



TITLE: REACHING FORTH

"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12–14)

INTRODUCTION

The Church at Philippi

Lydia—extracted purple from a Murex sea shell

"And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul." (Acts 16:14)

Demon Possessed Girl—used as a victim of human trafficking by her owners for profit

"And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:" (Acts 16:16)

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

Prison Keeper—The Apostle Paul was placed in jail for helping the slave girl, and while there, he leads the jailer to trust Christ.

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 26:31)