



Prophets of Profit

“You who have no money, come, buy and eat!”

My father was a shoemaker and owned a small shop in which my mother worked as shop-assistant. Raising their nine children meant they had to work hard to pay all the bills. Common sense urged them to live according to a plain principle: you can't spend money not yet earned.



It seems as if the western world somehow dropped this simple rule and embraced the foolish conviction that a plastic card could supply as much purchasing power as earned wages. Goods were paid with money not yet earned. In James' words: "wealth has rotted, gold and silver corroded". Well-dressed bankers talked like Isaiah and make him sound like a Prophet of Profit: "You who have no money, come,

buy and eat!" (Is. 55). Conveniently other words from Isaiah were neglected. Like what he said to those whose "land is full of silver and gold; with no end to their treasure, no end to their chariots". The prophet announced judgment over these "proud and lofty" nations (2:12), whose leaders "lead astray"(3:12) whose "prophets teach lies"(9:15). They honored manmade gods like many in our days worship Mammon and his Sacred Credit Card. They pray to "gods that cannot save"(45:20). Nonetheless God says: "Turn to me and be saved, for I am God, and there is no other"(45:22). He is a God of Grace!

There is a huge difference between credit loans and biblical grace: God's grace is granted *because it has been paid for*. Not by the recipient but by the Giver. The prophet's invitation to "come, buy and eat without money" is preceded by Is.53, which explains that the price had been paid by the Messiah. Christ paid for all that can be obtained without money; for justice, peace and "many mansions in the Father's house". All it takes is: "Turn to Him and be saved". The result will be a longing to live to His glory by applying the wisdom of His word. Wise words like; "if a man will not work, he shall not eat." (2Thess 3:10). And "whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, ... you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward" (Col.3:23f). No false promises, but honest and bold predictions about the "trouble you will have in this world. But take heart! I have overcome the world."(John 16:33). His victory should be our joy, His Kingdom our focus, His glory our aspiration.

Arie Verduyn
Executive President AWF

DR Congo Alliance Church sends workers to 6th Region

The Alliance Church in Congo reached a new milestone in its long and eventful history. Two couples are ready to leave for Guinea, West-Africa. The vision for this project took shape in 2006 when the AWF brought representatives from the two countries together for prayer and planning.



It appeared that the religious situation in Congo, with a vast majority of

Christians, is exactly opposite of the situation in Guinea, where only a tiny minority knows Christ as Savior. The Congolese Church decided to start a partnership with the Guinean Church in its mission to reach the unreached people groups in the country. The AWF and the Congolese Church both pledged 50% of all expenses.

Pray for the couples as they prepare to travel to Guinea this month.



Left: Josaphat NZUNGU BAKISI and his wife Adolphine TSINU PAKALA. Right: LANDU NGUALA and his wife Adéline KHONDE NANGA with their two-year old son Victor Hugo MATONDO DIKOBA.

If you want to support this project you can send a check, or transfer to the AWF Account as mentioned at the end of this bulletin. Please label your gift "Congo-Guinea".



Prayer during commissioning service (Kinshasa)

Rebels attack churches in the Philippines

Christian Churches are often targeted by militant groups on Mindanao, the second largest island in the Philippines. Last weekend it happened again. While leaders were participating in a leadership training course they received the news that Muslim rebels had attacked and occupied an Alliance church building and taken hostages. These kind of threats occur regularly in the country. Pray for a peaceful solution.

Alliance Churches in Thailand consider sending 2nd family in missions

Pastor Manop and his family responded to the call to minister among the Thai contract workers in South-Korea. They prayed for during the recent annual gathering of the Mahapawn Churches. God willing the family will leave Thailand in April, 2009. Pray for the smooth processing of the visa and other needs. The first Thai missionaries, Ekarin Khamsiang and his wife, work in Taiwan. Praise God for providing a bigger place to worship.

Asian Alliance Women in Action

Alliance Women from the Philippines organized a Missions Conference in India. They collaborated with the Gujarat Church leadership to mobilize Indian women for Missions. Theme of the conference was: 'Alliance Women: Towards a deeper passion for the unreached'. One of the speakers was AWF Regional Coordinator Roland Lumawag.

Passion for Missions:

Latin-American Missions leaders from all over the continent met in Ecuador for training and sharing of resources. They focused on the "6th Region". What *kind of people* should we send? *What does it cost?* *How will they communicate and get pastoral care?* *What can we learn from others* working in the region? These were the questions on the table.

Pray for these Missions leaders, among whom several women, as they prepare to send workers in from Chili, Ecuador and Peru.

Iraqi pastor returns from 'exile'



Pastor Ghassan Thomas and his family have recently returned to Baghdad, Iraq. In April they had to leave the city because of indications that a death squad of a terrorist

group was planning to kill Ghassan. Over a period of several days in September the Lord began to tell him that it was time to return. Then he received two confirming phone calls from brothers who told him that the Lord had told them the same thing as well. Ghassan decided to return to Baghdad late last month. The outreach of the Baghdad church continues to be strong. In mid-October they baptized 45 people. As well, outreach efforts in Northern Iraq (Kurdistan) are seeing the Lord's blessing.

Ghassan has been able to register the C&MA of Iraq in Kurdistan along with an international church. On a recent Sunday afternoon 9 people were baptized in a mountain stream and other baptisms are occurring in other cities in this region.

The vision the Lord gave Ghassan of planting 18 Alliance churches in Iraq is being fulfilled. There are currently five. Ghassan says, "I am 'pregnant' with 13 other churches!" And two more are almost ready to be born. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Iraq who daily face hardships and dangers that many of us cannot imagine. Yet in spite of that the Lord's work continues to move forward. Praise Him for those who are coming into His Kingdom!



October 21-23 APAC Regional Committee in Manila, Philippines.

Events < October 31-November 1 First College of Prayer in Spain.

December 14 -15 India: Conference Celebrating 165th Birthday Anniversary Dr. Simpson.

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