

Fundamental Baptist Missions International

A Ministry of First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana

Time of Preparation

In Ezekiel 38, the LORD said, “*Be thou **prepared**, and **prepare for thyself**, thou, and **all thy company that are assembled unto thee . . .**” The crucial significance of *preparation* cannot be overestimated. Brother Hyles reminded us often that true “greatness is not in the performance but in the preparation.” The conundrum that presents itself, however, is that so many are willing to pay for the performance, while relatively few will invest in the costly preparation.*

That is why I am so thankful for you who get it. The footings required for the shallow foundation of a small prefab house can be laid in short order; the steel piles that must be impact driven into solid bedrock for a larger edifice take considerably longer. The higher one hopes to build, the longer preparation time is required. We aren't procrastinating; we're preparing. We are diligently laying the groundwork for one of the most exciting missionary endeavors ever undertaken. Shortsighted impatience might long for more immediate visible progress, but hurried foundations can result in total collapse.

Those who think no support is needed until we actually arrive only delay progress further, as the beginning of a project requires a huge amount of start-up capital. I thank God continually for those who trust us enough to accept that we are not sitting idle, enjoying the comforts of America, waiting for some predetermined launch date, and not needing funds until the magical date arrives. Preparations for this mission have caused me to set the following personal records of travel: four continents in one month, eleven airports in one week, and (on a recent trip) nine countries in a week. I just returned from Turkey again last month. In just a few weeks, Lord willing, I will be making my ninth trip there. Fifteen people (mostly potential team members) expect to accompany me on that trip. I expect to travel back to Turkey at least once, if not twice, this summer. All of this travel costs money, and we could not do it without the help of those “big-picture people” who have continued our support.

My teaching schedule has been cut back to two days a week, and even that is spent training missionaries. The other five days, I am preparing for a future in Eurasia or traveling to your churches to present the work. Brother Schaap has afforded me several minutes of his evening service for five consecutive Sundays to relay how God is opening doors on our behalf. I would love to share some of the same stories in your church. Unfortunately, the sensitive nature of our mission prevents us from putting them all in print. We're asking God for great things that can only be realized with the cooperation of likeminded visionaries. Keep partnering with us to reach the Muslim world with the Gospel of Christ!



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