Mission
TAKING SOULS FROM HEARING TO HEAVEN

A Heart for Missions
By: Ken McAfee

Love Not the World
By: Phillip Vanwinkle

The Missionary’s Heart
By: Phillip Vanwinkle
Honors & Memorials

Thanks!!!

Honors and Memorials:

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Given By: Lorene Lanham

Sue Lunn
Given By: Lorene Lanham

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Given By: Lorene Lanham

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If you have someone you would like to honor, or have a Memorial to present:
Please see the attached form at the bottom of this page. Fill out the appropriate information, send it in with your donation and Truth For The World will honor your request in the upcoming “Mission” magazine. Thank you! —TFTW Staff

Thanks for being a part of this work!

About Truth For The World

Truth for the World is a global, evangelistic outreach using media and personal ministries. Truth for the World is a mission work of the church of Christ.

So what does that mean? We spread the seed of the Word of God using media such as radio, TV, print materials, and the Internet to teach the Gospel of Christ. We also make personal missionary trips to spread the Gospel.

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Have you ever wondered what it takes to develop a heart to do mission work? Has the congregation you attend lost its zeal for the Great Commission? How can we today develop a Heart for Missions?

**A Heart for Missions**

Ken McAfee

Have you ever wondered what it takes to develop a heart to do mission work? Has the congregation you attend lost its zeal for the Great Commission? How can we today develop a Heart for Missions?

**Love Not the World...**

Phillip Vanwinkle

Satan has done a good job in today’s world getting people to focus on the here and now. God tells us that, as His children, we ought not be like the world.

**The Missionary’s Heart**

Phillip Vanwinkle

As a missionary goes out into the field, with what does he need to fill his heart?
Today’s society is “graphic” centered. Look around you, everywhere you go graphics are utilized. From the advertisements on the boards of supermarkets, to the bathroom door at the local McDonalds, graphics are everywhere.

It is true that God’s Word does not “need” graphics in order to get the message across. However, in making Christian literature and Christian programming, things that are eye-catching will at least allow someone to give a second look to a message that they might have overlooked, if it had not caught their eye.

For the past 2 years I have been working both as the Content Director and the Graphic Designer for Truth For The World. Because of the increase of workload on both of these positions it was simply too much for me to handle on my own.

Kendal Rasnake, our Director, asked me to make a choice of which I would rather do, and though I thought about it for some time, the choice to me was easy. I wanted to continue doing graphics for Truth For The World. I love God’s Word above all things, and I love creating art. God has blessed me with the ability and the desire to be active in both of these. I have gone to many different Art Schools and studied under some of the best artists in the United States. I have also gone to one of the finest preaching schools in America and learned from some of the greatest Biblical minds of our time.

With all of this information in my head, I feel I would not be a good steward if I were to waste either one. So, I will be preaching and teaching God’s Word weekly, while at the same time working diligently as the Graphic Designer for Truth For The World.

Do not worry; the content will not suffer at all upon my transition. We have plans to use even more content providers. Gospel preachers from around the nation have agreed to write articles, and do television and radio programming for Truth For The World. We have been so blessed by God to have such a wonderful brotherhood, who supports us and believes in the mission to reach the lost of all the world.

We appreciate all that you are doing on our Lord’s behalf. May you continue to reach out to the lost in your community, and may we with God’s help continue to reach out to all the world, to the very best of our ability.
2011 was a good year for Truth For The World. First and foremost, we are grateful to God for allowing us to work in His vineyard and spread the truth of the Bible. Next we are grateful to you, our co-workers in the cause for Christ. Thanks to you, Truth For The World received more contributions in 2011 than we had projected. We were also able to come in under budget for 2011 which makes me feel that we were able to be responsible stewards of what has been placed in our care.

There were many milestones and highlights from the last year. While there may not be enough space to mention them all, allow me to share some with you:

- Social Media usage began in November of 2010. We have posted Bible verses, links to tracts, and even radio shows on places like Facebook and Twitter.
- In 2011, between our staff and an elder, we completed four missionary trips to the United States, Australia, India, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines.
- We aired three new TV series: Ask The Expert, The Final Word, and Bible Stories.
- We aired a new radio format called Bible Chat.
- We launched our new magazine called Mission, which contains information about how to do missionary work as well as update information from TFTW.
- Our tracts were reformatted with new graphics and are now in tri-fold form to fit more easily into tract racks.
- Our YouTube channel “TFTWTV” was launched in March of 2011. We placed some TV programs on it and received 1,907 views from 62 countries! Some of the shows are also closed-captioned in English. The captions can also be translated into various languages.
- Radio coverage expanded into Wisconsin (WTAQ-FM/AM) and Arkansas (KAAY-AM) expanding our potential radio audience by over 3 million people.
- We launched podcasting which is now available through iTunes, Podomatic, etc.
- Our Internet website (www.truthfortheworld.org) is now available in dozens of languages using the translate tool on site.
- The mobile version of our website (www.truthfortheworld.mobi) was launched.
- Our cross-indexed “Wikipedia-like” webpages were launched. All articles on our website are cross-indexed with links to other, relevant information on our site.
- We had over 84,000 hits to our website in 2011.
- We had over 1,100 Bible Correspondence Course students in 2011.
- We had reported to us 409 baptisms, 45 restorations, and 6 congregations established.

2012 is shaping up to be even more exciting than 2011! We thank God for blessing us thus far and ask that He continues to allow us to do many things for His cause on the Earth. Join with us in prayer, financially, and/or with volunteer labor to make the Truth available For The World!
What is the biggest difference between the average congregation of the Lord’s church today and that of the first century? When we compare the worship in today’s church of Christ with that of the first century church, we find the same five items being practiced on the first day of each week: (1) Bible Study, (2) Singing, (3) Prayer, (4) Giving, and (5) The Lord’s Supper. First Century worship has been successfully and accurately restored.

When we examine the organization of the church today, how does it compare? In both cases, we find local congregations overseen by elders and served by a number of deacons. These men have been selected based on the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. In neither case do we find any formal organization beyond that of the local congregation, each of which is autonomous (selfruled). The terms of admission into the Lord’s church today are identical with those set forth by the apostles in the first century. “The word of the Lord endures forever” (1 Peter 1:24). When that word is accurately taught, sincerely believed and faithfully obeyed, it produces today what it produced in the first century - New Testament Christians. Clearly, restoration is possible and has been accomplished.

What then do we find different today? Can we honestly claim to have restored the zeal of the early church? Do we have the same heart for missions that they demonstrated? Sadly, in many instances, the answer is no. In the early chapters of the book of Acts, we read that “the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (2:47). It soon grew from about 3,000 who obeyed on that Pentecost of Acts 2, to 5,000, then continued to multiply (4:41; 5:14). Despite severe persecution, early Christians preached the gospel, and the church grew, as God gave the increase. Rapid growth in the church is rare today, perhaps in part because many seem to feel that preaching and teaching the gospel should be best left to the professionals. But in Acts 8:1 we read, “A great persecution arose against the church which was

Every Christian needs to demonstrate a heart for missions. Elders need to provide a warm welcome and words of encouragement to every faithful person desiring support for mission work.

Ken has done mission work in India annually for nearly twenty years and has been instrumental in carrying the Gospel to many other countries.
at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.” Then in verse four we find, “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.” I have often wondered how and why the apostles remained in Jerusalem. But the point to note here is that “ordinary” Christians spread the gospel, despite being driven from their homes. Today, we need to restore the idea that spreading the gospel is the responsibility of every Christian.

Except for our Lord, the Apostle Paul is perhaps our greatest example of one with a heart for missions. Paul not only made mission trips, but encouraged Christians to support the preaching of the gospel. How can we account for his attitude of heart? In writing to the church at Rome, he called himself a servant of Jesus Christ... then a little later wrote, “I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Romans 1:14-16). Notice first that Paul felt obligated to preach the gospel. Having been saved by the gospel (Acts 22:16), he felt a sense of debt to others. He encouraged the young man Timothy to have that same attitude when he wrote, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:1-2). When we recognize the great blessing that someone gave to us by teaching us the gospel, how are we to repay that debt? We cannot return the blessing to our teacher, for he already has that blessing. But we can repay the debt by giving the blessing to others. I believe that is how Paul felt.

“I am ready,” can be taken in two different ways, both of which are important. We can be ready in the sense of being prepared for a task; we can be ready in that we are willing to undertake the needed work. Paul likely referred here to his willingness to preach the gospel. Today, we need men who have been prepared by training and who are willing to preach the gospel. We need women of faith and who are willing to preach the gospel. Today, we need men who have been prepared by training and who are willing to preach the gospel. We need women of faith who will accompany, encourage and help with the teaching being done by such men. We need multitudes of Christians who will gladly provide the financial support needed for such work, and who will participate personally when given the opportunity.

Paul could write, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,” because he was absolutely sure that he had met Jesus on that Damascus road, and that it was the gospel of Christ that had saved him. His conversion stands as a great proof of the resurrection of Jesus and consequently to the truthfulness of Christianity. T. B. Larimore, a pioneer preacher, was known to say, “I would be ashamed to be afraid, and afraid to be ashamed, to preach the gospel of Christ.” To have a heart for missions, we need to overcome any sense of shame or timidity which might cause us to fail to boldly teach and preach the message of the gospel. Like Paul, we need to know that our redeemer lives, and thus be zealous for the gospel message.

Every Christian needs to demonstrate a heart for missions. Elders need to provide a warm welcome and words of encouragement to every faithful person desiring support for mission work. I am well aware of budget constraints both in my own house and as a former elder. But those willing to go to hard places need our admiration, prayers and support. Elders need to provide leadership and encouragement to their congregations so that they see the need for evangelism and are willing to support mission efforts. We must recognize that our responsibilities extend far beyond our local area.

I am not a team member of Truth for the World, but I endorse and encourage their good work. Their multi-faceted approach to taking the gospel seems wise, for no one method can accomplish all that is necessary. And what a terrific banner under which to work! It is the truth that will save men from sin. It is the truth in which we must abide if we are to be disciples indeed (John 8:31-32). It is our job as Christians to take the truth to the whole world. Lord, give us a heart for missions.

**Can we honestly claim to have restored the zeal of the early church? Do we have the same heart for missions that they demonstrated?** Sadly, in many instances, the answer is no.
Love Not The World

The book of First John tells us that we ought to love certain things. We are to love God, the brethren, and the people who are lost in sin enough to teach them the Truth. And so, John shows us how important love is. But, in 1 John 2:15 God tells us NOT to love also.

There are some things that we are not supposed to love. That point needs to be made and remembered. Having a loving disposition is a wonderful thing. But it is terrible when one’s loving disposition causes him to love something that God does not want him to love. God does not want us to love that which he hates. “These six [things] doth the LORD hate: yea, seven [are] an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness [that] speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” (Prov. 6:16-19)

John’s point is clear. While it is important to love God and to love one another, it is just as important for us to remember not to be in love with this world.

Now what does that mean? Well, it obviously is not talking about loving the people enough to try to save them, that is not at question. He is simply saying don’t love the sinful things in the world. In fact he is instructing the people in his day not to be bound to this world, this earth. So he says, do not be attracted to, do not be enticed by—do not love – or hold dear to the things of this world. Paul wrote in Romans 12:

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.(Rom. 12:1-2)

He is not saying hate the people; he is saying the world and its sinfulness is not to be looked upon as something that is good. James would say: “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world.” (Jam 1:27)

Even Jesus said “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Mat 6:24)

While it is clear that we are to be loving individuals, we are not to fall in love with the present world.

We are not to be wrapped up in the “things” that this world has to offer, for we are not to be pleasers of men, but of God. Again Paul writes: “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.” (Gal 1:10)

And so as we continue our journey together in this life, let us have hearts that love God, love the brethren, and love the lost souls of the world, yet let us remember the words of the inspired writer:

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1Jo 2:15)
Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

(1 John 2:15-17)
THE Missionary’s Heart

Phillip Vanwinkle

These are just a very few traits that each missionary should develop in order to be able to be fruitful on the mission field.

**L**ove. First, a missionary must be driven by Love. The love of Christ and a love for lost souls should be the driving force behind every missionary. It is easy to forget that we are to love all souls, even souls which mean to do us harm. Whether they are communists, atheists, or even terrorists, God has said that we are to love them.

How does a person love someone who hates him? By properly understanding love (agape love), we can better understand how to love those who hate us. Unlike the other types of love, agape love is different. The other words for love have a certain “attractiveness” to the person that we are to love. That is, we generally have some sort of affection for or attraction to the person, be it a natural, familial type of affection, or a spousal affection, or an attraction based upon our similar and common goals and interests. Agape love has nothing to do with the other person’s “likeability” at all. We do not look at him and say, “Hey, he is a nice guy, and he is funny, so I think I’ll show affection towards him.”

Agape love is not based upon others’ merits or their attractiveness at all. Agape love is a true and Godlike love. It is the basis for the writing in Romans 5:8 which states “while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.” God loved us – though we were stained with sin, vile and cursing, and yet God, through Christ, still loved us. Not because we were his friends, not because he looked at us and said, “He is a nice guy and he seems to have cleaned up his act.” No! While we were still sinners (against God), Christ died for us.

And so, every missionary must understand, that to be successful as a child of God reaching out to lost souls starts with love.

**O**bedient. It is easy for missionaries who are living far away from home, far away from the ‘eyes of the brethren,’ to misbehave or even to misrepresent the Word of God. Morally speaking, the missionary must remember that, though he is far away from home, and far away from the eyes of the brethren, he is still very close to the heart of God. The heart of the missionary, therefore, must be willing to be obedient, no matter what or who may try to seduce him.

The obedient heart will not fail to follow the Truth. It can be tempting, if the missionary is not careful, to compromise a little doctrine here, and a little doctrine there, so that he can “have more converts.” After all, the brethren aren’t concerned with how many Bible studies he’s had, they are only concerned with how many people he has converted. (an unscriptural mindset to say the least). And yet, by the missionary’s compromising the Truth, not only has he not really converted anyone, he has placed himself in danger of losing his very soul. (2 Peter 2:1-3)

**V**igilant. A missionary must be vigilant, both practically and spiritually. The word “vigilant” means to be watchful. Practically, of course, this must be something every person who travels to a faraway land must remember. If the missionary is not watchful, then he can get himself into all kinds of trouble.

Spiritually, he too must keep up his guard. In foreign lands, there are all kinds of things that happen for which the missionary must keep his eyes peeled. Things like false brethren who are interested in teaching error and leading souls astray. Also, the missionary should be aware of the way he conducts himself in a foreign land and remember that others are watching him as he says he represents Christ. Also, the missionary should guard himself from enemies without, and sadly even enemies within. As Paul instructed Timothy; “But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry” (2 Tim 4:5) so too must the missionary be watchful in all things.

**E**xcited. Missionaries should be very excited. I am not talking about a fake, painted-on smile that he puts on for certain church activities and takes off when the activity is finished. But, in reality, he ought to be excited that he is in the field doing the same work that Christ commissioned his apostles to do. Now, that doesn’t mean he will not have a bad day from time to time. But, in my experience in mission work, it is discouraging to visit a fellow missionary who has lost his excitement for the work. Many times he grumbles and complains about all the bad things that are happening to him, so much so that, by the time I am finished with my visit, I have wondered if it is his lack of enthusiasm that is causing many of the problems that he is facing. I am not saying that he has to go around “on fire for Jesus” every day; however, when people want to know about Christ, and here comes “Mr. Missionary” with a frown on his face, looking like he would rather be somewhere else, it is not any wonder that he is having problems on the mission field.

So missionary, stay excited! After all, you are doing the greatest work that this world has ever known. God had only one son, and he went into a distant land to win souls. So, let us rejoice in this, that wherever he may send us, we will do that which he has said for us to do. (Luke 17:10)
Throw a rock into a pond and you can make a splash that ripples out to the whole area of the pond.

Now get together with ten of your friends and do the same thing. How much bigger is both the initial impact and the subsequent ripple impacts? Now join with a hundred others. You see where I’m going.

By joining together with Truth For The World, we can make a greater impact on the world. We are making the truth of the Bible available to people around the world every week via mail, radio, TV, print, and the Internet.

Won’t you grab a rock and join in? We never know how much impact we can have in this world when we band together and God blesses our work.

Only eternity may show us how many ripples our work has produced. The one thing we can know for sure is that if we will sow the seed, it will accomplish what God wants it to accomplish. (Isaiah 55:11).
THANK YOU!!!

Thanks for reading our Electronic Mission we hope that we have helped in some way to encourage and to uplift you as you work for God and his Kingdom. May God continue to bless us as we all work together for Him.

-TFTW Staff

www.truthfortheworld.org