

JANUARY 2024



ASAP MINISTRIES

Help Speed the Gospel!

Dear Friend,

Have you ever considered the physical implications of Jesus' commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15, KJV)?

The book of Acts describes Jesus' followers preaching the gospel with great effect throughout the Roman Empire, thanks to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. **But how did the gospel travel so far in such a short time?**

Scripture explains that the gospel was carried from place to place in various ways. For example, Paul traveled by foot, by ship, and by horseback, likely covering more than 10,000 miles during his missionary journeys. And then there is Philip the evangelist, who was miraculously transported by the Spirit from a desert road near Gaza to the city of Azotus (see Acts 8:26–40).

However, despite the remarkable spread of the gospel, it has not yet been preached in all the world. In mainland Southeast Asia alone, there are more than 137 million unreached people, many of whom live in extremely remote areas. **How can the gospel reach them?**

Four years ago, ASAP Ministries received a unique proposal from a new church planter named Mark (a pseudonym) assigned to six villages in southern Myanmar. His home base was a fishing village on an island in the Ayeyarwady Delta, and God had blessed his outreach to the predominantly Buddhist population there. He had started a school, dug wells, and organized sewing classes for the community, resulting in Bible studies and baptisms.

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Church planter Mark Aung works in Southern Myanmar.

But Mark had a problem. Surrounded by water and without means to purchase a boat, how could he and his church members reach the other five villages in their district? He appealed to ASAP for a small motorboat to help carry the gospel to these villages and serve as an "ambulance" when villagers needed medical care. **Through the generosity of donors like you, ASAP purchased a motorboat, and the gospel began to spread in Mark's district.**

Recently, Mark was assigned to a new district on the Andaman Sea, with small church plants in two villages. He immediately set to work ministering to the needs of the villagers. When he learned that saltwater had intruded their shallow wells, forcing them to buy drinking water from neighboring villages, Mark secured funding to dig a well deep enough to restore the village's access to fresh water. He befriended the people who came to draw water from the well and quickly gained six new Bible study interests.

But again Mark encountered a problem. The second village in his district was 45 minutes away by foot and virtually impossible to reach during the rainy season. He has appealed to ASAP for a motorbike to aid his ministry in that village and expand his outreach to several nearby villages.

Today, more than 700 ASAP missionaries like Mark are fulfilling the Great Commission among the unreached of Southeast Asia. Like the apostles of old, their efforts are powered by the Holy Spirit. But tools such as motorboats, motorbikes, and even tractors help them advance the work farther and faster. This year, \$95,000 is needed for essential transportation for ASAP missionaries. Do you share our desire to see Jesus return as soon as possible? If so, **I invite you to pray for ASAP missionaries and make a good start to the new year by giving a gift to speed their work, enlarge their territories, and allow them to reach the remotest regions with the good news!**

Gratefully,



Trevor Louw
Development/PR Director
ASAP Ministries



Church members attend the dedication of Mark's motorboat by the president of the Ayeeyarwady Mission.

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"
Romans 10:14



An ASAP missionary in Myanmar with his new motorbike.

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