



bits from bob....

**Peering into 2022
April 12, 2021**

The first three months of 2021 are history. The pandemic has stretched into a second year. We are in April 2021 and I am trying to catch a glimpse of 2022. No, that is not a typographical error. I am trying to understand what needs to be accomplished in 2021 so that God's people are ready to do His will in 2022. What HAS to be done? How can we finish 2021 strong so that we will accomplish what God has in mind for 2022? What can be done now to secure the shape of mission and ministry a year from now? For some thirty years, I have cited the men of Issachar as a model for planning (1 Chr. 12:32). To make plans and set goals that glorify God, we must understand the times and the seasons in which we live.

I have good reason for thinking ahead—this is an unusual time in history! Decision making is made more difficult in the midst of time constraints, failure to recognize the situation, and imperfect information. Even with information about 2022 yet shadowy and unclear, one can compensate by spending more time and analyzing all of the factors. Beginning now to think about 2022 will help me overcome time constraints and last-minute decisions. Looking ahead will set the stage for a more accurate perception of the situation.

Change nearly always requires that we expand our view. A wider perspective provides more information, better recognition, and time to restructure goals, plans, and activities. I am sharpening my 2021 goals as I set the directional markers for 2022. I want sufficient time to ask the best questions in order to set the best goals.

In upcoming mission newsletters, I will share some of the adjustments, sharpened goals, and plans to seize the moment that God is preparing even now. An important part of this visioning process, understanding the times and what God's people should do, is prayer.

I invite you, ask you, to join me in prayer, not only for the outreach and expansion of the kingdom in this network of mission works, but for God's people everywhere—that the mission focus will be sharpened so that God's eternal purpose is constantly in view and the harvest of the ripened fields will accelerate.