



**PRESBYTERIAN
FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP**

The Frontier and You

News and Information on Frontier Mission

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August 2008

Reaching 90 Million People and 100 People Groups

BORN Poised to Grow

"Ask of Me, and I will make the nations (people groups of Bihar) your inheritance. The ends of the earth (the villages of Bihar) your possession" Psalm 2:8

The Bihar Out-Reach Network (BORN) has been part of the frontier mission program for eight years. Our partnership began after the Rev. Dr. Cody Watson traveled, on behalf of the PCUSA Office of International Evangelism, with Luis Bush in North India. Cody met Rev. SD Ponraj, Director of BORN, on that trip and was impressed with his heart for the people of North India and the missiological perspective he had. A frontier mission project began, and much has been done in North India since that time.

In 2000 BORN set a goal to plant 10,000 churches by 2010. Through prayer, training and hard work, nearly 5,000 churches have been planted so far. Approximately 50,000 new believers have been baptized since 2000. By God's grace the gospel continues to grow and spread among different communities and villages of Bihar. Today, through BORN's member missions, an average of 1,500 people are baptized every month and three house churches are planted every day. Presbyterians have been part of this. Our relationship with BORN has expanded to include support for the training of grassroots church planters, training of women evangelists, evangelism training for oral learners, and leadership training for emerging mission movements.

Is the work finished after 8 years? By no means! There are over 40,000 villages without a church and over 50 people groups without an indigenous church of their own—upwards of 80 million people.

Rev. SD Ponraj is now the General Secretary of BORN, and Rev. Chandran Kumar Sah is the Director. They and their leadership team welcome our participation with them. A brief description of frontier mission projects in North India is listed on page 2.

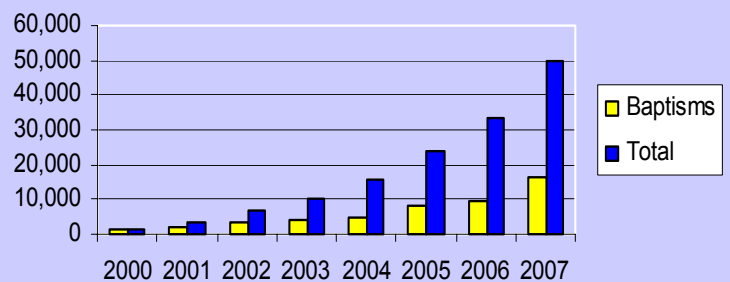
Come and travel to North India with PFF and see what God is doing! A trip is being planned for January 2009. Contact our office for details.



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Baptisms in Bihar since 2000



Work you can support through the Bihar OutReach Network (BORN)

Bible School — BORN's Bible School trains leaders for the growing movement. Men and women come from the various ethnic groups to receive a basic grounding in scripture and practical areas.

Support for Ponraj — PFF helps raise partial support for Rev. SD Ponraj as he gives leadership to the movement.

Indigenous Church Planters — As the grass roots church planters move into new areas, partial support is provided to enable them to begin the work.

Training Center — BORN is purchasing land on which to build a permanent facility which will house offices and provide space for training programs. This means they will no longer need to rent space for this purpose. PFF is helping to raise funds for the Training Center project.

General Support — If you would like to support the overall work of BORN, including all the above, mark your gifts for "BORN-General Support" and BORN will use the money where most needed.

To support the work of BORN — send your donation to PFF, 7132 Portland Avenue Suite 136, Richfield, MN 55423. Clearly indicate BORN and the specific project (or "as most needed").



Women's Graduation Ceremony at the Bihar School of Evangelism

Case Story in Bihar from BORN:

Pastor Mahesh Kumar, a native Bihari, graduated from Itarasi Bible College with an MDiv degree in 1999. However, he found his training was not very helpful in the realities of the mission field. He dreamed of bringing thousands of his people to Christ, but he was struggling.

Pastor Kumar attended BORN's training in 2001, which transformed his thinking. In 7 years, he and his team planted 125 house churches with 850 baptisms.

Note: there are over 100 strategy coordinators in Bihar, who would all give the same testimony.

Stories from the Frontier . . .

The Antioch Partners

A strategic alliance of
Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship
and The Outreach Foundation

Nurlan (not his real name) had never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ. Growing up in Soviet Central Asia, Nurlan knew just two things about Jesus ... that Jesus was mentioned in the Koran, and that the Soviets he knew despised everything Jesus represented. Even though he didn't know anything about Jesus, he did know that deep within him, there was a gnawing, spiritual hunger that wouldn't go away.

About eighteen years ago, when he was fifteen, Nurlan had a dream. He dreamed a man came to him in a bright, blinding light ... a man named Jesus. The light that filled his dream filled him with joy, hope and peace. And, though he didn't understand what the dream meant, Nurlan did know that he wanted to know more about this man named Jesus.

As is sometimes the case among the Muslim peoples of Central Asia, God used a dream to help Nurlan come to faith in Christ. Five years after he had that dream, Nurlan met a Christian who befriended him and began teaching him the Bible. Nurlan read in 1 John that "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all." His dream began to make more sense. After about a year of studying the Scriptures, God brought Nurlan to the point where he was ready to become a follower of Jesus.

God is at work in amazing ways in the world. Meanwhile there are approximately 2 billion people like Nurlan; people who have never had an opportunity to hear about Jesus in a way they can understand. The Antioch Partners, the missionary sending ministry launched by PFF and The Outreach Foundation, is expanding long-term, cross-cultural mission opportunities for Presbyterians. If you think God might be calling you to long-term mission service in a frontier context, we are ready to help you get from where you are now to where God is calling you to be. For more information and contact information, see our website (www.theantiochpartners.org).

Keeping Our Focus . . .

By Bill Young, Executive Director

These are energizing times in the life of PFF! The world keeps changing, our church context keeps shifting, our staff keeps growing, our work keeps expanding, and the Kingdom advances! You can read articles that describe some of what I mean in this issue. In this article, though, I want to highlight PFF's focus in the midst of a changing denominational context.

Let me say up front that our primary focus remains unchanged: "For every people, an indigenous church; for every church, a mission vision." We continue to seek to help Presbyterians be part of what God is doing throughout the world as the Kingdom expands. We believe that God wants U.S. Presbyterians, along with all other parts of the body of Christ, from all around the world, to be part of this vision of proclaiming Christ and his Kingdom among the nations.

As I look at all kinds of Presbyterians in the U.S., it is easy to see that we are caught up in denominational wrangling over the correct Biblical perspective on various sexual issues; we are struggling with the grip of materialism in a troublesome economy; we wrestle with our response to the opportunities and challenges presented by the presence of many different immigrant groups; and we are confronted by our culture on a number of other fronts. What is truth? How do we understand what God wants us to do in our context?

Those are all questions that must be faced, and it is critical for Presbyterians to face them through the lens of Scripture. PFF's board and staff hold strongly to the traditional evangelical perspective on the issues. But PFF's calling is not primarily to wrestle with how the church faces those issues. Our focus, in the midst of all the challenges, is to continue to hold before God's people the calling to be part of what God is doing around the world in bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to people so they can experience the freedom that comes from him. In that freedom all people must face the issues of their culture. Please pray that we will be faithful to our calling and that God will continue to use us.

*For Every People —
An Indigenous Church
For Every Church —
A Mission Vision*

New Staff Member

Rev. Donald Marsden is the newest staff member of Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship. He and his wife, Laurie, recently completed eleven years of mission service in Russia with the Presbyterian Church (USA). As a staff member of PFF, Donald will maintain and sharpen the focus on work he has begun with the native peoples of Siberia – the reindeer herding Nenets, the Khant and other native people groups of the Russian Federation.

Donald is available to share the vision of the kingdom of God and opportunities for your church to become involved in frontier mission. He and his family are now based in Richmond, Virginia.

You can contact Donald by telephone at 804 432 5654 or by email at donaldmarsden@pff.net



To support Donald Marsden salary and ministry expenses, please write a check to PFF (memo line Donald Marsden support) and mail to:

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**For Every People - An Indigenous Church
For Every Church - A Mission Vision**

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE
PFF.NET**

PFF on the Road

Visit with PFF staff at Presbyterian Global Fellowship in Long Beach, CA and the New Wineskins Convocation in Baton Rouge, LA.

Presbyterian Global Fellowship Long Beach, CA – August 14-16, 2008

The 2008 Inside-Out Conference presented by Presbyterian Global Fellowship will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, CA. PFF is one of the sponsoring organizations. Register at: www.pgfconference.org/pgfconference/

New Wineskins Convocation V Baton Rouge, LA – November 9-11, 2008

Held at First Presbyterian Church, Baton Rouge, LA. PFF's Caroline Kurtz is a speaker and PFF will have a table in the display area. Register at: www.newwineskinsassociation.com/event_information.html

PFF National Office Thanks You

PFF is grateful for the support of the churches and individuals who support the administrative functions of the National Office. The office staff manages all receipting and communication with donors, our web site and promotional materials, coordination for trips, presence at events, payroll and personnel functions for PFF and The Antioch Partners, processing frontier mission project funds, and much more. If you are ever in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, we would love to have you visit our National Office.

Did you know that PFF sends your donations for projects directly to the projects at the end of each month. PFF **does not** take any percentage of these gifts for handling the funds.

**SEE
www.PFF.net**