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## Your Favorite Book

From the desk of Fred Palmerton

Have you ever had a book that seems more like a best friend than a bunch of words written on paper?

Well, hold on to your bookshelf! In just a minute, I'm going to challenge you to send that very same friend on a vital mission overseas.

Now, before you crumple up this newsletter and tell everyone that I've lost my marbles, take a deep breath. I truly think you'll be blessed by this challenging process.

Though you will likely never see your dear friend again—with its creased cover, well-loved pages, and personal notes in the margins—do you think God sent that wonderful book to bless only you? Most likely not.

That's why I'd like to challenge you to go grab that good ole' friend off the bookshelf and share it with a brother or sister overseas.

It's as easy as one-two-three:

1. **Take your favorite Christian book off your bookshelf.**
2. **Write an encouraging note to the next reader.** Tell your fellow believer how this book helped you in your faith journey. You can either write something on the inside cover of the book or insert a card.
3. **Send your book and a small donation to CRI.** I've enclosed a shipping label to make the mailing easy. Just place the book and a donation (to help cover the overseas shipping cost) in one of those bubble lined envelopes and send it to me by First Class Priority mail.

You're probably reluctant to part with this dear friend. You might even find yourself grieving about its departure, but can you imagine the life changing impact



that Christian book will have on others' lives, just like it has yours?!

The book I'm having a difficult time parting with is *Jungle Pilot*, written by Russell T. Hitt.

Reading the story of these men and their families, how they sacrificed their lives to evangelize the Auca Indians, has inspired me in many ways over the years.

I not only admire their bravery, I marvel at their determination to not physically defend themselves, because they refused to take the life of someone who didn't know the Savior.

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## Last year you sent a book. This year, send yourself.

That's exactly what nine CRI donors just like you did in 2008—accompanying book shipments to places like the Philippines and Mexico!

By helping distribute the books, these mission trip participants were able to see the joy on a pastor's face when they handed him his first Bible or the



wide-eyed wonder of a child who received a Bible picture book.

By being a part of a 2009 CRI mission trip, you too

can witness the valuable books you send to CRI in action.

There's a tremendous variety of destinations and time frames. Be sure to mark the dates on your calendar!

- **Mexico:** March 14-22, 2009
- **Haiti:** May 25-June 5, 2009
- **Kenya:** June 26-July 6, 2009
- **Honduras:** likely July/August 2009 (specific dates to be determined)
- **India:** likely October/November 2009 (specific dates to be determined)

For more information, be sure to contact John

## In This Issue

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- **Send Your Church Packin'!**

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Admittedly, if one of my family members or I were threatened, I'm not so sure I'd be able to do that!

Their commitment cost these Godly men their lives, but it opened the door for God's Word to be taken to the Auca people. The testimonies shared in *Jungle Pilot* have touched my heart forever.

Most likely, God didn't send that book as a message to me alone. I have come to realize that I need to pass this favorite read along to others, and so it will head out of the warehouse on one of our next containers to Ethiopia, Lebanon or maybe even India.

What about you? Other than the Bible, what favorite Christian book is at the forefront of your heart and mind? Will you send it out with my copy of *Jungle Pilot*?

Let's not let our good friends gather more shelf dust. Pass 'em on!

I guarantee God's going to do great things with that book, just like He has in YOUR life!

*Fred Palmerton*

## Send Your Church Packing!

Send The Favorite Books of Your Congregation Overseas

Get your church involved in a global giving opportunity.

**1. Coordinate a Book Drive.** It doesn't have to be church wide. In fact this is a great project to do with your small group or Sunday School Class.

**2. Have a Party!** Invite people to join you for a fun time where you share Fred's letter from the front of this

TouchPoint. Then have each person in the group ask themselves, "In addition to the Bible, what Christian book really changed my life?"

**3. Have Another Party!** Challenge party-goers to bring either the original copy of that life-changing book, or to purchase a new copy, to bring to the follow-up party where they can share the story of how that book changed their life. Gather and

pray over the books one at a time.

**4. Attach a Note.** Encourage participants to write a short note describing how this book changed their lives on the inside cover.

**5. Are You the Pastor?** Share your favorite book with your congregation and explain why it impacted you. Then challenge each family in the congregation to bring their own

favorite book to church next week for a special church-wide book collection.

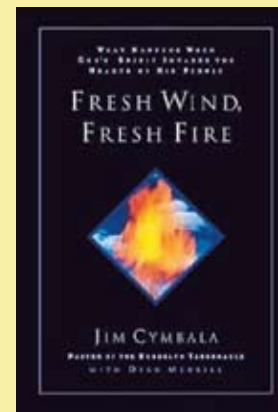
**6. A Buck A Book.** It only takes a dollar per book to help get them into the hands of their overseas recipients. So all participants should bring A Buck a Book.

So, what are you waiting for?

**Send your church a-packin'!**



“What Favorite Book Will You Give Away?”



- Bill Smith, CRI Board Member

“The book that first comes to mind is *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire* by Jim Cymbala.

[This is] a refreshing book. The testimony of how the Holy Spirit moves in the heart and how it moved at the Brooklyn Tabernacle is encouraging.

It shows us how the Holy Spirit is a mover, and why we need Him.

I think it's one of those books I'd buy extra copies of and give them away.”

- Cathy Grille CRI Director of Operations

“When I really want to get inspired, I go back to *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, by Phillip Keller.

Phillip Keller lived in Africa for a period of time. As a real life shepherd, he has an interesting take on Psalm 23.

As Director of Operations, I can sometimes get discouraged. I want to send out a container every week, but that's not always possible apart from God's miracles.

[This book] shows me how simply the Lord can present Himself without a Bible, while still show[ing] himself so clearly.”



### What Book Will You Give?

What book, other than the Bible, has changed you and helped you grow in your faith?

Perhaps a writing of C.S. Lewis? Maybe a biography about a hero of the faith like Martin Luther or John Wesley? Or is it a book which encourages you when you feel weak or one which deepens your prayer life?

Whatever favorite read comes to mind, consider how that book might strengthen and encourage a fellow believer? Will you accept Fred's challenge and give it away?!

Following the three steps outlined in Fred's letter, your favorite book will become a cherished gift to a brother or sister overseas.

### Get the 411: Your Books On the Move!

Have you recently sent a Bible, a favorite book or other Christian materials to CRI? Are you eagerly waiting for some news about where they're headed?

Well, we're excited to share that just before Christmas you helped send a Great Crate Shipment all the way to Amsterdam!



From there, the boxes were dispersed to a wide variety of third-world countries through our partnership with Dorcas Aid. Your books sure are a movin'!

#### GOD'S BLESSINGS 2009

Materials Received - 302,452 Sent Out - 247,356

Bare Your Bookshelf Packets Mailed - 2,628

Great Crates - 16 Power Packs - 355

### Giving Legs to Literature

### In the Philippines

God met the CRI mission team in the Philippines and blessed the mission team members and the conference attendees. Here are some highlights:

- One pastor traveled 8 hours by boat and an additional 4 hours by bus in the hopes of receiving his very first Bible...and was astounded it was FREE!
- A missionary couple to Thailand had received a CRI shipment a few months earlier and tearfully sought out the team to share their thanks.
- A group called *Bible Women*, uses the resources you provide to minister to children in rural villages—often hearing the Word of God for the first time!



Pastors at the conferences eagerly sorted through books sent by you! Do you see your favorite in there?