



THE REALITIES OF  
**Money**  
**Missions**

GLOBAL CHALLENGES & CASE STUDIES

Jonathan J. Bonk, Michel G. Distefano, J. Nelson Jennings,  
Jinbong Kim, Jae Hoon Lee, EDITORS

KGMLF  
2021



THE REALITIES OF  
**Money  
Missions**

GLOBAL CHALLENGES & CASE STUDIES

Jonathan J. Bonk, Michel G. Distefano, J. Nelson Jennings,  
Jinbong Kim, Jae Hoon Lee, EDITORS



**WILLIAM  
CAREY  
PUBLISHING**  
Available at [missionbooks.org](http://missionbooks.org)



## Chapter 28

Experiencing the Faithfulness of God in Missionary Support

*by Paul Ogbadu*

### **The Journey Begins**

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

—Matthew 4:19

When I informed my parents of my call to missions, little did I know that the Lord had gone ahead of me to prepare the way, especially with my dad. He related an experience he had shortly before I was born. He had a dream that he didn't understand. He shared it with an Anglican pastor friend, who attempted to interpret the dream. He told him that one of his children was going to serve the Lord. My dad kept it in his heart, and was watching to see whom among his children the Lord had chosen to serve him. He told me that he was not surprised that I was the one. He had been watching closely my commitment to Jesus. He prayed with me and assured me of his support and encouragement. It was a great joy that my dad identified with the call of God upon my life. He continued to pray for my wife and I until he went to be with the Lord in March 1994.

### The Call and the Mandate

The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

—Isaiah 58:11–12

In July 1987, just after I rounded up the one year compulsory National Youth Service Corps program with the Nigerian government, the Lord confirmed to me that he was calling me to serve him as a cross-cultural missionary. He instructed me to go to a particular city in Nigeria and wait for further instructions. As soon as I arrived there,

228

I looked for the chapter members of Calvary Ministries (CAPRO)—the Sending Arm of CAPRO, a group of missions-minded Christians who meet regularly to pray and to send some resources to missionaries on the field, as much as possible, now known as CAPRO Sending Teams (CAST)—and started meeting with them to pray for missions. This kept me abreast of what was happening in missions, and in CAPRO in particular. While waiting for further instructions from him, he opened a door for me to start working as an educational and sales representative for an international publishing house, coordinating the activities of the company in two states in Nigeria.

In December of 1989, the Lord reminded me that it was time to take a step of faith into the mission field. It was therefore natural for me to join CAPRO. At that point, CAPRO had been in existence for fifteen years as a faith mission agency. I had already been a part of this group for more than two years, as a member of its Sending Arm.

### Exhausted, Yet Pursuing

So Gideon came to the Jordan and crossed over [the river], he and the three hundred men who were with him—exhausted, yet [still] pursuing [the enemy].

—Judges 8:4 (AMP)

The day before I resumed study at the CAPRO School of Missions in January 1990, some of my friends spent time praying with me all through the night. That morning I picked up my luggage, boarded a bus, and resumed classes. One of my friends who prayed with me that night shared Judges 8:4 as a word he received from the Lord for me. In the midst of some tiredness, frustration, and discouragement on the field, the Lord has used this verse to encourage me. The call of God upon our lives to declare his glory among the nations is a legacy we have received from him, which we are expected to defend at all times and under all circumstances.

While in training at the CAPRO School of Missions, it became clear to me that the Lord would have me start my missionary journey among the unreached people groups in the Francophone West Africa. I therefore joined a few students who were interested in learning the French language for their future ministries, attending some classes with one of our trainers who studied French at the university. Even though after my training I was initially sent to work among the Hausa people of Katsina State, Nigeria, I knew it was a stepping-

stone into the larger vision that the Lord had set before me.

## **How Are You Supported?**

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

—1 Thessalonians 5:24

When I joined CAPRO, one of the questions that I was asked during my initial contacts with the leaders was how sure I was that God was calling me to work with this organization. This question was asked to remind me (and many others) of the financial policy of the mission agency. CAPRO is a faith mission agency; both the ministry and its missionaries depend on God's provision through the generous gifts of his people. None of the missionaries are salaried. All gifts that come into the ministry are used as designated.

When people ask me, "How are you supported?," it is always a difficult question to answer. When I respond by telling them that "It is God who supports us," in most cases it leads to a series of more, difficult questions. The truth is that it is the Lord who has been supporting us all these years. Sometimes he uses people we don't know, or may not meet for a very long time, or may never meet on this side of eternity. He also uses others we know closely. Some of our family members, close friends, the CAST that I was a part of, and friends of the ministry have been there for us in some ways. In the course of our ministry over the years, God also raised some missionary colleagues from time to time to meet some of our needs.

When we arrived in Guinea-Conakry in October 1992, I didn't renew my driver's license since we didn't have a car at that point. A missionary couple with whom we worked closely was returning to their home country. They gave us their car. The car served us for a period of eleven years before we gave it to another missionary couple when we relocated to the Republic of Cameroon in 2004.

## **Strategic Partnership for Kingdom Advance**

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

—John 9:4–5 (KJV)

Around 1985, Guinea-Conakry opened up for missionaries to return and work in the country. WEC International and CAPRO missionaries separately undertook a survey to determine what they would do in the land. In comparing notes, they discovered that the Lord was showing them basically the same direction of ministry—to focus first on the coastal region, the Susu people group, and especially on the youths. The strategies were similar—start a youth center in the city of Conakry and engage the people group in evangelism and discipleship, leading to indigenous, viable, and self-propagating churches.

The two mission groups decided to join hands together in Guinea and serve the Lord as a team. A formal partnership agreement already existed between the two groups at the international level, which could cover the national joint operation. It was a multinational and multicultural team showing forth the glory of the Lord among the unreached peoples of Guinea, supporting and encouraging one another in advancing his Kingdom. We had missionaries from Australia, New Zealand, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Switzerland, United States, France, South Korea, Brazil, Ivory Coast, and Guinea who served on the team at various points. My wife and I served on this team along with some of the missionaries from these countries.

The work that started in earnest in late 1987, under the umbrella name of “Mission Evangélique Internationale en Guinée” (MEIG), was a testimony of what God can do with ordinary people from different backgrounds and up-bringsings who choose to be totally yielded to him. Though the national joint operation was set aside much later, out of this strategic partnership was born a youth center in Koloma, Conakry, a mini youth center in Dubreka, Tabitha Center in Fria, and some churches among the Susu people and the Fulani people of Futa Djallon, which continue to flourish till today. WEC and CAPRO continue their partnership at the international level, operating as brethren with a kindred spirit at the national level. It suffices to say that the whole work was later left in the hands of CAPRO missionaries, who continue to serve in various locations around Guinea.

### **Refreshed to Advance**

... So Jesus said to his disciples, “Come, let’s take a break and find a secluded place where you can rest a while.”

—Mark 6:31 (TPT)

After serving in Cameroon for several years, it became obvious that we needed a rest. We applied to and were accepted by the Overseas Ministries Study Center (OMSC), New Haven, CT, USA, as part of the missionaries and scholars in residence for 2018/2019. The Lord miraculously made a way for us to get our visas in the midst of many refusals at the American Embassy in Yaoundé. Being residents at OMSC in 2018/2019 was quite a refreshing moment. It afforded us the opportunity to spend more time to pray, read and study Scriptures, and commune with the other missionaries in residence as well as the staff of OMSC. We had lectures and courses that enabled us to reflect on our past field experiences and to prayerfully plan for the days ahead. While at OMSC, we reconnected with a South Korean missionary couple, Jinbong Kim and Soon Young Jung, with whom we served in Guinea-Conakry several years back. It was indeed a beautiful and pleasant surprise. At the end of our stay at OMSC, we were convinced that the Lord wanted us to return to Cameroon to consolidate the work there before finally disengaging and taking up another assignment.

### **Conclusion**

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 4:19 (KJV)

Over the years, God has continued to raise up young men and women who were willing to step out of their comfort zone, willing to abandon everything and go out without any assurance of financial and material support. They have continued to serve sacrificially till this very day among unreached people groups and in very difficult terrain. Some of them came out of our labor in Guinea and in Cameroon.

Even though needs abound, we have continued to experience the faithfulness of God in supplying our needs according to his riches in glory. We are very grateful to God and to all the brethren he has used over the years to meet our needs and make our stay on the fields possible. Their kneeling in prayer and offering of material support kept us standing to proclaim the love of Christ among the nations:

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have

shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

—Hebrew 6:10 (KJV)