



Canadian World Missions

NEWSLETTER

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Canadian World Missions Board

Rev. Youdi Binda— Chairman
 Eastern Canada Region Representative
 Tel: 905-858-5809
 E-mail: youdibinda@rogers.com

Rev. Robert Reesor
 Western Canada Region Representative
 Tel: 603-543-1953
 E-mail: rreesor@sasktel.net

Rev. Humberto Araica
 QC/Mar Canada Region Representative
 Tel: 514-376-8807
 E-mail: pastoraraica@hotmail.com



Church of God in Canada



PO Box 333, Stn B,
 Toronto, ON M9W 5L3

Tel: 905-275-2455
 Fax: 905-275-5824
 cognancy@rogers.com

The Priority of World Missions

Raymond F. Culpepper

Acts 10:1-8 records the story of the Gospel being preached by Peter to Cornelius and his household. There are people like Cornelius living today, people who want to know God, but aren't sure how to go about finding him. I believe that there are more people willing to hear the gospel than there are Christians willing to tell them. This account from the book of Acts is a case in point. Cornelius was just one of many non-Jewish people (the Bible calls them Gentiles) who had grown tired of the superstitions and idolatry of Roman paganism. They hungered for the truth. They needed to hear the Gospel, but the early church was slow in getting it to them.

As of Acts 10, telling Gentiles about Jesus had yet to become a priority for the early church. God uses Cornelius to show His church that the Gospel was for everyone, not just the Jews. We need to be reminded that God wants us to make every effort to see that every man has a valid opportunity to hear the Gospel. We must accept the responsibility for telling them. The Bible makes missions a priority, and until we do the same, we are out of step with the plan of God. I want to use this Biblical story to illustrate three reasons why missions must be a priority for the Church of God in Canada.

Notice first of all that *missions is a priority because all religions do not have the same end*. Cornelius was a religious man, very generous and prayed only to God. Notice that he was worshipping the true God the best he knew how and it wasn't enough to save him.

There are many people who are willing to admit that Christianity offers ONE way to God, but also say that it is only one of many ways to God. The important thing, they say, is that you be sincere in your beliefs. Jesus is not just a way to God. He is the ONLY way to God. That is one reason why missions must be a priority.

A second reason missions is a priority of the church is *because God desires to get the gospel to sinners who are seeking for Him*. The angel told Cornelius that God knew of his devotion and the name and address of one who could tell him the way of salvation. Notice also that God will do whatever He has to do to bring the two together.

God desires to get the Gospel to those like Cornelius who have responded to some form of God's witness and are waiting to hear the Gospel. That is another reason why missions is a priority. You and I may be the very ones God uses to reach a people who are seeking for the Savior.

Finally, *missions is a priority because God uses men to reach men*. The angel couldn't tell Cornelius how to be saved. God uses angels in many ways, but they cannot preach the Gospel and they cannot evangelize the lost.

The responsibility for missions rests solely with men. God has no other plan. For Cornelius to hear, Peter had to be obedient to God's plan. Paul echoes his understanding of this responsibility in 1 Corinthians 9:16: *"For though I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon ME; yea, woe is unto ME if I preach not the Gospel."* In order for men to hear the Gospel, men must go and tell it.

We are commanded to reach the world for Christ. World Missions involves four components: 1) Somebody has to go; 2) Somebody has to send; 3) Somebody has to give; and, 4) Somebody has to pray. Which one are you doing?

Appointment of the Canadian World Missions Board

On March 27, 2008 correspondence went out from the Church of God National Office advising every Minister of the church of God in Canada, that a new Canadian World Missions Board had been appointed. The National Executive Council authorized the establishment of this board to recommend to the Council the expenditures of the 2.5% World Missions funds sent from local churches to the National Office along with Christ Birthday Offering receipts.

Youdi Binda, Chairman—representing the Eastern Canada Region, **Robert Reesor**—representing the Western Canada Region and **Humberto Araica**—representing the Quebec/Maritimes region, were appointed to serve on this board.

Canadians have an excellent record of giving and it is our prayer that this organizational step will enhance World Missions giving in Canada. Together we can have a tremendous impact on the unsaved of our world.



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Message from the Chairman

Rev. Youdi Binda

I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as Chairman of the National Missions Board as well as the Regional Missions Representative of Ontario. "Missions" has been in my heart since a very young age and Sister Binda and I have attended to the call of Missions and have travelled to many places taking the good news of the gospel. As the Church of God in Canada turns a new leaf in the direction Missions is taking, you and I have one more opportunity to make a difference. One more opportunity to reach out to a needy world both spiritually and physically. I encourage you to get involved in a Missions project today.

Let us arise and make a difference!



Located in the Philippines, Gentle Hands is a rescue center for abandoned, abused, neglected children. They rescue, rehabilitate, reunite with family, or facilitate adoption of these babies and children. We also have a program for Boys- street boys who are abandoned, abused, into drugs and needing a home. At present, Gentle Hands cares for 28 babies and toddlers and 28 boys.

Gentle Hands needs our help to keep reaching out to these boys and children who need the love of Christ and the love a home.

We invite you to partner with Gentle Hands and Evan & Charity Graff (Canadian Missionaries) in a special way today.

For more information please contact the Church of God National Office.

**Gentle Hands is a Church of God
Missionary Program in the
Philippines
Project No. 740-0166**

Quebec/Maritimes Region

The Quebec/Maritimes provinces are collaborating dutifully in missionary projects around the world. Various churches are focusing their attentions on orphanages in countries like Cuba, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Mexico, where spiritual and financial support are desperately needed. One of the churches has adopted a project in Uganda where aid is faithfully being sent to a group of 43 children! Other churches are contributing to various projects in the Philippines, Guatemala, Kenya, and Liberia. A missionary trip to Kenya is being planned and we invite all who are interested to contact The Resurrection Centre COG. The WM Rep for our region—Pastor Humberto Araica will be sharing with our churches various projects and activities. We invite you to be a part of bringing the good news of the gospel to those in need.

Ontario Region

The Ontario region had their first Mission Trip of the year to India! The team attended the Kerala State & Divisional Conventions. A second church was dedicated and the team visited 3 Orphanages. A Pastors' & Wives' Conference was conducted and all the women received *Sarees* and the men *Suits* (this is their local wear).

In conjunction with the New York State office, the first container for 2008 was shipped to Haiti and on April 28, 2008 a team of 16 will be there for the distribution of the goods. On July 17th a team will be going to Yugoslavia and Romania as well as a trip being planned to Israel in September. If you would like to join our Mission Trips, please feel free to contact the Ontario Regional Office for more details, we would love to have you join us!

Western Canada Region

The western Canada region of Canada has been focusing their efforts in the war-torn country of Sri Lanka. Due to civil war and "terrorists" activities, youth in Sri Lanka are being forced into the military against their will, and several have been killed. Boys and girls are literally being picked up off the streets and roadways. Many of the believers are in refugee camps and have been displaced from their homes. Please pray for Sri Lanka.

In the past six months the churches of Western Canada have sent \$5,000 for a new church building, \$3,500 for a Youth Camp which was held near the Tamil Tiger area, 550 young people attended!! Many were saved, filled with the Holy Spirit and taught the good news of the gospel. As well Western Canada churches send monthly support for: 9 workers and pastors in the Tamil area, 5 pastors in the Columbo area, 4 students in Bible College and High School, and several widows.

Thank you Western Canada! May our Lord continue to bless your Kingdom efforts.



Did you know that Churches in Canada support various projects around the world? From Orphanages in Guatemala, Africa, and Mexico to an Elderly home in Brazil. Plus support to various Missionaries in Argentina, India, the Philippines, Germany and Israel is being sent. If you or your church is interested in supporting a World Missions project, or for a full list of projects available, please contact the Church of God National Office. Together, we can impact our World for Christ!

Would you like "Extra Copies"?
No problem!
Contact us and we'll be glad to send you more copies of this Newsletter as needed!

Upcoming Events

- May**
10—Ontario Region's Missions Banquet
- July**
17—Mission Trip to Yugoslavia & Romania
- September**
- Trip to Israel is being planned - Ontario Region
- Trip to Sri Lanka is being planned - Western Region
- November**
- Mission Trip to Kenya planned - QC/Mar Region