

"Look to the fields. . ."

# SHAD WILLIAMS EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

## "We Go To Them"

September 2023

# FINALLY, BACK TO AFRICA!

## October 2-14, 2023



**We Go To Them Field Evangelism book in Tamil**

On October 2nd, Sheila and I will depart for our first trip to Africa since February 2020. Because of the covid pandemic followed by our daughter's breast cancer, we have been prevented from returning for a long time. But, we feel that things are stabilized now to the point that we can go for long overdue team meetings in Kenya and Rwanda. We will begin in Nairobi, meeting with about 60 team members from Kenya and Tanzania. Then from there we will fly to Kigali to meet with another 40 members from Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo. The ministry team has grown significantly over the past three years, and there are many new people whom we have not met. So needless to say we are looking forward to connecting with them. It is



**Richard Mumia leading a seminar on Field Evangelism in Kenya**

going to be a quick fast-paced trip, and we are going to need more stamina and energy than we normally seem to have these days. So, please pray for that, as well as God's protection, power in speaking, and financial provision. This is going to be an expensive project, but highly necessary.

### AWESOME AUGUST: ANOTHER GREAT MONTH - OVER ONE MILLION RESPOND IN 1,333 EVENTS

Once again God proved Himself faithful in opening doors and providing resources, allowing the teams to conduct 1,333 evangelistic events. They averaged reaching over 38,000 people per day. By the end of the month they had seen 1,057,292 people pray to receive Jesus. The average attendance in each event was 900 people. In the past eight months, the teams have conducted 12,000 events and have seen 9,575,000 people bow their heads, voice a prayer to invite Jesus into their heart, and publicly profess Him as their newly found Lord and Savior. ALL GLORY TO GOD!! The goal for 2023 is still 15 million, and the teams are pushing hard to reach it. Please pray daily for them – for God's supernatural power, protection, and provision. Evangelism is hard work, especially "we go to them" FIELD evangelism!



**Church members in Kenya learning to use the "Clean Heart" diagram to share the Gospel one-on-one**

### THOUSANDS TRAINED IN FIELD EVANGELISM

We not only rejoice that through the ministry of SWEA/WGTT millions of people are hearing the Gospel and receiving Jesus in their hearts, but also that hundreds of people are being trained each month in "we go to them" field evangelism and in one-on-one personal evangelism. Three thousand copies of the "We Go To Them" field evangelism training manual have been printed in the Tamil language of South India and have been used to train over 1000 pastors, evangelists and workers, who are now serving in various locations throughout India. In Africa, thousands of people have received training using the same material. The Scripture is very clear that we are to not only DO the work of proclaiming the Gospel, but we are to equip and mobilize others also.



**Students at the LIFE Institute in India receive "We Go To Them" books for training**

# *Ebenezer - Jehovah Jireh*

## THE GUY IN THE MINT GREEN SUIT

Shad Williams

That was me - EVERY SUNDAY! I have heard many well-meaning Christians say something like this, "Well, you know, God will give us what we need, but He won't just give us what we want." I strongly disagree with this inditement of God's character for two reasons. The first is Scriptural. We love to quote Philippians 4:19, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Yes! Amen! But His Word also says in Psalm 37:4, "Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart." The second reason is based upon my personal experience with God over the past 55 years. Let me share a little story with you.

In the fall of 1975, I was on the staff of a Baptist church in Memphis as youth minister. My salary was quite small. Beyond covering the monthly essentials there was nothing in our budget for buying clothes for Sheila and me. For a while we didn't think much about it. But, eventually it began to be an issue - especially for me. It finally reached a point at which I had only one suit left, and it was MINT GREEN. Why did I even OWN a mint green suit? It was the 70s! Now, here's the problem - I was required to wear a suit to the office every day. And, I was required to sit on the platform along with the other staff members EVERY SUNDAY, wearing a suit. If my one and ONLY suit had been black, no one would have ever noticed. But it was LIGHT green! I wore that same suit to the office every day and sat on the platform in every Sunday morning service for SIX MONTHS! I did not feel embarrassed, but I DID begin to feel awfully conspicuous. Sheila was in desperate need of clothes also, but she COULD make a dress, and did. Needless to say, we had been praying for some time about this clothing issue. It had become a big need that we had no power to meet.

But there was also another item that was heavy upon my heart - life insurance. Now, I could not say that I "needed" life insurance. I was only 28 years old and in very good health. I wasn't expecting to die anytime soon, but it still bothered me that if I did, there would be no provision for Sheila and the kids. To have life insurance coverage had become a very strong desire in my heart, and I prayed about it daily - along with the clothing issue. So, I had two things going simultaneously, a NEED for clothes, and a DESIRE for life insurance. I was powerless to DO anything about either one, except to continue to pray.

Then one day during October I was out making some visits. While praying about both issues on my way back to the office, the Holy Spirit spoke very definitely in my heart and said, "Shad, you have prayed about these things long enough. It's time for you to just ask Me to provide, put in a definite request, and then receive it from me." So, right there in the car I prayed, "Father, I ask You in the Name of Jesus to give me some clothes and an insurance policy. I hereby receive them from You. Thank you. Amen." A few minutes later I walked into the church office and my secretary handed me a note with a phone number. She said, "This gentleman (We'll call him Mr. Smith) called while you were out and asked if you would call him." He was a church member - a very dedicated Christian and a successful businessman. When I called, he asked if I could come to his office that day. I could not imagine what he wanted to see me about, but I went.

After a few minutes of small talk he said, "Shad, this is very awkward for me, and I don't want to offend you, but I have noticed that you wear the same suit every Sunday. [How could he not!] I'm just wondering, is that the only one you have?" I admitted it was. He then said, "Ok, well I have another personal question. Do you have life insurance?" I said "No sir, I don't." He then said, "Well, just today God put it upon my heart to do two things for you. I want to buy you some clothes, and I want to provide you with a life insurance policy through my company at no cost to you!" I could not believe what I was hearing! He said, "We'll write up the policy tomorrow, and then I want to take you and Sheila downtown to see my friend, Mr. Julius Lewis." Julius Lewis' was the finest Men's clothing store in Memphis at that time.

The next day we met Mr. Smith at his office and signed the papers for a \$100,000 whole life policy, which we had for many years to come. Then we drove downtown to Julius Lewis Men's Store. Mr. Lewis greeted us himself. Mr. Smith said, "Shad, pick out a suit - any one you like." Sheila helped me pick out a black one. He said, "Pick out another one." I did. He said, "Another one." Then he said, "Now you need shirts and ties, and shoes- brown and black" When we left the store, I was completely outfitted with everything I needed, and more. He then said, "Sheila, I don't know anything about women's clothes, so I'm just going to give this to you to buy some for yourself and handed her \$300 - about \$1900 in today's money. God had answered with "more than we could ask or think". Words cannot express how grateful I was the following Sunday morning to sit on the platform in a new black three-piece suit, to see my bride wearing a new dress, to know that my family was secure - and to know it all came directly from the hand and heart of God.

**WE LEARNED A VALUABLE LESSON** – Our Heavenly FATHER cares equally as much about our "wants" as He does our "needs", **so long as they are within the scope of His will**. And He delights in giving us BOTH. He has proven this to us time and time again over the past 55 years. If you will allow Him, and trust Him, He will prove it to you too. I just hope you don't have to spend six months wearing a mint-green suit to get the message!