

Inter-National Harvest

Indonesia: A Story of Courage and Triumph

by
Dr. Frans Tamarol

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor.15:58)

Since late 1997 Indonesia has experienced its most tumultuous time since its successful fight for independence from the Dutch in 1945. Through media reports we learn that Indonesia is currently a dangerous place simply to live; how much more to minister the gospel. There are however, still many areas of the country which are considered safe. In such areas people live peacefully and they can carry out their daily activities.

Economic collapse and the devaluation of the Indonesian currency, the Rupiah, severely affected the ability of the people to purchase even the basic necessities of life. Hundreds of businesses were closed and tens of thousands were without work. The political situation disintegrated into complete chaos. In May 1998, Suharto, the president for thirty years, was ousted from office. These events sparked protests and riots throughout much of the nation, many of which were targeted at ethnic and religious minorities, particularly Christians.

Last December, what seemed like open war had broken out between the Muslim majority and Christian minority in many of Indonesia's cities, including the capital, Jakarta. In January, Ambon, the capital city of Mollucas Province, was the scene of horrific atrocities as hundreds were killed and thousands fled their homes from riotous mobs that carried out a rampage around the city. Until now (the first week of February) the situation on the small island is very dangerous.

As the economy worsens, and the political situation remains uncertain, the Christians, I mean true Christians, are faithful in the gospel ministry. Our friends in the Grace Bible Churches throughout Indonesia of course are facing difficulties, but the work is going on fine.

The ministry of TCM in Indonesia has expanded to include all of the five largest islands of Indonesia. There are 34 established congregations plus several newly-reached areas.

The work yet to be done is immense because of the size of the country (3,000 miles span from East to West), the population (203 million, 90% of which are Muslims) and the number of islands (13,000 islands). Thank God for the work of many able leaders and young workers who are committed to the gospel ministry throughout Indonesia. Space does not allow me to mention all the individuals who are sacrificially serving the Lord in the Indonesian ministry. I would like to share, however, a bit of the blessings we have seen in recent years.

Java, the smallest among the five large islands, is the most populated with more than one hundred million people. Our work is found in Jakarta, West Java, and East Java. In Sumatra, the second biggest island, the work was started in 1993 in Medan, the capital city of North Sumatra. Now the work has extended to Nias in the west coast of the province. In Borneo, the largest island, we have strong churches in Balikpapan and Tarakan which are doing outreach ministries to the surrounding areas.

In West Irian, our work is found in Jayapura, the capital city, and Sorong. In Celbes there are congregations in the



1998 Graduates of Grace Bible Institute in Jakarta

south in Ujung Pandang and in North Celbes in and around the city of Manado. From Manado evangelistic efforts have reached to the islands bordering the Republic of the Philippines

Praise the Lord for the work of the faithful and committed missionaries of Thing to Come Mission who have worked side by side with the national leaders and evangelists, and for the constant prayer and support of friends both in the U.S. and in Indonesia.

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NEWS FROM THE BRAZILIAN FIELD

Major changes have taken place in Brazil. The entire field structure has been analyzed and revised to meet today's needs. With the development of a new plan designed for effectiveness and solid growth, TCM maintains high hopes of realizing the following goals:

- To establish a network of Bible-believing, indigenous churches.
- To open a Bible Institute for training of future leaders.
- To develop unity among believers in purpose, doctrine, and godly living.

The Brazilian work has been gradually progressing toward maturity for 25 years. Its development includes extensive work in both the southern region and the northeast region. As contacts have been made and believers led to Christ, churches have been established. In spite of economic instability, the high cost of living, and ministry upsets, TCM missionaries have continued in dedicating their lives for the goals above to be realized.

Recently, TCM sought to answer the question, "Where do we want our Brazilian ministry to be 5 years from now?" and "How do we get there from here?" They came up with several concrete ideas and are now implementing them. One thing all agreed was that change is necessary: in method, mindset, and focus. All want to see the gospel "ignite" in Brazil, and the flame of God's truths shine brighter.

TCM confronted its "spinning-of-wheels" situation by rearranging its field work and personnel. The south is now operated by nationals, under mission supervision and funding. There, church leaders have their own governing body (MCP - Missão Cristã do Porvir), which will continue to direct activities. The former Bible School (STG - Seminário Teológico da Graça), remains closed due to lack of students. Carlos Schmidt, TCM's national worker in that region, will continue to coordinate evangelism and development.

Because of growth and ministry possibilities in the north, TCM's Brazilian Field Representative, Doug LeFeber, called upon the missionaries in the south to relocate. They prayerfully accepted the challenge. Gomer and Nene Indino, as well as Joel and Darcy Molina and their children moved to Recife in January. Doug also established a Bible Training Center in Recife (Centro Bíblico de Ensino, Treinamento e Pesquisa). Its director is Urian Rios, a graduate of Grace Bible College, and present pastor of the Boa Viagem Bible Church. Joining Urian as teachers are his wife Jule, missionaries Joel Molina, Gomer Indino, Tony Sistêlos, and Doug and Vicki LeFeber. The second semester of classes begins March 1, with eight full-time students.

Other ministries in the North include "Project Abba," a weekly children's Bible Club reaching out to over 150 children. The LeFEBERS have formed a team of 15 volunteer teachers and helpers to provide Bible stories, songs, practical lessons and a healthy snack to needy area children. This program is housed in the Ibura Bible Church where services and Bible studies for men, women, and youth are offered on an almost daily basis.



Some of the children and helpers involved in Project Abba

God is doing great things throughout Brazil! The best is yet to come. Pray!

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Another Format Change?

You have probably noticed that the **International Harvest** has a different appearance, again. We feel that a shorter and simpler version of the magazine can help TCM both save money and make it easier to put out the publication on schedule. We hope you enjoy the new look. -Editor



FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP

Antonio N. Improso, was born on March 1932 in the town of Jovellar, Albay, in Southern Luzon, Philippines. He is the 10th of the 12 brothers and sisters reared in a family of superstitious Roman Catholics. In his teens he embraced a cultish belief known as chiromancy (or palm reading). Waywardbound, he was often a displeasure to his family.

In 1958 Antonio met a visiting pastor, Arturo Chaves(then a new worker of Things To Come Mission). It was through the teaching of this pastor that Antonio understood the gospel message and the way of salvation. One Sunday at a church service the pastor gave the challenge, Antonio was ready and stood to profess his acceptance of Jesus Christ as his savior. The first convert from his family, the former wayward son would thereafter lead the rest to the Lord. From his clan 29 individuals, blood relatives and in-laws, became actively involved in ministry as workers with TCM.

The year after his conversion he was appointed as an elder, elected to the church board, and designated Sunday school teacher. In 1960 he enrolled at the International Grace Bible Institute. Seeing that he came to school with an extensive background in Biblical knowledge and a strong doctrinal foundation, he was accepted as a TCM worker before the end of his first semester. He was sent to pioneer a ministry in his birthplace. The believers resulting from this endeavor were to become the first grace church planted in Luzon.

Over the years Antonio has held a wide variety of ministry positions. In order they are: 1960-64, pioneering and church planting; 1965-68, district minister and pastor; 1969-70, provincial evangelist; 1970-74, IGBI teacher and director; 1975-85, supervising minister; 1985-90, field director; and 1990 to the present, TCM-Philippines director. As director, his present responsibilities include leading the overall ministry in the Philippines, coordinating the work of the various departments, directing the implementation of board decisions, presiding over the worker placement committee, and corresponding with the department heads, area leaders, and workers. Through the years Antonio has learned that, by God's grace, there can be no limit to what the believers can do together if they are not concerned with who gets the credit, so that every one may get the benefit.

In 1964 Antonio married Josephine Palma. God has made them successful workmates. He blessed them with three children: Gardner, Joanim, and Mervin. Tony and Josie praise God that all of their children are actively involved in ministry. Gardner and his wife Claudita (with two little daughters) are TCM missionaries to Kenya, East Africa.

Current TCM Projects

Project	Amount Needed
Less than \$100	
20 Original Scofield Bibles for Bibles Institute Graduates in the Philippines	\$36 per Bible
10 Christian Videos for Philippine Youth Center	\$20 per video
\$100 - \$200	
Books for Indonesian Bible Institute	\$200
Dispensational Books for Philippine Literature Department	\$200
\$100 - \$600	
3 Computers for Filipino Leaders	\$600 each
Greater than \$1000	
Embu Church Construction, Kenya	\$10,000



This is the completed headquarters of the Grace Bible Church in Jakarta Indonesia. Currently the believers are unable to fully utilize the facility due to the threat of persecution

REFLECTIONS

by Valerie Anderson



The other evening I went to the airport to pick up someone who is visiting Senegal for the first time. As we drove through the streets of Dakar, I tried to think of what it would be like to see the city through her pristine eyes.

I wonder if she will notice the intense beauty of the flowering flame trees and the sprays of multi-colored bougainvillea draped over walls and arched gateways. Or will her eyes only take in the melancholy of stunted trees and the monotony of endless sand?

Will she be impressed with the easy elegance of the Senegalese people as they flow along the streets in their elaborately embroidered boubous? Or will she only see a forest of black faces indistinguishable from one another in their masses?

Will she appreciate the humor in a man spritzing cologne unsolicited over his fellow bush taxi passengers in a valiant effort to assuage the stench of something decayed wafting through the open windows? Or will she be too consumed by the suffocating heat and halting traffic?

Will the values of a woman fastidiously sweeping a dirt courtyard intrigue her? Or will she merely turn up her nose at the odors emanating from the ubiquitous mounds of garbage?

Will she notice the twinkle of hope in the street urchin's eye and the strength of the beggar's tenacious hold on life? Or will she only be annoyed by outstretched palms and appalled by twisted limbs?

Will her heart ache for the soul of the man kneeling forehead to the ground on his prayer mat? Or will she press a pillow over her ears to shut out the raucous morning mosque calls?

What does Jesus see as He looks out of my eyes from His dwelling place in my heart?

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.'"



I'm asking.

Is He sending you?



Memorial Gifts

Things to Come Mission would like to acknowledge the following gifts which have been given in memory of some family member, friend, or loved one that has passed away.

Donor

Donna Burkett
Edwin Stromer
Esther Boreen
Grace Bible Church
Beloit, WI

In Memory of

Don Burkett
Katherine Stromer
Donald Boreen
Nestor Makinen

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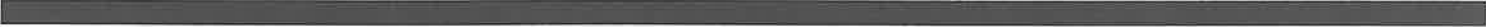
NEWS YOU CAN USE FOR PRAYER

Dan , Jennifer and Jessica Sidebottom arrived in Pretoria, South Africa in January to begin a new ministry. They are the first TCM missionaries to server full-time in that nation. They will be working side-by-side with Phillipp DuPlessis to develop a biblical and leadership training program for the Grace churches in South Africa. Dan reports that they are beginning to get set up in their new home and the ministry. They have regular Bible Studies meeting in their home and Dan has been visiting a number of different churches on Sundays.

Vernon and Darlene Anderson continue to minister in the newly established Bible Institute in Cameroon. Satan has attacked them with health problems in recent weeks. In early February Vernon was very ill with malaria, he seems to be recovering now. Darlene has had very severe pain in her feet, making it hard for her to walk and stand while teaching.

TCM Development Director, **Don Sommer** and Board Member **Dick Ware** will be in the Philippines April 9-27. They will be conducting doctrinal seminars at the two campuses of International Grace Bible Institute and attend the 41st annual National Workers' Conference. Be in prayer for these men as they travel and minister in different locations in the Philippines.

Genesis Maraat in Embu Kenya is also recovering from a very serious bout with malaria. He was extremely ill for almost two weeks and still reports weakness and headaches. He apparently picked up the disease while on an evangelistic trip to Western Kenya.



Look up TCM on the World Wide Web at our New Address

www.tcmusa.org

-Missionary Photos and Addresses
-Prayer letters

-Up to date news
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Take a Moment to Learn about Missions by Ben Anderson

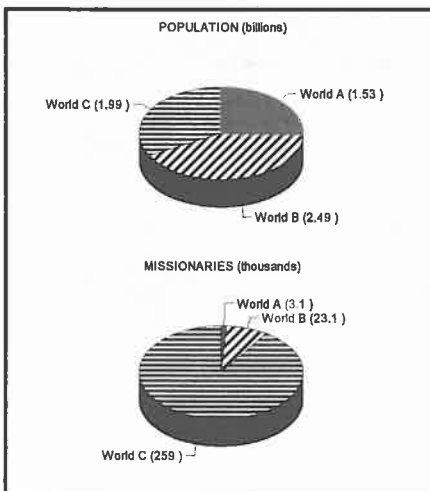
The Bible divides all the people of the world into two groups. "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2). This passage about the resurrection should tell us two things. First, we need to find the people who make up the second group. Then, we must warn those people of their impending doom.

Since only God has seen the names written in the book of life, it falls on us to seek out the lost of our world. Missiologists and mission agencies have devised various models to try to discover, define and quantify these people. One useful model is Worlds A, B, C presented by David Barrett in his *World Christian Encyclopedia*, the most comprehensive work on the subject. A prayer guide based on Barrett's statistics, Patrick Johnstone's *Operation World*, should be in every mission-minded Christian's library.

The Worlds A, B, C model divides the countries of the world into three groups, or "worlds." Refer to the upper pie graph as you read these definitions.

- ▶ World A is made up of the countries in which the majority of the people have not been evangelized. Most of the people in these countries have never once heard a clear presentation of the gospel. They are utterly without hope. Examples: Afghanistan, Iraq, Mongolia.
- ▶ World B represents the countries where over half the people have been evangelized but less than 60% are Christian. These are evangelized non-Christians with a significant Christian outreach among them. Examples: China, India, Tanzania.
- ▶ World C represents the countries where over 60% of the people profess Christianity of any tradition. Examples: Britain, Italy, United States.

This chart does not tell us who is saved and who is not. What the chart does teach us, when compared with the lower pie graph, is that World A is being neglected by the church. World A, where the gospel is absent, accounts for 25% of the world's population yet receives a meager 1.1% of Christian foreign missionaries. World A receives even less attention when other mission resources are considered, such as tracts, evangelistic



Worlds A, B, C

campaigns and full-time Christian workers.

It is time for the Body of Christ to cast its eyes on the fields that are truly ripe for harvest—World A. They are the people who are guaranteed "shame and everlasting contempt" if we do not take sacrificial steps *now* to evangelize them.