

September 2015

THE LIAISON

On the Edge of Our Seats in Anticipation

I cannot believe we are facing the beginning of Fall, and that in just a few short months this year will be complete. But! I am so pleased and excited about what the Lord has allowed us to accomplish together this year so far. Thank you for being in partnership with us in the Harvest!

Grace Bible College: As you know, we've been working very diligently to get the students on the Bible college campus in central India, and we've accomplished that. But, we're still not done. We've taken the summer to rejoice in the goodness of the Lord and His faithfulness along with yours; now we look to finish out a number of needed projects before the end of the year.

We are currently in the process of installing tile flooring in the bathroom and shower stalls of the boys' toilet block to adjust for the extra wear and tear of 50+ boys. What a great problem to solve! We're also grateful that this project is fully funded.

The dining hall is a pole barn style structure with a floor and roof, and now we need to build the walls. In addition, more furniture is needed so these young scholars can have places to study, eat their meals, and fellowship together in the common areas of the college. I'm asking the Lord for \$7000 for this project of the dining hall to be completed.

Library: I'm so excited that the place where the library is being staged in Northern California is overflowing with books ready to be shipped to India. We need to build a library building on the campus which will also include two classrooms. This project will be another big challenge to us of \$75,000. There is an additional need of \$10,000 for a shipping container that will be loaded with all of these books and shipped to central India. If you would like to be part of this project, what a joy it would be to see this challenge met (*see page three for a special request to librarians and book sorters to travel to India to catalogue the books*).

Students at GBC: As the 2015-2016 school year has begun, we have students who are the cream of the crop. One of the young men, James, is from Myanmar, and he is so thrilled that the Lord is preparing him for service back in his native land. Each one of these students are ready to make their marks in reaching their part of the world for Christ.

Along with these projects, we are promoting the **Global Church Planting Initiative** as we launch a new church plant in Baghdad Iraq (*see page two*).

I am very excited to see what the Lord will do through our Pastors' Conference in Egypt next month (*see page two*), and our discipleship program launched in India with 300+ engaged (*see page four*).

Thank you for your partnership as we finish out 2015 and launch into 2016. There's been much talk about Jesus' return, and yes, I'm also very excited about seeing Him, but not yet because there are people who need the Lord Jesus Christ before the end comes. Let's be faithful to the call we've received in Christ Jesus. May God bless you as we continue to partner together in reaching a hurting world for Christ.

- Dr. John Cook, CEO

US Missionary or National Pastor?

The cost to send a US missionary overseas is \$70,000 - \$90,000 annually plus travel and relocation expenses. It takes three to five years for them to raise support and reach the field.

Indigenous Ministries sponsors national pastors as missionaries for 1/10th the cost of a US missionary. The time for effectiveness when they begin ministering is weeks vs. years because they understand the culture and know the language of the people they are reaching.

Each of these missionary units is being supported at \$500 a month. Some will be more, most will be less, but this is our target for our national missionary units.

We honor all missionaries, yet feel led to direct resources towards nationals for this unique ROI (return on investment) on Kingdom resources through our **Global Church Planting Initiative**.

With giving dollars at a premium, the **GCPI** helps you and your church multiply these resources in difficult-access countries.



Egyptian Pastors' Conf., Page 2

Middle East: ISIS Trainer Seeks Out Bible

Many of us watching the events taking place in the Middle East have felt very frustrated and wonder, “**What can I possibly do to make a difference?!**”

But we do have **incredible and “doable” opportunities** to invest in the lives of those who have gone through some of the most difficult of circumstances that have been documented in the Middle East. I’m talking specifically about two countries: **Egypt and Iraq**. I’d like to share this brief account with you:

Just a few days ago I received a report of a Lebanese taxi driver who drove a sheik from the Syrian-Lebanese border to the airport in Beirut as he was making his way from Syria back to Saudi Arabia.

During the 5 1/2 hour drive to the airport, the sheik noticed that the taxi driver was a Christian. The sheik, bearded and dressed in conservative garb asked the question, “do you know how I can get a hold of a Bible?”

The taxi driver replied, “well of course.” So they drove to a place a friend of ours runs, which of course is the International Bible Society in Beirut. As they presented the Bible to him, they asked the question, “why is it that you wanted this Bible?” He responded, “I’ve been training soldiers for ISIS, and I’m sick of the killing; I think there has to be a better way.”

It’s these kinds of reports that bring **hope and encouragement** and remind us that God the Holy Spirit is **still at work** in the hearts of men and women in the Middle East.

I’m asking you: *what would you be willing to do to assist in seeing people like this sheik come to know Jesus Christ as Savior? We are already working directly with those who stand on the front line in the Middle East.*

And a second question: *would you be willing to assist me with a one time sponsorship of \$100 to help us reach a \$5000 goal to put on a conference to encourage pastors in Egypt next month?*

Egypt National Pastors’ Conference - In October we will put on an Egyptian Pastor’s Conference for our national team and other Egyptian pastors who held the front lines as we in the US watched (in silence) the Muslim Brotherhood rise to power and force its repression on Egypt through torture and death in these extremely difficult years. These men stood to protect and minister to the Church faithfully.

The theme is “*He Restores My Soul.*” We need \$5000 for this conference as we give these precious men the opportunity of being refreshed. You can donate online and in the **Donate** button, select *Middle East Pastors’ Conference* or use the form on page four. Thank you and God bless you.

Please pray for those of our US team ministering to these pastors and for the women’s and children’s ministry that will also take place at this time.

Iraq Church Plant Opportunity - We are assisting in another church plant in Baghdad, Iraq. We have a young man who is ready to serve the Lord in full-time service under the national Baptist church that we had a part in seeing planted in 2004 (please see last month’s “The Liaison” on page three for an article on this church plant, or go on our website to read the article as a blog).

Perhaps you and your church would be willing to stand with this pastor at \$100 a month and in doing so, join our **Global Church Planting Initiative** team. Our target for this project is \$500/month. If you’d like to be one of these *five elite givers* in assisting people come to know Jesus Christ as Savior in the midst of the front lines, I encourage you to join with us in making this happen. Donate online and in the **Donate** button, select *Global Church Planting Partner* or use the form on page four.



Egyptian Christians wear a cross tattoo on their arms so their body may be identified as Christian if they are beheaded. One of our Egyptian pastors posed for this picture.

- Dr. John Cook, CEO

Calling Librarians & Enthusiastic Book Sorters!



Thank you for the books! A *heartfelt thanks* to so many who, over the last 2 1/2 years have *generously* donated library books to the Grace Bible College library bound for India. Now you can please cease donating, as the goal has more than been met! Very special thanks to Bill and Vicki Greer for hosting these thousands of books in their garage!

Next steps: Building the GBC library and shipping the books over - total amount needed: **\$75,000**. We also need librarians (who aren't overwhelmed by organizing 18,000+ books) to organize and direct a team to sort and catalogue the books preparing them for use.



Travel and ministry opportunity: We are looking for one or more librarian(s) and 15 volunteers who are interested in a once in a lifetime opportunity to spend 10 days sorting and cataloguing the GBC library books in India. You will also have the great opportunity to share in GBC's annual graduation ceremony on the new campus, interact with the faculty, staff and students at GBC and the children in our Children's Home.

Dates: February 2-17, 2016

Cost: \$3200 (includes flights, hotels and food; +\$250 for tour)

See a Tiger! you will visit the world-famous Kanha Tiger preserve; an adventure you'll never forget (bucket list?)

The weather and food: mild and delicious for your comfort

You will literally put a library together for young men and women who are committed to winning India to Jesus Christ and turning this country towards the one true and living God. This opportunity is truly unprecedented in its nature and future ramifications.

If this is turning a page in your mind and you can't shelve this thought, send an email to penny@IndigenousMinistries.org.

GBC Choir at 2015 graduation



Israel Tour 2016 - Your Family in the Holy Land?



John and Lori Koos used the Israel Tour this year as a family strengthener with sons Boone and Brett, and the Lord used this time very specially in their family. This is one way to use this tour as a treasure that will continue to bring your family together with warm memories for many years to come!

Pastors, Deacons, Elders, Bible Study leaders, here's an opportunity to bring your *church family* and earn a well-deserved discounted seat for yourself.

Now is the time to begin your preparations for our upcoming Israel Tour in 2016. Email info@IndigenousMinistries.org, or call Penny at 719-302-3028.

Sign up for information about the Israel Tour on the homepage of our website, www.IndigenousMinistries.org. You will find a link to the itinerary on the homepage.



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Discipleship - the Church Hinge



Dr. Cook teaching the discipleship course and Rev. John Ingole translating

India - This April Dr. Cook trained 10 men and two women - some in ministry and the rest training for ministry - on how to disciple a new Believer. He used a discipleship manual pictured above, that he previously had translated into Marathi, which includes weekly Scripture memorization, along with an in-depth study and application of Biblical principles of growth and service.

Together they looked at how someone is able to grow in their new faith in Christ into a mature Believer. The goal is to present to

the Lord and the Church mature congregations who know Scriptures and what God has called them to do.

For a few months Dr. Cook heard nothing, but then he received the exciting news this summer that one young pastor discipled 220 people in six different village congregations and was following up with another 80 yet to take the course...then just a few weeks later, word came that another pastor had discipled 20 more and took another 20 discipleship books because many were asking as groups and families to know what it means to walk as a true Christ-following believer!



The Church Hinge - for several hundred years missionaries have ministered in India planting churches and laying the foundation for the great growth that began to expand 15 years ago. Now, with millions of new Believers, the need is urgent for discipleship for churches to grow and mature correctly.

Jesus commanded us in Matthew 28:19 to make disciples for a very good reason; the health of churches hinge on the foundation of discipleship.

Thank you for investing into this ministry with your prayers and resources...you have a special part in this good Harvest! If you are adding to your prayer lists, would you pray for those who have been discipled and for the pastors who continue to disciple, for we know this is all not without great effort and great cost.

Response Card

- ___ Yes, I'd like to give \$___ to the GBC Building Fund
- ___ I'd like to sponsor the Egypt Pastors' Conference with \$___
- ___ I'd like to give \$___/mo as a Global Church Planting Partner
- ___ Please use this gift where it is needed most \$___

Name _____
 Email _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Ph # _____

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