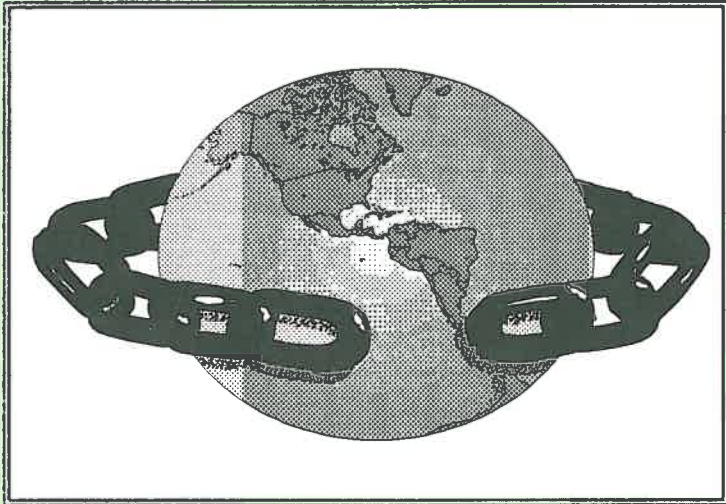


# INTER-NATIONAL



# HARVEST

SPRING 1996 VOL. 38 NO.1



Will you be the **MISSING** link?

THINGS  
TO COME  
MISSION



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

## FROM THE EDITOR

**WHERE ARE THE VOLUNTEERS?** We (well, I assume most of us) like to sing the song, "A volunteer for Jesus, a soldier true..." written by W. S. Brown. Yet, as we're singing, many quietly change the idea from "me" being a volunteer to "someone else" being a volunteer.

It seems as if we shy away from a commitment to service. We live more and more as if God owes us a comfortable lifestyle, "peace in the valley," and freedom from too much pressure.

At the same time, the ones who are committed to the Lord's service--sacrificing their lives, their abilities, their time, their finances, and their dreams and goals--are decreasing in number.

In the five years I have served as editor of this magazine, we have had people who have retired and had to limit or decrease their giving, supporters who have died and ceased their giving, and others who have lost or changed their jobs and have had to cut back on their giving.

Some of the missionaries have left the mission field, some are on study leave, and some are in the process of deputation and getting ready to leave for the field.

As in any war, there is never

a surplus of volunteers. And there seems to never be a lack of people who desire to stay in the background and not get involved.

TCM is waging war against the spiritual forces of evil. Missionaries, office personnel, supporting churches and individuals, and prayer partners make up this war-waging group.

Each of the above mentioned divisions help, as well as depend upon, the other. As one group loses membership, the other groups suffer. This is what the Apostle Paul is trying to tell us in 1 Corinthians 12.12-27.

If you are already involved in one of the above groups . . . "Thank You!" If you have stayed on the sidelines up to now, I trust this issue of the IH will help bring you to the place where you will say, "Here am I, Lord, use me."

However, maybe you are involved even now in praying and giving but the Lord is saying, "I need you to do more." What will your response be?

At a time when missions around the world are stressing the need to reach almost 12,000 people groups who are without a Christian witness, each one of us needs to ask the Lord, "What would you have me to do?"

Will you join with us as together--pray-ers, givers, encouragers, and goers--we reach forth to the future, knowing "we shall reap if we faint not?" ☺

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Daniel Sidebottom . . . . . Editor

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## THE DIRECTOR SHARES

by Joe Watkins

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### SUPPORT PERSONNEL

What are the ministries of the mission's *Support Personnel*? Let me list a few things we (Dan, Pauline and I) do to support the missionaries of TCM - both in the U.S. and in foreign countries.

#### Communication

Ben Anderson, TCM's missionary in Kenya, has set up an African Safari to Kenya this summer between June 24 and August 23. Anyone who wants to go will have a ministry and at the same time witness the ministry of TCM in Kenya.

Those who go on the Safari will take part in building a church building, holding outdoor evangelistic meetings, visiting one of the churches, and sharing the talents they might have.

How would the churches and people in America hear of

this ministry opportunity? This is where our ministry comes in!

We printed a brochure and sent copies to pastors and churches. The same information was included in TCM's *News You Can Use For Prayer* (a bulletin insert that is sent to the churches every few months). As people contact the mission for further information concerning the Safari, we correspond with them and forward information to the field. We will also help make travel information available.

The Safari is a great way to introduce young people and others to missions. Hopefully some will be challenged to become missionaries.

**How do the missionaries in the Philippines, Brazil, Kenya, Australia, Indonesia, Senegal or any of the other countries we minister in,**

**communicate with their prayer partners and donors?**

A very important part of their ministry is keeping prayer partners informed regarding their needs and blessings. The missionaries need co-laborers praying with them for the ministry God has given them.

The co-laborers must know the needs and concerns, as well as the blessings, so they can pray with intelligence. **One way the missionary communicates with his donors is by sending out prayer letters or newsletters to all on his mailing list.**

This communication of the missionary on the foreign field with his prayer partners and donors becomes our *support ministry* here in the main office. Most TCM missionaries have at least 500 (some over a thousand) names on their mailing list.

Pauline will usually spend over two days getting a prayer letter ready to mail. It must be typed, formatted, edited, printed,

photocopied, and folded. Labels must be printed according to the missionary's code. The prayer letter must be labeled and then sorted according to zip for bulk mailing. The weight of each piece must be computed, bulk mail forms completed, and the mail sorted into postage bags: Then the bags and the check (the post office seems to always require a check ☺) are taken to the post office. Sometimes I will spend an hour or more standing in line to complete the mailing.

Pauline also keeps the computer address file up-to-date. This file contains over 6000 addresses. You would be surprised how many address changes we receive every time a prayer letter or the IH is mailed! She will also, usually once a month, prepare a report



**Pauline - weighing prayer letters**

for each missionary so they know which addresses on their list have been changed, added, or deleted.

### Purchase Supplies/Equipment

Missionaries try to buy locally as much as possible but, inevitably, needs arise that involve purchases from the U.S.

A request was recently received from the Philippines for grace text books for our two Bible Schools where national pastors are trained. We ordered, packed and shipped these books. There are 110 students in the two Bible Schools. One campus will have 20 graduates this year. Today we received a request for 20 *Dispensational Theology* books by Pastor Charles Baker. These will be given to the graduates.

A few months ago Carl Sommer's hearing aid had to be shipped back to the States for repair. We contacted two offices over eight times and sent multiple e-mail messages to Don to follow up this repair and return of the hearing aid.

We also order books for home schooling of the mis-

sionary children.

Sometimes the missionaries order items which are sent here to be repacked and forwarded to them. Vehicle and appliance parts are often ordered.

I believe that out of six days of ministry in the office, we will have 4 to 5 requests from missionaries on the various fields requesting something for their ministry. Many times these requests are very important for the growth or furtherance of their ministry. We try to meet these needs for them.

### Transmission of Funds

We handle the transmission of funds to the missionaries and manage all finances of TCM. We could never completely explain all that is involved in this process. This has become even more complicated now because of income tax rulings. Our filing cabinets and shelves are full of "records" that have to be kept for the auditor and missionaries.

When you mail your check, it is sent in a mission envelope with a mission return receipt portion. Each gift is

entered in the computer and a xerox copy of the check made. Receipts are printed and, with a letter, placed in envelopes for mailing.

A record of the expenses and income, along with the donors' names and addresses, is sent to each missionary twice a month and to each field at the end of the month. Each mailing will contain various literature and reports such as bank statements, copies of bills, etc., along with a letter from either the director or treasurer.

Checks for the missionary and field funds are sent each month to the respective banks. Some missionaries and fields receive their funds through wire transfers, some by using their visa cards, and some by using their checks. We also send checks from the office for missionaries' credit card payments, insurance payments, house payments, etc.

Some missionaries will have the office send checks for their giving to other ministries and many of our missionaries will have the office make transfers to other missionaries or field ministries as part of their giving.

The financial books of the mission must be balanced each month and reports are sent to each board member. I could go on and on, but this will suffice to show that this is no small job.

### Travel

We attend missionary conferences and other meetings in order to represent TCM's ministry around the world. We seek to encourage people to pray for this ministry. We travel 20 to 30 thousand miles a year.

### Information

In this support ministry, we answer questions that come to us from the various missionary supporters. We receive many calls asking questions: how to send books, food, clothing, money, Christmas gifts, etc. to the missionaries; what kind of books are needed in an Institute library; when is a missionary returning on furlough; how to help more of the missionaries; etc. Others want to know who needs more support. Can you help us with our travel to visit the mission-

ary? How can we help the children of the missionaries? I heard a missionary was sick, can you give me more details? What can we do to help the wife? Who is available for our missionary conference? By giving answers to these questions we are able to help the missionary overseas.

### Implementation of Candidate Procedure

Part of our ministry in the U.S. is to help missionary candidates become missionaries and finally arrive in the country they feel God has called them to. The candidates fill out an application and then appear before the board of TCM. They are interviewed by all of the board members. Questions are asked regarding health, past and present Christian ministries, goals and reasons they want to go to the mission field, etc. They are also questioned about doctrinal issues.

After this interview, the board will make a decision either to accept them as missionaries, recommend further preparation and training, or reject them. When they are

accepted we start the process of:

1. **Deputation** - Helping to arrange a schedule for visiting the churches so the new missionaries are able to share the burden the Lord has given them. It is exciting to know there is a new missionary in the process of going to a new mission field. We believe this can encourage church members in their personal service to the Lord. Of course, deputation provides a time for God to touch people's hearts with the need to support the missionary with their prayers and financial gifts.

2. **Passports and visas** - We advise and/or obtain information for missionaries as they seek to obtain passports and visas.

3. **Travel** - We contact multiple travel agencies to find the best fares possible. Our desire is to help the missionary travel in such a way that the financial sacrifices of their donors will not be in vain.

### Production of Promotional Material

There are two basic publications which the home office



produces. The purpose of these publications is to keep you, our co-laborers, informed of the ministry of TCM. We realize that our prayer and financial supporters help make the ministry possible. We also desire to challenge saints to dedicate their lives for His service in countries which do not have a witness for the Grace of God.

1. The *Inter-national Harvest* magazine is published 2 or 3 times a year.
2. The *News You Can Use For Prayer* is usually published every other month. These are sent to churches on our mailing list so they can be inserted in the bulletins or placed on their literature table.

Both of these publications help us keep you up-to-date on what is happening within TCM.

### Counsel

There are times when missionaries have problems working together with their fellow missionaries or even national leaders. We seek to help them develop a solution to these

problems. This is the most difficult of all the ministries we are involved in. Missionaries are leaders and must be treated as such, yet there are times when they need counsel.

I know the above ministries don't sound as exciting as the missionary experiences in the Philippines, Kenya, Brazil, etc. But remember, for missionaries in those countries to be actively engaged in the Lord's work and to report of their experiences, we must be fulfilling our ministry here. If Dan, Pauline or I fail to perform as team members, the missionaries in Kenya, Brazil, Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, and Senegal would have to return home. Ministries in other countries would also suffer. Missionaries serving in the TCM-USA office as *Support Personnel* are absolutely essential for the missionaries on the foreign field. We also, just as the other missionaries, need your prayer and financial support.

Thank you for your prayers for us as we minister to the missionaries, you, and the U.S. churches. We value your partnership with us! ☺

## OUR NEWEST MISSIONARIES

*Gardner and Claudita ("Dedith") Improso were accepted as missionaries during TCM's January 1996 board meeting. Gardner is the son of Antonio Improso, the director of our Philippine mission.*

*Both Gardner and Dedith graduated from the International Grace Bible Institute in the Philippines. Gardner has served as a Regional Youth Coordinator, Assistant Pastor, Bible Study teacher, and a teacher in a Regional Bible Training Center.*

*Gardner has a desire to teach in a Bible Institute setting and this is what is needed at this time in Kenya. In March, Gardner, Dedith, and their two children (Keren - 3 and Kezia - 2) will be joining the rest of the missionaries in Kenya. They will be helping in the Bible Institute.*

*The Improsos will not have an opportunity to visit churches in the U.S. to share their burden and to meet you. Therefore, we will need to pray for them in a special way that the Lord will bring them to our minds throughout the coming months. Please be in prayer for them concerning the adjustments they will be making to the new country, new language, new ministry, new ministry team members, etc. They will, of course, need financial support so we ask you to beseech the Lord on their behalf for prayer and financial supporters.*

---

### **YOUR HELP HAS BLESSED MANY**

Recently TCM sent a special mailing concerning the financial need of the Philippine International Grace Bible Institute. Many of you responded. The school will always have monthly needs but we thank those who have helped during a trying time.

Ed and Linda Bedore have written concerning the need for library books for the Kenyan Grace Bible School and training centers. Again, many have responded and a number of shipments have been made. Thank you!

## TCM's New Board Members

*During the May 1995 board meeting of Things To Come Mission, Rick Hash was accepted as a new board member.*

*Rick is a charter member of the Community Bible Church in Rootstown, Ohio. He has served as the board chairman and presently serves as the Director of Missions and Evangelism for the church. He is a licensed Physical Therapist and owns his own business. Some of his brothers and sisters are serving as missionaries in Central and South America and he has participated in a work team to Honduras.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*During our January 1996 board meeting, Bruce Weyandt was accepted as a board member.*

*Bruce is a member of the Altoona Bible Church in Altoona, Pennsylvania. While attending this church Bruce learned the Truth of God for this dispensation as well as the importance of applying it to his life and family. His family is part owner of a meat packing/butcher plant. They use this business to help support missions.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Please be in prayer for Rick and Bruce as they serve in this important capacity. Decisions are made which affect the future of ministries around the world.*



**Rick & Patti Hash**  
**Jessica, Jacob, Stephen, Ginny**



**Bruce & Christy Weyandt**  
**Travis, Adam**

## A DROP OF INK

Perhaps you have heard the phrase, "A drop of ink can make a nation think." But how often have you really thought about the implications and power of the printed page?

I remember reading a tract once about a missionary and a communist leader talking in China. The communist had attended an evangelistic meeting where the missionary spoke. He complimented the missionary on the delivery of the message but then said something like, "You missionaries have been in China many years, we only a few. But we will drive you out. You gather the people, preach to them, and send them home. They will forget what you say and can not fully repeat it to their friends. We will gather the people, "preach" to them, plus give them literature. They will be reminded of our message and they can give the message to others." Guess who were forced out of China!

In each of our fields of ministry TCM has a literature ministry. Some fields are more organized and productive. I would like to share a report that **TONY & BARB SISTELOS** (serving in Brazil) presented to our TCM board in January. I hope you are encouraged.

In January 1995, with the encouragement of the field director, Doug LeFeber, Tony and Barb began to publish the *INFORME BIBLICO*. It is printed bi-monthly in an 11 X 17 inch, one-fold format, usually 8 pages long. As of January 1996, after one year of printing, they have 307 subscribers (no subscription fee).

Here are some statistics they have gathered:

- Over 23% of subscribers are from Grace churches (both in North and South Brazil; TCM's and others)
- Over 8% of subscribers are from non-Grace churches
- Over 60% of subscribers are from a federal university where Tony is able to teach some classes

Tony figures that:

- Over 30% of subscribers are believers
- Over 23% of subscribers are Grace believers

- Over 60% of subscribers are from secular contacts
- Over 68% of subscribers are non-believers

Tony and Barb seek to have a variety of articles in the *IB*. Some of the articles are translations of Bible Study material written in the U.S., some are Bible Study material from missionaries or national leaders in Brazil, some of the material is on introductory Bible truths, and some on introductory dispensational truth.

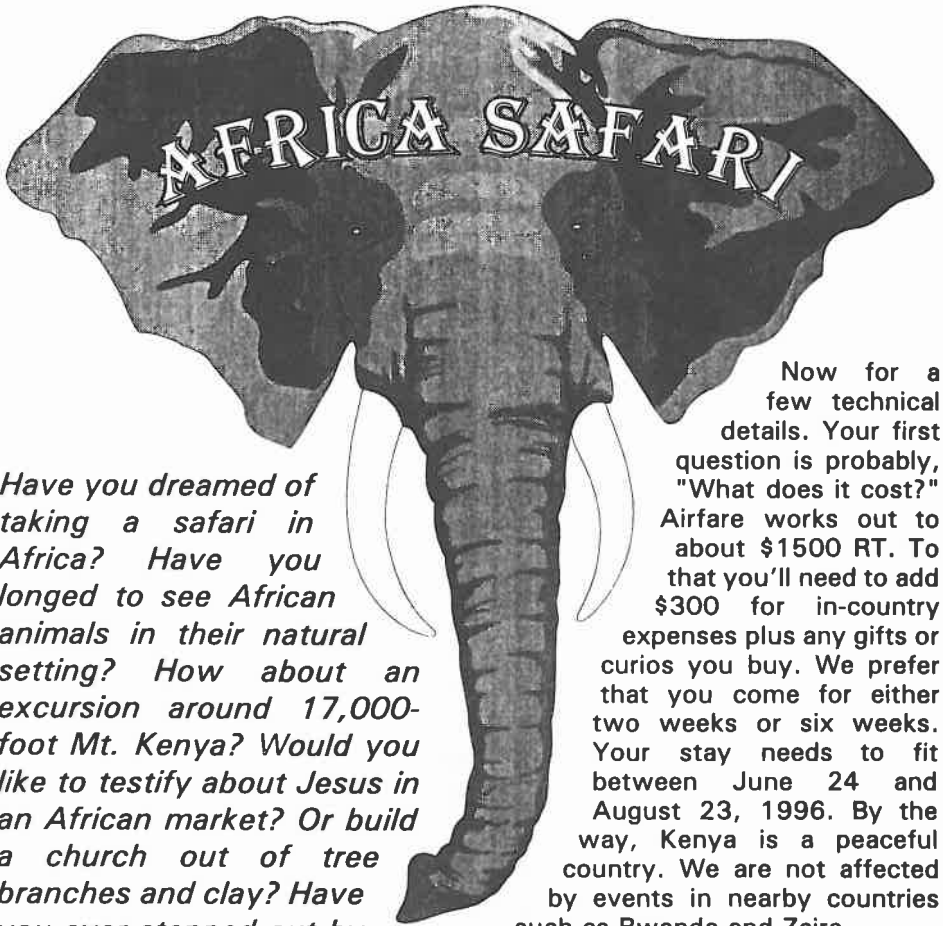
Tony will type and format the material on his computer and, until God supplies Tony with a quality printer, take the diskette to Urian Rios' place to have it printed. Then the camera-ready copy is taken to a print shop and copies are made. Labels are prepared from Tony's computer address list, the *IB* is folded and wrapped, labels affixed, then stamped and taken to the post office.

You can imagine the time, effort, and cost for this ministry. All of it is underwritten by Tony and Barb in spite of their limited support and the sacrifices they must make in other areas. This is a big part of their ministry and spiritual fruit has been harvested. Praise God!

Pray for Tony and Barb. Pray for the literature ministry in Brazil. Doug and Vicki are also planning on producing literature to help teach the Grace message all over Brazil. With over 165 million people and only 17.8% being "evangelical" (statistics from Operation World, 1993), you can see that the missionaries in Brazil have their work cut out for them. PRAY!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

Doug and Vicki LeFeber still continue supervising the construction of the new multi-purpose building in Ibura. This is a new outreach of the Boa Viagem church in Recife, Brazil. The building will house the church, a training center, and Project *Abba* (the children's ministry of Michelle Campos). Much of the construction has been underwritten by Doug and Vicki as the Lord has supplied for them. A number of donors have designated gifts for this project. THANK YOU! There is still a great need for additional support. Doug estimates it will still take about \$20,000 to finish. Thank you for your prayers!



*Have you dreamed of taking a safari in Africa? Have you longed to see African animals in their natural setting? How about an excursion around 17,000-foot Mt. Kenya? Would you like to testify about Jesus in an African market? Or build a church out of tree branches and clay? Have you ever stepped out by faith to serve our Savior-- even for a short time?*

*If you're up to the safari of a lifetime, we, the missionaries of TCM in Kenya, would like to extend our welcome to you. Join us for a few weeks during the summer of 1996 to work with the friendly people of Kenya!*

Now for a few technical details. Your first question is probably, "What does it cost?" Airfare works out to about \$1500 RT. To that you'll need to add \$300 for in-country expenses plus any gifts or curios you buy. We prefer that you come for either two weeks or six weeks. Your stay needs to fit between June 24 and August 23, 1996. By the way, Kenya is a peaceful country. We are not affected by events in nearby countries such as Rwanda and Zaire.

If being an ambassador for Christ in Kenya during the summer of '96 is for you, then follow these steps:

1. Contact TCM at the address below for further details.
2. Start saving. Tell friends, family and church of your plan. TCM will give receipts to all donors.
3. Pray that God will provide, that He will use you and that He will teach you through the experience.
4. Learn what you can about Kenya from books and people.

**Things to Come Mission, 2200 English Ave, Indpls, IN 46201  
Tel. 317-262-8806 Fax 317-262-8852**

# ~ WANTED ~

## A MISSIONARY-MINDED WOMAN

### **Job Description for Women Set Free Ministry:**

To provide resident ministry care and Bible teaching for women who have a wide variety of life-destroying problems.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

To teach Biblical life-skills to hurting women and families, through personal relationships with Jesus Christ, equipping and training them to become healthy, loving care-givers in their own homes, churches and communities.

### **Qualifications:** · A deep personal relationship with Jesus Christ

- A tender heart
- A quiet spirit
- A tough hide
- Physically fit
- A strong endurance
- Emotionally strong
- Spiritually discerning
- Financially independent \*
- Godly wisdom
- Wonderful sense of humor

You will need all of this to love and live with a variety of women, who will come in and out of your life.

Each young woman is different. Most of them are "immensely controlled by sin-addiction" and have attitudes which are "socially unacceptable." Their need for the Lord Jesus is too great to be ignored!

If God has plucked your heartstrings and your eyes have filled with tears after reading this, please contact us about the open position of Resident Director at the Women Set Free Ministry in Bradenton, Florida.

Affectionately In Christ,

Pastor Robert F. Xavier, Exec. Director

Patti Willard, Resident Director

4230 26th Street West · Bradenton, Florida 34205 · (813) 758-1190

\* Hands-on training will be provided and Bob is willing to help interested individuals raise the necessary support they will need.

## EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR!

by *Daniel Sidebottom, Development Director*

Pastor Osias T. Cadeliña, Jr. (he goes by the name "Jun") is a man hard to keep up with. His excitement is hard to ignore, impossible to quench, and easy to appreciate. I think he has been that way since he was a child. At least in Bible School he was like that. After graduating from the Bible Institute, he was asked to be a regional coordinator for the TCM youth in Southern Mindanao (Philippines).

Now, after about 15 years in the ministry, this man has a vision to buy a small bus for his gospel team ministry! In a country where he lives on \$150 per month, this man wants to buy a bus that will cost \$7,000. Let's see ... that would be equivalent to a person in the U.S. living on \$2,000 per month buying a ministry vehicle for about \$90,000 (like buying an airplane!) The amazing thing is, he is succeeding!

When I arrived in Davao City for language study (July 1978) Jun was just beginning his ministry in that area. He was responsible for the youth activities in three provinces in both Agusan and Davao, two provinces in Cotabato, Bukidnon, Magindanao and maybe other areas I have forgotten. When he started I think there were about 40 churches.

After I completed language study, Jun would have me help him visit the churches and youth groups. We would hold training in evangelism, how to teach Bible Studies, and how to do follow-up and then we would show a gospel film in the community. As always, Jun could excite the people. Souls were saved, Bibles were given as gifts, follow-up Bible studies were organized and, after a number of years (I had come home on furlough and returned to Cebu City), he had circulated through the area with training, organized and built up the youth group (local, regional, and provincial), organized two crusade gospel teams, held crusade meetings in each of the churches and, in cooperation with the church members and church pastors (and of course, the help of God), seen the number of area churches increase to over 70!

Of course, a good man is hard to leave alone! The National Youth Director, Eufrazio E. Pielago, Jr. (he goes by "Jun" also ☺), saw in Jun Cadeliña a man with great potential and vision. Therefore, he recommended that Jun become the National Youth Director so he (Jun Pielago) could become the full-time pastor of the Cebu City church (started with the help of Joe Watkins).

Jun Cadeliña carried his excitement with him into this new position. The work in Southern Mindanao was put in the hands of another faithful young leader, Joel Molina. (Now where have you heard that name before?--maybe as a missionary to Indonesia and presently on his way to Brazil). Joel continued the crusade ministry visiting the churches and hosting evangelistic crusades.

Another youth coordinator, Sanny Sumilhig, a classmate of Joel's and also under the leadership of Jun Cadeliña in the South, was assigned to the Negros area. Sanny helped organize two gospel crusade teams--singing, preaching, and showing gospel films throughout the area of Negros. (He was a missionary in Brazil until last year.)



Jun continued the organization of the youth and helped start youth rallies, conferences, and conventions, in time helping to organize conferences for the young professionals (youth out of college and in the job force). He continued his work of crusade meetings, soliciting financial help from the members for guitars, microphones, speakers, clothes for the group, transportation, wires, projector and generator repairs, tracts for interested individuals, Bibles and Bible study material.

Jun would carefully keep a record of the donors and their gifts, the expenses, the statistics from each meeting, the name of the film shown, which pieces of equipment were purchased, etc. He would produce a report for the churches and the Philippine director and board. At a time when others were shy to ask for financial help (yes, even now the majority of our members and pastors are eating hand-to-mouth) he would let the need be known and trust the Lord to touch people's hearts. And God did!

I remember when Jun approached the Philippine board with his desire to raise funds for a "Utility Vehicle" for the youth department. Although the board supported his vision, I don't know if many of us really thought it would ever come to reality.

Jun put the wheels into action. A project plan was drawn up, churches and pastors were notified, and people started to pray. Jun contacted people to help collect and remit the funds to the mission office, an account was opened so the funds would not be lost, stolen, or mixed with the rest of the mission funds, and people started to give. Reports were regularly drawn up, receipts were issued, dreams were shared, and the gospel teams continued to minister. People were saved and believers were edified!

Almost one year ago, Jun wrote to the churches, "According to the experienced operators and drivers, they say that the money we have now is lacking to finish the desired project (utility vehicle). We need a vehicle that could tackle the Barangay Roads (unpaved, often ungraded mountain surfaces where the wheels travel over sharp volcanic ash that some people call a road ☺) and which could accommodate twenty persons besides the equipment such as film projectors, generators, tents, sound system, Bibles and Christian literature." At that time, the Philippine members (only one gift had been received from a missionary) had donated 141,246.62 pesos (about \$5,600)!

In January we received word that they are starting to construct the vehicle. The U.S. mission board was notified that they still needed about \$1,200. **We want to help with this need. We are encouraged by the sacrifice of the Filipino brethren and we want to encourage them as well.**

Please pray for this need. If you would like to help TCM's Philippine Youth Ministry, designate your gift to the "Philippine Utility Vehicle."

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*Adrian and Sharon Van Houten (from Michigan) are planning an April tour to the Philippines. They have been involved in a music and teaching ministry for over 20 years and will participate in the National Youth Convention, Annual Conference, and visit a number of churches. Be praying for them!*

## A PREMISE FOR MISSIONS

*by Daniel Fideboltom*

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9 + 8 does not always equal 17! The only way "9 + 8 = 17" is true is if you begin with a premise that counting is done in a base 10 system. If you **begin** with a different premise, you will automatically arrive at a different conclusion. For example, in a base 16 system, 9 + 8 = 11.

Throughout all of life, our premise will always determine the conclusions we arrive at. In missions, it is the same. Decisions we make in missions are based upon premises we hold.

We might be tempted to think everyone begins with the same premise, but this is not true. There are a number of examples which could be given but let me mention only a few.

In his book, What in the World is God Doing? (Global Gospel Publishers, Cedar Knolls, NJ; 1988), C. Gordon Olson presents a brief history of missions during the first two hundred years after the Protestant Reformation. More correctly, he presents a brief history of the **absence** of Reformation missions!

Missions was done throughout the years leading up to the Reformation. The Apostles after Pentecost did missions. Next, the Apostle Paul took at least three major mission journeys and spent his life in missions. Missions was done in the few hundred years after Paul. When the Roman Catholic church started, it also did missions--at least missions as defined by that church.

There were various groups of believers outside of the Roman Catholic church who worshipped and evangelized in spite of the persecution. These groups, though they were not able to do missions, "in a real sense ... were the forerunners of the Reformation" (p.103).

As we think of the Reformation and the benefits we enjoy from that period of time, we would think the Reformation leaders would naturally be mission-minded. However, Mr. Olson shows us this was not the case. Though they recovered the precious truths of 1) the just shall live by faith, 2) forgiveness can not be purchased by human works or deeds, and 3) the Holy Scriptures

are our final authority, "the Reformation did not go far enough in the recovery of God's truth" (p.107).

When confronted by their lack of missions emphasis and ministry, the response of the **theological leaders** of the time seems unbelievable. The leaders not only failed to do missions, but excused their failure and blamed their situation. What theological arguments (premises) were given for the failure of the Reformation and its leaders to reach out to the world with the Gospel of the Grace of God?

Mr. Olson relates the following: (p.109)

I. In 1651, the theological faculty of Wittenberg, in answering Count Truchsess, a prominent Lutheran layman who asked why the Lutherans were not sending out missionaries in obedience to the Great Commission, said:

- A. The Great Commission was given only to the Apostles and was fulfilled by them.
- B. If the heathen are lost, it is their own fault since they rejected God's word from Noah down to the Apostles, who evangelized the whole human race.
- C. It is the responsibility of the government, not the church, to provide for preaching to the heathen.

II. When Justinian Von Welz advocated foreign missions, Johann Ursinius, a Lutheran theologian, answered:

- A. It is difficult to recruit missionaries and difficult to do the missionary task.
- B. The heathen are so depraved that conversion is next to impossible.
- C. The need at home is too great.
- D. The Christians



**Daniel & Jennifer Sidebottom**

living in heathen lands should evangelize the people there.

III. *Gustaf Warneck commented, "Where there are Christians, missions are superfluous; and where there are no Christians, they are hopeless."*

*It seems the reformers failed to consider some Biblical truths and physical realities: (p.111)*

- I. They failed to realize depravity pertains to all men, not just the heathen.
- II. They did not seem to understand the power of the gospel to change lives (Rom. 1.16).
- III. It seems they did not understand the power of the Holy Spirit to convict and convince people of the truth of the gospel.
- IV. Since we can never fully meet the needs in our own community (new people and new problems arise all the time), if we wait for our own to be reached before going to the heathen, we would never make the effort to reach them.
- V. Paul "leap-frogged" the area of Asia Minor (and probably Europe) as the Holy Spirit led him.

*Mr. Olson continues and presents further premises held by the reformers: (p.112)*

- I. "It cannot be gainsaid, however, that Luther's expositions of great missionary passages as Mt. 28.19-20 and Mk. 16.15 are usually devoid of any missionary emphasis. Moreover, there is a good deal of validity to the contention that Luther's concept of 'mission' dealt primarily with the correction of unchristian conditions prevailing within Christendom at his time" (quote from Thomas Coates, *Were the Reformers Mission-Minded?* p.604).
- II. They thought the end of the world was near and that there was no time for world evangelization (p.113).
- III. They had a distorted understanding of the implications of God's sovereignty (p.112).
  - A. Luther is quoted as writing, "I do hope that our Gospel, now shining forth with a light so great, will before Judg-

ment Day make an attack also on that abominable (person). May our Lord Jesus Christ do this soon."

B. Dr. John Ryland, the mentor of William Carey, told Carey, "Young man, sit down. When God pleases to convert the heathen, He will do it without your aid or mine" (p.121).

*Yes, God is sovereign! But, since when does the sovereignty of God mean that God determines every individual thing that will happen on the earth? The Bible does not teach that God makes people believe. God, as the sovereign, has set the rules. Among*

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***Our premise must be that there is only ONE way of salvation and that is through faith in Jesus Christ!***

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*the rules God has determined is that: 1) sin separates from Himself (Isa. 59.2); 2) the result of sin is death (Rom. 6.23); 3) the blood of Jesus Christ is the only means of forgiving mankind's sin (1 Cor. 15.3-4, Col. 1.14, Heb. 9.12, 22; 10.4, 12; cf. Acts 4.12 and John 14.6); 4) mankind must exercise faith in the finished work of Christ in order to have sins forgiven and receive eternal life (Eph. 2.8-9, Rom. 3.25, 28, 30; 4.5; 5.1; 10.9-13); 5) mankind must hear the gospel and exercise faith in the gospel he or she has heard (Rom. 10.17) and; 6) His children must go with the gospel to the world (2 Cor. 5.18-20, Eph. 3.9, Col. 1.28, 2 Tim. 2.2, Acts 20.24-27; cf. Ez. 33.6).*

*This means that if a person does not hear the gospel, that person can not be saved. Imagine the multitudes dying each day who have never heard the gospel. Our hearts should be touched and burdened for these people. Our concern should be for their loved ones on the brink of death without a chance to exercise saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*We can not accept any theology such as taught by The Westminster Confession when it says, "Elect infants, dying in infancy, are regenerated, and saved by Christ, through the Spirit, who worketh when, and where, and how He pleaseth: so also are all other elect persons who are incapable of being outwardly called*

by the ministry of the Word" (quoted by Laurence M. Vance, The Other Side of Calvinism, Vance Publications, Pensacola, FL; 1991, p.320).

Mr. Vance also mentions a quote from Loraine Boettner, "We do not deny that God can save some even of the adult heathen people if He chooses to do so, for His Spirit works when and where and how He pleases, with means or without means. If any such are saved, however, it is by a miracle of pure grace. Certainly God's ordinary method is to gather His elect from the evangelized portion of mankind, although we must admit the possibility that by an extraordinary method some few of His elect may be gathered from the unevangelized portion" (p.319-320).

Is it any surprise that it is difficult to raise missionaries and supporters for missions with this as the premise of The Westminster Confession and Mr. Boettner? No wonder it is difficult to challenge youth and adults to commit themselves to missions. No wonder church members fail to get excited about missionaries coming home on furlough, trying to get a taste of what they have been through. With the above mentioned premises, we don't have to worry about the "heathen." If God wants to save them, it is thought that God will do it, even if we don't do missions.

Mr. Boettner (The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination, The Presbyterian And Reformed Publishing Company, Phillipsburg, NJ; 1932) does recognize that "... the belief that heathens without the Gospel are lost has been one of the strongest arguments in favor of foreign missions" (p.119). However, he continues and blames God for the lack of missions (opportunity) in various countries and states, in fact, that God can save apart from the Gospel--what he calls "an extraordinary method."

As always, we must come back to the WORD. It is not the "biblical scholar" who determines our religious convictions. We must always ask, "What does the Bible say?" The Bible gives no hope for salvation apart from "calling" upon the name of the Lord. If they have not heard of the Lord, they can not call! (Rom. 10.13-17). There is only one way a person can be saved. Any other teaching is to be condemned (Gal. 1.8-9).

TCM is committed to helping you and your church reach

*people of the world with the gospel. Our premise is that God will hold the Church, the Body of Christ, responsible for our failure to reach people with the gospel. The believer is an ambassador to reach the unbeliever. It is our responsibility to do all we can to reach all we can (1 Cor. 9.19-22; 10.23-11.1; 15.34). Contrary to what Mr. Boettner states, it is not God's fault people are in heathen lands separated from the sound of His Word. It is the fault of godless people making laws forbidding Christianity.*

*Because of this premise, we are ready to help individuals become missionaries, ready to help churches support mission outreach into various countries, and we are ready to share mission needs and prayer requests for your consideration and intercession.*

*Our premise causes TCM's personnel to be willing to suffer for the sake of the lost and unreached. We are willing to suffer physically, financially, and emotionally. However, we can not do missions effectively without your help! Will you continue to stand with us as we move into our 5th decade of reaching our world with the Gospel of the Grace of God?*

*We reject any theology which seeks to excuse us as Christians from reaching our world with the gospel.*

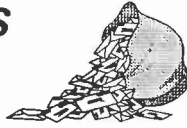
*In the previous issue of the Inter-national Harvest (Vol. 37, No. 2) Ben Anderson discussed world evangelization by the year 2000. In a chart, he showed that almost 2 billion 200 million people live in an area where there is no Christian witness. Even if every Christian evangelized his neighbor, over 2 billion people would never hear the gospel. We must reach out to the unreached in a planned and purposeful way.*

*How would you define your premise? Can you say with the Apostle Paul, "... not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved?"*

*Oh that God would hear each of us say, "Here am I, Lord, use me. A volunteer for Jesus, a soldier true. Others have enlisted, here am I." ☺*

**STAND ON A BIBLICAL PREMISE!**

## COMMENTS FROM READERS



**"***We've had a burden for the Philippines ... Your newsletter touched our hearts and the Lord directed [us] to send the enclosed check. God is always able to stretch our limited retirement to meet all our needs and those ministries He directs us to help...*"

*-- Florida*

*"Please pray for us due to physical infirmities ... on the road to 88 [years old]. ...[My wife] suffers from congestive heart failure ... in the midst of our tribulations the LORD says, "be of good cheer for I have overcome the world."*

*-- Oklahoma*

**(Ed.'s note: even in tribulation they will send their gift for the ministry. It reminds me of the Macedonians in 2 Cor. 8 & 9. Praise God!)**

*"We enjoyed and rejoice*

*in 'A Look At History' in this last issue of the Harvest ..."*

*-- Tennessee*

*"It was so nice to have Mario with us ... I heard Doug LeFeber speak here some time ago ... have known his parents since the kids were young ... Thank you for the auditor's address and especially the Inter-national Harvest. I appreciate the information, pictures, etc."*

*-- Wisconsin*

*"Just a note along with a check to thank you for the Inter-national Harvest. We enjoy hearing how the Lord is blessing your ministry. We remember you in prayers that the Lord will give you strength and wisdom to carry on."*

*-- Arizona*

*"Could you please send me another copy of the Inter-national Harvest booklet for Fall 1995? ... I have a 'Bible Corner' here at the nursing home and put up the original copy ... Everything I read from Things To Come booklets is*



*so good I wish everyone in the whole world would read [it]."*

*-- Illinois*

*"Greetings from ... my little farm ... fine and dandy for my sweetheart of 56 years and [me]. I love the booklet [IH]! I can sense the love you all have for the Savior! The love of many has grown cold, as was true in Paul's day already. Keep up the good work ... Our prayers are headed your way and please pray for us also."*

*-- Michigan*

*"I just took time tonight to read again [the] Inter-national Harvest ... Praise God for you capable people with Things To Come Mission. I seem to hang on each word written in articles and precious letters about happenings here and there."*

*-- Washington*

*"Must discontinue gifts for three months; my income has gone down ... must use money from Social Security to pay for a hearing aid and house*

*repairs ... Praying the Lord will enable others to give to TCM."*

*-- Arizona*

*"It is an honor to share in the work of TCM in all their efforts. As I also give to \_\_\_ and our church, sometimes the gifts are not so large. I also pray daily for you all ... I love the Gospel of the Grace of God!"*

*-- Illinois*

**(Ed.'s note: We really could not succeed in our efforts to carry God's Word to the world without people praying and giving. Please join with others in lifting us before the Throne of Grace.)**

*"Will pick these [the TCM general fund and a specific missionary family] up again at a later date, due to financial set backs. Sorry."*

*-- Oregon*

*"Please note that due to financial difficulties, this will probably be our last gift until further notice."*

*-- Alabama*

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

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**Don & Sue Sommer** report from the Philippines: "... but I stopped at the church first. The Sowers were having a training session there for our young people. As I got there they were preparing to go out on an evangelistic service, so I ended up going along and it was 7 p.m. before they were finished. We went to an area of the city called Alaska, Mambaling. I don't know if you (me, the editor) had ever been there before, but it is a huge, huge squatter district. There were people everywhere. I couldn't believe it--literally thousands. We were driving through the street and it was like going right through the middle of a herd of cattle.

"Tomorrow we are starting a Bible Teachers' Class at the church. It is supposed to run every Sunday afternoon for 14 weeks. **Dan Gross** is teaching Hermeneutics, Carlo Paña (one of our national pastors and former Bible Institute Instructor) is teaching Homiletics and I am teaching 'How to Lead a Bible Study.'"

It is encouraging to receive reports such as this from the field. I hope you feel, as we do, that you are having a part in this evangelistic and edificatory activity. Your prayers and financial support allow these training sessions to continue.

**Jon & Vicki Shriver** report from Australia, "Since the move (to a new rental church facility) we have started advertising in the local paper and have plans to canvass the new neighborhood shortly.

"We also have plans to begin a men's ministry in the near future. We are alarmed by the absence of men in the home here and their failure to assume their place of leadership in the church and the home. The divorce rate here now is 1 in 3 families. There has never been a time when the Biblical man is more needed.

"We are also glad to see Jarad, a newcomer to Grace truth ... start being involved in ministry. He now plays the guitar on Sunday morning and sings ... Last Sunday he brought one of his friends to church and we had a long talk afterwards ... We look forward to seeing the Lord bear fruit in his life ..."

**Vernon & Darlene Anderson, Joel & Darcy Molina, and Mario & Ella Indino** are all home on furlough. Please pray for these three families. It is difficult to travel, to be away from family, to live out of a suitcase, to often feel they are imposing on their hosts, and especially to be absent from the ministry on their mission field. **Mario & Ella** are in the middle of a new assignment (they will be going to Indonesia) and Joel and Darcy are also in the middle of a new assignment (they will be going to Brazil). Moving is always difficult and expensive and adjusting to new situations will not be easy. Pray for safety, for encouragement, and for fruit in the lives of those they minister to.

**Vernon & Darlene** have been traveling in the West (North to South) and across the South and up to Michigan. **Joel & Darcy** have been in Florida. **Mario & Ella** have been in Wisconsin.

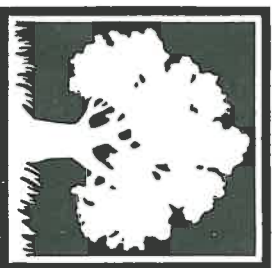
Please contact the mission office for information on their schedule or for requests to have them in your church.

The latest new additions to our missionary families are twins to **Joel & Darcy Molina**. Andrew Jose and Alissa Jamie were born on 12-23-95. A month earlier, Elicia Diane was born to **Sanny & Jeannette Sumilhig** on 11-12-95. Congratulations!

\* \* \* \* \*

"I was counting on only making one trip, mostly to save money. This has been our toughest term financially even though our support is higher than ever. It is because of inflation, everything is so much more expensive. And it won't be getting any better. Last month they had the highest inflation rate since 1991 (12%). Unlike in the past, the value of the \$ is not keeping up. The exchange rate has remained about the same for months now."

The above paragraph, though written by only one of TCM's missionaries, could have probably been written by any of us. Each missionary seeks to carefully use the funds the Lord supplies through His people. Yet, often these funds are very limiting since the missionary must underwrite his travel and ministry expenses as well as the daily necessities of life. Please pray for the funds needed by each missionary to live and minister.



## A CONTINUING GIFT

Things To Come Mission would like to acknowledge the following gifts which have been given in memory of some family member, friend, or respected individual who has passed away. Cards have been sent to the families of those whose memories you have honored.

**Gloria Mick**  
- Beloit Grace Bible Church

**Mr./Mrs Louis Herlein, Sr.** - Mr./Mrs Louis Herlein, Jr.

**Jessie Bedore**  
- Vernon & Georgia Becker

**Mr./Mrs August Stromer** - Mr./Mrs Edwin Stromer  
**Harold Stromer** - Mr./Mrs Edwin Stromer

**Louis J. Vander Molen, Sr.** - Ida Vander Molen  
**Leonard Siegmann, Sr.** - Mr./Mrs Elmer Shaver  
**George Galloway** - Aleatha J. Galloway

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*Does your WILL give a testimony of your Christian beliefs and help support ministries you presently support? How about appreciated property or assets you hold and hesitate to sell for fear of capital gains tax? A Charitable Remainder Trust could be your answer—tax control, life income, ministries helped!*

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### ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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## **THE RIGHT PLACE - THE RIGHT TIME**

Don Sommer wrote from the PHILIPPINES that many of our pastors are involved in a special type of training. President Ramos is concerned about the rampant corruption within the government. He has required "Values Training" for all of the government and military personnel. Many of our pastors are involved in this training. Praise God for this opportunity to touch the lives of the leaders.