



For God so loved the world that  
He gave His one and only Son, that  
whoever believes in Him shall not...

LINKING GOD'S PEOPLE  
TO REACH THE UNREACHED

## 2012 Annual Bridge Report

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Dear Friends and Partners:

Happy New Year! Steve and I thank every one of you who in some way have shown interest in the ministry of The Bridge International. We specifically thank those of you who have been praying for our partners who are serving in the nations and for us - the prayers of a righteous man or woman avails much! For those of you who so generously contributed to The Bridge last year, a letter with this report, some additional information, and your itemized 2012 Donor Statement enclosed has been sent by postal mail to your address. Please contact us if you want us to send you a 2012 Financial Report.

Please allow me to share some perspectives on the year which passed and the new that is unfolding.

In the Annual Report last year, I mentioned the emotional hype in the media and the public, especially in the States, at the anticipation that the world might end on December 21, 2012. Well — as we all know, the date became an un-event. Hardly mentioned in the media, it came and went while life resumed as normal, although those who had taken the predictions seriously and were ready to flee to the mountains had to readjust their life back to reality, again. It reminded me of the Y2K scare in 1999 that had some of the same characteristics. The reason the media's hype and fear of the pending apocalypse did not have any effect on Steve and my life, was simply that **we filtered this information through the Bible, and it did not meet the litmus test.** It brought home to us again how essential it is, especially in this information age when the whole world is at our fingertips and the deafening noise from so many voices compete for our attention, that **we are anchored in God's Word.**

As followers of Jesus Christ we need to carve out a quiet place in our lives where we, not only study and memorize the Scriptures, but **meditate on God's Word and learn to discern God's voice from all the other voices in our lives.** Discernment is the combination of knowledge and wisdom, which is **the process of prayerful reflection which leads us to understanding God's truth and call in the particular circumstances we face.** Psalm 1 characterizes the man who is blessed by God as a person who finds delight in God's Word and meditates on it continually (v. 2). Psalm 119:105 is a reminder that God's Word is *"a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* Isaiah 26:3 contains a promise, *"You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."* It is good to be reminded that *"do not fear"* is mentioned 365 times in the Bible, so it is an important exhortation! Fact is — fear is the opposite of faith!

The war against those who confess Jesus as Lord is increasingly expanding, especially in countries dominated by Islam. Presently, the Iranian government has publically declared that an American-Iranian pastor on trial will certainly be hanged — not for *"subversive activities"*, as charged in past judgments, but for his *"faith in Jesus."* There is a new brazenness and cruelty publicly displayed in persecution with an open declaration of war on the Christian church throughout the Muslim world.

Approx. 200,000 people per year being persecuted simply because they confess their Christian faith, is a disturbingly large number! I believe that it is largely because the voice of protest against these **Cont. on p. 2**

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Cont. from p. 1 gross human violations have been muffled by the UN and Western governments. **The Judeo-Christian world view - the cornerstone of the Western civilization - is with increasing speed being undermined and replaced with a vaguely defined term called "religious neutrality".** In practical terms, this translates into *"since everything is relative, anything goes"*. The United States used to be an effective beacon of light in holding forth a Biblically-based standard to the world for the individual's right to freely worship his God. *"Tolerance"* applies now to anything and everyone, except Christians and Jews! Other contributing factors for the indifference to the believers' plea world-wide are a compliant, sensational-seeking media, and a weak church which is largely too steeped in the "bless me" Gospel to care or take action.

The darkness that is gradually descending, containing a mixture of relativism, political correctness, and religious syncretism, is about to be released upon the Western world to a degree that we have not seen up till now. It is designed to eradicate the Christian faith, specifically by challenging the core of the fundamental Biblical doctrine which states that **Jesus Christ is the Son of God; that He is God in a triune relationship between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that He was raised from the dead; that a living faith in Him is the only way by which man can be saved and come into a personal relationship with God!** The time may not be too far away when anyone committed to this doctrine may be deemed an enemy of the state and a national security risk. History has seen this in our generation, i.e. Russia, Germany, China, and North Korea!

The evidence of this paradigm shift has gradually made its mark on the world for several decades as liberal theology has become more dominant, and unbiblical practices more commonplace within the church. Teaching Biblical truth has been replaced with *"seeker friendly"* compromises, and under the guise of *"religious tolerance"*, many are denying their Biblically-based faith by placing personal comfort and expedience over truth.

Today, the even greater threat to the Western civilization is the aggressive advancement Islam—not just from those defined as fringe elements of radical Jihad terrorism – but from those who strictly adhere to the funda-

mental doctrines of the Qur'an. Presented as a "peaceful religion" to naïve, largely ignorant outsiders who give Muslims open entrance into peace-loving nations. **Islam's ultimate goal is world dominance with the establishment of Shari'a Law; anyone opposing that view or refusing to submit is an Infidel who must be eliminated!** The goal justifies the means!

Our field partners who live within the 10-40 Window and propagate the Gospel, whether within Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Communist, or in other third world countries, are well familiar with the pressures placed on them, their families, and the believers they serve. They have counted the cost and are committed to God's call to reach others with the love of Jesus and live the message as vehicles of God's forgiveness, healing, and restoration.

Steve and I know every one of our field partners personally. We are humbled by their steadfast faith and commitment at their own risk to reaching out to a desperate world with the love of the Lord. I repeat here what I wrote in last year's Annual Report as it continues to be true of who they are: *The Bridge field partners you support have ministries in their own rights. In spite of hardship of life, they live sacrificially and victoriously while serving with joy the lost, the hurting, and the needy as they reach them with the love of Jesus. They plant and build, they teach and train, they encourage and exhort, they raise up disciples, and send them out. You have sown into good soil for the Gospel which is bearing much fruit!*

Allow me to quote the well known prayer of Francis of Assisi which quite accurately expresses the heart cry of our brother and sisters we serve abroad:

*"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.*

*"O Lord, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life."*

Thank you, again for walking shoulder to shoulder with us in furthering the Kingdom of God in the nations. Let us be mindful of the words of Jesus in John 9:4 — **Let us continue to work together while it is day, the night is coming when no one can work!**

Our website [BridgeInternational.org](http://BridgeInternational.org) has more detailed information. Go online and click on Articles inside our website, then browse the column of headings and dates — enjoy reading the fascinating stories on the people, ministries, and projects we help sponsor in the nations!



If you want to give to The Bridge online via our website directly from your bank account or by debit or credit card, please click on the *Donate* button in the upper right corner on the website and a PayPal window with further instructions will open.