

THE BUNNELLS

Missions and the Church

Almost every missionary who has gone to the field was influenced, recruited, or motivated by a missions leader. It is difficult to understand the mindset of some, who enjoy the benefits of mission boards and mission leaders, but refuse to support them.

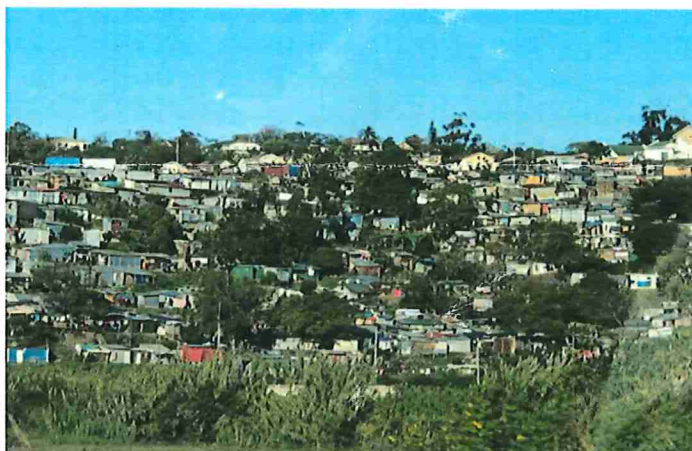
Without leaders, missionary giving would be a fraction of what it is today. Without the preaching of missions leaders, few missionaries would be called out to the nations. Without missions leaders, missionaries would not last as long on the field. Without missions leaders, missionaries would not be trained effectively. I've been on both sides of the missionary divide - the US pastoral side, and the overseas missionary side. The glue that binds these two worlds together, is the missions leader. Be cautious with your missions giving. By all means, prioritize church planting, but, please, please keep supporting your missions strategists and leaders. Their work is essential to the Great Commission!

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Africa

The Bunnells traveled to South Africa for a remarkable journey to visit missionaries, churches, and ministries in the Durban area. What we found was nothing short of a miraculous work of God. The environment is very challenging. Crime is extremely high. Social dysfunction is present at all levels of society. Yet, we saw the Gospel flourishing through healthy local churches. We saw outreach for people with terminal diseases, we saw orphans being cared for, we saw leaders being trained, and, most importantly, we saw the Gospel being preached effectively and powerfully. The fields are ripe in this area. Opportunities abound throughout southern Africa. I preached six times, and our family visited with more than twenty missionaries. We also identified wonderful opportunities to advance the Gospel and local churches!

We want to see, "healthy churches everywhere."

We have always believed in healthy church. From our earliest days in Russia, and working with Afghans, Estonians, Chinese, Turks, Georgians, Armenians, and the many nationalities of London, we have always believed that the primary way of proclaiming the Gospel effectively, is through a healthy, doctrinally sound, local New Testament church. We are working to renew this spirit in as many places as we can around the world. We rejoice whenever we find it flourishing!