The Task Before Us-
Sharing the good news of “But God....”

The other day I asked myself a question, “What could be a word that would characterize mankind throughout recorded history?” It didn’t take me very long to land on the word “violence”. From Cain’s murder of his brother Able to the man in Florida who recently killed his grandchildren, from the inquisitions in the middle ages to ISIS, violence is woven throughout the fabric of societies, from past to present. The Apostle Paul spoke to the cause of this in chapter 2 of his letter to the church at Ephesus when he said,

“...And you he made alive, when you were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind, and so we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God....”

James, the half brother of Jesus adds clarification to the problem.

“...What causes wars, and fittings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your member? You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war.”

James 4:1,2

Then what is the solution. It begins with two words, “But God....” The Apostle Paul goes on to say in Ephesians 2, “But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ....” Ephesians 2:4,5

So, what is our task? It is to take the good news that begins with “But God...” to a violent, lost and hurting world. That’s what the World Reach team is all about, engaging in the Cause of Christ. Thank you so much for your part in helping make this possible. Your prayer and financial support really do make a difference.
Here are some of the ways we are taking the message of “But God…” to 13 countries:

- Planting and strengthening local, indigenous churches
- Training and equipping national pastors and church leaders
- Caring for orphaned and rejected children
- Helping U.S. believers see the world as God sees it through cross-cultural, short-term missions trips
- Providing a quality primary education with a biblical world view
- Providing medical care to those who can least afford it
- Summer youth camps and ESL for migrant workers
- Extending care and love to women in crisis pregnancies

With much gratitude,

Paul