

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Into All The World

(Jerry Fite)

Jesus, before ascending to His present throne in heaven, commanded the apostles: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15). Beginning in Jerusalem, the apostles carried out their commission by preaching the good news of salvation to the Jews first (Acts 2), and then to the Gentiles (Acts 10). The word, like Jesus outlined, spread from Judaea, Samaria and into all the known world (Acts 1:8, 8:5-14, 13:1-28:31). By A.D. 62 Paul could say the gospel’s message of hope had been “preached in all creation under heaven...” (Philippians 1:23).

Faithful Christians personally taking the message of the Gospel to others is how the Gospel spread in the first century (2 Timothy 2:2). Persecution did not squelch, but only emboldened the faithful to take the message to the lost in new territories. Persecuted Christians in Jerusalem took the message of salvation to Samaria (Acts 8:4). While in prison, Paul proved the word of God is not bound as he made saints out of prison guards through the heart-penetrating Gospel (Phil. 1:12-13, 4:22, 2 Tim. 2:9).

The result of the person to person interaction with the Gospel was the establishment of local churches. Where the calling of the Gospel went via the preaching to individuals, the “church” or the “called out” was planted to flourish as a local body of saints (1 Corinthians 1:2). Paul personally brought the gospel to Corinth, and a local church of God was established in Corinth. Epaphras preached the good news of grace to the Colossians, and a faithful body of saints was established in Colossae (Col. 1:1, 6-7).

Physical travel and personal contact were the means of carrying the gospel to all creation under heaven. What are we doing today?

While we remain faithful to reach the lost in our local area through personal contact, we have a wonderful tool in spreading the gospel locally, and throughout the whole world. It is our website.

How many preachers would it take to travel to twenty distinct countries with the Gospel’s message? Wait! They need to travel to these distinct places in one month. One man could not effectively penetrate these distinct places in one month. We proba-

bly would need at least twenty brethren to concentrate their efforts for the month in these areas.

Our one website, just for the month of October reached twenty countries. People clicked on our website from six of the seven continents on earth. Bible teaching reached Canada, Brazil, Turkey, South Africa, Japan and Australia. From Germany alone, 1,198 navigated our website. People from Brazil connected 698 times, and 319 people from Argentina checked out teaching on our website.

How many man hours would it take to find people interested in the truth of the Gospel upon six continents of the earth? We could spend many hours knocking on doors, making cold calls and not find 100 interested after a month of work. But our website was accessed in October by 3,987 people already interested before they clicked. We presently average 137 hits a day. In October (3-31), 42,402 files of teaching were opened with 64,684 clicks on our website.

What has this cost us in terms of money? \$8.00 a month! Money well spent, don’t you think?