

A Parable

A Misguided Strategy

One morning after arriving to work at French World Mission,* Bill Payer saw a letter all missionaries dread. *Dear Bill Payer, from now on, our church will only support evangelists and church planters working on the front lines. As your role of recording donations has you in the US, we are dropping your support. Sincerely, Front Lines Only Church*

Consequences

For lack of support, Bill Payer had to leave his mission. In the following weeks, E. Mel Rider, Eddie Tor, and I.T. Geek received similar letters from their supporting churches. The mission's operating fund declined rapidly. Without staff to run operations, pay and care for missionaries, order Bibles, and write publications to keep donors informed, they automated what they could.

A Sad End

Six months later, Front Lines Only Church expressed frustration over the 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. At the end of the year, the church called to say they had not received any tax receipts. They were met with a recording: "Due to lack of staff, funds, and resources, we have had to close down."

Source unknown. Adapted. *Fictitious name




"For the body does not consist of one member but of many."
1 Cor. 12:14(ESV)

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Your Dollars Help Us Share God's Good News

SF keeps costs low. Volunteers graciously give their time and talents to SF. Our only full-time workers trust God to provide their needs on a month-to-month basis through faithful supporters. SF's other staff are part-time and hourly to keep our operational costs as minimal as possible. "For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer deserves his wages'" (1 Tim. 5:18). **We need \$5,000 additional monthly funding** to cover the costs of providing Bibles and biblical tools to French-speaking peoples, many of whom live in the world's poorest countries.



How You Can Help



Give as an individual.

Send a check, scan the QR code, or give online at synergiefrancophone.org/give.



Give as a group.

Consider giving with your family, co-workers, Sunday school class, or home school group.



Pray.

Pray for each part of Christ's body serving through SF.

Our GOAL: Increase operational income
WHY? Because 321 million French speakers need good news!

The parable on the back page illustrates a challenge facing mission groups. Please consider:

- Jesus and His disciples were accompanied by people of means who provided money, food, and accommodation: all that was needed to keep Him and his team on the road.
- In the US Army, 7 people support every soldier deployed in the field. No soldier can serve on the front lines without 7 people meeting all needs and supplying equipment.
- In the book of Acts, 7 administrators were appointed to take care of the Hellenistic Jews in the early church, freeing 12 evangelists to do their work. Practical support provided by 7 to free up 12 may have seemed like a high ratio! They were as necessary to the church as the ministers of the Word.

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 them and keep the supply lines open, so that they may concentrate on mission work. **In Ephesians 4, each member of Christ's body has an essential function.** The body cannot go anywhere without feet, so God gives us missionaries. The body cannot perform without a heart, 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. **No part is less important than the other.**