



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

April 19, 2007

The On Target Ministry eNewsletter

Serving God through International Education

Dr. Jim Bearss, President

Dear Friends,

My teaching mission to Romania is now history, and what a blessed time we enjoyed overseas! *The class consisted of 25 pastors and church leaders from the Costanza area in eastern Romania. I can never say enough about the earnest desire that these national pastors have to learn God's Word. On this trip, I traveled with Dave Dernlan of Tri-M and Dr. Allen Monroe of EPI. Together we offered three classes: Marriage and the Family (Dave), First Corinthians (Allen), and Life of Christ (me). The gratitude that the students expressed throughout the week was underscored by their determination to apply the truths we taught to their lives and ministries.*



*In addition to teaching classes we also preached in Romanian churches on two Sundays. On Easter I preached at Trinity Baptist Church in Medgidia, and on the following Sunday we were in a gypsy church in Bucharest. It was exciting to see the love that the Romania and gypsy believers have for the Lord and His Word. **God is doing a great work in Romania.** The churches are becoming stronger in their commitment to proclaim truth, and the believers are becoming bolder in their witness for Christ.*

The face of missions is changing rapidly. The most effective way to spread the gospel and plant churches overseas is no longer the traditional model of resident missionaries. Today we are seeing an explosion of churches being planted and people being saved as a result of the work of National Pastors! These men have the fervor and knowledge needed to reach people for Christ in a way the foreign missionary can not do.



For example, in the Ukraine, where I taught last year, there were about 700 Baptist churches in 1989. When communism was defeated in the Ukraine, the Christians became free to openly proclaim Christ. As a result, there are now over 3,000 Baptist churches in the Ukraine! Who planted these churches? National Pastors! In Egypt, no American missionary could ever make headway in evangelism and church planting that the national pastors are experiencing. The pastors we have trained in Alexandria have planted over 100 churches in Egypt in just the past four years!

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These are amazing results! For a fraction of the cost of keeping traditional missionary on the field for a four-year term, we can train literally hundreds of pastors who take their new-found knowledge seriously and apply it in their work and teach it to faithful men who teach others also. Once armed with the truth, these faithful pastors become very effective in the work of evangelism. This is because they have all the necessary tools: they know the culture, customs, and language of the people they are reaching. They have friends and local contacts. They are trusted and respected in their communities. These

are priceless advantages that traditional missionaries often take a lifetime to develop.

God gave us a mandate in 2 Timothy 2:2 when He told us to commit truth to faithful men who will teach others also. Your participation in On Target Ministry is a fulfillment of this great Scriptural model. Be assured that your investment of finances and your prayers are doing the work of the ministry to the glory of God. Our support level is at 33%. This is because three churches and twenty-four individuals have caught the vision and seen the value in International Education. They have partnered together with us to accomplish the training of national pastors.

In 2007 we have taught in Egypt, Haiti, and Romania. We will continue ministering as God provides the funds to do so. Over 300 people receive this email. I suppose only a small fraction actually read the whole report. (Thank you for reading this far!) But if every recipient of this letter would support our ministry for just 50 cents a day, we would be at full support! It doesn't take much when everyone participates. Once fully supported, we will be in a position to accept all the offers we currently have to minister overseas.



In the past few months we have seen God open new doors for On Target Ministry in Kenya, Uganda, Italy, and Jordan. With the on-going need to teach pastors in Haiti, Jamaica, Romania, and Egypt, there is so much to do! Please pray that God will raise up an army of saints with a 2 Timothy 2:2 vision who will support us in this exciting and unique ministry. God is blessing this work above all our expectations. Will you pray and ask God to lead you to become a part of our support team! We promise that your wise investment in our ministry will serve the cause of Christ in great ways.

The students in Romania presented me with a gift for the teaching the Life of Christ. It was a scroll with Jeremiah 33:3 printed on it in Romanian. In English, God says, "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." What a great God we serve! His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. Pray for us as we continue to impact people of this generation all around the world with the glory of God's truth.

Striving to please an Audience of One!

Dr. Jim and Anna Betsy Bearss

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On Target Ministry

The website is all new and updated! Check it at www.OnTargetMinistry.org!

The Pictures:

#1 – *The students in Romania on day one!*

#2 – *Gheorghe taking notes in Romania*

#3 – *Me teaching Life of Christ from my handmade map of Israel*

#4 – *Class Photo of the Romanian students*

#5 – *Pastors in Haiti taking notes on the teaching*

#6 – *We granted 176 certificates of completion for the course in Haiti*

Jim Bearss, Th.D, D.Min
President

Our Support Address:

Jim & Anna Bearss
On Target Ministry

(Be sure to make your check payable to “Faith Community Foundation”)

2455 Scenic Valley Drive
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Cell Phone (715) 558-2227

Web: www.OnTargetMinistry.org

Email: n7in@arrl.net

We stand in the service of the sovereign God whose purposes cannot fail, whose words do not fall to the ground, and whose people shall be saved.
