

## MISSION STATEMENT

Build financial relief for missionaries-in-training and missionaries in the field.  
Grow a prayer lifeline to nurture their spiritual, physical and economic needs.

## The Sovereignty of God in My Life

Written by Rev. Daniel B., a Harvesters' Scholarship Award Recipient of 2009, 2010

No Christian will formally deny the sovereignty of God. To say that God is sovereign is to affirm that God is one and that God is God. This suggests that the sovereignty of God rests in his self-existence and everything else exists of his will and power.

The Bible teaches about God that he is absolute in authority and purpose. This has caused me to believe that the will of God is the supreme and first cause of all things, because nothing happens but only by his command or permission. *"He does as he pleases with the power of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: what have you done?" (Daniel 4:35).* The sovereignty of God in providence of my life embraces all events, past, present, and future that applies to the human measurements of good and bad moments in life.

Thus, when I became a Christian, I believed that God is in charge and have pre-planned of my life events in eternity as:

*"... before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a... to the nations. "Ah, sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child,' you must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you" (Jeremiah 1:4-8)*

Therefore, I have a reason to declare like Paul, "Woe unto me if I do not preach the gospel!"

I live in a close-knitted polygamous poor family. Living with a pair of old and non believing parents, for many years, I have constantly feared that I will not make it like those in rich families. I toiled with the hope of establishing a stable life. The dread of losing the warmth and support of my parents added to my emotional turmoil. As a teenager, this burden led me to seek divine help. I began to notice God's plan unveiling daily in my life.

When God says; "I will keep thee," I am protected. God also spoke to me through John 14:18, regardless of my age, I am always a child of God. Having faced my parents' and adopted parents' death, no longer do I feel hopeless of the

future for I found peace. I have learnt to place my future in God's hands.

During my school years, my mother stood behind my studies and helped me obey God's will. Since, I never depart the legacy of her love, labor and faith in God's providence. It becomes a source of encouragement. On the contrary, memories of past failures cause me to lose heart, and prevent me from reaching my objectives. Paul reminds me to leave the past behind and look forward to what lays ahead in order to attain the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:14). And surely life in Christ releases me from the captivity of the past.

Extreme poverty and hardship are physical temptation that I face daily, not having a common shoe to put on, a shirt to change a dirty one or without a daily bread. Spiritually, every day I must choose between walking Christ's path or others. It is not an easy decision in a country where freedom of religion does not exist. In the darkness, I see Christ's victory over all his enemies. This hope encourages me to endure challenges to the end, so that I can share the final victory of our Lord.

Like Jeremiah and Amos with humble backgrounds, God handpicked me, one without wisdom by human standards, without influence and without noble birth. God chose the foolish like me to shame the wise; so that I may not boast, in order that I should realize God's sovereignty and love for me as rooted in a surpassing depth of knowledge about me before I was born.

When I became a preacher, I sought the effect of Christians obeying the Bible's commands. We can please God when we invest love and diligence in our tasks. When God's teaching is embedded in our lives, we allow God's grace to be revealed in and through us, and this will grow joy, hope, and encouragement in our communities. Therefore, I lovingly challenge you to ask yourself: where can I do more than is expected of me, as an act of love? If my heart's desire is not to store up earthly possessions but to store up heavenly treasure of knowing and loving God, where can I invest my earthly treasure to bring about the good news of salvation to the unheard?

## The Journey of my Ministry Home and School

In 1992 my wife and I went to Bible College where we obtained Diploma in Biblical studies (1992-1996). Subsequently I obtained my Diploma in Theology (1997-2000) and Bachelor of Art in Theology (2002-2004). All these happened because of my mother who farmed tirelessly to pay for my education. To God be the glory, this great woman among women slept in the Lord in 2003, without the dream that one day I will come to the States.

Summary of my ministries is listed below:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Serving</u>
1996 – 2004	Call of Hope – counselor/teacher for new Muslims converts
2004 – 2006	Bible Training Institute Teacher of Muslims converts
2006	Church planting among the Kanuri people of Borno State with .001% Christian. Led 21-25 members in bible study and worship

For the last 15 years of ministry among predominately Islamic peoples where there are only .001 % Christian, God's sovereignty is the virtue of my ministry. In my weaknesses and strengths, I can only trust that God's intimate knowledge of my person is inseparable from God's enduring love. Therefore, I am challenged to stand tall as a workman that do not need to be ashamed, because when I am a child I talk like a child, I reason like a child. It's God's sovereign plan to light this little light of mine in one of the darkest region of the world.

I have faced a lot of ministry challenges and have lost family members in crises but God's love for me and his divine plans remain the same. I shall not depart from his divine plan as "Woe unto me if I do not preach the gospel!"

### How is the schooling in the US preparing me for further ministry?

My journey in the States has broadened my spiritual horizon in dealing with a rich, diverse and colorful world. Today's Church is being affected by issues of culture, secularism, and socio-political problems. Intellectual people of various disciplines are waiting for sound biblical preaching and teachings. My training is of great value for the growth of the Church in my country.

I will be a trainer to promote Christian values. The missionaries who brought us the gospel laid the foundation, and the continuity now rest in our hands, so I hope to be one of the redeemers of my generation where the moral decadence is on the rise.

My training will also help in correcting Christians, especially among youth who do not value their time with God. One of the great needs today is to equip with the ability to defend the faith and refute those who oppose it either publicly by debate or in print. Colossians 2:8; "See to it that no one takes you captive through shallow and deceptive philosophy, which depend on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ".

I am thankful for the dedication of the teachers. There I receive the education that sharpens the vision of my ministry. I have a burden to serve in a complex religious society where the Islamic threat is on the increase.

### How is my relationship with the Lord impacted through this process?

I depend on God by taking a risk of trusting God, since I do not know anyone in the States. Each day I fix my hope in God to enable me to pursue my study when financial resources and life seems difficult. God's provision always invokes a sense of gratitude and responsibility. I am therefore grateful for the opportunity to study, and I am also aware of the expectation to serve the Church in my home country.

Besides, I am learning to establish the habit of listening to God's voice in my daily routine. Daniel had learned this secret: the habit of daily surrendering of everything to God in prayers. This practice offers me help in all of my life challenges.

### Calling for all Readers

I am thankful to those who have given to Harvesters Scholarship Foundation. Thank you so much for being part of my training. Proverbs 19:17 says; "He who is kind to poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done". May this be your portion as you hearken to his voice"



## FINANCIAL REPORT

**Donation** \$53,464

### Expenses

Scholarship distribution	\$46,115
Field workers award	\$3,000
Office expense	\$245
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$49,360</b>

**Excess** \$4,104

### Assets

Cash	\$47,358
Stock	\$0
<b>Mutual Fund</b>	<b>\$437,206</b>
<b>Total funding</b>	
as of May 31, 2011	\$484,564

## How to contact us

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*"I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us—yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses."*—Isaiah 63:7

## 宗旨

為宣教士與宣教學生提供經濟的支持，建立禱告的網絡，  
澆灌神的工人，在靈性、身體與經濟上的需要。

## 神的主權在我的生命

作者：但以理牧師，2009及2010年收割者的獎學金得獎者

沒有一個基督徒會正式否認神的主權。論到神的主權，就是說神是獨一的主，神是至高者，神就是神。這表明，神的主權在於神的存在，而萬物都是藉着祂造的。

聖經教導我們，神是擁有絕對的權柄和旨意。這使我相信，神的旨意是至高無上的，是一切事物的起點，因為若沒有神的命令或許可，一切不會發生。在但以理書四章三十五節如此說：“在天上的萬軍和世上的居民中，他都憑自己的旨意行事。無人能攔住他手，或問他說，你做什麼呢？”神在我的生命中，掌管了一切，過去，現在和將來，掌管了在世人的生活眼中的好和壞時刻。

因此，當我成為一個基督徒以後，我相信神在永恆中，已經負責和為我預備了一切事情：

“...我未將你造在腹中，我已曉得你；你未出母胎，我已分別你為聖；我已派你作列國的先知。我就說：主耶和華啊，我不知怎樣說，因為我是年幼的。耶和華對我說：你不要說我是年幼的，因為我差遣你到誰那裡去，你都要去；我吩咐你說什麼話，你都要說。你不要懼怕他們，因為我與你同在，要拯救你。這是耶和華說的。”（耶利米書一章四至八節）

因此，我有理由好像保羅一樣宣告，“若不傳福音，我便有禍了！”

我住在一個關係親密一夫多妻的貧困家庭。多年來，我與一對年老和不相信神的父母同住，我一直擔心，我不能像那些在富裕家庭的孩子們一樣平安長大成人。我每天勤勞的去建立一個穩定的生活環境。由於害怕失去父母的愛和支持，因此我情緒總是動盪不安。作為一個青少年，這種精神負擔使我尋求神的幫助。我開始注意到神的計劃在我每日的生活中慢慢地揭開。

當神說，“我必保佑你，”我已被保護。神也藉約翰福音十四章十八節向我說話，不論我的年歲是多少，我一直是神的兒女。雖然我經歷面對父母和養父母的離世，我卻不再對未來感到絕望，因為我的心裡已找到平安。我已經學會把我的未來放在神手的掌管中。

在我求學時期，母親在背後支持我的學業，幫助我順服神的旨意。由於我從來沒有遠離過神藉

母親給我的愛，照顧和信仰，它成為我的鼓勵。在另一端，回憶起過去的失敗使我喪失信心，並阻止我達成目標。保羅提醒我忘掉過去，期待未來，向著標竿直跑，要得神在基督耶穌裡從上面召我來得的獎賞（腓立比書三章十四節）。因基督耶在我心里，使我從我的過去裡得到釋放。

因為生活環境極端貧窮和困苦，我每天會面對很多物質誘惑，如沒有鞋子可以穿上，沒有乾淨的襯衣更換，或沒有每天的食糧。在靈命上，我每天必須選擇是否行走基督的道路。在一個沒有宗教自由的國家，這不是一個容易作出的決定。在黑暗中，我看到基督戰勝祂的所有敵人。這種希望，鼓勵我要忍受挑戰直到最後，讓我可以與主分享最後的勝利。

像耶利米和阿摩司有謙卑的背景一般，神的手揀選了我。在世眼光的標準，我是一個沒有智慧，沒有影響力，沒有高貴的身分的人。神卻選擇了愚拙的我去羞辱聰明的人，所以，我不可以自誇，神使我明白到，在我未出生以先，神的主權和愛已經在我身上深深的紮根。

當我成為牧師後，我懂遵從聖經教導對基督徒的果效。當我們竭盡所能，去盡心、盡性、盡意愛主和勤勉的作工，就會蒙神喜悅。當神的教導深深植根在我們的生命中，神的恩典透過我們被表明出來，將喜樂、希望、和鼓勵帶到我身邊的人群。因此，我切的向你挑戰：自己在什麼事上，可以把神愛彰顯更多？如果我心中的願望不是在地上儲存財富，而是積財寶於天上，認識神和愛神更多，那我可以在哪裡用地上的財富，為未聽過福音的人，帶來救恩的好訊息？

## 我的事工旅程:家庭和學校

在1992年，我和妻子在聖經神學院取得聖經研究文憑（1992-1996年）。隨後，我得到我的神學文憑（1997-2000年）和神學文科學士學位（2002-2004年）。一切的事情，皆是因為我母親孜孜不倦地用耕種得的收入，為我付出教育的費用。這個偉大的女性，在2003年安息主懷，她从未想到有一天我會去美國，愿神得到一切的榮耀。



我的事工 如下：

時期	侍奉工作
1996 - 2004	希望的呼召 - 作從回教改信基督的信徒的輔導員或導師
2004 - 2006	在神學院作導師教導「回教徒的改變」課程。
2006	在非洲尼日利亞的城市為卡努尼部族(Kanuri)植堂：0.001%基督徒；帶領大約二十一至二十五成員作崇拜和研讀聖經

在過去十五年，我主要在信奉伊斯蘭教的人群中工作，那裡只有0.001%基督徒，因此，神的主權就是我事工上唯一的憑藉。在我的弱或長處裡，我只能相信，神深深的了解我和對我有不離不棄的愛。因此，作為神的僕人，我可以勇敢地接受挑戰，而不需要感到羞恥。因為當我是小孩子的時候，我說話就像個小孩子，我理性也像一個小孩子。在神的主權計劃中，讓我在世界黑暗的地區，發出微小的亮光。

我曾面對在事工中的很多挑戰，並在危機中失去親人，但神對我的愛，和祂神聖的計劃仍然保持不變。我不會離開祂神聖的計劃，“若不傳福音，我便有禍了！”

## 在美國學府所接受的教育是如何準備我將來的事工？

在美國的旅程，拓寬我心靈上的視野，讓我接觸到這個豐富，多原化，多姿多彩的世界。今天的教會，正在受到文化，世俗主義，以及社會和政治問題的沖激。受不同學科的知識人士，正在等待合理可信的聖經傳講和教導。在我居住的國家裡，我的訓練對於教會增長，是很有價值的。

我將會成為教導基督教的價值觀的導師。先前給我們帶來了福音的傳教士們，為我們奠定了

基礎，現在我們就是接棒人，所以我希望能在這道德墮落的年代，做宣救贖的工作。

我的裝備將有助於矯正基督徒，尤其是那些不珍惜花時間與神有交通的年輕人。今天，一個極大的需求，就是裝備自己，使自己有力量去捍衛信仰，駁斥那些通過公開辯論或文字來反對的人。在歌羅西書二章八節這樣說，“你們要謹慎，恐怕有人用他的理學和虛空的妄言，不照著基督，乃照人間的遺傳和世上小學就把你們擄去”。

我很感謝老師們的教導。在那裡課程，磨練了我在事工上的視野。我有負擔去服侍那有複雜宗教派系的社會，伊斯蘭教的威脅正在這些地區不斷的增加。

## 我與主的關係是如何通過這一進程而受到影響？

我來美國只能信靠神，依靠祂，因為我在美國不認識任何人。每一天，當我經濟上有不足或生活困難時，我就仰望神，依靠祂去繼續努力我的學業。神的供應，讓我充滿感恩和喚起我的責任的意識。因此，我很感恩能有機會進修，我也切實知道，神期望我回到家鄉的教會侍奉。

此外，我正學習在日常工作中，建立聆聽神聲音的習慣。但以理已經學會了這個秘：每天在禱告中，把一切交托神。這種做法，幫助了我生命上所有的挑戰。

## 對所有讀者的呼召

我很感謝那些為收割者獎學基金會奉獻的人。你是幫助我接受培訓的一份子。箴言十九章十七節這樣說，“憐憫貧窮的，就是借給耶和華；他的善行，耶和華必償還。”當你聽從祂話的時候，這會成為你的福分。

## 財務報告

捐款：.....\$ 53,464

支出：

獎學金.....\$ 46,115

宣教士工場獎勵金.....\$ 3,000

文房開支.....\$ 245

合計.....\$ 49,360

盈餘：.....\$ 4,104

資產：

現金.....\$ 47,358

股票.....\$ 0

基金.....\$ 437,206

二〇一一年五月底合計.....\$ 484,564

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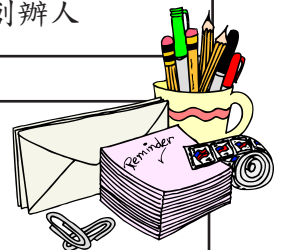
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『我要照耶和華一切所賜給我們的，提起他的慈愛和美德，並他向以色列家所施的大恩；這恩是照他的憐恤和豐盛的慈愛賜給他們的。』 以賽亞書63:7