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Reaching the World From  
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Between Partisan Agendas  
and God's Prophetic Purpose

Autumn 2006



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## Reader Feedback

"Dear Charles (CSM): I am writing to thank you for your years of faithful service and the pastoral letters and magazines. I read them every month, but never write back or sow financially to your ministry. I want you to know that I minister to men on a regular basis. I often borrow an idea or get a thought while reading (your material) that ministers to me and I pass it on to the men. This happened again with the July 2006 letter and I feel strongly that I should simply write you and thank you. Like most Americans, I live "pay check to pay check" and besides tithing to my local church I try to make monthly offerings also. Enclosed is a seed to show my appreciation for your ministry. Keep the Faith, Stay in the Spirit, Live in Grace and Love God." —**David B., Westminster, MD**

"We have enjoyed your teaching for many years. God Bless you."

—**Mrs & Mrs. Norman S., Peace Valley, MO**

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# WHAT NOW?

## NEWS ALERT

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THE HURRICAN AUTHORITY

FROM THE EDITOR

## In times of turmoil, followers of Jesus Christ must have wisdom and take action By Stephen Simpson

THOSE WHO KNOW ME WELL know that I am a “news junkie.” My library is stocked with numerous books dealing with current events and cultural trends and my internet favorites list includes every major news network, plus websites of numerous world newspapers and wire services, magazines, and blogs. Most mornings, I take a few moments to peruse our daily paper, plus one or two national newspapers; and most evenings, I take the opportunity to catch some of the television news and commentary shows.

Of course, being a resident of the Gulf Coast, you can bet that I keep up with the Weather Channel, especially during this season of the year!

Above all, I want my primary life compass to be the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom provided by the Bible. One of my favorite Scriptures concerns the testimony of the Sons of Issachar, “...who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...”

(1 Chronicles 12:32). Not only did these men know “current events,” but they had wisdom from God to interpret these events, and they knew the proper course of action to take.

### RELATING AND ACTING

The prophet Daniel said, “the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits” (Daniel 11:32). We are called to act—not randomly or rashly—but in a way that proceeds out of our relationship with God. Jesus calls us in John 15 to abide in Him, so that we might bear good fruit in our life. It is out of abiding that fruit comes; and abiding speaks of a permanent fellowship, rather than a temporary “plugging in” for an hour on a Sunday.

Fellowship and relationship require commitment and intentional communication—so does staying informed. Way too many Christians are not “in the game.” I’ve heard my Dad say that oftentimes, not only are some believers not in the game,

but they don’t even seem to know where the stadium is. This is a tragedy that will produce more tragedies if something doesn’t change soon.

It reminds me a bit of one of my favorite recent news headlines: “Woman Crashes Car While Teaching Her Dog to Drive.” A lot of folks today are in unreality, giving their time and energies to activities that are not only irrelevant and fruitless, but maybe even dangerous. A little more than five years ago, many commentators told us that 9/11 was a wake-up alarm. If so, many American Christians have since hit the “snooze button.”

### REVERSING TROUBLING TRENDS

Demographers estimate that at present, America is 36% Evangelical Christian. But in the emerging generation, that number plunges to 4%. Can you imagine the implications for our nation and our world if that trend continues? We are called to know God and carry out great exploits—one reason is because

it will take great exploits in order to win the coming battles.

Here at CSM, we are committed to reach this emerging generation with the Good News of Christ’s Kingdom, and to do all that we can to equip and inspire disciples worldwide for Jesus. Please continue to stand with us in your prayers and in your giving, and continue to seek the Lord about how you can more completely engage the young people around you who will be the shapers of tomorrow. In this vital task, we must not fail. **121**

**Stephen Simpson** is the Editor of **One-to-One** and Pastoral Team Leader of Covenant Church of Mobile. He is also available for ministry in your city. For more information, contact Betty Duke: [bettydukecsm@aol.com](mailto:bettydukecsm@aol.com) or call (251) 633-7900.

For more on this topic...

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BY STEPHEN SIMPSON

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AS I WRITE THIS ARTICLE, THE UNITED STATES is once again in the heat of an election season, and a very critical one. The air is filled with debate, charges and counter-charges, most of them partisan and self-serving. How should we respond in this time and how should we approach the issues?

# POLITICAL OR PROP

How to know the difference between partisan agendas and God's purpose



It is easy to get caught up in someone else's agenda and forget the fact that we are called to the agenda and methods of our Lord Jesus. Having been partisan myself at times, I understand the temptation.

What does it mean to be **partisan**? It is simply committing to one party's agenda to the neglect of an objective view. What does it mean to be **prophetic**? It is the ability to represent the voice of God. While we may support a particular party due to its candidates or platform, the prophetic motive responds to a higher purpose and more noble approach. The prophetic purpose is not "down and dirty." It is speaking the truth in love.

## A PROPHETIC PRAYER

Paul Harvey has been for many years a noted news cast-

er and commentator. I am 69 years old and remember listening to him when I was in my mid-teens. One of his broadcasts is called, "The Rest of the Story." In 1996, on that program, he featured a prayer given by Rev. Joe Wright, before the Kansas State Senate. Wright pastors Central Christian Church in Wichita. Here is the prayer:

*Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.*

*We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it a choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justified. We have neglected to discipline our*





# HETIC?

BY CHARLES SIMPSON





Rev. Joe Wright

*children and called it building self-esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.*

*We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!*

Some walked out during the prayer, but Central Christian received 5,000 phone calls, and all but 47 were positive. Paul Harvey's program received his largest response ever. In my view, Pastor Wright was prophetic; he prayed from a righteous perspective, and addressed the moral issues of our time.

I have voted a certain way since my first opportunity to vote. My vote is based upon pro-life, pro-family, pro-security, and pro-economic stewardship viewpoints. I have sometimes been disappointed, but my standard is moral, not partisan.

While I may advocate a particular candidate or party, I do not use the pulpit for partisan purpose and I try not to attack those who differ with me. I seek to focus on Christ's Kingdom in our lives versus advocating the idea that a political party will solve our problems.

## THEOCRACY

The word theocracy is not a bad one, though it is often used in a bad way. It is simply government by God. That would be a good thing. The problem is, whose God would it be? The primary theocratic example set before us today is Iran. The Islamic revolution was "theocratic" and it displaced a secular government. Neither Iran nor the world has benefited from that move. Why? The answer is because the "god" that they follow supports oppression, fear, and terrorism. I believe that even many Muslims would question that they are in fact representatives of God. If the Iranian leaders had their way, the entire world would be ruled in the same manner.

Old Testament Israel was also a theocracy, ruled by God

through Moses, judges and later, kings. The foundation for that rule was the law of God: Love and honor God, family, and neighbors. The law was given to govern lives for two primary reasons: Man's tendency to sin and Israel's immaturity (see Galatians). The law was to function in a similar way to parents, teaching right and wrong, and punishing offenders.

However, the Old Covenant presents God as good and merciful, not belligerent and harsh. His motive is redemption. This is very different from the example of "theocracy" that we witness today. Jeremiah 31:31 makes it clear that God's ultimate purpose is to write His law in our



hearts. In other words, His Kingdom will be **internal** and not **external**; it gets into us.

Some secularists in America accuse Christians of wanting a theocracy. They point to fundamental Islamists and compare us to them. But they would first need to compare Jesus Christ to terrorists. There is no comparison. Furthermore, the Lord said that His Kingdom was not of the world. In Christ's Kingdom, we are all kings and priests. He reigns by love, not law.

"God's ultimate purpose is to **write His law on our hearts.**

His Kingdom will be *internal, not external.*  
It gets into us!"

## DEMOCRACY

Democracy is government by and for the people. It is bottom up. The structure of the government of the United States

is more properly understood as a **republic**. That is, we select leaders who govern by constitutional law. The **strength** of a republic is its people. The **weakness** is also its people. In other words, a democracy or a republic is no better than the people it produces.

Ezekiel 22 reminds us that leaders come from among the people—in any system. In the example that Ezekiel uses, the people, the prophets, the princes and the priests were corrupt and self-serving. The nation fell. The best strategy for any culture is to produce high-quality offspring. Changing governments without changing people will prove futile.

Ours is a nation moving more and more toward popular public opinion, which is all too often formed by secularism



Iran's President  
Mahmoud  
Ahmadinejad



and hedonistic entertainment. In addition, we are becoming diverse and pluralistic, equating all kinds of moral notions and religions. We seem to have less and less in common and needing more and more laws to bind us together.

Some struggle to remind us of our heritage and call us back to a healthier time of God-fearing and family health. But happy days are not here again. Has the Church failed? Should we go quietly into the night? Can we function in the twenty-first century environment? Let me remind you that our environment is far less hostile than the one our Lord faced, the early Church faced, or is faced by most of our brothers and sisters around the world today. We cannot regain the past; we should not fear the future. We should seek the One who "rules in the affairs of men" and represent Him to our world.

## CHURCH

The Church is the body of Christ; as such, we must take a fresh look at His victory and the victory of the early Church. It was prophetic, it could not be merely partisan or depend upon a political salvation.

Whatever political side one may choose, some Christians will be on the other side. Thus our efforts are often divided, confused, and neutralized. Emotions will run high and rhetoric will be often extreme. We must rise above this.

There are some things that we can do to be light and salt in our culture (see Matthew 5:13-16):

- **Pray** for your leaders and the elections this autumn.
- **Trust God** in all things. He knows the end from the beginning (see Romans 8:31-37).
- Let your life **be an influence**; demonstrate your faith.
- **Be informed** theologically, biblically, and on current events.
- Learn how to **articulate** what you believe and do it with grace.
- **Seek God** as to how to vote—and **vote!**
- Bear in mind that our **leaders will reflect the people that we produce** on a daily basis—not a lot better or a lot worse.
- **Pray for those** who are **giving their lives** for our freedom.

I hope that you are involved in maintaining freedom that God has given to us, and in affecting the nation. It is a divinely given privilege. But in it all, know the difference between a partisan agenda and God's prophetic purpose—commit to the latter. Don't allow partisanship to divide the body of Christ and keep the spiritual issues in focus.

In closing, I do pray, God bless America, and may He be exalted among all the nations... and God bless you! **121**

**Charles Simpson** is Editor-In-Chief of *One-to-One* Magazine. He ministers extensively throughout the United States and among the nations.

# Charles Simpson

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# BEING GREEN

## IT COULD GET EASIER

THE “GREEN MOVEMENT” CAME INTO prominence in Europe, New Zealand and Australia in the 1970’s and became known for its support of environmental and anti-war causes. By the mid-80’s, the Green Party had established itself as a political force in Western Europe and the United States, and largely shaped the positioning of “environmentally friendly” politics and business.

By Jonathan Simpson



Today, there are “green-affiliated groups” worldwide. To their constituents, “multi-national” and “globalization” are code words for evil. The message they have managed to convey to the market is: forget your company’s bottom line, save “Mother Earth.” Given the choice, business entrepreneurs and executives decided to keep putting food on the table and ensure job opportunities for others. Meanwhile eco-terrorists who busy themselves burning SUV’s and throwing molotov cocktails during WTO protests foster an increasingly radical and dangerous image for themselves, making for an easy dismissal of green initiatives by many mainstream business and political leaders.

## Green vs. Growth

Setting politics aside for a moment, consider what Yale Online reports regarding a study conducted by Golden State University lasting two years, wherein the environmental records for 243 Fortune 500 companies were examined. The

**“Eight out of ten environmentally sound companies outperform their higher-polluting counterparts.”**

researchers found that firms with the highest returns on their assets had built reputations of going above and beyond their competitors in pollution control or waste reduction. Similarly, another recent study at Vanderbilt University found that eight out of ten environ-

mentally sound companies outperform their higher-polluting counterparts. One reason: “If you’re less wasteful, you’re probably running a lean operation.”

Efficiency is the major intersection for the business and Green-minded. Case in point: the Feb-March, 2001 story from *National Wildlife*, of carpet manufacturer Interface, “that was excreting hundreds of gallons of wastewater and about 900 tons of pollutants each year. Then in the mid-1990s, the company began experimenting with new ideas—from spinning polyester out of discarded soda bottles to running looms with solar power to cut waste and decrease harmful emissions by more than half. In six years, such innovations saved the firm about \$114 million.”

With an eye on competition, some CEO’s are beginning to ask, “Can going ‘green’ help my company earn more green dollars, or at least keep me out of the red? Will it buy my company more good will in the community?” Call it a “lighter shade of green,” but when corporations take this approach, isn’t it a win-win for all?

## Grayer on the Other Side

The lines are blurring somewhat between the globalists

and the greens.

Although some of the ideas are very controversial, economists such as Thomas Friedman are serving up some food for thought and giving us new terms such as “neogreen” (the overlap of neoconservatives and greens). Friedman, a recently self-proclaimed neogreen, has been a huge proponent of breaking America’s “oil addiction,” as President George W. Bush has frequently referred to it. Understandably, Friedman receives a cold reception to his proposal for a one dollar per-gallon gasoline tax on American drivers. People tune in, however, when Friedman points out how oil impacts our foreign policy. (And no, this is not where we go off on the Iraq “war for oil” debate.)

Friedman is asking, why should the U.S. hope for change in places such as Sudan and Iran, when U.S. oil consumption leads to higher oil prices, which in turn keep these countries economically fat enough to keep social reform off the agenda? Furthermore, Friedman questions if our foreign oil addiction does not, in effect, cause the U.S. to fund both sides of the war on terror.

It’s a question that begs to be asked: what if Mid-East oil profits began to dry up? Considering its existing high unemployment rates and repressively restricted freedom, could that be the nudge for the people of Iran to do the world a favor and

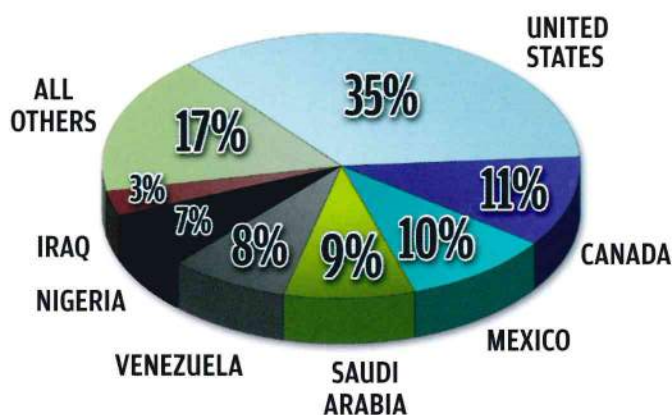
## U.S CRUDE OIL SOURCE

IN BARRELS PER DAY



Barrels per day (2005)

U.S. Domestic	5,121,000
Canada	1,643,000
Mexico	1,550,000
Saudi Arabia	1,438,000
Venezuela	1,231,000
Nigeria	1,060,000
Iraq	520,000
All Others	2,614,000



Source: 2005 U.S. Gov. Energy Statistics



## TOP OIL CONSUMERS WORLDWIDE



establish new leadership? True, the U.S. does not buy oil directly from Iran, but as mentioned earlier, U.S. oil consumption is the major factor in today's oil high prices, and Iran does reap the benefit. You might think that the ever-industrious Chinese and Indians could fill a U.S. oil gap, but take a look at how much oil they actually consume compared with the U.S. (see Oil Consumption Graph).

If energy reform were seriously applied in the U.S., the effects would be exponential. Imagine the dawning of more frank dialogue with Saudi Arabia? Hezbollah, al-Qaeda and Hamas members being forced to get real jobs? A clear day in L.A.? Is all of this discussion just pie-in-the-sky? No, we can't believe this will make the "neocons" and "eco-warriors" hold hands at the next Harmonic Convergence, but it is enough to make Venezuela's Hugo Chavez choke on his empanada, and send Iran's Ahmadinejad crying to his Nazi shrine room. Top that Kyoto!

### Brazil: Life after Addiction

Now that we've all been trained to shun carbs, there just may be a way we can embrace them again. Unfortunately, this is not the part where you can make a run to Krispy Kreme for intermission. Brazil has found a way to turn carbohydrates into a cost-effective alternative to gasoline and is now counting its carbs all the way to the bank. These carbs are, of course, in the form of ethanol. The Brazilian version is made from sugar cane, not corn. Ethanol is not a new idea, Henry Ford's first car was made to run on ethanol and it seems the U.S. has been tinkering with it ever since.

Brazilians drive "flexible fuel" cars that run on either ethanol or gasoline and allow the consumer to fill up with whichever option is cheaper. Current prices in Sao Paulo have gasoline at \$3.74/gal and ethanol at \$2.00/gal—and

ethanol is available at 29,000 gas stations from Rio to the Amazon. It was a painful 30-year process, but now Brazil has replaced about 40 percent of the country's gasoline consumption, according to Caio Carvalhal, an analyst with Cambridge Energy Research Associates in Rio de Janeiro.

Brazil ended most government support for its sugar industry in the late 1990s, forcing sugar producers to become more efficient and helping lower the cost of ethanol's raw material. According to the World Bank, Brazil can make ethanol for about \$1 a gallon. Brazil says its ethanol exports will likely double to \$1.3 billion in 2010 from \$600 million in 2005, largely to Japan and Sweden. These countries hope using ethanol (which releases less carbon dioxide than fossil fuels) will help them meet their obligations under the Kyoto Protocol to cut emissions.

As amazing all of that is, researchers are now able to make straw and other plant wastes into cellulosic ethanol. Although chemically identical to ethanol produced from corn or soybeans, cellulose ethanol produces energy content three times higher than corn ethanol and emits lower levels of greenhouse gases. Whatever the source, burning ethanol instead of gasoline reduces carbon emissions by more than 80% while eliminating the release of acid-rain-causing sulfur dioxide. It's enough to make the evangelicals concerned over global warming dance in the street (albeit in a decidedly non-carnival type way, of course).

**"It's enough to make  
the evangelicals  
concerned over  
global warming  
dance in the street."**

### Changes and Benefits

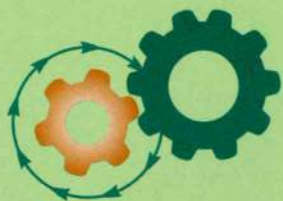
Just when the U.S. begins feeling depressed about its procrastination in energy reform that brought gas to the point of \$3.00/gal this past summer, it need only look at other prices around the world—particularly Europe. Europe (which blames U.S. oil consumption for their own high gas prices) slaps on gas taxes of 75% of the price at the pump, while Canadians pay about 40% and the U.S. about 12.5%.

God has given us the means through science and technology to improve our economy, our current situation with the Middle East and, yes, even our environment. The question is, are we willing to embrace the change necessary and be productive stewards over that process? **121**



**Jonathan Simpson** is the Director of Development for CSM.





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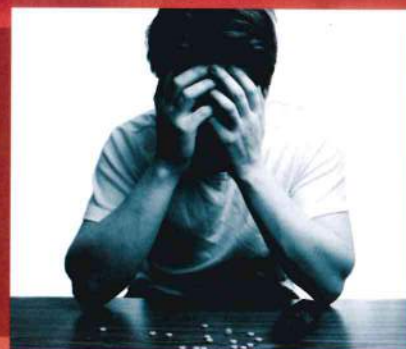
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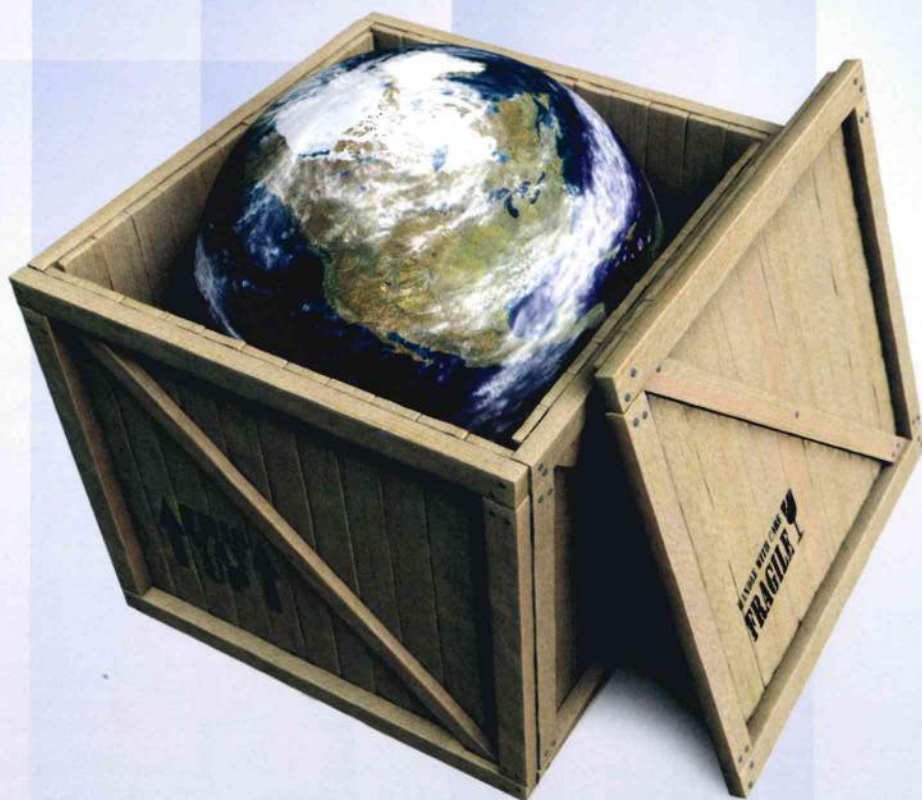
Charles Simpson, Gary Henley, Larry Sims, Gary and Linda Browning



# Your Mission to the World

How to reach the world without leaving home!

By Gary Henley



THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS “MISSIONS.” THERE IS ONLY ONE MISSION, AND GOD gave it all to us. “Missions” is a word that brings a world of thoughts and challenges to mind, most of them beyond the capability, or even the imagination, of the average Christian. It makes it seem so far away, so complex, and so difficult to become involved. The world is so big, and the needs so many; where would I begin? Is it even my responsibility, or should professionals do it all? The answer is, yes, it is your responsibility. However, don’t think “Missions”,



**think mission, my mission, what is it, how can I fulfill it? There are simple ways you can participate in global mission without understanding all the needs of the world, even without leaving your own home or country. Here are some suggestions:**



### **Find a missionary to adopt.**

Start by finding which missionaries your church supports. Ask your pastor or mission team leader. Perhaps it would be a missionary whom you have heard speak in your church, or whom you have met personally. If not, ask who is in charge of mission work in your church, and ask for a suggestion.



### **Do some research.**

Determine the country where that missionary serves, find it on a map or globe, look it up on the Internet or get a book about it. Ask your church leaders how you can begin to receive that missionary's newsletter on a regular basis. If possible, learn what that missionary is doing in that country, what kind of team he is on, and what members of his family are there with him. *Operation World* by Patrick Johnstone lists each country, and will help you learn about it. (See sources below.)



### **Contact the missionary.**

E-mail works best. Tell them you are going to begin praying for them, and ask how they would like you to pray. Most will have some specific needs, but in general, pray for them to be fruitful in their work. If that missionary is in a "closed" country, such as China or an Islamic country, be sure to ask someone how to avoid using words and terms that might expose

their work to the authorities. Some missionaries have encrypted (confidential) e-mail, but you should still avoid using words like missionary, evangelize, church; words that would put them or their work in danger.



### **Begin a systematic prayer process.**

Get all your information in one place, and begin to pray for the country, the people group, the missionary, and the needs at a certain time in your schedule that will help you to be faithful in it. Scan the newspaper or Internet for news of that country so you can keep current on events there, especially if they involve persecution, revolution, or other serious conditions. Continue your study on that country and people group, becoming as informed as possible.



### **Correspond with them.**

Build a relationship. Continue to assure them of your prayers, share Scriptures that God has shown you that may apply to their needs, and let them know you care. Let your church mission team know what you are doing, and get their advice. If there are children in the family, try to find someone of the same age in your family or church who could become a pen-pal to that child. Find out when they will be in the USA, and plan to meet with them or to host them in your home.



### **Join your local church mission team.**

Share with them what you are doing, and encourage them to pray with you. Ask how you can be involved in their activities. If your church has no mission team, talk with

your pastor about helping to start one. *How to Get Your Church Involved in Missions* by David Mays, has lots of helps. (See also, *Cultivating a Mission Active Church* by Mike Pollard.) Ask your church leadership to develop a small budget for books on mission so every member is not required to purchase their own, or encourage your mission team to share the books they have found helpful.



### **Attend a ACMC conference.**

ACMC stands for *Advancing Churches in Mission Commitment*. They have lots of helpful material, and the conference will expose you to others who are trying to "advance their church in missions." You can visit them at: [acmcnetwork.com](http://acmcnetwork.com).



### **Attend, or help to sponsor, a World Perspectives course in your area.**

This is a comprehensive course on the history, and of the present efforts and needs of global mission. Their web site lists classes in every state and locality. You will be amazed to learn God's plan throughout the Scriptures, and how it has been implemented for 2000 years, as well as present progress in fulfilling the Great Commission. Learn more at: [perspectives.org](http://perspectives.org) <sup>121</sup>

For other ways to become involved in world mission, or to join short-term mission teams, contact IOM, PO Box 2140, McComb, MS 39649, or our web-site at [www.IOMsend.com](http://www.IOMsend.com), or e-mail [IOM@PObox.com](mailto:IOM@PObox.com). For materials on mission, contact the William Carey Library at: [missionbooks.org](http://missionbooks.org)



**Gary Henley**, the Director of International Outreach Ministries, travels widely encouraging missionaries around the globe.



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