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### Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry: Diving Deeper into Global Missions

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# Sacred Roots Thriving in Ministry: Diving Deeper into Global Missions

Cheyenne King and Dr. Hank Voss  
Taylor University



## Background

### Project Background:

The SRTM Project exists to equip congregational leaders serving in under-resourced urban, rural, and incarcerated communities

### Cheyenne's Background:

In prior SRTM research, I have helped locate letters between male and female Christian leaders to be included in *Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics* volume three, *Spiritual Friendship*.

I am an Intercultural Studies/Missions minor. My experience on the field gives me a unique perspective regarding the Global Missions aspect of the SRTM Project.

## Purpose

Purpose #1: Update the "Top 25 Global Missions" list of spiritual classics.

Updates and additions to the SCML (Spiritual Classics Master List) may alter the Top 25.

Purpose #2: Research the spread of various spiritual classics in different parts of the world and find correlations in hopes of publishing an article in the *International Bulletin of Mission Research*.

There may be some correlation between the spread of spiritual classics in Africa and China.



The SRTM Student Research Team of Fall 2020 (Above) and Student Researcher Cheyenne King (Right)



## Materials & Methods

### Updating the SCML (Spiritual Classics Master List):

- Add Christian spiritual classics from Francis DuBose's list in *Classics of Christian Missions* to the SCML Excel document.
- Fix any ranking or scoring errors within the SCML.
- Switch improperly assigned spiritual classics from other categories to "Global Missions."
- Discover new "Top 25 Global Missions" spiritual classics list.

### Researching the Spread of Various Spiritual Classics (IBMR Article):

- Key Texts from the *International Bulletin of Mission Research*:
  - "The Second Missionary Text: Missionary Publishing and Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*" by David N. Dixon.
  - "Christian Literature in Nineteenth-Century China Missions - a Priority? or an Optional Extra?" by John Tsz-pang Lai.
  - "The Diffusion of Christian Mysticism: From the Medieval Rhineland to Contemporary China" by Glen G. Scorgie.
- Investigate the importance and spread of John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* in Africa.
- Investigate the influence of Madame Guyon and her *A Short and Easy Method of Prayer* on Watchman Nee and Christian mysticism in China.
- Create article outline according to *International Bulletin of Mission Research* guidelines.

## Top 10 Global Missions Spiritual Classics (as of Dec. 2020)

Rank	Born	Act./ d.	Traditional Title	Author (last)	Auth. (first)
15			<i>The Life of Antony</i>	Athanasius of Alexandria	
14		300	<i>The Desert Fathers</i>	ed. Waddell	Helen
11			<i>The Journal of John Woolman</i>	Woolman	John
11	354	430	<i>City of God</i>	Augustine of Hippo	
9			<i>On Wealth and Poverty</i>	Chrysostom	John
9			<i>On Repentance and Almsgiving</i>	Chrysostom	John
9			<i>The Life and Diary of David Brainerd</i>	Edwards	Jonathan
8		1895	<i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i>	Douglass	Frederick
8		1870s	<i>Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secrets</i>	Taylor	Howard
8			<i>On Social Justice</i>	Basil of Caesarea	

## Results

The "Global Missions" category within the SCML now contains approximately fifty new influential Christian spiritual classics and has been updated with changes and corrections to the scoring system.

The spread of Christianity in both Africa and China was highly influenced by two spiritual classics, *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan and *A Short and Easy Method of Prayer* by Madame Guyon.

John Bunyan  
(1628 – 1688)



Madame Guyon  
(1648 – 1717)



## Conclusions

Spiritual classics can go where missionaries cannot— as John H. Ritson puts it, "it can be read and re-read and pondered over; it can reach a vastly greater congregation than is to be found within the walls of the sanctuary; it can accompany the hospital patient to his home, and penetrate the most secluded harem and zenana; it can travel forth as the pioneer where the climate is deadly, and the population is sparse and conditions are unfriendly and hostile. the printed page alone is the ubiquitous missionary."

Many Christian spiritual classics can be seen in a new light when viewed from a Global Missions perspective.

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