

BENDEED KNEE INTERNATIONAL
2003-2018



15 Years
of
God's Faithfulness

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The Russian Mission Team

Our Mission...

To glorify our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ by our desire to take the Gospel where Christ is not known, to all creation, and to the uttermost part of the world.

(Romans 15:20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)

To plant churches using national and native leadership while providing direction, encouragement, and financial assistance.

(Acts 14:3, 22; 16:5)

To strengthen and encourage pastors, missionaries, and lay leaders in the disciplines and hardships of ministry through leadership training and personal involvement in life and ministry.

(2 Timothy 2:1-10)

Board of Directors

Bended Knee International

Founded December 17, 2003
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Board of Directors

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Great is Thy Faithfulness

by Tom Watson

*Faithful is He
who calls you,
and He also
will bring it to
pass.*

1 Thessalonians 5:24

As we complete our 15th year of ministry, our number one goal remains the same, "To glorify our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ by the willingness to take the gospel to all creation." Our desires should be the same as our heavenly Father "**who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**"

There are far more people born into this world than those who are born again. The Pew Research center reports that Christians have declined sharply as a share of the population here in the United States and it appears that part of the problem lies within Evangelicalism itself.

When pollster George Barna asked conservative pastors how they measured personal success, the top five answers were 1) numbers, 2) giving, 3) number of programs, 4) number of staff and 5) the square footage of the facility. If that is the criteria for success, then Roman Catholicism, Mormonism and the proponents of the Health and Wealth gospel, to mention a few, must be deemed very successful. One needs to ask, "What about the Great Commission and the inward conviction of personal evangelism?"

Some time ago, I sent a letter to all who remain in my high school graduation class explaining the need for salvation. Someone said that was a good idea. It was not a good idea but a conviction coming from the Word of God. If you want a good idea, get on the internet, go to a Christian bookstore, attend a conference or get on the mailing list of a popular ministry. If you want a conviction to share the gospel, prayerfully go to the Scriptures and ask the Lord to burden your heart for the souls of men.

Hudson Taylor would never have left the European Continent with just a good idea. He was convicted that while his church was hearing the gospel weekly, there were millions in China dying without hearing it once. **Mission EURASIA reports of the 7.38 billion people in the world 3.12 billion have no church or gospel witness in their part of the world.**

With success so high on the agenda today, churches must guard against the church itself becoming the "peck-measure" under which it hides its light. Last year we visited a church that had 21 programs listed in the bulletin, but not one of them had to do with personal evangelism. I just received a publication that listed ten characteristics of an effective church and not one of them emphasized the need of evangelism. Perhaps what we deem so successful and effective is not so with God. We often object to evangelism without follow-up and discipleship, but do we object to discipleship that does not result in personal evangelism? Discipleship, as we see it in the New Testament, moves believers out of their comfort zone, into a world that is in need of the Savior. Church leaders have become experts at keeping people in their self-confined comfort zone with buildings and programs while the world around them knows not the Savior.



Our first evangelistic outreach by boat on the Yenisey River

Jesus began His discipleship by telling two fishermen, "**Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.**" He ended His discipleship right before His ascension by saying to the disciples, "**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to**

the remotest part of the earth.” From beginning to end, it was evangelism. Would you expect anything less from the One who came “to seek and to save that which was lost?” Would He expect anything less of those who claim to follow Him?

Les Lofquist writes, “But we have been so preoccupied with defining the Gospel (which is important) and defending the Gospel (which is also important) that we have neglected declaring the Gospel (which is tragic). Jerry Smith adds, “Evangelism must not be confused with church growth, since the entire focus and motivation is different. It may result in church growth, but that is not the focus... As the saying goes, many people are talking about evangelism but not many are doing it.”

Thankfully, our Lord Jesus Christ left the comfort of heaven to die on a cross for the souls of men. George Whitefield and John Wesley followed the example of the Lord and left the comfort of their own churches to proclaim the gospel to those who were perishing. J.C. Ryle writes:

For the truth’s sake, Whitefield and Wesley, in the eighteenth century, denounced the mere barren moral preaching of the clergy of their day, and went out into the highways and byways to save souls, well knowing that they would be cast out from the communion of their church. And who shall dare to say that they were wrong?



Pastor Tom being finger printed by a Russian FSB Agent in Teely



Navajo friends on the Reservation

Beginning with our very first year, the Lord called us out of our comfort zone to proclaim the gospel in the Russian Federation. In Siberia, we slept on the ground, on cold floors, on islands for our safety, on soiled mattresses in fishing cabins and in abandoned houses. Three times we were personally attacked. We were arrested, interrogated, finger printed and fined by the local militia and the Russian FSB. **However, we paid little price compared to what the Lord did for the souls of men.** Was it worth it? With no church or gospel witness, village after village and their students, too many to officially count, heard the gospel first hand leading to three churches being established. And during twelve years of ministry in the Republic of Tuva, it gained the distinction of having the most evangelicals per capita of all the states and districts of Russia.

In October of last year, the Lord by His grace, opened the door for us to share the gospel face to face at the 106th Northern Navajo Nation Fair. Eleven hundred Navajos heard or received the gospel in print, among a people where less than 10% know the Lord as their Savior. In September of this year, we were at the Navajo Nation Fair in Window Rock where nearly 1500 people heard or received the gospel in print. This year alone, we mailed over 2500 follow-up letters, again explaining their need to turn to Christ for salvation.

At the end of our fifteenth year, we pray that our God-given conviction and zeal for the lost would not give way to the pursuit of personal comfort and success. We pray the Lord will continue to open doors and entrust us with the treasure of the gospel. We pray the same for His church and missions all across the world. Regardless of what lies ahead we know for certain, **“Great is Thy faithfulness!”**

A Pictorial Review of God's Faithfulness

Seven Areas of Ministry

Navajo Children and Youth Ministry

In the summer, on the Navajo Reservation with volunteers from other churches, we work with children and youth in partnership and support of the local church. We also complete work projects to help them maintain their facility.



A Pictorial Review of God's Faithfulness

Seven Areas of Ministry

Native American Leadership Training

Our conferences began with 10 people. In the following years it grew to nearly 80 in attendance as the Lord blessed this ministry. Our purpose was to encourage Native pastors and leaders in evangelism, discernment and expository preaching. It gave us the opportunity to build trust and friendship among the Dine people. We were blessed!



A Pictorial Review of God's Faithfulness

Seven Areas of Ministry

Apache/Navajo Fair Evangelism

Our evangelism booths at the Apache/Navajo Nation fairs provided the opportunity to share the gospel face to face and in print to thousands of Native America people.



2018 Navajo Nation Fair
Window Rock, Arizona



2005 Apache
Whiteriver Fair

Whiteriver, Arizona



2017 Northern
Navajo Fair

Shiprock, New Mexico

A Pictorial Review of God's Faithfulness

Seven Areas of Ministry

Siberian Youth Camps

We continue to financially support Siberian children and youth camps in Susch and Baj-Xaak. The majority of the parents in Susch are alcoholics and as a result there is little money left for food. We provide the funds to feed the children when they come to Bible study each week and make certain they all receive a Bible.

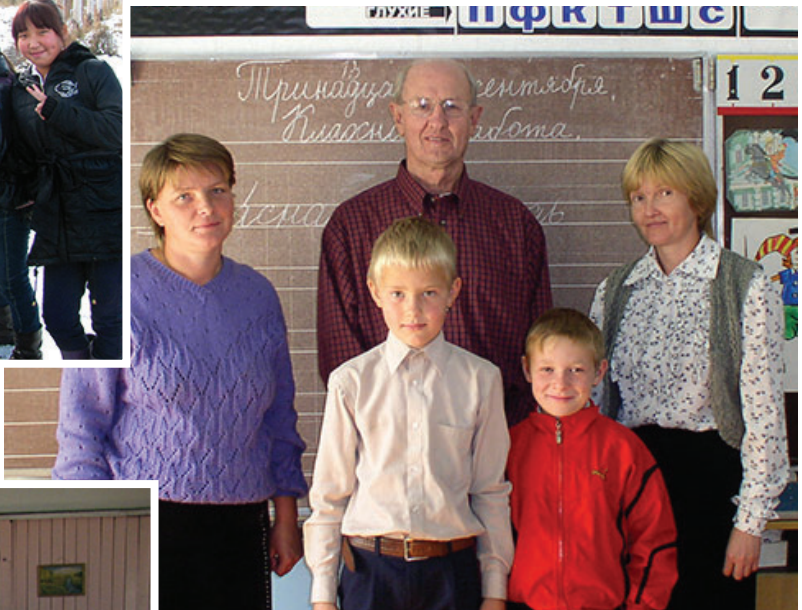
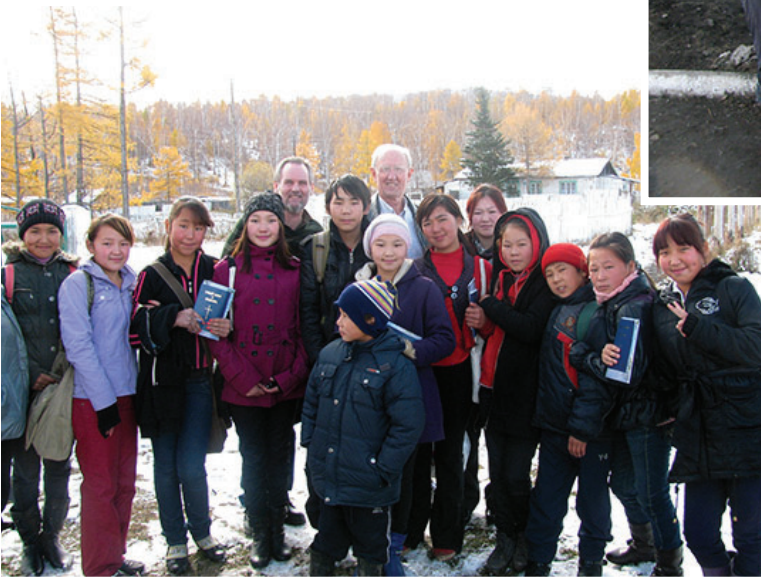


A Pictorial Review of God's Faithfulness

Seven Areas of Ministry

Siberian School Evangelism

The Lord opened the door and called us to the front lines of evangelism in the village schools of Siberia. We presented the gospel and gave every student and teacher a booklet on salvation and a Bible in the Russian language. This door is now closed for us as this is in violation of the 2016 Yaroya Law prohibiting such evangelism. Pray that the Lord will open the door for us again.



A Pictorial Review of God's Faithfulness

Seven Areas of Ministry

Siberian Church Planting

In our ten years of traveling to the Republic of Tuva, we were instrumental in the establishment of three local churches: Susch, Baj-Xaak and Shivilig. The church in the small village of Shivilig has always been a house church and regardless of recent changes in Russian law, the saints of Shivilig (pictured below) have not wavered in their faithfulness to worship together.



No one to lead the music, but singing and making melody in their hearts to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19).



No relief from opposition, but protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation to be revealed in the last time (1Peter 1:5).

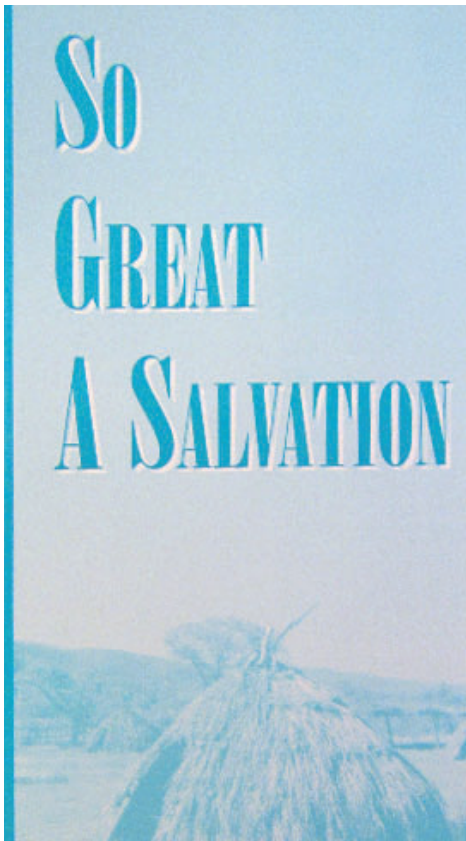
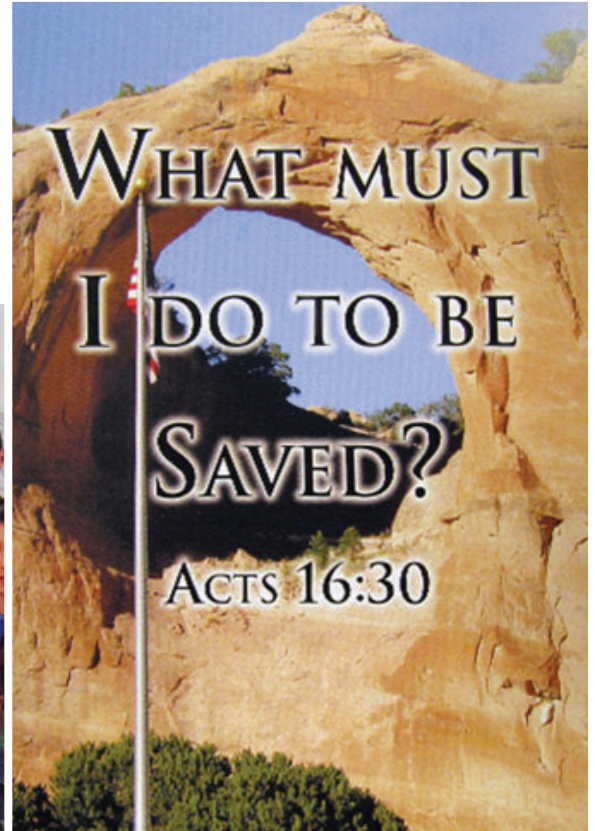


No worldly comforts or riches but living according to the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7).

A Pictorial Review of God's Faithfulness **Seven Areas of Ministry**

Publications

At home and abroad we have given away thousands of tracts. Through our publications we have been able to encourage discernment among believers on such issues as Contemplative Prayer, the Health and Wealth Gospel and Progressive Christianity. We have made believers aware of the popular, yet unbiblical, authors such as Sarah Young (Jesus Calling), William Paul Young (The Shack) and Eugene Peterson (The Message). We have balanced this by providing the "Word of Encouragement" on the internet weekly which is available to all upon request.



God's Faithfulness in Financial Provision

We praise the Lord that for 15 years He has met all of our financial needs. We give thanks to you whom the Lord has used to meet them. We do not solicit funds from any individuals, churches or organizations. Nor do we charge for any of our materials or ministries. We believe if this is God's work, He will meet our needs. Hudson Taylor, who strongly opposed debt by ministries said, "God's work in God's way will never lack supply." Thank you for being a part of God's supply.

"...only by prayer and faith, without anyone being asked by me or my fellow-labourers, whereby it may be seen that God is faithful..." George Muller

Indigenous Tribal People

The Lord continues to reach, through the gospel, **“from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues.”** We are thankful that in our fifteen years He opened the door to reach indigenous tribal people on both sides of the world. DNA testing has linked the North American tribes directly to the Siberian tribes and the similarities are quite visible.

Siberia



The Nenents

The Hakasians

The Tuvians

North America



The Crow

The Navajo

The Apache

The Faithfulness of God in Opening Doors for the Gospel

“Praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ...” Colossians 4:3

On the mission field you learn that God uses both the leading of the Holy Spirit and adversity to open and close doors. The Apostle Paul experienced this when they “were trying to go into Bithynia and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them.” With that closed door, God opened the door in Europe where Paul also experienced doors being closed due to opposition.

God opened the door for George Whitefield to come to America to proclaim the gospel during the Great Awakening of the 1700’s. But when he returned to England he was met with great opposition. He wrote in his Journal, on December 10, 1738, “But I rejoice in this opposition, it being a certain sign that a more effective door will be opened since there are so many adversaries.”



The Yenisey River

and some responded to the gospel. The next night, in Irban, a Russian man invited us into his house where we slept on the floor. The floor was hard but the room was warm. The next three days and nights found us in an abandoned house near Torah-Hem. All the furniture was left behind but there was no way to build a fire as the chimney was full of debris.

When passing through Irban, we felt led to go to the school but a local member of the Russian militia tried to prevent us. We told him we had already been approved by the principal and were not in violation of Russian law, so we proceeded. He called in the militia’s district agent, a large Russian man, who stood by and observed our presentation. After giving



The Children of Seva

At BKI we know it was through both the Spirit’s leading and adversity that the Lord made our mission a reality. As a mission, we learned you must trust the Lord to open doors.

On one trip into Siberia alone, Bob Campanella recorded forty-two answered prayers. The following is an example of the Lord’s faithfulness.

In the fall of 2006, we began a boat trip up the Yenisey River to Torah Hem, a village of 3,000 with no roads leading in or out. The trip had been planned for two years but just two weeks prior to departure the boat was sold. The Lord answered our prayer and provided another boat just one day prior to departure.

The first night we stayed in a fishing cabin near Seva. It was bitter cold but we were able to witness to villagers



A Russian’s Hospitality

the students a bible – only one student previously had one - the agent immediately approached me. His opening words were not what I expected when he said, "I like what you are doing." I am sure Jesus would have said to me, "O, you of little faith."

During our conversation he asked me where I was going next. I told him to Torah-Hem, although we had been told we would not be welcome in the school there. He responded, "I will go with you and get you into the school." Two hundred and fifty students heard the gospel and received a Bible that day in Torah-Hem. Only the Lord can open such doors. God is faithful!



Dinner on the Yenisey



The school at Torah-Hem

For "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!"

Romans 10:13-15

Being Faithful to the Faithfulness of God

As previously stated, we believe one of the greatest needs of the church and missions today is for the leadership to demonstrate their faithfulness to the Lord through evangelistic zeal. The Bible makes no exemption simply because someone is in a leadership position. In fact, as leaders, the greater responsibility falls upon them to provide the example and encouragement for all under their care to share their faith.



And He said to them: “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Matthew 4:19

But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:5

The church leaders must be or become evangelistic. Only when the leaders have a passion for evangelism, can a church effectively train and model evangelism.

Jerry Smith
Biblical Ministries Worldwide
VOICE Jan/Feb 2018

Being a teacher today comes with a halo; evangelism doesn't. We admire our Bible teachers. But they are people sometimes obsessed with getting the message right but not equally obsessed with getting it out... But I caution us against ignoring the work of evangelism in our churches while we solely focus on Bible teaching. We mustn't neglect the one while we appreciate the other.

Joseph P. Smith
IFCA International
VOICE May/June 2018



Be careful lest your digital outreach surpass your in-person connections. This is the age of blogs and tweets, posts and comments. It has never been easier to share your thoughts online. And it has never been easier to become obsessed with your digital presence. Yet this new form of communication, despite its broader appeal, cannot replace your personal impact. Love for Christ and others is most clearly demonstrated through a face, a voice...

Anderson Snavely
Grace Baptist Church
Forest Hills, NY
FRONTLINE Mar/Apr 2018



The most effective approach to evangelism is still one person talking with another.

Paul Seger
Biblical Ministries Worldwide
VOICE Nov/Dec 2018

The Church needs it: the state of the world demands it. Common sense points out that it is right. Everyone who has received the grace of God, and tasted that Christ is gracious, ought to find words to testify of Christ to others. Where is our faith, if we believe that souls around us are perishing, and that Christ alone can save them, and yet hold our peace? Where is our charity, if we can see others going down to hell and yet say nothing to them about Christ and salvation?

J.C. Ryle (1816 – 1900)
Expository Thoughts on the Gospel
John Volume 1



Oh! The joy of knowing that a sinner once at enmity has been reconciled to God by the Holy Spirit, through the words spoken by our feeble lips.

Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)
Soul-Winning Classics

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:3,4



...the saints and faithful brethren in Christ

Colossians 1:2



While in Siberia, Anatoly Kidiekov and Pastor Tom enjoyed Russian tea with Viktor and Tanya, who were gracious friends and our hosts.



Olcha and Nadya of Susch, Siberia



Kostya Yanov of Baj-Xaak, Siberia



Tom and Bonnie Watson with Jerry and Linda Yonnie of Sanders, Arizona



Arnold and Bessie Betoney
Tonalea, Arizona



Irving Poolheco
Winslow, Arizona



Everett and Martha Manuelito
Tohatchi, New Mexico

Expressions of Appreciation

Every week we email **"A Word of Encouragement"** to all who desire to receive it. But we also greatly appreciate the words of encouragement that we receive from you.

I wish you health and fruitful ministry. You did a lot for our Republic. Many, many people remember you with warmth in their hearts. Your ministry in Tuva was not in vain. It brings results today and will do even more.

- Kyzyl, Tuva, The Russian Federation

We really appreciate your encouraging words! They are always timely!! - Cottonwood, Arizona

Just a note to say thank you for some precious truths. With the Lord's unctioing we sent it to seventeen others.

- Dalton, Nebraska

Appreciate you newsletter!! - Xenia, Ohio

Thank you for your newsletter. We are praying for your ministry. - Hamden, Connecticut

It is always wonderful receiving your updates and hearing how the Lord is continuing to bless your ministry. You will always have a special place in our hearts. - Petaluma, California

I so appreciate your writings and pray you will continue. I have been in contact with BKI for almost 14 years. Thank you brother for you continual faithfulness and zeal. - Hobart, Oklahoma

It is a privilege to support you ministry. - Houston, Texas

Thanks to you for you emails. I always pray for you. We have cold (-45-52). Thanks for your prayers. God always blesses us. - Susch, Siberia, The Russian Federation

We thank you for these refreshing messages. Over and over again they match what we have been studying or our needs at that time. - Albuquerque, New Mexico

Your ministry has been a great encouragement to me and others and will continue to be as you persevere under trial in these difficult times. - Lincoln, Nebraska

Since I have no way to do research, it is great to hear from you concerning beliefs of today.

- Sheepsprings, New Mexico

Time to time we receive your newsletters and enjoy reading them. Blessings to you and your close ones. We love you and pray always and thank the Lord for you. - Abakan, Siberia, the Russian Federation.

We can't thank you enough for how you've shown your love for us. Thank you! The Lord has blessed us through you and your ministry. - Sanders, Arizona

May God continue to bless you, your family and the ministry He has led you to serve Him through. Together we will someday gather together at the throne of our Lord. - Fairplay, South Carolina

*I will sing of the lovingkindness
of the Lord forever;
To all generations I will make
known Your faithfulness with
my mouth.*

*For I have said,
“Lovingkindness will be built
up forever;
In the heavens You will
establish Your faithfulness.”*

Psalm 89:1-2