



Christian Report

To Win...To Disciple...To Equip...To Win

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Judas Was A Hero?—by Pastor Larry Hoskins, Th. M., CMF Board of Directors

We are members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability and Christian Service Charities in order to maintain the highest standards of excellence and accountability.



Treachery is a virtue. That was a tribal worldview of certain tribes in New Guinea described by Don Richardson in his book, *Peace Child*. Cannibalistic tribesmen would unwittingly visit a

neighboring tribe who would, as they called it, “fatten the pig for the kill.” The hosting tribe would repeatedly invite the tribesmen to eat with them, and it would happen so frequently that the visitor would think that he was developing good friends.

Then, after a while on one of those visits when he had become sufficiently portly, the hosting tribe would spear their guest to death and eat him. They actually enjoyed the whole operation of making their neighbor a patsy for their betrayal.

When missionaries came to these tribes, and told them the story of Jesus, the tribesman whistled with approval as Judas betrayed Jesus. Judas was their hero, and Jesus was a clueless mark whom Judas had played like an old violin.

When treachery is a virtue and when Judas is the champion, how does a missionary communicate that Judas was the villain and that Jesus was the hero? God had prepared the New Guinea tribesmen for just such a reversal.

When two warring tribes

wanted peace between themselves, a tribe would give one of their children to a family of the other tribe. That child was called the “Peace Child,” and if a member of the recipient tribe killed the Peace



Child, even though the tribes valued treachery, such a killing was culturally defined to

be a reprehensible and ignoble act. After a period of constant retaliatory killings had occurred between the tribes, a missionary learned that the Peace Child was the way to at least bring a temporary cease fire. And then it clicked! Humankind was at war with God, and God sent His Peace Child to earth to bring peace between God and man, and Judas had betrayed the Peace Child and was responsible for His death. Judas became the scoundrel, and Jesus the protagonist. As a result of this missionary’s faithfulness, many of those New Guinea tribal peoples came to a saving faith in Christ.

The only reason so many of those individuals are now our brothers and sisters in Christ is because Don Richardson followed a principle of ministry that the Apostle Paul outlined in Romans 15:20-21 where he wrote:

And thus I aspired to preach the gospel,

not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation; but as it is written, “THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE, AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND.”

Through Paul’s missionary efforts and that of others like him, many all around the globe have heard the gospel and believed. It didn’t always happen right away. In fact, Paul makes it clear that it is a process in which God is causing the ultimate outcome.

Today, we live next door to neighbors and we work in cubicles where there are many who “have not heard.” Recently, I was at a Board meeting for a missionary organization where another Board member lamented, “The church is all talk and no action.” He was referring to the importance of evangelism, but few actually get around to sharing their faith with another person. How are we doing at actually sharing the good News of Jesus with others? How are you doing at it? Our youth just gave us a glowing report of how they were sharing Christ with others around them. We listened to their stories and saw the joy in their faces. We also heard of a change of heart from one of our adult leaders. Who would deny them that privilege? Who would deny you that blessing.

So many around us live within a stone’s throw of the

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Show Your Prayer Support for Our Troops



Members of North America's armed forces are serving in difficult and sometimes dangerous assignments, and they need your prayer! ACCTS, along with several other North American members of AMCF, has established a website where individuals, Bible study groups, chapels, and churches across North America can show their commitment to praying for our troops, their families, and our political and military leadership.

This website is intended to show an ever-increasing "wall of prayer" which is surrounding our men and women in the armed forces. We hope it will also

be a tool for other military Christian fellowships to use in gathering prayer support. We invite you to join this prayer network by logging on to the ACCTS website (<http://www.accts.org>) and clicking on the "Wall of Prayer map." You can then sign on as a "point of prayer," joining with many others across North America who share your desire to give hope and support to our military personnel. You can also find out more information about this prayer initiative at the ACCTS website under the link, "North American AMCF prayer ministry." †

Financially Speaking—We Need Your HELP!

As you can see on the chart, the Operating Fund Income for March and April is well below that required to meet our budget needs. The distance between the Red and the Blue represents ministries that will not be funded in order to pay the energy bill, salaries, insurance, etc. All of the books, Bibles, Bible studies, care packages for the troops, etc. that we give away require resources to procure and ship to our members.

Our entire operating fund income for last fiscal year was provided by the sacrificial giving of 374 of our members. ***We need your financial participation!***

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single (generous), thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil (stingy), thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:20-24 KJV)

The ECFA is an accreditation agency dedicated to helping Christian ministries earn the public's trust through adherence to seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship. Founded in 1979, it is comprised of over 1,200 evangelical Christian organizations, which qualify for tax-exempt, nonprofit status and receive tax-deductible contributions to support their work. Visit their website for more information on the standards. You may also view CMF's latest independent audit, Form 990, annual report and ECFA member profile.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Judas Was A Hero?

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gospel at a Bible-teaching church, on the airwaves, on TV, or right next door. Yet for all the proximity to the Good News, many have "no news" and many "have not heard."

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Thesalonians:

"...we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts. (1 Thessalonians 2:2-4 NASB)

May we put into practice the same boldness that God gave to Paul in such a way that God, who examines our hearts, is delighted. †

Editor Notes: Larry Hoskins is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary and has been the Senior Pastor of Grace Church Aurora, Colorado, for sixteen years. He also serves as the Vice Chairman of the CMF Board of Directors.

New Members

Ms. Diane Corchado
 TSgt Marlon Crawford, ANG (Ret)
 PO1 Adam & Tracy Gray, USCG
 Mr. Charlie & Karen Horton, Jr.
 TSgt Walt McClung, USAF
 MSgt Dan & Cindy McKee, USAF (Ret)
 1LT Robert & Suzanne Pate, NG
 MAJ Garlan Schoenrock, USAR
 Capt. Julie Skinner, USAF
 Ms. Sherry Ward
 SPC Brandon & Crystal Watson, NG
 LTJG George & Cheryl Weaver, USN (Ret)
 MIDN Aubrey Wies, USNR

Operating Fund

