A Publication of
Baptist International
Missions, Inc.

The 100+ Nations
Ministry

The International
Bible Ministry

Volume 12,
Number 1

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In Search of Greatness!

Often men are declared to be great if they have the ability to influence heads of state or leaders in society or politicians.

Some men are considered great (and rightly so) because of achievements—Thomas Edison and his light bulb, Alexander Bell and his telephone, Dr. Jonas Salk and his polio vaccine, invented in 1952 that rescued millions from the agony of crippling polio.

But true greatness in the eyes of God is far different from the world. In Matthew 18:1, the disciples asked Jesus, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

These disciples were really asking: “Which one of us will be the greatest?” They were thinking, “Jesus is the MESSIAH. The Scriptures teach that the Messiah will rule the world, and WE are His closest servants.”

Who is the greatest? A young preacher said to his wife, “I wonder how many great preachers there are in America?” She replied, “Probably one less than you think.”

In the back of the disciples’ minds, they thought perhaps that Jesus would call one of them forward and say to him, “You are the greatest,” and then to another say, “You are the next greatest.” They had it all figured out.

They supposed it would be one of them who must be Prime Minister of State. Peter was always chief speaker and already had the keys given to him; he expected to be Lord Chancellor, and so the greatest. Judas had the bag and, therefore, he expected to be Lord Treasurer. Simon and Jude are nearly related to Christ, and they hoped to be at the top of the list as great officers of state. John is the beloved disciple, the favorite of the Prince and, therefore, he hoped to be the greatest. Andrew was the first called, and why should he not be first preferred?

Little by little over three years, walking with Jesus, the measure of true greatness dawned. Jesus illustrated true greatness with a child, with a widow, and with Himself. John records the scene in John chapter 13.

He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

The disciples wanted to be GREAT. Jesus shows them how. What a scene… the blessed REDEEMER WASHING SINNERS’ DIRTY FEET! THINK OF IT! The God of Heaven, the Creator of all things, the spotless, sinless Deity from Glory—washing sinners’ dirty feet!
THINK OF IT! The One who holds the universe in His Hands, the One who created and shines a billion stars and a million solar systems, the One who flows the waters into the sea and makes the tide to rise and fall, the One who hangs the earth on NOTHING and spins it every 24 hours—THAT ONE—A SERVANT to SINNERS! Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Jesus summed it up for his disciples and for US. And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant (Matthew 20:27).

Margaret Clarkson wrote the lyrics to the great missionary hymn “So Send I You.”

So send I you to leave your life’s ambition, To die to dear desire, self-will resign. To labor long, and love where men revile you—

So send I you to …Lose your life in Mine.

Nazareth Was a Little Place

Father, where shall I work today? And my love flowed warm and free. Then He pointed me out a tiny spot And said, “Tend that for me.”

I answered quickly, "Oh, no, Not that little place, Why, no one would ever see No matter how well my work was done. Not that little place for me."

And the word He spoke, it was not stern. He answered me tenderly, "Ah, little one, search that heart of thine. Art thou working for them or me? Nazareth was a little place, and …

So was Galilee.
When Jim Cooper knew that death was imminent, he wrote a love letter to Betty ending with the words: “If I had another life to live, I would begin sooner living it for Christ, and hopefully, would live it better for Him.”

Jim and Betty Cooper were saved at the Calvary Baptist Church in Lakeland, Florida, in 1953. They surrendered their lives to the Lord for Christian service and went to Tennessee Temple Schools in Chattanooga, Tennessee. After graduation, Jim and Betty returned to Lakeland, Florida, and established Memorial Baptist Church, which was sponsored by Calvary Baptist Church, their home church.

Barton Browning, who was a BIMI missionary, spoke at the church and it was at that time that Jim and Betty surrendered to be missionaries. Their former pastor told them about some islands south of the Bahamas that had never had a resident missionary.

Jim surveyed the islands and decided that he and his family should serve on the Island of Caicos. They were sponsored by their home church, Calvary Baptist Church in Lakeland, Florida. They arrived as missionaries to the island in September 1961.

Jim and Betty’s residence was a house that had no running water or electricity. A plane came twice a month with supplies. The only contact the Coopers had with the outside world was a radio.

Jim and Betty began their ministry with backyard Bible clubs on Friday afternoons and started a church in the living room of their home. Jim gave the message of salvation and people were saved. He taught them the Bible, but he also taught them hygiene, work ethics, relationships, and character.

In 1965, the Coopers’ pastor, J.B. Buffington, advised all the missionaries who were serving under his church to work together in a better way.


2. Clifford E. Clark, 36.
The Coopers applied for service with BIMI and were accepted 18 February 1965.

The church grew rapidly and other churches were organized on the island and the ministry expanded to other islands. The churches grew and young men were called into the ministry.

A fellow missionary from Nassau visited the Coopers and took Jim on a plane ride to a neighboring island to visit a mission church. By boat, the trip would have taken eight hours but by plane, it was only 20 minutes. Jim realized how his mission work could be expedited if he had a plane. He decided that he would make that a prayer request. Actually, it should have been two prayer requests because Jim did not have a plane; neither did he know how to fly one!

God moves in mysterious ways. A short time later a businessman landed his plane on their island. He had no idea that he was being led by God to this out of the way location in answer to an earnest prayer. He soon discovered that the purpose of his journey to this remote island was more than he had anticipated.

During his visit, he met Jim and Betty Cooper. He was awed by such dedication and asked to be put on their mailing list. When the Coopers mentioned in a prayer letter that a plane was needed, the businessman sent them a letter and said that he was going to give them a plane to be used in the work.

A few days after receiving the letter, Betty “hopped” on the next plane that landed on the island and went to Lakeland. While she was there, she called their new friend and told him that Jim was coming soon to pick up the plane. He wanted to know if Jim was going to fly the plane to the island. The businessman was astounded when Betty told him that Jim did not know how to fly.

Incredulous, he asked, “Well, how does he plan to use this plane?” Betty thought for a minute, and then replied, “Well, we know that the same God who provided the plane through you will also provide instructions for Jim to learn to fly.” Stunned by her answer, the businessman then realized that God was in the middle of all that was going on and that God was the real provider!

Later, when Jim arrived in the States, their new friend sent his personal pilot down to Florida to give Jim flying lessons. Jim attended ground school so he would know how to maintain this aircraft. After successfully completing all of the preliminaries, he received his pilot’s license. Jim and his instructor flew the plane back to Caicos. The pilot’s last words to Jim were, “Don’t kill yourself, Jim.”


4. Clark, 38.
The plane was a great blessing to the ministry. Jim was able to go to many new areas that had never been evangelized. The plane was also used for medical evacuations. Along with offering the hope of the Gospel, people in pain were flown to locations where help was available. Because of their compassion, Jim and Betty Cooper became known as *THE ANGELS OF MERCY*.

Betty was having some physical problems, so Jim felt that he should go to Nassau where she could get medical attention. He also planned to establish a church there. The Coopers began the Baptist Bible Church in their home and later rented a building in downtown Nassau. Eventually, the church built a building and it was full from the first Sunday.

Jim believed that the Lord wanted him to start another church in Nassau, so Howard Mills, who had been converted under Cooper’s ministry on Caicos, became the pastor of Baptist Bible Church. The Coopers also established New Testament Baptist Church in Nassau. Baptist Bible Church and New Testament Baptist Church became thriving churches. In 1995, the Baptist Bible Church in Nassau celebrated its 25th Anniversary with over 2,500 in attendance.5 David

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Adams, who was led to the Lord by Howard Mills, later became the pastor of New Testament Baptist Church.

Jim and Betty also founded Nassau Christian Academy. There were hundreds of students who attended the Academy and hundreds were saved through the ministry. In 1995, there were over 1,000 students in the Nassau Christian Academy. Nassau Christian Academy provided a place of ministry for many young couples and single men and women who served as short-term missionaries with BIMI.

There were no BIMI missionaries in Nassau in 2004. All the work of the churches and schools that were organized by the missionaries were under the leadership of the national Christians. The missionaries had worked themselves out of a job! The Angels of Mercy had spread their wings to the far corners of the sea. The lives of hundreds of people who had been forever in darkness now lived in glorious light. The borders of the sea that once had locked in the people of the Islands had been breached by the Angels of Mercy.

Jim became ill and tests revealed that he was suffering from acute aplastic anemia. After several months of treatment, Jim and Betty returned home to Florida.

As Jim's body grew weaker, he asked Betty to invite the family for dinner. At that special dinner, he asked the family to sing “Amazing Grace.” He also asked that each one of them give a testimony about their faith in Christ.

When Jim Cooper knew that death was imminent, he wrote a love letter to Betty ending with the words: “If I had another life to live, I would begin sooner living it for Christ, and hopefully, would live it better for Him.”

Jim Cooper died on September 16, 1973, but his work lives on. Tom Freeney wrote in the BIMI WORLD, “His labors in the Turks and Bahama Islands have borne much fruit. Several churches and schools are a result of his ministry there.”

Jim and Betty Cooper became known as THE ANGELS OF MERCY, but there were many other BIMI missionaries who became ANGELS OF MERCY when they took the Gospel to the lost and dying people of the Caribbean Islands.

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7. Clifford E. Clark, 40-41.
A stirring story on DVD of a young couple who challenged the impossible and set the stage for all that Baptist churches are doing today in missions. Follow their very footsteps with James Ray.

This DVD should be shown in every Baptist church. Use it in Sunday school and church services. Great to show before upcoming mission conferences.

For credit card orders, go to www.bimi.org/resources (click on History of Missions & Heritage DVDs)

If paying by check, use the attached envelope in this magazine.
The Road Less Traveled

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood...
And I— I took the one less traveled by,
and that has made all the difference.

- Robert Frost
If you lived in a world of hopeless silence, would you be glad if someone noticed or cared? Would you pray for someone to come and make a difference? It was 50 years ago a missionary was approved by BIMI to work with the vast number of deaf people in the country of Peru. His name was Vernon Miller. Vernon surrendered to be a missionary when his pastor, in a sermon, told about the thousands of deaf people in Peru.

Vernon went home that night but could not sleep. All he could see were those poor people in Peru who had never heard the name of Jesus. The next morning the pastor found Vernon Miller in his office, suitcase in hand. He was ready to go. He asked the pastor what he should do next.

Every mission-minded pastor dreams of people responding to a missionary challenge like this. "Ok, I’ve heard the message—what do I do next?" Of course, Vernon was instructed to get training before applying to a mission board. He met Velma when he was visiting Hyles-Anderson College. They fell in love and were married. Together they set their hearts toward Peru. During those months of preparation, the passion of Vernon Miller’s heart was the poor deaf people in Peru.
They were people who lived in a world of silence, people who had never heard...

the sweet tones of love expressed in audible words, the soothing melody of beautiful music, the sounds of a babbling brook, the cooing or crying of a baby, or the song of a bird.

Perhaps the most profound absence of all was the word of a witness telling them of God’s redeeming love and God’s Son.

The deaf in Peru languished in their QUIET world. Their whole existence was spent in a vacuum of silence. Days and hours passed quietly as they, like INVISIBLE people, made their journey through the world of the hearing who looked upon them as if they did not exist. They would go home at night to abodes of lonely isolation and most of them would die without ever hearing a single word of redemption or a syllable of hope. Vernon Miller and his young wife were determined to change their world and their eternity. They would bridge the darkness of silent desolation with the glorious light of the Gospel of Jesus.

The Millers began their work in the town of Chosica and offered lessons in sign language. The Latin American Catholics believed that it was shameful to be deaf because they thought that it was a punishment from God. Miller found that because of this unjust disgrace, many of the children had never been out of their homes.

Vernon’s heart was stirred to do something about their plight. In the town of Chosica where Vernon began his ministry, he taught sign language to the deaf children. He also trained numerous deaf children to do woodworking and other trades.

With a grant from a Dutch mission agency, Miller organized the Efata School for the Deaf. Buildings were built that accommodated the needs of the more than 100 students who attended the school. In 1994, there were seven churches that had been established as a result of the ministry of Vernon Miller. Through their many years of ministry in Peru, other BIMI missionaries helped the Millers in the Deaf work. Some of those missionaries were Nancy Burns, who served with the Millers for 20 years, Mary Shepherd, and Lee Johnson.1

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Like a shining light in the darkness, Vernon Miller had penetrated the silence.

There was also a Bible school started for the deaf, and graduates of the school pastored churches for the deaf throughout Peru. In 1994, there were numbers of churches that had been established.

Like a shining light in the darkness, Vernon Miller had penetrated the silence and had changed their world FOREVER. Multitudes would never be the same again.

Isaiah described it all when he penned: “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound...to comfort all that mourn...to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness” (Isaiah 61:1–3).

From the first missionary to the deaf in 1965, there have been scores of others who like Vernon and Velma would bridge the darkness of silent desolation with the glorious light of the Gospel of Jesus. These included Ron and Sue Henson, Clifford and Helen Smith, Jim and Joyce Sloan, Bobby and Lisa Gunter, Keith and Jane Ford, Kim and Reggie Rempel, and others.

WHAT A LESSON FOR EACH OF US! More than 50 years ago Vernon Miller’s pastor preached a message on missions... NEXT MORNING—suitcase in hand—"WHAT DO I DO NEXT?"

Robert Frost had it right!

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood...
And I—I took the one less traveled by,
and that has made all the difference.

Some time ago, Vernon Miller closed his eyes in a nursing home in Florida and opened them in Heaven. He heard our Lord say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant”... words we all hope to hear. But when we do, those words will not mean to us what they meant to Vernon Miller because they were the first words he ever heard

...for Vernon Miller was himself deaf!2

And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book (Isaiah 29:18).

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS... Dubai?

**Founded:** June 9, 1833  
**Area:** 1,588 mi²  
**Population:** 3.331 million

**Dubai** is the most populous city in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and is known for its luxury. It is located in the eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula.

The UAE is a collection of seven mini-monarchies with the ruler of Abu Dhabi as President. There are no political parties or elections. In just one generation, the UAE has turned around from poverty to extreme wealth—people here are richer than anywhere else in the Arab world.

The official language is Arabic. Eight languages are spoken in UAE. Religions line up as Muslim 65.45%, Hindu 17.00%, Christian 9.25%, Buddhist 4.00%, other 2.50%.

**The Richest Country on Earth!**

**The whole Bible is available in four languages.** Parts of the Bible are being translated into two languages. Two languages spoken do not have a Bible.

Many Muslims are in daily contact with Christians who could be arrested for sharing their faith. Pray that Christians would be able to find opportunities through friendships to be open about what they believe. There are some Arabic believers in Dubai although little in numbers, but they face persecution or even death if others find out they have become Christians. Pray for the United Arab Emirates that God’s light will break through the darkness.

With the support of President Donald Trump, the UAE has forged ties with Israel, which is considered a huge breakthrough. Pray that the UAE will move further toward religious freedom for Christians. Diplomats from the UAE recently made their first official trip to Israel since the countries normalized relations in August 2020. The two sides signed pacts deepening their ties, including allowing their citizens to travel from one country to the other without visas. This was an astounding move in the right direction. Pray diligently for the United Arab Emirates.

For more information on opportunities around the world contact BIMI and ask for the director for the region of interest. In addition, more information is available at BIMI.org.
Dr. Ray:
Last week, we briefly spoke regarding the Reseeding Scotland and the United Kingdom Bible Campaign. I wanted to let you know that we have decided to add this campaign to our annual missions Christmas Project for this year. It is our prayer that we will be able to help provide more New Testaments for Scotland and the UK.

Jason Young, Church Ministries Pastor
Campus Church, Pensacola, Florida

Dear Brother Ray:
Thank you for your letter acknowledging my donation to your ministry. I will do so again when I can. I do not have much income. I will be 91 years old next month if I live. I look forward to receiving your Nations Magazine, which I enjoy reading so much. I especially enjoyed Ed Hembree’s article on Slovakia in the last issue of the Nations. May God continue to bless you and Mary in His service.

With Brother Love,
Rev. Dwight Howell, Statesville, North Carolina

Dear Brother James:
It was a blessing to talk with you and share with you the goodness of our God. We continue to go forward but this virus has taken hold. We covet your prayers for us. He “owns the cattle on a thousand hills” so we ask Him to sell a cow for us. We just lost our son-in-law, Captain Vincent Segars, in a plane crash. He was to retire one week after he died. He was a tremendous help in our ministry. We have sent gifts for Bibles for the Reseeding Campaign in his name. We are praying for God’s Word to work in the hearts of the people of Scotland and that we will see many come to Christ. You both are in our hearts and prayers.

Pastor and Mrs. Bob Archer, Navarre, Florida

Dear Brother Ray and Mary:
Our former pastor, Dr. J. B. Buffington in Lakeland, Florida, introduced us to BIMI. This is where we got our start knowing about BIMI. Since the last time I sent you my gift for Bibles, my husband has gone to his Heavenly Home. My life has changed but the Lord is good and His grace is sufficient. After receiving your Nations Magazine again in the mail, I have chosen to give a gift to purchase Bibles. I feel so blessed to be able to send scriptures where they are needed. My prayer for this gift is that lost souls will come to know the Lord Jesus as I do. Thank you again for your wonderful and enlightening magazine that gives us much information and knowledge concerning different parts of our world where people need to know the God we serve.

Mrs. Shirley Pruim
Leslie, Georgia

Dear Brother Ray:
I enjoyed reading “God Calling” in The Nations Magazine. How true those words are that the world needs a Savior! Jesus Christ is the only answer to the world’s ills. Thanks so much for sharing your articles with us.

In Christian love,
Al and Holly Mjaanes, Bridgeville, Delaware

Dr. Ray:
I just finished reading the most recent magazine. What a blessing it was! Your son’s article, Mary’s, Brother Ed Hembree, and all the others were a joy to read. However, the story about William Cowper especially gripped my heart. I pray for you both each day.

Rev. Virgil Smith, Hamilton Baptist Church
Hixson, Tennessee

Dr. Ray:
We continue to have in-person services at the Inchgarth Community Centre and see growth each week. We have managed to distribute over 6,000 New Testaments since September and have seen great responses. One of these was a young lady and her son. She came to church after receiving the New Testament and heard the Gospel for the first time. Sarah visited her that next week and she believed on Jesus for salvation. She and her son have been coming each week since and have been participating in our weekly Bible studies.

Rick and Sarah Demastus – Missionaries to Scotland

Dear Mary and Dr. Ray:
Thank the Lord for thousands of New Testaments provided to missionaries to be given out! We thank the Lord that the virus has not stopped the spreading of the Good News of Heaven.

We thank the Lord for both of you, and we pray for God’s blessings in 2021.

Susan Lord, the Ladies Ministry Team
Berean Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia
Leaning forward, we peered through the darkness. The streaks of lightening and the pouring rain made it difficult to see the road. It was definitely not the kind of night for traveling; nevertheless, we had to keep driving.

After attending a conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee, my husband, James, and I were making our way home to Illinois where he was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Olney. The trip had been pleasant until we crossed the state line from Tennessee to Kentucky where we encountered a storm that was relentless. Even though our windshield wipers were working as hard as they could, we could barely see the road ahead of us.

We were just a few miles past the small town of Nortonville when, much to our dismay, we saw lights flashing behind us and realized that it was a policeman. James pulled the vehicle to the side of the road and waited for him to approach us.

Although he was polite, he definitely was not friendly. After checking James’s driver’s license, he informed us that he had been following us since we came through Nortonville and that our car had drifted across the centerline a number of times. James tried to explain that it was impossible to see the centerline because of the blinding rain, but no matter what he said, the policeman was firm in his decision that we had been driving recklessly. His answer to our explanation was “Follow me and tell it to the judge.”

With a grumpy voice he asked, “Do you plead innocent or guilty?” James tried to explain that the line was invisible because of the darkness and the rain. The judge’s reply was “If you plead guilty, you will get a discount because of the weather.” My wise husband decided to plead guilty. Unhappily, I watched as James placed on the judge’s desk most of the money we had to live on until our next payday.

We made our way back to town and followed the officer down a side street to a small frame building that obviously served as the police station and the courthouse. Entering the building, the policeman awakened a man who was asleep with his head on the desk. The gentleman was introduced to us as the judge. Gaining his composure, he pointed to a spot in front of the desk and instructed James to stand there. With a grumpy voice he asked, “Do you plead innocent or guilty?” James tried to explain that the line was invisible because of the darkness and the rain. The judge’s reply was “If you plead guilty, you will get a discount because of the weather.” My wise husband decided to plead guilty. Unhappily, I watched as James placed on the judge’s desk most of the money we had to live on until our next payday.
Needless to say, after that night, we did not have pleasant memories of Nortonville, Kentucky. In fact, for years when we passed through the town, we jokingly asked, “Can anything good come out of Nortonville?”

When I first met Virginia, I immediately liked her. In fact, it would have been hard not to have liked her. She had a warm smile, and a kind, gentle spirit that seemed to draw people to her. We became friends, and within a short time, I considered her my “best friend.” However, I soon discovered that there were many other ladies who called her their “best friend.”

Virginia grew up in a small town in Kentucky. Her parents were hardworking people. Her mother was a dedicated homemaker and her father was a coal miner. When she was a young child, she was converted and Virginia took lightly. Two weeks after her father was called to the field of Japan. She called them to the field of Japan. She said to the congregation, “Since God has called Don to be a preacher, I want to be the very best wife that I can possibly be.”

Realizing that they needed training, they moved back to Kentucky to attend Bethel Bible College. Within a short time after returning, Don was asked to serve as a pastor of two small Baptist churches in the area. Both churches together could not pay him enough to provide for his family, so he worked on a secular job to make ends meet. Virginia had gone from being a foundry worker’s wife to a preacher’s wife, and now she was a pastor’s wife who was serving in two churches at once. For most women, serving one church is a daunting task, but to serve two at the same time would be inconceivable. Her gentle, sweet spirit endeared her to the people in both churches.

Later, Don became pastor of Second Baptist Church in Providence, Kentucky. The church could pay him enough so that he did not have to work on a secular job, so Don and Virginia moved from their country home into town near the church. After a thriving ministry in Providence, Don was invited to become the associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Harvey, Illinois, but he knew in his heart that the next step in their lives would be to the mission field.

Virginia’s title changed many times during her married life, but this would be the biggest challenge of all. The Lord called them to the field of Japan. She was now “a missionary wife.” Perhaps, only women who have that title truly understand what it means. With their two young children, they went on deputation to raise their support. After arriving in Japan, Virginia faced all the difficulties that every missionary wife faces. She suffered from homesickness. She was frustrated with trying to learn the language. She was concerned about the education of her children.

It was with great sorrow that Don and Virginia watched as Renee, their daughter, boarded the plane to go back to America for college. For whatever reason, it is always painful to know that there is an ocean between you and your child. However, she did what she always did, she adjusted.

Virginia was a great blessing and an encouragement to the young women in the church and the Bible college that Don and other missionaries organized. The Sisks’ home was a refuge for the Japanese converts who were disowned by their families for adopting the Christian faith.

Don and Virginia’s time in Japan was greatly used of the Lord. Souls were saved every Sunday in Senri Newtown Baptist Church. Now, over 50 years later, the seeds that were planted in those early years are still springing up into eternal life for many Japanese people.

Virginia loved the people of Japan and the ministry God had given to them. When the Sisks came back to America for a visit, they were always anxious to “go home” to Japan.

On several occasions, Don had been approached by the General Director of Baptist International Missions, Inc. (BIMI), about becoming the Far East Director. He had always declined, but the Lord began to show him how as a director his ministry could be multiplied. He accepted the position and the Sisks moved to Chattanooga to be near the BIMI headquarters. Their son, Tim, was in junior high school and their daughter, Renee, was a student at Tennessee Temple University so she had the opportunity to live at home during

her last year of college. As a director’s wife with children still at home, Virginia had to adjust to life with Don being gone a great portion of the time.

After Tim and Renee left home, Virginia traveled with Don to his speaking engagements. Hundreds of pastors’ wives shared their burdens, heartaches, and frustrations with her. Because of her tender heart, she often wept with them.

When Don was appointed as President of BIMI, Virginia’s title changed again to president’s wife. The Sisks traveled all over the world encouraging and inspiring missionaries. When BIMI moved into its new facilities, she spent countless hours cleaning and decorating so that the property could have the appearance of a beautiful refuge for missionaries instead of the cold, unappealing look of a hospital.

After Don retired as President of BIMI, he was asked to teach missions at West Coast Baptist College. This meant that Virginia had to leave her home in Tennessee and live in California. Now, she was a professor’s wife.

When Virginia was asked to teach a missions’ class for young women at the college, she confided in me that she did not feel qualified to teach college classes. I assured her that no one could be more qualified than she was. After all, there were very few problems that missionary wives face that she had not experienced. She accepted the challenge and was a wonderful teacher. The students in her classes felt honored to have the privilege of being taught by such a gracious lady. Sometimes, her “mothering” instinct came out and she baked cookies for them.

Throughout her 65 years of marriage, her title had changed many times. She was a foundry worker’s wife, a preacher’s wife, a pastor’s wife, a missionary’s wife, a director’s wife, a president’s wife, and a professor’s wife. It did not matter what title she had, it was obvious that as far as she was concerned, her job description was the same as it was when as a young woman she stood before a congregation and said, “Since God has called Don to be a preacher, I want to be the very best wife that I can possibly be.”

Virginia went to be with the Lord on July 8, 2017. I looked at her obituary and read the following words: “Virginia was born in Nortonville, Kentucky.” I can never forget Nortonville—not because of the unpleasant encounter with local authorities on a dark, rainy night, but because Nortonville gave me an unexpected friend in Virginia Sisk. I thought about the times that my husband and I had jokingly asked, “Can anything good come out of Nortonville?” I had my answer. YES, A LOT OF GOOD CAN COME OUT OF NORTONVILLE.
Report

Reseeding the United Kingdom
These are different days, but GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE!

The **RESEEDING THE UNITED KINGDOM CAMPAIGN** is well under way. Missionaries are doing a great job distributing the Word of God in their areas. Our latest **NATIONS MAGAZINE** featured the theme “God Calling!” Could it be that this entire virus calamity is the hand of God calling out to the world to trust HIM and turn to Him?

Perhaps the Bibles in Scotland and the United Kingdom will be read because of the troubles people are facing. In the front of each edition is a list of problems along with help verses related to those problems. Please pray for each Bible that God’s power and His hand will be upon it.

**This is a time for all of us to be more missions-minded than ever.** The devil would like nothing more than to see the churches closed forever. We must be diligent to make sure that does not happen. Churches must be careful to maintain safety standards with respect to the COVID-19 virus, but that done, perhaps it is time to make a bold approach to reach new heights and set new goals for promoting the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps it is time to plan a powerful **World Evangelism Sunday** or weekend. A **World Evangelism Sunday** would include presenting our world missions video of great missionary lives, followed by a challenging message in the morning service. This emphasis could prove to be a great motivation to get people back to our purpose of winning the lost—to REFOCUS—at home and AROUND THE WORLD.

**Aberdeen, Scotland**

Our church has managed to distribute 2,500 New Testaments in just a month. The women have gone out Tuesdays and the men on Saturdays. In addition, families have taken on the challenge of passing New Testmanets out individually in their own neighborhoods. We have had families join our church these past couple of weeks.

**Rick and Sarah Demastus**
Aberdeen, Scotland

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We are grateful for churches and friends who are partnering with us to provide Bibles for the United Kingdom.

THE INTERNATIONAL BIBLE MINISTRY
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BIMI • PO Box 9 • Harrison, Tennessee 37341

This great land is endangered by the onslaught of pagan religions. We must bring the Word of God back to those who brought it to us.

GOAL: To place the Word of God in every town, every street, and every home where participating missionaries/church planters are working.

We are grateful for churches and friends who are partnering with us to provide Bibles for the United Kingdom.

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