

The Blanc Family

Global Academic Director Teaching with a Mission

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January 2010

Dear Partners,

Greetings in the New Year!

The prayer card below is illustrative of a lingering concern in global missions. Here is one of millions of the nameless faces that represent thousands of people groups that further represent what we might otherwise call “the unreached” or “the least reached” that exist in this world without Christ. We are apt to use the common expression “lost” when referring to someone who does not know Jesus as their personal Savior. Missiologists apply technical terms to distinguish among the lost those who are most critically beyond the means of obtaining salvation (e.g. hearing the good news). Don’t misunderstand, please, your lost neighbor here in the USA is equally as lost as the one depicted in the photograph below. However, your lost neighbor has some notable advantages. For example, in the United States one may hear the gospel via the radio or televised media. One may encounter a Christian friend or neighbor (perhaps even you). They may pick up a copy of the Bible in a hotel room, or possess one at some point in their life. There are numerous local churches where one may be invited or be the object of an evangelistic outreach initiative. Christian periodicals and gospel tracts abound. Beyond this, there is still a vestige of Christianity in our culture that serves as a dim moral witness, though muted and veiled in the present day. However, “the unreached or least reached” are identified by missiologists as such, because they are relatively distant from the above means so prevalent here in the USA or the western world. For many of the unreached, there may be no copy of the Bible in their native-heart language. Few of their people are Christian and there may be no indigenous (native) local church to reach them. They may live in a culture that is hostile to Christianity. So...

Who will reach the unreached?

For decades in the modern era of Christian missions the standard answer to this most critical question was to send cross-cultural missionaries. These missionaries would receive formal Bible training, raise support and be outfitted to reside abroad. Once on the field they would learn the native language, experience enculturation, and set about the task of initial evangelism before planting a local church among the indigenous population. The goal of this enterprise was a self-supporting and self-reproducing work.

Today, and in part due to the pioneer work of such missionaries, there is a readymade work force of nationals who stand in need of training and deployment. There is no need to send them abroad as they reside on the field. No need for language acquisition. No need for enculturation. **However, there is a need of foundational Biblical training.** Many of the national pastors currently in place are faithfully responding to the rapid growth spirals occurring in Third World Christianity.¹ Pastors are needed and faithful men are stepping into shepherding positions with little Bible training.² There

Pray for the Unreached Bondo Poroja of India



Country: India
People: Bondo Poroja
Population: 10,000
World Popl: 10,000
Main Language: Bondo
Main Religion: Hinduism
Status: ■ Least-Reached
Christ-Followers: Few, less than 2%
Bible: None

www.joshuaproject.net
www.ethne.net
www.etnopedia.org

"Declare his glory among the nations" Psalm 96:3

¹ Christianity is growing at a 6.9% growth rate, compared to 2.7% for Muslims, 2.2% for Hindus, and 1.7% for Buddhists. This represents 178,000 people being “converted” to Christianity daily around the world, most of which takes place in three regions: Latin America, 35,000 daily; China, 28,000 daily; and Africa, 20,000 daily. Most of this numerical growth takes place in the Third World, which refers to the church outside North America and Western Europe, where over two-thirds of the world’s churches exist today. David Barrett and Todd Johnson, eds. *World Christian Trends: AD 30-2200*. Pasadena, CA. William Carey Library, 2001

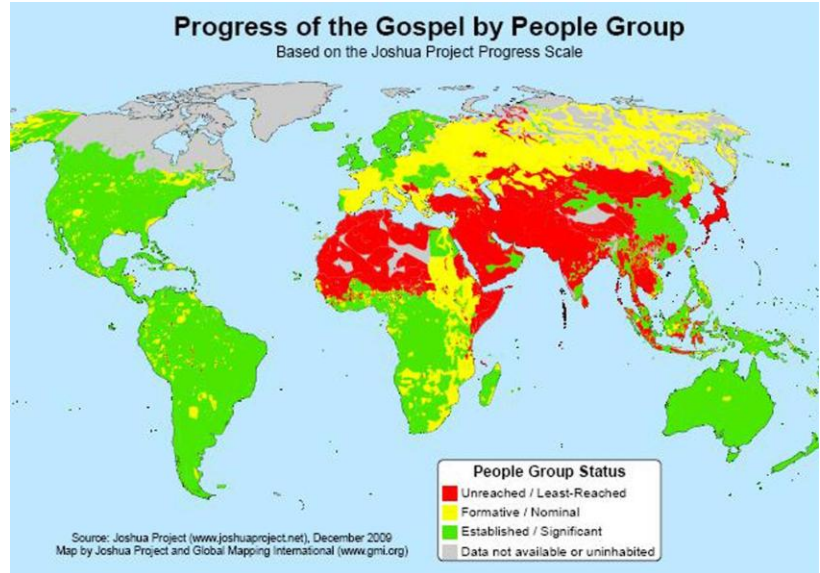
is an urgent need to equip these “faithful men” who are in the best position to reach “the least reached” of the lost in our world. This is the Biblical mandate set forth by the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 2:2, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (KJV).

You will be encouraged to know that with respect to the case study above, Independent Gospel Missions has a prodigious presence in India through a vast network of national pastors and the local churches and diverse ministries they represent. Visit <http://www.igmonline.org/india>. There are links to additional ministry pages. Take the time to visit several of the links and view video presentations of what the Lord is doing to reach the 1.2 billion souls of India. **Please pray for the need to training faithful men and for the IGM ministries that are embracing this strategic initiative in the harvest fields today.**

- Dr. Douglas A. Blanc, Sr.

Prayer & Praise

- Praise the Lord for the addition of one new supporter this past month!
- Praise the Lord that Amy (28) had her surgery and is recovering.
- Praise the Lord for Dayton (18) and a successful 1st semester at Fulton-Montgomery Community College.
- Please continue to pray regarding John (24) and his need for fulltime employment.
- Please pray with regard to our financial support. Specifically, that we would continue to gain new supporters. The colored box below contains instructions if you sense the Lord’s leading to help in this way.
- Pray for opportunities to present IGM and our ministry in local churches in 2010.
- Pray as our Bible study group meets weekly.
- Pray as the role of the “Global Academic Director” is envisioned and fleshed out in a manner that best serves the needs of IGM and its national constituents (schools, pastors, churches). Through a collaborative effort we anticipate discerning a functional role that will facilitate the unity and development of IGM schools worldwide for the glory of God. Please pray as this is discussed at the upcoming annual meeting in January of 2010.



Itinerary

- **January 12, 2010**
Annual meeting at IGM Home Office (Rochester, NY)
- **January 28 – May 13, 2010**
Teaching Ethics and Comparative Religion (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8-10 am) at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (Johnstown, NY)
- **April 17, 2010**
Paper presentation at the Northeastern Regional annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society (Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Northeast Branch, Schenectady, NY)

² An estimated 7,000 new church leaders (pastors that are almost always untrained) are needed daily to care for the growing church, which means that 210,000 pastoral leaders are taking leadership positions in churches each month and 2.5 million pastors are being added to the growing churches each year. David Livermore. *Serving with Eyes Wide Open: Doing Short-Term Missions with Cultural Intelligence*. Baker Books, Fifth Printing, 2008

Contributions may be sent to IGM (see above) payable to Independent Gospel Missions and designated in the memo of the check: “Doug and Sally Blanc.”

You may also contribute online with your credit card. Please go to www.igmonline.org then click on the “donate” link. Select the “Missionaries/National Pastors” Tab. Select the Region as “North America.” Select the Country as “United States of America.” Then, select the Missionary as “Doug Blanc.” We have not established any “Projects” yet as all our funds are intended for living expenses/support. After putting in the amount you intend to donate, you may input your information and how often you would like to set up the gift (one-time, monthly, etc.). Finally, select “Donate.” This is a convenient way to set up a revolving gift and avoid check writing.