

GO FORTH MINISTRY

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MUSTARD SEED FAITH MUSTARD SEED DOUBT

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

He replied, "Because you have so little faith.

I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move.

Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:19-21

On July 17 we arrived in Hong Kong and began an intense week of hauling thousands of Chinese Bibles across the border. I was again deeply stirred by the huge need and plea for Bibles in China and troubled by the waning interest of those who are able to respond to this need.

The need for Bibles in China is greater now than perhaps it ever has been! Thousands of these infant believers are starving spiritually. Cult groups in China continue to prey and thrive on the ignorance of new Christians. Millions lack the finances and ability to physically get to where a Bible might be purchased. And so the plea for Bibles continues.

After one week of hauling Bibles, the team (our son Jonnie and friend, Bryan and myself) left Daisy in Hong Kong and headed for Taipei, Taiwan to spend a few 'relaxing' days with Barnabas.

After teaching at the Vietnamese church on Sunday, we went to our hotel room where we linked up with the three different cell phone churches and I shared with each one.

This ministry now numbers about 21 cell phone churches which are connecting hundreds of new Vietnamese believers all across Taiwan.

Brother Barnabas leads or oversees 3 one hour cell phone meetings - every night of the week! Knowing that a large majority of these new believers are short-term migrant workers, he is passionate about seeing his vision become reality to train them as leaders - evangelist / house church planters before they return to their homes in North Vietnam. Now, as envisioned, new churches are already popping up in spite of great persecution!



Finally that evening we connected directly to one of the new house churches in North Vietnam by Skype (a live audio/video internet connection) and we encouraged them with God's Word. It was an exhausting but exhilarating day!

Exhausting? Yes, but you know, I've learned a little secret over the years; it is good to wring out your spiritual sponge. In that way you can receive more fresh truth from God!

Here in the comfort of our own religious communities, we have the luxury of so many resources for spiritual growth. But I've found that you can only soak in so much until you reach your maximum capacity.

Too often we feel that repackaging the same truth will somehow satisfy that emptiness of our spirit rather than simply doing what we've been taught; to lay down our lives as a living sacrifice - to let God wring us out! Once we let Him wring us out, then we can receive the next fresh thing God has for us!

Anyway, after leaving a very much needed financial gift



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Millions of Christians in China do not have a Bible!

These suitcases are packed full of Chinese Bibles and waiting for delivery! The Chinese are praying!

Who will help to take them across the border? Will you?
Ask Jesus and see what He says!

Join the next exciting Bible Courier Mission Trip to Hong Kong and China!

November 12 - 26, 2011

Spring & Fall trips are also planned for 2012



Sign up deadline: September 30. Contact Go Forth Ministry for details.

Check out the 'Barnabas video': www.vimeo.com/26592769

with Barnabas we left Taiwan for Saigon, Vietnam where we were joined by Daisy. Our daughter, Ellie, and her husband, Clint, also joined us from Phuket, Thailand where they had been helping for a few months at an orphanage.

What a happy reunion! Daisy and I hadn't seen them since they left our home after their wedding a year ago and we were so encouraged to see their happiness together and their passion to serve the Lord Jesus.

We met on the coast with eight of the key leaders that God has linked Go Forth Ministry with. We had never brought the key leaders together before. We had no agenda except to create a time in which God could speak and lead us in the next steps. And God met with us!

Each Pastor shared their story! Oh my goodness! ...and Clint videoed for two days! I'm so eager to share some of that time together with you when the video is ready.

Some of the stories are too sensitive to go public with. But here's one of those stories, in a nutshell; God has opened doors to share the gospel in a place that no one would ever imagine could happen in Vietnam! At a very great personal risk to the life of the one involved - the Word was preached resulting in around 700 new believers!

That door remains open to reach perhaps 10 times that many in the near future! This has created an urgent need to provide an initial 1000 Vietnamese Bibles. Many more will be needed soon if God continues to hold this door open!

Over those two days we heard numerous stories of outstanding healing from cancer, rabies, crippling diseases, mental illnesses, and even the dead coming back to life. They shared many stories of how people who were demon possessed were set free. We heard stories of how God protected against persecution. We also heard stories of how they endured through persecution.

That being said, they also shared how sometimes people were not healed or set free when they prayed. But that represented only a very small percentage.

It was like being in the presence of people who were walking right out of the Book of Acts! While these stories were amazing and greatly faith building, the thing that really made an impression on our team was that usually the results of those miracles were that dozens of people gave their lives to Jesus Christ and house churches were established. In fact sometimes entire villages came to faith in God through just one miracle.

Check out the 'Go Forth Ministry in Vietnam' video at:
www.vimeo.com/26655327

After those days of meetings our team said 'good-bye' and headed back to Saigon. From there we met with another leader who took us out to visit the minority tribal areas where about 3,000 Christians live that GFM is connected with.

The trip was long and hot. When we finally arrived at our destination, we were quickly rushed into the humble home of the leader and told, "You have 5 minutes to encourage and pray for them. Then we must get out of here. That happened at each of the 5 house churches that we visited.

Basically, our message to each of them was, "We want you to know that you are not forgotten. We know you are here and we're praying for you. We know of your great sacrifices for the gospel. But even more than that, God knows."



It felt so ...'wrong' to simply show up, say a quick "Hi" and a prayer then slip away because our presence was such a potential threat to them.



Jesus said...

"I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move.

Nothing will be impossible for you."

What! Did I hear him right? Is this really true? If it is, then this is the most outstanding thing anyone has ever said to us! Certainly this is only a figure of speech - isn't it? ...Isn't it?

My brain screams to understand it, especially after hearing all the stories the pastors shared in Vietnam. But logic fails, and in return Jesus' amazing promise smacks logic in the face. His promise mocks at logic! But my heart begs me to believe it against my mind's 'better judgement'.

Why would anyone say something like this? How can anyone ever believe something like this? Since I can't understand it, then it must only be a figure of speech. That's how many Christians I know regard this statement - this 'too good to be true' promise.

If I truly believed what Jesus just promised me, I would be making every possible effort to attain and make use of this mustard seed size amount of faith. Wouldn't you?

Instead, here I sit wondering, again, on this remarkable Kingdom Promise, trying to wrap my brain around it and imagining what would change if I really operated in this kind of faith.

And then I come to grips with the honest truth... I really don't believe it, at least not in the way that is required to really get the results.

I'm left disappointed, frustrated, and pressed to look for an excuse, a reason, a compromise, to justify my smallness of faith,

...or better yet, why not just ask Jesus?

"Jesus, did you really mean that when I am faced with the hopelessness of mountain sized impossibilities you have real answers? Or did you only mean your answers work for those 'other people', but not for me? Do you really mean it when you say it requires just a little tiny bit of faith to transform the impossible?"

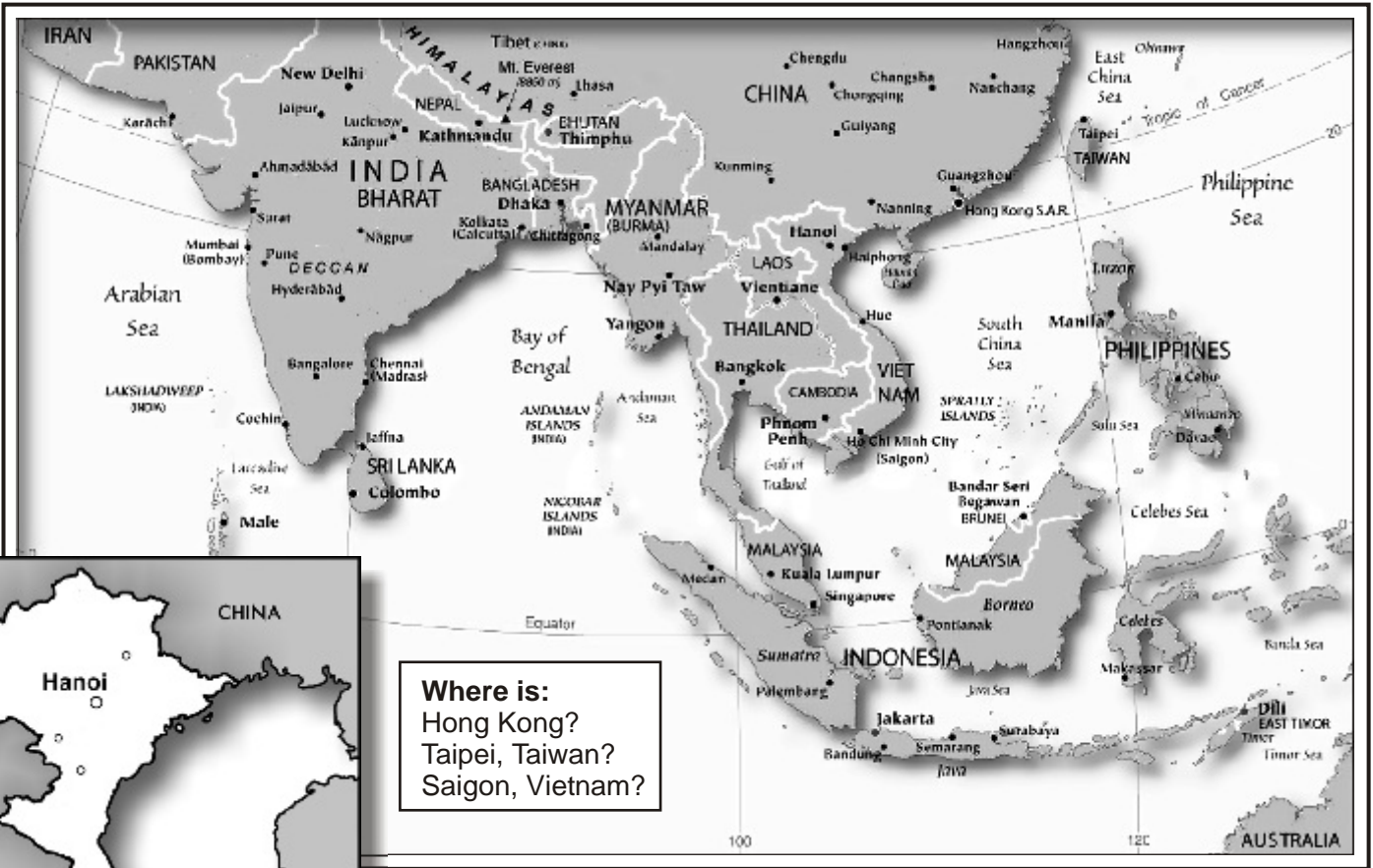
"Jesus, so many people like me are feeling just like those disciples who thought they had faith, who tried to put their faith into action and still failed to get the result. You know, we do try! Really!"

"So tell us, why don't we see the kinds of miracles here that we see so frequently in China and Vietnam? Tell us, because so many people keep asking me that question."

Most of God's promises to us come with conditions.
But the promise of God's Love is without conditions.

Depending on how we respond to His unconditional Love relates directly to how His Love is expressed in our own life.

Do you know your Geography?



Where is:
 Hong Kong?
 Taipei, Taiwan?
 Saigon, Vietnam?

Brother N. finally arrived at our hotel long after midnight, nearly 12 hours late, soaking wet and shivering uncontrollably on that cold and rainy night. We had been so worried that he had an accident with his motor bike or that he'd had another run in with the police.

Several years prior, Brother N. had been forced out of his parent's home and away from all contact with his relatives because of his faith in Jesus Christ. With nowhere to go, he had roamed Vietnam sharing the gospel and dodging the police.

Between shivering gasps Brother N. explained what had happened. "Just before I left to come and meet you, I received a phone call informing me that my Uncle was in the hospital with total kidney failure." All the family and rela-

tives had already gathered - with the casket. He would die! This was the first contact he'd had with his family in a very long time.

At the hospital Brother N. ordered all the family out of his uncle's room. Then in full faith of what he already knew God intended to do, he ordered his comatose Uncle to be healed! Immediately his Uncle got up and went out to see his family - 100% restored!

Brother N. Then escorted his Uncle out of the hospital, put him on his motor bike and took him to his home where he remains to this day a healthy man.

"I've just been to heaven!", Brother N. said between shivers, as joyful tears mixed with the rain drops on his face."

It wasn't long at all until his entire extended family came to faith in Jesus!

Thank you so much for being a part of what God is doing in Asia. You are impacting nations - one heart at a time!

People have been asking me, "So how are things going for the ministry now that our country is in this crazy economic mess?"

If I simply looked at the numbers, I must acknowledge that Go Forth Ministry has been hard hit. But we're not only looking at numbers to determine how we are doing!

Here's the reason why; Jesus fed a huge crowd of people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. The people were bursting at the seams when the meal was finished and 'all were satisfied'.

Did Jesus really need exactly 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish to do this miracle? I don't think so! He could have done it with just 1 fish and 1 piece of bread!

So why did Jesus take ALL of that poor boy's lunch and not just SOME of it?

I believe it is because what Jesus really needed to feed the 5000 was more than just the substance of food. Even more than that, he needed the substance of the boy's heart! A heart that offered everything - nothing held back - even when it wasn't necessary. That was perhaps the most important ingredient required to feed the crowd! If we want to see these kinds of results, then we must give with the willingness and heart that the boy gave with!

And this is the reason we are continuing to see God at work in powerful ways! Even though we are working with less materially, you are giving with hearts that offer your 'whole lunch', not just part of it. That is what makes the difference! "Thank you!"

Well, first of all - logic and faith don't naturally mix, just as reasoning with your brain and believing with your heart don't mix. If you insist on only believing something on its logical merits, then you will find it very difficult to grasp the 'faith based promises' of the Gospel. This Gospel is understood with the heart. It's a supernatural revelation!

All the promises of the Kingdom of God are based on the supernatural and must be believed with our heart and activated in faith. Then by choice, we must order our brains to come into agreement with our heart, by faith, where it then becomes perfectly logical!

The wisdom of the world says, "Seeing is believing."
The wisdom of God says, "Believing is seeing."

So, here is where part of the problem lies. We are living in a society that honors (and even worships) logic, knowledge and understanding, scientific reasoning and facts. This 'spirit' has permeated our culture and gained a voice that we respect to the extent that it creates 'mustard seeds of doubts' whenever we come up against a Kingdom Promise that doesn't line up logically.

Oh, we won't openly say, "I don't believe that promise", but we secretly struggle with the conflict between our brain and our heart. That end result is similar to what really brought on the failure for those disciples attempting to cast out the demon from the boy.

You see, those disciples who had a track record of outstanding miracles, were, on that particular morning, suddenly surrounded by a group of sceptics. Doubters!

Yes, those doubters believed in God! At least they went to 'church' every Sabbath. They could certainly talk the talk. But the 'spirit' of logic and doubt they carried greatly effected the mustard seed faith of those disciples who were boldly confronting the demon that possessed a boy. And the result - the disciples failed!

"When they came to the other disciples (the ones trying to cast out the demon), they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them." Mark 9:15

You see, those disciples had believed enough to take on the 'mountain'. But the environment of unbelief and doubt that surrounded them, those 'mustard seeds of doubt', cloaked in a religious facade, had a powerful effect! The disciples 'mustard seed faith' was choked out by 'mustard seed doubt'.

In frustration Jesus responded to the source of their failure,

"O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you?"

Matthew 17:17

What is the environment that surrounds you? Is it an environment that accommodates a 'spirit' of logic and scepticism?

There is another story that makes this very clear. It's found in Mark 6:1-6. Jesus returned to his hometown and, initially, his home community was amazed at who he had become. But then the people began to question who Jesus really was. It wasn't logical that someone like Jesus, whom they all knew from a child, could do what people were claiming he did. They knew better! Things didn't line up 'logically'. So they became offended by Jesus!

Result: *"And he could not do many miracles there except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith."* Mark 6:5,6

That hits pretty close to home!

Jesus was surrounded by an environment of unbelief. It effected what he was able to accomplish. When Jesus went to sow seeds of mountain moving faith, he couldn't because the field of his hometown had already been sown with seeds of doubt.

Here is the bottom line: We need to overcome the influence of or change the environment of rationalism and scepticism we are surrounded by if we want to see mountain moving miracles!

...And do we ever need to have some mountains moved!

I believe that this, in part, is the reason why we see so many miracles overseas! The people really believe what Jesus says! They write their names on the Kingdom Promises and then they simply put that

faith into action - after they have heard what God's intentions are. In that way, with great confidence they line their faith up with God's will.

Instead of trying to rationalize God's promises with our understanding, we need to speak transforming, faith building words into our surrounding culture and into our own churches out of a heart of faith. We must not compromise God's promises by a brain that accommodates even one 'mustard seed' of scepticism and doubt.

How do we do that? Jesus already showed us by example. He had just returned from an amazing mountaintop experience! It had taken an early morning effort to get there - but it had been worth it. During that morning on the mountaintop Jesus, Peter, James and John had entered into an environment that had generated great faith! They had met with God (and a few others)!

They had surrounded themselves with a faith-building environment. They had done what was required in order to submerged themselves into God's Presence!

Joshua, for example, by great faith led a nation of doubters into the Promises of God, setting for us a powerful demonstration of how to grow 'mustard seed' faith.

Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the 'tent of meeting'. Exodus 33:7

The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man would speak to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent. Exodus 33:11

Joshua 'marinated' in God's Presence! This is the environment where 'mustard seed' faith is attained. Sound familiar? When Jesus taught the disciples to pray he said,

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." Matthew 6:6

We can't create an environment of faith unless we ourselves have spent the time in a faith creating environment. That environment is found in God's Presence, in his Word, and among people of great faith.

Jesus talked about moving a big mountain. I think that the mountain he was referring to wasn't only a physical mountain. He had just preceded that statement by expressing his frustration at the mountain of unbelief ...*"O unbelieving and perverse generation"*, he had said. This is indeed a big mountain - the mountain of rationalizing, doubt and scepticism of God's promises.

Jesus had this to say to some very 'church-y' type people...

*This is why I speak to them in parables:
"Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.*

*In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:
"You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.
For this people's heart has become calloused;
They hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.*

*Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts and turn,
and I would heal them.'*

*But blessed are your eyes because they see,
and your ears because they hear.
For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people
longed to see what you see but did not see it,
and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.* Matthew 13:13-15

Like Joshua, let's pursue the Source of 'mustard seed' faith. Let's confront every thought of unbelief that rationalizes against the promise that ...*"nothing will be impossible for you"* and send that mountain into the 'sea of forgetfulness'! Let's encourage and build an environment for each other of great faith. Above all, let's do it for the glory of God!

Serving with joy and for God's glory!

Wendell & Daisy Martin



Help spread the Word!

1. Join us on a China Bible Courier Mission Trip!
2. Invite Go Forth Ministry to come to your church, small group, or missions event to share about the exciting move of God in Asia and bring a faith inspiring challenge!

Help cut postage costs!

1. Email us at: goforthministry@gmail.com with your correct email address to receive the newsletter by email. (we will gladly continue to send it by post unless otherwise notified)
2. Inform us if you would like to be removed from the Go Forth Ministry mailing list.
3. Inform us of any inactive postal addresses.

Help by praying!

Remember the Chinese and Pray with us for...

1. the Bibles that the Chinese Christians are waiting and praying for
2. short-term workers to help carry the Bibles across the border
3. long-term workers to help at the Bible Courier HQ in Asia
4. The ongoing financial need for printing and distributing Chinese Bibles
5. God to continue to draw thousands of Chinese to himself every day

Remember the Vietnamese and Pray with us for...

1. God's wisdom and favor as Go Forth Ministry oversees the work in Vietnam
2. the ongoing financial need for Leaders Bible Training and support
3. Boldness in the power of the Holy Spirit for the thousands of minority tribal Christians who face great persecution
4. Great wisdom among the many Christian leaders as they work together to establish the church identity and direction Jesus intends

Remember Go Forth Ministry and Pray with us for...

1. God's wisdom and favor
2. tender and responsive hearts to His leading
3. financial resources to do everything God requires of us and to invest it in the most effective and efficient way possible to bring an Eternal Profit

★ Please use this gift of \$ _____ where needed most.

★ Please use this gift of \$ _____ for _____ (Project Description)



You can GO!

Yes! Send me information about the next Mission Trip!

* Children 16 years old or under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

* Please fill out the address form on the reverse side.

To receive a USA tax-deductible receipt please make checks payable to:

GO FORTH MINISTRY
P. O. Box 24
Kidron, OH 44636

Please use this form to designate any specific mission project you would like to support.

No personal names on the check memo line!

Thank you!



Ministry Projects:

- ★ Vietnamese Pastor Support
- ★ The 'Barnabas' Fund (Bro. K.'s ministry among Vietnamese in Taiwan who are returning to Vietnam as Christian leaders)
- ★ Chinese Bible Printing and Distribution.
- ★ Monthly support of a long-term China Bible Courier.
- ★ Help to send a Bible Courier on a short-term mission trip.
- ★ Support for Wendell and Daisy Martin and Go Forth Ministry office.
- ★ Other (please specify)

Note: In the event that Go Forth Ministry receives more funding for a project than is needed, any excess will be used for another worthy outreach.

“O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord!” Jer. 22:29



- Please correct my address.
- Please send information about the next Bible courier trip.
- I would like to receive the Go Forth Ministry newsletter.
- I would like to invite Go Forth Ministry to come and share at my Church / Missions event.
(Please provide the name, phone number and email address of the responsible contact person)

Please Print
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GO FORTH MINISTRY is a tax-exempt 501 (c) 3 non-profit faith ministry dedicated to strengthening Christians both spiritually and materially, and to proclaim the gospel message of Jesus Christ around the world through the publication and distribution of Bibles and gospel literature as God provides.

The work which began in 1980 remains focused on China and Vietnam. Locally, GO FORTH MINISTRY is a voice for those Christians who are struggling to build God's kingdom in nations that do not recognize a true church under the authority of God.