



TO ALL NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL OUTREACH

Winter 2003

To All Nations • To Make Disciples 'Til He Returns

FOCUS ON REALITY

Please note: The following article was written by Dr. Rouse in October 2003. We decided to go ahead and publish it so that you could share with us his passion for the world.

It is our desire, at this late hour, to focus our attention on that which, is real, or will become real. With God's help we want to remove the façade of what is unreal, and find that which is truly real for this outreach ministry, in each project or task we undertake.



Dr. Bertist C. Rouse
November 2, 1936 - November 18, 2003

Reality

According to the dictionary, reality is: "The quality of being real; real existence; that which underlies appearance." To the casual onlooker, or even those who grapple with the missionary task and terminology on a regular basis, these projects are only a façade. They sound good and give the pretense that this individual may know a great deal about missions. This is not necessarily

so, because underneath the façade, there is a reality, a real existence of an incomplete task that is crying out to be completed.

Pockets of Reality

We at IGO have said that we desire to go, "To all Nations – To make Disciples – 'Til He Returns." This is the reality for IGO's existence. In the scriptural reference for this message, Paul wrote, "All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing..." (Colossians 1: 6, NIV). In all that is happening across the world today, there are pockets of opportunities for every person to find that reality and get involved in what God is calling us to. In the Spring 2000 issue of this publication I wrote: *The world we minister to is mobile and migratory. It is very elusive and evasive, therefore we cannot afford to be stagnant and stationary.*

We believe God is calling us and desiring that we focus our attention on the realities lying in wait to be diligently used in world harvest. Below, I have written several "real things" God is admonishing IGO

Auditioning for the Choir...

As long as I have known Bertist Rouse, he has loved to sing. Now, he wasn't especially good at it, and most of the songs he sang he made up (or at least it sounded like it), but nevertheless, he loved to sing. Over the past few years he began to say that our life here was "Auditioning for the Choir around God's throne," he believed that the work of missions was filling heaven's choir loft with new voices. Our job as missionaries was to bring every man, woman and child into a loving, worshipping relationship with the one true living God.

On November 18th, heaven's choir gained a new voice as Brother Bertist entered heaven's throne room. A voice that rings with loving passion for his king and an aching heart for the lost.

We were all caught by surprise that day, when Brother Rouse was getting dressed and said to Anna Merle... "I'm falling... you need to help me!" He fell back on the bed, pointed up toward the ceiling, and was gone.

As news began to spread quickly around the city, and around the world, people began calling, e-mailing and coming to the office to offer their support and help. As difficult as it was to know that he had passed, the words of honor and encouragement provided a tremendous source of strength to all of us in the office and to Anna Merle.

All of us here in the IGO Home Office wish to express our thanks to all of you that have been so good to us as we have walked out these sad days. We also want to thank you in advance for walking with us into the future as we work together fulfilling the vision of touching the nations and adding many more voices to the choir.

For the Kingdom

James Graham



to zoom-in on and bring into sharp focus. We want to write the vision and make it so plain and simple that one can read it fluently, understand it, run with it, and proclaim it under the special anointing of the Holy Spirit (Habakkuk 2: 2).

Unreached People Groups

According to the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, "An un-reached people is a people within which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to evangelize this group." There are over 9,000 such groups in this world that definitely need our attention. Currently, more than 70% of Christian effort and outreach is directed at people who already profess to be Christian. Less than 5% of our total missionary activity is focused on those who have never once had a chance to hear the gospel. There are so many barren, local churches that the ratio of churches per people group is over 570 churches to 1 unreached people group. What are these 570 churches doing?

The 10/40 Window

The 10/40 window is a rectangular piece of real estate that starts at 10 degrees above the equator and goes Northward to the 40th Parallel. For its width, it runs eastward from the Western most part of Africa to the Eastern most tip of China. The birthplace and world headquarters of most all heathen religions are located there. Situated within this window live 97% of all the lost people in the world. This is a reality, my friend. The 10/40 Window stands in need of special attention.

Literacy Evangelism

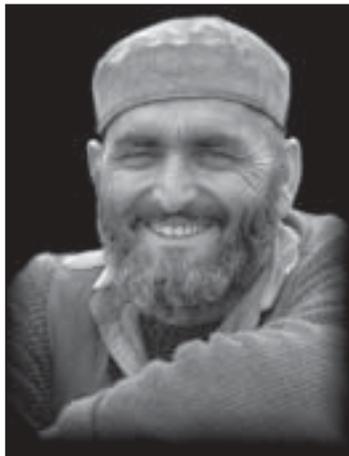
Teaching people to read is a dire need in most of the world. In this 'fast-lane,' 'information-super-highway' of moderns, people possess more knowledge than the total of learning and enlightenment across all ages past; there are still those who are functionally illiterate. They simply cannot read. One of the tools God has placed in our hands is the opportunity to teach people to read. The late Dr. Bob Rice, prior to his death in December, 2002, reported that *45% to 55% of the adult world is illiterate*. The entire Bible is printed in the mother tongue of 95% of the world population, but again they cannot read. The literacy problem is extensive but the problem is loaded with an opportunity for the church. People are eager to learn to read. They have a gnawing hunger for the Word of God. Whether they know it or not, they are searching for that which will fill the 'God-shaped vacuum' within their hearts. "At least 85% of the poorest third of world population are

illiterate. The Bible is a closed book to them. On the other hand, we use the Bible, God's Holy Word as our textbook.

Dear Reader, please pray with us as we discover the way God wants I GO to move into the ministry of teaching people to read. Literacy evangelism holds such promise for reaching the world for Christ.

Two Thirds World & Indigenous Churches

Two Thirds World Nations: Developing nations not politically aligned with either the Western (Capitalists) world (the First World) or the Communists/Marxist-related world (the Second World). The term is purely chronological (like "third child") and has never carried connotations of inferiority (as "third rate" does). It is the standard for the nonaligned world and should be used



"...the task is far from over, the goal is yet to be achieved, yes friends, we still have much work ahead of us and many people still need to hear."

instead of popularized alternatives like "Two-Thirds World"), a non-comparative term based on population size.

The term *Third World* was originally coined in French (tiers monde) in 1952 to describe a group of countries that chose to stay out of the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union (the First and Second worlds). Among these Yugoslavia, Egypt, India, Ghana, and Indonesia. (Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia Deluxe, 1988, The Learning Co. Inc.)

The word '*indigenous*' means: having originated in, and being produced, growing living, or occurring naturally in a particular region or environment, or innate, inborn (Infopedia). From a missionary perspective, an indigenous church is one, which reflects the culture in which it is located, administering and supporting its own life and outreach.

An indigenous church is one that is owned and operated by the native people in any culture. It is the work of the missionary to

help the indigenous people get their church operating with/by becoming a "Three-Self" Church: **A 3-Self Church is: (1) Self-Supporting; (2) Self-Governed; & (3) Self-Propagated.** One of the greatest problems in missionary circles today is dealing with churches that missionaries have made thoroughly dependent upon their support from the outside. The missionary should teach the foreign church to be self-reliant and not depending on the missionary and his church back home in order to exist. Most all the churches in China are self-reliant.

The Persecuted Church

What is "persecution"? Persecution is the form of consistent harassment, excessive restrictions, legal, economic and social deprivation imposed by the majority. It includes all forms of physical assaults against one's person or family, or property.

In many countries it involves torture, imprisonment and death. A martyr is someone whose life was ended prematurely through opposition to his faith.

Facts and Trends about Persecution.

There were more people martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ in the 20th Century than all the previous nineteen combined (Source: *By Their Blood*, by James and Marti Hefly). There were some 10 million martyrs in the so-called "Modern" 20th Century (According to *World Mission Digest*).

The main reason for the rise in persecution, over the past several years seems to be the exponential growth of evangelicals in places like Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Not surprisingly, these are the same areas of the world where discrimination, harassment and persecution are at the hands of those in power.

An estimated 17 people die every hour for their faith! 200,000 Christians throughout the world live in daily fear of secret police and state repression. "All

that live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3: 12).

Some 9.9 million have been martyred in the last 40 years.

I could go on and on listing other areas that are equally important and equally in need of our attention. Let me summarize it to say this, the task is far from over, the goal is yet to be achieved, yes friends, we still have much work ahead of us and many people still need to hear. We still need to plant churches among the **unreached ethne** in the earth. We still need to **pray** for that large block of people in the **10/40 Window** that have never heard. We still need to **teach the multitudes to read** so that they can feed themselves and others with the Word of God. We still need to **help the indigenous church** become Self-Supporting, Self-Governing and Self-Propagating. Finally, we still need to **help the persecuted church** through our prayers and involvement.

Now is not the time to slow down, or give up. Just like an athlete who is running the race and paces himself for that last push of strength to win the race, we need to employ every ounce of our strength to finish this race well.

1 Article in Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, by Ralph Winter & Bruce A. Koch, entitled Finishing the Task, the Unreached People Challenge. William Carey Library, p. 514

2 Bob Rice, Literacy Ministries International, entitled The Silent Disability: Literacy for Missions Today.



The above picture was taken at Bro. Bertist's funeral on November 21, 2003. Anna Merle asked that we not place a spray of flowers on his casket, but rather items that spoke about his life, and his passion for the lost.

Placed on his casket was a quilt with a map of the world, his bible, datebook and sermon notes, a hi-lighter (*Bertist loved to mark everything with hi-lighters*), His passport, a Globe and a single rose.

As people came to the visitation on Thursday evening, it was a warm reminder of the many years that Bertist touched so many lives. Many people commented on how these items reminded them of the impact that

Bertist had on their life. Over 600 people came to express their support and love to the Rouse family as we gave honor to a life well lived.

A special thanks to Pastor Owen Eubanks, for opening up Family Life Fellowship for the funeral services, Rev. H.J. Hedgepeth for helping us navigate through all this, and sharing funny and tender moments of Bertist's life, Bishop Eddy Brown for expressing the gratitude that all of us have for the investment Bertist made in us, and finally, Pastor Herbert Beasley, one of Bertist's closest friends, for making this day so special to us all.

2003 Ministry Statistics

As of November 18, 2003 IGO has:

71 Missionaries, serving in
24 Countries,

503 Churches Planted

61 Bible Schools Planted

89 Ministries in Global Fellowship

Through the combined ministries of IGO, we touch approximately 1.6 million people each year.

Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow!

Stepping up to the plate...

At a recent meeting of the IGO Board of Elders, we discussed as items that Brother Bertist had discussed and envisioned. It is our desire to see these things become reality in the days ahead. Please pray with us and join us as we continue to build for the future.

- Place **15 missionary families** a year on the field.
- Build a **Missionary Training Center**, to provide classroom space and a new home for the Missions School and Library here in Mobile.
- Establish a **Missionary Counseling Center** in the Home Office to minister to missionaries in need.
- Establish a **stronger missionary presence** in the 10/40 Window.
- Enlarge the **scope and membership** of the Global Fellowship.
- Build **Missionary Housing** for missionaries coming to Mobile on furlough, or for training.
- Build **facilities in Kenya, Honduras and the Philippines** to house the Bible School.
- Complete the **Minsitry Training Center near Delhi, India** to house a medical clinic, church planting center, bible school and orphanage.

Institute of World Ministry
**Missionary Training
Center 2004**

NOW IS THE TIME. . .

Yes, now is the time to register and make plans to attend the 2004 Missionary Training School at IGO. Classes are limited to the first 50 people who register. *If you would like to learn more about becoming a missionary, or to test your calling to World Ministry, you should make plans to attend.*

Class Schedule 2004

**Deadline for registration is
December 31, 2003**

Classes are every Thursday Night

January 8th through May 28

**The Institute of World Ministry is
designed to educate, equip and
employ you in the World Har-
vest.**

*For more information
or an application, contact:*

*Randy Seals
P. O. Box 1008, Semmes, AL
36575,
334-645-2117
rseals@igoministries.org
On the World Wide Web at:
www.igoministries.org*

From all of us at IGO
Seasons Greetings

*May God richly bless and keep you in his grip
in 2004, and for many years to come.
Our thanks to you for your continual
love and support of this vital work.*

MILESTONES

After spending 13 years in Kenya, East Africa as IGO Missionaries, the Dodds are retiring to Semmes, Alabama. John (age 81) and Norma (age 80) are active in their home church (*First Baptist Church of Semmes*), and John is working full time in his family's business.

The work that they established in Africa of teaching and training local leadership through TEE will continue through the

IGO Kenya Bible College under the direction of Patrick Ndirangu. Patrick is founder of "**The Church of Restoration**" which now has well over 100 churches in Kenya.

All of us at IGO extend a warm thanks and congratulations to John and Norma for their tireless efforts to see God's Kingdom advance. We send our support and greetings to Patrick and his family as they take on this new role.

Thanks also to the wonderful support staff at IGO Kenya, **Deresse, Tsehaie, Shewarge** and their families.

If you would like to help us Build the new IGO Kenya Bible College campus, contact James Graham at the IGO Home Office.



John & Norma Dodd



Patrick & Eunice Ndirangu

*The Institute of World Ministry is designed to educate,
equip and employ you in the World Harvest.*

Are you ready for the Harvest?



International Gospel Outreach

P. O. Box 1008, Semmes, AL 36575-1008
334-645-2117 Office, 334-645-2118 Fax
intgospl@aol.com (E-Mail)

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