



Indian ladies in seminar

RMNi

RECONCILIATION REPORT

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 Primarily African-
Americans*

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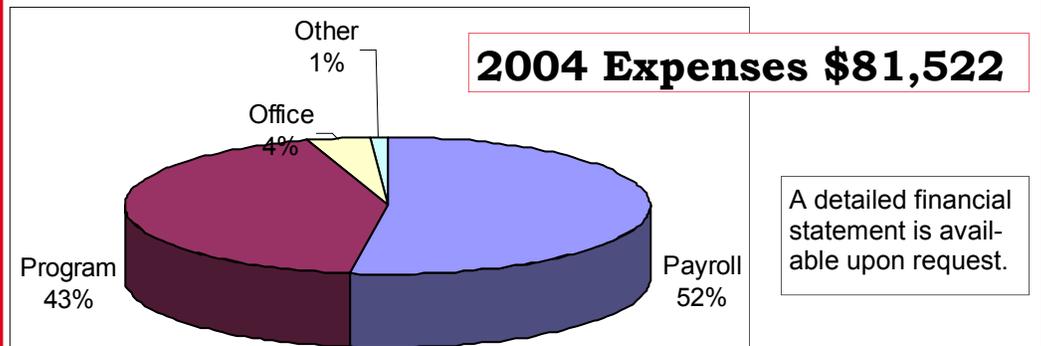
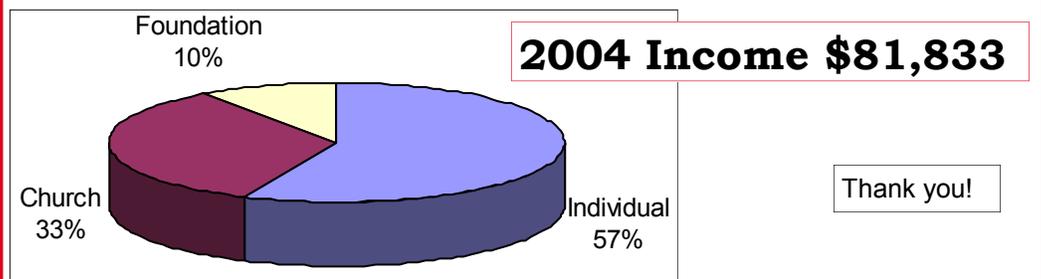
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InSites:

- Worthwhile studies on leadership: <http://leadershipletters.org>
- "The story of the spirituals: <http://ctl.du.edu/spirituals/>
- To keep mentally sharp: www.acuitygames.com
- \$ Stewardship for women! www.royaltreasure.org
- www.Froogle.com Enter the item for which you're shopping for the best price
- For seniors: www.seniorjournal.com

Looking back upon 2004 I'm amazed at God's provision. Every significant piece of ministry equipment has been replaced, visits to our newly redesigned website have gone from 2500 to 6400 per month Some of you prayed for this. A teaching resource section has been added. We began ministry and relationships in Kenya and India, which remain open doors. We have three new Board members of great promise, added to an excellent nucleus. Income was up modestly. We have permanent tax-exempt status. We seem to be in a position of encouragement to some involved in the African American mission enterprise nationally, with calls coming in for collaboration and assistance. It's been the busiest year of ministry at RMNi. Our major goal remains to mobilize the African American Church for global mission, primarily through teaching, media resources, short-term trips, and research. Much apathy still defies mobilization.

Your prayers and gifts have made service possible. We economize and try for the greatest impact, wanting the highest rewards to accrue to you. The 2004 Report will provide an indication of what the Lord allowed us to do. Pray that we'll discern and accomplish His agenda in 2005. We're grateful. Jim Sutherland



Director's 2004 Ministry Highlights

Research: Upgraded and supplemented AfAm missionary database; prepared a church financial stewardship questionnaire.

Teaching: (Class hours--one person taught for 2 hours= 2 class hours.)
Financial topics taught for the equivalent of 425 class hours to various audiences. Co-led a Crown financial small group.

Taught "Facing Failure" at Cedine Ministries for 165 class hours. Taught AfAm missions seminar for 52 class hours.



The Earth at
night

Missions Mobilizing:

Kenya Led a 2-week trip of 5 persons to Kenya; I taught about 1050 class hours on marriage, leadership and financial support of the pastor. [Others' Team ministry: about 1350 class hours were devoted to youth Christian education and about 1950 to women's education. Crusade attendance was about 225 @ for 6 days, and 2800 children were given medical attention. 70 professions of faith were recorded in various meetings and 150 attended a preaching service.]

Developed Kenya 2004 PowerPoint presentation and showed it at 2 black churches. Preached on missions to 75 +- at Mission Ridge Baptist Ch.; Created Kenya section at website; funds sent for needy Kenyan students and books sent to a Kenyan pastor; Spoke at Bible school chapel on short-term missions to 20.

General Assisted station KSBJ in Houston to highlight AfAm missionaries; Mission presentation to 15 children; Organized Chatt. Missions Network of 3-4 black churches: 3 meetings

India Created an India website section. Took one other person to India; taught on church leadership development to church leaders for about 11,875 class hours; preached to 200+; taught women for about 150 class hours on leadership development; Flo Samuels taught women about 4500 class hours. Prepared India PP presentation and showed it at 4 venues to about 180.

Uganda Uganda trip presentation to 250 at Friendship Comm. Ch.

Urban Ministry:

Evangelism/discipleship Westside: 46 visits (about 85 in-depth conversations); + assisted 4 men in job search; Other urban ministry: 3; 3 court visits; 3 jail visits; had 4 volunteer co-workers; ongoing mentoring children of an inner city family; Showed the "Passion of Christ" movie to about 20.

Urban Ministers' Network Attended 7 meetings; Awarded 5 scholarships for black pastors.

Counseling: Financial: 9 + 2 phone counseling; Job & personal: 2; Ministry: 1

Administration:

Produced 5 Reconciliation Reports; In-person ministry reports to 4 churches (about 430) + 2 annual reports Website Webmasters redesigned and upgraded website

Other Replaced stolen or broken office machines; Hosted 4 Board meetings; 3 Board members recruited; Developed RMN tabletop display

Other: Visited 5 donor families. National and international correspondence; Attended AfAm churches 13 times (preached once to about 100); 6 breakfast/lunch meetings

“Thank you again for the work that you are doing. I am so encouraged. Sometimes it seems people don't see the need. I sometimes take it personal.

It is seeing ministries like yours that help me see how it is indeed God accomplishing His work. God bless you. Peace to you in Jesus.”

R. T.



African American Cultural Gifts

African Americans have unique cultural strength. They focus upon relationships. At a recent meeting five black and three white clergy had a good-natured theological free-for-all about Christians and alcohol. At 1 PM, the customary close, two whites left, while the black pastors stayed for another half hour of fellowship. After 12:00 Sunday, most whites have concluded with worship. Blacks may trickle out at 1:30 PM, to return later.

The custom of standing and greeting in the morning church service, breaking the social surface tension, is illustrative. Whites may greet for 40 seconds, or on warm and sunny days, 60 seconds. Only the wildly gregarious venture a few feet away from their seat. At Love Fellowship, the music starts and all the women hug all the men, and anyone ambulatory hits the aisles. After 5 minutes, even white folks are warming up. You've shown more public affection than in the last six months, and your "smile muscles" ache.

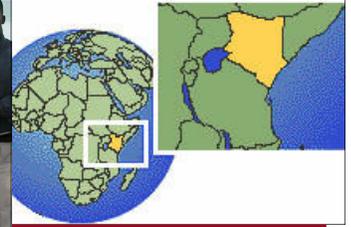
A black pastor called me when I left Inner City Ministries and no longer had an office. He gave me one in his church. Just after our home was burglarized, he called (as did our pastor) to offer help. He leads an inner-city congregation whose sanctuary floods 2-3 times a year. Pastor Johnson once accompanied me into a housing project, fearing I'd be jumped.

Another strength of the African American church is her thankfulness. Whites don't publicly thank God for waking them up. Probably two-thirds of public prayers by blacks include this. No matter what happened last week, the black believer is going to thank God (and maybe "get happy") for getting through it. There will likely be an upbeat "power choir." We're concerned that we hit the E flat, and they're concerned that they flat-out hit 85 decibels.

African Americans are encouragers. No matter how amateur a singer on Sunday morning, the song may crash, but it won't burn. The audience quietly weaves background accompaniment, calling out encouragement, and when finished, the singer will think that she is Alicia Keys or he is Usher Raymond. You simply cannot fail. It's impossible. African Americans generally don't have low self-esteem probably because others are so supportive. Once I taught on marriage in the Caribbean. They were appreciative, but not demonstrative, and I thought that I'd failed. The problem was that African Americans had previously spoiled me with appreciation.

By many measures, blacks have better spiritual disciplines. They pray more, read the Bible more, attend church more. They can smell heresy and bad doctrine and are generally more theologically conservative. Whites can be edified by these cultural assets. Reading E flats is good, too.

Kenya Mission June 2005



1. Christ commanded Christians to go into **all the world** to make disciples (Matt. 28:18-20). Team member said that in attending for over 35 years she'd never heard of the "Great Commission," or that it was her duty to witness to Christ. That was her experience. Kenyans have asked us to return, and are grateful.
2. Don't let apathy or indifference prevent you from sharing your spiritual gifts across cultures.
3. Please visit www.rmni.org/kenya/home.asp for details. For a photo report of the 2004 ministry, please visit www.rmni.org/news/Report_5-2004.pdf (it will take some time to download).
4. We specialize in multi-cultural teams and desire strong teaching, medical and evangelistic sub-teams. We try to employ your spiritual gift. The trip is 16 days.
5. Cost: \$3,500. Funds are due by May 1, 2005. If God wants you to come, He will provide.

go into **all the world**
A prospective 2005
ing black churches

India Mission Oct. 2005



1. In partnership with the India Gospel League, we're planning a 2-week trip to teach church leaders in north India. We also welcome medical personnel. Christians comprise less than 1 percent of the population in much of this area.
2. Please visit www.rmni.org/india/home.asp and www.rmni.org/news/Report_11-2004.pdf

Prayer and Praise



↑ We're grateful for an excellent year of opportunity, supply, and of God's grace. Thank you for praying.

↑ Please pray for these inner-city friends: Moon (for salvation—God is definitely working), Rel (struggling with issues), Al (recent profession of faith). Pray for the ability to disciple, and for volunteers.

↑ Wisdom for our Board

↑ For African American churches to embrace global missions, especially locally.

↑ Wisdom for ministry investment & financial allocations.

↑ Teaching opportunities

↑ For all those God wants on the Kenya and India trips

↑ Children: adjustment for daughter Naomi and Andrew Hochhaus in marriage. Welcome Andrew!; Son Tim needs wisdom for work; Susanna is



planning marriage; Ethan—help with a calculus course this semester. Judi's migraines aren't as severe or frequent. Please pray for her.