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## **FOREWORD**

By: Rev. Vernon Jarvis

It was the first service of our annual Missions Conference in April 2011. The Spirit of God was moving and the speaker, Pastor Charles Pahlman, was preparing to make his way to the pulpit. As the choir was singing its last song of the evening, the power in the building suddenly went off. Severe storms were in the area and they were, without doubt, the cause of the failure. All went dark and silent; it seemed like a keynote message was going to be stopped.

Amazingly however, Dr. Pahlman agreed to still preach. His voice seemed to carry so that even with makeshift lighting and no sound system, the message went forth. His topic: *A Plea for Preachers*. We not only heard a powerful and needed message, but witnessed first hand the power of the Holy Ghost empowering a preacher in a time of physical power outage. This living illustration was a stark reminder of the darkness that sadly pervades our world. It seems as though we are often without the power needed to be able to bring light

into such an oppressive world, yet history bears out that God raises up “preachers” to counter the darkness of any given generation. The times we are in now are some of the darkest days I have ever known, yet the message cannot be stopped because God is still calling and equipping heralds of the gospel.

Charles Pahlman’s message not only went forth with power that April evening but now has been expanded into this book by the same title. I commend him for his diligent research and for reminding us that when a generation is in trouble, God raises up “preachers” to bring transforming light. Just as the apostle Paul received his calling to “... *open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God...*” (Act 26:18), so we must lay aside the gimmicks and man-made schemes and return to our calling of “Preacher.”



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## **INTRODUCTION:**

*“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”* Mark 16:15

*“I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”*  
Romans 1:14-17

To be a preacher of the gospel of Christ is both a great privilege and a tremendous responsibility. Preaching is more than declaring mere biblical facts: it also involves the serious task of presenting God's redeeming grace and love, the sacrificial death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for our salvation, and God's clearly defined conditions of eternal forgiveness. Effective preaching involves not only one's head

knowledge, but the heart as well.

In Mark 16:15, Christians are given a mandate to preach the transforming truth of the gospel of Christ. In this sense, all Christians who obediently herald its desperately needed message to humanity are preachers, not just those in the “profession” of proclaiming the Bible. Followers of the Lord are called to declare His *good news* to lost souls everywhere: this is the preaching of the gospel.

The belated Fundamentalist preacher and Christian leader Lester Roloff well said, *“The world's greatest need is preaching preachers.* The Gospel is our emancipation proclamation: let's take it to the slaves of sin.”

Missiologists have termed this need of the proclamation of the gospel *The Great Imbalance*. It has been reported that “The United States of America has approximately 4% of the world's population and around 97% of the gospel preachers in the world. That leaves 3% of the world's gospel preachers to preach to the remaining 96% of the world's people.” Clearly, there is a great need for more preachers, especially in foreign lands.