

REPORTS FROM UGANDA



In November we were able to meet with a young man from the Elgon region of the country who recently graduated from the Bible college in Jos, Nigeria. He is on fire for the Lord, and is tirelessly working in that part of the country. After graduation he had done a radio program for a month and had a very good response, but could not continue due to the cost. We began to send funds to pay for the radio program this year. He is getting many contacts, including denominational leaders as a result. He was given a projector and lessons from World Video Bible School which they provide free to workers overseas. When he follows up with contacts in a village he carries it with him. As you can see from the picture he is making good use of them. He projects the lesson on a wall and people from the village come out to watch. The results are souls won to Christ. Below are just some of the people he has baptized in the past two months.



In Buyende we had an introduction to Faith translated into the local language and two thousand copies printed. It is being used to reach the lost and mature the brethren. We took them a flannelgraph board to teach the children in November as well.



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CROSSVILLE, TN
PERMIT #171

Richards/Waldron Newsletter
Tara Church of Christ
Scott Richards, Editor
P.O. Box 1010
Crossville, TN 38557

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

TO BE REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST
PLEASE RESPOND TO
P.O. BOX 1010, CROSSVILLE, TN 38557

RICHARDS NEWSLETTER

Volume 1

January, 2023

No. 10

THE GREATEST TREASURE

Many years ago my wife and I were travelling with our preschool age children. Leaving a motel one morning we forgot our sons favorite blanket. After travelling some distance our son realized the blanket was not in the car. We did not go back to retrieve it, but for the next several hours our son grieved the loss of his greatest treasure. It was not a pleasant trip for his parents or sister. People of all ages take special care to protect and preserve things they treasure most. The parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son all end in great rejoicing at the recovery of these lost treasures (Luke 15). We too rejoice when we have found something we have misplaced or lost.

God has bestowed to each person the greatest treasure. It is not a physical treasure like a work of art, a car, a house or wealth. It is not a treasure that thieves can steal. Furthermore, it is not reserved for any particular economic group. It is not a treasure reserved for any race or ethnic group, nor is it only available in a certain geographic location. It is your eternal soul. God entrusted you with that which is in His image (Genesis 1:26-27), your eternally existent spirit.

God entrusts us with this treasure from the time of conception. In beautiful prose David describes God's knowledge of Him from the time of His conception and throughout his development in the womb (Psalms 139:13-16). John the Baptist, still in the womb of Elizabeth, leaped inside the womb and his mother praised Mary who, at the time, was carrying our Lord in her womb (Luke 1:39-44). From the moment a child is conceived until death the greatest treasure a person has is the eternal spirit given to them by God.

Caring for this treasure is our most important stewardship. While it cannot be stolen from us we can squander the opportunity to be good stewards of this treasure. —CONTINUED INSIDE—

THE GREATEST TREASURE, Cont.

It is true that parents are responsible for the early development of a child. They can instill the teachings of God in them, but it will still be the individual themselves who will give an account before God. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (II Corinthians 5:10). Jesus asked the question, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul” (Matthew 16:26).

Satan, the, “god of this world,” (II Corinthians 4:4) uses many ways to blind people to the importance of the stewardship of their soul. Hindus believe reincarnation gives them “the opportunity to evolve spiritually.” Of course, if they have particularly bad Karma to work out, they may come back as something less than human. Then there is evolution, which is at its core, a satanic effort to undermine belief in God and the Bible. It ultimately makes man an animal. Albeit the highest form of animal perhaps, but he has no soul, there is no God, no moral guidelines and there will be no eternal judgment. We could also mention premillennial doctrines which claim people who did not sin egregiously and were not taught God’s word properly will receive a second chance in the millennial age. This doctrine diminishes the grave importance of being good stewards of our soul. These lies, spread by Satan’s minions, deter many from properly caring for their eternal soul.

Our soul is much more precious than even our physical life. This is why God tells us that, “Bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having the promise that now is and that which is to come” (I Timothy 4:8). No matter how much effort we put into our physical health we all know we will die some day. God tells us, **“It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”** (Hebrews 9:27). When we depart this life our body, “the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7). After our life has ended we must give an account before God of our stewardship of this great treasure. **How are you doing caring for your soul?**

With eight billion souls now on this earth we need to have a greater sense of urgency to get this message out to the lost. *Scott Richards*

FIELD REPORTS

To the right is a picture of brother Ramesh, principal of the English medium school in Tamil Nadu, as he is teaching a couple during the Saturday evangelism efforts. On Saturday the students go from house to house and have Bible studies with all who are willing to listen to the gospel of Christ. Not all will listen, but many do, and some become followers of Jesus.



Pictured are a couple who were baptized for the remission of their sins as a result of the efforts of the Karbi brothers at the school in east Assam. They were Hindus but are now our brother and sister in Christ. We praise God and rejoice with the salvation of these precious souls as well as all those who have obeyed the gospel.

One of our graduates, Barnabas, continues to work in western Assam to build the church in that part of the state. In the past year he has been able to convert twelve souls to Christ and has established one new congregation of the Lord’s church. Before he moved to that part of Assam the church was unknown. Through his efforts souls are being added to the kingdom. Below is a photo of a meeting in Odisha by brother Sumit. They



invited those they were studying with and denominational leaders to come. In his report he said it was well received and they are going to plan another day soon to teach the pure gospel.

In Tamil Nadu and Kerala the SBS work continues to yield fruit for the Lord’s kingdom. Decembers report has fewer results due to the fact that their was a graduation recently and he is currently working on a new session which will start soon. Brother Peter Wilson reports that in December there were 302 house visits, 114 Bible studies and it resulted in 15 souls being added to the church.

OPERATION COMPASSION



has been a member of the body of Christ for 38 years. She was happy to receive the five goats and two kids we were able to supply.



We continue to assist widows to be self-supporting by providing them with goats of the means to open a petty shop. Pictured to the left is a 35 year old widow with four children. She was given nine goats to support herself and her children. On the right is a 75 year old widow who

Here is a picture of a man with his two young daughters who was able to reopen his petty shop with our assistance. The Covid restrictions had forced him to close his shop. He is physically handicapped and cannot do day labor. He is also a graduate of the Bible Institute in Coimbitore.

WORKERS TOGETHER

It is with the deepest gratitude that I thank God constantly for the blessing of being able to be involved in this work along with all of you who are supporters of this effort. We are indeed “workers together with Him” (II Corinthians 6:1). Brother Waldron, along with so many others, have tirelessly worked to spread the gospel to the lost. Time and eternity will reveal the true impact of their efforts. As we continue to work together to build upon their efforts, and those who preceded them, let us pray for wisdom and strength to carry on this work in ways that will glorify God and shine the light of Christ most brightly in this world of spiritual darkness. My prayer is that God will continue to bless all of us as we work together to lift up Christ so all men might be drawn to Him (John 12:32).