

# The Last Link

A Newsletter provided by NEEDHIM National Media Outreach, Inc.

Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring 2005



NEEDHIM, Inc.

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## Ripe for the Harvest

By Drew Dickens

The waters that rose up from the deep in December, drowning thousands of people across a wide arc of South and Southeast Asia, were a cataclysm of Biblical proportions. As of this week, government agencies and the United Nations said the total of those either dead or missing is 297,046.

After a cataclysm of Biblical proportions, people of all faiths ask; What happened? Why us? Why here? Why now?

Scientifically, two giant tectonic plates, which have been pushing against each other since creation, suddenly shifted. One of the plates suddenly sprang up, lifting perhaps 60 feet along a 1,000-mile ridge. I am reminded of Psalms 18:7, "The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook;"

But let's consider another cataclysm of Biblical proportions that occurs every three days. According to the 2004 World Fact Book, 155,399 souls die each day. The Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year 2004 claims that 41% of the world's population is Christian. That means that 91,685 souls die every day without a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Every three days as many people die around the world facing an eternity without Christ as died in the tsunami. Perhaps it takes such a cataclysm to remind us of how fragile life is and how we should never tire in the work of spreading the Gospel to a lost world.

John 4:35-36 "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

## NeedHim Receives National Award

You have heard them on the radio, the 60 second NeedHim commercials that end by inviting people to call to find out how to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. But have you ever wondered who makes those commercials?

Since the inception of NeedHim nine years ago, over thirty Christian authors, teachers, evangelists and singers have contributed their talent to produce these commercials, people like Billy Graham, Ron Hutchcraft, Luis Palau, Steven Curtis Chapman, Woodrow Kroll, Twila Paris and Charles Stanley. After a commercial is voiced, it is sent to Moody Broadcasting for the final touches and then released to over 1200 radio stations.

As a result of the efforts of our voicers and Moody Broadcasting, NeedHim has been awarded the "Best Radio Teaching Program" by the National Religious Broadcasters Association for 2005. According to the NRB, this award is given to the ministry that "presents the Gospel with clarity, avoiding personal comment about other broadcasters, and has relevance for the listener and sound doctrinal teaching, presented in a way that is creative."

NeedHim thanks all of our ministry partners for the prayer, effort, dedication and commitment that made this award possible.



Drew Dickens, President and Executive Director, holds "Best Radio Teaching Program" award by the NRB on behalf of NeedHim.

# Internet Evangelism Testimony from New Tribes Mission

Bob Nyberg, *New Tribes Language Institute*

From time to time I meet people on the internet who are unsaved and I want to point them to a website that had a clear presentation of the gospel. It seems like many websites either had an unclear presentation of the gospel or else a gospel mixed with works. So I decided to build my “Good News” website.

I’m glad to include your chat button on my site. It’s exciting to be able to include a link for folks who want to talk with a live person. Thanks for making that service available.

## What They are Saying

*“NeedHim plays an important role in helping us present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our listeners.”*

–Dusty Rhodes, Chief Operating Officer, WAY-FM Media Group

*“We praise the Lord for your fruitful ministry.”*

–Gary Herr, Manager, KFNW-AM-FM, Fargo, ND

*“One of our great privileges has been the partnership we’ve enjoyed with NeedHim over the years. Thank you to the entire NeedHim team for your commitment to reach the lost and your passion for compelling content. To God be the Glory!”*

–Scott Taylor, Station Manager, Star 99.1, New York City.

## What Makes That Phone Ring?

Tom Andersen



God has blessed NeedHim with some phenomenal, cutting edge technology in order to connect gospel-seeking callers with gospel-ready volunteers. Did you know that each phone call actually consists of two phone calls? And there’s some internet activity involved with it too. Here’s how it all works.

Long-distance telephone carriers in the US utilize an enormous path of fiber optics that encircles the whole country. Every state in the country ties into this “back-bone,” which passes through the Dallas area. NeedHim’s main telephone equipment is connected directly to it.

When a NeedHim volunteer logs into this telephone system via the internet, they identify what local phone number they’re sitting next to. Their internet software also provides them an option of being “ready” or “not-ready” while they’re logged in.

Then, when someone calls NeedHim, that call is picked up by NeedHim’s central computer. The computer then determines which volunteer has been “ready” the longest, and initiates a second phone call to the volunteer. When the volunteer answers, the computer connects the two phone calls together, and the volunteer begins talking with the caller.

At the same time, the central computer sends a data-capture screen to the volunteer’s computer via the internet. This screen identifies certain details about the caller, including any notes from previous contact with that caller. The volunteer can then record the caller’s name, the result of their conversation, any additional comments, and even their address if they’re in need of some follow-up material.

This information is then sent to NeedHim staff and recorded in NeedHim’s permanent database. The data is used to initiate appropriate follow-up, log repeat-caller information, and analyze NeedHim’s overall effectiveness. In 2004 alone nearly 115,000 calls were recorded in NeedHim’s database.

We continue to praise God for the technology he has provided in order to share the gospel of Christ with souls all over the US, and beyond!

## “Wrong Number” Salvation

What a blessing today!

“Oh, I dialed the wrong number,” said Larry, as he called into our NeedHim phone line on February 16, 2005. “Oh no you didn’t, you dialed the right number,” I replied.

Larry proceeded to tell me that he wasn’t a Christian but that his grandmother had taken him to church in his early years, but she has since passed away and he no longer attends church.

We talked about Jesus’ love and God’s grace. After writing down various scriptures, Larry accepted Christ. We followed with a prayer, and he seemed eager to find a Christ-centered church.

Before we hung up the phone, Larry agreed that his call to NeedHim was the right number!

# NeedHim Receives Matching Grant

We are excited to announce that NeedHim has just been awarded a \$47,500 matching grant from a major foundation. With matching gifts, that means NeedHim will receive a total of \$95,000 to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and provide people an opportunity to respond by calling 1-888-NEEDHIM.

Twelve months ago we committed to becoming more aggressive in sharing the Gospel. We are growing beyond Christian media and moving even further outside the gates, putting the message of Christ where it's not welcome. Over the last twelve months we have been on billboards, 200+ newspapers, ABC television, and network radio heard across the entire nation. Furthermore, 888-NEEDHIM can now be found on nearly 11,000 websites around the world.

This grant will go towards presenting the Gospel in places where it is not welcome, both domestically and internationally, using secular media to get out the message. Pray with us as God continues to open new doors of opportunity and for the financials resources necessary to accomplish each task.

## Contribution Plans

NeedHim is totally dependant upon those who give generously and sacrificially.

There are a variety of ways you can contribute:

- Monthly gifts
- Annual gifts
- One-Time gifts
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Donor Advised Funds
- Will or estate plan gifts
- An endowed gift
- A memorial gift
- A gift of stocks

## In Memory Of

RICHARD EARL CLARK, husband of Mary Sue and faithful volunteer at NeedHim, went into the presence of our Lord on February 12, 2005. Memorial gifts were given by William or Ethel Clark, Ross & Lois Finkelman, , Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Guenther, Robert and Ann Hay, Mysti Mathis, Judy McAlevey, Hartsel & Bonnigene Shipp, and James and Phyllis Somma. (As of February 24, 2005).



**Denise Bensko, NeedHim's Director of Media Relations, with Nancy Lee Demoss at the National Religious Broadcasters Association Banquet.**

## NeedHim Corner

*The following is a record of a call received by a NeedHim volunteer:*

“Are you calling to begin a relationship with God? On the other line was a small, quiet voice that said, ‘I think so, but I have been involved with demon worship. Can God get me out of that?’

The volunteer asked her name. “Cheri,” she responded.

Cheri, let's first talk about your relationship with God and then I will address the other. Do you know much about the bible? She responded; ‘A little.’ The volunteer then asked if she understand what sin is? Cheri responded with a yes.

The volunteer explained that we are all sinners; as such sin separates us from God because He is perfect. God loves you, not just you but all His creation. I asked her; ‘have you ever received Jesus as your Savior?’ Cheri explained that someone once tried to make her, but that she did now want to at that time. But now she does and is ready for a serious spiritual change in her life.

After she prayed and I said: ‘Wow, guess what, you just became God's child. If you were the only sinner in the world, Jesus would have died just for you. How about that?’

She began to cry and laugh at the same time. ‘Oh, I feel it!’ I explained eternal life, the Holy Spirit in her.

How often do I pray believing? There was no doubt in my mind that God was in the middle of my prayer saying ‘YES’ to all I prayed for that little girl. See, before we disconnected I learned that she is fourteen years-old and in a mental institution. She certainly did not sound like someone who would be there. Yet, there she was in all of her despair.

When I hung up another volunteer said to me, ‘you are really getting good at this’ and I had to laugh because I experienced God all the way. It is absolutely nothing of me.

Once again, I believe that all my life I was being prepared for this ministry.

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and providing an  
opportunity to respond!”*



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## NeedHim Banquet with Ray Comfort



This event to financially benefit NeedHim is an exciting time to hear of how God is at work in NeedHim and one can partner with us in fulfilling the ministry. This year's Keynote speaker is evangelist, author, and public speaker – Ray Comfort. The banquet will be held on Saturday evening, April 23, 2005 once again at the InterContinental Hotel, Malachite Showroom, Dallas, TX.

Ray is a co-host with actor Kirk Cameron, and producer of an award-winning television show. Most notably, he has written the books *Hells Best Kept Secret* and *Way of the Master*. Originally from New Zealand, he and his family left “The Lord of the Rings” country in 1989 and settled in the United States. Ray's ministry has been commended by Franklin Graham, Josh McDowell, Bill Gothard, and Joni Eareckson Tada. His literature is used by Campus Crusade for Christ, Moody Bible Institute, the Institute for Scientific and Biblical Research, and more. We encourage you to visit his website at [www.wayofthemaster.com](http://www.wayofthemaster.com).

We are excited to have Ray share the evening with us at NeedHim's largest annual event. Put it on your calendar now and plan to spend a great evening with us!