

SHIELD OF FAITH MISSION INTERNATIONAL

SFMI

**Prayer/News
UPDATE**

Fulfilling the Great Commission Through Establishing New Testament Churches

New Perspective Needed for the Last Days

New Perspective Needed for the Last Days P. 2

Using Our Resources P. 5

Meet the Board P. 4

Holding Forth the Word of Life P. 7

Missionary Reports P. 9

Here Am I—Send My Sister P. 13

September/October 2008

• P.O. Box 144 • Bend, OR 97709 • (541) 382-7081 •
• Email sfmi@sfmiusa.org • fax (541) 382-4471 •

New Perspective Needed for the Last Days



By Dick York

Every generation of New Testament believers since the days of the apostles has looked hopefully for the coming of the Lord. Every generation has witnessed the things that are included among the signs of His coming, in one degree or another. There have always been earthquakes and tidal waves. There have always been wars and rumors of wars, and scientists have always given us speculative information, from the flat-earth theory to the global warming theory. The passing of years has not changed any of that. One thing that the passage of time has done, however, is to bring us that much closer to the real thing.

The weariness of waiting has produced skepticism in many professing saints and indifference in many others: “We’ve heard it all before.” But things are different now; many have been weaned away from their expectation and their confidence that every word of God is true just at the time when the day is approaching and the signs of the times should be pointing our attention upward. We need a new perspective; and if we don’t gain it, we will soon experience things we should have anticipated but were not prepared for.

I am recalling the days of WWII when, as one of the multitude of underage seamen in the U.S. Maritime Service, I crossed the equator for the first time. On that memorable initiation day, they called us (pollywogs) out on deck to see the Mugwump birds. That’s an imaginary little seabird that sits on the equator with its mug on one side and its wump on the other. Of course we never saw one, but since then I have seen its equivalent many times—have even been one on occasion! Maybe you have too. I’m referring to a bird that is perched on a line somewhere between the kingdom of God and the world. It has left the world to be a Christian, but it has never wholeheartedly become a participant in the kingdom of

heaven. For a while it looks at the kingdom side, and then for a while it looks back at the world side; and to an observer it’s hard to tell which is the head and which is the wump because it seems to be looking both ways at the same time! Unfortunately, it is still true: “You cannot serve God and mammon.” And saints, now more than ever before, you cannot afford to serve mammon.

The alarm is sounding. The time has come for us to be paying attention to what is going on around us. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Roman believers:

*And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.*¹

If Paul’s warning to them was apropos in their time, how much more so to us in ours. Since Jesus’ ascension two millennia have almost expired. The third one could be the millennium during which Jesus rules his kingdom in the earth. That may well be what the prophet Hosea was reporting when, speaking for the Messiah about Israel, he said, “I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offense, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.” Israel will say, “Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.”²

It is hard not to notice the proliferation of

events that resemble those forecast by the Lord Jesus himself when telling us of the signs of His coming. Does it not seem that recent years have been crowded with catastrophes of unusual magnitude, ranging from earthquakes in Turkey and China, to tsunamis, hurricanes, floods, and fires around the world, and notably here in the U.S.? Almost every day seems to bring a news report of a new and unusual disaster. If God is speaking to us, it would be a tragedy for us not to listen.

Why would I think that the multiplying of these natural disasters is significant right now, especially in America? It is because they come at precisely the time when the spiritual climate in our nation has taken a decisive and deliberate turn away from the truth of God's Word. The official position of our government is that God's word will have no place in our education, our judiciary, or our political system. Our children must be taught only that which will promote atheism or, at least, an antipathy toward Christianity. There is an adamant denial of what God has commanded and an aggressive promotion of what He hates (as evidenced in the recent California court decision to embrace homosexual marriage). Our land is filled with fornication, adultery, and the shedding of innocent blood. We are emulating the attitude of the kings of the earth as recorded in Psalm 2. We must expect the consequences that are reported there as well.

Think of how many things have changed in the past two years. Our housing market was booming, and the economy was burgeoning. Americans were spending money as though there were no limits to their resources. Our skies were filled with airplanes carrying unprecedented numbers of passengers to faraway places to spend money from a seemingly endless supply. Builders were building, real estate agents selling, borrowers were buying, bankers lending—all as though there would be no end. Suddenly, that reversed itself, and desperate circumstances now prevail for many who thought their good fortune would never run out.

Oil, the life-blood of our economy, a commodity we purchase mostly from enemies

that we pretend are friends, has escalated in price to unbelievable levels. Our enemies within have insisted that we turn our food supplies into fuel for our automobiles and our industries, when it seems obvious to many that there are wiser choices, thereby pushing food prices out of reach for many. Decisions to ostensibly fix the problems seem ill advised, and the implementation of those decisions seems simply to aggravate the situation. Presidential elections are 65 days away, and the usual vitriol is being passed between the candidates, neither of whom has suggested that the problems we face are beyond the ability of either one to solve without the help of Him who holds the future of all nations in His hand. The average citizen seems less and less likely to call upon God for help, and many who may be so inclined would seek His help only on their own terms rather than on His.

But how will we—the church—who profess to

know God, respond as these trying times worsen? Will we, with the world, wring our hands in despair? Or complain about the hardness of our circumstance? Or will we be like lifeboats floating confidently on the dark waters doing exploits by casting the lifebuoy of the gospel to the desperate few that will be readied by the disaster to lay hold of the hope we can offer them?

We look for perilous times in our near future not because we are pessimists but because the Word of God has forewarned us and because the present course of things makes it evident. The saints may lose all the same things the world loses, but there is a vast difference: for the world, it is a loss of everything; for the saints, it is a deliverance from all that distracted us from resting fully on the Lord himself.³

Many within the church have had their spiritual senses dulled by doctrines that describe grace as a means of *excusing* sin rather than the means of *attaining to holiness*. Holiness, too, has often been misdefined to mean the keeping of a set of rules that make us acceptable to God. The result is that holiness and grace have become opposing doctrines that reside at opposite ends of the theological spectrum. The truth is, however, that


We look for perilous times in our near future, not because we are pessimists but because the Word of God has forewarned us and because the present course of things makes it evident.

without holiness, no man shall see God,⁴ and the only way to attain to that holiness is by grace.

Peter, writing to those who would inhabit the last days, wrote, “*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation* [living]; because it is written, ***Be ye holy; for I am holy.***”⁵ Peter further wrote, “*But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer...for the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear.*”⁶

If we love the Lord Jesus, and in the light of the warnings that have been given to us concerning the days in which we live, why would we use “grace” to allow us to walk in the

ways of the world while professing the benefits of salvation? Why would we want to emulate the ways of the world from which we have been delivered, instead of appropriating grace as a means to lay hold on the holiness it affords us, knowing that this is pleasing to our Lord?

“*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation [living] and godliness.*”⁷ 

Endnotes

¹ Romans 13:11-14

² Hosea 5:15-6:2

³ Philippians 3:7-17

⁴ Hebrews 12:14

⁵ 1 Peter 1:13-16

⁶ 1 Peter 4:7,17,18

⁷ 2 Peter 3:10,11

Our cover: The image of a fishing boat heading out as the sun is setting serves as a reminder that even though events indicate the end for this world system is nearing, we are to continue being “fishers of men.”

Meet the Board:

The Testimony of Richard McDaniel



Life began in Japan for me, as my parents were missionaries. As a child, I was raised in the Scriptures through my home, the ministry, and Christian school.

Throughout my youth, I had a desire to serve God, and I requested baptism at age 13. From there things began to go downhill.

My teenage years were years of questioning the “status quo” and of rebellion for me. I was enrolled in a Christian boarding school, which just fueled the fires, as I had other companions of like mind. The culmination came at age 16 when I was expelled from the Christian school and left Japan to live with my uncle in California. This was in the late ’60s when the “Cultural Revolution” was in full swing. My

rebellious nature embraced everything that was “anti-establishment.” I grew my hair long and became well acquainted with mind-altering substances as well as other things common to the hippie lifestyle.

After a year of college, I returned to Japan for the summer, where I met an American girl who was newly saved and zealous for Christ. As a peer, she impressed me very much with the reality of Christ in her life. I wanted that reality also and prayed with her to receive Christ. With newfound zeal, I enrolled in Multnomah School of the Bible in Portland, Oregon. There was a great conflict going on inside me during these days. I wanted to do right, but the desires of the flesh were overpowering. At the Bible school, there were strong influences from both sides. The school itself was not a disciple-making institute. In short time, I began to flounder. The Christian lifestyle was a struggle for me. I had

Continued on page 6



Using Our Resources

By Jim Lucas

Jesus instructed us to “Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things [food, raiment, the necessities of life] shall be added unto you.” When we have our mind set on our own needs, our resources never seem to be enough. In the light of the Word of God, however, it is apparent that our Heavenly Father is able to take the least significant thing that we have and use it to do mighty things for His glory. For example, when Jesus saw a great company come unto Him, “He saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?” (John 6:5-9). I believe you will remember that He took this small boy’s lunch and fed five thousand people. Then they found there were twelve baskets left over!

The multitude was fed, and they had twelve times more food than before. Consider Noah, who was told to build the Ark. What an enormous undertaking! His resources were his family, the trees, some pitch, a few tools (purchased on sale at the local hardware store, no doubt), and our Father’s instruction. He was one hundred years building it—one board at a time. We need to thank God that he didn’t say, “I don’t have the resources to build it.” Another great example was a widow woman to whom Elijah was sent by the Lord during the time of the drought and when he spoke to her about giving him a little morsel of bread. She said, “As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. And Elijah

said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring *it* unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son” (1 Kings 17:12,13).

She obeyed and gave the man of God her handful of meal, and the Lord blessed her. The barrel of meal never wasted nor the cruse of oil ever failed throughout the time of the drought.

What is in your hand? It doesn’t matter how insignificant it may seem—if you give it to God, He will use it. When the Lord God appeared unto Moses at the burning bush and was commissioning him to go and lead the children of Israel out of bondage, Moses said, “They will not believe me nor hearken unto my voice. And the LORD said unto him, *What is that in thine hand?* And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee” (Ex. 4:1-5).

Whatever it is that our Heavenly Father asks us to give Him, no matter how strange it may seem or how hard it is to give up, by the grace of God, let us do so. Remember Abraham, who was told to give his promised son Isaac, whom he loved very much. He got up early the very next day and went out in obedience to the Lord. Abraham offered up Isaac, and God blessed his seed unto a nation that cannot be numbered. We should never despise the day of small things (see Zechariah 4:10). The smallest seed can bring the greatest abundance when God gives the increase. Plant that small bag of seed, no matter how foolish it seems, or that avocado, or put the eggs under the hen. Don’t wait until you have a big bag of seed, or a lot of avocados to plant, or wait until you have a lot

of chickens; by all means, use what you have. Discontentment with what we have is a terrible disease, and it only brings sorrow and destroys faith. In 1 Timothy 6:6, we read that godliness with contentment is great gain.

The person who keeps heaping up “things” believes he is blessed because he has gathered up much, but one dollar blessed by God will do much more than thousands of dollars laid up in store. When we give for the kingdom of God, we can be assured that God will never forget us. What good is it to have been blessed with riches if we never use the resources for the kingdom of God? For this world and all that is in it will melt with a fervent heat, and all the mountains of treasures gathered up by men will be lost. But the widow’s mite or the handful of meal

or the five barley loaves and two small fishes will be remembered by God. I think it’s better to walk around in the desert with just a staff in your hand (that is blessed by God) than to dwell in the court of Pharaoh with all the treasures of Egypt (see Hebrews 11:24-26). Don’t say that you are poor. What one Christian has in Christ Jesus is much greater than all the riches of the world. We are told in Ephesians 1:4 that we have been blessed with all spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ. Sometimes we get nervous when we find our resources dwindling down to nothing, but we must remember that the greatest resource of all is Christ in you, your hope of glory. Our Father said to Abraham: “Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”

McDaniels, continued from page 4


no power over sin.

After one semester, I left school; and, in short order, the influence of the Word diminished, and the world took over. I gave myself over to the gratifying of my senses. I lived a “carefree” existence, working little, partying a lot, and thinking I was free. Even in these years, God, in His mercy, spared me from greater evil. There was a strong influence of eastern philosophies all around, and I considered for a while the teachings of the “masters of the Far-East;” but one night in confusion I prayed to God, and He showed me clearly that His testimony to man was the Bible and not in these other teachings. From then on, I didn’t give the East any further thought. I hitchhiked a lot, and I was frequently picked up by either Christians or homosexuals. The Lord spared me from wicked men, though I didn’t heed His messengers.

Some years later, I married Julie; and we lived a semi-transient existence by doing migrant labor in the fruit orchards of Washington. In time we purchased a piece of land in northeastern Washington and settled down to the “homesteader’s” life. Here it was that God began to woo us to Himself. We had neighbors who were Christians, and they exerted a firm but gentle influence on us. They kept encouraging us to come to a Bible study, and we kept putting

them off. One day, we just ran out of excuses.

We considered ourselves to be Christians but knew deep down that we didn’t fit the mold. I think that as a result of much prayer by others on our behalf we began to open up to God. One day, in December of 1979, I spoke in earnestness to God saying, “I don’t want to say that I’m holy if I’m not holy. I don’t want to say I understand if I don’t understand. I want reality.” In turn God said to me, “I’ve been waiting for you to say that.” This was the basis for my new life with God: seeking Him with a sincere heart and finding the reality of His fellowship.

“No man having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). From that day on, I have not looked back. Jesus is my Lord. 





Holding Forth the Word of Life

By Steve Montgomery



The declaration that we believe the Bible, know it to be true in all that it affirms, and recognize it as authoritative in all matters of faith and practice is much more than a doctrinal position demonstrating orthodoxy. This is not simply something to which we can give a nod of the head or repeat glibly on our way to more important issues. It is, in fact, the heartbeat of the Christian church and the battle cry of our advance on the nations.

“To the law and the testimony!” cries Isaiah in chapter 8, verse 20, “If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

The Lord Jesus, in Matthew 7:24-29, compares His words to a rock, solid ground on which to base our lives. Yet only a few chapters later, in Matthew 16:13-20, He calls Himself the rock.

So, is the rock *Christ himself* or His *Word*?

The answer, of course, is “Yes!”

In the Matthew 7 passage, Jesus refers to “these sayings of mine.” The word “sayings” here is *logos*, the same word we find in John 1:1: “In the beginning was the [logos] and the [logos] was with God and the [logos] was God.” Verse 14 of the same chapter tells us that “the Word [Logos] was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.”

The Word *became* flesh; and the flesh that the Word became was fully, entirely the Word. When the Lord Jesus walked through Israel, He was the Word made flesh; and His sayings were the words of the Word, the *logos* of the Logos.

You cannot legitimately separate the Lord Jesus Christ from His words. You cannot separate the Lordship of Christ from the authority of the Word.

As we look at the use of “logos” in the New Testament, this truth jumps out to us: Those that were scattered at the persecution in Jerusalem went everywhere “preaching the [logos]” (Acts 8:4). Were they preaching Christ or His words? Yes!

Paul and his companions “preached the [logos]...” (Acts 13:5; 16:6). Were they preaching Jesus or the Scripture? Yes!

Paul commended the Ephesian believers to

“God and to the [logos] of His grace.” Was Paul commending them to the New Testament message or to the Incarnate Word? Yes!

1 Corinthians 1:18 warns us that “the [logos] of the cross is to them that perish foolishness.” Does the world see as foolish the *message* of the Cross or the *Christ* of the Cross? Yes!

Is it the written Word of God or is it the Son of God that is “quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12)? Yes!

God has begotten us by the *logos* of truth (James 1:23), being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the *logos* of God, which liveth and abideth forever (1 Peter 1:23). The word or the Word? Yes!

Although there are many places in the New Testament where “logos” refers clearly to the Scripture and the message of Christ, there are many, many places where “logos” appropriately and, I believe, intentionally, applies both to the written word of God and to the incarnate Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. To preach the word is to preach Christ, the Word made flesh.

There are a number of groups or movements today that, either intentionally or unintentionally, either openly or with subtlety, seek to move people toward a Christ divorced from His word. For some, it is emotionalism and experiences that take the lead, so that the ultimate measure of the truth or correctness of a proposition is “how it makes me feel.” As one person explained to me, “The Bible is what God *said* to *them*. What we need is what God is *saying* to *us*!” By that, he meant what he *felt* God was saying.

For others, such as some in the “emergent church” movement, truth has become so relative that it is irrelevant; and the written word has ceased to be any measure for the work and purpose of Christ the Word.

Still others have replaced the authority of Scripture with a feel-good Jesus who dispenses 12-Step programs to self-acceptance, self-esteem, and success in business, all set forth in an atmosphere where the smiling “preacher” has replaced the

Continued on page 15

Books available now by Dick York

Thou Therefore My Son... Training The Lord's Servant

Paul's Second Letter to Timothy

This will be off the press and available September 15, '08; 128 pages.

Includes foreword by Steve Montgomery.

Special price of \$5.00 includes shipping and handling



God's Eternal Purpose The Making of Man in God's Image

God's plan from creation to eternity;

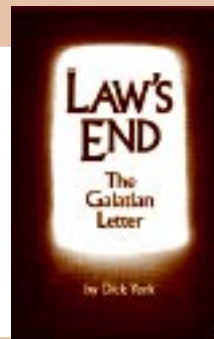
128 pages

\$5.00 includes shipping and handling

Law's End: The Galatian Letter

How Paul dealt with the issue of the Law
in the New Testament; 104 pages

\$5.00 includes shipping and handling



TRUTH OR TRADITION Does it Matter?

Discussing some of the traditions
commonly held by Christians;

116 pages

\$5.00 includes shipping and handling.

Available from SFMI

- P.O. Box 144 • Bend, OR 97709 • (541) 382-7081 •
- Email sfmi@sfmiusa.org • fax (541) 382-4471 •



Missionary Reports



News from Kyrgyzstan

Jerry Skiles

“Did you hear of Kyrgyzstan before?” the young man asked me. I confessed that, growing up during the Soviet Union era, I used Russia and the USSR as synonyms. I did mention that the Russian (oops, Soviet Union’s) space complex was located

here, wasn’t it?! No, that was Kazakhstan. Fortunately, we remained friends, thanks to our poor communication and good natures.

This was my first experience in a post-Soviet country, and I realized that freedom had its price. In 1991, Kyrgyzstan gained its independence with the collapse of the USSR. The West rejoiced that Communism had failed and that independence was granted to the republics. What we did not realize is that a large population had just had the rug pulled out from under them, as their cradle-to-grave security was gone. They had freedom; they had natural resources—but



the large factories, infrastructure, and the promises that the USSR had built had no leaders. The migration of people scattered throughout the USSR returned to their native lands, the majority of the leaders back to Russia.

For 17 years, Kyrgyzstan has been struggling to reorganize their resources to a capitalist system. Land from cooperative farms has been distributed to the population, giving many about one or two acres. Individuals who had specific tasks on the cooperative farms or who worked in factories have had to learn new methods to farm the small plots. Factories that do continue are operating at about one-third production. The immense irrigation systems that operated the large cooperative farms are





Missionary Reports continued...



failing, as there is no central organization capable of administering it. The cities' aging water, sewage, and electrical systems are straining because of lack of maintenance. Despite these problems, the people of Kyrgyzstan are working to learn what they need to. As I was finishing my time in Kyrgyzstan, one man said, "We really appreciate your coming to teach us; we need input like yours."

Kyrgyz people have been herders for centuries and have seen many people pass through their region as it is located on the Silk Road. They have a history of being peaceful and hospitable. They are Moslem by tradition but have little outward signs of their faith. They have some knowledge of the Christian faith through the Soviet education system and the Russians who practiced Christianity. Many people wear traditional dress, and scenes from European paintings came to life as milkmaids carry pails of milk down roads, horses pull carts, and men using pitchforks work to shape hay mounds in fields.

I was working during their harvest season; and fruits, vegetables, and meat were abundant. Food, I was told, is not a problem. I reclined on many a pad, eating a meal with bright tapestries surrounding me, indulging in the sights and smells of simple elegance such as I have never seen.

I heard of some missionaries in the area. The one spoken most highly of was an American who had started a farm and was helping the locals with marketing chickens. Not many Kyrgyz have heard the Gospel of Grace, and there is a door of opportunity here. I did encounter a few Kyrgyz Christians, much to the surprise of my translator; she thought only foreigners were Christians. She and the older Kyrgyz Christian women discussed Christ until 3 AM.

I worked with rural farmers, helping them to improve marketing of their agricultural goods. God loves the people here, and I hope and pray that Christ might be made known to them and their families.

If I were going to live long in rural Kyrgyzstan, I would figure out a way to have indoor plumbing. Outhouses and no showers did get old! 🌍

News from Ghana, West Africa Skip and Julie Voetberg and family

The Lord is faithful; and by His grace, we have been doing well.

We have had a consistent ministry here now, as the second group of disciples has been through three of the five weeks of the teaching, which includes some evangelism. This group of people, although they love the Lord, has different needs than the last group, so we had to make some adjustments. So much is new to them, and sometimes I can relate to the Apostle Paul as we try to bring these people from a religious mindset to a righteous one, to the mind of Christ and His desires for the church. Our prayer is that the Lord would show them that as believers they have a ministry in the church and to the world.

We have had a several new believers added to the church in last couple of months. One is a young mother named Promise. Soryn, Maose (one of the saints from Togo), and Skip met her while doing some door-to-door witnessing. She is from Togo and was involved in witchcraft to the degree that she was to become a fetish princess. Thankfully, the Lord put enough fear in her to flee from that to another village where she took refuge in a church building for some time, eventually making her way here. She was very receptive of the gospel and has now given her life to the Lord. She also has one child and a husband who has not confessed the Lord but has been coming to our meetings and studies, so we do not think he is too far away.

There is also a strong Muslim presence here, and we usually talk with some each week. Some are open to search the Scriptures for truth. Skip met two young men, about seventeen years old, who were ready for some truth. The father of one told his son that he could be a Christian *and* a Muslim, but Skip told him that Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters." After a few Bible studies with them, they also gave their lives to Jesus and now follow Him. Pray for them, if you


remember, as their fathers are not happy with this situation and will kick them out of the house if they were to tell him of their decision. To respect and honor your parents is a strong custom here, so they are stepping lightly, hoping that the Lord will change their fathers' hearts.

There are many other contacts that we have all made and with whom we try to have regular follow-up, including the girls, who have met several older and younger women who always enjoy talking about the Word of God.

The owners of the apartments where we live, David and Marion Kangii and their daughter Annie, came for a visit last month from Germany. It was great to see them, and they seemed happy with the progress of the building. They were also a real blessing to all of us here as they took part in the meetings and the outreach because David could speak more than one tribal language and was instrumental in presenting the gospel to Promise, who speaks the Away language. David and Marion are praying about moving here in the near future and going into fulltime ministry.

The small garden we planted in May is doing well, and the corn is about six feet tall! Back home, if you could have it knee high by the fourth of July, you were doing well. The kids are also growing, physically and in the Lord. The basic adjustments that were necessary as a family have been made, and life has slipped into a regular pattern. We have been doing some decorating (curtains and so on), which has been nice, and will send pictures eventually. The scabies have become Mutant Ninjas and will never die! We have accepted them as part of life. We hope that you are all learning to look more to Jesus as the day draws closer.

In his service,


The Voetberg Family 

News from Ghana

Jim & Francille Lucas

We are doing well here. The second program has ended, and another will start the fourth of August if there are people to train. We had a baptism a couple of Sundays ago, and that was a blessing. James, Janelle, and I took a few days and went to the coast. It was needed (which is unusual for us), and we really enjoyed ourselves. Right now, Tim and Clement are in Kumasi but will return home tomorrow. Skip, Julie, and family will leave tomorrow for Togo. They need to go out to renew their papers. They will visit the brothers there and also spend some time with some of the first trainees on the border of Togo and Ghana. Skip and one of the



brothers from Togo also plan to visit the village in the Volta region, where Skip and Tim went to minister a couple of months ago. They left some new believers there and want to see how they are doing. The Voetbergs plan to be gone between 10 days and two weeks, so keep them in your prayers. 



News from Valle de Juarez, Mexico

Ed and Abby Drysdale

I will greatly praise the LORD with my mouth; yes, I will praise him among the multitude: For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those that condemn his soul. (Psalm 109:30-31)

The Lord is always at work. He performs so many miracles every day that we begin to see them as just part of life.

We have been traveling for the last month. We took a trip to Texas to renew our papers and to visit family. The kids then attended a Christian camp in Aguascalientes. We have visited Atotonilco twice and have even managed to take our nephew to the beach for a couple of days. In all of our travels we were kept safe, and we were encouraged by each trip. That is an everyday miracle!

While in Texas, we received a tax reimbursement check—perfect timing and just the amount needed to buy the kids' school books. The government's returning money is not exactly an everyday miracle, but it's a miracle nonetheless.

T.J., our nephew, was able to come visit us here in Mexico for a few weeks. It was really good to see that he has committed his life to the Lord. He is a 17-year-old who loves God; that's an everyday miracle.

Yesterday we started up our Friday night Bible study after a month of being gone. Not one of the four families who had been coming has lost interest. *That* is an everyday miracle. Doña Raquel was looking at me so intently, hanging on every word, trying hard to understand the gospel message. That is an everyday miracle. Don José brought us our weekly supply of vegetables and fruit yesterday as well. Free food—another miracle!

My wife and I sat on our roof yesterday, talking and praying together—enjoying the view and each other. Then we had a bonfire on our roof with the kids, dining on blackened hotdogs and marshmallows, convinced they tasted good. That is an everyday miracle. My wife was able to get through to her parents in Ghana and talk to them today. To call from Mexico to Africa without me counting the minutes is one more miracle.

With all of these small things happening, we would go even further and have a hope for the future—a knowledge that the Lord will continue to work in us, through us, and beyond us. That is an everyday miracle. We are looking forward to seeing His miracles played out next week at the music camp. Our whole family will be attending classes. Lessons will be greatly used, as we are obligated to lead. Sounding decent will be a miracle.

We are also putting together an evangelistic campaign for August 22-24. We have invited the brothers from Atotonilco to come and help us to reach our community.

We are planning to do an evangelistic event in the main plaza—street preaching, passing out tracts, kids outreach, and more. We will need to get permission to do this event. We will need provisions for this event and for hosting all the brothers who will be here to help—another chance for the Lord's everyday miracles.


At the present time, we are at full seating capacity on Bible study night. We are looking forward to seeing God's work during this event, and we welcome those He will add. We need our brick walls stretched and our chairs multiplied. Chairs, fish—what's the difference? It's an everyday miracle for God!

Another everyday miracle we are anticipating is for Abby to have patience and wisdom in homeschooling the kids this next year.

The biggest everyday miracle to date for me

is God's Word. I would like to pass on some of the things He has showed me this week.

1 Samuel 14:6: "There is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few." Psalm 109: 25-26: "Help me, O LORD my God, O save me according to thy mercy that they may know that this is thy hand; that thou, LORD, hast done it." Proverbs 15:8: "The prayer of the upright is His delight."

I will trust in His Word, available to us everyday, to encourage your hearts as it has mine. Praise Him with me for His everyday miracles, The Drysdale family 

News from Atotonilcho, Mexico **Steve and Linda Montgomery**

When the phone rang at four o'clock in the morning Sunday, I knew it would not be good news. I was not, however, prepared for the message I received. Daniel Fontanez is currently in missionary training here and, along with his wife, Mary, forms part of the SFMI team. He is a Puerto Rican in his early 20s and recently married.

The phone call was to inform me that Daniel's mother had suddenly and unexpectedly passed away in the night. Daniel's parents have been serving as missionaries in the nearby village of El Venado. She (Felicitas) had been battling a cold and congestion for some time, but there had been no indication of any serious problem. It appears that she died in her sleep, possibly of congestive heart failure.

Please intercede for Miguel (Daniel's dad), for Daniel's sisters and brothers, and for Daniel and Mary. The body of Felicitas was flown to Puerto Rico, where Miguel will travel for the funeral service. An impromptu service was held Sunday noon on the large porch of Miguel's home. Many from throughout the village were present and heard the Gospel announced with clarity.

Thank you for interceding for this family.

Steve and Linda Montgomery 

A Short Note From Mexico

Ricardo came to Christ in Guadalajara more than 25 years ago. He grew up in Christ in the congregation in the Legaspi neighborhood, the same church that now meets in the Briseño neighborhood. He married Iliana, and they had two kids. They continued faithfully in the Lord and were recognized as elders in Briseño. Some time back, Ricardo shared with me that he had begun to pray that the Lord would prosper him and his family. To his surprise (and his wife's),

Continued on page 14



Here Am I- Send My Sister!

Paul Fleming

The following article is not “politically correct,” but its message and challenge are pertinent to today.

We’re startled when we realize that many more women than men are applying for missionary work in foreign fields. While Bible schools and seminaries are turning out more men than ever in their histories, men seem to be crowding to the pulpits while the women are doing the men’s job out on the tough pioneer mission fields of the world.

There is not much you can say for the multiplied hundreds of young men who continue to flood into the ministry and take refuge behind the pulpit while we continue to let the women in increasing numbers do the toughest job assigned to Christian soldiers.

What is it that attracts the women in the mission field in such great numbers, compared to men? What is it that attracts so many men to the ministry in their home land compared to those who go to the mission field?

Today, we have prepared men to be

brilliant, capable, and eloquent and have emphasized their personalities. Such preparation hardly prepares a man for the jungles. The little brown or black tribesman is hardly capable of appreciating such a one’s true earthly value.

So it seems that the man, who has worked hard to become what he is, is evidently too good to be wasted on the heathen and should stay where he is appreciated. Surely God isn’t continually calling 95 percent of the Christian men to stay while 5 percent pursue the world objective which we, as Christians, have received from the Lord Himself.

The Church’s need is not necessarily more preachers but more obedience to God’s Word. God could surely do something about the ills of our nation if He found us willing to practice what we preach. Men of such shortsightedness and with the desire to remain in comfort while leaving others to do the dangerous job of preaching the Gospel will never challenge lives.

While we thank God for every woman who has made an effort toward reaching the untouched, we realize it is a MAN’S job. The

“leveling off” process must begin.

Either the Church must give more men for frontline evangelism on the far flung battlefields of the world, or we will have a horde of shriveled up pastors and laymen who are beating the air and dying because they have no vision that is big enough and positive enough to demand all that they are for God’s frontline job.

We men!—We are the stronger sex,
It has always been so!
We send our gifts to mission fields
To which the women go.
While up the steepest jungle paths
A woman bravely treads,
We men, who are the stronger sex,
Do pray beside our beds.
When women leave to go abroad
The heathen souls to reach,
We men, who are the stronger sex,
Do stay at home to preach.
While women, in some far off shack
Do brave the flies and heat,
We men, who are the stronger sex
In cool and comfort eat.
Fatigued and weary, needing rest,
The women battle on.
We men, who are the stronger sex,
Do write to cheer them on!
O valiant men!—come, let us sleep
And rest our weary heads.
We shall not be the stronger sex
If we neglect our beds!

(Reprinted from *Brown Gold*, Dec-Jan 1947-48)

Paul Fleming, along with Lance Latham founded New Tribes Mission. On November 20, 1950, Paul and 20 other missionaries, children, and flight crew boarded a plane recently acquired by the Mission. The flight ended when the plane flew into thick clouds and crashed into Mount Moran in the Grand Teton National Park. Fleming cared for one thing above everything else: winning the lost to Christ. Paul Petzoldt, the park’s climbing guide, knew the mountain better than



anyone else. He volunteered to lead a search party to the crash site. Years before, Paul Fleming had met Paul Petzoldt, asking him to train a group of missionaries in mountain climbing techniques. Paul did not follow Christ then, but when he came down the mountain November 25th, after discovering the wreckage, he surrendered his life to Christ. 🌍

Missionary News

Continued from page 12

the Lord prospered them with another child. With their youngest already a teenager, this child was unexpected, to say the least. But even more unexpected was that child’s death at only two months old. Their testimony facing this tragedy so impacted Ricardo’s father-in-law that he has opened up to the Lord. Ricardo and his wife decided to move to Puerto Vallarta, where Iliana’s parents live.

Today, due to the efforts of this couple, a fledgling group of 25 is meeting together. Ricardo just phoned to tell us that Sunday the group celebrated their first baptisms.

When we ask the Lord to prosper us, we don’t know what that prosperity may look like. But whatever it is, it will be to the good because it will be to God’s glory. 🌍

News from Jack Ring Nigeria

Dear friends and family,

Please forgive my writing this “broadcast email” because the internet service is very unreliable, and I need to get something out while I can.

We arrived in Lagos very tired but in good spirits. We were met at the airport by someone from CAPRO and brought to Niyi’s house. All of our luggage arrived safely! Niyi was not at home but at the conference grounds, preparing for the CAPRO Congress. His wife, Taiyo, and daughter, Praise, received us warmly. It was a joyous reunion, especially for Jennifer. The last time we saw Taiyo, she and Niyi were not married. Now they have an 18-year-old daughter. After food and shower, we got some much needed rest.

The next day, Tuesday, we headed to the conference grounds. The facility is the best I have seen in Nigeria—like a hotel built around a large enclosed courtyard. The meetings are held in the court, and dining is to one side. We have a nice, air-conditioned room with a private bathroom and separate sitting area. WOW!

Since arriving here, we have renewed many old friendships that go back 25 years. It is almost overwhelming to see all that God has done in the years since we helped CAPRO begin training missionaries. What a privilege to see God moving in the world in such a mighty way!

The congress will last until August 25. All of my teaching will come on that last day. I'm to be responsible for six hours of teaching on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in church planting. Since I have yet to finish my notes, I will try to use the time for preparations. Please pray for Holy Spirit anointing on my weak vessel.

Jennifer and I are both doing OK. Though she is struggling with dizziness and I with an unusual back pain, we are confident that the Lord will carry us through in His strength, along with your prayers.

We are grateful to all of you for your love and support of the ministry here and, most of all, for your prayer on our behalf.

Yours for the harvest,
Jack and Jennifer 🌍



Holding Forth the Word of Life

Continued from page 7

Scripture as final authority.

To all these who seek to present a Christ divorced from His word, we boldly, gladly, tenaciously, joyfully hold forth the logos of life (Philippians 2:16). Just as deadly as preaching a Christ separated from His word are those who seek to preach the written word separated from Christ.

One example of this is the misnamed “Jehovah’s Witnesses” organization, which preaches a lifeless, light-less intellectualizing of the Bible, setting aside Christ to exalt the “taking in of accurate knowledge about” God, as this groups’ perverted translation renders John 17:3.

Others have supplanted Christ with a dead orthodoxy, more absorbed with “doing it right” than with upholding the Head, the Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 2:19). These groups, instead of exalting Christ, exalt what they are *doing for* Christ and, especially, *how* they are doing it. They are the right group, doing everything the right way and sitting in judgment of their brethren in Christ who don’t *meet* correctly or *preach* correctly or *sing* correctly. In these groups, there is an unspoken smugness that underlies each

meeting, message, or activity: “This is the way it should be done! Oh, that the rest of the church would learn from us!” Tradition and an obsessive emphasis on the peripheral soon show that these have forgotten that in all things Christ should have the pre-eminence (Colossians 1:18). A preaching of the Scripture that sets aside the glories and excellencies of Christ is not sound doctrine. It is dead deception. To these we cry, “Preach the Logos!” (2 Timothy 4:2).

The *logos*—the Word in flesh and the word in writing—is our full, final, and *inseparable* authority, our message, and our hope. 🌍



2008 Shield of Faith Training Program Graduation



Brittany Schmidt

Austin Ball

Nathaniel Chapman

Joel Cummins

John Burwell



Dick cooked...



...While Darlene was hostess

Shield of Faith Mission International
P.O. Box 144
Bend, Oregon, 97709

Return Service Requested

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bend, Oregon
Permit No. 118