

## My Team

By

Bruce A. Howell

A team is willing to sacrifice for a common vision. That is so true of those I am privileged to lead. I have a few of my team members with me today. Let me introduce Doris and Danny Donor; Michael and Mildred Missionary; and Nathaniel and Nancy National. They represent hundreds more. What would we do without the Donors, the Missionaries, and the Nationals (not to mention faithful Oscar and Olive Office and others at the World Evangelism Center)? Our global enterprise would come to a halt.

**Doris and Danny Donor:** During the month of June 2006 we experienced our highest income ever—thanks to you. We’ve come a long way since “penny-a-day missionary boxes.” Donors sacrifice so the Gospel can spread around the globe. They step out by faith and increase giving each year. A lady asked God to deliver her from drugs. If God would deliver her, she would give her entire paycheck for the next year to Him. God did. She did. Today, she is a prosperous member of the United Pentecostal Church. A widow gave \$1000.00 to a missionary to purchase Bibles in Eastern Europe. Her family gave over \$10,000.00 to build a church in memory of their loved one. Another widow gave \$5000.00 to training. A precious lady left \$125,000.00 of her estate to build

churches and Bible schools. A young lady gave her lunch money each day to support a missionary. Today, she is an AIMer overseas. Sunday school classes collect change and dollars to support missionaries. A struggling pastor took on all the missionaries presented at General Conference. God blessed his fledgling church. Donors...we just couldn't survive without you!

**Michael and Mildred Missionary:** Hats off to the Missionaries on the frontlines and doing an outstanding job. They also fulfill the adage, "Put your money where your mouth is." They relentlessly give to support missions. One of our UPCI missionaries gives \$1000.00 a month to missions—more than fifty percent of what is received monthly for food, clothing, and personal expenses. Another missionary was in a camp meeting and had only \$2.00 in his pocket. God told him to give it. He yielded! Later someone gave him an offering of \$1002.00. In a Home Missions service God impressed a missionary to give the largest cash offering he had ever given (money he was saving to buy a home). He obeyed! Later a pastor felt impressed to give him an offering to help buy a house. It was five times the amount of his offering in the Home Missions service. How do I know? The missionary was me!

**Nathaniel and Nancy National:** along with multiplied thousands of others have given their blood, sweat, and tears for the salvation of souls. Liberia has gone through over twenty years of civil war—yet the church has remained

vibrant. They have grown by leaps and bounds. I recently sat with men that have been preaching truth since 1952. Ministers in many parts of the world live on a dollar or two a day. Some face persecution and death for their witness. Samuel, from El Salvador, was offered a job with the national airline. He refused so that he could attend church and be faithful. He later became the National Treasurer and pastor of a thriving church. In many countries ministers are asked to dedicate themselves to fulltime service. That means sacrifice—the seeds for revival. We may never know the names of many of our faithful brothers and sisters; and probably could not pronounce them if we did. They are like the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington National Cemetery “where valor proudly sleeps.” The epitaph reads, “Here rests in honored glory an unknown soldier known but to God.”

Thank you Donors, Missionaries, and Nationals. Ray Boltz had you in mind when he wrote, “Little things that you had done, sacrifices made, unnoticed on the earth, in heaven now proclaimed.”