

May 17, 2004

This *GO World* contains excellent articles—some of the most exciting, encouraging material about God’s working in the world. There’s a moving story of a breakthrough in the Muslim world. It is a little longer than usual, but once you start, you’ll have trouble putting it down.

Do you know that India is at a critical point with millions renouncing Hinduism? This has tremendous implications for India and the gospel. “India at the Crossroads” explains. The short story, “Muslims Revere Koran, but...” gives thought-provoking insight. A tentmaker couple tells how ministering through work overseas has been a “High Time” in their lives.

Work opportunities and needs overseas are enormous. What does it take to become a tentmaker and have impact? Read the article, “What is that in your hand?” And read what is happening at GO. I believe you will enjoy and be impacted by these articles!

Major GO Project

I want to tell you about a major GO project and give you the chance to help if you’d like.

As you’ve read, growing opportunities are coming to GO. There’s so much we need to do to send tentmakers. A major priority is overseas travel to support and learn from tentmakers, to research options for tentmaker teams, and to build partnerships.

A key opportunity is coming to do this—the Lausanne 04 Forum in Thailand in September. Billy Graham initiated the first Lausanne Congress on World Evangelism in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1974. This will be only the 4th congress in 30 years. I have been asked to serve as Facilitator for the Tentmaking Stream, one the groups tasked to produce an action plan for the Church. From what I’m seeing, it appears ours will be very significant.

Lausanne 04 will cost \$1800. In addition, this event provides a great opportunity to travel and connect with tentmakers in nearby countries. This will add about \$1000 for a total of \$2800. This is just one of several vital GO projects. *We have work to do!*

You can help! Just return the attached response form right away if you’d like to help. Many thanks!

In the King’s Service,



Dave English,
GO Executive Director

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Much Happening at GO

New Tentmakers: The “Schmidts” who attended GO’s Light to the Nations (LTN) course three years ago are in China learning Chinese in preparation for teaching theology to leaders. Another couple who attended LTN in 02 has moved to Canada to train and acclimate to the computer company with which the husband will be working in Morocco. Already they are developing outreach to Arab Muslim immigrants, both believers and nonbelievers. A young man who attended LTN last fall is doing business development in Azerbaijan in order to reach a new people group.

Another LTN attendee wrote recently: *I’ve been meaning to write, but a few weeks ago I accepted a position for assistant professor of statistics at American University of Cairo. AUC has become an intellectual & social elite university where most of the government officials from Egypt and surrounding nations study. 85% of the students are from Egypt with the remaining 15% coming from 70 nations. My colleagues in the math department are nearly all Muslim. Previous AUC graduates*

A High Time in Our Lives

Dear praying friends,

In January, we wrote about our involvement with a group of new Chinese believers who meet every Sunday in one of the couples apartment (10-minute walk from our home). They are all from the People’s Republic of China (PRC). We have realized over time that the ethnic Chinese of Singapore are quite different than the Chinese of PRC. This is something like Americans versus the British—we all speak English, but our cultures are different.

We have been attending faithfully for about 4 months now. The worship sessions are almost entirely in Mandarin, but someone always sits between J. and me to translate. We were asked to join in as older folks to help the younger folks learn about the faith. It has become such a joyful, heart-warming experience for us. We are amazed at what God seems to be doing among the

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Breakthrough in Muslim Country Can Now Be Told!

From “Ward” and “Noel,” couple previously working in a Muslim Asian country.

Dear Friends,

If you’re wearing a hat, hold on to it. If you’re standing, sit down! When God moves, things can happen very fast. Sunday through Tuesday we experienced incredible answers to years of prayer by hundreds of people. Amal’s family entered the Kingdom!!!! Here’s the story:

Five years ago, “Amal,” a young Muslim began living in our home. His father met with me and asked me to take the role of being a father to Amal. I agreed and told him that would include teaching him about Jesus, the Messiah. He agreed. Not long after, Amal came to Christ.

Our prayer has been that the whole family would join Amal in following the Saviour.

Our friend, “Steven,” recalls attending Amal’s brother’s wedding and hoping for the day when Amal’s family would be freed from the fear of “jinns” (demons) through Jesus’ name. When Noel and I left the country that first year, Steven continued discipling Amal.

Steven and I had visited Amal’s home several times in the past, especially on the second Eid when Muslims sacrifice an animal to remember Abraham’s willingness to offer his son. This year I had received a letter two weeks before from Amal’s brother who had always wanted to become a Muslim religious leader. His letter was filled with superlatives about how we prayed, how often we prayed, and God’s answers to prayer. He recognized the changes in Amal’s life and character. He asked specific questions about a particular passage of

scripture and finished with, “I want to become one of you. Please guide me.” We were unsure what he really meant because of arguments he had initiated in past encounters.

Scheduling the visit did not go smoothly this time. First, it looked like Steven couldn’t go because of a trip out of the country. Second, Amal had a conflict. Another friend, “Nic,” needed his help to take Nic’s car to another city. It

P. 6 – “Breakthrough!”



Asian Muslims of this people group shopping

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Learning Islamics Gains Muslims' Respect

A tentmaker couple, "Ward" and "Anne," work in a tightly closed Muslim country and have gained respect for the competent, caring social work they provide through their agency. They learned the local Arabic early, so they are able to communicate well with the people. They have adapted to the local culture. They and their colleagues have won a number of Muslims to the Lord, so that three small struggling churches meet for worship. They have also suffered persecution—even death threats, but they have stayed.

But now, a significant change has occurred. On their last leave in the US, Ward continued his grad studies in Islamics at a *Continued on p. 5 – "Learning Islam"*

Happening at GO *from p. 1*

include Pres. Mubarak's wife, the Queen of Jordan and the majority of the Egyptian cabinet. I wasn't sure I was ready to go overseas, but God let me know in a very definite manner that now is the time and Egypt is the place.

A woman architect connected with us is making a short-term trip to Turkey to research options for work and ministry. A former GO tentmaker to the Middle East who teaches chemistry at Westmont College informed me that he and his wife are getting ready to go back again.

I just received this email from a Fall LTN attendee: *Just a quick update that my wife and I have received an offer in Beijing and hope to move there in the fall. Keep us in prayer. Thanks for all of the encouragement and training you all provided in various ways. We know this won't be easy and our daughter has already cried boatloads, but even she wants to be where God wants us to be. Praise God!*

A Canadian couple who attended LTN in October has just returned from a trip to UAE to explore business and work options related to the husband's profession.

Global connections: God is connecting Global Opportunities with national leaders and tentmakers around the world. Scott M. went to Japan as a language student, learned the language, and then did business consulting for a number of years. When a major vacuum cleaner company offered an exclusive distributorship for Japan, he started his own business. This has *Continued on p. 5– "Happening at GO"*

Muslims Revere Koran, but...

"Tom," a young tentmaker, was surprised by the attitude of his Muslim friend, Aboud, to the Koran—an attitude he later learned was typical of Muslims. He was unpacking his suitcase after a trip while Aboud watched. Suddenly, Aboud expressed horror. How could Tom keep his Bible in the same suitcase with his shoes?! Aboud said he would never put the Koran in his suitcase, because it would desecrate it if it accidentally touched his shoes or his pornographic magazines.

Tom asked if he ever read the Koran. Aboud responded, "No." He preferred to keep it on a high shelf where it could not be contaminated.



With great wisdom, Tom responded with a story, instead of logical reasons why Aboud's attitude was faulty. Throughout history in most of the world, truth has been transmitted through stories, not detached propositions. This is why the Bible gives us stories.

Recalling a similar story in the Bible, Tom said that a father went on a distant journey, leaving behind two sons. After a long absence, each son received a letter. Both were relieved and excited. The second son said, "I revere my father so much that I cannot bear to tear open the envelope. I will put my letter in a safe place where nothing can soil it and it will remind me of him." But the elder son tore his open, eager for news. He reread the letter daily and obeyed all his father's instructions. When the father arrived, the first son had not even read his letter. He had obeyed none of his father's instructions. "Which son," Tom asked, "pleased the father more?"

Most Muslims have little idea what the Koran teaches, just as most Westerners know little of the Bible. The problem is more acute in Islam. The religious schools require students to memorize the Koran in Arabic, even if that is not their language! A great many practice folk Islam—a traditional, superstitious animism with a thin Islamic veneer. Even good Muslims are often not very concerned with morality, with right and wrong, but with the perfect performance of the rituals.

Probably the most effective way to share the gospel with Muslims is to get them into an evangelistic Bible study group to study the gospel stories of Jesus. Starting with the Old Testament may not be as helpful. Paul did not usually do so with the Gentiles. Jesus is always the shortcut to God. His life was so extraordinary, that the reader is forced to decide whether he was a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord of glory! He is so compelling and attractive in the gospels that people are drawn to him through real inductive study which lets them experience him vicariously. Jesus himself said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except by me."

What is that in your hand?

There are so many opportunities for ordinary, workplace Christians to be used by God to accomplish extraordinary things. I recently received this from India:

We have moved from being primarily a call center service to being an accounting service, outsourcing business from the UK. We have recently landed 3 clients and are gearing up for a huge sales pipe that should lead to 125 employees by year's end.

We are trying to locate a KOG Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to take on the role as our VP of Accounting Systems & Quality for at least 2-3 years here in Chandigarh, India. This person can earn between \$50,000-60,000 per year (can live like a king in India), but we want someone who will do it to help us church plant among our employees. If there is anyone you can think of, PLEASE pass this along.

This businessman is making disciples and developing a church among his employees. An everyday CPA can come do accounting and play a part in planting this church. I know another workplace Christian who has developed a simple, jute bag manufacturing business in Calcutta which employs 40 former prostitutes. This is turning their lives around and many are becoming followers of Christ. Ordinary Christians being used by God to accomplish extraordinary things.

From a tentmaker businessman in Japan:

On the tentmaking side, we are beginning to try to find another team member this summer or fall. It looks like 1 or 2 of our teachers will be heading back to the States this summer. So if you know of anyone who has some ministry background and is interested in teaching English and working with college kids in Japan, let me know. They will teach 15-20 hours/week for \$1500-\$2000/month and the rest of the time do volunteer work.

This businessman has built a good-sized company and is hiring ordinary Christians to teach English as self-supporting witnesses and to do part-time college student ministry. He, himself, is having major impact in the lives of his seven management leaders—*God doing extraordinary things through ordinary Christians.*

Others have asked for English teachers in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and so many more. Another has asked for MBAs for IT consulting in SE Asia, another for corporate training consultants in the same region, and another for master craftsmen in plumbing, AC, cabinet making, and electrical. And then there are the thousands of openings which never connect with GO—English teachers all over the world, librarians, accountants, managers, IT professionals, environmental engineers, marketing professionals, architects, engineers, and so on. *Ordinary, workplace Christians surrendered to Christ can do extraordinary things.*

“But,” you object, “I have no ministry training. I’m not a speaker; I’m not good at evangelism; . . .” Moses said something similar when God called him from the burning bush to lead his people out of bondage in Egypt. God began by telling Moses, “I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt . . . I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land . . . Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.” He told Moses he would deliver Israel, but Moses objected, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?” God responded, “But I will be with you . . .” (See Ex. 3:1-4:12 for all references to Moses in this section.)

Then Moses protests, “If I tell them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” In brief, God says, “Tell them the eternal I AM, the God of your fathers, has sent you and promises to bring you to a new, good land. And they will listen to you and I will bring them out with great power and wonders.”

But Moses complains the third time, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice.” So God gives Moses three miraculous signs for the people. He responds, “What is than in your hand?” and Moses replies, “A (shepherd’s) rod.” God says, “Throw it on the ground,” and Moses does, and instantly it becomes a snake from which Moses flees in terror. Then God empowers him to turn his hand leprous, then healthy again, and finally, to turn the water of the Nile into blood by pouring it onto the ground.

Moses’ rod is of special interest. God used what was in Moses’ hand—a shepherd’s

rod, his ordinary work tool. God used Moses experience leading sheep to lead the sheep of Israel to freedom. It’s not about what we can do, but about *his power through us*. God wants ordinary workplace Christians to give him their vocations to demonstrate the gospel and reach people in all vocations in all cultures. Ruth Siemens has said over and over, “I don’t think God used me because I had such great gifts. Others have more. He used me because I made myself available to him.” God asks, “What is in your hand? What professional skills do you have? Let me have them.”

What about gifts? Moses asked that. After all God’s assurances, Moses objected a fourth time—“I cannot speak.” God gave an absolutely objection-killing answer, “Who made man’s mouth? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth.” When we surrender all we are to God to use, he goes with us and gives us the gifts we need in his task

A couple attended Light to the Nations, GO’s tentmaking course in 2002. The husband has computer programming skills and he and his wife have English teaching skills. A year later, a university in China eagerly invited them to teach because of these combined skills. When they arrived with their five children, they provided quality teaching and immediately opened their hearts, home and time to faculty colleagues and to students. Soon several became interested in the gospel and began attending a home Bible study. Within months, several turned to Christ and by Easter, the group turned into a little house fellowship! *Ordinary people doing extraordinary things!*

Are you a CPA, an IT professional, a TESOL teacher, a master construction craftsman for the openings mentioned above? Are you willing to offer your profession to God overseas? If so, contact GO. Are you an engineer, a manager, a teacher, a college prof, or any of a hundred other professionals? Are you willing to offer God your profession to bring the incredible new of Jesus to people who know nothing of him? There are so many openings—so many needs. God wants everyday workplace Christians to go, not just full-time Christians. He is in the *business of using ordinary people to do extraordinary things* if they will simply make themselves fully available to him.

What is that in your hand? D.E. ü

How Evangelism Works

30-year Seeds. As Spring arrives, people begin to plant seeds in their gardens. These seeds stay in the dark soil and with the warmth of the sun and water eventually germinate, some in a few days and some in a few weeks. We recently heard a story of seeds germinating after 30 years!

One of our fellow laborers was speaking of spiritual things to a man in his neighborhood. The Omani said “Jesus is *Ibn Allah*” (the Son of God). My friend was surprised since no Muslim would say that. The Omani continued, “Think about it. Jesus was born without a human father, he did all kinds of miracles on earth, and went up to be alive in heaven. Who else could he be but the Son of God?”

As they talked, this man shared how over 30 years ago, Dr. Wells Thoms, a medical missionary in Oman from 1939 to 1970, used to come to his village of Qurm and hold medical clinics for the people. Dr. Thoms would then sit under a tree with 30 to 40 people and tell them of Jesus. This man, as a boy of 8 to 10, would sit under the tree and listen. He told my friend, “The stories went into my head and then into my heart and I believe it.”

Asked if other Omanis believed these things, he said some did but they couldn’t be open about it because of the government. Seeds from 30 years ago are germinating and the Lord has now caused this man’s faith to cross a believer’s path after so many years.

In March we mentioned a sheikh who confided that he really has no close friends. Recently, “Jon” spent an afternoon with him. The sheikh took him to the old family village, showed him his grandfather’s mansion (now empty) in which he lived until he was 7, and shared the family history and many fond memories. They then went and drank coffee for two hours.

“Jon” taught one of his sisters four years ago and shared the Lord with her many times. He’s currently teaching another sister. This sheikh’s great uncle was a famous religious leader in the country over 50 years ago and the same Dr. Thoms was able to share Christ with him in 1941.

All of these things tell us that God seems to be working in this family and we are seeking to see a breakthrough in prayer. We need your support in this. (Tentmakers in Oman) R.S. ü

Country Alert: India at the Crossroads

Social ferment is growing in India. On one side, Dalits (formerly "Untouchables") are increasingly contesting the oppressive social status in which they have been imprisoned for 3000 years. Many are deserting Hinduism. On the other, privileged high caste Indians who hold economic and social power are retaliating with Hindutva—a movement to re-impose classic, unyielding Hindu castism. This is creating a major crossroads for India and an urgent opportunity for the Church.

Around 1700 BC, Indo-Europeans from the north overran Iran and northern India. Calling themselves "Aryas" ("Aryans") meaning "superior ones" or "noble ones," they eventually gained control of all but the southern tip of India (about 10%). Originally they had two social classes: nobles and commoners. To this they added a third: "Dasas," or "darks" almost certainly referring to the darker-skinned people—Dravidians and Austroloids—they had conquered. By 1000 BC they had developed a rigid, mobility-crushing social structure with four major castes—1) the high caste, *Brahman* or priests, just below them, the forward castes, 2) *Kshatriya* or warriors/rulers and 3) *Vaishya* or merchants, and far below these, 4) the backward castes, *Shudra* or servants/peasants. Below all four are the untouchables or outcasts who call themselves "Dalits" meaning "ground" or "broken to pieces" because of the oppression they suffer.

Brahmans make up about 5% of India's population, the two forward castes, about 10%. Shudras, about 48% and Dalits about 17%. Tribal peoples, Muslims and Christians (about 20%) are outside Hinduism. In the caste system, only the upper three castes can receive the sacred thread of second birth (coming of age parallel to confirmation), read the sacred Vedas and worship in the temples. Traditionally, Shudras and Dalits have never been allowed to do any of these, though "legally," caste discrimination has been abolished.

Not surprisingly, power and wealth are concentrated in the top three castes which control 70% of the economy. They have enjoyed privileged states for millennia and have oppressed those below them, especially Dalits. Indian culture has developed

a complex of ideas which powerfully reinforce this system—*samsara*, an endless cycle of reincarnation as anything from an insect to a Brahman based on performance in one's previous life, *karma*, the inescapable, fully deserved recompense of one's actions especially in the next life, *dharma*, a being's destiny which obligates humans to perform the duties of their social standing (caste, occupation, relationships), and *moksha*, liberation from *samsara* (endless reincarnation) by absorption into Universal Spirit and loss of one's individual identity. The only way to attain *moksha* is to use up karma by fulfilling one's *dharma* with acceptance, diligence, and selflessness until all sinful actions are counterbalanced and purged. It is hard to imagine a more powerful worldview for social control.

How has this affected Dalits? They are not permitted to enter upper-caste houses, fields, or temples, to draw water from village wells, to bathe in Hindu baths or waters . . . They are landless and impoverished. Indian commentator Praful Bidwai states, "The vicious oppression of 160 million Dalits is one of the most nauseating, but enduring realities of India's countryside . . . To be a Dalit today means having to live in a sub-human, degraded, profoundly insecure way. Every hour, two Dalits are assaulted in India. Every day, three Dalit women are raped; two Dalits are killed. This violence has a definite function: to perpetuate the hierarchical Hindu social order, freeze inequalities, including inequality of opportunity, defend social bondage and servitude, and preserve conditions for the ruthless exploitation of the underprivileged." (www.reidiff.com/news/2002/oct/22bidwai.htm)

The influence of the gospel, British rule (also influenced by missionaries), and democratic ideas have improved the situation, especially in the cities. India is one of the healthier democracies in the developing world. The constitution prohibited caste discrimination, and the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and especially, the "Prevention of Atrocities" Act (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act), 1989, greatly strengthened this. Bidwai says, "After all, Ms Mayawati (a Dalit) rules India's



Ram Raj leads rally to convert 50,000 to Buddhism, November 4, 2002

largest state. Until one-and-a-half years ago, the BJP (major political party) had a Dalit (Mr Bangaru Laxman) as its party president. More Dalits are visible today in the middle layers of the bureaucracy than ever before. A significant proportion . . . now use the educational opportunities opened up by reservations. Untouchability of the overt, "in-your-face," kind has declined, at least in the cities."

But larger cracks are beginning to appear. Dalits, plus many tribal people and some backward caste people, are growing increasingly frustrated with the status quo. Migration to cities is breaking down caste distinctions. Economic development is eliminating old occupations and producing new ones which do not fit the caste system. Globalization and electronic media show Dalits different lifestyles, worldviews, and cultures. This is awakening natural human longing for a better life. Dalits are realizing that Hinduism legitimizes oppressive social control by the upper castes and that it does not have to be this way. In fact, some leaders argue that Dalits were never truly Hindu. They have been totally excluded from the caste system, degraded below the lowest servant caste, the *Shudra*. In reality, the ruling castes co-opted them into Hinduism to keep them permanently subservient. Today thousands are deserting Hinduism for other religions to break their oppression.

On November 4, 2001, Udit Raj (formerly Ram Raj), a major Dalit leader, led as many as 50,000 Dalits to convert in mass to Buddhism in New Delhi. He had called for

1,000,000 to convert, but Hindutva leaders persuaded authorities to block the rally. Local police and authorities tried to cancel the event, but the court overturned them. So they forced the rally to switch venues at the last minute. Authorities issued warnings before the event. Police stopped buses, delayed trains, and turned people away by saying the rally had been canceled.

Threatened and angered, some high caste Hindus responding with violence, as well as political action. In late 2002 five Dalits were stoned to death in front of police for allegedly killing a cow. In Hyderabad, five Dalits were hacked to death. Upper caste Hindus have economically oppressed, ostracized, denied health services to, beaten, tortured, burned alive, gang raped, and committed other atrocities against Dalits to force them back in line. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), reports 80,000 crimes against Dalits annually. But human rights organizations claim the number is 5 times as high since the majority of the cases are never reported or the police do not register the Dalit complaints under pressure from the upper castes. ("Atrocities On Dalits," Dalit Freedom Network, www.dalitnetwork.org/dalit-atrocities.html)

Despite oppression and loss of government benefits, Dalits are deserting Hinduism. At a Frontier Mission Fellowship meeting at the US Center for World Mission in November 02, Dr. Joseph D'Souza and Dr. Kancha Eliah reported that about 1500 Dalits become Christians every day and about 100 become Muslim. For many this is a political liberation. They see Christianity very positively because of its record of respect and care for the lowly—most schools and hospitals have been run by missionaries. Most of these converts do not yet have a saving understanding of Jesus. But they are open. They desperately need teaching and discipling. This is an unprecedented and urgent opportunity! With the right kind of discipling which transforms Christians' lives and multiplies leaders, India could become significantly Christian in 50 years according to D'Souza. It could also be socially-ethically transformed. Without the gospel's healing, lifting power, India could also erupt in destructive civil conflict. This is such an opportunity and need for tentmakers! Do you realize what God can do through an everyday, workplace Christian who will commit to serving him in India? DE ü

Learning Islam *from p. 2*

topnotch university. He didn't realize how this would enhance his prestige when they returned to their work abroad. Ward was surprised to be invited to a meal with a leading Muslim imam (a scholarly religious leader) and his associate. Muslims consider all Westerners "Christians" as part of Christendom. The younger man asked most of the questions. He wanted to know what the Bible teaches about the Trinity, the death of Jesus, the way of salvation, eschatology, alcohol, adultery, etc. Ward was able to explain the Gospel in terms of Muslim culture.

The imam was impressed that Josh had done such serious, respectful study of Islam at such a prestigious institution, and said he was ashamed that Muslims were not putting the same effort into understanding the Christian faith. He concluded that Christians are not "the enemy of Islam." The true enemy is secular humanism, materialism, immorality, and pornography. Muslims should view Christians as allies, not enemies. He also commented that the only people giving serious help to poor people all over Africa were Christians, not Muslims.

This change of attitude in Muslim authorities is almost unheard of! In these countries, Christians are seen as the enemy of all that is good and decent, as purveyors of pornography, alcohol and militarism, and as haters of Islam and destroyers of Islamic cultural heritage. Ward has even been invited to other Muslim nations to speak. His academic credibility, caring humanitarian service, and thoughtful, respectful discussion have opened doors never opened before.

Not all tentmakers need to become Ph.D. Islamicists at a top university. But this couple's story shows the value of a good understanding of Islam, especially when speaking to authorities and religious leaders. Of course, most Muslims, like most "Christians," have little knowledge of their "holy book." So in personal evangelism, you must listen to and understand where each individual is religiously and speak to that. But, in the wake of the 9/11 attack, you can point out the terribly cruel things Mohammed did and taught, and then ask, "I meet so many kind, peace-loving Muslims. How do you explain these terrible things in your religion?" RS ü

Happening at GO *from p. 2*

grown into a major cleaning products business as well as other businesses. Scott is having a real discipleship impact on his management team and their ministry is growing. He has also started an ESL school to employ missions-committed Christians to teach and to disciple Japanese students in their free time.

Scott Moore connected by email and recently we spent a couple of hours near LAX (airport) discussing his vision. His business no longer requires daily oversight and he realizes his business model has great relevance to missions in other countries. We at GO have been thinking along the same lines. So we are exploring together how we could partner together to increase our fruitfulness.

A committed Malaysian Christian contacted me by email. He does business consulting, training workers in the hospitality and manufacturing industries. The governments of Malaysia and adjacent countries require certain industries to spend a certain percentage of their income on such training. Mr. Soh is seeking tentmakers to join him.

A tentmaker-businessman in India is providing outsourced accounting for the Western world. He asked GO for help to find a Kingdom-committed CPA to head their accounting and help plant a church among his workers.

With more space I could add a construction startup in Gulf, TESOL institutes in Asia, and another business in India. Church leaders in other countries are asking us to come help them develop tentmaking. All these are great opportunities to develop partnership for deploying and equipping tentmakers.

GO Website (www.globalopps.org): About 134 people visit our website every day. GO's website regularly ranks around 200 out of the 1000 top Christian websites. The website was accessed from 40 countries last month. The top 10?

1 USA	6 Netherlands
2 Sweden	7 United Kingdom
3 Singapore	8 Mauritius
4 Canada	9 Finland
5 Australia	10 Israel

Others of interest—Saudi Arabia, U.A.E., Ukraine, Mozambique, and Turkey.

Much is happening! We need God's provision! DE ü

High Time *from page 1*

people of China—both in-country and overseas (e.g., Singapore). Our friends are mostly in their mid 20's to early 30's, highly educated, and all come from a deeply atheistic background.

There is a marvelous spirit of warmth, acceptance, love, and joyfulness among this group of folks (around 2 baseball teams in number-and growing). A study for seekers is held in the same home on Wednesdays (but J. and I are not involved). Our Sunday meeting is primarily for believers, but there are always 2-4 seekers around. And they are warmly welcomed, and loved. Some of



Walking in Singapore

the believers will even say of them, in their hearing: "he's stubborn, but we're praying for him". Since attending, we have seen 4-5 people become believers. On Resurrection Sunday, we all attended the baptism of the host couple at their regular church. The husband became a believer last September.

After a teaching time of say 45 minutes, and then Q&A of 20 minutes, we break into groups of 4-6 for talking to Father. A couple weeks back, in my group, I spoke with a young guy who's a relatively new believer. Upper 20's, 4 months from finishing his PhD, wife and 2-month old daughter back in China. He said that his generation of Chinese students no longer believes in Marxism to "answer the question". He said many believe that only LOVE can answer, and not HATRED (although it may at first seem to get you what you want). He even said that his father's generation often feels cheated for their whole lifetime (the last 50 years under Communism). One of the young man's requests in our group was that his daughter would become a believer at an early age—much better than his own experience of waiting until in his 20's. What a tender desire.

In my small group today, was a new couple. The husband is a believer, but his wife is not. He said, "I believe that the [Book] is

from [Father], but the problem is, we don't understand it." Another new guy, a post-graduate student, told us that he is not yet a believer. He has certain problems in his life and said that he wants to learn from us about how to handle them!

Another interesting cultural phenomenon is that these folks spend lots of time together. For example, we meet at 3pm until 6pm. Then, most of them go out for dinner and after that they go listen to Reverend S. Tong (who flies in from Indonesia every weekend to teach the Great Book at a local congregation). As of this week, they are now scheduling every Saturday from 4-6pm to do swimming or some other fun activity together. These dear ones are becoming our family!

Near the end of our session today, one of the leaders asked me if I would be willing to teach once a month (and be scheduled). "Yes", I said. When I told her that I also play the guitar and would like to try to learn some of the Chinese (and American) worship songs, she seemed really pleased, and asked me to bring my guitar next time.

In closing, J. and I feel that this is one of the high times of our life! We feel a sense of awe, delight, fruitfulness, and unworthiness. Yet, make no mistake, I/we still struggle with sin every week—from lust to pride to selfishness, etc. Please make faithful supplication on behalf of the lambs mentioned above, and for us as sort of assistant shepherds. We want to honor the Great King by being humble, faithful, holy servants. Humanly impossible! We long to see these lambs "rooted and grounded" in the resurrected Lord.

With gratitude and love,

R and J

R and J are currently in Vancouver where R is getting a Ph.D. in electrical engineering to expand ministry opportunities. ü

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Breakthrough! *from page 1*

was very confusing, but at the last minute we all decided to travel at night so as to arrive Sunday morning, the day before the big holiday. So we left the capital at 11p.m. Our little 800cc Suzuki performed heroically once again receiving only injury in return. (Travel without four-wheel drive is NOT recommended in the interior of this province!)

That evening before leaving, Steven and Amal prayed for the family, and Steven felt led to pray for a miracle to help the family put their faith in Christ.

We surprised Amal's family by arriving about 6:45 a.m. We were welcomed and served breakfast. Then Amal and Nic jumped into Nic's car to finish their journey to the other city. We didn't expect to see Amal again for 8 to 10 hours.

After breakfast Amal's brother was eager to sit down and talk about the letter he had sent. But first he related a dream he had just had that night while we were on the road. In it he saw a man dressed in white with his arms outstretched. This man told him he had a special gift for him and was sending messengers who would guide him to it. Soon after he woke up, we arrived from our nightlong journey at exactly God's right timing.

He continued to explain that previously he had been taught that warfare and fighting were the right paths, but now he believed that was wrong—the way of love was the path of truth and power. He spoke about things he had read from the Bible regarding false worship that impressed him—how worship is worthless if we remember a wronged brother in the middle of it and do not leave to be reconciled.

He reiterated that he wanted to become one of us, following the path of Christ, and asked us to guide him. Steven asked, "What do you feel the next step is?" He replied that the rest of the family should hear what he had told us so they could join in too. Steven and I looked at each other with stares of disbelief and recovered enough to say, "Uh, right. That's a good idea. You do that and we'll sit in the other room and pray." The family (women, children, etc.) quickly gathered, and we exited and prayed. Soon Amal's brother returned with the verdict: "Yes, we will all follow the way of Jesus the Messiah!"

Earlier, I had told him I wanted to go to the bazaar to phone my wife. So he said,

"Edward, you and I will go to the bazaar now. Steven, you stay with the rest of the family and explain a little more about this way of Jesus the Messiah and about 'Ghusl.' ('washing' or 'baptism')." He said to me, "You're coming back soon, right!?" I'm not sure I answered. We were both in shock. So, off we went to the bazaar.

Amal's brother began telling how he had been gathering some friends in the past few weeks and explaining the way of the Messiah, especially about real prayer that wasn't just for show. He said many were very interested. More shock!

When we got to the Public Call Office to place the call, he pointed to the Pepsi sign across the street and said, "You know this name, 'Pepsi,' is more famous around the world than the name of Jesus. We must overcome our weaknesses and compete with them so His name becomes more famous." Meanwhile, the family who owned the establishment had brought us cold drinks—RC, to our relief. He said, "RC is OK, but no more Pepsis for me!" When I reached Noel, I told her that what had happened to Cornelius in Acts 10 was happening right then as we were speaking.

Meanwhile, Steven was able to give a brief overview of Mark's gospel to the rest of the family (some of whom had heard almost nothing before). He explained that "Ghusl" was one of the first steps of obedience to enter the way of Jesus the Messiah. He asked each one in turn if they understood and were willing to follow him. Father, mother, sisters, brothers all said, "Yes."

I arrived just as Steven finished. One stunned face greeted another as we shared stories. We then began to feel the weight of what must happen next. A new people group was about to be penetrated with the gospel. What we did would likely be repeated for years and either enhance the gospel or create barriers to others who came to Christ in the future.

It needed to be simple and direct, to be culturally and linguistically relevant, locally reproducible, private (within the home), and worshipful, filled with dependence upon the Spirit's power. We prayed again and began to map out our strategy for the next day's baptism ceremony for the whole family prior to the Eid festivities.

Finally, Amal returned. But Steven and I agreed to let his brother tell him everything. When he did, it was Amal's turn to be amazed. After his brother left, Amal turned to embrace us, and wept and

praised God!!

But, there were still problems. One of Amal's brothers and wife were not present during all this. Steven and I began to worry that this might derail all we were hoping for. So we urgently told Amal to go talk with his sister-in-law since his brother was still at work. Amal gathered his thoughts and went into the kitchen (a mud-walled room with a fire pit in the middle) to talk with her. He began with small talk, played with the baby, and nervously approached the subject. She answered, "Oh yes, your mother and sister have already explained everything to me. I'm part of your family and am ready to do this." Amal's stunned look greeted us as we eagerly asked what had happened.

Now one last person—the brother. The only



problem was that we had to visit Amal's uncles first. This took a couple of hours. Finally we went to the brother's shop. To our surprise, Amal's other brother was already there. We should have guessed. He had already explained everything and he was agreeable, but wanted to ask one question in the morning after work before the ceremony. (He had to work all night.) We prayed for him.

The next morning we awoke early to prepare the water containers. Amal's brother asked his question, "Does this mean we are becoming Christians?" Amal knew what he meant and responded, "No, we will not be alcohol drinkers or pork-eaters or join a different ethnic group. We will follow the teachings and life of Jesus the Messiah." "Oh, good," he replied.

Then we all gathered. Steven and I spoke the national language and Amal translated into his language. We alternated sharing our desires for their family from the beginning. I then explained Jesus' sacrifice and how he offers us forgiveness. Steven ex-

plained the resurrection, newness of life, and eternal life. Then he asked three questions:

- 1) Are you ready to follow the path of Jesus the Messiah?
- 2) Are you willing to obey by faith His command to receive "Ghusl?"
- 3) Will you call others to follow this path?

Now, Amal's father is a fairly quiet man not given to any kind of personal or philosophical discussion. In the past, he would politely tolerate our discussions and quickly find an excuse to leave. But this time he led. "Yes, Praise the Lord, we will follow this new path! We will receive "Ghusl," we will call others to join us!" Everyone joined in heartily.

I explained how baptism symbolizes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our fellowship, and that it is a step of obedience and worship. We had decided that Steven and I would first baptize Amal (He had been baptized five years before, but he needed to model for the rest of the family since he was the first to come to faith). Then the three of us together baptized all the rest, using appropriate Arabic cultural terminology for religious matters.

Steven then told them to change their clothes and as they did so, to picture themselves taking off the old life and putting on the new. This phrase seemed to be repeated again and again by family members over the next two days.

More questions came. Amal's father asked, "So should we go to Eid prayers like always or should we stop going?" Amal answered that now these prayers could be done for the right reason, not as a show, nor as a means of absolution, nor as a duty, but out of love and praise to God who saves, and as an opportunity to pray for our community. We all went to the prayer ground together.

Then came time for the ritual sacrifice of a lamb. Again, Steven and I explained how we could not have planned a more perfect occasion for entering the path of Jesus. We could perform this sacrifice in remembrance of **his** sacrifice for our sin.

Continued next page

All in all, it was amazing. Later that day the family called another meeting to decide who should receive more training to teach them about their new life. Since Amal lives and works far away, they chose his brother (who wanted to be a Muslim religious leader) to do this. We laid hands on him and asked God's blessing for this work. They later decided that his sister should join him and stay for a week at our house every few months so that she could teach the women. Another great idea! We were stunned again. Still more happened before we left. Family members began to share the peace they had and to remind each other about their new life.

We'll never know how many hundred prayers were answered during those two days. We witnessed a repeat of the Cornelius event. We had **never** witnessed such dramatic changes of heart in so many people together at one time. We remain stunned. One brother is visiting us now (the one with the question). He got to read parts of Messiah's last week and then see it for the first time in the Jesus film (recently available in his mother tongue)! It was another great event till late into the night. Hey, is this an exciting Easter or what????

Postscript: This amazing breakthrough came after spending a dozen years in this country and developing a very promising business startup. Stories kept emerging which sounded like they came straight out of the book of Acts. Then suddenly Ward became very ill and died while being transferred from one hospital to another because the first had no respirator. He left a wife and four boys between eight and sixteen (in 2000). We cannot comprehend God's design, but we know he cares for these new disciples and that he brought Ward home to a hero's welcome.

Postscript 2: Since these events a remarkable breakthrough has occurred among this people group. Indigenous leaders have developed who are leading a network of over 200 churches! What a confirmation of Ward's sacrifice. But he was not alone. Other tentmakers have given years of their lives to see this day.

This is what tentmaking is about and what Global Opportunities is about. Would you consider going? Helping us to send others?

D.E. ü

Tentmaker Mailbag

Africa

Christians subject to wave of arrests" read last week's Ekklesia News headline. "Two more families were taken to prison for holding family devotions and hosting prayer meetings in their homes." The previous week, 10 were jailed for reading their Bibles and quietly worshipping in a private home.

Two years ago all independent Protestant denominations were closed by government order. Congregations are forbidden to meet, even in private homes. The above instances, however, are the first time individual families have been punished. The mother of one family mentioned above faithfully attends one of our BCC's (Basic Christian Communities). Her husband and sons are still in prison.

Compass Direct reports at least 385 Protestant Christians in prison. Many have been tortured for refusing to recant their faith. Some have

been imprisoned for nearly two years.

Young people, both girls and boys, undergo mandatory military training. Last August, 57 young people were arrested in their military training camp for having Bibles. They were locked in metal containers for weeks in hot weather (often above 110 F.) without adequate ventilation or water. Yet, in spite of severe punishment, courageous young Christians are giving powerful witness in large gatherings when superiors are blaspheming Christ (Lk. 21:12-15), and are leading others to faith. One of our BCC members received Christ during her training!

And others are finding Christ in the BCC's. "Ralph" and "Ann" left India in 2001 to come to northeast Africa in answer to an ad for local high school teachers. Wanting to improve their English, and curious to learn how Christianity differs from Hinduism, they began attending one of our small group BCC's. For six



months they memorized Bible verses and studied our discipling materials until finally they announced, "We want to be baptized. We will no longer serve Hindu gods-our lives belong to Jesus!" What a joy! They are eagerly sharing their new lives in Christ with friends, Indian colleagues, and their families in India. This month, they began leadership training in preparation for leading their own small group.

Currently, eight BCC's meet weekly. We hope that number will grow to 13 by year's end. Because the nurturing and rapid "multiplication" power of small groups is great, we believe the BCC house church model could be a powerful resource for the local (closed) churches. To God be the glory! -Anonymous TMs ü

How you can help Major GO Project

As you've read, growing opportunities are coming to GO. You can help! Here is one of several major projects - the *Lausanne 04 Forum in Thailand in September*.

Billy Graham initiated the first Congress on World Evangelism in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1974. This will be only the 4th congress in the past 30 years. GO Director, Dave English, has been asked to serve as Facilitator for the Tentmaking Stream, one the groups tasked to produce an action plan for the Church.

Great material is already coming from our group! It seems our action plan will be especially significant.

Travel and event costs will be \$1800. In addition, Dave will travel to connect with tentmakers in nearby Asian countries. This will add about \$1000 for a total of \$2800. Connecting with these tentmakers is very strategic. Could you help? If so, please return the enclosed response form right away. Many thanks!



Want to do more?

Go. Opportunities and needs are enormous. Contact GO for further

training and for help in going as a tentmaker. Find ways to strengthen your ministry skills right where you are now.

Mobilize others. Help others catch the vision for tentmaking—for using secular work overseas to reach people who desperately need Christ. You can help your church to develop tentmaking. GO is looking for volunteers to speak in classes, run seminars, advise inquirers, and help other churches. If you're open, contact us.

Pray. Pray for Global Opportunities—for the opportunities and needs mentioned in GO World and in letters. If you'd like to pray for an individual tentmaker, write us and we will connect you.