

# FirstLove Missions



Proclaiming the Gospel, Equipping the Church

# | Discussion Points

- Beliefs & Practice
- Foundational Principles
- Mission Statement
- Personnel & Ministry  
Structure
- How FLM Operates
- Future of FLM





# 1

## **Beliefs & Practice**



Tell me about FLM.

Is it just another

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**traditional** missions  
organization?





Short answer . . . **No.**

And here's **why** . . .

# | FirstLove Missions . . .

- Is subject to a **local** church
- Operates under **biblical** authority
- Is a **free grace** ministry





# FirstLove Missions . . .

- Follows a **biblical**, *not* business, construct
- Does **not** solicit funds or donations
- **Implements** checks and balances






FLM seeks to **reclaim**  
the biblical foundations  
of the past.



# A Tale of Two Methods

The **past** . . . -----> The **present** . . .

- Local churches sent out missionaries (e.g., Acts 13)
- Guided by Scripture
- Authority of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 16)
- Emphasized the **"euangelion"**
- Parachurch organization
- Not necessarily under biblical authority
- Few, if any, checks and balances
- Business construct
- De-emphasis on preaching; increase in humanitarian efforts
- **Mandatory** financial solicitation before departing



Okay, so you want to  
return to the basics. What  
does that mean for your  
**priority** in missions?



# | Our Priority

- Exclusivity of the Word of God.
- Gospel proclamation precedes humanitarian efforts.
- Instead of soliciting finances, our missionaries are freed to engage in the work of evangelism.



What is your **reason** for  
approaching missions this  
way?





# | **Three Reasons** (from Scripture)

1

The Divine **Reality**

2

The Divine **Promise**

3

The Divine **Imperative**

# | The Divine Reality

- The Lord has His chosen people **from every** nation, tribe, people, and tongue (Rev. 7:9).
- Sensational, hyped claims of WOF preachers.
- God's elect **are waiting** to hear the gospel.
  - ✓ "Now the Lord spoke to Paul . . . 'do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent . . . for I have many people in this city' " (Acts 18:9–10).
  - ✓ "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase" (1 Cor. 3:5–6).
- The promises **guarantee** fruit and provide comfort.



# | The Divine Promise

- Prophetic dilemma? The **bad** news:
  - ✓ "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21:25–27).
  - ✓ "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many" (Matt. 24:5).

# The Divine Promise (Cont.)

- Prophetic dilemma? The **bad** news:
  - ✓ "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (Matt. 24:11–12).
  - ✓ "For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Matt. 24:24).






# | The Divine Promise (Cont.)

- Prophetic dilemma? The **good** news:
  - ✓ "For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9).
  - ✓ "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matt. 24:14).





**Bad** news. **Good** news. Which one?

Is there a **solution**?





Yes.

**Antinomy.**

# Defining Our Terms

- Antinomy. *an· tin· o· my*. *noun*. A **contradiction** between two statements, both apparently obtained by correct reasoning.
- Both are **T-R-U-E**.
- The divine promise remains true: the gospel of Christ *and* the knowledge of God **will cover the earth** as a witness to the nations.



# | The Divine Imperative

- Our job is to **bring** the word of God to the world:
  - ✓ "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should **be preached** in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:46–47).
  - ✓ "And He said to them, '**Go** into all the world and **preach** the gospel to every creature' " (Mark 16:15).
  - ✓ "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who **wins souls** is wise" (Prov. 11:30).

# | Divine Imperative (Cont.)

- ✓ "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:18–20).
- ✓ "Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).



# | Divine Imperative (Cont.)

- ✓ "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear **without a preacher**? And how shall they **preach** unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those **who preach** the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!'" (Rom. 10:14–15).

# 2

## Foundational Principles

### 1 Beliefs & Practice



# | Principle #1: Proclaim

- Proclaim the gospel . . . and the whole counsel of God.
- Pursued in three ways:



Spoken  
Word

Written  
Word

Technology

# Proclaim the Gospel



## Spoken Word

- Preaching
- Teaching
- Street evangelism
- Personal testimony
- College/University outreach
- Special events



## Written Word

- Free literature distribution
- Prison ministry
- Military evangelism



## Technology

- Internet
- Social media
- CDs
- Podcasts



# | Principle #2: Equip

- Equip the saints for the work of the ministry.
- Adapt to local culture and indigenous situations to address each unique ministry concern.
- A two-fold approach to "equip."



# | **Two Groups, Two Ways**

## Equip missionaries

- Certificate of Ministry
- FLM Handbook (forthcoming)

## Equip the church

- FLP literature
- Seminary/Bible Institute/Bible School
- Personal apologetics & discipleship
- Conferences
- Mentoring



# | Principle #3: Develop

- Fostering a **biblically** sound worldview.
- Helping the saints **mature** in the faith (*from milk to meat*, Heb. 5:12).
- Doing God's work, God's way.

Getting **from** this . . .



**to** this . . .





What does  
**development**  
look like?



# Mature Believers

## Looks like . . . ?

- Souls saved
- Sanctified saints
- Serving others by using spiritual gifts in a local church

## How?

- Follow-up and accountability
- Mentoring (believers and leaders)
- Discipleship (teaching/catechizing)
- Staying in touch/communicating



These three **foundational**  
**principles** lead to our  
primary purpose . . .



# 3



## Mission Statement

1 Beliefs & Practice

2 Foundational Principles

# Mission Statement

**Proclaiming** the gospel at home and abroad, **equipping** the saints worldwide for the work of the ministry, and **developing** a *biblically* sound worldview for the deepening of the knowledge of Christ, for the preservation of the Church's **first love**, for the salvation of souls, for the glory of God.

**Proclaim**

the glorious  
gospel

**Equip**

pastors and  
churches

**Develop**

the next  
generation of  
disciples



# 4

## Personnel & Ministry Structure

- 1 Beliefs & Practice
- 2 Foundational Principles
- 3 Mission Statement



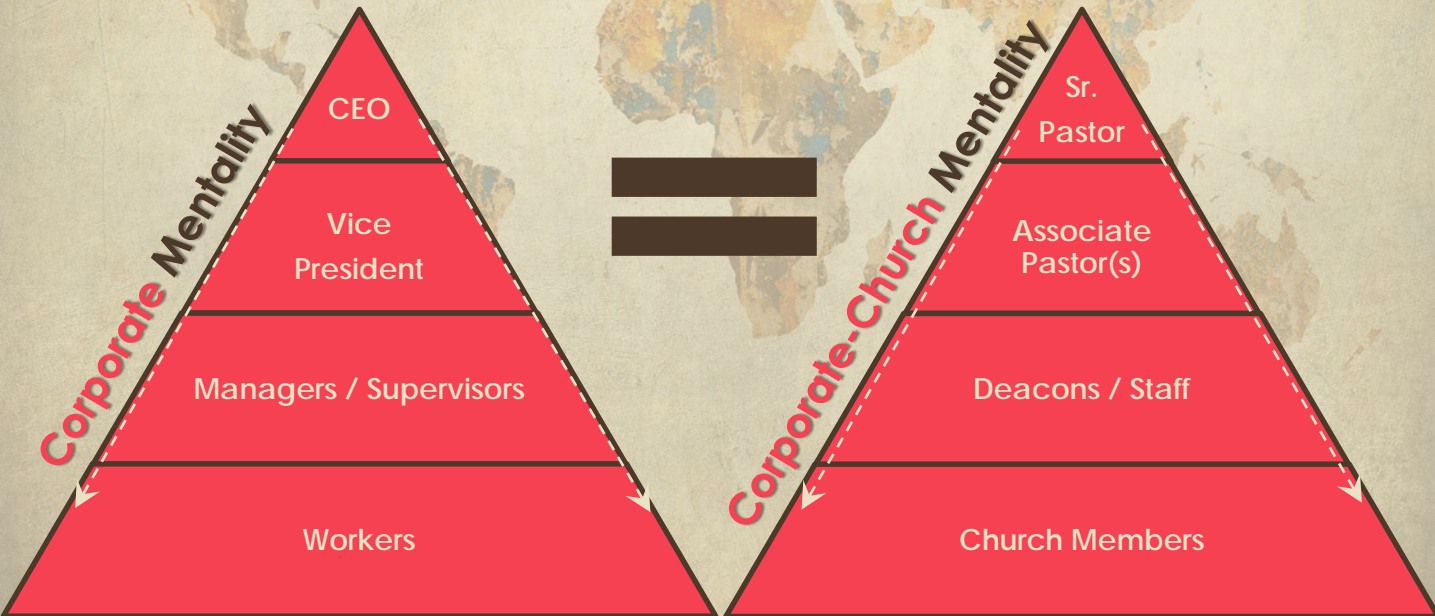
A **new** paradigm in  
organizational structure.

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(needed)

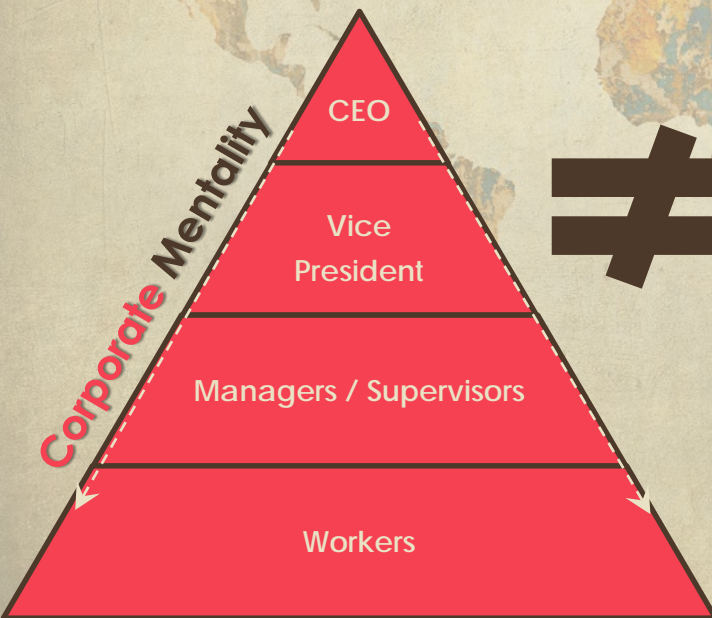


# Corporate Structure



# A Radical Structure


Working together to serve Christ



≠







So what does FLM's  
organizational **structure** look  
like?

# Working Together







Tell me a little more about  
key **stakeholders** working  
together at FLM.

A still from the TV show 'The Office' featuring Michael Scott (Steve Carell) on the left and Dwight Schrute (Ryan Murphy) on the right. They are both sitting at a large conference table in a modern office setting with glass partitions and fluorescent lighting in the background. Michael is wearing a white shirt, a patterned tie, and suspenders, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. Dwight is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie, also looking at the camera. A semi-transparent dark grey banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'WHAT WOULD YOU SAY YOU DO HERE?' in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**WHAT WOULD YOU SAY  
YOU DO HERE?**



# Board of Advisors

**Accountability** for the resources that God has entrusted to FirstLove Missions begins with the recognition that **God requires us to be good stewards of His money**. The parable of the master and the wise steward is just as applicable today as it was during the life and ministry of our Lord. We are also keenly aware that individuals who give of their prayers, time, and money to FirstLove Missions likewise view us as stewards. For these reasons, it is our objective to listen to individuals whom the Lord uses **to help shape us into a better ministry** each and every day for His glory. We see value and wisdom in taking advice from godly men as they advise us in the work of the ministry and the best use of God's gracious gifts.

Given our understanding of humanity's frailty and inherent corruptibility, **checks and balances are essential**. We have put such mechanisms in place to make a statement that everyone associated with FirstLove Missions wants to be above reproach in all that we do. For this reason, our own board of advisors **meets regularly to discuss how we have used the resources given to us** and the direction and performance of the ministry going forward.

# | Board of **Advisors** *(Cont.)*

- **Advise** the Director.
- **Accountable** for resources God has entrusted to FLM.
- Make **recommendations** on missions and publications matters.
- Currently (but not exclusively) **comprised of:**
  - ✓ 6-member panel
  - ✓ All ordained pastors
  - ✓ All have teaching experience
  - ✓ All have short-term missions experience and/or knowledge and familiarity



# | FLM Administrator

- Coordinates **logistics** for all FLM-sponsored conferences in the U.S.
- **Assists local POC** for all FLM-sponsored conferences overseas (as required).
- Responsible for maintenance, upkeep, and development of FLM **website**.
- Responsible for obtaining **mission updates** from FLM missionaries.
- Responsible for **mission reports**.
- Responsible for the **training** and **development** of FLM missionaries.

# FLM Administrator (Cont.)

- **Travels** to the mission field for encouragement, teaching, preaching, and personal discipleship.
- Responsible for helping **maintain** the quarterly FLM/FLP magazine with the Financial Officer and FLP Managing Editor.
- **Assists the Director** as required.





# | FLM Missionary

- An individual who has experienced the Holy Spirit's *leading* to proclaim the gospel to the unchurched and who has previously *demonstrated a willingness to labor together with us by:*
  - ✓ Participating in short-term missions
  - ✓ Engaging in evangelism efforts (street preaching, personal witnessing, discipleship, etc.)
  - ✓ Distributing FLP literature
  - ✓ Presenting FLP/FLM ministry overview presentation



So how **can I** become  
an **F**LM missionary?



# Essential Requirements

- Be a **born-again** Christian.
  - ✓ Jesus answered . . . "I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God . . . You must be **born again**" (John 3:3–7).
- Member in good standing of a **Bible-believing** local church.
  - ✓ "Not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together" (Heb. 10:25; see also Col. 3:16; Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:12)
- Recommended from a **local** pastor.
- Complete the **3-step certification** process.

# Missionary Certification

- Complete the missionary application.
- Complete the “Certificate of Ministry” within six months of commencement.
  - ✓ Book 1: *The New Testament Missionary* (Cliff Hellar) and Study Guide
  - ✓ Book 2: *The Minister as Shepherd: The Privileges and Responsibilities of Pastoral Leadership* (Charles E. Jefferson) and Study Guide
  - ✓ Book 3: *A Catechism on Biblical Doctrine: With Commentary* (W. R. Downing) and Study Guide
- Confirmed as an FLM Missionary under the auspices of FirstLove Missions.





Any other **requirements**  
for FLM missionaries?

# Continuing Training

- All FLM missionaries will pursue and complete **Level 2** training beyond the initial **Level 1** "Certificate of Ministry." This further study will concentrate on the lives of **notable missionaries** and **evangelists** from Christian history.
  - ✓ Book 1: Biography of George Muller and Study Guide.
  - ✓ Book 2: Biography of Hudson Taylor and Study Guide
  - ✓ Book 3: Biography of George Whitefield and Study Guide





Are there **ministry opportunities** with FLM,  
without being a dedicated  
FLM missionary?

(Short answer . . . **Yes!**)

# | FLM Missionary Worker\*

- For a “Titus 2” man or woman who feels the Holy Spirit’s leading to assist FLM missionaries to engage in gospel outreach and evangelism in a number of practical ways, to include:
  - ✓ Personal evangelism
  - ✓ Discipleship of believers
  - ✓ Literature set-up
  - ✓ Literature distribution
  - ✓ Photography
  - ✓ Videography
  - ✓ General set-up and clean-up
  - ✓ Logistical support
  - ✓ Bible studies
  - ✓ Testimonies

\*Same “essential requirements” apply: born again, church member, recommended by a pastor.





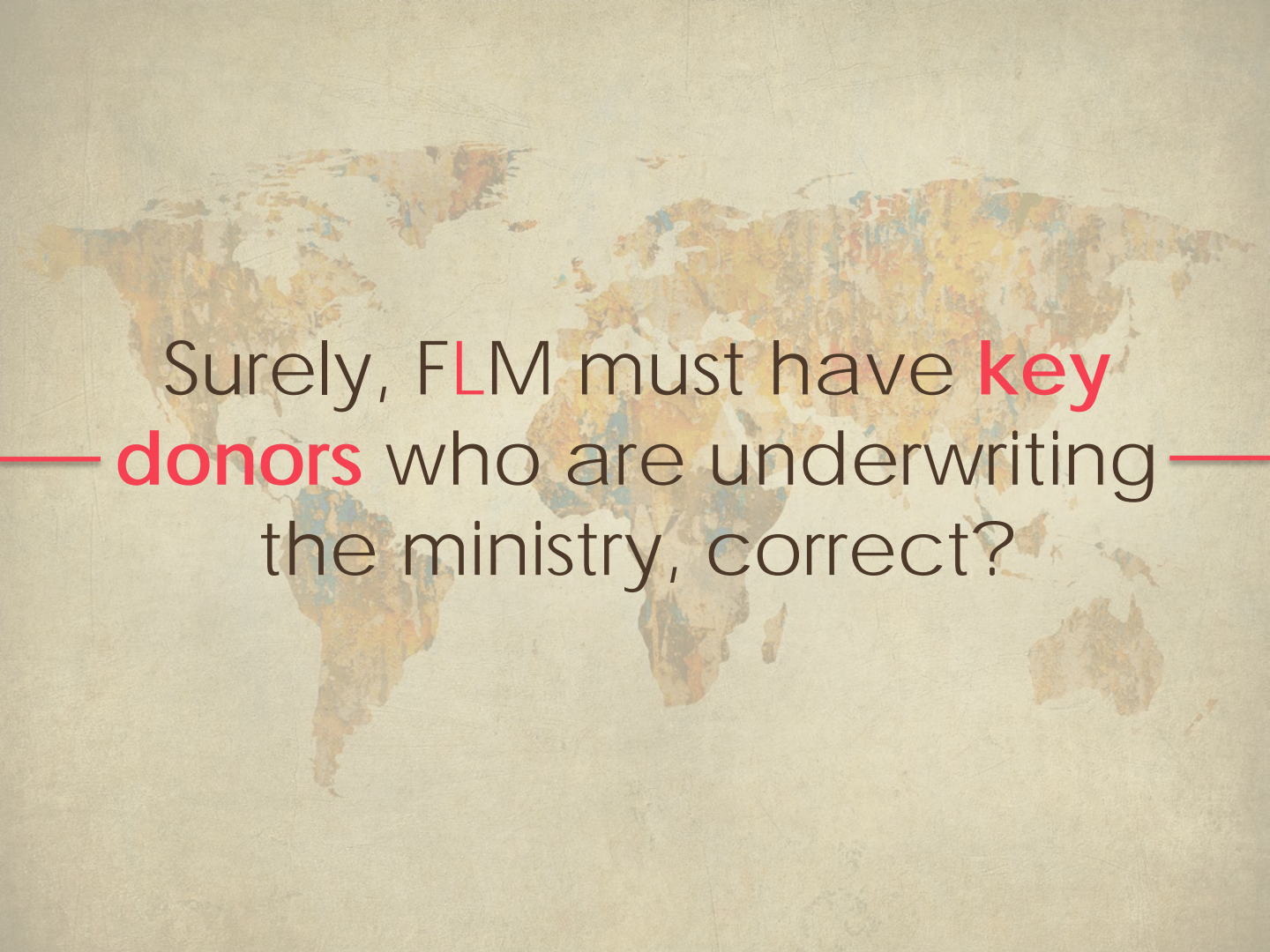
Are FLM missionaries  
**required** to candidate and  
campaign for their ministry  
funding?

# Financial Policy

- We are a **faith** ministry and are convinced God **will provide** the funds necessary for us to support missionaries and workers who are led to proclaim the gospel.
- None of our missionaries **solicit** funding.







Surely, FLM must have **key**  
— **donors** who are underwriting —  
the ministry, correct?

# | By Faith We Operate

- We **are not** supported by government grants but *purely* by **free-will gifts** from local churches and individuals as **led** by the Lord.



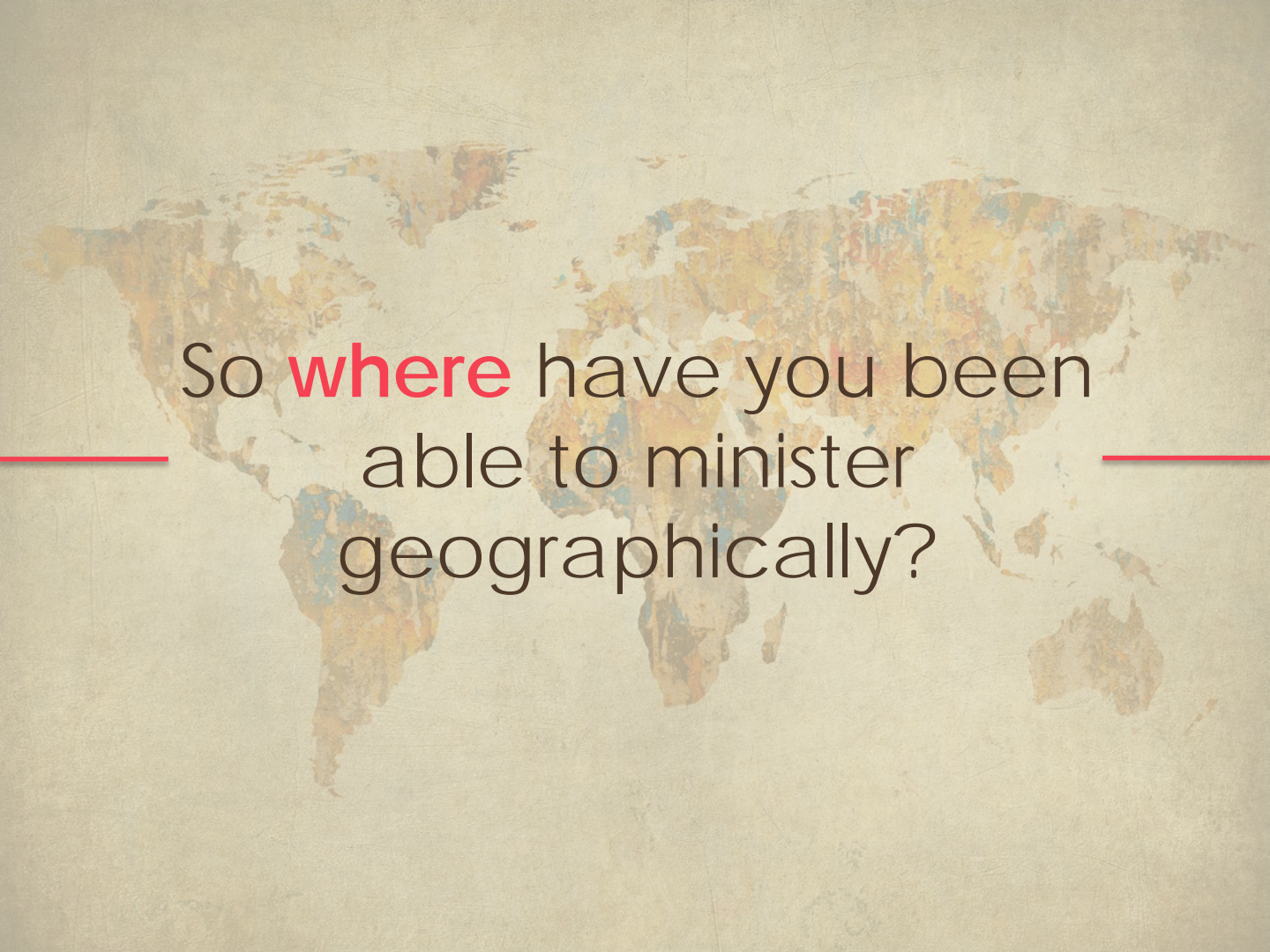
- Churches **partner** with us in volunteer, advisory, spiritual, and financial support.





# Cooperating Churches

- Sovereign Grace Baptist Church,  
Versailles, Kentucky
- Sovereign Grace Baptist Church,  
Dale City, Virginia
- Christ Evangel Christian Fellowship,  
Milton, Florida
- Sovereign Grace Baptist Church,  
Morgan Hill, California
- Christ Bible Church,  
Dublin, California



So **where** have you been  
able to minister  
geographically?



# Ministry Structure Today

- Currently operating in 3 regions:



Africa

- Nigeria




Asia

- India
- Nepal
- Philippines



N. America

- United States



How do you **share** the  
ministry workload?



# 5

## How FLM Operates

- 1 Beliefs & Practice
- 2 Foundational Principles
- 3 Mission Statement
- 4 Personnel & Ministry Structure

# Regional Managers

- Responsible for **operations and logistics** in a country and liaison directly with the **FLM Administrator** and **Warehouse Manager**.
  - ✓ **India:** Pastor David Gerald
  - ✓ **Nepal:** Pastor Samuel Rai
  - ✓ **Nigeria:** Pastor Tony Okoroh
  - ✓ **Philippines:** Pastor Leo / Hannah Galanza
  - ✓ **United States (East):** Tom Smith
  - ✓ **United States (South/Central):** Austin Huggins
  - ✓ **United States (West):** Brian Luzny





What **evangelism** efforts do  
— you provide for each of —  
these countries?

# | India

- Pastors' Conferences
- Bible Colleges & seminaries
- Literature Distribution
- Book Translations



Ministry focus: Islam & Hinduism



# Nepal

- Pastors' conferences
- Literature distribution
- Book translations



**Ministry focus: Hinduism & Buddhism**

# Nigeria

- Sovereign Grace Bible Church
- Christ Pastors' Seminary
- Free Grace Bible Institute
- Radio Ministry
- Annual conferences
- Literature distribution
- Children's ministry
- University & College outreach



Ministry focus: Islam & Word of Faith



# | Philippines

- Pastor's Conferences
- Seminary & Bible College lectures
- Church conference, lectures, & seminars
- Church evangelism
- Literature distribution



Ministry focus: Catholicism & addictions

# | United States

- Conferences
- Ministry presentations
- Preaching & teaching
- Evangelism
- Personal mentoring
- Personal discipleship
- University & College outreach
- Literature distribution



**Ministry focus: Multiculturalism & apathy**





Looks good so far.  
What does the **future**  
of FLM look like?

# 6

## Future of FLM

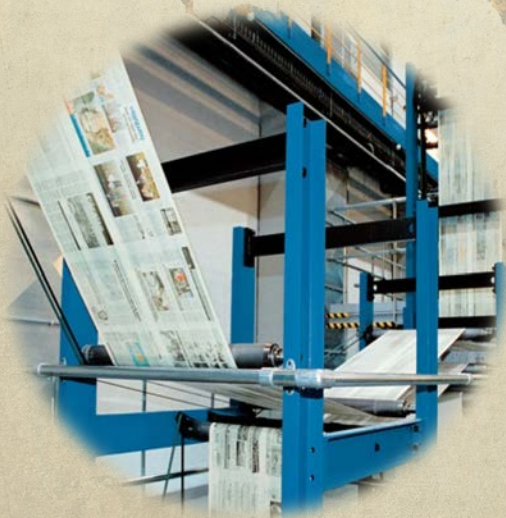
- 1 Beliefs & Practice
- 2 Foundational Principles
- 3 Mission Statement
- 4 Personnel & Ministry Structure
- 5 How FLM Operates



# | Today & On the Morrow

- Today

- ✓ Print overseas
- ✓ Annual conferences
- ✓ Volunteer workers



- Tomorrow

- ✓ Own **print shop** with full-time employees
- ✓ Publishing staff
- ✓ Free Grace Bible Institute
- ✓ Expanded tract ministry
- ✓ Provide **libraries** for pastors in developing countries
- ✓ Establish pastors' conferences overseas **each month** of the year
- ✓ Create a **Study Bible**
- ✓ Quarterly ministry magazine
- ✓ Laminated doctrinal guides

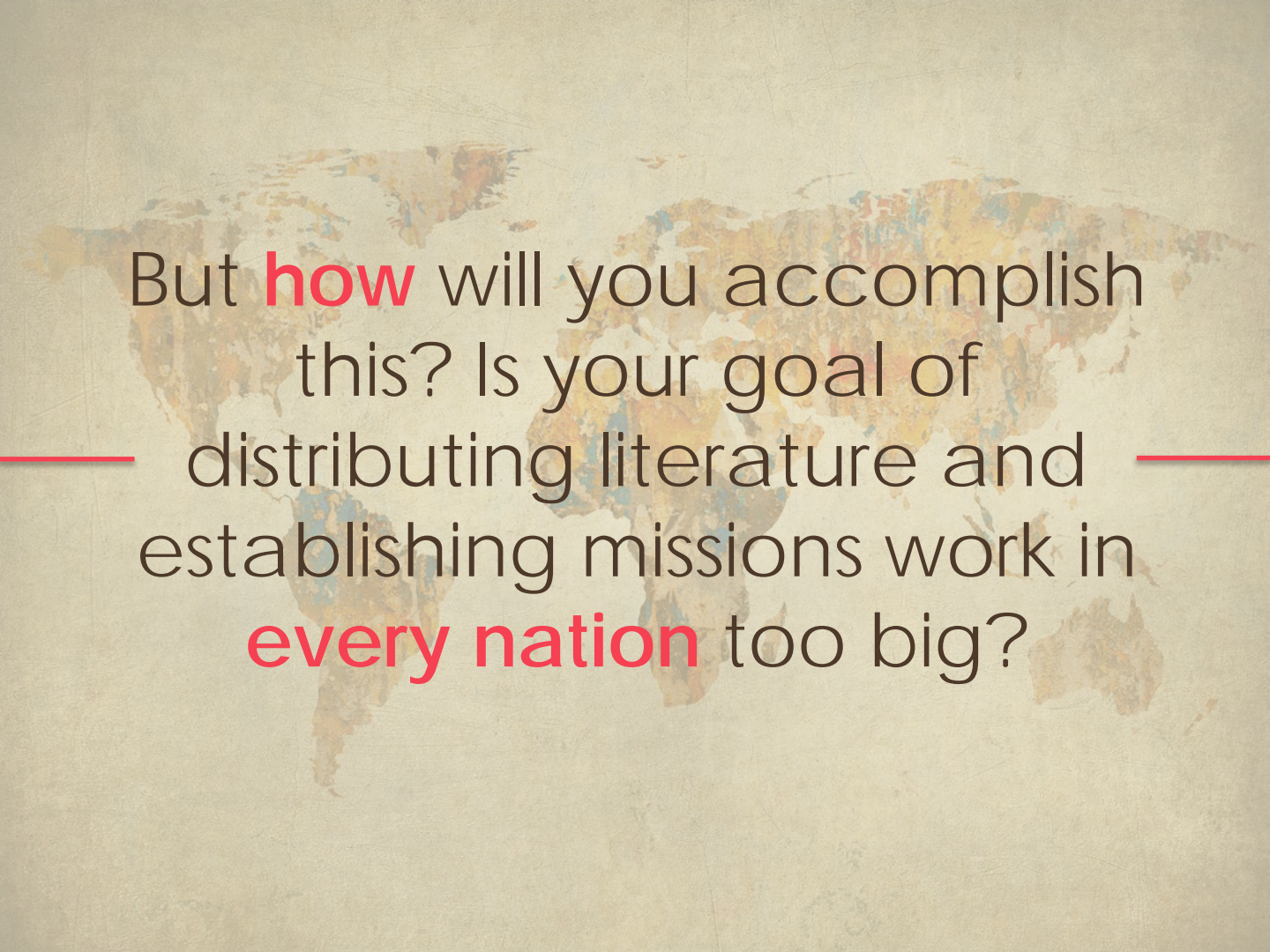
# | To 2020 & Beyond

- Free literature distribution in **all** 50 states.
- An outreach in **every nation** in the world.
- Annual **mission conferences** on every habitable continent.
- Freely distribute **1,000,000** books, booklets, & tracts worldwide.
- Expanded **outreach** to minimum of 1 university / college campus in every state.
- Translation of **entire catalog** into foreign languages.





Yes . . . every  
nation.



But **how** will you accomplish  
this? Is your goal of  
— distributing literature and —  
establishing missions work in  
**every nation** too big?





**No,** and here's why

# | By Faith

- Abraham believed the promise of God—though he waited **many years** for its fulfillment.
  - ✓ “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:8-10).



# Faith

- Will be tested in the fire, but God **will keep** His promises. He is faithful, and **cannot** lie.
  - ✓ "And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who **through faith** subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, *obtained promises . . .*" (Heb. 11:32-33).

# Promises to Embrace

- God is pleased when we trust Him for great things. After all, **HE** gave us *these promises*:
  - ✓ "But Jesus looked at them and said to them, 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible' " (Matt. 19:26).
  - ✓ "So Jesus said to them, 'Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you' " (Matt. 17:20).
  - ✓ "And have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy; You have set my feet in a wide place" (Psa. 31:8).



# More Promises

- *HE also gave us these promises:*
  - ✓ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Luke 11:9–10).
  - ✓ "Another parable He put forth to them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches'" (Matt. 13:31–32).

# More Promises (Cont.)

- *HE also gave us these promises:*
  - ✓ So Jesus answered and said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive' " (Matt. 21:21–22).
  - ✓ The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah . . . prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit" (Jas. 5:16–18).



# | More Promises (Cont.)

- *HE also gave us these promises:*
  - ✓ He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Rom. 8:32–33).
  - ✓ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us . . ." (Eph. 3:20).
  - ✓ "Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?" (1 Cor. 9:7).

# | More Promises (Cont.)

- *HE also gave us these promises:*
  - ✓ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isa. 55:10–11).



# QUESTION.

If Abraham, an idol worshiper from Ur of the Chaldees, and George Muller and Hudson Taylor, **can obtain** the fulfillment of God's promises—

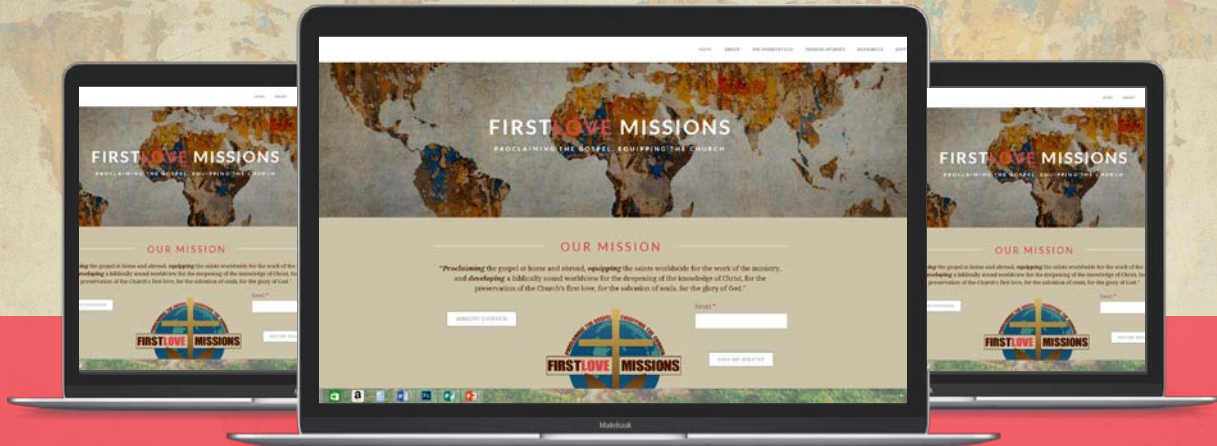
**WHY. CAN'T. WE?**



I'm excited about FLM.  
Where can I find out more  
about FLM and ministry  
opportunities?



[www.missionsfirstlove.org](http://www.missionsfirstlove.org)



**Proclaiming The Gospel, Equipping The Church**