



Synergie  
FRANCOPHONE

# MINISTRY'S ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT



## The Parable of Bill Payer

One morning, Bill Payer arrived at French World Mission\*. As he opened his mail, he saw a letter that all missionaries dread. It was from Antioch Missionary Church that had supported Bill for many years.

"Dear Bill Payer," it began. "Our church recently changed its name to Front Lines Only Church to reflect our new mission strategy. From now on, we will only support evangelists and church planters working on the front lines. As your role of recording donations and paying bills has you in the U.S.A., we are dropping your support. We must channel our funding to the front lines where the work of the Gospel is being done. Sincerely, Front Lines Only Church."

Sadly, for lack of support, Bill Payer had to leave. In the following weeks, E. Mel Rider, Dee Ziner, Eddie Tor, and I.T. Geek received similar letters from their supporting churches. As more churches and donors followed the trend to direct their funds to "the front lines," gifts to the mission's operating fund declined rapidly.

Prompted by this crisis, the Board of FWM acted quickly. Without staff to run operations, pay and care for missionaries, order Bibles and books for disciples, and write publications to keep donors informed, they automated what they could, asking donors to work directly with "the front lines."

One month later, the church called FWM and heard this recording, "We are sorry there is no one to take your call."

We have changed our name to Front Lines Only Mission (FLOM). We now only have workers on the front lines."

Six months later, the church wrote to FLOM expressing frustration over lack of updates on the mission's website and no news about their missionary before his letter of resignation citing lack of pay, care, resources, and communication from FLOM. They expressed disappointment that FLOM left their missionary to fend for himself during a crisis in his country of service. The church received no reply.

At the end of the year, the church called FLOM to say they had not received any tax receipts. They were met with a new recording: "Due to lack of staff, funds, and resources, we no longer have any missionaries on the front lines and have had to close down."

Source unknown. Adapted. \*Fictitious name

**This parable illustrates a challenge facing most mission groups. Please compare these facts for a moment:**

**As Jesus traveled with his disciples,** they were accompanied by people of means who provided money, food, accommodation, and all that was needed to keep Him and his team on the road.

**In the U.S. Army,** seven people support every soldier deployed in the field. No soldier can serve on the front lines without seven people meeting all needs and supplying equipment.

**In the book of Acts**, seven administrators, mature Christian servants full of faith and the Holy Spirit, were appointed to take care of the Hellenistic Jews in the early church, freeing twelve evangelists/Bible proclaimers to do their work. Practical support provided by seven to free up twelve may have seemed like a high ratio! They were as necessary to the church as the ministers of the Word.

**Most churches** spend some of their income on their overhead, paying at least one pastor, maybe a secretary, or a janitor. Many churches have much larger staffs. They pay utility bills, insurance, building or parking lot repairs and in many cases, before funds are allocated to local, national, and worldwide ministry.

**Every ministry has overhead expenses** because evangelists and Bible teachers do not work in a vacuum. Missionaries cannot work on the field without a structure to support and care for them, keep the supply lines open, and do tasks for them so that they may concentrate on the ministry of the Word. In the Body of Christ described in Ephesians 4, each member has its function, and every member is essential.

**The body cannot do anything without a head**, so God gives us Christ and "under-shepherds" as leaders.

**The body cannot go anywhere without feet**, so God gives us missionaries.

**The body cannot perform without a heart pumping blood**, so God gives us donors and staff to process gifts, thank donors, channel funds to our missionaries, and keep transparent accounts.

**A body without hands** would have difficulty typing letters, filling envelopes, packing and driving a car.

**It takes the whole Body of Christ to do the whole work of Christ. Scripture tells us that no part is less important than the other.**



For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body,

each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

**I Corinthians 12:14-26 (ESV)**

**Synergie Francophone's only full-time workers are supported missionaries** trusting God to provide their needs on a month-to-month basis through faithful supporters.

**SF's other workers are part-time**, paid by the hour, to keep our operational costs as low as possible. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." I Tim. 5:18

**Volunteers** graciously give their time and talents to SF to help send out Bible materials.

**SF keeps costs low.** We pray to God for the \$5,000 additional funding we need monthly to cover the costs of providing Bibles and biblical tools to French-speaking peoples, many of whom live in the poorest countries of our world.

**Help us meet our target of increasing income by \$5,000/month.**

**Yes, I want to help provide the essential ingredient for the Body to do God's work!**

Here is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form with your check to Synergie Francophone, PO Box 629, Wheaton, IL 60187.**

**Or give online at [synergiefrancophone.org](http://synergiefrancophone.org) where regular giving can be set up.**

**If your church or company is interested in sponsoring a part-time worker, please contact [Angela.Brandle@synergiefr.org](mailto:Angela.Brandle@synergiefr.org)**



*Together —*

Planting, watering,  
growing fruitfulness

