

TO ALL NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL OUTREACH

Summer Update

April - June 2011

On a fairly regular basis people ask me “*What kind of church is IGO?*” I respond, “*Well, we are not a church in the sense that we don’t have a congregation, we don’t receive weekly offerings, and don’t do things a local church might do... but we are a part of the church (the body of Christ) serving local congregations and missionaries...*” I almost always get the same response... a dead stare and a mouth hanging open with a little confusion on the face.

I think the reason for that response is that so few people really understand what a Mission Agency does. So, let me explain a little...

A mission Agency is an extension of the body of Christ that comes alongside the local church to serve, encourage, help, and provide counsel for churches wanting to become involved in reaching the lost on a global platform. We can provide some basic things like:

Financial Support: Agencies usually require you to raise your own financial support. However, they can guide you in this, give you materials to show, help you describe what you’ll be doing, etc. Once you are accepted, they can provide your supporters with tax-deductible receipts.

Placement: Help determining a country where you can serve. Work through the process of getting there, and connect you with the things you will need to make it in that country.

Orientation: Crossing cultures is a spiritual, intellectual and emotionally demanding experience. A good mission agency can be of great help since they know the culture of where you’ll be going and how best to prepare you. They will recommend a language training option and help you find your way around.

Supervision: We all need supervision to guide us in our work, help us learn from our mistakes (or avoid mistakes), and encourage our development. Everyone makes errors in judgment from time to time. Having an agency behind you can help you to see the potholes BEFORE you step into them.

Member Care: Early pioneers were pretty much on their own. A mission agency will look out for their people and their families: their spiritual needs, their personal growth, their plans for furlough, the education of their children, and preparation for retirement.

Encouragement: Your mission agency will communicate with you, encourage you, pray for you and with you, listen to your struggles and offer suggestions. They will become a community that speaks the language of missionaries and

understands the struggles and issues you face.

Communication Tools: Your agency will help you publish newsletters, communicate with constituents, create blogs, web sites and other methods of keeping your support network in touch

take over the management of their missionaries. The task was becoming overwhelming for them.

Churches need Mission Agencies and Mission Agencies need Churches... Just like individuals make up parts of the body

Why Do I Need a Mission Agency?

By Dr. James G. Graham, President, IGO



with what you are doing and how they can connect with you.

Commitment: Mission agencies do this kind of work exclusively. We are here for the long haul. When a local church changes leadership, many times a missionary supported and managed by that church finds themselves disconnected and eventually dropped because the new leadership team is not connected or committed to them.

So, why can't the local church do all this?

Actually they can... *if they desire to do so, are committed to the long haul with each missionary*, and they have the resources to meet the needs of the missionary family they are managing. Unfortunately, most churches just don’t have the needed resources, training or understanding to accomplish this task.

Think of it like this... over 90% of churches in the USA are under 100 people in attendance, that means limited resources such as money, people who can look after the needs of a missionary, accounting, writing “Thank You” notes for each gift, sending reports, filing taxes and providing a tax deduction for the gifts made to the missionary. Sometimes, the missionary budget can actually be larger than the church budget of a small church... and that can create problems for some people.

Over the past few years, we have had churches come to us and ask us to

of Christ, ministries do the same. Churches need Mission Agencies to ADD TO the work of the local church, helping and extending the work of reaching the lost around the world.

Mission Agencies need local churches to ADD TO the missionary force by making disciples, preparing and encouraging potential missionaries into the world harvest. The local church is THE birthing place of missionaries... the mission agency is the delivery room getting them from the warmth of isolation in the church into the world that is awaiting their arrival.

At ***International Gospel Outreach***, we are standing along-side many local churches helping to extend their reach around the world. *We serve the local church*, we applaud their efforts and cheer them on and we make resources available to help them in the great commission. Those churches stand with us as well; they send missionaries through IGO, support our efforts through prayer and finances, and allow us to deepen and strengthen their missionary efforts.

These churches that support us in this work not only support the work of the ministry in our home office, they also are supporting the ministry of every missionary we serve by helping us be here.

We need each other.... IGO exists to serve the local church and her mission endeavors. *How can we serve YOU?*

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL OUTREACH
INSTITUTE FOR WORLD MINISTRY 2012
Now taking applications for enrollment
go to: www.igoiwm.org/getstarted.html
CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 5, 2012
Contact Darin Burgess at dburgess@igoiwm.org for more information

“It is the whole business of the whole church to preach the whole gospel to the whole world.”

- Charles H. Spurgeon

International Gospel Outreach

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Persecution in Ethiopia

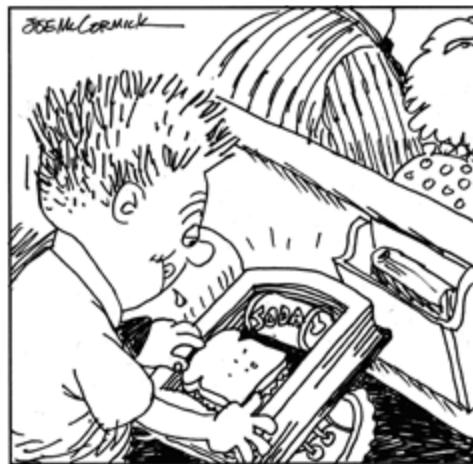
Earlier this year, IGO helped to establish a **Church Planter's Training Center** in northern Ethiopia. It was amazing to see how the funds came in, how connections were made and how all the legal processes sailed through without a hitch.

Then, in June of this year, we were contacted by our national pastor in Ethiopia with a desperate cry for help and prayer. It seems that the **Ethiopian Orthodox Church** (which controls most of government) had sent spies in to

infiltrate this group to root out any of the Orthodox priests that had secretly become believers, and to identify college students working among the underground church. In addition, our American missionaries have been identified and must be careful about contacting or being seen with our Ethiopian counterparts.

Please keep this group in prayer for protection and unhindered ministry as they work to plant churches across the northern part of the country where the Gospel still needs to be established.

“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.



FOR THOSE REALLY LONG SERVICES, ZACKIE PREFERRED THE CUTAWAY VERSION OF THE BIBLE.

MINGRELIAN PROJECT:

New Church Planting Movement among the MINGRELIAN people in the Republic of Georgia

The Mingrelians are a group of 500,000 Gypsies that live throughout the **Republic of Georgia**, and are still unreached. In early 2011, **Jim Brown**, a longtime friend of IGO came to us about helping him and **Brian Wolf** with this project to plant churches among them. Please pray with us for these things...

Pray for **Gia Maisashvili**, JESUS Film Director of Georgia and his Team, as they select and promote six film showing sites. Pray for their encouragement and stamina as well as their financial needs.

Pray for the selection of the **American Team**; its equipping, training, and funding for the Project. Pray for a clear understanding of our support roles to the Georgians in this undertaking.

Pray for the development of **Prayer Walking** training and **Church Planting** training and for effective implementing strategies for both disciplines.

Pray for **Brian Wolf** in his role as **Strategy Coordinator** for reaching the Mingrelian people. Pray for his health, encouragement, and family as the next few weeks are especially demanding.

Pray for victory over Satan's strongholds on the Mingrelian people. Pray for

the Holy Spirit to begin even now to cultivate a hunger for the Gospel and for its acceptance by the people.

Pray for favor with the Government and the Orthodox Church. Pray for a move of the Spirit toward revival of the Orthodox Church. Pray for the development of appropriate promotional material.

Pray for wisdom for future endeavors, including Transformational Development of the Mingrelian culture, especially in the villages. This is a huge challenge considering the current economic condition in Georgia.



*A Sincere
“Thank You”*

Greetings in the all sufficient Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Some of you who support this ministry have been doing so for many years. We want you to know that we do not take this for granted. We are humbled and blessed by your love for us and the care you demonstrate toward us. We pray for you and trust God that he is meeting you at the very point of the needs in your lives, and that daily His Kingdom would come and His will be done in your lives.

We stand in need of much prayer for IGO and all who are a part around the globe. The battles are fierce, but we know that with God, all things are possible. We will continue to stand and having done all, stand. We are sure we will continue to see God move.

We love you and are honored to be yoked together with the saints of “*like precious faith*” as we labor together for the Kingdom.

Anna Merle and Bill Anderson

