



## **SECRETARY-TREASURER OF MISSIONS**

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### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OF MISSIONS FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008**

#### **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

The living Lord Jesus Christ commissions and commands His churches to obey the Great Commission. During His personal ministry, the mighty Son of God declared powerfully and pointedly, *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen”* (Matthew 28:18-20).

*The Authority of World Missions.* The word “power” means authority, one whose will is obeyed. The Great Commission is not an option to consider but a command to obey. Jesus said that His Father gave Him “all authority.” Based on that authority, Jesus commands His churches to communicate the gospel of the Son of God to unsaved people around the world (Mark 16:15). The people of God are authorized to be global witnesses for the Master (Acts 1:8). We have the privilege to share Jesus Christ with anyone, anyplace, anytime.

*The Assignment of World Missions.* Jesus expects His churches to: (1) make disciples, (2) mark disciples and (3) mature disciples. To be obedient to the Master, we must witness to the lost, win them to Jesus, baptize them in water, and then teach them to obey the truths of the Word of God so they will mature spiritually.

*The Assurance of World Missions.* Jesus assures us He will be with us wherever we go if we will obey Him in evangelism. Evangelism should be the center and circumference of everything we do. Almighty God blesses us with His manifest presence and mighty power as we do His work in proclaiming the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### **A RECORD YEAR IN MISSION GIVING**

With a thankful heart, I praise Almighty God for the prayers and mission offerings given by churches and individuals for the Interstate, Foreign and National Missionaries. Our wonderful Lord blessed with another record year in mission giving through the office of Secretary-Treasurer of Missions. For the fiscal year 2007-2008, \$2,614,584.64 was given to help the missionaries preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is an increase of \$375,045.88 above the fiscal year 2006-2007. For the past 12 years, the mission offerings have totaled \$22,466,895.35 and have increased \$9,716,369.57 over the previous 12 years. Let us thank God for the supporting churches and continue to pray earnestly that more churches will help in this great associated work of helping missionaries and their families. Approximately 650 churches send mission offerings monthly to the office of the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions.

## **THANKSGIVING MISSION OFFERING**

The 2007 Special Thanksgiving Mission Offering totaled \$279,748.08, which is an increase of \$57,500.07 above last year. I praise God for this record offering for the missionaries. 421 Thanksgiving Mission Offerings were received from 32 states and 2 foreign countries.

## **REPORT OF MISSIONARIES**

For the past year, the God-called, church-sent, Spirit-led missionaries have reported 18,452 professions of faith, 1,613 baptisms, 601 received by letters, 74,341 visits made, 68,767 personal presentations of the gospel, 17,792 sermons preached and 16,611 lessons taught. Missionaries reported self-supporting churches being established in Africa, Philippines, India, Belize and Thailand. Missionaries and their sending churches should be working toward establishing self-supporting, missionary churches obedient to the Great Commission.

## **TRAVELS OF SECRETARY-TREASURER**

I am indeed thankful to our blessed Lord and His blood-bought churches for the privilege to serve Him in behalf of the missionaries and their sending/sponsoring churches. Since the messenger meeting last year, Sandra and I traveled 62,886 miles and attended 175 worship services. From our visits and contacts with the churches and individuals in the past year, \$107,313.40 was received for the mission treasury. In the 12 years that I have been honored to serve as Secretary-Treasurer, Sandra and I have traveled 748,305 miles. During this time in behalf of missions I have traveled and preached in many of the following places: Arkansas, Florida, New York, Ohio, Texas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, Hawaii, Nevada, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, California, Georgia, Washington, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Alabama, Missouri, Michigan, New Mexico, Iowa, Colorado, Wyoming, Indiana, Oregon, Idaho, Kansas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, Canada, Philippines, Mexico, Peru, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Lithuania, Costa Rica and Romania. Special thanks is extended to the pastors for giving to me the opportunities to preach the Word of God and report on the mission work.

## **DEDICATION OF NEW CHURCH AUDITORIUM**

Missionary Victor Guzman extended a very gracious invitation to Sandra and me to participate in the celebration of the dedication of the beautiful new auditorium of Shalom Missionary Baptist Church in Saltillo, Mexico. The Lord blessed with 230 attendance for the dedication services and 170 in attendance for the Sunday services. Best of all, 10 people trusted Jesus Christ as personal Savior during the Saturday and Sunday services. Pastor Mark Harris and I were privileged to preach the Word of God in these special services. Special thanks is extended to Bro. Harris and Unity Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas, for paying for the plane tickets, motel room and food expenses for Sandra and me.

## **CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Dr. L. Chester Guinn, who served faithfully as Secretary-Treasurer of Missions for the years 1973-1978. Bro. Guinn went to be with the Lord on January 23, 2008, at the age of 92. For 77 years, he preached the Word of God with compassion and conviction. Please remember his family in your prayers.

## **STANDING MISSIONARY COMMITTEE**

I am thankful to our loving Lord for the brethren who willingly serve on the Standing Missionary Committee. I appreciate very much their prayers, work and words of encouragement.

## **DEDICATED SERVANTS**

For 11 years, Mrs. Julia Bull, secretary, continues to serve the Lord, the missionaries and their sponsoring churches with dedication and devotion. She is very efficient in the daily work in the missions office. Because of her love for the Lord, Julia shows forth a sweet Christian attitude to everyone who calls or visits the office. My dear wife, Sandra, continues to help with the office work on a part-time basis helping with correspondence to the churches and preparing the *Missions News and Views* for the press as well as traveling many miles with me in behalf of the missionaries. I rejoice in the Lord for her and the help that she gives to me in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **2008 MESSENGER MEETING**

At the messenger meeting of the churches this year in Spokane, Washington, 194 missionaries (a record number) will be recommended by sending/sponsoring churches to the messengers for financial support through the office of Secretary-Treasurer of Missions. These missionaries are serving the Lord in 28 states and 28 foreign countries. 37 of the recommendations are newly recommended missionaries and 28 of these are recommended for salary. If all of the Interstate, Foreign and National Missionaries are approved without any raises, the monthly pay out will increase approximately \$23,000.00 or 11%. Approximately \$2,767,000.00 will be needed to pay the missionaries for the coming year. The balance in the mission treasury at the end of May, 2008, was \$783,083.46. Let us prayerfully remember that a vote for the missionaries is a vote to send offerings each month to financially support the missionaries.

## **COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION**

Two great essentials for an effective associated mission work are cooperation and participation of the churches. According to the mission policy, approved by the messengers of the churches, sponsoring churches are strongly urged to send the 20% of the salary of the missionary to the office of the Secretary-Treasurer of Missions. I believe this is good because it is a sure way of a sponsoring church showing to the association of churches their willingness to cooperate and participate in the associated work. I do thank the pastors and churches who are willing to follow this policy.

## **GOOD STEWARDS**

It is my fervent prayer that serious thinking will be given by the messengers to every recommended missionary. May God help us to be good stewards with His money and prayerfully strive with dedication and determination for spiritual excellence in the work of missions. May God help us to dedicate ourselves to the work of preaching the gospel "unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Randy Cloud