

A Newsletter from **missionary ventures**

INVOLVE

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Glen & Linda Dubois

Dear Friend of the Gospel,

Sammy, the tailor, in Uganda, Africa, surfaces in my mind as a picture of God’s top priority. When I asked Sammy, “Who is Jesus to you?” he responded, “Jesus

is a thief. He stole the lumber, and that’s why they nailed Him to the cross.”

That was Sammy’s understanding. He’d never heard the truth. And that’s why God’s number one priority is to seek and to save the

Yet when candy or anything else takes priority over spreading the good news of Christ’s love, I have to search my heart.

At the end of that week in Uganda, a church was planted, and over 80 villagers were baptized. Then an indigenous pastor and his family, from the Bible School in Kampala, came to disciple those new believers in Sammy’s village.

Still, over three billion people—half the world’s population—haven’t heard the good news of God’s love for them.

I can think of no greater privilege than being involved in God’s top priority as you and I partner together to reach the nations. Some of us can go on a short-term trip, others can give, and all of us can pray for those who haven’t

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lost among the nations.

I met Sammy when I was with a team in his rural, unreached village going door to door inviting the local people to come to a crusade that night. After admiring his work as a tailor, I’d asked him about Jesus.

Even now, I get chills remembering opening my Bible and gently presenting the truth of Jesus to Sammy.

Since saving the lost is God’s foremost priority, that should be at the top of my list too. But there are days, I admit, the distractions of life wave and whistle at me trying to pull my attention to things that won’t make my life count for Christ’s global heartbeat for the lost.

The distractions can range from the sublime to the sweet. Did you know that in the past 16 hours evangelicals spent \$15 million on candy? There’s nothing wrong with candy. I love it.

yet heard the truth.

Have you been distracted from God’s top priority? As your personal connection to front-line missions, in this issue of INVOLVE, you’ll hear reports of nations being Impacted for Christ. We’ll take you to Peru, Uganda, the Middle East and Guatemala.

Your prayers and generosity are helping missionaries, children, pastors, schools, and so many others. May God richly bless you and reward you and your family.

Your partner in missions,

Glen Dubois
President, MVI

NEWS Field

from the

Uganda: Along the dusty village roads Jesus still walks, wherever in Africa he is welcomed. The more remotely we have traveled, the more potent we have found God's presence and power to be among the people. There is no doubt in our minds of the truth apostle James discovered when he begged affirmation to this question: "has God not chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?"



By Nigel Harding, Regional Director in East Africa

Venturing into remote rural locations to assist indigenous leaders plant churches in their communities is one of the most rewarding investments we have experienced as a mission, together with teams and supporters from around the world.

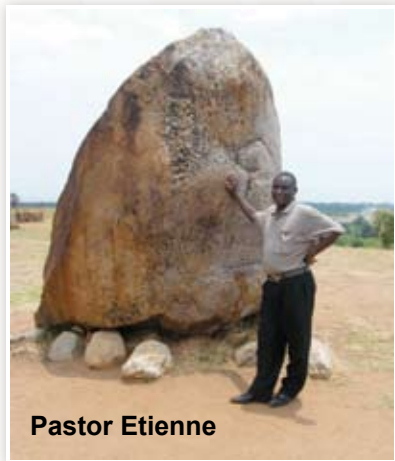
The impact of our church planting endeavors can be clearly seen in the life of Isaac and the village of Bugango. Some time ago we took a small team to an area in southern Uganda, on the border of Tanzania. During one evening crusade, when proclaiming the power of Jesus, a well known witchdoctor waded through the pressing crowd towards the platform, demanding opportunity to speak. He was ready to make a radical public confession that absolutely nobody expected. Permission was given and Isaac stated to all that he was a Muslim, a drunkard, and a notorious witchdoctor in the village, successfully cursing people to death at will. The



Ex-witchdoctor Isaac on left

previous night, he heard a voice telling him to get rid of all his paraphernalia and become born again. It literally scared him to death and he repented decisively in public that night in response to this powerful new voice, bringing all his articles of witchcraft for burning. He categorically stepped out of the darkness and into Christ's marvelously liberating light.

Some time later we had the opportunity to meet him again, discovering that his entire family had now come to faith in Jesus and he has never looked back. Ironically, witchcraft and alcoholism only took him into poverty, but his life was now a testimony of self-sufficiency through the honest work of his hands in agriculture. Apart from Isaac, there was a young deaf girl whose ears were



Pastor Etienne

opened; and many other testimonies are available from those who now swell the church every Sunday under the able leadership of young Pastor Levy. God so loves all he has made!

We have deliberately explored new church planting opportunities throughout East Africa in 2009 for your participation.

Strategic friendships with indigenous leaders have been established in some exciting new areas, including the remote areas of northwest Tanzania, the nation of Burundi, and among the wild cattle keepers of Karimoja in northeastern Uganda. We need you to get involved so that these opportunities become a reality in 2010. For example, Pastor Etienne Nahimana of Burundi is already planning fifty church plants and is waiting eagerly

for teams and support to make this possible, through evangelism, land purchases and church construction. He has trained pastors standing by. Pastor Etienne stands beside a rock said to have been moved into this position by David Livingstone and his porters when meeting Stanley in 1871. We are leaning on the Rock that is higher than us, who alone can save lives, and chooses to utilize us for that very purpose. Let us lean against that Rock, rather than be crushed by His almighty power. Your partnership is a crucial element to the success of our indigenous church planters. Venture with us into the neglected areas of east Africa and see lives changed forever, including your own. ♦



Pastor Cecilio Tangoa

God has used a humble Shawi man, Pastor Cecilio Tangoa, with no more than a 6th grade education, to lead his people in a revival that has brought them into a wonderful spiritual renewal.

PERU: We have been given the privilege of witnessing a great revival among the Shawi people group in the

last few years. God has used a humble Shawi man, Pastor Cecilio Tangoa, with no more than a 6th grade education, to lead his people in a revival that has brought them into a wonderful spiritual renewal. They have left behind old customs, and have instead gained a hunger for knowing God and His ways. They have left behind going to the shaman in time of need, and instead are going to the word of God for wisdom, direction, and healing. They love to go to church services now, instead of pagan festivals. Pastor Cecilio has asked us to help

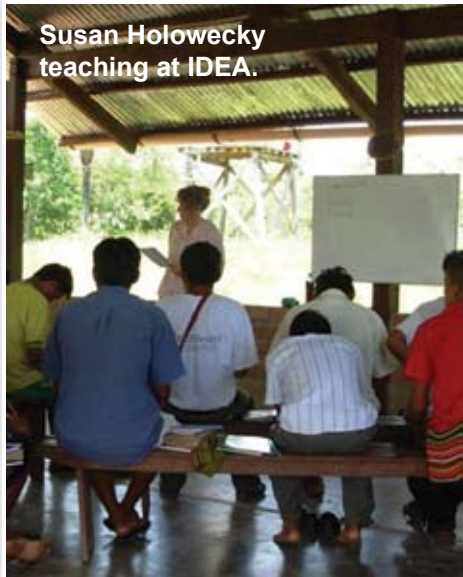
him disciple these precious new converts, and they come to us so hungry for the word of God, it is a delight to work with them.

We are exactly in place for such a time as this with our discipleship program at our model farm. We



Learning to milk a cow at IDEA.

By Susan Holowecky, FC Peru



call it IDEA--the Institute for the Development of Indigenous groups of the Amazon. Our goal is to develop the whole man/woman--spiritually, physically, intellectually, and materially. We mentor and hold classes on discipleship (our priority), agriculture (the tribe is one of the poorest in Peru and needs to improve their diet), reading (most of the men have only a primary school reading level and many of the women are illiterate), primary health care, and hygiene. We want to see this precious people group prosper and develop into a mighty force for the kingdom of God in their area, become leaders in their communities and society, and eventually be sent out as missionaries to take the gospel into other tribes.

Please pray with us for God to accomplish His purposes through our program. It takes time, patience, perseverance, and hard work, as well as resources, to complete our mission. It is a joy to see and be a part of the transformation taking place in their lives. We thank God for the opportunity He's given us to serve and for all you do in partnering with us. ♦



M

MIDDLE EAST: I'm blessed to report that along with other restricted countries such as China, Vietnam, and Myanmar (formerly Burma), we are now beginning to establish Pastoral Training Centers in predominately Muslim countries in the Middle East.

For the protection of these students and myself, I cannot disclose the exact location.

In this country, as in other Muslim countries, speaking to a Muslim about faith in Christ is grounds for imprisonment or deportation regardless of your nationality. Thus the students that we are helping to train are putting themselves at risk every time they share their faith.

Did you realize that in the USA the first Islamic mosque was built in 1915 and there were only a handful of them until the 1970's when Muslims began to target the growth of Islam in the USA?



As of the year 2000, there were over 1,200 mosques and that was nearly 10 years ago. In 1994, the number of attendees to Muslim Friday night prayers across the USA was about 500,000, and by the year 2000 (only 6 years later) that number had increased to 2,000,000, and again that was nearly 10 years ago. Islam is growing among

our youth with 47% being 35 years old and younger while 42% are 36 to 59 years old. My understanding is that much of this is taking place due to funding by Saudi Arabia out of profits from the oil we buy from them. There is not even one sanctioned Christian church in Saudi Arabia today as it is not permitted by their Islamic government.

I share these things with you because we Christians need to be awakened to what is taking place within our country and around the world. Islam is the only world religion that has taken over and then dominated large population areas that were previously Christian. Islam is set on a course for world domination and if we don't make an effort to reach Muslims for Christ, we will only serve to enable their cause. We need not be fearful of people of Arab descent but rather see them as a field that is ripe for harvest. Then we can make an effort to befriend them and when the time is right, share our experience with Christ (not our doctrine, but what Christ has done in our lives). No one can argue with your experience, and it may open a door where they can begin to ask questions about your faith. It is also wise to show some interest in their beliefs — you will find some things in common. They, like most people are looking for something that is real and offers hope, and the younger they are the more likely they are to open up to you.

I am blessed that we are able to help train our Arab brothers and sisters in Christ. Your giving helps to make this possible. Currently we are trying to raise funds to translate our Pastoral Training Center curriculum into Arabic to reach even more areas. Thank you for partnering with us. Together We're Making A Difference! ♦

G

GUATEMALA: In 2007, MVI opened a nursing school for Auxiliary Nurses on the grounds of *Vida y Esperanza*, our clinic in Nebaj, Guatemala. This nursing school

is the first to be legally approved and accredited by the Guatemalan government in the Ixil Triangle where MVI has been providing outreach and medical services for over 20 years. In addition we are the only government approved nursing school in the country that is Christian based. The exciting aspect of this school is that the students we are training speak Ixil, which is the local dialect, as well as Spanish and will be able to minister to

patients in the local dialect. Since many of the people in the community speak Spanish as a second language, having trained nurses who speak Ixil will bring a much higher level of understanding and care for those who need medical and spiritual care.

To date, we have graduated two classes, and the third class will graduate at the end of this year. Each year, we have accepted 55 students. The majority of our students are able to afford the tuition, books and uniforms, but there are a few students who have struggled to be able to afford the cost of school. We have provided tuition for a number of needy students who have gone on to graduate and become productive members of the medical community. The investments we have made in these students lives have definitely been a benefit



Donna Capps demonstrating how to give an injection to a class of nurses.

By Donna Capps, RN and wife of MVI Medical Director

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A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

to the community.

I have just returned from Nebaj, and while I was there it was brought to my attention that a young man who is near the top of his class has been struggling financially and was several months behind in his tuition. The nursing school director asked if there were funds available to help this student. In the past, we had a small fund to draw from, but presently that fund is empty. It was difficult not to be able to meet that need immediately for him, and I began to think about how to establish a fund that would be a constant source of funds for needy students that would renew itself without being dependent on money being sent from outside of Guatemala to replenish it. After all, this student was not asking for a handout. He just needed some temporary help.

To date our students have been hard working and proud of the education they are receiving. I think the establishment of this fund would challenge them to take pride in their ability to help other students coming after them. We will be asking the present class and those who have already graduated to contribute toward the seed money for this fund, and are asking each of you also to consider helping us set up this fund.

Many of you have visited Nebaj over the years and know the need in the community. By helping us establish this fund you will be investing in the medical and spiritual future of the community of Nebaj and in the lives of many students in the years to come. Can we count on you? ♦

To receive Involve via email, please send your request to info@mvi.org.

Beginning 2010, Involve will only be mailed to those who are donors within the past two years. However, if you are unable to donate to MVI and would still like to receive a magazine, please email us at info@mvi.org.

Teams

Join a short-term mission trip

PERU: APRIL 17-24, 2010

Each year since 2004, we have held a Back to School Program for the children of the outer regions of the city. The idea came about as we realized the expense each family had in trying to put their child/children through school. Even what is considered public school has extreme costs for the parents – monthly fees, uniform costs, school supplies, etc. The schools do not provide the books, construction paper, crayons, etc. For the families in the jungle region, it is a great burden. After learning of the hardships of keeping up with the costs of educating their children, we decided that not only would a Back to School Program be a blessing to the children and their families, but also a great opportunity to share the gospel. The program is designed as a mini Vacation Bible School.

This year we are in a new area farther into the jungle mountain and would like to minister to three villages. We need your help.

A Back to School team would be responsible for supplying the funds to purchase the school supplies and for bringing some of the supplies which cost a bit more here like crayons and colored pencils. The team would also be responsible for sharing the gospel. It's an experience you won't want to miss!

**ARGENTINA:
SUMMER 2010**

The Lord has opened the door for Missionary Ventures Argentina to reach an entire community in a remote village called Chancani (Chan Khan Knee) with the gospel. The village is located 70 km north of the city of Villa Dolores, which itself is a 3.5 hour drive over the lovely Sierras of Cordoba, west of the capital city of Cordoba.

>>> Continued on back.

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The mayor of the city, Antonio, has opened the door for us to work there with medical and construction teams.

One great need here is to replace very old adobe structures which have roofs made of grass. These homes are a plague to the area, as they carry disease and need to be eliminated.

Construction teams are needed to build simple homes for the poorest of the poor in this community.

We are working alongside Pastor Juan Carlos Diaz, Assembly of God pastor from Cordoba, who is sending two members of his church, Martin and

Sylvana, as missionaries to the area. They are starting a church plant in this community where there is no church as yet. This construction team will also be a source for evangelism.

HONDURAS: SEPTEMBER 4-11, 2010

Needed: Adventure teams to go into the remote, mountainous frontier in the Department of Limperia of Honduras to build churches. Must be willing to go four-wheeling over rough mountainous roads, to give up the comforts of home, and to be totally dedicated to serving God. Adventurous attitude a must.

In the past fourteen years, the evangelical church in western Honduras has grown from approximately 1% of the population to 5%. New churches



are being planted all across this region, most of them meeting in homes. Many of these churches have now outgrown these temporary sanctuaries and are in need of a church building to accommodate their increasing numbers. Due to the extreme poverty of the area, these congregations are in need of outside help. We are praying for a construction and evangelism team for the summer of 2010. Please pray about your involvement in this adventurous missionary venture.

>>Go to www.mvi.org to see a complete listing of open teams.