

# Winter Wanderings

Friday, October 12, 1990

Dear Friends and Faithful Supporters,

It has been a long time since you have heard from us. It is not (as our letterhead might suggest) that we have been gone a lot—although in the last two months that has certainly been true for me (Roberta)—but these last eight months have been so very difficult that we have hardly known just what and how to write. What a comfort it is to have so many examples in the Bible and in history of leaders who have gone through exactly the same things. And to remember the promise of our Lord: “I am with you alway, even to the end of the age!” We lean on that.

When Ralph walked across the street to take over the running of the university, he found all sorts of problems, chief among them financial. He has worked night and day to get the expenses back into balance with the income, but we’re not out of the woods yet. Too many people had been hired, and too many not-absolutely-necessary improvements had been made too fast. The combination of the two just about ruined us. The latter is easier to turn around quickly, but neither one has been at all easy.

Fortunately, the Center itself had built up a few reserves, or we would have been in desperate straits indeed. And we do thank the Lord for the years of experience Ralph has had in financial management, not only at the USCWM and the William Carey Library Press, but also over a 10-year period in Guatemala. Also for his ability in accounting. It constantly amazes us how few people, even professional accountants, really understand why they

do what they do. Anyhow, do pray for him.

Last time I wrote, I spoke of upcoming trips to South Africa (both of us) and to London (Ralph only). We had to cancel both, almost at the last minute. Fortunately, we had a good substitute to go in Ralph’s place to London. We hate to do that sort of thing. But it’s great that we have so many capable people to call on (even from Center staff itself) who are willing to go at the last minute because they really care for us. How heartwarming that is!

It has been an unusual experience for Ralph to have me gone when he is home. I don’t want to do that often because I think it puts added strain on him. I had been scheduled to teach at one of our Perspectives courses in Virginia, but it was cancelled through lack of sufficient students for the fall course. Tricia, daughter # 4, who lives there, was so unhappy that I wouldn’t therefore be coming that she rounded up several other speaking engagements for me that would help pay my way! She’s quite a mobilizer.

Among these was the Women’s Fellowship at the St. Giles Presbyterian church, a rather large church in Richmond which they attend. When the pastor heard I would be in town, he asked me to preach on Sunday morning, both services. That was quite a compliment even though I had spoken for him at his former pastorate in Pennsylvania and at a renewal conference.

Anyhow, I found after arriving that it was Worldwide Communion Day. I’d never before spoken at a communion service! But St. Giles is a wonderful, evangelical (mildly charismatic) Presbyterian church. And the service, apart

from my contribution, was a great refreshment to my soul. I really felt the presence of the Lord with me as I spoke.

Almost as soon as I returned home, I left for the PUMA (Presbyterians United for Mission Advance) conference and speaking engagements in the Bay Area near San Francisco. I knew when I left that I had to speak (for 10 minutes) in each of two Sunday A.M. services at a large Presbyterian church in Walnut Creek and then to 50 high schoolers that night in Burlingame. (It’s been years since I did that. What a bunch! They seemed wild at first, but really settled down to interact with me when I spoke.) Again, I felt the Lord really helped.

I knew also, before I left home, that I would be giving the two sermons the next Sunday at Immanuel Pres. in San Jose and teaching a Perspectives class for 2 1/2 hours in Capitola the Monday in between. (By the way, that is such a pretty little seaside town, around the curve of the coast from Monterey. I wish we had time and a place to spend a few days of rest there.)

I relaxed for a few minutes after arriving at Redwood City for the PUMA conferece, thinking, “Now I can rest for these next four days since I don’t have to speak again until Sunday.” But then I decided to look at the schedul for that conference and found my name (!!!) big as life, as one of the plenary speakers. What a shock! But it was even more of one when I got a revised copy of the schedule and found I was the FIRST plenary speaker, to be speaking the first evening. (Fortunately, I had a day to prepare.) But the schedule also listed me for a work-

shop before then as well!

HELP, God!

And help, Ralph. I figure if other people can incorporate his ideas in their talks, why not me? So, again, with a great deal of prayer and God's grace, it went, I felt, okay.

This conference was not the usual. There were 60 or so missionaries there, and the plenary speaker for the rest of the week (I found out after arriving) was the world-famous founder of Operation Mobilization—George Verwer! He usually speaks on the spiritual life, not on missions. And he is not an expert on mission statistics. Even so, it was surprising to me to find out how skeptical he is about the possibility of penetrating every major culture with the gospel by the year 2000. Behind him on the bulletin board was the cut-out diagram I had put there the night before (enclosed). It looked almost like "Choose you this day" whom you will believe.

We have realized for some time that we are in a Kadesh Barnea situation with world evangelization. There are those who say, "Let's go for it!"—among them Bill Bright and a sizeable number of other equally eminent men. And there are those who say, "It simply cannot be done!" Only God knows what is true. But we'd rather try and fail than not to try.

I admit that unless all of the major groups are adopted by mission agencies and church backers by the end of 1992, it probably cannot be done. Yet I am sure God wants all the remaining unreached people groups to be penetrated at least by the year 2000. That year is not magical. But as the end of the second millenium, it makes a great goal to shoot for.

Someone has said that in ten minutes of true worldwide revival God can do more than we can do in 20 years without it. After all that has happened in Eastern Europe just this last year, who am I to question what God might do to bring about His will? "Thy Kingdom Come!" has to be our con-

stant prayer.

One of the main reasons why I feel we are in the beginning of the end times is the intensity of spiritual warfare which is going on right now. So many key leaders that we know are right now undergoing tremendous stress. Accusations are rife! Many are absolutely untrue. We have known that for some years now the Satanists have urged their followers to pray for the downfall of key evangelical leaders. And we have seen his destructive work.

But we know that God is still on the throne, that victory is His, and that we must trust with all our hearts and obey. Martin Luther didn't write "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" when everything was going smoothly. Look at the words again! Satan is on the march as never before. But "when He comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord raises up a standard against Him." So it has been promised! So it will be!

A book which is helping me know how to pray in these days is Wes Duetzel's new book called "Mighty, Prevailing Prayer." I want to see if we can get the William Carey Library to buy it in bulk so we can get one for each of you. You've been such a blessing to us over the years that to let you share in this recent blessing of ours would be our joy.

Love from us both; God is able,



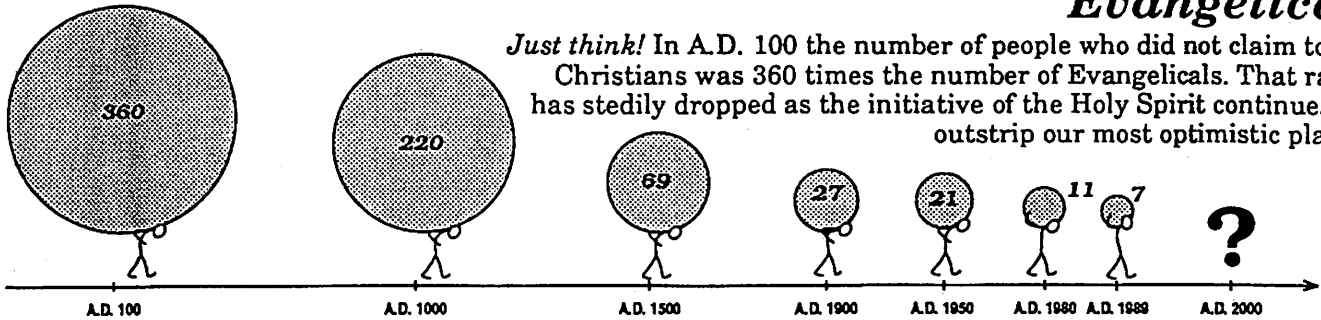
Roberta and Ralph Winter

P.S. Another rather mundane to pray for is a more dependable car. The one we are driving was given (used) eight years ago to the Center for our exclusive use, and has been a good car. But this last summer we have had continual problems with it, and we simply don't have the time to be constantly running to the garage, to say nothing of the cost. Surely somewhere the Lord has another one for us, either at a good price or for a tax deducti-

ble receipt, which may actually be worth more to the donor than to be paid for it. If you have any ideas, call our home (818) 799-8339.

# The Amazing Countdown Facts!

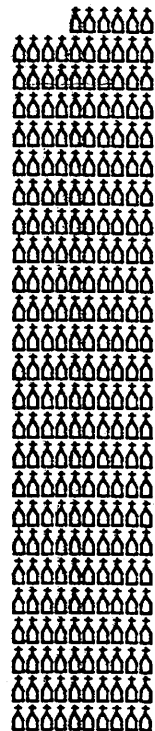
## Non-Christians per Evangelical



### The Finishable Task!

Year (A.D.)	Total World Population (Millions) 1	People who do not claim to be Christians (Millions) 2	People who call themselves Christians (Millions) 3	Evangelicals (out of Col # 3) (Millions) 4	Non-Christians per Evangelical (Col #4 / Col #5) 5	Unreached People Groups 6	Congregations per Unreached People Group (Col #6 / Col #7) 7
100	181	180	1	0.5	360 to 1	60,000	1 to 12
1000	270	220	50	1	220 to 1	50,000	1 to 5
1500	425	344	81	5	69 to 1	44,000	1 to 1
1900	1,620	1,062	558	40	27 to 1	40,000	10 to 1
1950	2,504	1,650	854	80	21 to 1	24,000	33 to 1
1980	4,458	3,025	1,433	275	11 to 1	17,000	162 to 1
1989	5,160	3,438	1,722	500	7 to 1	12,000	416 to 1
2000	6,260	?	?	?	?	0?	?

416:1



#### Whence These Amazing Numbers?

The first three columns are published figures in the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, plus recent updates by the author David Barrett. He and Ralph Winter have talked over the estimates in column four. These figures have been developed in consultation with the Lausanne Statistics Task Force. The estimate of 12,000 remaining Unreached People Groups has been agreed upon to create a simpler, clearer picture.

162:1

### Evangelical Congregations per Unreached People Group

Just think! In A.D. 100 there were 12 (see heart shapes below) Unreached People Groups per "congregation" of evangelicals. By A.D. 1000 that was down to 5. Jumping ahead, by 1900 there were ten times as many such "congregations" per group to be reached. That astonishing trend has continued until there are 416 "congregations" today per group to be reached!

