



# TENTMAKERS BIBLE MISSION



FEB 2020

## Significant Milestones by Ron Thompson

### Highlights Section

Transition does not mean we seek to conform to current trends. It's been said that "Whoever marries the spirit of this age will find himself widowed in the next."

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Pray for wisdom and discernment for Ron and Chuck as they minister in their new jobs.

Also, pray for TBM to grow in its ministry of planting churches worldwide.



John Miles  
Founder of TBM in 1985

In May, Tentmakers Bible Mission will reach two significant milestones. The first milestone is our 35th Anniversary. In those years, TBM has grown to 67 missionaries in 10 countries on 24 different fields throughout the world, with a Home Office staff of eight gifted servants that take care of a growing list of ministry and administrative responsibilities.

The second milestone that TBM will reach is a transition to the third Executive Director in our history, Chuck Mathias.

God has blessed TBM with a common thread that has connected all three Directors. Richard Manion was Director for 23 years, Ron Thompson directed for 12 years, and now, Chuck Mathias joins in serving.

Dick was a church planter whom God used in 1963 to call Ron to a life of church planting when Ron was 12 years old. Chuck, our upcoming Director, was born, raised, baptized and trained at Kaysville Bible Church in Utah. This was the first church which Ron and his wife, Wanda, planted in 1972.

Church planting is at the core of the primary goals by which TBM operates. Though Executive Directors change, the focus and values do not.

We invite you to pray for TBM as we transition to new leadership this May. Chuck

and Connie Mathias have four wonderful children. They come from a rich history of international missionary service in India and have served in the Home Office for the past four years. They have a passionate commitment to missions and missionaries. In addition, they have a strong ministry giftset that will be greatly used of the Lord

in leading TBM into our next chapter of global outreach.

During this transition Ron Thompson will step into the role of Assistant Director at TBM and will continue to support the Mission family in that capacity.

Transition and change are vital for every organization, but at TBM, the transition is

also accompanied by our priority to plant Bible believing churches around the world. This priority has never changed since our founding in 1985!

Rejoice with us as we march forward for the Gospel in this transition.

Ron and Wanda Thompson started four church plants in Utah. They are, Kaysville Bible Church, Valley Bible Church in Cedar City, Mountain View Bible Church in La Verkin, and Roy Bible Church. In 2009 Ron became Director of TBM, and will move to Assistant Director in 2020.



# Hold On!

## Remaining Faithful, Moving Forward

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Over the past few years in the home office I have realized just how innovative Tentmakers is. We've never been flashy, just innovative in a simple and understated way. For 35 years we have supported bivocational missionaries. Since the early days we have supported national pastors. These were a part of TBM long before they became a trend in modern missions. I have also realized that this innovation is a result of looking back, into God's Word and aligning our vision, philosophy and values with a simple understanding of the truths we find in Scripture.

As we move into a new decade our theme for 2020 is "Transitions." Transition does not mean we seek to conform to current trends. It's been said that "Whoever marries the spirit of this age will find himself widowed in the next." Rather, we seek to strengthen our resolve to pursue the calling God has given us, aligning ourselves with the truth of His Word.

In every transition we need to cling to what is good, recognizing our need for faithfulness as we "press on" and "excel still more."

### We will Remain Faithful to the Word

We cannot undermine the authority of Scripture. We know that solid philosophy of missions comes out of a proper understanding of God's Word. At Tentmakers, we must find our way forward not by striving for what is new and different, but by clinging to what is true and trustworthy.

### We Will Remain Faithful to the Vision

The vision of TBM is to see churches

planted. This is at the core of Jesus' commission to make disciples. This takes place in disciple-making communities called the local church. We are committed to the local church as God's primary strategy for missions.

This core vision gives rise to our values and organizational distinctives:

- We encourage missionaries to support their ministry through tentmaking when necessary or strategic. We assist missionaries in pursuing whatever avenue is best to fulfill their ministry.
- We bring national missionaries into our TBM family as equal partners in the Gospel.
- We recognize our need as a mission organization to serve the local church, and to assist churches to fulfill their role in sending missionaries.
- We support the vision and call of our missionaries. We work with our missionaries to help them fulfill the ministry to which God has called them.
- We serve together. Every missionary, including home office staff, trusts God to provide for their needs. We do not take a percentage of donations for administrative fees. 100% of donations goes to the missionary.

These values make us who we are and shape our organizational culture. Tentmakers remains an authentic, down-to-earth, hard-working team of servants. We are family.

### We Will Remain Faithful to the Family

God has entrusted to us wonderful missionaries and mission partners. I am continually impressed with the quality and commitment of our missionaries, including our home office staff and I am honored to be able to serve God's servants. I am also encouraged by those who are partners in the Gospel as they faithfully support and pray for our missionaries. With our missionaries, partners, and faithful board, our family will continue to serve together.

### We Will Remain Faithful to the Calling

As a mission organization we recognize the ministry we have beyond our TBM family. We see a broader responsibility to encourage and equip church planters, students, and local churches for missions. We are currently working on exciting new projects related to each of these areas that we see as part of our calling.

### As We Move Forward

At Tentmakers, we will move forward by looking back. Even in times of transition, we will remember our commitment to God's Word, expressed in our vision and values, focus on that which He has entrusted to us, and embrace the call to equip others for mission. We invite you to go forward with us.

Chuck is married to Connie and they have four kids, all born in India. They live in LaGrange, Wy, but see the world as their mission field as they work to train church planters and assist TBM missionaries.



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Tentmakers Bible Mission is a faith mission. Our purpose is to facilitate the planting and nurturing of independent Bible-centered churches throughout the world. Tentmakers assists missionaries as they establish churches in North and South America, Africa, Europe and Asia, and is open to opportunities throughout the world.



Tentmakers Bible Mission is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.