

How
TO make
your
ONE life
COUNT

How to make your life count?

Are you striving after the wind?

“Be smart and successful” is the motto of this century. In order to be smart and successful we are asked to do something and to possess certain things. We believe this and act accordingly. And if we attain success we are expected to obtain more. This cycle goes on till our last breath. The world and the media squeeze us into its own mould. We join the rat race of adding things to our life. But the question is, “Is it all worth it?” We should learn from the wisest man, Solomon, who, after achieving possibly everything under the sun, concludes “...behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun”. Ecclesiastics 2:1-11. Then why should we waste our lives striving after the wind?

Or you may be on the other side, living a peaceful life, enjoying everything God has given you and forgetting God's priorities. This was the same mistake the people of Israel were making. Then the Lord of hosts asked them, “Consider your ways! You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat but

there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes.” Haggai 1:4-6. The Lord was asking them to halt and consider their ways. What the Lord was asking them was to bring back the glory of the temple of God.



It was a question of priorities. When the house of the Lord lies desolate the people of Israel were enjoying their lives.

They also forgot the fact that they were to be the channel of blessing to other nations.

So the priorities of the Creator have to come before our own agendas. Our life is to be used with eternity in focus and developing God's priorities.

Often we forget that we are now enjoying life because there were so many people before us who dared to leave their own agendas behind in order to fulfill the Lord's desire. The western missionaries taught us the way of freedom in Christ and also brought development in many areas of our lives. It was not an easy option. They had to pay the cost and often lost their



wives and children to live in our nation. Aren't we responsible now for the millions of people around us who have no opportunities to know Jesus Christ. Are you willing to fulfill God's desire to bless the peoples of our nation?

Do you want to make your life count? Continue reading to find out more of God's concern and your role in it.

God's Unchanging Desire

When you dig into the Bible you'll notice that Psalm 67 is a perfect overview of God's purpose:

*"God be gracious to us and bless us
And cause His face to shine upon us
That Thy way may be known
on the earth,
Thy salvation among all nations."*

God blesses us that all the ends of the earth may fear Him. God's unchanging purpose can be found throughout scripture—to bless His people and through them to bless every people group. For example in Genesis 12:1-3, God told Abraham that he would bless him and that all the peoples of the earth would be blessed through him. God blessed him to be a blessing. This is a common thread throughout the Scripture. Notice too Jesus' summary of Scripture and His role in it in Luke 24:44-47: "that repentance for forgiveness of

sin should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

What you’ll see over and over in these passages about God’s purpose on earth are terms such as, peoples, nations, families, languages, tribes, the Gentiles or even Greeks—all signifying the idea of People Groups.

What is a people group?

A people group is a community of people that feel connected to each other. They may have a common culture, language, or even only marry within their group. So a people group is the largest group within which the gospel can spread as a church planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance.

In Genesis 12:3, when God promised to bless all nations (peoples) through Abraham, He used the Hebrew word *mispahot*—a word synonymous with the New Testament Greek *ethne*, meaning ethnic or people group. We are to be a blessing to the *mispahot* and *ethne*—that is to all the peoples or ethnic groups throughout the world. From the time of Abraham to the present, the unchanging nature of God’s purpose is that we make His name known, not just to our neighbours, and not in just every country, but to every ethnic or people group throughout the world.

These verses summarize God’s unchanging purpose on earth—to bless His




people and through them to bless every community.

Genesis 12:1-3 The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you: I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. You will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse; and all the peoples of the earth will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 22:17 “I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as stars in the skies and as sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through you offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Psalms 96:3 “Declare His glory among the nations his marvellous deeds among all peoples.”

<p>People Group</p> <p>Daubi Bohras</p> <p>Population: 2,500,000</p> <p>Religion: Shi'ite Muslim</p> <p>The Daubi Bohras are one of the richest and most widely spread class in India and have migrated widely beyond India for Trade. Within India they mostly live in Gujarat, Rajasthan, and the northern coastal areas of Maharashtra</p> <p>They believe salvation comes to them through their religious hierarchy. They view the Koran as symbolic; not necessarily as binding to Muslims today. Discipline is enforced in religious matters by fine; in case of drunkenness by excommunication. They generally live piously—no smoking, drinking, music or dancing.</p>	
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Isaiah 49:6 "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

Isaiah 56: "for my house will be called a house of prayer for nations"

Malachi 1:11 "My name will be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun."

Matthew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations."

Acts 1:8 "You will be my witnesses

is Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Revelation 5:9 "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne."

What is an unreached people group?

An unreached people group is an ethnic group in which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to evangelise their own people group. A community with no access to the gos-

pel. No church in their group. No way to hear the Gospel in a way that is relevant to them.

Unreached people groups are not just Tribals found in the remote forests of India. They can also be found in ethnic neighbourhoods of every major city in the world. Today, India has over 1000 people groups still without a church.

Where are some unreached people groups?

The Muslims are in many different groups all over India. There are eleven crores of these religious people.

The tribal Irulas live in remote mountainous areas. They are animistic and live in fear of spirits.

The Gujar people known for taking care of cows and producing milk. They are generally nomadic people living in North India.

The Tibetan refugees. They practise Buddhism and follow the Dalai Lama.

The important thing to notice here is that God blesses us that all the ends of the earth may fear Him. If it seems like an intimidating task. Don't be discouraged of it. God will accomplish His purpose.

We will be excited to see God doing marvellous things in bringing the good news to the unreached people groups around the world.

Look at What God is Doing

In China the church is growing by leaps and bounds. Estimates are that there are at least 100 million Christians in that country!

In Africa, in 1900, the continent was only 3% Christian. Today it is over 40%!

More Muslims in Iran have come to Christ since 1980 than in the past 1000 years combined!

In 1900 Korea had no Protestant church; it was deemed impossible to penetrate. Today Korea is 40% Christian

In Islamic Indonesia, it is estimated that 20% of the population is Christian!

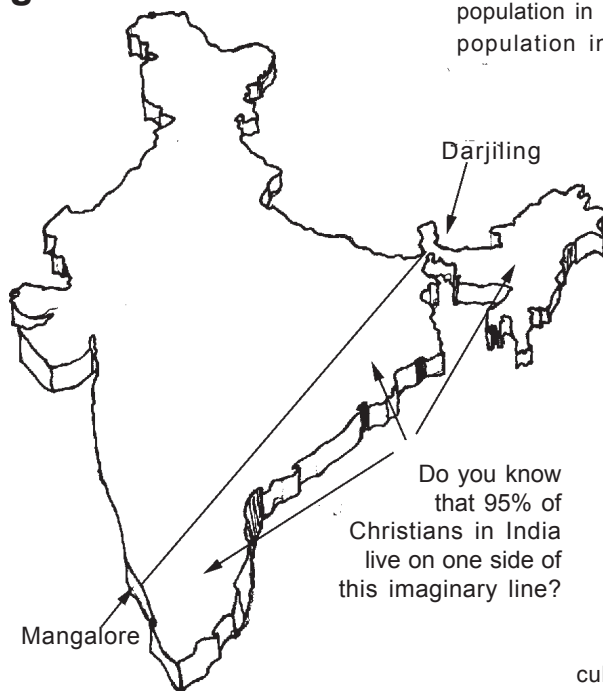
God is sending non-western missionaries to areas where western mission-



aries would not be allowed. Thousands of these missionaries from Brazil, Korea, India, Papua New Guinea, Guatemala are being sent to reach the unreached people groups!

The Good News is breaking loose worldwide. Where the church is planted it grows like wildfire!

But in India there is a great imbalance



Approximately 25% of the worlds unreached people groups live in India.

85 major Indian languages and many minor languages do not have a Bible.

7.6% of Indians are from 635 tribal groups and 61% of mission work is aimed at them.

36% of mission work is to Hindu people groups and mostly to the low caste groups. Therefore as little as 5-10% of missionary work is focused on approximately 70% of the population.

2% of mission work is targeting Muslims. They represent 11% of India. India has the second largest Muslim population in the world and the largest population in a secular democracy.

Missiologists say it is easier to reach Muslim peoples where they are a minority rather than where they are a majority.

90% of Christians live in the southern states and North East India.

There is more to be done than we thought. You may be wondering, haven't we shared the message through the tracts, radio, street preaching and other meetings? The truth is that so many people groups are not reached because of cultural and communication barriers. In other words, the message may have been told, but was it understood or presented in a meaningful way to the non-believer.

The challenge and the opportunity

How will we fulfill God's desire in our motherland?

Thank God for dedicated groups of Indian missionaries who are toiling to extend God's kingdom in different parts of India. These workers equate their faith with suffering as they frequently face persecution and very difficult living conditions. The love of Christ compels them and the Good News is spreading quickly in India. Yet much is still to be done and the less receptive peoples remain.

Today, new sensitive mission approaches must be considered if we want to see all communities reached. God is carrying out His unchangeable purpose (see Hebrews 6:17) through His obedi-

ent servants around the globe. And the pace of completing that purpose has increased in this final decade of the century!

While we engage in fulfilling God's desire, God will transform our country. He will reduce the suffering and improve the lives of people. Prejudice and community division can be reduced. His blessing will flow upon those who turn towards Him and act to bring God's blessing to other communities. Some Christians will be called "nation builders" because the end result of their work is a country that is better for everyone.

The Remaining Task

While we're working so hard to improve our lives, to deepen our fellowships, to seek God's healing and blessings on

The Unfinished Task

- **The Unreached Areas**

There are 28,000 postal PIN code areas in India. Each pincode represents about 30 villages or 35000 population. Out of this, only 7000 Pincode areas have any Protestant pastor, evangelist, or missionary staying in them

- **Unreached Languages**

Of the 219 Indian languages having a population over 50000, only one half have any scripture portions in them.

- **Unreached People Groups**

Of the 1200 people groups in India having a population over 10,000 each, 300 were partly reached in the last 300 years by International Protestant missions. In the last 35 years, the Indian missions have entered another 200 groups. The remaining 420 people groups should have a church by the end of this century.

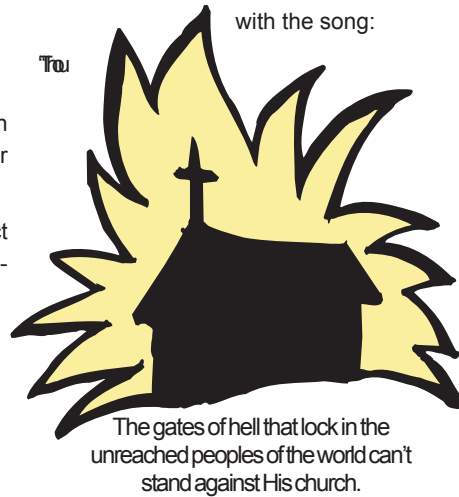
our families, let's simply face the fact: We haven't yet disciplined about 1000 people groups in India as Christ commanded us. Most of North India remains unreached. Many groups with over a million people are unreached and without a single church.

What is Needed?

- More specific and focused prayer.
- The refocussing of the Indian church for missions rather than on other involvements.
- To double our missions giving. The fact is that we have more than enough resources in India alone to complete the task. The Indian church will be blessed as it fully participates in extending God's blessing to the unreached peoples.
- More mission education in all levels.
- More missionaries. These new workers must learn all they can from past mistakes so they have the wisdom to effectively communicate the Gospel of Jesus.
- More mission-minded lay people willing to be mission activists—getting others in their church involved.
- Cooperation between churches and mission organizations.
- Biblical efforts that will free the Gospel from its cultural shackles so that every people group receives a relevant Gospel message and messenger.

Can we do it?

It seems like an intimidating task. But God will accomplish His purpose. The gates of hell that lock in the unreached peoples of the world can't stand against His church. At the end of time, Christ will be exalted with the song:



didst purchase for God with thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). So it's only a matter of when and through whom.

Like never before, the job is clearly before us. We know from God's Word that the Great Commission will be completed. Matthew 24:14 tells us that the Gospel will be preached as a testimony to all nations or people groups and then the End will come. Revelation 7:9 tells us that a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people and language will be before the Throne and in front of the Lamb. From this

we see the vision of the future; as we imagine this glorious scene there is no room left to doubt, we know that the Great Commission will be completed.

Are you willing to lose your life to gain it?

When you get involved in God's plans get ready for action. Your life may never be the same. God will fill you with challenges and great satisfaction. There are hundreds of ways you can be involved either as a layman or full-time worker. Writers, businessmen, engineers, teachers, students, housewives—everyone can participate! (You can learn how through resource materials listed at the end of this booklet).

Obedience costs. Real discipleship costs. The price is giving up any agendas that detract from God's global cause. The cost is to forsake claims of ownership to affluence and security. The requirement for ministries is to selflessly cooperate. The demand for communities is to serve other communities breaking down prejudice—rather than hoarding God's blessings. The cost for individuals is to take risks and get out of the comfort zone. The price of being a part of God's global purpose is losing your life for His sake.

Watch the magic of God's blessing in your life take over as you are obedient to His will. Maybe too many of us have been led to believe that the Christian life is supposed to be nice—respectable, pre-

dictable and smooth. Or, maybe, we have counted the cost of real discipleship in God's Big Plan. And then, God help us, we knowingly refuse to obey.

Maybe it's time to rethink your life and the purpose of your church.

We are not on a luxury cruise ship preserving and protecting each other from storms while we steam ahead towards heaven.

Maybe our churches should cease to think of themselves as grabbing a few souls from the water as they pass by, pulling them out of their family and community to get them on board the cruise. God's plan is BIG—He wants to see entire people groups adopted into His family.

By now, You may have some doubts, don't worry it indicates that you are on the right path.



What about my career?

Are you thinking clearly about yourself? You need to ask God on your knees where you fit in. One key thing to realize is that the development of your career must not be your main concern, but instead be concerned about the advancement of the mission cause. It's a question of career versus cause. Jesus today might have put it, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and your career will take care of itself." If you work at your job while pursuing the mission cause God may surprise and reward you with a startling career—but you will probably not know the details in advance. There are so many creative ways you can combine your career and mission.

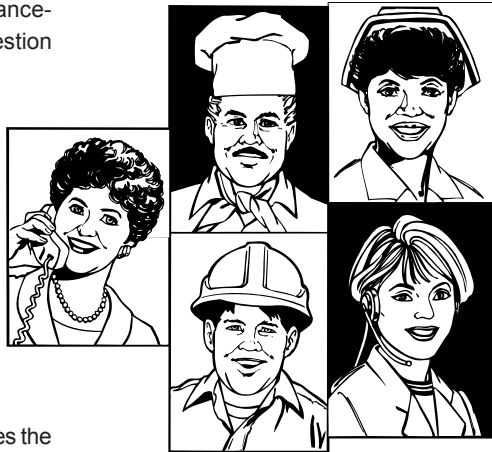
Someone has said, "God reserves the best for those who leave the choice with Him" and "Don't do something that others can do, or will do, if there are things to be done that others can't do, or won't do." Jesus put it another way: "He that seeks to save himself will lose his life; he that will lose his life for my sake will find it".

What about my future?

Is your problem that you can't see very far into the future? If you can't see very far ahead, go ahead as far as you can see.

Lots of people would be glad to follow God if He would only tell them in advance exactly all the wonderful things He would do for them and what high-sounding job titles they might one day hold.

But, remember Genesis 12:1? It is characteristic of the Christian life that



God asks us to go without telling us where! This is not unfair on His part. The fact is that, when we walk in the little light we have, and keep going on and on taking steps in faith, the ways in which He leads us are almost always, as we look back, something we could never have been told in advance! Untold marvels lie beyond each step of faith.

You don't really have to know what is beyond the next step. Again, it is characteristic of the Christian life that we do not know very far in advance. In fact, if you think you've got the next few years lined

up you may be mistaken or you may be making your plans for God to bless.

Will God ask me to do something which I don't like?

Wouldn't His will focus on your doing your "Utmost for His Highest?" It is not a question of how much of your own desires you can get away with. Some young people make the final, dramatic decision "to be a missionary" and immediately begin thinking where the climate would be nicest. You can't be a solid Christian if you are unwilling to do anything He asks. What does he ask? Nothing more than all we are and possess. That's all.

He doesn't ask us to do the easiest job we can think of but the hardest we are able to handle. He does not ask us to do what we cannot do, although He often enables us to do what we could not do without His special grace. God is no tyrant that cares not about our welfare in the task. It is amazingly true that when we are willing to do the most difficult thing we find that we are better off because of it.

What can I do right where I am?

You can give your "Utmost for His Highest" right where you are. For example a mission-minded pastor can get his church involved in missions and can have as great an impact as several missionaries. There is a role for you no matter who you are or what your skills. God only asks us to seek first the coming of His Kingdom to all of the peoples of the earth!

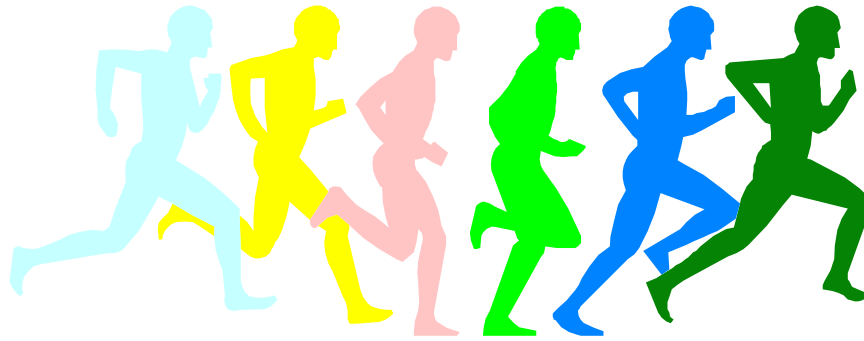


Costly discipleship

Jesus Himself "endured the cross and ignored the shame for the joy that was set before Him." Stephen R. Covey says, "Happiness is the fruit of desire and ability to sacrifice what we want now for what we want eventually".

But we sometimes seem more geared to do our "utmost" than to seek out patiently, deliberately, and painstaking that role which will make the maximum contribution to "His highest"—the coming of His Kingdom to all of the peoples of the earth. It is not to please ourselves that we give our lives to Christ. We may find that His will involves greater pleasure and fulfillment than anything we ourselves could have chosen.

To give "Your Utmost for His Highest" is no guarantee of health, wealth, or happiness, which is true of any choice one can make, but that crucial choice is, in the experience of thousands who have



Don't be a spectator, become part of the game! Make your life count!

tried it, the most exhilarating and demanding path of all callings.

God will accomplish his purposes through anyone willing to pay the cost. If you fail to play your role, God will raise someone else to do it. But you will be losing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do the glorious work of participating in God's purposes. So don't be a spectator, become part of the game.

Pray and find out your role

Is there any good reason why you and your fellowship don't take seriously your part in God's historic purpose to disciple the nations? Will you align your life with God's unchanging purpose? Go to Him in prayer right now, as He gives you the choice to ask:

- O I want my life to be blessed by You.*
- O I want my life to be blessed by You, Help me Father to have the obedience of*

faith so that I can be Your son/daughter who helps to extend Your blessings to all the nations of the world.

Which one did you pray?

Tick it!

Are you ready?

If you prayed the second prayer, then you're ready to give your life over to God's missionary cause. Your first job is to tell others what God has taught you through this booklet. In other words your life can have an impact by getting other Christians to join God's missionary task.

Start by giving this booklet to Your Family, Your Church, Your Friends, Your Student Group, Your Seminary, Your Organization!

To learn about the different facets of missions is a prerequisite for a qualitative involvement.

The Next Step

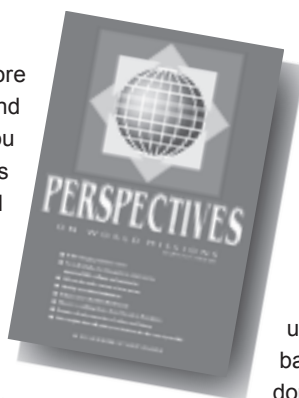
If you want to know more about God's Global Mission and you are ready to do His will, you need to ask yourself a serious question: **"How can God lead me on the basis of facts that I do not have?"**

The newly released book in India *Perspectives On World Missions* makes an ocean of information available to you. It is a 400 page—20 lesson Mission Course designed for South Asia.

Over 30,000 people have completed a similar version of this course and as a result have impacted churches, organizations and unreached peoples worldwide. To date, 120,000 copies of the original texts have sold. The list of seminaries and Bible schools using the material is expanding.

Yet, *Perspectives* is not simply an academic course designed to help mission-minded people learn more about missions. Rather, this course has helped open the eyes of people from all walks of life to what God is doing globally and what they can do to join Him.

Most people know very little about God's work in the world. In fact, it's difficult no matter where you live to know about the world Christian movement as such news is not readily available. You can discover this exciting news in the appropriately named course, PERSPEC-



TIVES.

Studying this course material is more than just learning new information, it is actually an invitation to join the World Christian Movement!

You will get caught up in the drama of the global countdown of the kingdom of God. You will become better equipped to help others get involved in missions and transplant a heart of vision and understanding in your church.

The *first* section explored in the course is the Biblical basis for missions. The entire Bible is carefully examined to reveal God's heart for the nations and His desire for their redemption.

Secondly, the study of the historical expansion of the Christian movement from the time of Christ gives us a new perspective on history.

The *third* focuses on the strategic considerations answering the questions: What exactly is the missionary task? What research is being done? What can we learn from past success and failures? How does the church grow spontaneously? How can missionaries be more effective?

Fourth, it explores culture and how it impacts the way the gospel is presented to other peoples and how not to impose

our culture on another culture.

Finally the *fifth* encourages effective use of finances and personnel, mobilization of other Christians, discipleship and personal involvement in accomplishing God's plan for world evangelization. This perspective is perhaps the most important as it directly addresses you and your church's involvement in completing God's command to reach all peoples with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Although Perspectives cannot tell you what path your life should take, it can show you God's overall purpose for mankind and then give you the resources to make an informed decision about how to fit into God's plan.

Other creative ways to use *Perspectives*...

Student Fellowships, Small Bible study groups, Short Term Exposure trips, Mission Seminars, Mission Training Centres, Extension Programs, Mission Societies, Pastors to teach the church, Seminary teachers for reading assignments, Orientation for prospective missionaries, Orientation for foreign short term trips, Mission promotional workers, on the field study for missionaries.

What People are Saying...

"Perspectives is a significant contribution to mission education in India that can be used to mobilize our lay people. It contains

a unique balance of insights from both the East and the West that will help inspire mission vision in those who take it."

— **Dr. David Samuel**
General Secretary, TAFTEE

"An excellent, practical, down to earth handbook presented by men and women of experience. It is absolutely vital to both the missionary and the mission supporter."

— **Timothy Austin**
IEM Outreach Magazine

"Perspectives is presented in a style different from any other book... It will help envision the future mission's strategies and methods appropriate to time and cultures. It is a great tool to all those engaged in missions at any level."

— **Rev. Dr. Leaderwell Pohsngap**
Principal, Union Biblical Seminary

For all Christians, even housewives, to understand God's plan and feel His heart cry for the lost peoples of the world."

— **Mrs. S.V. Paul**
Housewife

"Very enlightening, I have a new vision for missions and will keep the vision always before me, as priority number one".

— **Dr. K.A. Nambudripad**
Medical Practitioner

"After being a missionary for 26 years, I should have known (the course content), it helped me to get it all into perspective—the how and why of the expansion of God's Kingdom and where I fit in."

— **Evangeline Davidson**
Missionary

Mission Education Materials Available In India

ITEM 1-PSP1

Perspectives On World Missions

—A Study Guide

This 20 lesson study guide, described earlier in this booklet, was developed and printed in India and contains almost 400 pages of articles, maps, charts, illustrations, action steps, lesson summaries and questions. The main content comes from over 140 articles written by Indian and Western mission activists. It is a complete easy-to-use guide to missions.



Quantity	Price Per Book	Discount
1 book	Rs. 250	
2 books	Rs. 225 each	10%
10 books	Rs. 212 each	15%
20 books	Rs. 200 each	20%
35+ books	Rs. 167 each	33%

ITEM 2-BBB1

Blessed to Be a Blessing & Discover God's Plan

Get two books in one! This combination of mission Bible study and mission challenge is great for small study groups or individuals. Available in English, Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil and Telegu available mid 1999.



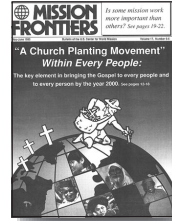
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ITEM 3-MF

Mission Frontiers Magazine

Stay in touch with the latest information on frontier missions. This 64 page quarterly mission magazine is packed full of useful information, case studies, articles, book reviews, conference reports and much more.

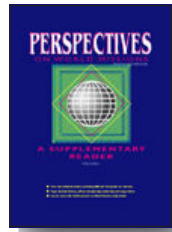
By subscription. One free sample issue available on request



ITEM 4-PSP2

Perspectives On World Missions — Supplementary Reader Volume 1

This textbook can be used as an optional supplement to the Perspectives On World Missions-Study Guide. Combining the textbook and the study guide expands the course to 200-320 hours of study. The supplementary reader contains 110 articles by leading experts on missions. Ideal for anyone who is serious about their involvement in the Great Commission. Highly recommend as a textbook for Bible colleges and seminaries. Available Nov. 1998.



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1 book	Rs. 275	
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35+ books	Rs. 184 each	33%

ITEM 5-HOW

How to Make Your One Life Count

If your life was challenged by this booklet, order multiple copies for FREE and pass it on to others!

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