

## Pushing Back the Darkness

by Doug Wicks, U. S. C&MA National Office

Reaching the entire world with the message of salvation is at the center of God's heart. The prophet Isaiah predicted: "All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God" (52:10). And we are beginning to catch a glimpse of the fulfillment of that promise.

Missiologist Dr. Ralph Winter (who passed away last year) said: "We are in the final era of missions. For the first time in history we can anticipate the completion of the missionary task, which is to establish an indigenous church-planting movement within the language and social structure of every people on earth."

However, even though significant progress is being made, more than 2 billion people—about a third of the world's population—remain unreached by the gospel. The vast majority of the remaining unevangelized people live in the "10/40 Window," stretching from West Africa all the way across East Asia. They are often described as "unreached."

What makes the task more critical is that most of the countries in this window are closed to the gospel and have no known believers, church, missionary, or Scripture in their native language. This part of the world—once the center of Christianity—is now

dominated by other major religions: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and animism. Persecution of Christians is prevalent throughout the 10/40 Window.

Motivated by Christ's Great Commission, Alliance workers are on the front lines facing the forces of spiritual darkness every hour of every day in places that are highly resistant to the gospel. Some of these remote, hard-to-reach regions are:

**Mongolia:** a Buddhist-dominated nation (96 percent) of 3 million people, wedged between the vast countries of Russia and China

**North Africa:** a region with less access to the gospel, fewer churches, and much smaller numbers of believers than sub-Saharan Africa

**Central Asia:** a region with millions of inhabitants, 99.9 percent of whom do not know Jesus Christ and have few opportunities to hear about Him

You can make a difference regarding the eternal destiny of thousands of men and women who need to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. If our churches or civic groups can adopt a stretch of highway to pick up the trash, can we not adopt an unreached people group to bring before the Lord in earnest prayer?

## Pushing Back the Darkness

by Doug Wicks, U. S. C&MA National Office

Reaching the entire world with the message of salvation is at the center of God's heart. The prophet Isaiah predicted: "All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God" (52:10). And we are beginning to catch a glimpse of the fulfillment of that promise.

Missiologist Dr. Ralph Winter (who passed away last year) said: "We are in the final era of missions. For the first time in history we can anticipate the completion of the missionary task, which is to establish an indigenous church-planting movement within the language and social structure of every people on earth."

However, even though significant progress is being made, more than 2 billion people—about a third of the world's population—remain unreached by the gospel. The vast majority of the remaining unevangelized people live in the "10/40 Window," stretching from West Africa all the way across East Asia. They are often described as "unreached."

What makes the task more critical is that most of the countries in this window are closed to the gospel and have no known believers, church, missionary, or Scripture in their native language. This part of the world—once the center of Christianity—is now

dominated by other major religions: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and animism. Persecution of Christians is prevalent throughout the 10/40 Window.

Motivated by Christ's Great Commission, Alliance workers are on the front lines facing the forces of spiritual darkness every hour of every day in places that are highly resistant to the gospel. Some of these remote, hard-to-reach regions are:

**Mongolia:** a Buddhist-dominated nation (96 percent) of 3 million people, wedged between the vast countries of Russia and China

**North Africa:** a region with less access to the gospel, fewer churches, and much smaller numbers of believers than sub-Saharan Africa

**Central Asia:** a region with millions of inhabitants, 99.9 percent of whom do not know Jesus Christ and have few opportunities to hear about Him

You can make a difference regarding the eternal destiny of thousands of men and women who need to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. If our churches or civic groups can adopt a stretch of highway to pick up the trash, can we not adopt an unreached people group to bring before the Lord in earnest prayer?

## **Soul Music Rocks Japan**

By Don and Hazel Schaeffer, serving in Japan

The congregation we pastor, Kawaguchi Church, is conducting a gospel workshop led by Alliance missionary David Kindervater. African-American gospel music has become very popular in Japan, and we hope to draw new people into the church through this evangelistic effort. In addition, we are praying for contacts to start a new church plant. This outreach will continue again next spring with a new series of workshops.

Our first session got off to a great start. About 20 people have joined this group, several of them non-Christians. This outreach will run through mid-December, culminating in a concert at our church, a workshop at a new church plant, and a joint concert with other choirs.

A woman who had seen the ad for our workshop came to Bible study. Her parents had taken her to studies on Buddhism when she was younger, but she felt like something was wrong. She then went to a Bible study with a friend for two years.

Now, years later, she feels like God has been pulling at her heart. She listened as we prayed during our study, and she had tears in her eyes when we were finished. She wants to come again. Pray that God will continue to draw this woman to Himself.

## **Elephant Throws Alliance Leaders**

A day of casual recreation quickly turned bad on November 4 when two Alliance leaders visiting a Thailand elephant park were seriously injured after one of the elephants grabbed the men with its trunk and threw them into the air. Upon impact with the ground, Richard Herring, Asia Pacific regional director, sustained a broken hip, and Pieter Theron, Mongolia field director, had multiple fractures, including his skull and cervical vertebrae.

The two men were with a group of Alliance workers who were attending the Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Bangkok. Most of their colleagues witnessed the freak accident and rushed to help. Immediately, two groups of spectators lifted their hands toward Richard and Pieter and prayed. Coworkers did their best to keep the men conscious and comfortable until the ambulance arrived more than 30 minutes later.

Just two weeks later, Pieter was released from the hospital after undergoing surgery for his neck injury as well as treatment for both fractured shoulders and a broken wrist. He and his wife, Haniki, are praising God for Pieter's miraculous recovery. Richard will undergo physiotherapy for a few months. Both men were overwhelmed with gratitude for the reports of global prayer on their behalf and declare God's gracious answer to the prayers.

## **Soul Music Rocks Japan**

By Don and Hazel Schaeffer, serving in Japan

The congregation we pastor, Kawaguchi Church, is conducting a gospel workshop led by Alliance missionary David Kindervater. African-American gospel music has become very popular in Japan, and we hope to draw new people into the church through this evangelistic effort. In addition, we are praying for contacts to start a new church plant. This outreach will continue again next spring with a new series of workshops.

Our first session got off to a great start. About 20 people have joined this group, several of them non-Christians. This outreach will run through mid-December, culminating in a concert at our church, a workshop at a new church plant, and a joint concert with other choirs.

A woman who had seen the ad for our workshop came to Bible study. Her parents had taken her to studies on Buddhism when she was younger, but she felt like something was wrong. She then went to a Bible study with a friend for two years.

Now, years later, she feels like God has been pulling at her heart. She listened as we prayed during our study, and she had tears in her eyes when we were finished. She wants to come again. Pray that God will continue to draw this woman to Himself.

## **Elephant Throws Alliance Leaders**

A day of casual recreation quickly turned bad on November 4 when two Alliance leaders visiting a Thailand elephant park were seriously injured after one of the elephants grabbed the men with its trunk and threw them into the air. Upon impact with the ground, Richard Herring, Asia Pacific regional director, sustained a broken hip, and Pieter Theron, Mongolia field director, had multiple fractures, including his skull and cervical vertebrae.

The two men were with a group of Alliance workers who were attending the Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Bangkok. Most of their colleagues witnessed the freak accident and rushed to help. Immediately, two groups of spectators lifted their hands toward Richard and Pieter and prayed. Coworkers did their best to keep the men conscious and comfortable until the ambulance arrived more than 30 minutes later.

Just two weeks later, Pieter was released from the hospital after undergoing surgery for his neck injury as well as treatment for both fractured shoulders and a broken wrist. He and his wife, Haniki, are praising God for Pieter's miraculous recovery. Richard will undergo physiotherapy for a few months. Both men were overwhelmed with gratitude for the reports of global prayer on their behalf and declare God's gracious answer to the prayers.

To receive The Alliance Call to Prayer electronically, contact [webmaster@cmalliance.org](mailto:webmaster@cmalliance.org).

To receive The Alliance Call to Prayer electronically, contact [webmaster@cmalliance.org](mailto:webmaster@cmalliance.org).



Alliance Ministries are supported by gifts to the Great Commission Fund (USA), CAMA Advance Fund, and Global Advance Fund (Canada).



Alliance Ministries are supported by gifts to the Great Commission Fund (USA), CAMA Advance Fund, and Global Advance Fund (Canada).

The Christian and Missionary Alliance • PO Box 35000 • Colorado Springs, CO 80935