



**About 1.65 billion people have never heard the name of Jesus.**

Nine out of 10 people don't know Him as Savior. Every second of every day, two of them die without finding freedom in Christ.

The world's lostness "boggles your mind," says Delinda Marling, church-wide missions director at Hamlin Memorial Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo.

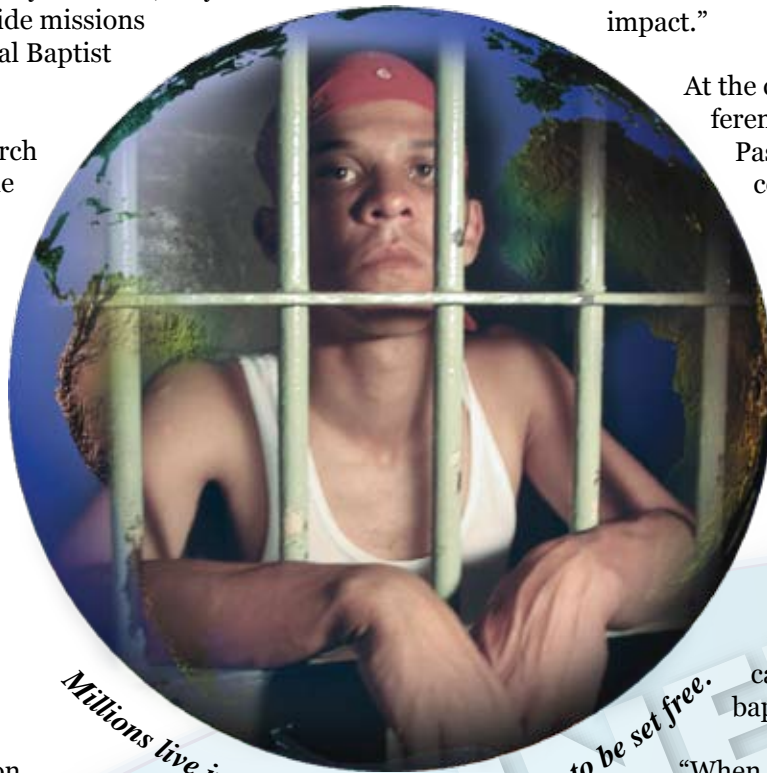
But Marling and fellow church members have learned some strategic ways to impact that lostness by attending a global missions training program offered through the International Mission Board. The training—led by missionaries of the IMB's Middle America and Caribbean region—helps local church leaders learn how God can most effectively use them on the "front lines" of world missions.

Offered in several churches and associations across the Southern Baptist Convention, Frontliners covers these themes: (1) the biblical basis of global missions; (2) time-tested missiological principles; and (3) the how-tos of effective mission work. Conference leaders stress that missions should lead to evangelism and church planting. They also highlight the importance of taking the gospel to those who have never heard—instead of lingering where the message has already been preached.

"It's easy to point a finger at Jonah," IMB missionary Ken Sorrell said during a recent Frontliners Conference, citing the Old Testament prophet who fled from God's call to preach to the people of Nineveh. "But how many of us are more concerned about our own comfort than the salvation of the nations? How many of us right now are in the bottom of the boat heading in the opposite direction?" After hearing challenges like that, Frontliners partici-

pants gain a renewed passion for obeying Christ's Great Commission and a better understanding of how they can strategically approach that task.

"It was like a light bulb went on for me," said Jerry Cross, associate pastor of Flat Creek Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga. "The conference showed me how to focus on those things that make an eternal impact."



*Millions live in spiritual bondage, waiting to be set free.*

At the close of a Frontliners Conference at Hamlin Memorial, Pastor Jim Flora placed on the communion table slips of paper with "I am willing" written on each one. He asked church members to take a paper if they were willing to pray, give or go as a missionary. About 90 percent of the congregation came forward to get a slip. Some remained at the altar to pray for unreached people groups. A middle-schooler committed her life to full-time missions. A young man came forward to request baptism.

"When we get excited about the nations, we get excited about seeing our neighbors come to Christ," said Flora. "A lot of pastors see it the other way around. But I think nothing sparks revival like missions."

To learn more about Frontliners, contact the IMB'S Middle America and Caribbean region:

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