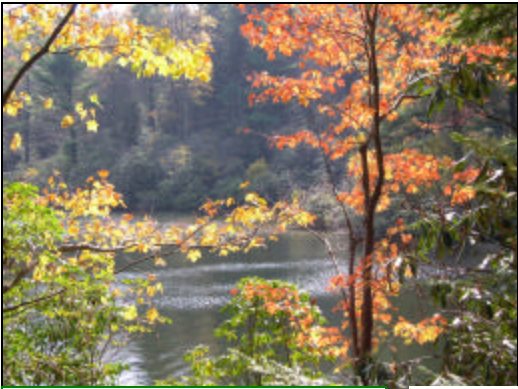


Reconciliation Annual Report



Lake Conasauga, Georgia

www.RMNI.org

Jim Sutherland, Ph.D., Director

5608 Bradford Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37409-2211

Phone: 423.822.1091
Email: Jim@RMNI.org

*Researching, Teaching,
Mobilizing, for the Name—
Serving African-
Americans*

Inside this issue:

Director's 2003 Report	2
9 Axioms of Planning	3
Income/Expense Items	3
Kenya & India 2004	4
Prayer & Praise	4

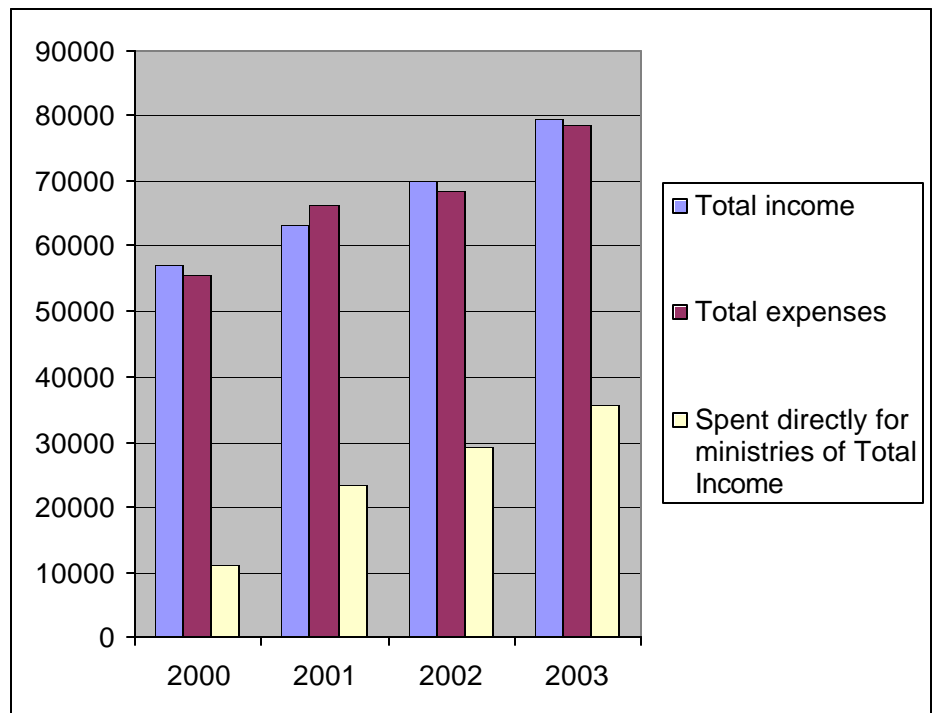
Media:

- www.cominad.org An umbrella network of those mobilizing the African American church.
- Resources for using the film *The Passion* for evangelism www.thepassiontoolbox.com/
- [Www.Wyndham.com](http://www.Wyndham.com) Join WyndhamByRequest and get amazing perks with low room prices from their hotel site.
- Wide-ranging and useful consumer product evaluations <http://www.consumersearch.com/>

Thank you for your interest in this ministry, and particularly for gifts of personal involvement, money, and prayers. God has graciously helped us and allowed modest increases in the ability to serve since RMNI began in 2000. Our primary focus is to mobilize the African American church for global mission. Research, writing and short-term mission trips are means. God is allowing me to go more deeply into the lives of folks at Westside housing project—also the goal in other ministry relationships.

A close friend asked if this ministry will continue when I'm gone. I don't know yet. There is no other fulltime staff member (excellent volunteers serve on the Board, help lead Africa trips, and manage our website). By God's grace two African Americans that I taught are teaching biblical financial principles. A church has become involved in ministry at Westside as a result of work there. Research completed is being cited and used in recruitment. Reading church history convinces me that the printed word is more powerful than most organizational legacies, and that may be my "legacy," although small to date.

The goal is not to see how many African Americans we can take to mission fields, 1-2 trips a year are enough, and various groups do this nation-



(Continued from page 1)

ally. It is to field fulltime African American cross-cultural missionaries—probably not as a sending agency, but by providing mobilization resources. A free 32-page handbook for black global missions committees will soon be available on our website. Research and writing continue. The future reduces to seeking and listening to God's leading, then walking in His love and power—likely near the path laid out by past guidance and confirmed by His resources. Thank you for making that journey possible.

Director's 2003 Personal Ministry Report

Researching:

Began distributing new African American missionary survey and count; studied Indian Dalit people (for an India trip); Assisted several African American researchers; Article on recruiting African American missionaries due to be published in Oct. 2004 in *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*; continuing research to rebut “transdispensationalism” view

Teaching:

Powerpoint presentations developed: Marriage Communication; Church Leadership; Personal Evangelism; Recruiting African American missionaries; Uganda 2003 trip; Upgraded other such presentations

People taught: Dominica: 160 on marriage communication; 85 on sexuality; 80 on marriage; 40 personal finances; 90 on leadership (my wife taught about 30 children)

In US: taught personal evangelism to 13 teens in 5 sessions; Global missions to 90+; personal finances to 35; co-led Crown financial small group of 10; 1 African American missions committee seminar to 10 committee members

Ugandan church leaders: personal finances to 100; marriage to 80; sexuality to 80; leadership to 70; preached to about 430

Mobilizing for Missions:

Completed Handbook for African American Mission Committees; consulted with 3 black missions committees; Revised Uganda Travel Manual

Dominica: Led team of 3 for 8 days; Kenya: Preparations for 2004 trip

Uganda: Led team of 10 to Uganda for 2 weeks; monitored progress of several Ugandan & 1 Sudanese school projects; Uganda trip presentations in US churches to 400 people

Kenya: Planning and documents for 2004 trip; Board secretary of Africa Christian Train. Inst. NOTE: About 400 women and hundreds of youths were also served by our Team.

Urban Ministry:

Evangelism/discipleship: 51 Westside ministry occasions; scripture distribution and witnessing; 1 courtroom & 3 jails visits; 13 job searches for Westside men

Urban Ministers' Network 13 meetings; 4 theological scholarships given

Counseling: Financial: 8; Ministry: 6; Personal: 2

Administration:

Finances Handled all financial reports and transactions

Reports: Produced 6 *Reconciliation Reports* and 6 monthly donor reports; gave monthly Board reports and special reports to supporting churches

Website: Upgraded and added documents

Other: Upgraded computer and printer and added internet and file networking

Other: Visited African American churches 23 times; Preached twice; Led a “40 Days of Purpose group” with my wife.

9 Axioms of Planning

1. **Whatever God decides to do will happen.** God knows the future. God plans for the future (“I know the plans that I have for you...” (Jer. 29:11, NIV). “But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.” (Ps. 33:10). Planning is therefore godly. If God isn’t in your plans, He may frustrate them, “The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.” (Ps. 33:10). If He lets them succeed, we’ll wish He hadn’t.

2. **God expects that we will plan** It isn’t unspiritual to plan, unless we presume upon our intellect, taking the form of planning independent of God, or confident assertions about a future we cannot guarantee--“When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.” (Ps. 146:4). As Jesus planned to call twelve men out of all the nations of Israel to carry on His work after an internship with him, he spent the night in prayer seeking God’s mind (Luke

6:12-13). He committed His plans to God, Who directed His steps. “Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.” (Prov. 16:3).

The other extreme is failing to plan—just living day-to-day. We may not see the larger purposes. We either don’t have priorities or don’t make room for those priorities, going with the flow of the day and whatever events occur. We only respond to our environment and responsibilities.

3. **Decide upon your ministry priorities—you can’t do it all.**

a. Jesus had ministry priorities. He valued preaching the Gospel of the kingdom of God over a healing and exorcism ministry (Luke 4:40-44). Many were probably disappointed that He left a healing ministry to preach in other towns. He had the priority of seeking and saving people. His ultimate priority was to die for the sins of the world (Luke 19:10).

b. Paul the Apostle had ministry priorities. He visited urban Roman population centers, from which the Gospel could radiate. He valued follow-up and discipleship. He wanted to preach where the Gospel had not been preached before (Rom. 15:20), and serve specifically Gentiles, in response to the knowledge God had given him through Ananias (Acts 9:15).

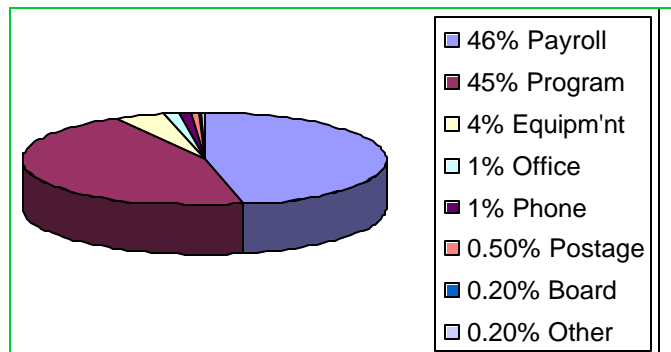
4. **Be flexible.** Another problem is becoming too set upon the plan, not allowing God to adjust it. We probably didn’t get the full-orbed vision at onset. We must be flexible in goal pursuit. “In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.” (Prov. 16:9). “Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.” (Prov. 19:21).

Others might disagree with our ministry priorities, as best we can determine them. This may include those who normally support us. They may or may not be right. God can speak through them, and a test of wisdom is the ability to discern and accept accurate correction (Prov. 9:8-9).

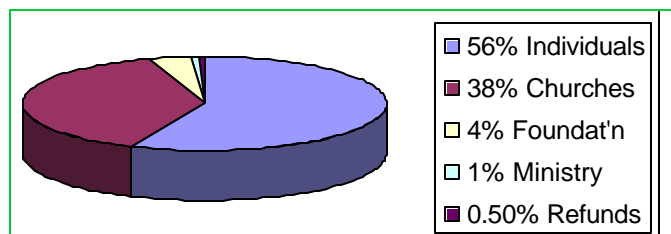
5. **Keep in step with God.** Paul tells us to keep in step with the Spirit (Gal. 5:25)—not to get ahead or to lag behind God—an art. We are like a horse in harness, keeping the tempo of the driver—not walking when we should be trotting and not trotting when we should be galloping. Paul pursued his aim to evangelize virgin territory, but was blocked when he tried to preach in Asia and Bithynia (Acts 16:6-10). “The Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.” (Acts 16:7b). There were days of confusion. I might have thought it was the devil trying to keep me out. Often a closed door is God’s redirection into a more fruitful ministry. The only options were to turn home, or to go to the shore of the Aegean Sea and wait, where God, as we know, spoke to him in a vision. The next morning he got in step with the Spirit and crossed to Macedonia.

6. **God guides in ways other than Scriptures.** He uses counsel (Prov. 15:22), circumstances, and His fear in our heart to lead us. He lays a matter upon our heart (Neh. 2:12; 7:5; 1 Chron. 22:7 [David & Temple]), which is the way He most guides me. God wills and works in us to do His will, “for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” (Phil. 2:13). I was impressed in my spirit less than 50 days before going to Africa that God wanted me to go there. The trip was almost entirely pre-financed. Often I’ve awoken to solutions discovered in my subconscious while I slept. This morning I awoke with a way to save on an order I’d placed the day before, recovering \$27 for the identical items.

2003 Expenditures (\$78,631)



2003 Income sources (\$79,642)

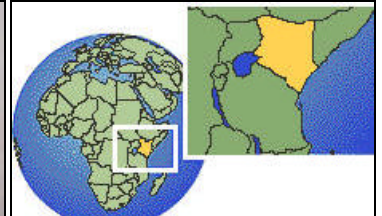


(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

7. **Faith is foundational to planning** (Rom. 14:23). We must come to a place of confidence in God's direction, continuing to take the matter before God as needed. As we are confident of God's plans for us, we have the needed faith to pray those plans into reality. George Muller—the methodical German benefactor of 2000 orphans—demonstrated faith in his meticulous journals, detailing prayers for any given need, sometimes over many years. "What has God given you the faith to believe Him for?" (Bill Gothard). Praying that your plans will succeed gives faith and hope. With little prayer, there is little hope in your future.
8. **Plan with many counselors.** "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." (Prov. 15:22). "Make plans by seeking advice." (Prov. 20:18a). "Wisdom is found with those who take advice." (Prov. 13:10b).
9. **Study and listen to experts.** Gain knowledge and understanding touching upon planning issues. Prov. 8:10-12 says that wisdom dwells with prudence and possesses knowledge and discretion. I greatly rely upon expert counsel and analysis. Counselors, books, articles, and the Internet—together with the principles of God's Word—inform the best plans.

Kenya Mission 2004



1. Christ commanded Christians to go into **all the world** to make disciples (Matt. 28:18-20).
2. Use God-given gifts in service of the Kenyan Church. We match your gifts with opportunities.
3. The trip is not easy. We don't go to vacation, but to serve Christ by serving Kenyans. Africans are looking for African American missionaries.
4. We cannot guarantee complete safety (only God can). But the safest place is in God's will.
5. The cost is \$3,500 (plus personal outfitting and immunizations) for the 2-week trip. Money is not the problem if God wants you to come.
6. We seek racial reconciliation by serving Christ together.
7. If this is your first such trip, it will change your life. It's one of the quickest ways known for spiritual growth, and you will impact your home church. Contact Jim@rmni.org for dates and other information.

INDIA October 2004

We're planning a 2-week trip to work with leaders of the Dalits (mostly "untouchables") in south India in October 2004, in cooperation with the India Gospel League. Ask for details.

Prayer and Praise

↑↑ To hear the "voice" of God and obey it and for wisdom.

↑↑ To spend adequate time in the library and to complete a nearly finished article. Also, to locate current African American cross-cultural missionaries.

↑↑ To build deeper ministry relationships.

↑↑ Ask God to raise up the workers for the Kenya & India trips and among African Americans generally for missions.

↑↑ Son Tim and Karen are now husband and wife (see picture—son

Ethan is at far right). Please pray for a wonderful life together in God's service. Ethan is taking 17 hours at Le-Tourneau and working too. We're praying he'll graduate by August 2004. Susanna must complete her water sampling, analysis and masters thesis to graduate in May 2004. Both will value any prayers!

↑↑ Judi's migraines are fewer. Thanks!

↑↑ We need someone to assist our webmaster



with the website.

↑↑ Please pray for the missions commitment to grow strong in local black churches.

↑↑ For new coworkers in inner city ministry, and for "Rel," "Black" and Mike, all trying to live for Christ.

