



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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Alila took her tiny infant to the River Ganges. With tears pouring from her eyes she stood at the river's edge for what felt like an eternity. Water splashed near the baby's feet. Suddenly she threw the six-month-old into the river. Later a missionary found Alila crying near the riverbank. In between sobs she told him, "The problems in my home are too many and my sins are heavy on my heart, so I offered the best I have to the goddess Ganges: my first-born son."

The missionary kindly told Alila of Jesus' love and forgiveness. She tearfully responded, "I have never heard that before. Why couldn't you have come thirty minutes earlier? My child would not have had to die."

Many respond to the problems in their lives like Alila. Instead of crying out to the true and living God, they offer the best they have to gods and goddesses which empty their pockets but leave their hearts empty. God created us with a universal need for Him. Only through a personal relationship can we find satisfaction which sustains life.

Jesus expressed this truth in a conversation with a woman He met — not much different from Alila — at a well in Samaria. She had gone through life carrying relationship problems. Everywhere she went, they weighed her down like a giant metal ball and chain fastened to her ankle. Dragging that heavy weight around had made her thirsty, but well water couldn't quench her thirst. She needed better water, Living Water. That's where Jesus came in.

Since all of us know an "Alila," Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman gives us helpful guidelines for building relationships which draw people like her closer to God.

1. Jesus was intentional about building a relationship. At first glance, this woman's ethnicity and past might seem to push her beyond the reach of God's grace. Jesus knew who she was and where she had come from. He knew everything about her. But instead of running away, He ran toward her. He stepped in

where other people stepped out. Genuine love and intentionality step up when convenience, comfort, and political correctness back down.

2. Jesus spoke in terms with which the woman could relate. They were not on the farm, so He didn't talk to her about farming. They were not in the vineyard, so He did not talk to her about wine. They were not in the field with sheep, so He did not talk to her about shepherding. They were at a well, so He talked to her about . . . WATER. If we are to meet people where they are, we will have to talk to them in terms they are most familiar with!

3. Jesus did not just talk; He listened. Sometimes we think we have to do all the talking to make gospel-centered relationships work. But if we don't listen, we may never get the information we need to ask follow-up questions which encourage legitimate conversation.

4. Jesus knew her past, but did not use it to condemn her. This woman was one of the people God was seeking, and He let nothing — not even her shame, guilt, or regret — block the flow of His grace. He did not pretend the sin wasn't there, but He emphasized Himself as the Solution.

5. Jesus had a missionary heart. By this conversation, He showed the doors of salvation are open wide to the entire world. Our money is no object; our popularity or social status is not a factor; our cultural background or racial differences are irrelevant; our geography is not an obstacle. The gospel message is for everyone. That includes you and me.

As we focus on missions this month, I would be remiss not to share the Good News. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to Earth to die for the sins of humanity. Without His sacrificial death, we would be forced to pay for our own sins and suffer God's judgment in Hell. Through faith in Jesus' death and Resurrection, our sins are forgiven and our relationship with God is restored. I invite you to accept this free gift today. Then share it with an Alila in your life! - *Dr. L.W. Edwards*



MISSIONARY INTERVIEW



For this month's Newsletter, we interviewed two missionary families about their experience on the mission field. The Cuthbertson Family [CF] is serving in Cote d'Ivoire, Africa. The Shore Family [SF] is serving in Edinburgh, Scotland.

1. What led you to become a missionary?

(CF) – God's call on our lives. We are both missionary kids. We have heard great preaching all our lives. The [fields are] white unto harvest. We feel that serving God is the highest calling. "He that winneth souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30) . . . Jesus wants us to spread the glorious gospel. . . .

2. How did God convince you and your wife to serve in Scotland?

(SF) – I've had a burden for revival for many years. James Steward was a young Scott whom God used for revival in Europe before and after WWII. He saw remarkable scenes of revival there and returned to Scotland expecting to see the same. God had clearly led him back, and he brought several students from [Bob Jones University] with him. This was the beginning of modern missions in Scotland taking place in the 1960's. In his biography, his wife wrote something like the following, "At the time of this writing, James has gone on to be with his Lord and revival has not yet come to Scotland. But the seed has been sown and the prayers have been prayed." God used her words to break my heart, and after a week of focused prayer we surrendered to come.

3. What are some of the unique challenges associated with the mission field in Africa?

(CF) – The bad roads, bugs, mold, humidity, heat, and dust are a few of the physical challenges; but the openness of the people — their willingness to talk — outshines any of that. But though they may agree with you and seem to understand, many of them don't read. . . . Also they are very steeped in superstitions and other false beliefs that are hard to overcome. It is a bit like witnessing during Bible days

4. What advice would you give someone considering the mission field?

(SF) – Pray that God would open the door for you to go, but make sure you only go at His calling. Whenever you do something for God you will face significant opposition. That will only increase when you go to the front lines to serve Him.

Make sure that your walk with God in prayer is strong and that you are serving Him in evangelism now. Going to a foreign country doesn't make someone a missionary.

5. How would you encourage or warn the American church in light of your overseas mission's experience?

(SF) – Making concessions with the world will kill the church. . . .

Don't abandon church services. As [church planters], we establish services and have to preach at times to our family plus one or two people. . . . Attend all of your church services unless providentially hindered. Help your pastor reestablish the work God has done in your ministry.

Don't compromise with the world. . . . The light which our

world needs from the church has been replaced [with] contemporary fleshly attractions. . . . Be an Aaron and a Hur to hold up the hands of any minister with the courage to fight against the flesh and obey God's Word.

6. In what specific ways can our Newsletter readers pray for and support your family?

(CF) – The roads are dangerous — crazy drivers and bad roads. We pray for protection. . . . Our biggest prayer request is for the church to grow and for God to bring someone that Dan can train to be the pastor here. . . . So many have been trained, even go to Bible school, and then fall back. . . . Dan is stretched thin. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers.

(SF) - Please pray for the power of God in Scotland. We are asking God for revival. Please pray for our church to reach unsaved family members of those who attend our church. Please pray for converts who will follow the Lord in believer's baptism and separate from the dead old man to live a new life in Christ. Please pray for God to raise up local church leaders, deacons, teachers, and preachers. Please pray that God will open more doors to establish . . . [Full Article](#)



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

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