

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE MINISTRY TO

The **Nations** *Magazine*



Russia

We Must Evangelize Now!

EDITORIAL



JAMES RAY, *Editor*

These are challenging days for the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Never before have we faced such need and never before have we had such opportunity. BIMI has achieved our initial goal of having missionaries in 100 Nations of the World. There are, however, 195 nations on earth that must have the witness of Christ. Our work continues. When we launched The 100+ Nations Ministry several years ago, Dr. Lee Roberson immediately joined us in support. Read his letter below. Please pray for this need and support it if possible. Also, the International Bible Ministry works side by side to print and distribute Bibles to the nations still waiting for light.

The Nations Magazine



A Publication of
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Missions, Inc.

The 100 +
Nations Ministry

The International
Bible Ministry

Volume 1, Number 1

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James Ray has served as a pastor, missionary, European Director and President of Baptist International Missions

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LEE ROBERSON CENTER
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Dr. James Ray
BIMI President
P.O. Box 9215
Chattanooga, TN 37412

Dear Brother Ray:

The 100 Nations Project idea is a great one! This is setting a goal that is worthy and one that can be reached. The idea of touching all of these nations will inspire many people and churches to do a better job for missions. We will pray for the twenty open doors – nations to be reached.

In addition to getting nations reached by this effort, you will be increasing your missionary staff. The number set before you will inspire new missionaries to come with BIMI.

I am for the idea! It is a good one!



Sincerely,
Lee Roberson
Lee Roberson
Chancellor

Russia

MUST *be* Evangelized

BY JAMES RAY

It was back in 1929 that the plea went out in Great Britain's *Keswick* magazine. Although Russia proper was under the grip of communism, the surrounding countries of the geographical Russian Empire were open. The opportunity was astounding. If the church of Jesus Christ would send missionaries to those surrounding nations, history could be altered in favor of Heaven. Although there was some interest, the plea fell largely on deaf ears.

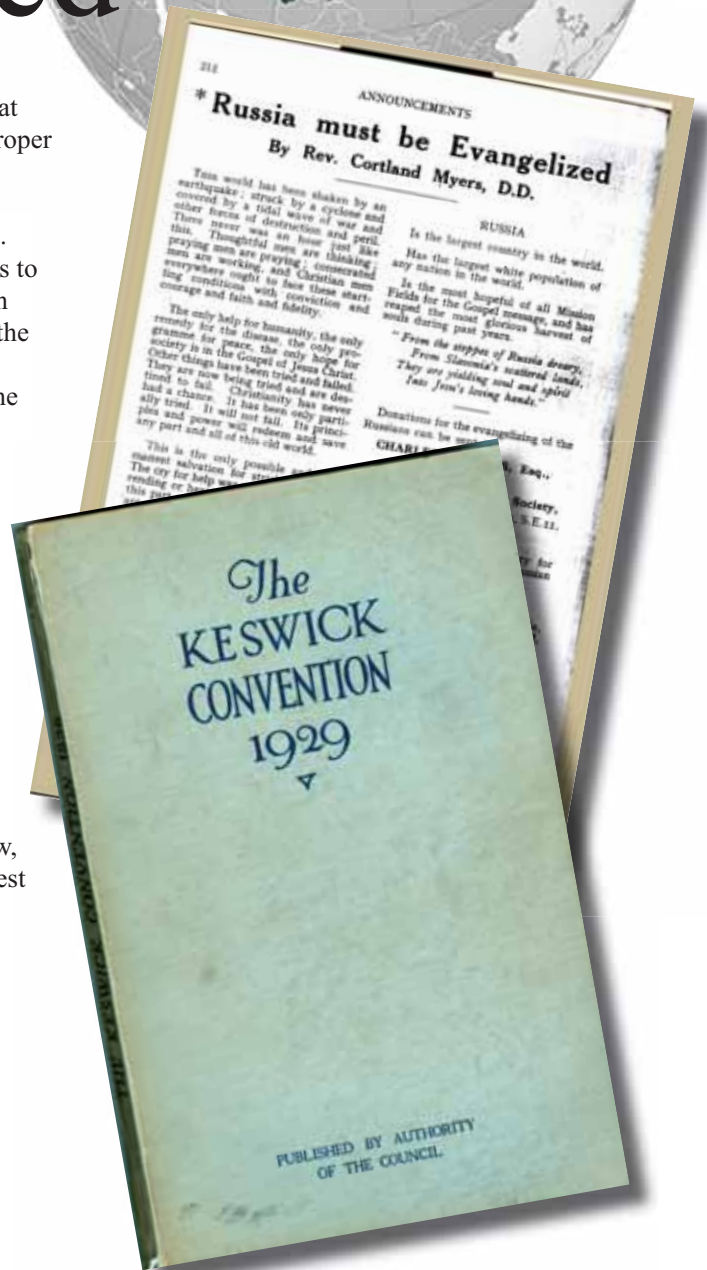
After World War II those countries fell under the iron rod of Stalin. Churches were banned and Christianity was outlawed with the possible exception of the controlled state Russian Orthodox Church.

A few months after the end of the second World War, Winston Churchill spoke at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. During this speech he used the term "iron curtain" to describe the line in Europe between free nations and those falling under Soviet domination.

"From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe: Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia; all ...to control from Moscow."

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Stalin sent hundreds of thousands of people to Siberia. This included thousands of Christians who were arrested for illegal worship. It has been estimated that 50 million people from Russia and surrounding countries died under his reign of terror. In Latvia, Stalin's troops raided homes in the middle of the night, taking men, women and children. Over 100,000 people were herded into cattle cars and shipped by rail to Siberia. Most of them never returned.

One of Stalin's methods for dealing with dissenters was "hunger." Ukrainians called this campaign the "Holocaust of Hunger." Soviet troops raided villages and homes, taking away every trace of food and whatever harvest was available. With no food anywhere people died in public, collapsing on the streets. If people survived hunger, they were deported to Siberia or shot by the thousands.

In 1969 when I pastored in North Alabama, I invited a Russian minister to share his experiences with my congregation. He described the horror of his life in Russia during the man-made famine of Stalin. No one present could ever forget his words: "I saw my little sister starve to death, gnawing on a piece of shoe leather trying to get food value out of it." Our Bible distribution teams met a 96-year-old woman in the Ukraine who told them of seeing her six children starve to death. These were real, ordinary, common people like you and like me living and dying through a night of horror beyond description. What a challenge for American Christians to be missionaries to our own country lest we produce a "Stalin."



A Latvian poet describes the horror.

"They came in the darkest hour of the night.
They tore us out of our beds, our homes, our land.
They tore us apart, men from women and children.
They herded us into cattle cars, behind bars.
They denied us food and water.

THEY DROVE US TOWARD LIVING DEATH!

Lucky the child, the old, and
the sick who died quickly and were
left by the wayside.

We who remained were to die slowly
on the barbed wire of the Gulag.
We no longer were human, we became numbers.
We were forced to work without food and rest.

Our companions were HUNGER and DEATH.
Our bones piled up on the frozen ground of the Tundra.

ONLY A FEW – years later – could traverse
the miles toward home.
ONLY A FEW returned, broken and sick,
WHO HAD GONE THROUGH HELL...
and HAD LIVED."

In 1929, the plea from the Russian Missionary Society went out for missionaries. Would things have been different for the geographical Russian countries if thousands of Christians had responded? That scenario might not have stopped the tragedy of Stalin, but the millions who perished might have perished with HOPE. The "Bread from heaven" might have been the light at the end of the tunnel for those dying in hopeless darkness.

Now 70 years out, Baptist International Missions again makes the plea, "Russia must be evangelized." Although there are workers in Russia with BIMi as far out as Siberia, the open door of opportunity is slowly closing. We must pray diligently that the Lord of the Harvest will send forth laborers into the Russian Harvest. We must pray even more diligently that the prospective laborers will "listen."

A. B. Simpson's words still haunt us:

"They're passing, passing, fast away,
A hundred thousand souls a day
In Christless guilt and gloom.
O Church of Christ, what wilt thou say
When, in the awful judgment day,
They charge thee with their doom,
They charge thee with their doom?"



Sir Winston Churchill





LIVING on the BRINK of ETERNITY!

“I love to live on the edge of eternity.”

— DAVID BRAINERD

David Brainerd was born at Haddam, Connecticut, April 20, 1718, and died on October 9, 1747, at the age of 29. He was described by F. W. Boreham as “a man in a million.” His story is one of the most moving accounts ever written of a man who wanted to live only for God and His will. His life was one of hardship and trial and often of discouragement as he plodded on through the wilderness of early America, caring about the people that time forgot.

We have to remember that these were the days of the 1700’s, preceding even the birthday of America in 1776. Only about two million people lived in the colonies. Brainerd faced many trials in his ministry. Often he slept on the ground, in the woods, or

in the open with little shelter, enduring winter cold and severe storms. The American Indians had grown weary of the white man who had deceived and swindled them of their homeland. It took several years for Brainerd to break down the natural prejudice which

existed among the Indians against the white man.

During these years Brainerd prayed his way through. At first, he could not speak the language of the Indian tribes, but in spite of this, he preached and prayed anyway often in the power of God. Frequently discouraged and feeling himself a failure, Brainerd plodded on telling the story of Christ to tribe after tribe.

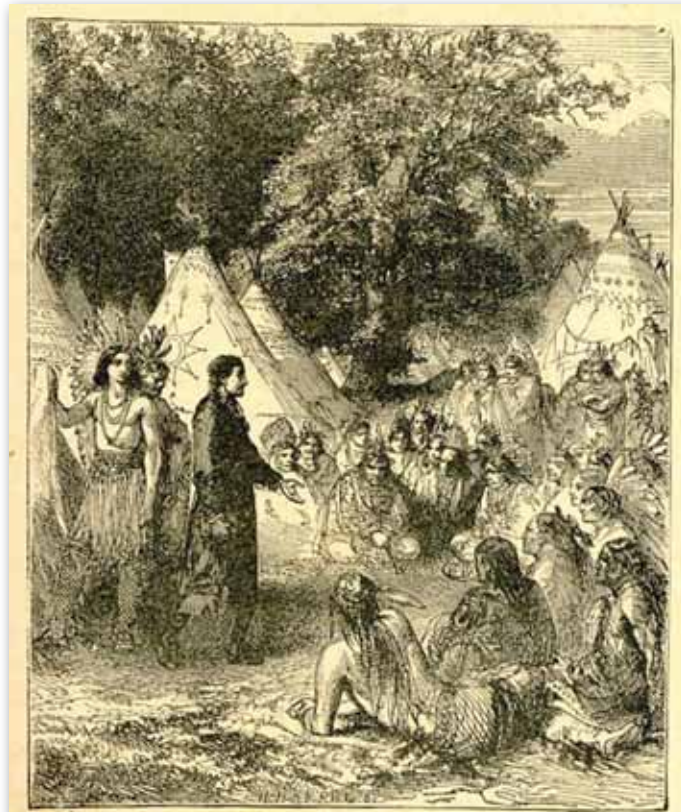
About the year 1745, things began to happen. Brainerd wrote in his diary that although he used every method and tool at his disposal, it was obviously not the tools being blessed but the Lord working on His own. After one

meeting, an Indian told Brainerd, “I want God to change my heart.” Another stated that she wanted to find this Christ. An old man who had once been a chief wept bitterly over his soul. Indian men who had been murderers and drunkards came to Christ. After one service an Indian woman lay on the ground praying and crying in their language, “Have mercy on me, and help me to give You my heart.” Others came to Brainerd saying, “I want Christ to wipe my heart clean.” Unlike former days when Brainerd preached, tears now formed in the Indians’ eyes. Brainerd noted that almost as soon as Indians arrived for the meetings, they were seized by the Spirit of God. In his diary for August 8, 1745, he wrote:

“I perceived under much concern, the power of God seemed to descend upon the assembly ‘like a rushing mighty wind,’ and with an astonishing energy bore down all before it. I stood amazed at the influence that seized the audience like the irresistible force of a mighty torrent, or swelling deluge, that sweeps before it whatever is in the way.”

God was at work among the American Indians. When Brainerd departed to go to another area, the Indians commenced a prayer meeting for him which lasted from sundown until the next morning. Once Brainerd asked an Indian believer why he cried, and he replied, *“When I thought how Christ was slain like a Lamb, and shed His blood for sinners, I could not help crying when I was all alone.”*

Again, the success of David Brainerd among the Indians could not be attributed to methods. Brainerd said, “God appeared to work entirely alone, and I saw no room to attribute any part of this



BRAINERD PREACHING TO THE INDIANS.

work to any created arm.” Perhaps the secret of God’s power on Brainerd could be traced back a few years to his prayer life. He had come to the place in his life where God was all in all.

He had turned away from the world and worldly honor to honor God alone. **Pleasing God alone was now the sole motivation of his heart.** He records in his diary during those early days: “I love to live on the edge of eternity.”

A trembling hand held the letter from the American Colonies as the director of the Scottish Missionary Society met to consider news from their missionary to the Indians: **“David Brainerd, your missionary, is dead at 29.”**

If only Brainerd had lived longer, so much more could have been done. **BUT** – so much more **WAS** done! *John*

Wesley read the **Life of Brainerd** and was fired with missionary zeal. *William Carey* read the **Life of Brainerd** and went to India. *Henry Martyn* read the **Life of Brainerd** and became a bundle of fire in the darkness of India and Persia. *Robert McCheyne* read the **Life of Brainerd** and became an Apostle to the Jews.

Brainerd’s memoirs reveal his constant hunger for God, his passionate desire for total devotion, and his yearning for Christ likeness. He wrote: *“O that my soul might never offer any dead or cold services to my God.”* Beware of getting as close to God as did Brainerd; for God may love you so much He will bring you home early.¹

¹Taken from *Incredible Journey in the Steps of Greatness*. James Ray, BIMi Publishers International



100+ Nations Ministry

100 Nations Survey TRIP TO GREAT BRITAIN

“Have you ever thought about taking a trip to the United Kingdom?” When Dr. Ray asked me that question nearly two years ago, I could hardly believe my ears. For the

senior, I had already been praying about going back as a missionary but I wanted a chance to visit again as I continued to pray for God’s leading in my life.

The 100 Nations Project survey trip to England and Wales gave me the opportunity to work alongside veteran missionaries (the Mickey Schrimshire Family), British national pastors and young people.

God used this trip to confirm His leading in my life and I am now on deputation to go back to the UK as a missionary.

I ministered in open air evangelism, children’s Bible clubs, youth outreach, one on one soul winning, Gospel literature distribution, church services, music ministry and much more. Seeing the young people of the UK so hungry for something real showed me the great need in that country for the Gospel to be proclaimed once more.

I am so grateful that God allowed me to be a part of this BIMI mission trip. God used this trip to confirm His leading in my life and I am now on deputation to go back to the UK as a missionary.

*Thanks BIMI!
Charlotte Matthews*



past six years I had been praying for that exact opportunity at that exact time and there it was! As I prepared to graduate from Bible college, I was praying about what God would have me do next. Having visited the UK as a high school

INTERESTED IN MISSIONS?

You are invited to work with veteran missionaries on survey trips. Limited funds are available to help qualified applicants. For information go to our website: www.BIMI.org and check out The Hundred Nations section.

MARY RAY

The *Linen Napkins*



I detected a look of pride as she laid the five beautiful linen napkins beside five well-worn china plates. As she made her way back to the small kitchen, our friend and colleague Brant said, “Oh, I hate to use these beautiful napkins.” I placed my finger over my lips in a motion of silence because I knew that she had saved these special treasures for such an occasion as this.



It was our first trip to Latvia in the Baltics. We were there to make arrangements for BIMI’s first major Bible distribution in that country. Alexander, our driver and interpreter, had invited us to his home for lunch. Home to him was a three-room apartment in a dreary little village

which seemed to be in the backside of nowhere. But to Alexander and Gatalina, his wife, it was a palace because just a few months prior to our visit, they and their two children had lived in one room.

When the communists took over Latvia, they took away private prop-

erty and placed the people in huge apartment buildings. Often, whole families lived in one room. There was one bathroom at the end of the hall that was shared by everyone who lived in the apartment building.

Alexander’s wife, Gatalina, appeared to be delighted to have us

there and took great care to see that we were comfortable. She ran back and forth to the kitchen until the food was prepared and set before us. We shared a delicious meal with Alexander and Gatalina that day, and they told us their story.

They had grown up in this village and their families still lived here. Communism had made the lives of ordinary people bleak and despairing, but Alexander and Gatalina told us about their Blessed Hope that had lifted their hearts and minds above their physical and material circumstances. That Hope was Jesus Christ. They had been converted when they were children and were members of the Underground Church in their village. As we lingered over coffee, Gatalina explained to us that during

the time of communism, there was only one Bible in the church. Each family was assigned a week that they were allowed to take the Bible home with them. With tears in her eyes, Gatalina said, "Oh, how we waited and longed for our week to have the Word of God. We seemed to devour its pages and felt so sad when our week had ended."

As I listened to Alexander and Gatalina that day, I felt ashamed because I thought about the ten Bibles I had in my home back in America. I also thought about the times when I had let the day slip away without reading God's Word.

Gatalina looked down and touched the linen napkin and said, "You are the first Americans that we have ever had in our home. We

are so glad that you came. We have been blessed by your presence." I wondered how many years the linen napkins had been carefully tucked away in the drawer waiting for that very special occasion.

It was hard to keep back the tears as I thought about these dear Christians who had so little but had given so much, and I who had so much had given so little. I wondered why the Lord would allow me to be the first one to use the treasured linen napkin, but I am so glad that He did.

The little three-room apartment tucked away back in an insignificant little village in Eastern Europe became a scene of royalty as believers from opposite sides of the earth dined together in the presence of the God of Heaven. ■

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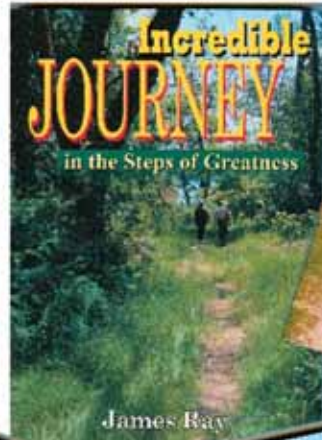
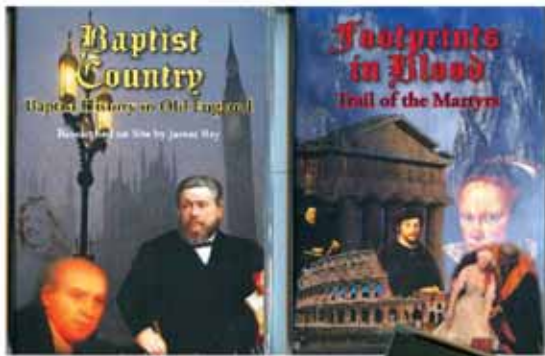
Over the past years hundreds of thousands of people have received their first Bible through the ministry of BIMi and interested Christians. Alan Brooks, Assistant BIMi Southeast Asia Director, will be leading a team to distribute Bibles in the Solomon Islands this fall. Missionary Tim Meyer (Australia) has traveled to the Solomon Islands and has met with officials who have agreed to open 142 schools to receive Bibles.

The *adult literacy* rate is 76.6%, and the language is English. *Life expectancy* in the Islands is 63 years. It is imperative that we provide the Word of God to the people in the Solomons.

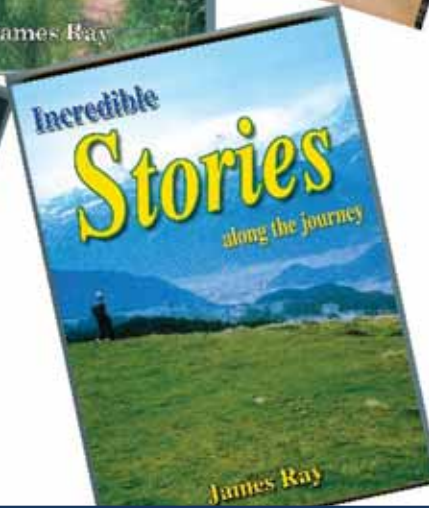
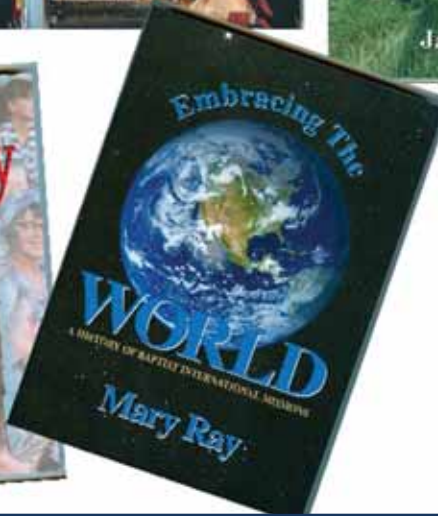
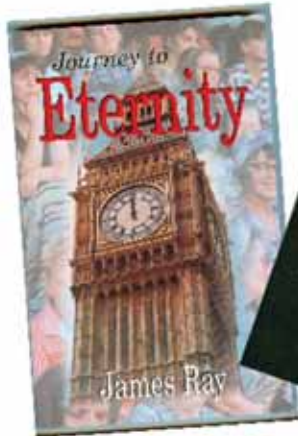
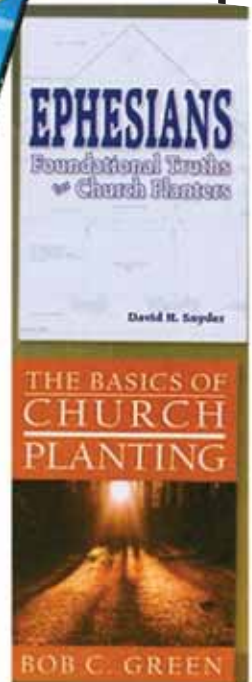
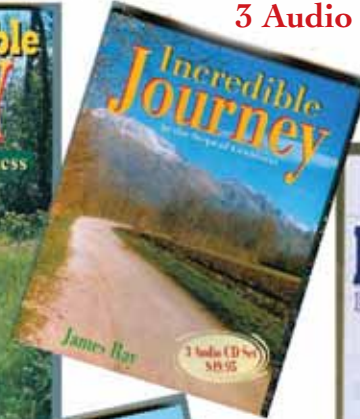
Bibles are also needed for Cuba. At this time only a limited number can be shipped in with normal luggage, but every Bible is a prized possession to the believers there.

MISSION *Resources*

DVDs



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and others, visit www.bimi.org
and check out the
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MISSION HERITAGE REVIVAL

James Ray has diligently researched our great Christian heritage. His years of on-site experience and research can bring a fresh and new vision to your church's sense of purpose and ministry. Each night of your conference, he will present a historical video, followed by a relative message with an exciting missionary emphasis.

SELECT YOUR PRESENTATIONS:

- **William Carey, "God's Plodder"** (video)
- **John Bunyan**
- **Baptist Country in Old England**
(F. B. Meyer, Bunyan, Spurgeon, more)
- **Footprints in Blood**, (Trail of the Martyrs)
- **History of Missions, Part 1**
(John Paton, Amy Carmichael, William Carey, Moravians, more)
- **History of Missions, Part 2** (David Livingstone, Henry Stanley, Robert Moffat, more)
- **Messengers of Light** (Ministry behind the former Iron Curtain)



**Viewing equipment available if needed •
Some dates available in 2010 and 2011
Contact Information for Schedule:**

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ABOUT

Dr. James Ray



James Ray has served as a pastor, missionary to Australia and England, European Director and President of Baptist International Missions, Inc. He recently resigned as President of BIMl to work full time with the International Bible Ministry and The 100+ Nations Ministry. He has authored books and developed challenging ministry DVDs (see left column). Each year he leads missions meetings in the US and overseas.