

INTER-NATIONAL



HARVEST

FALL 1992 VOL. 34, NO. 3



Twenty-eight new graduates from International Grace Bible Institute, Philippines
Future Philippine Leaders

THINGS TO COME MISSION



"Unto the ends of the earth"
Romans 1:5 John 4:35

FROM THE EDITOR

My grandpa, who is 92, would say that 40 is not old but recently, as I hit 40, my thoughts turned to dying and the ministries I support. Now, don't get sad and quit reading! Continue and see what my point is.

My parents encouraged each of their children to give at least 10% of their income to the Lord's work.

So ever since I first joined the mission, I've had the treasurer divide this 10% among TCM ministries and personnel. Gifts to my church, special projects, specific needs of national workers, and other ministries are above this 10%.

Now I am thinking, "what will happen to the ministries I support when I die?" If there was a bank or investment fund that would pay 10% interest, then it would take the interest on my regular income for one year to match my giving.

Questions flooded my mind! Do I want these ministries to continue? Can my gifts make a difference? Will I have enough to warrant the making of a will? Should I include TCM in my will? Would my

estate ever be large enough that I could designate the equivalent of one year's salary (though I don't have a "salary" since I receive only gifts which are designated to me) as a gift to TCM? Will the interest be high enough on the amount of one year's salary to match my present giving?

Excitement was in the air! Yes, this might be possible. I can give even after my death! If I couldn't give the equivalent of one year's salary, maybe I could give the amount for six months. I am asking the Lord to continue speaking to me on this issue. I challenge you to consider this in relation to the ministry of TCM.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the IH. Our goal has been to give you a good picture of how the Lord is blessing your prayers and financial support for the mission. Sit back, relax, and ask God to bless your time reading the following pages! ☺

**Could the interest
from your estate
gift to TCM match
your present
mission giving?**

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THE DIRECTOR SHARES

by Joseph W. Watkins



Saga of a Church (Continued)

In the last issue of the **INTERNATIONAL HARVEST**, I wrote about the Grace Gospel Church of Christ in Cebu City, Philippines. The present pastor, Jun Pielago, one of my students when I taught at IGBI, wrote to me the other week telling of the present activities of the church. I want to share this with you so you can know the present situation.

"Thank you for your letter dated August 8, 1992. I read it before the congregation last Sunday. They were happy to hear about the gift which you will be sending for the Church building program. We are truly grateful to the LORD for your untiring efforts and concern for the ministry here in the Philippines. We are also praying for your family and your work. May the LORD continue to give you wisdom as you lead the work for the LORD through TCM.

PRAISE NOTES: We praise the LORD for our new

concrete floor!

Work on the pro-

ject was finished July 26. We are very grateful to the LORD for providing the needed funds. The LORD has used a construction engineer to help us make the project much cheaper. The ground floor project would have cost us around 65,000 pesos, but we only spent 45,000 pesos [24 pesos \cong \$1.00]. The volunteer engineer donated almost the cost of labor. It only took ten days to finish the project with the use of heavy construction equipment and tools. The engineer pulled out 16 of his men from another project to speed up the work.

STILL ON THE CHURCH BUILDING PROGRAM: Our next priorities are to reinforce the fence around the church lot and to put up the fence and gates facing the public road. These priorities are being considered for the following reasons: lack of funds for bigger priorities and the building will

look good even though unfinished.

OUTREACH WORK, A GREAT HELP: Last Sunday we had 135 in Sunday School. This is encouraging! Our outreach work is helping a lot in bringing people in. We have six volunteer teachers who are faithfully doing their job in conducting open-air Bible classes. We are now considering adding more benches to meet the need of increasing attendance. (Last Sunday four teenagers professed to receive the LORD in church.)

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS: A congregation of about 40 people in Metro Cebu is now ready to join our fellowship by applying for recognition with TCM.... Our newly assigned pastor in a pioneering area in northern Cebu reported that their first Sunday Worship Service was held last July 5. Our intern pastor from the Cebu Church visited a group of believers in western Cebu last weekend and ministered to more than 30 people. These believers and sympathizers have been eagerly waiting for a pastor to

visit them. We have already included these groups in our visitation program for out-of-town contacts. Our annual celebration of the Cebu Church anniversary will be held on October 25.

Thank you for your fellowship with us in the Gospel. May our great GOD continue to use you mightily in HIS great work!"



Brethren, we need to help them. I am praying for \$5000 to help with their construction. Since the last issue, \$1200 has come in to help. We need to pray for \$3800 more. Please pray with me. ☺

Trained And Ready To Go!

"Greetings in the wonderful Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Thank you very much for sending me the *IH* of Spring 1992. It helps me and friends here to get informed with what is going on in our mission.

"It is good to know that TCM fields in Indonesia are being promoted to friends, requesting their prayer and support. Only the pictures you put in that issue seem to me not so communicative. However, they are still much better than none. I am really sorry for not furnishing you with more recent pictures. Enclosed here are several of them, hoping that one or two of them might be good for the next issue of the *IH*.

"This semester began on August 8 with the opening service conducted at the same time as graduation for the last semester and the fourth anniversary of the Bible School. Two students graduated with 120 credit hours--Sonny Pontolawokang and Ronny Sibarani--and are now assigned as young pastors to the Bogor and Bekasi congregations respectively. Both of these congregations are located close to Jakarta. Of the four students who graduated with 80 credit hours, two are assigned to help in Jakarta working with the church



The graduating class of Grace Gospel College in Jakarta, Indonesia



This is the "Department of Education and Training, Indonesian Grace Bible Church" under which the Bible School operates

headquarters and youth ministry. The other two are assigned to the islands south of the Philippines (still Indonesia) in the Siau and Tagulandang congregations. These two congregations have been years with no church workers. Siau was the most persecuted congregation yet it was the first to own a nice, permanent church building. Tagulandang has its own church building too. The remaining three students who graduated with 60 credit hours (Certificate Program) are assigned to help in congregations under the supervision of the pastors to work in children's and youth ministries.

"Presently, the Bible School has 7 students in the classroom and 7 students conducting field practice. Please pray for the newly graduated students, for those who are practicing in the field, and for those who are in the classroom. Also please pray that the National Conference held on September 11-13 encourages the leaders to come out with a more committed spirit, well-planned programs, and their faith strengthened in the power and love of our Almighty God.

"Finally, thanks again for helping and praying for us always. We do pray for you too."

Dr. Frans P. Tamarol
Director of Grace Gospel College ☺

A POTENTIAL MISSIONARY??? *This is an excerpt from a letter written by the Development Director to answer some basic questions from an interested individual about missionary service. Perhaps you've had similar questions. If so, this letter may be for you....*

Dear _____

Greetings from Indianapolis and in Christ's precious Name. It was good to receive your call last week. We are excited about your interest in the ministry of Things To Come Mission and your willingness to consider being a missionary. Your statement of being challenged by the past issue of the *Inter-national Harvest* magazine encourages us and shows the *IH* does have a ministry.

Ministering in and through the office of TCM gives us many opportunities to read about the missionaries and their work on the various fields. We hear of many needs and opportunities. Often times we wish we were three or four people so we could serve in the USA office, the Philippines, Brazil, and some other country all at one time. There are many people in the USA who appear to have only a surface interest and commitment to missions. Where is the commitment to the goal the Apostle Paul had, "to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery," mentioned in Ephesians 3?

You asked about the minimum-number-of-years commitment desired by the mission board for prospective missionaries and the general support base needed. The mission, of course, desires "full-time" commitment--someone who would say, "I feel God is calling me to a lifetime of missionary service with TCM." However, we also recognize there are extenuating circumstances which will not allow some people to make that commitment. We have had some missionaries commit themselves to only one year on the field. A full-time missionary should agree to serve for at least three to four years. An individual expecting to serve less than this would be considered a short-term missionary. The expectations of the board concerning the mis-

sionary, and the ministry potential available to him, would depend upon the commitment the prospective candidate is able to make.

The missionary will not receive any guarantee of support from the mission. In fact, the mission does not have funds to support missionaries on the field. Believing that God has called him, the missionary must look to the Lord for the supply of his needs. TCM does not deduct any amount for administrative purposes from the gifts sent in for the missionary or his field work. We do ask the missionaries to consider making monthly gifts to the mission general fund and/or office missionary personnel. The length of the missionary's commitment may affect the support he/she can expect to receive from family, friends, and churches.

The mission does not have a set amount it requires a missionary to raise before going to the field. It is up to the missionary to know when they believe God wants them to go to the field. Often there are churches and individuals who will begin their support only after the individual is on the field.

Let me share a general budget for a missionary family with two children:

1. Personal Support

Housing	\$ 200 - 450.00
Food	250.00
Clothing	100.00
Vehicle maintenance	150.00
Utilities	150.00
Education (children's/continuing)	200.00
Entertainment	50.00
Giving (donations)	250.00

2. Ministry

Individual Ministry (travel, literature, office, church planting, evangelism, etc.)	300 - 400.00
Furlough/Passage (travel to/from field)	85.00

(continued on page 19)

NEWS YOU CAN USE . . . *for prayer time*

HOME FROM THE FIELD. *MARY HOBAUGH* returned to Southern California after two years in Brazil. She is moving into an apartment and will be visiting churches in the area. Pray for her as she settles in and determines the Lord's leading in her life. Her furlough will last until April 1993. She expresses great desire concerning the future growth of the ministry in Brazil. There are many opportunities for ministry. *MIKE & LORETTA SMYCZYNSKI* have returned from Kenya after completing their ministry commitment of two years. Their ministry focused on the Bible Institute but they also participated in seminars and services in the local churches. They have settled in Colorado where Mike is helping "Lost and Found" with their computer operations. Loretta is expecting a child in December. Continue to pray for them.

BRIAN SCHMITT & FRANK ULRICH have returned from a summer ministry in Kenya. Both report having enjoyed this time of seeing God's work in a foreign country. Take time to read Brian's article on page 20. Frank's account will be included in the next *IH*.

THE KENYAN CALL. In July, notice was sent to the churches and pastors concerning *CLIFF & LOU ELLEN KINKEAD's* emergency medical leave. The doctors in Kenya informed him he would need a triple bypass operation. Genesis Maraat arrived from the Philippines just in time to help teach at the Bible Institute. The USA doctors were able to use chemicals and instruments to drill out the arteries thereby making surgery unnecessary. It has still taken three months to recover and it is possible another "lighter" procedure will be needed. Thank you so much for your prayers for the family. During this time they are also trying to sell their house so this causes added concern. The Kinkeads plan to return to Kenya the last week of December in time for the Institute's semester opening on January 4.

WAGING SPIRITUAL WARFARE! At times it seems like our effort is wasted. We are tempted to quit yet the need is so great and the opportunities plentiful. Due to the *Brazilian government change*

which has recently taken place, the visa applications for **SANNY & JEANNETTE SUMILHIG** and **VERNON & DARLENE ANDERSON** have been "lost." All of the paper work will need to be resubmitted and the waiting will begin again. Please be in prayer as both families are needed on the field. The uncertainty is unsettling.

GENESIS MARAAT writes, *"I am glad TCM is active in proclaiming the mystery. If there's one thing I appreciate the most about TCM it is her faithfulness in preaching Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery. Words are not enough to express what God is doing through TCM all over the world. P. T. L...These are the things to be prayed for: 1) Spiritual strength as I fight Satan everyday; 2) Many adjustments [food, culture, poverty, climate, separation, etc.]; 3) My love life—I am engaged [she is still in the Philippines]; 4) Financial: survival here and for my coming wedding; 5) If you remember my father had an operation before. He is having another sickness which needs medical treatment."* Genesis is teaching three subjects: Acts, Dispensational Survey, and Poeticals. Praise God for the willingness of this young Filipino pastor to leave his home and family to carry the message of God's grace to Kenya.

DAN & JEAN GROSS continue their ministry in the Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia. He writes, *"I returned a couple of weeks ago from Malaysia. It was very encouraging to see their understanding of God's Word and desire to go deeper. This work needs prayer and encouragement, but it is a start in a difficult nation in which to minister."* Upon his return he had to have some medical treatment for amoeba. Joshua (only two years old) is being treated for tuberculosis. Jean's infection seems to be better though it has taken a long time to improve. **Pray for physical health for your missionaries as they minister in difficult situations.** Dan's letter continues, *"I will be visiting Singapore at the end of October. We just heard that a couple of people who had not been regular in attending Bible study have been coming consistently of late. Little by little we see things happening."*

GOMER & URBANA INDINO are still waiting for their visa approval as missionaries to Brazil. If the application has not been lost we hope for this approval soon. Would your church be willing to have them visit and present their burden and ministry? ☺

Development Director

THE SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION ENDEAVOR

As you recall on page 22 of the Spring issue of the *International Harvest*, my wife and I, along with our three children, will be going to South Africa in 1993. The probable dates are May 29 for departure from the U.S. and August 23 for the return.

We will be official representatives of Things to Come Mission to South Africa for the following purposes:

1. To assist the Berean Churches of South Africa in their national organizational structure;
2. To discuss the foundation of a Bible Institute with the hope of establishing an institute shortly thereafter;
3. To discover what it will take to have an organized outreach into the Zulu and Xhosa tribes;
4. To propagate the Message of the Gospel of the Grace of God in a variety of opportunities presented.

We, of the Things to Come family, need to give the congregation that I pastor a grand "thank you." They have approved a sabbatical so that we might be representatives of

TCM to South Africa as well as having granted me the privilege of being a member of the TCM Board of Directors for nearly three years.

My wife, Dorothea, and our children, Timothy (10), Jonathan (8), and Jessica (7), ask that you would be in prayer for several items:

1. That the above purposes are planned according to the will of God;
2. That our family will be able to make the needed adjustments for this special opportunity;
3. That our financial needs would be met--we need to raise \$8,000 alone for airfare, plus around \$2000 in expenses for our three month stay;
4. That the Gospel of the Grace of God would have a greater exposure while we are there thus setting the stage for further growth and development by and through the Berean Churches of South Africa;
5. That you would also be in prayer for Philip duPliesis, David Malan, Bruce Woolard, Fred Labuschaque and Graham Reeves--five pastors who will be assisting us in South Africa.

These are exciting days for Things to Come Mission. Who would have ever thought about South Africa being one of our mission fields? This opportunity has come to TCM because two brothers in South Africa somehow came into contact with Prison Mission Association under the leadership of Joe Mason through the Bible Correspondence studies.

Today South Africa has several Berean Churches, one of which works directly with the Xhosa tribe and several Bible Study groups scattered throughout the country. They also hold a National Convention to elect officers and inspire one another with the Message of Grace and more!

Beloved, we would truly appreciate your sacrifices of prayer and financial resources. This would not only be for the purpose of assisting the Wisharts, but also for the future of the Grace Message in South Africa as well as the future expansion of TCM's work in the countries we are already serving and those which the Lord may open up to TCM.

If you have any personal questions you would like me to address, you can write to me at:

Pastor Ed Wishart
% Berean Grace Fellowship
12365 Grafton Road
Grafton, OH 44044-1044

or call--office (216) 458-6612
or home (216) 366-6612.

We sincerely thank you for your gracious support. We pledge to you our faithfulness so that there will be fruitfulness in South Africa and there will be no disappointment in your sacrifices unto this TCM endeavor for the glory of God.

We are, in Christ, your servants--

Ed, Dort, Tim, Jon, and
Jessica Wishart



DO WE EXALT PAUL?

by Pastor Don Fromer

Do we (in the Grace Movement) exalt the Apostle Paul? This charge has frequently been leveled against us by those who oppose our stand concerning the uniqueness of Paul's apostleship, his message, and his relationship to the Church, the Body of Christ.

My own response (and perhaps the characteristic response of our movement) has been to dismiss the charge as obviously false. I have wondered if such accusations might be born of frustration over the failure of our critics to Scripturally refute our position. Surely nobody who understands our teaching could seriously believe we would give to Paul anything that rightfully belongs to the Lord!

Recent exposure to such criticism, however, has convinced me some of these critics do not understand our teaching, and are quite sincere in their belief that Paul has become something more than a mere mortal man in our theology. They really believe we identify more closely with Paul than with Jesus Christ! Perhaps it is time to take their criticism more seriously and explain our position more carefully.

Paul tells us the Israelites were "baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea." In other words, they identified with Moses as

their God-ordained human leader. They became followers of Moses and gave him honor appropriate to his divinely ordained office. They did not worship him nor did they exalt him in an inappropriate way. They simply recognized his authority as the man God had chosen to be the dispenser of His instructions for them. Through Moses they encountered Christ! (see 1 Cor. 10.1-4)

Jesus honored Moses in a similar way, urging His disciples to obey the Scribes and Pharisees as the rightful successors of Moses. They were to honor the Scribes and Pharisees as their fathers had honored Moses—as dispensers of the Law. Yet any idea of "exaltation" is immediately squelched in the context as Jesus goes on to describe the hypocrisy of these same men. Thus Jesus taught that one can honor the God-ordained authority of a man without exalting the man. (see Mt. 23.1-3)

Jesus also honored John the Baptist saying that no greater man had ever lived before John! Did Jesus thereby exalt John above that which is appropriate for a man? Of course not! He merely honored him for the importance of his God-ordained role in God's unfolding plan of the ages. (see Luke 7.28)

We are instructed to give honor to the Elders who serve among God's people and double honor to those who labor in the Word. Does this constitute "glorifying men rather than Christ?" (see 1 Tim. 5.17)

Moses (in his time) was God's man of the hour. Those who identified with him as their leader--who looked to him for the latest word from God and followed him wherever he led--were, in the truest sense, following God! It was God who placed Moses in that place of honor. And when they murmured against Moses they were, in reality, murmuring against God!

John the Baptist also made disciples. He was the forerunner of Christ, preparing a nation for the arrival of her King. God appointed him to that office. Jesus honored him with a tribute to his greatness. His disciples followed him. But John decreased as Jesus increased and another phase in God's unfolding plan was initiated. What had made John so great? Was it not the office to which God had appointed him? But now the King was in the midst of His people and those who believed in Him worshipped Him and exalted Him as Lord. He alone is worthy of such adoration. But He was rejected by the rulers of the people and delivered to Pilate to be crucified. (see John 3.23-30 and Luke 7.28)

The early chapters of the book of Acts record the continuing ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ (now risen from the dead and glorified at God's right hand) through the Holy Spirit. Once again God reaches out to the chosen nation through the Apostolic ministry. Peter now occupies the place of honor as God's primary spokesman. Although Peter exercised the authority of his office and was appropriately honored, he refused the worship of men. (see Acts 2-5)

With Israel's continued rejection of her King, we now come to a further development in God's eternal plan which had been kept secret through the ages. Saul, the

He received detailed instructions concerning God's new creation, the Body of Christ.

leader of the persecution that was raging against Christ's followers, is miraculously converted and commissioned to become Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles. He receives from the risen Christ, over a period of time, detailed instructions about God's new creation, the Body of Christ. (see Acts 9)

What Moses was to God's people in the Dispensation of Law, Paul has become to God's people in the Dispensation of Grace. The Jewish Kingdom program has been set aside. Israel has temporarily

lost her place of privilege before God. No prophecy can be found concerning this new dispensation nor can it be found in the Gospels. New relationships now exist on both vertical and horizontal planes. New instructions are needed. The new order must be defined and explained. God's purpose for the Church, Christ's Body, must be revealed. It was for this purpose God commissioned the Apostle Paul.

As Israel in her wilderness wanderings identified with Moses, so believers today must identify with Paul. Make no mistake about this: **to be a follower of Christ today you must be a follower of Paul.** The Kingdom program for which Christ was preparing Israel during His earthly ministry has been temporarily set aside. The final offer of that Kingdom was given to the nation Israel at Pentecost by the Apostle Peter and was rejected. We do not "exalt Paul above Christ" when we recognize that his instructions for the Body of Christ supercede the Kingdom instructions given by Christ in His earthly ministry and those given by Peter at Pentecost. We simply recognize Christ has spoken again through Paul to show us our place in God's eternal plan. (see 1 Cor. 4.16; 11.1; Rom. 11; Acts 3; Gal. 1, 2)

Paul is God's spokesman for the present dispensation. The Gospel he preached and the pro-

gram Christ inaugurated through him were given to him personally by the risen, glorified Lord Jesus Christ. Thus Paul could say, "Yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more." And thus Paul informs us that "Jesus Christ [in His earthly ministry] was a minister of the Circumcision to confirm the promises made to the fathers." (see Gal. 1-2; 2 Cor. 5.16; Rom. 15.8)

By contrast, Paul characterizes his own ministry as the revelation of a "secret hid in God from before the foundation of the world." He identifies himself as "the Apostle of the Gentiles," and then adds, "I magnify my office." Paul declares he was called to be a "pattern for those who should afterward believe." Yet when we affirm that Paul is indeed a "pattern" for believers today we are charged with blasphemy. He indicates that only by his unique gospel (the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery) can believers today be established in the faith. (see Eph. 3; 1 Tim. 1.16; Rom. 16.25-27)

In various ways, inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul says, "Be followers of me, as I also am of Christ." No doubt there are other ways to follow Christ: we could follow the pattern of His earthly life but we do so to our own peril! Jesus lived and died under the Law. We are called to live and

die (perhaps!) under Grace--under a program which was revealed from Heaven by Christ to the Apostle Paul for the Church, Christ's Body. Therefore, if we would be obedient followers of Christ today, we must follow Paul as he followed Christ. (see 1 Cor. 11.1; Gal. 4.4-6)

It is the widespread failure of Christians to recognize Paul as God's spokesman and pattern for the present dispensation that has caused so much confusion and division in the Church. The Roman Catholic Church looks back to Peter and claims his "keys of the kingdom" for the Church. The "Church of Christ" (Campbellite) embraces the "Kingdom Gospel" requirement of water baptism for salvation while rejecting the miraculous signs that were to follow the preaching of that gospel. The Pentecostals claim the miracles associated with the Kingdom program but reject its requirement of water baptism for salvation. (see Mt. 16.18-19; Mk. 16.15-18)

The rest of the Evangelical Christian community embraces a curious blending of unique features of the prophetic program with equally unique features of the secret program given to Paul. This large segment of Christianity is hopelessly divided over ritual baptism--its meaning, its mode, its

proper subjects, its formula, etc. Is it not sad that Satan has succeeded in fragmenting such a large segment of the Body of Christ by means of controversy over a Jewish ritual that has no place in the present order? (see 1 Cor. 1.18, 12.13; Eph. 4.5; Col. 2.12; Rom. 6.1-6; Heb. 9.6-10 ["washings" = βαπτισμος = "baptisms"])

Yes, I am "Pauline" in doctrine and practice. No, I do not worship Paul nor do I exalt him above a mere mortal. But I "magnify" his office! He is God's primary spokesman for this present age. I believe he spoke by the inspiration

of the Holy Spirit when he declared that believers today are to be established by his gospel. I believe Christ speaks today through Paul's writings (not exclusively, but particularly). I also believe Paul's words concerning the profitability

of all Scripture--and I understand that all Scripture must be understood in the light of the Pauline revelation. (see 2 Tim. 2.15, 3.15-17; Rom. 16.25-27)

Our position with regard to Paul's unique message and commission is Biblically sound. Furthermore, it is vitally important. Although it is true an intellectual grasp of the mystery does not guarantee a life approved by God, it is equally true there is no hope for such approval apart from

*To be a
follower
of Christ
today you
must be a
follower
of Paul.*

"rightly dividing the Word of Truth!" The only way the Bible could be made to refute our position would be to eliminate all of the book of Acts after chapter 8 and all of Paul's Epistles. That, of course, would leave us poor Gentile "dogs" on the outside, "without hope, and without God in the world" until the time when "all Israel shall be saved." (see 2 Tim. 2.15; Matt. 15.21-27)

Christ alone must be preached, worshipped and exalted. But He must be preached according to the revelation of the mystery. That means our preaching must be "Pauline." It is Paul (more than any other Biblical writer) who

exalts and glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. No adequate Christology can be formulated apart from Paul's Epistles.

The next time I hear someone accuse us of exalting Paul, I won't dismiss him by saying, "That's nonsense!" I will invite him to read this article.

Then at least he will know why I am a follower, not a worshipper, of Paul! ☺



Don Fromer

**1992 PHILIPPINE
WORK TEAM
REPORT**

Thank you for your prayers! Eleven men gave two weeks of their time and finances to travel to the Philippines. They began the construction of the Solomon Improso Memorial Hall, a 32' X 64' two-story dormitory/classroom building. In spite of all their hard



work, they had to leave before it was finished. Don Sommer has overseen the continued construction work and reports the building is 98% completed. Since the original building was built for 40 students and the enrollment is at 90+, this additional space was greatly needed. We praise the Lord for a beloved donor, now deceased, who included the mission in her will. This allowed us to complete this important project. Continue to pray for the outreach of *International Grace Bible Institute*. Why the rush? The Lord is coming soon and our opportunity to work will be over! ☺ D.D.

CABBAGE SOUP AND TESTIMONIES

by *Brian Schmitt*

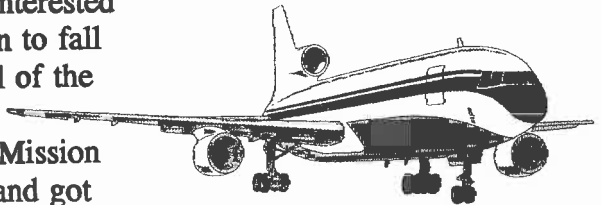
It was a year ago when I first met Vernon and Darlene Anderson. I had a small interest in missions and talked my parents into having them stay at our house during our missions conference. We had a great time and before they left they gave me the address of their son, Ben, in Africa.

Getting to the mission field was the easy part and I think the Lord was guiding everything from the beginning. I had written and mailed a letter to Ben which he never received. In the mean time Ben had heard of my interest from his parents and had written me a letter asking if I had an interest in missions and if I would like to visit him. I let him know that I was interested and things really began to fall into place. Getting all of the arrangements planned with Things to Come Mission went well. I applied and got my passport and my VISA very quickly and the money, which I had no idea how to raise, all came in. The Lord also supplied a friend, Frank, to go with me which was a real blessing. The Lord guid-

ed my every step and made it very easy....but that is because I had no idea of what waited ahead on the mission field.

Frank and I didn't meet each other until we met at the Cleveland airport. Finally we left the ground and we were on our way to Kenya, Africa. It was our first time out of the country. We had our first adventure on our way over when a lady passed out and landed on top of us! After traveling to Chicago and a long layover in Brussels (9 hours), we finally arrived in Nairobi, Kenya.

The airport was full of people including men dressed in fatigues holding machine guns. We finally made it to the baggage claim after getting



lost and spending time in long lines. We waited an hour for our luggage and wondered if Ben would ever show up. He finally did and we packed into his truck and left. "A few pit

stops in town, then we are off," Ben said. Many hours later and several short naps (shortened because of beggars and fear) we left for the town of Embu.

It was a great trip and a super way to serve the Lord which helped me to grow ever closer to the Lord. It was exciting to see the Lord working in another country. We all hear about missionaries in our churches but to see the Lord in action is a different story. The people in Africa are worshipping the same God we are and it was great to be able to worship with them. We got to preach in the markets and see people ask Christ into their lives and we held seminars, and even went "hut-to-hut" witnessing.

Most of Kenya is very poor and the people we were with rarely had a change of clothes. We had cabbage soup most of the time for lunch and dinner. Most of these people don't get lunch every day, so we considered ourselves privileged to be eating with them. Their toys were tin cans tied to sticks and they pulled them around for fun, but in spite of that, they still love the Lord. When they give their testimonies they

would tell you their name and tell you they are saved. They are very proud to let you know they are saved. They sing to the Lord with all of their



might as praising the Lord is a great privilege to the Kenyan people.

Living as a missionary never had a dull moment. We had many flat tires while traveling. One of the flats we had was in a very small town and when we asked where we could find the man who fixed tires, he was conveniently located under a tree with his bicycle pump. It did take a while for him to fix it but he did a much better job than any of the people in Embu.

The last church we attended was a true Grace church. It was a church designed for interns from the Bible School. I had a chance to sit down a couple of times and really talk with some of the Kenyans. Mainly I talked with a man named Joshua who was 25 years old and the pastor of a couple churches. When he was at one church he would

write a sermon and send it to the other church for Sunday. He had a real heart for the ministry and loved to serve the Lord along with the people.

I'm going to miss Kenya and all the friends I left behind. Our new friends there wanted both Frank and I to come back as missionaries so we could stay with them. I'll never forget this adventure serving the Lord and hope I will get to do it again. Who knows, maybe I'll even get to be a missionary some day. ☺



Brian is from Tipp City, Ohio, and is presently serving on the Missions Board of Community Bible Church. He attended Grace Bible College for two

years. He would appreciate your prayers for discerning how God would want to use him. His life right now is "in the Potter's hands."

COMMENTS FROM READERS



"This is just a note to say that I received your newest edition of the HARVEST magazine. I picked it up thinking I would skim it and read only what caught my eye. The truth is, I read every word of it and I truly felt burdened of God to rejoice with you for what God is doing through Things to Come Mission. I promise to pray more faithfully for you and your needs."

- Michigan

"I'm writing in regards to the personnel needs that were made known in the Spring 1992 INTERNATIONAL HARVEST. I would like to have more information about Things to Come Mission and your requirements for service in the field."

- Missouri

"[I] read of the position you have open in Mission Headquarters listed on page 10 in the Inter-National Harvest and feel led to apply...I have applied for early social security which starts with my first check October 3...[and I will] be available after October 15...If you are interested in an interview, please let me know and I will arrange for a drive up to the mission headquarters."

-Florida

Editor's note: Praise God! Jim Young will come to Indianapolis for a three month trial period starting the middle of October. Pray for him. ☺

Reflections Reflections Reflections Reflections Reflections Reflections

It's been said that the only real constant is change. And any change (even if it is good) necessitates adjustment. I'm sure you've noticed how much our culture is changing these days. Just by listening to the news and watching what TV programs people are dreaming up these days, we can see that many people value things we don't and are antagonistic towards many things that we consider important. Our desire as Christians should be to see our friends and neighbors come to know the Lord. But including these people in our Christian gatherings and activities promises to be a little uncomfortable at times. At first it might seem like we don't have much in common. This, then, is the perfect opportunity for the Christian to practice "being a missionary." Adjusting to cultural differences can be difficult, but God wants us to love other people for His sake, overlooking "faults," shortcomings or differences (1 Corinthians 13.4-7).

Of course, it's sad when we fail to demonstrate the same kind of "grace" towards people that God showed (and continues to show) us. To wish that certain people not fellowship with us simply because they are not like us and we feel uncomfortable around them does not sound like something Jesus would be pleased with.

"Church" is not where we go to isolate or protect ourselves from the world. Instead, it should be a "safe house" where hurting people can come to be helped and encouraged without fear of judgment or rejection. It should be the one place in all the world where people ARE loved and accepted unconditionally. However, if we give people the impression that things or opinions are of more concern than the individual, then we may need to do a little "logging" (see Luke 6.41-45....beam=plank=log).

Perhaps God has never called you to serve overseas. I've heard people admit they don't think they could live as a "missionary." But hopefully you have cared about reaching foreign cultures with the gospel and have given financially and have prayed and housed missionaries, etc. Well, let me just mention something--even though you didn't end up going to a foreign field, it is coming to you! Even though we may be Americans living in America, our culture is becoming more and more foreign. Not only is it different from whatever generation we grew up in, but now the values, lifestyles and priorities of our society are completely foreign to the Christian values we find in the Bible. I hope we don't get too caught up with boundaries to think that the principles of being a missionary--reaching out to and accepting "foreign" people--only apply when you cross the U.S. border into another country. None of us are at home--we have a heavenly citizenship. Let's see how many people, no matter how different they are, we can bring "home" with us! ☺

Jennifer Sidebottom

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Do you wonder what the codes on your address label mean? The mission uses alphanumeric codes to signify which list each individual in our address file is on. When a prayer letter is sent out, the computer prints labels for each address having that particular *missionary code*. Check your label. Do you want to add codes to your address? Let us know. You will receive a prayer letter only from the missionaries whose codes are on your address label.

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