



TO ALL NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL OUTREACH

December 2004

To All Nations • To Make Disciples 'Til He Returns

What is the Church?

By Bertist Rouse

In studying *The Full Life Study Bible*, I found the following thoughts concerning the church. *“The Greek word **ekklesia** (church) refers to the meeting of a people called out and summoned together. In the New Testament it designates primarily the congregation of God’s people in Christ, who come together as citizens of God’s Kingdom (Eph. 2: 19) for the purpose of worshipping God. The word “church” can refer to a local church or the universal church (Mt. 16: 18; Acts 20: 28; Eph. 2: 21 & 22).*

C. I. Scofield suggests using the word “congregation,” and that the word *ecclesia* was a gathering of citizens in a public place for deliberation. The Septuagint used it to signify the congregation of Israel. In Acts 7: 38 it is used in the most general sense of a called out meeting. In most instances in the New Testament the term indicates the body of believers, the local church universal.

Israel was “*an assembly of called out ones,*” but they were definitely not the New Testament Church. The church is indeed an assembly. They are “*called out,*” called out from the world. Called out by Jesus Christ, called out to worship Him, called out to lift up the standard of Christ to the world for its salvation.

If I should attempt to offer a definition for the Church, or as we will call it here, *the Corporate Body of Christ*, it is:

The Corporate Body of Christ is the vehicle established by Jesus Christ to be the pure, aggressive and enterprising

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Bro. Bertist from 1956

The Kingdom is Advancing...

Just one year ago, on November 18th, 2003, all of us were surprised when Brother Bertist made a quiet exit from earth and entered into the presence of his King.

For us, it was not a question of *IF* the ministry would go on, but *HOW* we could go on without his leadership. Even though he had released almost all of his duties to the staff, His daily presence in the office was a powerful source of strength for us. Now that we have come through a year of adapting to life without him, we have seen just how faithful God can really be. We would have never imagined what God had in mind for IGO when he took Bertist home.

Let me share with you some of those amazing things.

We have grown in the number of international churches planted among the nations from 503 to 581.

We are placing new missionaries families on the field (6 *this year*) Our goal is 10 families a year. At this point, we have 91 missionaries serving in 32 countries.

We are establishing new bible schools in the nations, and building a campus for the IGO-Kenya Bible School to train 200 pastors at a time.

We are working toward building missionary training centers in Mexico, Kenya and Greece. We are doing this by developing strategic partnerships with like-minded ministries to reach into Iraq, Greece, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya.

In our hearts, we know that the accelerated growth that we are experiencing is because of the ability that Bertist had to see into the future, and lead us there.

From all of us here in the IGO Home Office, and from our missionaries around the globe, we want to say “*Thank You*” to all of you that have been so faithful in your support, help and prayers over the last year.

James Graham, President

International Gospel Outreach



Continued from page 1

facility for the monumental task of evangelizing the world. It is indeed a mighty force led by Jesus Christ to establish His purpose in His Church across the world and bring all nations under His discipline.

A good missionary discussion of the Church, will of necessity, have to deal directly with Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Harvest, the Head of the Body, the Lord Sabaoth and the Lord of the Church. Ephesians 4: gives us good direction in this study of His Church. Our attention will be centered on verse 16, which depicts the picture of the perfection of the church.

At this point I would like to discuss a passage of scripture used by the Apostle Paul to describe the Lord's church. He uses the term, "Body," to express a

I have used the two phrases, "Under His direction" and "Because of Him" for the simple reason that **He is indeed the Head of The Body**. It is definitely, *because of Him*, and must proceed *under His direction*. Whatever way we view it, the Corporate Body of Christ functions under His Head-ship. He is indeed, the Lord High Advocate General of the Church. He is the Lord Sabaoth, the Lord of the Hosts.

Since He is its Lord, its corporate Head, there are certain demands He is expecting from t(HIS) Body. I am convinced that the Lord Jesus gave Paul the blue prints that supplied the Apostle with the engineering that went into the plans for New Testament Church Planting. Therefore, the Apostle knew what could be expected from the Body of Christ once it was built according to the plan.

of Christ is *abundantly Productive*. Each organ in this organism is adequately generous in contributing to the total needs of the entire Body making its goods and services abundantly accessible.

Powerfully Adapted.

Each part has *Power Adapted* to Compensate for all its needs, "When each part is working properly."

Completely Equipped.

God expects the Body of Christ to possess all the competence and ability (power) to be totally equipped to meet the need of any situation that might present itself. The Corporate Body of Christ is capable in all its legal obligations.

Functionally Adequate.

Each part *works properly in all its functions*. The Corporate Body of Christ is sufficiently endowed with the equipment to fulfill its entire responsibility to The Great Commission. Jesus said, "All authority is given to me.. Therefore, you go!" Not only does the Body of Christ possess the authority to bring all nations under His authority, but also it must take possession of that authority and exercise it!

Potentially Capable.

Each part grows to full maturity. Both in the Great Commandment and in the Great Commission the mandate is given **to teach**. We, the Body of Christ have the facility, the capability and the ability to teach and to learn and to bring all parts of the Body to do the same.

Divinely Endowed.

The Corporate Body of Christ has divine endowments for the potential to *grow up* into whatever God requires. If the Body is to ever grow to maturity, it will have to exercise its ability to bring all its vital organs to bear upon the things God has commanded and gifted it to do. And, according to this verse the Body is expected to *grow up*.

Personally Sufficient.

Each part is expected to edify its 'own' self, in Agape. This is **real** maturity! Christ expects us to "Go there!" and "Be there!" When the Corporate Body of Christ grows to the place that it can build its own self up in Agape Love, it is ready

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I am convinced that the Lord Jesus gave Paul the blue prints that supplied the Apostle with the engineering that went into the plans for New Testament Church Planting.

scriptural rationalization of the church. In our continual study of the church we are using the phrase, "The Corporate Body of Christ" for the express purpose of drawing attention to the comprehensive and integrated nature of this peculiar institution.

"Under His Direction..."

The whole Body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole Body is healthy and growing and full of love" (Eph. 4: 16, TLB).

Notice how the Amplified Bible expresses this verse:

"For because of Him the whole Body (the Church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love" (Eph. 4: 16, Amp.).

**"Under His direction."
"Because of Him."**

What should this Body be expected to do?

Notice how Jesus instructed Paul to share the facts of what each part is capable of doing in order to put it in a position to do whatever is necessary to fulfill The Great Commission. **We have no excuses!**

The Corporate Body of Christ is gifted by God and is designed to be...

Perfectly United.

The Body is expected to be closely **joined and firmly knitted together** by the joints and ligaments. The Corporate Body of Christ was engineered to be *Perfectly United* (John 17: 23, Amp.). This Body is an organism that is to be self-contained, with every organ totally submitted to the entire structure. These organs make a cohesive organism, which fully recognizes the value of each and every contribution made by each of these well endowed parts (organs/units).

Abundantly Productive.

It is expected that every joint and ligament will *furnish its due measure of whatever is needed into whatever it is thrust* into at any given moment. The Corporate Body

to tackle any appointment to which it is assigned. Let's go there together!

Uniquely Presented.

By this I mean that The Corporate Body of Christ is presented and exhibited to the world as belonging to God. Again, it is to build itself up in love (agape). The Body of Christ is to be a personification of I Corinthians 13 and of the character of Jesus Himself. The Church is a unique exhibition of the Fruit of the Spirit, living and authentic. Jesus wants the Body to build itself up into Himself, because God is love (I John 4: 7 - 12).

In order for the Church to be all that Christ is expecting it to be and demanding it to do, by the above analysis of Ephesians 4:16, it must muster all the forces of The Corporate Body and place them adequately into their respected positions and places of practical, academic and spiritual functions. This is where we are **not!** Especially at this juncture.

The responsibility for the destiny of the nations has been placed upon the Corporate Body of Christ. According to Matthew 28: 19, we also have the responsibility of bringing these nations under His discipline. We are responsible and we will be held accountable. And yet, at the same time, we are responsible for getting our act together so that we can make a responsible impact upon the nations. God has simply told us, "Ask of Me and I will give the nations for your inheritance" (Ps. 2: 8). We are in God's will and He has bequeathed to us the nations. The nations are ours for the asking and/or for the taking. I think it behooves us to poise ourselves in an evangelistic posture, and as the Bride in Revelation, *make ourselves ready* (Rev. 19: 7).

Bertist Rouse
1936 - 2003
In honor of Dr. Rouse, We are running articles from his great library of messages. The above message is from one of his teachings in the missionary training school.



Seasons of Change

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Twelve months ago we buried Bertist and everything changed, and is still changing - and probably will continue to change for some time. Most days I still feel as if I am in a dream - and will wake up one day.

When I go to the cemetery and look at the monument, it is surreal, to say the least, but life continues to go on. The ministry continues to grow and I know that Bertist would be elated with all that is happening.

God is so faithful and is doing so much so fast that it is hard to comprehend it all. Just a few days before Bertist's death, he said to me: "*All I want to know in this life is that I am pleasing to God and that I am in his will for my*

life." Today, that is also my heart's cry, what about you?

Again I want to take this opportunity to express to all of you our love and appreciation for all of your support this year. There have been days in the past year that I felt like I could not go on, and someone would call or come by, or send a card or flowers, and it would be just what was needed at that moment. Thank you for hearing and being obedient, for being that encouragement that we needed.

May God bless all of you is our prayer.

Anna Merle.

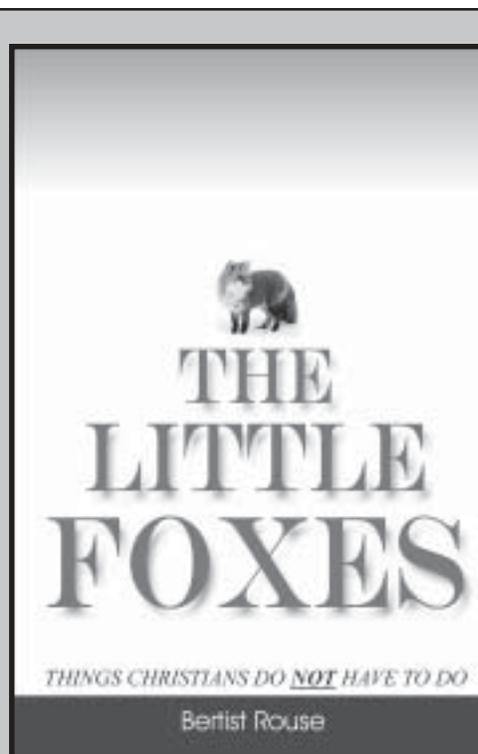


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Institute of World Ministry

2005 Missionary Training School Begins January 6, 2005

Every year just gets better and better!

Each year when we finish up another six months of the *Institute of World Ministry*, we hear this comment from staff and returning students alike. By the time we have that last class, filled with tearful good-byes and fond memories, we have seen another group of students become a family of missionaries.

Some students attend the missions school in order to deepen their own knowledge of missions, help in their home church's missions endeavors or to build relationships with missionaries going to the field. Other students come to the school in order to prepare for missionary service with IGO

The Institute of World Ministry is one way for this ministry to teach you about God's heart for the Nations. These classes will give participants a clearer understanding of God's actions and intentions in the world, helping you make informed decisions about your strategic participation with Him.

We use practical ways of teaching and relevant materials that will fulfill your call to become doers of the word, and not hearers only. We want to challenge you and deepen your comprehension of God's plan for the church worldwide to take HIS message to every people group.

Our ultimate aim is not to give you theories or just vast amounts of information, but to encourage you toward an obedient response to the great commission.

We have a great team of teachers scheduled for this year who are as excited about their part as I am to have them speak. These are special men and woman who are giving their time to bring our class a "hands on" presentation of what God has taught them about their part in building His Kingdom. Each teacher brings unique and timely experience from their lives and ministry to impart to the class. All are very

conscience of the need to reach the lost and training others to do just that. Come and experience something that brings to life your call to touch the nations bringing life to the lost.

Classes begin January 6 at 6:30 PM and go through June 16th when we celebrate your achievement with a formal graduation and a certificate of completion.

Praise God for all He is doing in the world.

Randy Seals, Director of IWM

WELCOME ABOARD



Meghan Lapp

Welcome to our newest missionaries! *Meghan and Elizabeth Lapp*, from *Cedar Lake Christian Assembly* in Biloxi, Mississippi are two of the latest additions to the IGO family of missionaries.

These sisters attended the *IGO Summer School of Missions* in July, completed their screening and headed for the field earlier this year.

Meghan is serving in *Northern Ireland*, while Elizabeth is serving in *Israel* while attending the University in Jerusalem.



Elizabeth Lapp

Coming or Going, Which is correct?

The following article was found while sifting through Bro. Bertist's writings. It is our joy to share it with you.

Is the world coming into the church? Or is the church going into the world?

Today's Christians have difficulty in this modern world accepting suffering and shame. They have never been schooled to realize what the terrible cost of discipleship can be. Many live in an atmosphere that considers itself "Christian." There-

fore, there is little or no opposition to those who are truly God's.

Because the society is "Christian" it gives the impression to MY children that whatsoever is accepted by Christian Society is permissible with me, just as long as it does not break the laws of the land.

As a result, the world has entered the church. There is very little difference between sinner and saint.

Bertist Rouse - 2003



"I can't even entertain myself for five minutes. How am I going to handle eternity?"

Building for the Future

IGO Kenya Bible College starts construction

Thanks to the efforts of retired IGO missionaries John and Norma Dodd, **IGO Kenya** is beginning construction of a new bible school facility just north of Nairobi, in Thika, Kenya.



John
Dodd

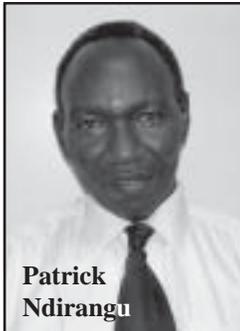
Begun originally as a T.E.E. (*Theological Education by Extension*) Program, IGO Kenya grew to include a degree granting school in 2001 through the partnership with *International Gospel Outreach* and the *International College of Bible Theology*.

Under the watchful eye of Headmaster *Patrick Ndirangu*, the school has been operating in rented facilities in downtown Thika, and plans to move into the new facility sometime in late 2005.



Norma
Dodd

This strategically placed school will be the stepping off place for many African pastors and leaders to receive quality training and education. As soon as possible, IGO Kenya will expand into surrounding countries such as Ethiopia and Sudan to establish more Bible Colleges and churches.



Patrick
Ndirangu

Plans are now under way to begin training African Missionaries through this Bible College to be sent by the local churches into the unreached parts of Africa.

Patrick Ndirangu has worked along side John and Norma for thirteen years. His skill and integrity have proven his ability to govern this new endeavor.

The IGO Kenya Bible College still has needs in order to be completed. If you would like to help us build this strategic ministry, here are some of current needs.

- Funding is needed to help complete the construction of classrooms. Cost per classroom is \$4,000 US.
- Funding for the IGO Kenya Library on campus. \$6000 US.
- Help is needed to purchase desks, chairs and equipment for the classrooms and offices.

Chairs: \$25 each
Desks: \$13 each
Beds: \$19 each

In addition to classrooms, Dormitories, a Chapel and Administrative offices are also being constructed.

The planned cost for the entire project is \$94,000 US, not in-

REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA CHURCH PLANTING

The East Georgian Missionary Association (EGMA) is expanding. One place we are going to is Tbilisi and we are in the process of planting a church there in September. An interesting way that God let us know that it was the right thing to do was through a Passion of the Christ showing in the Kakheti Village of Acura. There at the farm house where we have church, we showed the film and neighbors came from all around to watch the film.

One young woman that repented and became a believer is a student that actually lives in Tbilisi but was visiting her Grandmother in the village when we had the film showing. So the first convert of the new church in Tbilisi was made in the village of Acura.

Two different youth groups of 7 teenagers are starting in two regions of Georgia on in Kvareli and one in Gurjaani. In the last EGMA meeting the "old" guard resistance fought against the idea of having youth groups and were defeated by other more "modern" Georgians. Which clears the way for me to start a youth group. Nothing even remotely like a Youth Group has ever taken place in either place so it is an exciting time to be a teenager in Kakheti. One Georgian girl who I explained the concept too started to cry and said that she had always wanted something like this to happen so that she could express and grow in her faith in a safe place. I was very moved that this 16 year old girl was so desperate for some way to LIVE her faith that I can't wait to get started. All this will begin on Sept. 10th and 11th.



Brian
Wolf

Thanks partially to my support and aid Child Evangelism Fellowship is starting a real ministry in Kakheti and we will soon have Good News Clubs and real Sunday School programs in all the churches and home groups of Khaketi. The Youth Ministry and the Sunday Schools will lean on and support each other very much. Just like the church is supposed to do.

cluding labor. This project is being done in partnership with a number of church groups in Kenya, who are sharing in the labor costs of construction. Our part is helping to purchase materials.

If you or your church would like to help, please contact the IGO home office for more details, and a detailed plan. We will be happy to share with you any information concerning this project.

Send your gift for the IGO Kenya Bible School Project to:

IGO
P. O. Box 1008
Semmes, AL 36575

Be sure to include a note telling us that your gift is for IGO Kenya Bible School

Merry Christmas And a Blessed New Year

From all of us here in the IGO Home Office. We extend to you our thanks and appreciation for another year of partnership in the Gospel during this special season. Because of you - we are able to go...

To All Nations • To Make Disciples • Till He Returns

Remember

Jesus is the ONLY Reason for the Season



James & Sharlene
Graham



Randy & Charlotte
Seals



Anna Merle
Rouse



Annelle
Howell



Chuck & Donna
Cross



Charles & Barbara
Turner



Volunteers make a difference!

Every day here in the IGO home office, we receive calls from all over the world, produce newsletters for missionaries and help do the practical things that keep our missionaries on the field without being consumed with duties at home.

Great volunteers like Jan Stewart (left photo) and Pat Coleman (right photo) help us on a daily basis to make the wheels of ministry keep turning.

We love and appreciate these great ladies just for being here when we need them.



International Gospel Outreach

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