



Promise UPDATE

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Focused on Saving Souls

The number of children and peoples of the world that were and continue to be impacted by the life of Linn Haitz, will not cease until the world, as we know it, ceases to exist. The day he decided to surrender to Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, Linn Haitz set foot on a journey that would take him to the uttermost parts of the world to carry a message of love that would set many free from sin and death.

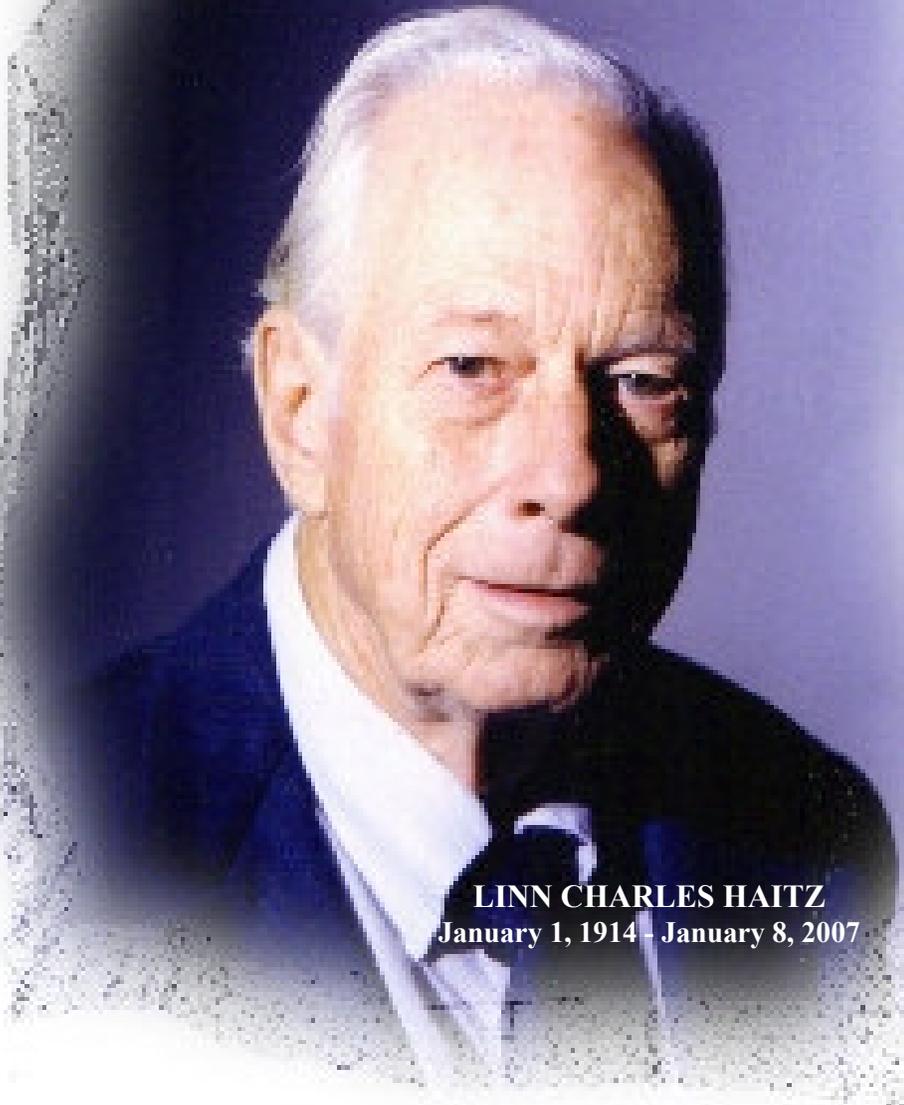
It was said of him that "he lived and breathed for souls."

When God called him to the mission field, he surrendered all. He wasn't interested in cars, clothes, or conveniences. He was interested in turning the heart of man to the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Linn never married and, therefore, had no biological children, yet he is a spiritual father to thousands.

He has left a legacy.

A Tribute to our FOUNDER... a "FRIEND of GOD"



LINN CHARLES HAITZ
January 1, 1914 - January 8, 2007

On January 8, 2007 Linn Haitz, Founder of Children of Promise International, formerly known as Bible and Literacy League went to be with Jesus Christ, his best friend. In an article he wrote in the fall of 1996 Linn wrote, "Getting older, at least into the 80's or 90's, is a time to leave the worldly challenges and look to the world ahead. I think of the world as did St. Paul, the chosen of God, when he said, 'I have a desire to depart and to be with Christ which is far better.' He had an insight which too many do not have. There is no love equal to that of our Lord." Just a few days past his 93rd birthday, Linn, who fought the good fight of faith, received the desire of his heart.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, Linn Haitz became a man who knew the blessings of trouble and pain. As a young man he aspired to study commercial art and become rich, own a country house, see the world, fly his own plane and live for many years—as he wrote in his memoirs. When his mother mentioned the possibility of ministry he thought to himself, "You have one life to live. Don't throw it away on the church." Little did he know the purposes of God for his life.

At the age of 12 he had a seizure which began 15 years of medical exams and treatments. He felt hopeless and empty and questioned the purpose of his existence. He had to drop out of school, his lofty plans had become a farce and his life was filled with physical, spiritual and mental struggles. He put his hand to painting and writing, only to receive rejection slips and only selling a few paintings. All the while, he read the Bible cover to cover. As he read, he went from despair to a lively hope. The days ahead would be filled with physical pain and heartaches until Linn was 27

years old and stopped to look at a picture of Jesus on the kitchen wall. He thought, "If I had a very rich uncle who loved me and would do anything for me, that would be wonderful. But Jesus is more gracious and powerful than any relative I could ever have. Why not surrender my life to Him?" He looked at that kind face on the wall and said aloud, "Lord, I've tried to save my life and I've lost it. I surrender my life to You. I will neither go nor stay, marry or remain single, buy or sell or do anything without Your direction—nothing—until You approve. I give you my life. I am Yours. Take over and lead me. Do with me as You will. And make me well. Let me never have another spell."

He shares in his memoirs, that evening he went to bed and slept soundly. The next morning, as he awoke, his hand felt warm, he felt good—something had happened during the night. He thought, "He's done it!" From that day on he walked a healed man. He knew then that God had been waiting for him. He writes, "God knew He had a plan—a very big plan for this hopeless life, if it could be given completely to Him."

Linn kept his word to the Lord and lived a life close to God. He was a true "friend of God." In the days ahead he would go to places no one has been—deep in the jungles and remote villages bringing the message of the Gospel and winning many to the one who meant so much to Him—Jesus Christ. He preached the Word wherever he went.

If given money, he would use it to help the downcast and needy of the world. He would sleep on park benches and in His car when on the road rather than be comfortable in a

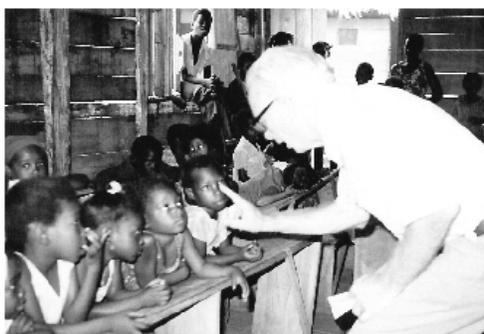


Linn (second from left) praying with a mission team before starting the day evangelizing in remote villages.

Right—Linn relaxing with one of the children in Haiti.



Below—Children of Haiti engulfed in the teaching of the Word by Linn.



Baptism service of a child in India. (Notice the sun reflection on Linn's hand and child forming a cross.)

motel room. He never bought any clothes—people gave him clothes to wear. God took care of him through His people. Many things he was given he passed on to others who had a greater need for it.

Linn was no respecter of persons. He loved everyone the same. He was a reflection of Jesus Christ with whom he spent much time in communion.

Today, you are witnessing only one of the results of his life, a ministry raising orphaned and destitute children in Christ-center homes. Many of the children are carrying the love of Jesus, the message of the Gospel, on into their communities and the world.

I believe the greatest tribute we can pay Linn is to share his testimony so others can find hope in the living God. The things he did for the Lord and places he went are beyond what can be written here. If you would ask Linn about them, he would give God all the credit.

Timeline in the Lord's Service

- August 1952-March 1955—Lay missionary in Nigeria.
- September 1955-1962—student at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois.
- 1962-1966—pastor, Lutheran congregations in Oak Lawn, IL.
- 1966-1968—Lutheran Bible Translators
- 1968-1972—on mission field in Colombia (1968 began ministering to orphaned and destitute children.)
- 1972-1973—speaking in the states telling of needs in South America
- 1973—founded Bible and Literacy League, now known as Children of Promise International, an interdenominational mission organization.
- 1974-1996—evangelizing in India and other parts of the world, establishing Children's homes, and developing the mission organization in the States, sharing the needs and securing support to meet those needs.
- 1996-January 8, 2007—living in a rest home in Desoto, Missouri (continuing to share the love of Jesus).

Memorial gifts received in honor of Linn Hartz will be used to publish his memoirs which are filled with golden nuggets of truth experienced and learned from a life in close fellowship with God. It is a book that will awaken compassion and reveal the compassionate and faithful heart of our Father God. It is a book that will continue to minister to the hearts of men and win souls to Jesus Christ. Proceeds from the sale of the book through Children of Promise will go toward caring for orphans and destitute children around the world, perpetuating the work of the ministry. You, too, can touch many lives through his writings. If you are interested in a copy, once published, please let us know and we will place your name on a list to contact when it is released.

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