

SHIELD OF FAITH MISSION INTERNATIONAL

# SFMI

## Prayer/News UPDATE

Fulfilling the Great Commission Through Establishing New Testament Churches



# Where Is My Workplace?

An Excerpt From Kim Sung Joon's  
new book, see p. 6

January/February 2010

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# From the President's Desk



## Good Reading

*“The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.” (2 Tim. 4:13)*

This verse intrigues. The parchments were likely portions of the Old Testament, but what books was Paul reading? In any case, we can note this: Paul read books, and probably not only the books of Scripture (Acts 17:28 and Titus 1:12).

Shield of Faith has been privileged over the years to publish a number of books, among them several commentaries by SFMI founder Dick York. We are especially pleased to present a new

book, *Forty Years in the Amazon Jungle*, by Kim Sung Joon. This is a stunning and challenging missionary story that you will want to read and share.

Sung Joon was discipled by Dick York. He became the first Korean to take the Gospel to another culture, the Nambiquara tribe of the Amazon. Read an excerpt of his story in this issue. Then read the other articles and join us in praising God for transformed lives and for those called and willing to take the Gospel to others.

As always, thank you for standing with the SFMI Team.

*Steve Montgomery*

**And they sung a new song, saying,  
Thou art worthy to take the book, and  
to open the seals thereof: for thou wast  
slain, and hast redeemed us to God by  
thy blood out of every kindred, and  
tongue, and people, and nation...**

**Revelation 5:9**

# Establishing Churches

## By Steve Montgomery



On the front cover of this magazine, under the banner head of SFMI, you can read the vision statement of Shield of Faith Mission International:

*“Fulfilling the Great Commission through the establishing of New Testament churches.”*

But what exactly do we mean when we talk about “establishing churches”?

### THE MANDATE

The Bible is very clear that we should be establishing churches. Paul, in Ro. 1:11, says, “For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established.” After representatives from the church in Antioch met with the elders of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15), Paul took the decision of that meeting to the churches in Galatia and “so were the churches established in the faith” (Acts 16:5). Paul explains to the church of Thessalonica that he “sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith” (1 Thess. 3:2). Establishing churches, both those where he had initially preached the Gospel and others, was a key part of Paul’s ministry.

Thus, when we look at the vision statement referred to above, the Biblical imperative is clear. If we understand the Apostle Paul’s actions to be in any manner normative for missions today, we must be involved in establishing churches. While that cannot be reasonably questioned, what can be questioned is the meaning and the method of establishing churches.

### THE MEANING

Today, the popular expression among those involved in the world mission that Jesus left is “church planting,” and the expression is not incorrect. In the Old Testament Israel was repeatedly called God’s planting or was said to have been planted by the Lord (as Is. 5:7, Jer. 2:21), and the Old Testament speaks prophetically of a new covenant people who will be “the planting of the Lord” (Is. 61:3). The people of the millennial kingdom will be known as the

“planting of the Lord” (Is. 60:21). Moving to the New Testament, we find Jesus saying that the vineyard that was Israel is to be set aside for a time while God gives Himself to preparing a new vineyard, the church (Mat. 21:33-43). The Apostle Paul, picking up the same metaphor, reminds the Corinthians that, as the minister by whom they had believed, he had planted that church and others (1 Co. 3:6). “Planting” a church is clearly a Biblical concept.

However, having said that, we have to note that the meaning of that expression often gets muddled and distorted in its typical use. Today it is sometimes true that a person is said to have planted a church simply because they obtained a building, hung out a sign and began services. When the Apostle Paul speaks of planting, he is not referring to persuading a group of people to come to a certain building at designated time for a religious service. When we hear that a person has “planted dozens of churches” in a given area, we should listen closely to what they mean by planting and what they mean by churches.

A church is a group of born-again believers, and no one is a member of the church until he or she is born again. Conversely, everyone who is born again becomes by that rebirth and in that instant a member of the church (1 Cor 12:13). These believers are the church when they are meeting and when they are not. Thus, church planting has more to do with evangelizing and discipling than it does with gathering into a building or celebrating a service. First, people are brought to Christ; then they are disciplined. As a natural part of teaching these disciples to do all things that Jesus commanded (Matt. 28:19-20), they are encouraged to meet together on a regular basis. A church is planted when there are believers in an area where there were none previously. That’s why Paul could say, after some Corinthians had believed the Gospel by his ministry, that the church there had been planted.

### Planted But Not Necessarily Established.

Just as a pine tree or geranium, to be established

in your garden, must first be planted but afterward requires attention and care until it grows and is able to stand on its own, so a church, initiated when there are people who understand and believe the Gospel, will require attention and care in order to grow and be established. This is what Jesus commanded in Matt. 28:19-20: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” You make disciples by teaching the Gospel and baptizing those that believe. Then you continue discipling the disciples by teaching them to obey all things commanded—true for individuals, true for churches. Planting is an aspect of establishing, but the goal is establishing.



## THE METHOD

So what is the method? We’ve said it already. The goal is churches that are “established in the faith” (Col. 2:7). The method is discipleship. If you are not making disciples, you are not establishing churches. Paul did not only preach the Gospel in places where it had not been preached. He did not only lead people to Christ. He did not simply take them through a five-week course. And he did not consider his job finished because a group of believers were meeting together.

- He taught the new believers while he was with them.
- He returned to the churches to teach them more.
- He sent others to visit, teach and encourage them.
- He prayed they would grow, and he wrote to tell them how.
- He reprovved, rebuked, exhorted with all longsuffering and doctrine.


In a long litany of the hardships he endured for the sake of the elect, Paul described his on-going discipling of the churches this way:

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? (2 Cor. 11:28-29)

This concern of Paul’s was not only for those churches where he had personally preached. To the Colossians he said, “For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh.” And what was the great conflict he felt? “That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ” (Col. 2:1-2). His burden for this church was the same that he had for all of the churches among the Gentiles: that they would grow together into a full understanding of all the riches they have in Christ. Paul’s desire was to disciple the churches, to teach them to obey all things that Christ had commanded, to—here is that word—to *establish* them.

The word “establish” means to set, to make stand. It suggests fidelity, continuance, stability. To establish a church means more than to plant a church. It means to move a group of believers from immaturity toward maturity. It means to disciple disciples that they might stand in the evil day and having done all, to stand and remain standing (Eph. 6:13). It means to bring a group of believers forward till they are “stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Co. 15:58).

To establish churches, then, means to give oneself to strengthening believers wherever they are found. When in a place where there is no group of believers, it means being given over to announcing the Good News of Christ’s resurrection. When there are believers, whether the fruit of one’s own preaching or not, it means giving oneself to edifying, encouraging, teaching, discipling those believers to the end they might be established (Ro. 1:11) and continue in the faith grounded and settled and not be moved away from the hope of the gospel (Col. 1:23), but rather, rooted and built up in Him, might be fully established in the faith, just as—in fact because—they have been taught (Col. 2:7).

Shield of Faith Mission International, seeks, by God’s grace, to strengthen, build up, establish New Testament churches in every country and every tribe where God allows us to serve, just as every believer is called to strengthen and establish the local church where God has set them. 

# Balance or Compromise



By Dick York

There's a difference between balance and compromise, but sometimes one may struggle to discern where the line is between the two. As I have testified before in this space, the very first time I heard God speak to me through scripture was on the morning that I was born again; and the verse that was made alive to me was Matthew 6:33:

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things (all that we need) shall be added unto you.*

The effect was such that I felt that I would never again need to be concerned about the necessities of daily living if I would make the kingdom of God and his righteousness my priority. Therefore, since man was not the source of my supply, I should make my needs known to no one but God. From that time until now, God, beyond his promise, has been faithful even when I have not. In the earliest days of this work, while the *Shield of Faith* was still a rescue mission ministering to street people in Eugene, Oregon, when the *United Way* urged us to apply for their available funding, we were compelled to refuse. My instruction from the Lord was to apply to no one but him. As a consequence, to solicit financial help from anyone but the Lord, and especially from a worldly organization, it seemed to me, would be an unacceptable compromise. When I was asked to reconsider, God impressed me with Isaiah 31: 1-3:

*Woe unto them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots because they are many; and in horsemen because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the Lord...now the Egyptians are men and not God; and their horses flesh and not Spirit. When the Lord shall stretch forth his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.*

When asked yet again to reconsider, I was impressed with 3 John: 7:

*Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.*

From that time it was settled that the policy of SFMI Update

the *Shield of Faith Mission* would be to make our needs known only to God. And so it has been for fifty-seven years. Many discussions have ensued during that time, mainly fomented by the feeling on the part of some that our policy seems to discourage many saints who feel very much a part of the work but are seldom aware of specific needs for which they would like to specifically pray. Some have felt that this has promoted a kind of exclusivity that has discouraged some of the saints from whole-hearted participation in the on-going work of *SFMI*, suggesting, from time to time, that our application of what was personal instruction, to a work that now involves many laborers within and many collaborating supporters without, eliminated the fervent prayer support of many who have nothing else to offer. So there has always been, within our ranks, a measure of ambivalence about the dissemination of information about the needs of the work. And therein lies the concern about balance or compromise. If any modification of our policy would be a compromise, that would be a negative; if it corrects an imbalance, it would be a good thing.

Recently I received a request from the daughter of a man I have long admired to write a few words about her father to be included in his biography, which she was writing. Upon completion of the book, she sent me a copy; and I was able to read afresh, and in detail, the exploits of faith by Percy Wills who had, many years ago, been a mentor to me. As I read, I was reminded of the weekly prayer meetings that were held specifically for the work of the *Shantymen's Christian Mission*, a work that for many decades brought the gospel to the isolated people of British Columbia's west coast, and of which Percy was a major part. As I read, it seemed that I was seeing the balance that would eliminate the perceived exclusivity that had troubled some of the saints.

We will have a prayer "committee" with whom we will share the needs of the work so that they can make specific petitions to the Lord. That committee will comprise anyone that deliberately asks to be included. At regular intervals or in the event of a crisis, they will be informed of the need and they will pray. Please take note of this if you have that level of interest in the work of *SFMI*. To be a part of that prayer committee, write, email or make a phone call to the office. The one thing that we do not hesitate to

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# Where Is My Workplace?

## Kim Sung Joon

Excerpted from Kim Sung Joon's recently published book: *Forty Years in the Amazon Jungle*.

IN NOVEMBER, 1970, I was informed by the Department of Home Affairs Indian Administration that I had permission to contact Indian tribes. I was excited and much encouraged by that news. Gustavo and I decided to make an aerial survey to determine on which area I should focus. The day I boarded the mission's Cessna 170, which is a small four-place aircraft, the sky was blue and the weather beautiful, in spite of the fact that the rainy season had already begun.

I was emotionally exhilarated and uttered a prayer of thanksgiving as we took off, dragging a cloud of red dust from the airstrip, which lay on a hot plateau across the stream from Vila Bela. Finally, after praying to God for years, my dream of taking the Gospel to the tribes was about to come true!

We had flown over this area many times, seeing nothing but the boundless expanse of this dark green jungle that had existed here unchanged since the creation of the earth. The Amazon River, with its many dark secrets, wound its tortuous way through the vastness of this foreboding wilderness, gradually gaining width and volume as it went. There were no signs of people—just ominous silence.

Beneath that silent canopy, however, there was the ceaseless activity of alligators, serpents, panthers, and innumerable varieties of other wild beasts: blood-sucking killer bats, poisonous spiders, scorpions, venomous wasps, infectious mosquitoes, noxious insects, and a multitude of other demonic creatures. Besides that, many forms of diseases, nourished by the thick shade and tropical moisture, made this jungle even more notorious. That must have been the reason that this area was known as “the green hell.” In this green hell, descendants of Adam had lived, generation after generation, in human misery beyond our ability to imagine, alienated from civilization, without hope for the future, and certainly with no answer for the reason of life in this world.

I realized afresh that our omnipresent God had predetermined to send his soldiers through hazardous and faith-testing missions to these naked and grossly uninformed illiterate jungle savages living at the end of the earth that they might hear the Gospel of eternal life at least once.

We had flown for about twenty minutes and traveled about one hundred kilometers, when we spotted a clearing in the jungle. From our altitude, it was merely a dot, but clearly there was a hut in the middle of it. We descended and circled the clearing, but we saw no one. As we continued to circle, about ten men, all of them naked, crawled out of a small opening and began to jump

around. One of them aimed an arrow at the airplane.

As I concentrated on watching them and taking several pictures, I felt a strong impulse to descend right then and talk to them. We made a low pass. With what to the Indians must have been a deafening roar, we almost touched the top of their hut, apparently frightening them nearly to death, because they scrambled to hide themselves inside their house.

Gaining altitude again, as we flew toward the equator, Gustavo, the pilot and chief of our mission headquarters, said to me, “It would be nice if you could take charge of working with them.”

I couldn't respond immediately. I was thinking that there would be some urgent preliminary issues to deal with. Judging from what I could see from the airplane, it would be a good two-day hike from the nearest fazenda (a pioneer farm cut out of the jungle by white settlers) to the Indian territory that we had just spotted. Walking alone into this unfamiliar dangerous jungle, which had been totally closed to the outside world, would be an extremely foolhardy undertaking. Chances were ten to one that even with a compass I would be lost in the middle of that jungle. Furthermore, to insure a successful penetration, I would need a lot of preparation and supplies, including drinking water, food, first-aid supplies, some way to defend myself against fierce animal attacks, etc. At this point, I didn't have any of those things, even if I'd had the courage to implement this venture. I also needed a viable plan to engage with these wild and possibly savage Indians, who would be without the ability to communicate. I was not negligent in asking God to give me such a plan—in addition to more wisdom and courage—and to fill my empty Korean hands with suitable resourcefulness.

We flew another forty minutes, about two hundred kilometers, before we landed at our destination, a deserted, grass-covered strip somewhere in the middle of the jungle. This area was said to belong to the Jillo fazenda and was designated as a future subdivision for residences, but as yet there was not a single residence or any sign of development. I had heard that this fazenda owner intended to chase the Indians away. He had razed their huts with a bulldozer while they were away hunting for several months and then had constructed this airstrip in their place. It is actually unlawful to purchase lands where Indians reside; therefore, fazenda owners reportedly chase them out, kill them with poison, or simply file false documents stating, “No Indian Inhabitants.” In this case, the Indians had returned from

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# Great Things He Hath Done

By Jim Lucas

## The Border Crossing

It was a very warm day; of course that is not unusual for Reynosa Tamolipas, Mexico. Francille and the girls were quite busy getting the last things packed; I had been busy checking out the Ford station wagon. We had been waiting for the bus to be delivered from Oregon; at first we waited in McAllen, Texas, but the brothers had delayed in bringing the bus. The money was running low so we were waiting on the Mexican side of the border because we were able to rent a much cheaper room. I had just called the guesthouse in McAllen where they were to bring the bus; and sure enough it was there, praise the Lord Jesus. We were all quite anxious to see this bus; we had prayed for the Lord Jesus to provide us with a bus that could serve as a motor home, and now we were to take it down to Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, where we had been living for the past year. The car was about ready when my wife and mother of our five children pulled me aside to ask me a question: “James, you know that it is about 650 miles to Guadalajara and we will be driving two vehicles that require fuel; and right now all the money we have is ten dollars. What are you going to do?”

I then had a flashback to one year earlier when that same question came up. I replied with the same answer that our Father had given me then: “That is not our problem; that’s the Lord’s problem, and he will take care of it.” Then we proceeded to McAllen, and sure enough the bus was there; and it sure was a beauty. The brothers had done a very good job painting it and completely fixing it up inside with bunks for the kids just their size, some short and others longer. It had a nice complete kitchen and even a small bathroom—a tremendous demonstration of God’s faithfulness and love of the Saints who had gone to such work and care. This was such a great day; the kids were so happy; they loved the bus. Precious moments like these are much appreciated by a family that has entered into a life of totally depending upon God for everything in this life and the life to come. Then our thoughts went to the task before us: go to the border for our tourist visas. That’s the only way you could go into Mexico to preach the Word. We were just getting in the rigs to go when a man came up who I had never seen before. He asked if we were going to Guadalajara, and I said yes. He said that he also was going there and asked if could ride with us. I said, “Sure we have lots of room.” He replied, “I will buy all your gas.” I said okay.

Everyone had to go into the immigration office at the border crossings: all five children, my wife Francille, SFMI Update


our new traveling companion, and myself. We must have looked a little different than your average tourist, with two vehicles and a large family. At first they were really friendly, but I knew that would change for I knew they would want to know our financial status, for traveling into their country required that you be financially capable.

Now from every appearance, we looked like we had money. I was sure that they would not understand that when you travel under the commission of the God of heaven you have nothing to ever worry about. However, I was remembering our Lord had shown me the year before that He was the God of all flesh and that the officials would do His will for even the heart of the King is in the hand of God. The officer was asking the normal questions and pulling out the forms for tourist visas. Everything was fine until he came to that all important question: How much money do you have? I said, “Not very much, sir.” He then asked how much money we had in the bank in Oregon, and I said, “None.” Then he asked how much money I had in the bank in Guadalajara. I gave him our bank book which showed about four dollars in the account. By this time he was becoming very impatient with me. He asked just how much money I had on me and asked to see it. I showed him ten dollars. He then put away the forms and told us we could not travel into Mexico without money.

This, of course, was very embarrassing for everyone. The gentlemen who had offered to buy our gas was very uncomfortable and quite surprised that we had no money and suggested that we go back to Texas. I said “No, they will give us the papers.” The immigration officer said we better go back home because he would not give us the visas. “Yes you will,” I replied. He said, “No way.” He then began attending to some other people; my family and friend went back out to the bus, and I remained there and was praying to our Father in heaven. I was sitting and praying quietly with my eyes open, and soon the officer acted very nervous and said that I should go back home. I said, “No, I am waiting for my papers.” He then said that the Chief Officer would be in at eight o’clock (it was then about 7:15 in the morning) and if I wanted to I could talk to him but he was sure he would not help us. When he said this, I knew the Lord Jesus was doing something; and I replied that he would give us the papers. I then went out to the bus, and we ate breakfast. After breakfast the time was approaching to go back in and talk to the Chief Officer; and I was getting cold feet, thinking about the questions they would ask and wondering what I would say. Then the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, “Don’t worry

about what you will say for in that moment I will give you what you are to say.” I went back in, not knowing, but believing my Lord Jesus had a plan. When I walked up to the counter, I did something that even surprised myself. I pounded on the counter and asked, “Are you going to give me my papers or not?” I was looking the Chief Officer in the eye, and what I saw was quite frightening. He was angry and I do mean “angry”! He stood up from his desk and walked toward me asking all kinds of questions faster than I could answer. I thought that I had just made a big mistake, but something inside of me said everything would be all right.

He asked all the same questions as the other man, and I gave the same silly sounding answers. He was madder than anybody you have ever seen, saying that we could not come into his country with no money and that we would need to return to our country. He was so mad he did not realize what he was doing because as he was saying, “No,” all the time he was pulling out the forms, filling them out, signing them, stamping them, giving us all a full six-month visa into Mexico. I took them; and he said, “Now go back to your country and don’t come back!” I just smiled and went out rejoicing in “the One” who holds even the king’s heart in his hand.

This was the third time we had crossed the border into Mexico; each and every one was a unique experience. The lack of money always made things interesting to say the least; it was always very challenging, scary, dreaded, and rewarding. This had become our way of life that would go on for 19 years living in Mexico and Central America for the purpose of preaching the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, but it required us to make these trips a least twice if not three times a year. Strange I know, but what is normal? What I always thought was normal had turned upside down. I had thought what a man needs to do is work hard, provide for his family, be a good neighbor, live and let live. But this easy, lackadaisical life I would never see again. I couldn’t live any longer just for what I wanted to do. There had been born in me a keen desire to do only the will of God, and I knew it was His will for me and my family to be only about His business. His business had brought us to Mexico where there lived eighty million Catholics who needed to hear the good news, but they didn’t realize that they needed this news. The authorities had made strict laws about anyone coming in to preach this message. Yes, the Priest and even the Pope himself did not want us there, but our Lord Jesus did. 

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### *Where is My Workplace, continued.*

hunting, rebuilt nine huts not far from the airstrip, and reoccupied the area.

Ironically, on the same day, at almost the same time that we flew in, an investigative group consisting of four missionaries from the South American Indian Mission (SAIM) and one Indian guide had arrived in a station wagon to survey a possible site for a tribal mission.

While we were there, about forty Indians had quietly advanced upon us. None of them—whether men, women, or children—wore even a stitch of clothing. They had an innocent look about them as they tumbled about in the dirt. They obviously did not know what a bath was. They chatted and giggled, as they tried to rock the airplane and, out of curiosity, tapped the station wagon with their bows. Then they jokingly threatened us to see how we would react. If we remained calm and self-possessed, they would consider us safe and approachable. If, on the other hand, they should detect in us an air of fear or defensiveness, they would consider us dangerous opponents. Of course, I kept a smiling countenance, not because I was afraid, but because my heart was fully with them. I would have been thankful to God for this moment even if I would have suffered a wrongful death at their hands while endeavoring to bring the Gospel to them.

I was told that this “Wanairisu” tribe had killed two missionaries and had thrown their bodies into the Amazon River several years ago and, until recently, had killed civilians on occasion. Nevertheless, I wanted to

begin a great adventure and work with this Wanairisu tribe. Before we left that place, a temporary agreement was reached between the two missions: the Wanairisu would be the responsibility of our Brazilian mission, while the Alantesu, spotted earlier during our flight, would be that of the SAIM.

On our return flight to Vila Bela, I was truly overwhelmed by this huge moment, this tremendous sense of belonging: This is my work place, with the tribe in whom I will invest the remainder of my life, to bring them to God.

Digressing from our story for a moment, let’s consider what that means.

“What is the essence of the Gospel?”

The essence of the Gospel is that it is God’s work. You can do nothing to save yourself. God does His own work in His own way.

One may ask, “When will God do what is necessary to save me from my sins?” He has already done it. Jesus died for your sins, and “If one died for all, then were all dead” (2 Corinthians 5:14).

“But that was done many centuries ago; is it still valid?” Yes. What God did once is valid forever. “[Jesus] offered one sacrifice for sins forever...[and] by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified” (Hebrews 10:12,14).

“Really,” one may say. “I don’t have to do anything?” That’s right. Jesus said, “Verily, verily I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on

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# Missionary Reports



**Africa (Loma Tribe)**  
*Jerry Skiles*

Cherry and I are moving to West Africa and the Loma/Loron tribes. Leaving and dismantling the “nest” is not easy, but it does make me reflect.

We have accumulated a lot of things. Everything we have we once thought was so important, some of it we find easy to discard. It is obsolete. Some things we use regularly, and we hate to let loose of it. And then there are the things that have emotional attachment, oh my. May the Lord give us grace to arrive in Africa with a harmonious marriage intact.

We are looking forward to helping and encouraging our friends and believers in the tribes. Work is started on the public school building. Hovare’s daughters went to the Loma to start a school, but the parents of the children said that the children were needed to work and keep the birds out of the field. We hope that we can work with the elders to come up with a solution so their children can go to school and learn.

We are looking forward to having a larger believer’s conference this year in the tribe. The civil conflict made hosting the conference difficult. This year we will be able to organize and plan the conference better. Ed Enns and some of his co-laborers may join us this year at the conference.

Hovare has organized his children and other believers to work on a computer for translation and lesson preparations. We are looking forward to evaluating what they are doing and seeing if we can help them.

- We would like prayer that as we go, God would use us and be glorified and that the Kingdom of His Son Jesus would be established.

- Pray we will be able to find good transportation and that we will be kept safe in our travels.

People often say “I bet you are excited about going back. It always provokes reflection and then I generally agree, not trying to explain that Africa is a hard and unpredictable place to live.

*In Him,*

*Jerry Skiles* 

**Africa**  
**Ed and Patty Enns**

*Editor’s note: Longtime missionaries with New Tribes Mission and very good friends of the Skiles, the Enns family were recently welcomed into the ministry of Shield of Faith. They are currently living in Burkina Faso.*

SFMI Update


Greetings everyone,

I wanted to get a quick note off to you to let you know Ed and I are doing well. I had a good flight and Ed was there to meet me. For now we are back in our old house but have not decided if we will stay there. The houses we looked at are either too big or too small! We looked a little bit in Banfora but did not see anything there that might work.

Recently, we went and looked at the CMA Guesthouse as a possible place to live. It has 2 bedrooms and has had a makeover of sorts since we last stayed there so it is a much brighter place than it was. There would be some advantages to being there as opposed to where we are now, one being that when Ed travels I would be next door to a CMA missionary instead of far from anyone I know. It has internet ready to go! We should hear something by this weekend if we can have it. It will only be available until July or Aug. It is hard to know what is best since we don’t know how long we might be in Bobo.

The adjustments are coming along, but please pray for me to find total contentment in Him and for Ed as he works on his messages for Nigeria as well as all the other things he’s trying to do to get us settled.

One Saturday we went to Banfora and picked up two young Komono men and took them with us to Mongodara which is the closest town to the border with Ivory Coast. They wanted to go to Tougbo from there which is about another 35 kms. We visited our former co-workers, the Groenvelds, and had a nice visit. Although I’ve heard of Mongodara since I first moved to Tougbo in 1987, I had never been there. Ed has been there numerous times over the years. While we were there, a funeral was going on for a Moslem Imam; and people from miles around had come to pay their respects. He was an elderly man and well respected. As we heard the chanting style meeting going on, it was a reminder of their lost state and that no matter how respected an Imam he was he was separated from God. Please pray for the Dogosé people living in that region that their hearts would be prepared for the good news. Ed and Kassoum hope to do some evangelism in the area in the coming months.

Time is about up, so I’m sending our love to all,  
*Patty Enns* 

**Ghana Ministry**  
**Austin Ball**

Hello everybody,

I know it’s been awhile, but there hasn’t been that much to report until recently, so why bore you unnecessarily right? We haven’t been able to find

anyone who is willing, or has the time, to go through a discipleship program; so we haven't had one here in Tarkwa in 3 months. We have been focusing on preaching the gospel to the surrounding area and giving Bible studies to those who are interested. The meetings in Camponasi and Tebrebre are still going; we are still waiting on the Lord to see how to proceed in those places with little growth, just the same faithful ones coming and others who come and go, and go and come.

But, here is how things went with the discipleship classes we just finished up north. Tim, Mike, and I went there five weeks ago. My Dad stayed for two weeks and then traded with John. It started out with almost 25 people coming—13 in the morning coming from 8:30am-12:30pm and 12 coming at night from 6:15pm to 9:30pm. By the end of the week it had dwindled down to about 7 in the morning and 7 at night, which was okay. We didn't come looking for numbers just those who were genuinely interested in the Word. We came because we had an invitation from the council of pastors, from nine different churches there in Bole. As it turned out, all the pastors were too busy to come faithfully, so we were mainly working with the unschooled ones, which was actually nice. There was no indoctrination to deal with, and there a lot less toe-stepping going on than with the Sawla program.


In the end, we ended up with those who were really interested in getting closer to God, in getting to know Him more and obey Him more. One young lady said this to my dad after being taught God's Eternal Purpose: "You've changed the way I pray. I won't pray anymore for power from on high or to speak in tongues, but just to know Him more and be more like Him." Wow! That was a blessing; you see that is what we're here for; people here have such a wrong way of looking at God. They pray to Him like He is far away and impersonal; they haven't been taught about developing a relationship with Him. How can you be a disciple of Christ if you don't even know Him? Or spend time with Him? It's these basic principles we want to instill in the students.

The last day of the course there was time for testimonies, and we were blessed by some of the changes the students had already made in their lives. So please do pray for these dear brothers in Bole who have been left with a charge. There are many villages right around there that are all Muslim, hardly any Christian influence if at all. If only God would put it on their hearts to go out and preach in these villages! They have all they need—the Holy Spirit. But how to be led by the Spirit? Well, that's a life long pursuit but one that all true disciples must take up. *So please pray for these people:*

• Wyo, who loves the Lord and loves the Word. He was even coming to the morning and evening classes to get a double dose! • Sylvia, a young lady who really showed us that she was grasping the things we were teaching. She really has a loving heart; she sent us cookies when

we were sick and had us over for dinner. We were impressed with her attitudes. • George, who asked a lot of questions because He was very interested. • Kojo, who also asked "alooooo" of questions and shows concern for the lost. • Elizabeth, the one who told us that her prayer life had changed. She came despite having to work long hours as a nurse. • David, who was the most faithful. Also, Godfrey and Matthew and Samuel and Cotton and Emmanuel and Adams. These are the dozen or so who finished the program. They are just everyday people, farmers, students, gas station attendants, poultry farmers, just what the catholics would call "laity," but each of them have the capacity to be used by God if only they will let Him. So these are the people we have spent the last five weeks on. Please pray that the Lord of the harvest will use the seed that has been sown in Bole.

Thank you for your prayers; with so much teaching, I needed the covering. Until next time saints, Adios.

*In Christ,*  
*Austin Ball* 

### **News from Rogers, Arkansas** **Jim and Fran Lucas**

Beloved prayer Warriors,

Greetings in the name above all names, Jesus our Lord and Shepherd.

We are now in our new home in Rogers, Arkansas. We want to thank all of you who prayed for our trip; it went well. Our Heavenly Father had us stay one night in Boise, Idaho with Francille's sister, Gail. While we were there, we saw a weather report that they were expecting some heavy snowfall in Colorado and Wyoming. So we decided to take a more southerly route down through Utah and picked up I-40 at Gallup, New Mexico. We still had 50 miles of icy roads, but the other 1,970 miles of road was great. The truck that our Lord has provided for us ran really well. The car dolly that a dear brother loaned us towed fine, and you could hardly tell that there was a car trailing behind. Fred and Daniela Chugg and all their children came in their car and towed a trailer loaded with our appliances. My son Richard came down from Kent, Washington to help drive the truck. With Fred and Richard helping unload, it didn't seem quite as big a job. Daniela was a big help to her mother, and the children helped also. We loaded the car dolly in the trailer, and Fred is taking it back to Oregon. In fact I just called them, and they arrived in Christmas Valley last night at 11:00 pm. They visited Daniela's sisters and brother in Austin, TX on the way back and some friends in California.

It is taking some time getting things arranged around the place; we still have several boxes of books and stuff to unpack. People are friendly, and we have met many of our neighbors; the one couple next door is extremely helpful.

We do not have the tent yet; however, some more

funds came in, and we trust soon we will have enough or that we can find one cheap. Some have written and asked how soon we think we can start setting up the tent. I had hoped we could start soon, but it looks like the first of the year is a good goal for us to shoot for. I want to make a trip down to Alabama and look for a place to set up for the first time.

We are praising the Lord Jesus for his love and care, and we thank him for all of your love and support. *We are still praying for faithful labors to join the team.*

*Lord bless you,*

*James and Francille Lucas*

e-mail: james@usaforjesus.org 

## **Ghana**

### ***Mike and Faith Ball***

I got back last night from Bole, in the northern part of Ghana although not the extreme north of Ghana. I would classify it as a small town; it's too big to be called a village. It has many small stores but no big grocery stores. We could not get many of the groceries we can get here in Tarkwa. All they eat in Bole is a thick mush made of either Cassava or as more commonly known as fermented corn covered with fish stew (occasionally chicken). Sometimes these stews are eaten over rice or plantains. Breakfasts are usually rice and wheat porridge, sometimes with a taste of Ginger and eaten with sugar and condensed milk. We also had our choice of green tea or an equivalent to Ovaltine.

We are teaching a group of between 15 and 20 men and women from various churches. The trainees are divided into two groups: those that are available in the morning attend from 8:30 to 12:30 and those who work during the day come in the evening from 6:30 to 9:30. With the evening group we have to cram into 3 hours what we cover in 4 hours in the mornings. I was there for 2 weeks and one day, teaching 3 1/2 hours each day with Tim and Austin splitting the remaining hours. John went up to take my place as I did not want to be gone from family for the full five weeks. I am sure glad to be home with my family and away from "banku" (the fermented corn). I have been taking Ethan and Viana on rides on the motor scooter we recently received from Jerry Skiles; it has a whopping 50cc motor. Not big but it can pop a wheelie; I almost did that with Ethan on it. Also I swing in the hammock with them; it hangs between two orange trees and has somewhat of an exotic feel to it.


Back to the north: the main focus of the teaching is discipleship and making disciples. I taught several hours on knowing God and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, taking His yoke and living under it. I also taught on God's purpose for Himself in man when that man is in Christ Jesus. The last day I taught on marriage and focusing on the role of the husband; it provoked much discussion. They could see that that this teaching

definitely went against their culture. I spent some time explaining that in Christ we have our own culture that is "holy" from our respective earthly cultures. This is something vitally important for the church in all countries. Even the church in America has assimilated so many things from our culture that it can hardly be called "holy." The same can be seen here. I stressed the importance of realizing that we have been transported from the 1st Adam, or the kingdom of darkness, which would include all the cultures of this world, into the kingdom of the last Adam and HIS culture. Austin and Tim taught on several topics such as Humility, Holiness, Love, and Obedience.

Well, I guess that is enough for now. Please pray for the three guys as they continue up north. Please pray for health for them; the malaria seems more prevalent there. Tim got it once, but the MMS made it a very light case; and he did not miss any classes. Praise the Lord!! I will continue here with several Bible studies and evangelism after taking two days off with my family to celebrate Feilynn's birthday; we plan to go to beach which is an hour and a-half away. Bye for now.

*Christ's servants,*

*Mike & Faith Ball*

mikeball@bigfoot.com 

## **Valle De Juarez, Mexico**

### **Ed and Abby Drysdale**

Praise the Lord!!!  
Today is the day of Salvation!!! Rejoice with us as we celebrate the birth of Misael and Claudia.

Misael was born again on November 13, 2009, and his wife, Claudia soon followed on November 20th. Just yesterday, November 29th their son Fernando joined the Kingdom of God.

They have stopped sending their son to catechism and face opposition. They are eating up the Word of God and asking for more recommendations on where to read next. They are sharing their faith openly to family and friends. This week I missed Friday night Bible study due to a fever. Misael asked Abby to have me read Psalms 41. This so ministered to me; not only had he read Psalms 41, he had remembered it and was passing it on to me to encourage me on my sickbed. Praise the Lord! I have been praying for months that the Lord would bring me a "Timothy;" I believe he has answered my prayers.

We will be gone for the month of December. We were struggling with leaving Misael and Claudia so young and hungry. Once again we praise the Lord for His infinite wisdom. Misael and Claudia had joined us at the family conference which is where Claudia had accepted Christ. I had asked her to share her testimony with the brothers and sisters. She was petrified. But I



encouraged her to do so. She replied that this wasn't quite as fair because when I had asked Misael the week before to do so there was just a few of us. Now she would be facing 200 people. Would she do it? I was praying; and when the time came, both of them went forward to share their testimony. It was one of the highlights of my life to witness this. I knew they were both scared, but that didn't stop them. They honored the Lord and obeyed His calling.

Many of the brothers from Atotonilco have felt a responsibility towards them and have knitted their hearts together. They have agreed to send someone here to Valle every week to cover both Friday as well Sunday service. What a blessing!!!



Intercede with us, brothers. For I believe the wall has cracked and will soon crumble. I have had a heavy burden to pray constantly for Ricardo and Lety; it is time. Today is day of Salvation!!!

Pray that the Lord will add them soon and that they will be willing to be teachable in regards to parenting their two kids.

I also have a burden for Luis and Anna; I know they are hungry for the truth. The Lord has also added another couple recently to this list; Oscar and Gaby are Claudia's cousin's. They are experiencing deep marital issues and are discussing divorce. Their need has made them willing to listen to the word of God and accept Bible studies on marriage. Before they would never have been willing.



It would seem that our leaving right now is very untimely; yet I know the Lord has begun something. I believe He wants to use the church in

Atotonilco to bring in the sheaves. Please be praying for the brothers as they prepare, that the Lord will lead them. Pray that the people here will show up. Who knows, maybe when we return, there will be a few families added to His kingdom. Ohhhh, what joy would that be to our hearts!

I hope this report fills your hearts with gladness and your eyes with tears. I know this is short and sweet, but it is hard for me to concentrate on anything else to report for everything else seems mundane. Continue to pray for Jose and Raquel; she is especially close to surrendering all.

"I will open Rivers in high places and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will



make the wilderness a pool of water and dry land springs of water." Isa. 41:18

"Say not, ye, there are yet four months and then cometh the harvest? Behold I say

unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest.

"And he that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto eternal life; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

Pray for Priscella regarding her financial needs. She has been a blessing to us all. We love her as you can tell.



### Contact:

Want to know more?

Call us anytime at (541) 306-3987. Yes, that is a U.S. number! Want more regular updates? Search for Abby Drysdale on Facebook.

A first class letter will get to us in about three to five weeks; so if you prefer pen and ink, here is our address: *Ed and Abby Drysdale*

Apdo # 22, Calle Morelos 353  
Valle de Juarez,, Jalisco 49540  
Mexico 🌐

### Mexico

#### *Daniel and Mari Fontanez*

"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8" The Lord has been very good to us. He has poured out blessing on our family and on the work of our hands. We want to share with you some of what the Lord has been doing. We trust that you will keep keep praying for us.

#### **MARIANA FONTÁNEZ GÓMEZ**

We would like to introduce you to our second daughter. She is a beautiful example of the Lord's goodness.



This is Mariana when she first got home from the hospital.

Yes, she did get more beautiful. It is amazing, yet still very true.

Here's Daniela with her sister.



Here is Mariana with her first hairdo. We are very grateful to the Lord for her. May the



Lord grant us the wisdom to guide her towards Him.

### JAIL MINISTRY

To be honest, I had been discouraged for a while about the jail ministry because of a lack of visible fruit. After one of the most discouraging jail meetings, the Lord led us to change the Bible study method. We decided that they would read and study one Bible chapter a week and that in the meeting the believers there would share their findings. Two of the men that were joining us for some time dropped out. Nonetheless, the believers were challenged; and six chapters into the gospel of Luke we begin to see the growth. Praise the Lord! Your prayers and mine are being answered. Please continue to pray.

### MAGUEY BIBLE STUDY

The Lord has blessed this Bible study. We started meeting at Chely and Mario's house with just them. After a short time of not having anybody showing up, we prayed and made some visits; and now we are meeting with Chely and Mario, Fernando and Gloria and Yolanda and Nico. Two families from the church join us for the Bible study as well. Fernando and Gloria have been faithful to the Sunday meeting for some time now. Fernando and Gloria and Chely and Mario will be going to the family conference this year. Also, on November 2nd, Misael Hernandez (OAC) and a group from Canada shared the gospel at the jail and at Maguey. They were a great blessing.

They came ready with dramas.....



and sketch board messages. I helped with translation.

### VISIT TO VALLE DE JUAREZ

This past weekend Ed and Abby invited us to Valle de Juarez. It was a refreshing time beyond what we thought it would be. We had the distinct privilege to be there in Valle de Juarez when Ed and Abby harvested their first fruits. Misael is their first convert in Valle, and the Lord let us be there when it happened. God is good! Please keep Misael and his family in prayer.

SFMI Update

Friday after the Bible study; the night Misael gave his life to Christ.



Ed and I



The family at Valle de Juarez.



### MARI

Lately Mari has been really busy organizing the children's classes for the family conference.



Everything from picking the theme to teachers, songs, games, craft, etc... Even as I write this, she is getting the last details ready. Thank all of you for your prayers and support.

Daniel and Mari Fontánez 🌍

**Urgent Prayer Request:** Mari Fontanez' father was shot and killed on December 7. Daniel and Mari are our co-workers here. We will be with them as they determine how to proceed with the details that surround death.

Their daughter Daniela had a birthday on Saturday, and the family went to Tototlán to have a party with the cousins in Mari's parents' home. With Mari's dad looking on, Mary went through the Wordless Book, explaining the Gospel to these little children and, indirectly, yet again to her dad. There was no response from him as far as she could determine. Monday night he was shot and killed.

Many will remember that about one year ago, we received the news that Daniel's mother had unexpectedly passed away in her sleep. This young couple, newly married, now faces another tragedy. Mari's mom is not yet saved, nor are her brothers, two of whom live in the US. Mari is a relatively young believer, having come to Christ only about five years ago. Please pray that Mari will have and take God's grace in all of this, taking refuge in Christ her comfort. Pray also that Daniel will know how to minister to his wife in this. Pray for Mari's family, both for their comfort and for openness to the Gospel. Finally, pray for the church here, as we learn to respond to tragedy in compassion.

Thank you for standing with this couple.

Steve Montgomery

## Central Asia

### *L and M*

Dear Friends,

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” Eph 5:15-17

We want to thank each of you for your prayers and encouragement as we have tried to be wise and make the most of every opportunity that God has given to us here in Central Asia. We have much to be thankful for and are seeing many open doors to ministry. God is surely at work here calling men and women to Himself. Here is a quick update on these last few months:

L: • Was invited to join the preaching rotation at an international church, a group of several hundred believers. • Shares in the teaching role of our bi-weekly cell group. • Has started a men’s meeting with “Peter,” “William” and “Leo,” all believers and graduate students at a local university. • Has begun meeting with a Middle Eastern man who is married to a believing Asian woman. He is an honest seeker. • Has made trips several outlying provinces researching and preparing for establishment of an agricultural business. • Has hired “Peter” as his interpreter and business assistant here. Peter will complete his doctoral studies in agriculture this spring. • Has hired “Jack,” a national believer, as his interpreter and our business representative in our target province. • Continues to work as a consultant about half time for his US clients.

M: • Attends a weekly women’s Bible study and has shared in the teaching. • Has begun taking “JJ,” a young believing woman, to the weekly study. She is also completing her Masters Degree in agriculture. • Has joined the team at the international church that takes responsibility for writing articles for the weekly bulletin. • Serves as a substitute Sunday school teacher. • Has begun preliminary work with two women, both expatriates, to come alongside an orphanage to help provide for the needs of children. • Has been developing a relationship with our language teacher, “Coco,” who joyfully received our gift of a Bible which she keeps under her pillow and refers to as her “medicine.”

We will be in the US soon and are happily anticipating time with all of our children and grandchildren. We hope to catch up with as many of you as possible while we are home. If you would like to contact us while we are in the States, you can call SFMI at 541-382-7081.

*L and M*

## Outreach to Mexico

### *Francois and Nohemi Marcoux*

This is the time of year where we are starting to prepare, together with Marcel Ouellet and his family, for our annual outreach trip to Mexico with the Bible Museum or Bible Exhibition. We are again planning a trip that will span across January to March. We have many malls and campuses in view in different cities where we have already set up the exhibition before and other new places we are praying the Lord will open the doors for us to go. We always end up not having enough time to go around all the places where many would like us to bring the Bible Museum. We ask for your prayers for the sowing of the Gospel in the hearts of hundreds of Mexicans which these Gospel outreach trips make possible every year and that souls would be saved and added to the local fellowship of believers. Pray also for our safety on the roads, proper permits for our entry in Mexico with the Exhibition as well as in the malls and campuses. Please pray for the Ouellets as they would like to learn more Spanish, and by far the most important of all, that the Lord Jesus Christ would receive all the glory!

*Francois and Nohemi Marcoux*

## Atotonilcho, Mexico

### *Steve and Linda Montgomery*

Outside I hear the strident strains of a PA system. A woman’s voice is leading a group as they chant a “rosary” and other memorized recitations to Mary. Faintly, because she is a block away, I can hear the sound of those who respond to her statements, repeat her declarations or sing with her the songs of adulation and devotion to the miniscule statue they carry so reverently down the street. I sometimes wish they knew how much good these devout idolaters do me.

I am refreshed in my indignation of the abuse of Biblical personalities to adorn and dignify rank and flagrant idol worship.

I am refreshed in my intense aversion to anything that can be perceived of as idol-honoring.

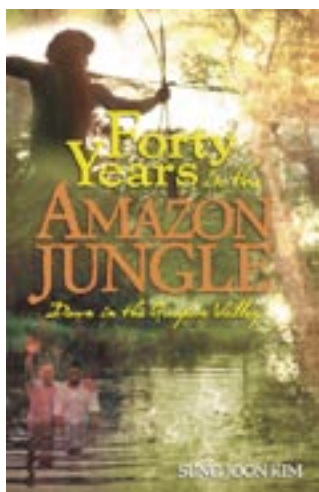
I am refreshed in my deep conviction that Roman Catholicism exists to take people away from, not toward, the Christ of the Bible. And I am refreshed in my hunger and desire to see men, women, young people, children challenged with the Good News of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The other afternoon a group from the church here went to a neighborhood to announce the Gospel. We went early and spent two hours cleaning an abandoned lot where later we would preach. Seeing more than a dozen people working in this large public area picking up trash,

*Continued on back cover*



# Resources to challenge and edify the reader



## **New!** **Forty Years in the Amazon Jungle** (Sung Joon Kim)

In 1968, Sung Joon Kim, with his wife Je Sun, left his homeland to be the first missionary from South Korea to carry the Gospel to an unreached tribe of primitive Indians in South America's vast Amazon Basin. His

destination: the Valley of the Guapore, a river tributary to the mighty Amazon. His mission: to bring the light of the Gospel to a people living in heathen darkness, and to bring them into the twenty-first century.

Living where they lived, sleeping where they slept, eating what they ate and feeling what they felt, he became their advocate—fighting for their right to be treated as human beings in a developing country. Along the way, God used him marvelously and provided for him and Je Sun in remarkable and miraculous ways.

This is a worthwhile and encouraging read. It will make a wonderful gift with which to edify your family and friends.

Highly Recommended. **Price \$12.00 includes shipping and handling in the United States**

*Interested in multiple copies? Please call for information.*



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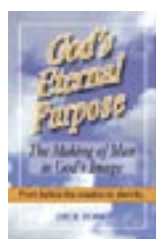
Timothy received clear instruction from his mentor, the apostle Paul.

We can too. 2 Timothy is a book for disciples and disciple makers. And

*Thou Therefore My Son* is a very readable

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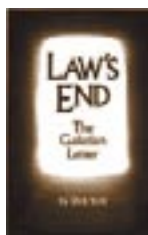
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## **God's Eternal Purpose** (Dick York)

God's plan for man from creation to eternity—a clear presentation of the gospel. It has been used by many as a tool for evangelizing and is a recommended Bible study guide.

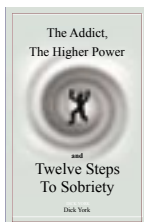
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A look at the Law from Paul's inspired perspective (2 Timothy 3:16) in the epistle to the Galatians. Excellent for a verse-by-verse study of Galatians in your home or church meeting.

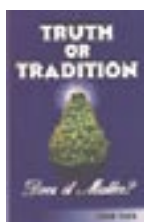
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*Where is My Workplace, continued.*


him that sent me has everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). To believe means to fully trust what Jesus has done.

"You mean, then, that my sins are gone?"

Yes, "For he [God] hath made him who knew no sin [Jesus] to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

"But I seem to be the same as I have always been, am I not?" Stop and think. Is your focus on you, or on Christ? You must focus on Christ. This is about what He has done for you. God sees what Christ has done, and He sees you through Christ: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

"Is it this easy?"

Yes it is because this is "not of yourself; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). 


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**Please contact us if you are receiving duplicate copies or if there are recipient or address changes.**

*Balance or Compromise, continued.*

solicit is prayer.

As we begin this new year, it is probable that we, as a mission and as a nation, will face many things that we have not previously faced. Perhaps we will need one another in ways we may not have experienced heretofore, and we may see God work on the behalf of his people in a way that will encourage us to serve him even more fervently than we have in the past. Only God knows the future, but according to his word we should be looking up, for our redemption is drawing nigh. Together let us do exploits. 

*Missionary Reports, continued.*

piling rocks, cutting weeds and clearing sidewalks, a passing truck driver became curious.

Leaning out of his truck, he inquired, "Are you clearing the lot because the Virgin is coming?" He was referring to the practice of bringing some popular idol to a neighborhood for a time.

Joel looked up, leaned on his rake, and answered, "No, it's her Son who is coming." Amen. He came near that night as we publicly announced His message and is coming soon in Person. May all the Highlands of Jalisco hear His message before that great and glorious day.

*Steve and Linda Montgomery*  
*Atotonilco El Alto*