

"Look to the fields. . ."

SHAD WILLIAMS EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

"We Go To Them"

July 2023

FIFTY MILLION PLUS, AND COUNTING



Indiana wheat field - 10 days to harvest time



Another field, ready and waiting for harvest



Sharing at a market in the Congo (DRC)



Sharing the Gospel at a school in Kenya

When the ministry of SWEA began forty-six years ago in 1977, we never dreamed that God would bless the way He has! If someone had told us that someday we would pass the 50 million mark in people praying to receive Jesus, we would have thought they were hallucinating. But, GOD has done it. As of June 30th, 65 million people have heard the Gospel, and 52.5 million have prayed to receive Christ. It would take a long time and a lot of space to explain how that number came about, and we may do that someday. But, for now, I guess the best way to sum it up is to just say, GOD DID IT. That number represents millions of miles traveled, tens of thousands of Gospel messages preached, and millions of dollars spent, all provided by our heavenly Father Who is faithful to save those who believe. I want to invite you, our dear friends, to join Sheila and me in giving praise to HIM for all HE has done. And, THANK YOU for being with us on this continuing journey.

2023 MID-YEAR SUMMARY

June was our 550th month, and it was another very fruitful one. The teams conducted 1,558 evangelistic meetings, and saw another 1,403,362 people say yes to Jesus. That brought the total number of events for the first six months to 9,455. They averaged presenting the Gospel to 45,000 people PER DAY! The total number who publicly confessed faith in Jesus was 7,284,247. In addition, over 4,000 people were trained in personal and field evangelism.

REACHING FOR NEW GOALS - BY FAITH

The goal for people responding to the Gospel in 2023 is not new. We actually entered January asking God for a response of 15 million this year. We are about halfway there. But, God has also put another faith goal in our heart. At this point, we have seen 52.5 million people ask Jesus into their heart. We are currently seeing over a million people per month respond. If that continues, it appears we COULD reach a total of 100 million by December, 2026 – 42 months from now. But, we take NOTHING for granted! We realize that is a VERY big hill to climb in a short amount of time. But we also realize that NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD!. It is going to take thousands of man hours, tens of thousands of events, and hundreds of thousands of dollars. Most of all, it will require the supernatural intervention of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Please join us in faith, believing God for this great end-time harvest.

THE HARVEST IS WHITE AND WAITING

The first picture on this page is one I took about two weeks ago of a wheat field in Indiana. It was about ten days away from being ready to harvest. The picture below that is also a harvest field, and it is ready for harvest TODAY! Yes, we have what some might say are big goals. But, how can we not? Jesus said in John 4:35, "Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." There are currently 8 billion people on earth. Fifty years from now 75% of them will be in eternity - with or without Jesus. NOW is the time to get the GOOD NEWS out. THANK YOU ALL for joining us in our efforts to do that. THANK YOU for being with us as WE GO TO THEM!

Ebenezer - Jehovah Jireh
THE LORD HAS PROVIDED - THE LORD WILL PROVIDE
A BICYCLE FOR MICHAEL

It was September 1980. It had been three years since Sheila and I, in answer to God's call, had resigned our church staff position to enter the ministry of international evangelism, which we are still in today. It had been a productive beginning with numerous evangelistic opportunities in the US, and nine fruitful projects in Hong Kong, Haiti, Brazil, and Korea. But it was just the beginning of a long slow process of learning to trust God by faith, not only for provision for ministry but also in the area of personal finances. That is a school we never graduate from, but in 1980, in those beginning years, it was especially difficult.

From 1973 to 1977, God blessed us with a very successful ministry of evangelism in a rapidly growing mission-minded Baptist church in Memphis. We were seeing many people come to Christ every week. We had a regular salary, of course, and lived in a very nice house owned by the church. So, by worldly definition, we were "secure." But now, in September 1980, we had no guaranteed income. Our ministry organization was not yet established to the point of providing us with a salary, and our personal financial situation was uncertain at best. We had barely gotten our apartment rent paid for the current month and were literally surviving one day at a time. Our son, Michael, was eleven years old, and our daughter, Rachel, was nine.

One day, in the midst of this trying time, Michael came to me and said, "Dad, there is something I really want." I asked him what it was, and he said, "I want a bicycle." I always tried not to let the kids know how desperate our situation was, because I didn't want them to worry. But I knew there was no way I could buy that bicycle. So, I told Michael we would "see about it." I felt like the worst father in the world because I couldn't just take him to the store and get it. But what I COULD do was pray and ask God to help. So, I did. I met with the Lord in the early morning day by day for a week, then two weeks, then three. Then one morning it seemed that God asked me, "What KIND of bicycle?" I said, I don't know. God said - find out. So, I asked Michael, and he said, a ten speed. I went back to God and said, Lord, he wants a ten speed. Then He asked, "What color?" So, I asked Michael, and he said BLUE! So, very early on Monday morning, September 29, I went out to my "prayer spot" at a nearby golf course to meet with the Lord. Then I said to Him, "OK, Lord, I have the information. He wants a BLUE TEN-SPEED bicycle. That's all I know, so I'm asking You to send that." Then I went back home and took the kids to school.

Later in the afternoon, after they got home from school, we gathered as a family and prayed. At about 4:00 we heard a knock at the door. We were surprised to see it was a couple that we had known for a long time, but they had never been to our home. I said, "Hey! What are you guys doing here?" Then the husband said, "Well, we were praying this morning, and we felt that God was telling us to do something for Michael. Well, just come out to the car and help me get this." I followed him out to the car and helped him carry a big box into the house. When we opened it, it was God's answer to prayer - a brand new BLUE TEN-SPEED boy's bicycle! They explained that after getting that word from God, they went right to the store and found it, and felt that they needed to bring it right away. Needless to say we could hardly believe it! And they were so blessed by learning that God had used them as His instruments in answering a specific prayer. But, how did they know to buy a TEN SPEED? How did they know to get a BLUE one? There was only ONE possible answer.

LESSON: That bicycle had nothing to do with "ministry." It had nothing to do with bringing people to Jesus. It was not a "need" that must be met in order to sustain life and health. It was not an emergency. So, in that sense, it was not very "important." But it was a desire in Michael's heart, and therefore in mine. That bicycle was important to God because it was important to His child. I have heard it said, "God will give you what you NEED, but not what you just WANT." That is a terrible slam against God's character. Dear Christian, He will do both. We love to quote Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." But Psalm 37:4 is equally true, "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Needless to say our family has never forgotten that incident. We all learned a little more about the goodness of God that day. We also learned a little more about taking our desires to our Father, about being specific, and about trusting Him to provide in His Own way and time. I'm so thankful now that I was not able to just "go to the store" and get that bike. That would have been good for the moment. But, GOING TO GOD to get it has been good for a lifetime! The bicycle has been gone for many years now, but the thrill of seeing God's hand move in our life endures forever.

The next day was my 34th birthday, and I could not have received a better gift than being an eyewitness to the faithfulness of God - especially in relation to our little family.