



Serving the suffering church around the world



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Life's Greatest ADVENTURE

By Alec and Jan Forman
with Richard Shaw, General
Director of Praise

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

Psalm 139:7-10 (NIV)

In 1977 British professionals Alec and Jan Forman set off on the journey of a lifetime, a 14-month adventure covering 55,000 miles through 29 countries in Europe, Africa and Asia. Their mode of transportation was a converted Land Rover in which they drove, slept, cooked and lived. Conditions were often cramped, hot, sticky, dirty, and just plain uncomfortable, but exciting!

The Sahara desert was a challenging area to travel through. They set off with 75 gallons of fuel, 20 gallons of water and a supply of dried food. They were amazed to find people living in the middle of nowhere with no visible means of life support. In Nigeria they took a break for maintenance and



Alec and Jan Forman, pictured outside their home in Kandern, Germany, beside their treasured Land Rover. The Formans are assisting Praise in initiating support for pastors and their families in Mali, Africa. If you would like information on helping these Mali pastors and their children so the children will be able to attend school, please call or write to us.

visited Phil and Mary Osbourne, who welcomed them into their home. The Osbournes were missionaries from Britain who had served in Nigeria for 40 years, using education, agricultural and medical work as an opportunity to share the gospel. Alec and Jan were offended. "What do you mean, 'gospel,' and what right do you have to influence the Africans in this way, disrupting their culture?" One of Mary's comments really put them off, when she said, "I know I'm going to heaven." It was so provoking. What right did this woman have to say that! Sure,

she had been doing good things for many years, but Alec and Jan felt their lives had been pretty good, too, caring for people. That arrogance-how could she be so sure? The Osbournes gave the Formans a copy of the Living Bible and they promised to read it, because they were intrigued by what they heard.

Their journey continued through Cameroon, where evening stops were punctuated by drums and chanting in the distance. During those evenings they often read the Bible. They found it enjoyable, as easy to read as a newspaper.

Many Bible stories they had heard as children came flooding back. Because of the threat of war, they changed travel plans and decided to drive west to Ghana and north across the Sahara, on to Europe and then to India. Through their travels they continued to dip into the Bible. Even though it was easy to read, they wondered how it could be relevant. Who was this Jesus who said, "Love your enemies?" His attitude toward the poor was so radical! Alec and Jan were surrounded by poor people, and they found it hard to cope with beggars. Wherever they stopped, people would gather, and there was little privacy. But, in the Bible they read about Jesus telling a rich man to sell all he had and give to the poor, and if you have extra food to give it away, and if you have an extra coat, give that away, too. They wondered, "What are we to do? Give away all our extra clothing and food?" They had always thought of themselves as Christians, but now they weren't so sure.

One hot, dry night was a turning point. They were tired, dirty and weary of trying to figure out this Christian thing. They were picking at each other and wished they had never met those missionaries. They finally decided to put the whole Christianity issue on hold so they could continue on their journey. They traveled on to Tunisia and crossed the Mediterranean to Sicily. They had a refreshing journey through Italy seeing all the sights and drove into Austria. They spent time seeing the highlights in

Vienna, did some maintenance on the Land Rover, and were ready to move on to Hungary, but had to wait for a water filter they had ordered from England. Parked in a campsite, they climbed out of the Land Rover on a Sunday morning to enjoy the morning air and heard a British voice call out, "Good morning!" It was Nigel Spencer, out for a morning walk. He invited them to his home the following evening, to join him along with his wife and children for a meal. That meal turned into a stay of five days. Remarkable as it seems, this couple were also missionaries! All those questions came flooding back, and Alec and Jan thought maybe they could discover what the Bible was really all about.

Here's how Jan described what happened:

"In talking I discovered certain truths. Jesus is alive today. Jesus died on the cross for my sins. Sin is living your life ignoring God. In surrendering my life to Jesus Christ, I could go to heaven. I pondered over those facts and decided that I didn't disbelieve that Jesus lived on the earth as told in the Bible, so I must believe. If I believe, I should and did do something positive about it."

Alec's experience was similar:

"I too was convicted by the truth and Psalm 32 expresses so well our decision. 'There was a time when I wouldn't admit what a sinner I was, but my dishonesty made me miserable and filled my

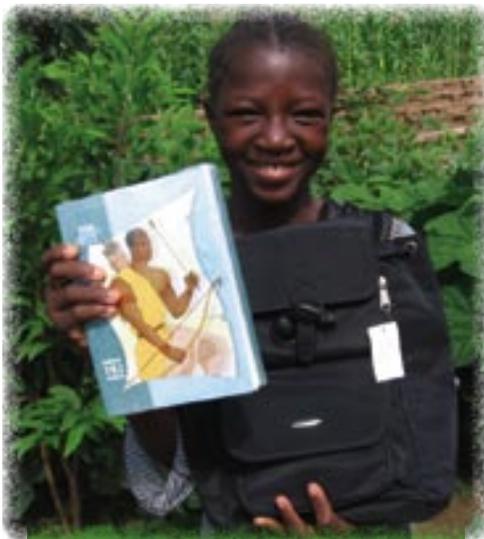
days with frustration. All day and all night your hand was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water on a sunny day, until I finally admitted all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, I will confess them to the Lord, and you forgave me. All my guilt is gone. Now I say that each believer should confess his sins to God when he is aware of them, while there is time to be forgiven. Judgment will not touch him if he does.' " (TLB)

The Formans left and drove on to Hungary with joy and peace flooding their lives! They read the Bible with understanding and experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives, teaching them new truths every day. They saw the world around them with new eyes. They journeyed on through Turkey, experiencing God's guidance, visiting places they read about in the Bible. They drove on to Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. They began to see people as individuals, uniquely created by God, each with different needs, each requiring different responses. They journeyed on to Nepal, the top of the world! They watched animals being sacrificed to strange gods and longed to be able to share the good news about Jesus.

See the article on the next page to learn how you can help pastors' children like these in Mali be able to attend school by helping fund their fees, books and uniform costs.



They finished their global trek rejoicing. "What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven. What joys for those who have confessed their sins and God has cleared their record. Many sorrows come to the wicked, but abiding love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. So rejoice in Him, all those who are His and shout for joy all those who try to obey Him." (from Psalm 32 TLB)



A young daughter of a Mali pastor showing her joy at receiving needed help.

Praise, Inc. Initiates Pastoral Assistance in Mali, Africa

By Richard Shaw
General Director, Praise, Inc.

"As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ."

2 Corinthians 8:23 (NIV)

With the help of Alec and Jan Forman, Praise is offering the privilege of pastoral sponsorships for needy pastors in Mali. Costs for school for children of pastors in Mali is a great challenge. Pastor Christophe, who leads a large group of pastors, has proposed a project to help twenty pastors and their 69 children to raise funds needed for each child to be able to attend school for one year. This is not a large amount for a year for us, but it represents a huge burden for these native pastors. The funds will be used for required uniforms, books, and school fees. In some countries local Muslim officials bribe families toward Muslim sympathy by providing money for schooling for their children. What we are asking is for your help to provide funding for these families that are already faithfully serving

pastors, their wives, and their children.

Here are the sponsorship options for your help in Mali:

1. You may give a one-time gift of any amount to help with this project. Designate your gift for Mali Children when you sent it to Praise.

2. You may sign up to support a Mali pastor and family for \$25 a month. You will receive a photo of your pastor and his family, and you will know that your funds will be used to help the children attend school.

3. You may sponsor a child for a gift of \$110, paid annually, for one child's expenses. We will send you a photo of your sponsored child so you will be able to pray for her or him.



Shown above is Pastor Christophe, his wife, and their five children. He will be assisting Praise in the distribution of funds to the pastors and their families.

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Raven Fund Gifts Meet Urgent Needs

John McKeeth, CAM International

Funds from Praise were left recently with national leaders in Managua, Nicaragua, and from there the funds were divided between leaders in four different regions.

The region involving the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua is a no man's land of drug production and transport, movement of contraband of all kinds, and cattle rustling. A number of men minister in churches in that area. One man was busy preaching the word and in the process was stepping on toes of people who did not attend the church. Teaching about honesty, righteousness, self-control, and coming judgment does not set well with people who have a drunken, illicit life style.

Word came to the local church leadership that this pastor had been attacked by people in the community. Reportedly one of his daughters had been raped, there was an attempt to kill one of his sons and then threats came against the pastor himself. The family literally fled into the forested area near their home leaving everything behind. Local church leaders were able to make contact and give him about \$100 of Raven Fund gifts in order to help supply some of the family's basic needs.

This may seem like a very extreme case but it is not. It is a type of persecution that exists in areas where godlessness is the predominate force. Many areas have no police presence, or any other semblance of authority, so there is no appeal or due process to seek justice for folks who have been hurt.



Prayer needed: *Land of the Epistles*

By Pastor Richard Shaw

They preached the good news in that city [Derbe] and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith.

Acts 14:21-22a (NIV)

I had the opportunity to live in Turkey for 15 months in the late

1960's, serving on an Air Station near Trabzon, an ancient city in northeastern Turkey on the Black Sea coast with standing Roman ruins from the second century. As you know, the seven churches mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3 were all located in modern Turkey. Now controlled by Muslim influence, Turkey is a significant prayer point for all Christians. Assist News Service has reported the following story:

Religious tensions in Turkey, already high after the January 19, 2007 murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink in Istanbul, were again stirred when a Protestant church in the Turkish Black Sea Port city of Samsun was damaged by unknown assailants on Sunday, January 28. The attackers threw stones at the two-story Samsun Agape House church building during the night, breaking more than 10 windows. "The attack

was the latest against

Christians in this predominantly Muslim country," Pastor Mehmet Orhan Picaklar, the leader of the Samsun Agape

House told Salem Voice Ministries. "There were no casualties, but this [is damaging] to Turkey." The pastor added that this was the seventh or eighth attack on the church in the last three years and that he is "constantly receiving death threats by e-mail." The church moved to the new building just two weeks earlier. A recent rise in Turkish nationalism by young people in Black Sea towns has been spotlighted because Hrant Dink's suspected young murderer and his supporters are from the region's town of Trabzon. Trabzon is east of Samsun on the Black Sea coast.