Pygmy Bible school director, fell in a fire, we were able to send \$400 to help with hospital bills.



We were able to send \$3,000 to our partners in Maharashtra to purchase Bibles in Marathi that they will distribute, and we sent \$2,000 for audio Bibles for people who can't read.



When new believers from the Yadev UPG were ostracized by their families, we were able to send money for two sewing machines so they could learn to sew and help support their families.



When our partner in Jharkhand state gathered 1,000 youth to be challenged to commit their lives to the Great Commission, we were able to send \$1,200 for literature and travel expenses.



We were able to support 27 Bible Women as missionaries in the villages of Bihar, India.

Graphic: Designed by Freepik



We have funds to translate the PBS textbook into four new languages: Arabic, Farsi, Malay, and Mongolian.



TAKING LIGHT INTO THE DARK

By Caleb Pfeifer

The last time we shared about ER's ministry in China, we titled the article "A Galaxy of Stars in a World of Darkness." (Little did we know how well that idea would fit into this issue's theme!) Inspiration for the title came when our East Asia director likened his team's Kingdom efforts to a "galaxy of lights in the midst of spiritual darkness."

What is this "spiritual darkness"? In parts of China and many neighboring countries, it is having never heard the gospel or possibly even the name of Jesus. As we've mentioned in previous newsletters, our director has caught a vision to spread Jesus' light not only in China, but also throughout the rest of Asia. He's especially focused on two new fields—a country

in the Middle East and Mongolia. Speaking of these during a phone call, he interjected multiple times, "We are more than excited!"

Middle East

He told of a Middle Eastern man (we'll call him Nathan for security reasons) whom he met while looking for opportunities to establish work in that region. Nathan came to Christ in the Philippines and, despite the risks, has returned to the Middle East to plant churches. After equipping himself for ministry through the Portable Bible School (PBS), he intends to use the course to help our director's team raise up lay pastors for the underground churches they start. In this area training qualified leaders quickly is essential for new churches to thrive, and our director has found that PBSes are perfect for meeting this need.

To gain access into this country, our director and his team are establishing a business that will provide humanitarian service to underdeveloped communities. This will also allow the ministry to be self-sustaining. Moreover, because of the country's prominence in the Middle East, their business—and ministry—could expand into the surrounding Muslim nations!

Mongolia

Much of the China-Mongolia border is comprised of a Chinese province called Inner Mongolia. A colleague of our director has begun reaching villages of ethnic Mongolians in this province, with hopes of eventually entering Mongolia. Like Nathan in the Middle East, he's receiving the PBS training and plans to share it with believers who want to serve as pastors. The frigid winters and remoteness of this region make it a difficult ministry field, but this evangelist and his co-laborers have set their minds to make Jesus known. If their efforts in Mongolia are successful, our director believes doors could open to other countries in north-central Asia.

In Closing

Almost 2,000 years after Jesus commissioned Paul to carry His light to the Gentiles, we—the Church—are still shining this light into some communities for the very first time. Believers in Asia often face enormous opposition in this task, but our director has faith that God will make a way. Alluding to Peter following Jesus onto the sea, he said, "We're just stepping one step onto the water." Let's continue uplifting these brothers and sisters in prayer as they follow Jesus, filling the void of spiritual darkness with the light of the gospel.

STAFF UPDATE

By Lisa Fowler & Paul Braun

On September 20, 2014, Doran Morgan wrote in all capital letters "HERE AM I" in the ER home office guest book. He was referencing Isaiah 6:8 when God asks the question, "Whom shall I send?" and Isaiah responds, "Here am I. Send me!" Doran's concise words "Here am I" reflects not only his knack for precision, but also his heart of boldness for missions. We are so thankful that God brought Doran to ER to serve as Treasurer for the past seven years!

It's fitting that when Doran once again heard the call of God, "Whom shall I send?" to offer additional care to his aging parents in Kansas, that he rightly responded with willingness. Although Doran no longer serves as ER's Treasurer, he continues to serve on ER's Board of Directors.

Upon his resignation, three volunteers have stepped up to fill the gap left in his wake, alongside another long-time volunteer. Let's introduce you to each of them:

Ted Callahan has been on ER's Board of Directors for over 25 years and through that time has served voluntarily as ER's Treasurer. Since Doran's departure he's assumed all the banking responsibilities – sending support payments to our 30+ international partners and interfacing with financial institutions.

Mark Fischer and **Doug Boggs** are also long-time friends and supporters of ER. When they heard that Doran was leaving Kentucky they asked if they could help. Mark's been keeping ER's ledger, and Doug has given many hours offering ER



financial consultation.

A fourth valuable volunteer, who has faithfully processed contributions every week for over 20 years, is **Jim Pepperl**. These four men, among others who offer their expertise, are a huge blessing to ER! Through them, we continue to witness generous willingness exemplified by the simple phrase—here am I.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

CONTRIBUTIONS WERE RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF:

Mrs. Lois Charls, of Shelter Island, NY from:

- Rev. Tom Charls, also of Shelter Island;
- Ms. Linda Bulloss, of Williston Park, NY;
- Anita Cicero and the Ladies Bible Study, of Shelter Island;
- Tom and Bobbie McCleod, of Mattituck, NY;
- Rev. Eugene Heacock, of Southold, NY;
- Renate Paul of Shelter Island;
- David and Gail Makinson, of Shelter Island.

Dr. Phyllis Corbitt, of Wilmore, Kentucky, from:

- Drs. Raleigh and Janine Jones, of Nicholasville, KY.

Mr. John Gearhart, of York, PA, from:

- Mrs. Joyce Gearhart, also of York.

Mrs. Donna Hallman, of Marion, OH, from:

- Mrs. Myrle Bechtel, of Mansfield, OH.

Mrs. Thelma Morgan, of Topeka, KS, from:

- Kenneth and Claudia C. Cook, of Tahlequah, OK;
- Rick and Nancy Koon, of El Paso, TX;
- Mr. Arlin Morgan, also of Topeka;
- Mr. and Mrs. Jim Springer, also of Topeka.

Rev. Howard Reynolds, of Lexington, Kentucky

- (The donor wishes to remain anonymous.)

Mr. Bill Stander, of Arcadia, Florida, from:

- Mrs. Marilyn Stander, also of Arcadia.

FREE ONLINE LIBRARY

By Caleb Pfeifer

ER's leadership and discipleship curriculums are now available online for free, with select resources translated into a total of over 25 languages! You can access these materials at www.erinfo.org/resources and download them for personal use or a group study—no special permission needed. In addition to textbooks and manuals for ER programs, you'll also find discipleship content from two influential Christian authors who have partnered with us: Dr. Robert E. Coleman and Lee E. Thomas.

If you have questions about these resources, feel free to contact us at any time by email, or call us Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. Thank you for your involvement in our ministry! May the Lord bless you and your community as you grow in Him and endeavor to make disciples.



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Portable Bible School

Available in Bengali, Chinese, Creole, French, Hindi, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Urdu, and 20+ other languages for training house church leaders.

TENTMAKER'S MANUAL

Great Commission Challenge Camp

Developed to equip "tentmakers," whose calling, regardless of their profession, is to make disciples. Available in Chinese, English, French, and Hindi.

WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP MANUAL

Women's Impact Network

Created for women by women. Available in Chinese, English, Hindi, Spanish, and six other languages.

SOE 12 LESSON CURRICULUM PACKAGE

School of Evangelism

Comprehensive pastoral training for Christian leaders, traditionally taught in nine-month residential schools. Currently available in English.

