

MSU CAMPUS HOUSE (CONT)

ects as well as allow residents to sharpen their Christian character by living together in intentional community and to develop their own global vision by exposure to an up-close-and-personal view of what our God is doing in this world!!!

Already \$50,000.00 has been given towards the purchase price of \$99,000.00. I am sure that you would much rather see student rent money going each month to advance the Kingdom of God around the world than to make a mortgage payment to a bank. Now please understand, some of my best friends are bankers...but really, when is the last time you saw a bank send out a missionary?

Our desire is to see the remaining

balance on our ministry/discipleship campus house paid off in the next 6 months. So that all the rent money can go to global missions beginning with the next school year. Toward that end I am personally asking each of you to go before the Lord and ask Him what He would have you to do to underwrite this mission house project financially between now and September 1st.

This is an amazing opportunity, my friends. Won't you join me in it so that together we might share the blessing of participating with the Lord in how He will use the money, the prayer and the manpower generated by this house for years and years to come?

LIFE...IT'S NOT ABOUT ME (NOR IS YOURS ABOUT YOU, FOR THAT MATTER).

If my life were about God's best for me this day...then I would have died last night in my sleep. There is unimpeachable Biblical warrant for speaking this way—the Apostle Paul writes in Philipians chapter one verse 23 that it “is better by far” to “die[depart]and to be with Christ”.

Yet the Lord allowed me to awaken this morning. Why is that? Especially since if He were ordering my life in the way that is best for me—which after all, is what God really should be concerned about—I should have died and awakened in heaven with Christ rather than in my bed (with three 50+-pound puppies. Anybody want a dog? But wait, that is another story for another time).

Why? Here it is. Paul continues: “it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body”. There you go. Exhibit A in God's case for letting us live this day. Our lives are necessary this very day for somebody other than us.

But necessary for what, exactly? (Please sit down before reading further.) “For your progress and joy in the faith.” Friends, is this not the most amazing thing you've ever read in your entire lifetime!?!? **My life** today—your life today—is **necessary** for the progress and joy in the faith...of **somebody else!!** And the

odds are that I will never know who that somebody else is this side of eternity.

Ready for the knock-out punch? Paul finishes his thought this way: “...so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me”. We are alive this day so that on account of our obedient walk of faith, another person's joy in Christ Jesus will overflow. Overflow. Because of me. Because of you. Can we—dare we—believe it!?!? Since going through this paragraph in Philipians with a couple of college guys at my house on the night of Monday, February 5th my days have not been the same.

YOU—and I—are alive today for somebody else's joy and progress in the faith; that their own joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of **YOU**. Dear friends, if that truth does not give focus and meaning and purpose and excitement and anticipation and energy and direction and joy and thrill and **life** to your own life this day...then pray tell what in the Name of the great God Jehovah will it take?

O, the condescending mercies of our great God and Savior. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.



MIKE COMPTON, founder and executive director of Lightbearers Ministries, received a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Southwest Missouri State College (now Missouri State University) in 1970; a master's degree in History from that institution in 1971; and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration/College Student Personnel from the University of Arkansas in 1980. His career includes professional positions in university administration (University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC; and Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, MO), church staff (University Baptist Church, Fayetteville, AR; and First Baptist Church, Moore, OK), and county government (Washington County, AR). He established Lightbearers, a collegiate residential discipleship ministry, at the University of Oklahoma in May 1995. Lightbearers is an IRS-designated 501 (c) (3) organization. Tax deductible receipts will be issued for all contributions to Lightbearers Ministries.

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LIGHTBEARERS

M I N I S T R I E S

Fayetteville, Arkansas



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MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS HOUSE



On February 23rd, Lightbearers Ministries closed on its newest residential discipleship property located at 220 W. Madison in Springfield MO—a half-mile straight-line walk to the heart of the campus of Missouri State University (formerly SMSU; or even SMS College when I was a student there).

What a dream come true for me.

I was born in Springfield. My parents were from Springfield. My grandparents lived there. I was an undergraduate at SMS in 1966-70, did my Masters degree in History there and even took some classes there that later transferred to my doctoral program at the University of Arkansas. I was in a fraternity at SMS and was president of the SMS student body my senior year. I came to personal faith in Jesus Christ in Springfield on July 8, 1973 at High Street Baptist Church.

Since the inception of Lightbearers in 1995 I have anticipated a ministry house at this campus. We have looked at several properties and

talked with many prospective ministry “partners” for such a house over the years. Every time we came up empty-handed. And now the Lord has given us a house. In his own time. And rather than out-sourcing the ministry and discipleship components to an “outside” ministry partner, the Lord has raised up a Fayetteville AR student who attends MSU to provide directional leadership for the house.

This student has a heart to reach international students with the gospel of Christ and to introduce them to their own personal relationship with their Savior Creator. He has many close personal friends among internationals both at the University of Arkansas as well as at MSU; and his desire is to see our Madison House become a place of outreach, friendship and ministry to such students at Missouri State (did you know that some 750,000 international students attend university in the U.S. every year? And that 600 internationals from 80+ countries are enrolled at MSU this year?). He has also traveled extensively in India, Central Asia and Mongolia.

You all are familiar by now with the way our ministry works (www.lightbearersministries.org). We mobilize financial, prayer and manpower resources here in the States and connect those

resources with mission projects in the countries of the 10/40 Window. One way to mobilize financial resources is through donor support of specific projects. You will see several opportunities for such traditional support of missions on the inside pages of this newsletter. Another financial resource (and a **signature distinctive of Lightbearers**) is rental income from ministry-owned properties located at university campuses. This strategy provides an income stream for missions that is both renewable (students will always come to campus needing a place to live) and recession-proof (if the economy weakens, financial giving to churches, ministries and missions might drop off; but you want to know what does not drop?...giving to landlords).

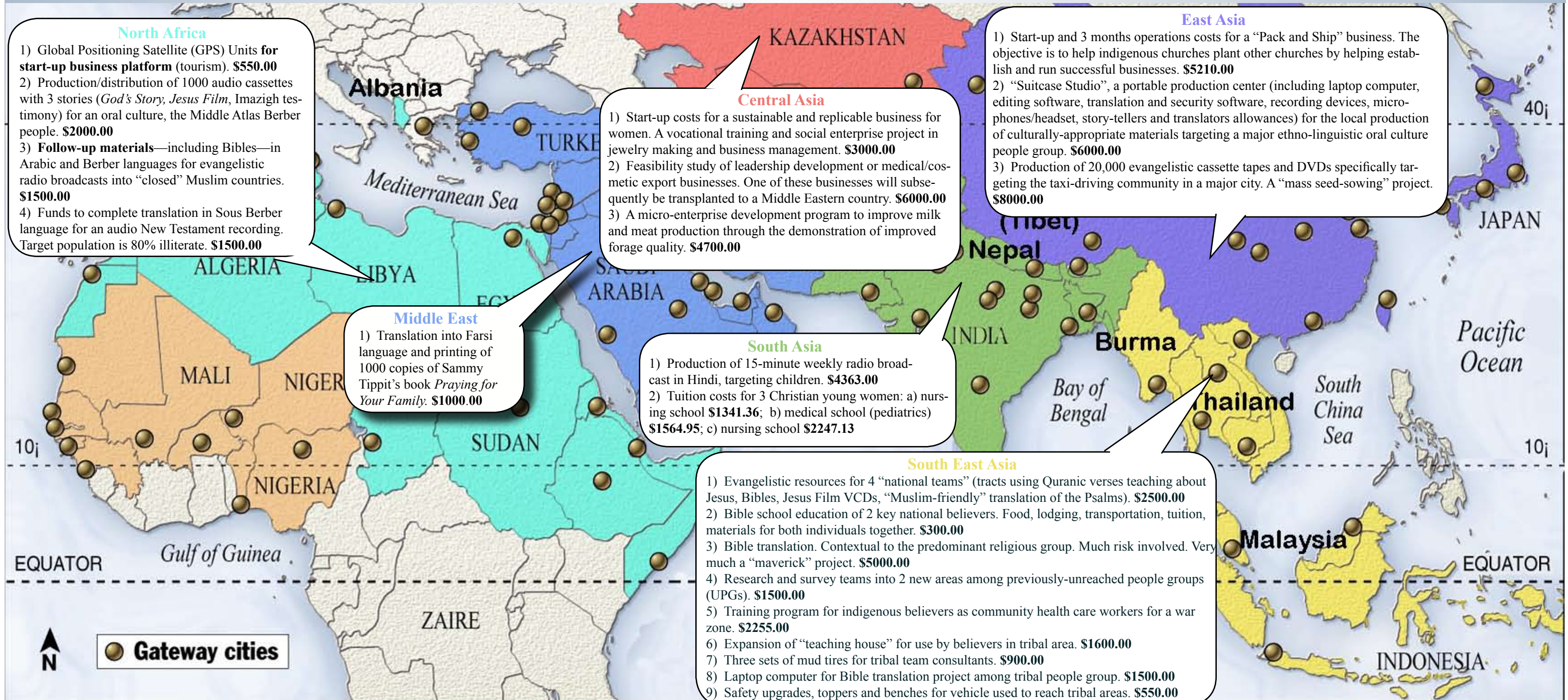
This particular property will contribute approximately \$15,000.00 annually to such proj-



Where Discipleship Meets The Great Commission At Missouri State University

2007 APPROVED PROJECTS

These projects, if you so desire, can be sponsored by you, your family, co-workers, friends, business, church, Sunday School class, or community group



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WEST AFRICA

4

NORTH AFRICA

1

MIDDLE EAST

3

CENTRAL ASIA

2

SOUTH ASIA

3

EAST ASIA

9

SOUTHEAST ASIA