



Inter-National Harvest

Things to Come Mission Introduces the Pañas, Our Latest Missionary Candidates

Both Carlo and Elma Paña came to know Jesus Christ as Savior through the ministry of Things to Come Mission in the Philippines. As a student at International Grace Bible Institute Carlo came to know his need for salvation and trusted the Lord for eternal life. Elma grew up in Lupagan, the barrio where IGBI is located and learned of God's love through the ministry of IGBI students and faculty who shared the gospel with her and her family members. Both of them completed their preparation for the ministry at IGBI and went on to serve the Lord in a number of different capacities.

Since their days in the Bible institute, the Pañas have ministered in local churches, where Carlo has served as pastor, and as a teacher at Mindanao Grace Bible Institute (Now- IGBI - Davao Campus). For the past ten years they have been actively involved in the Cebu City Grace Gospel Church where Carlo has been a board member, Sunday School teacher, regular preacher and Bible Study leader. Elma also has worked in the church as a leader of the women's ministries, Sunday School teacher, and a variety of other offices. During the time they have lived in Cebu they have served as house parents at the Children's Shelter of Cebu, a ministry that finds adoptive homes for orphaned and abandoned children. The Pañas have one child, Charael, who is 14 years old and will be attending high school in Kenya.



Several years ago they felt the leading of the Lord to serve Him as cross-cultural missionaries. Likewise, TCM also has a need for more missionaries to serve on its various fields. It has not been until now, however, that the Lord, in His timing, has made it possible for the Pañas to join TCM's missionary team.

The Pañas will be going to Embu, Kenya in March 2000 to begin their service as full-time, career missionaries. They will divide their time between teaching at Grace Bible School in Embu and cross-cultural training which will be directed by TCM missionary Ben Anderson.

The Pañas are needed now on the mission field. Unlike American missionaries, it is not possible for them to spend several months traveling to churches to

raise their needed financial support. However, that support is still needed to make it possible for this dedicated couple to serve Christ in a foreign country. They will need at least \$2000 per month to minister effectively in Kenya. We encourage the readers of this article to prayerfully consider joining the Paña's support team.

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BLESSINGS IN BRAZIL

On July 22 and 23, twenty-one young people and adults from, New York, Washington State and Michigan came together in Recife, Brazil for three weeks of learning, service, worship and bonding. The group was organized and led by Tim Heath, pastor of Summit Valley Community Church in Addy Washington and Charlie Young, associate pastor of Eastport Bible Church in Eastport, New York. Joining the team were Joaquim and Michelle Campos, the son-in-law and daughter of Doug and Vicki LeFeber, veteran TCM missionaries in Brazil.



The story of how this team was put together is testimony of God's intervention in itself. The Lord gave Tim a strong burden to take a group from his church on a summer ministry trip this year. After other doors closed he recalled an e-mail message from Barb Sistelos suggesting the possibility of the group going to Brazil. While attending a wedding in Michigan they began talking with Joaquim and Michelle who expressed a strong interest in going along to help in translation and coordination of the various aspects of the trip. Michelle called Charlie to find out if he could help them transfer from one airport to another in New York. When Charlie learned of the trip to Brazil, he and his family wanted to join

them, since their daughter had been adopted from Brazil. When Charlie brought up the possibility of taking the trip to his church board they suggested opening it up to the young people in the church and making it a ministry opportunity. In the end there were 21 in all that made the long journey to Recife.

The group helped with a Daily Vacation Bible School program in the Ibura Church which was attended by over 250 children from this poor neighborhood of Recife. The team had prepared puppet shows which communicated stories and biblical truth to the youngsters. Michelle prepared the translation in advance and the ministry team just followed along with the pre-recorded script, even though they were not exactly sure what their puppets were saying. The team members also prepared mime presentations and gave their testimonies through interpreters. A number of the children that attended the VBS trusted Christ as Savior. The kids all loved the American visitors and some strong bonds of friendship were formed.

The group was also involved in activities with the youth of the church. They went together to the beaches with the young people for a friendly game of soccer, U.S. vs. Brazil. This also turned into opportunities to invite unsaved friends and people that just happen to pass by. After the activities there was a time for testimonies in which the missionaries shared with those listening about how God had reached down and touched their lives. As a result of these meetings, at least one young man was saved.

Another highlight of the time was a seminar on faith and science held with a group of about 250 university students that had been organized by Tony Sistelos. Tim, Charlie and TCM missionary Joel Molina all taught sessions which served to strengthen the faith of these young believers. Tim taught seminars on marriage, the fruit of the Spirit and living by faith in the Ibura church. The group also participated in activities at the other grace church in Recife, in Boa Viagem.

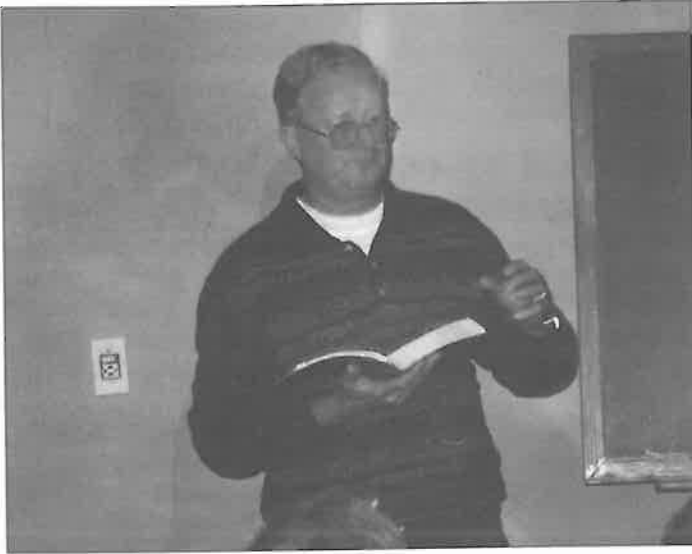
The young missionaries were able to help the ministry materially as well. During the time they were in Brazil the young people contributed several hundred dollars out of their own pockets to help purchase chairs for the Ibura church, to contribute towards the medical needs of some of the members and to help in other small ways.

This ministry experience was certainly life changing for the young people who participated in it. It gave them an opportunity to see the mission field as it really is and to have a small taste of what is involved in bringing the gospel to a world that so badly needs to know its Savior.

Tim Heath came away from the trip with a strong burden to help the poor people of the Ibura area. He is challenging the families in his church to give \$15 per month to provide needy families in Recife with prepared food packages that will help supplement their regular needs. Our missionaries are willing to oversee this project to make sure that the food gets directly to the most deserving families. TCM would like to encourage others to take on this commitment as well. If you feel led to help with this project send your gift to TCM with the designation "Ibura Food Packages."



FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP



Carlos Schmidt is the son of Henrique Schmidt, a pioneer evangelist and church planter in southern Brazil. Henrique's burden to proclaim the gospel of God's grace to the lost resulted in hundreds of souls coming to saving faith in Jesus Christ. His commitment to evangelism led Henrique to travel thousands of miles, often by bicycle or on foot, in the 1950s and 60s throughout the Brazilian states of Parana and Santa Catarina distributing literature and sharing the gospel with all that would listen. Henrique worked with Things to Come Mission from 1957 until his death in 1983.

Carlos continues to uphold the legacy of his father. He travels extensively in Santa Catarina preaching to the descendants of the Russian-German immigrants that fled Soviet tyranny earlier in this

century. Some of those to whom he ministers are the fruit of his father's work, others have come to Christ as a result of Carlos' preaching and teaching.

Carlos' formal training for the ministry was through the Bible institute operated by Bethesda Mission (later to become Grace Ministries International, GMI). He served faithfully for many years in a variety of ministries. Carlos became a national worker under Things to Come Mission in 1996 after a restructuring of GMI's ministry in Brazil.

Recently Carlos was visited by Ken Mueller, a GMI missionary to Brazil. Ken sent a detailed report of his trip to the TCM board. Below are some excerpts from that report.

Ajoinville. The leader, Sr. Osni, was the first person to offer Henrique hospitality down on the Lottoral when he was starting his ministry. There are between 15-20 people attending the services.

Campeche. Carlos won Sr. Ivonir to Christ nearly a year ago. A total of 12 people attend services. Sr. Ivonir is a bricklayer and desires to completely build a church himself for the villa where he lives.

Itajai. Bible studies in Carlos and Carmen's home. A lot of discipling is being done on a one to one basis.

Timbo. This group will soon have its own building. This is the town with the best possibility of becoming a very solid work because the leadership is strong, with men who are very knowledgeable in the Grace message. There are many that are good businessmen with financial means, and above all else dedicated Christians.

Serra Uru. This group is led by Antonio Freitas whom Henrique led to the Lord. There are more or less twenty-three adults and fifteen children in the congregation. These are Germans of which the first generation fled Russia to immigrate to Brazil some thirty or forty years ago. Sr. Antonio told us of story after story of affliction and testing for the cause of Christ but Henrique didn't give up, neither did the believers whom he led to Christ. Those who are still living are holding true to their faith. Now that Carlos has come to teach them further about biblical truths, their hearts are overflowing with joy.

Ken adds this...

"We were very impressed with Carlos' dedication and determination to enter places that many would consider nearly inaccessible and diligently devote himself to evangelize and shepherd those dear people for whom Christ died. He could use some help as he is doing the work of at least two full-time workers."

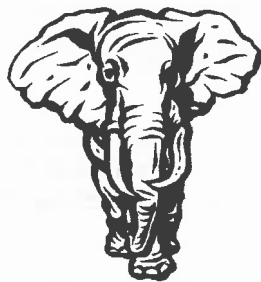
Carlos and his wife Carmen have 3 children. Their ministry is subsidized through gifts sent through TCM. Anyone who wishes to send financial support for Carlos' ministry may do so by sending it to Things to Come Mission with a note designating it for the ministry of Carlos Schmidt.

*When you clean out your Sunday
School office look for this.*



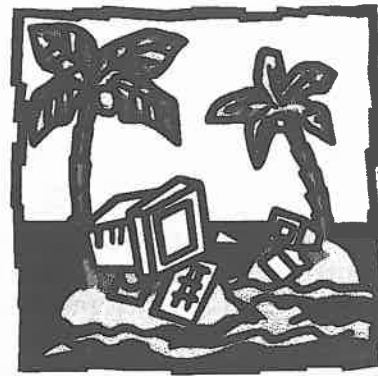
Do you remember the old flannel graph lesson series called *The Highway of Life*. We have requests from missionaries and national workers from around the world for those lessons. If you or your church have any of that material please ship it to the TCM office. That set of lessons has helped countless people, adults as well as children around the world understand God's word accurately.

**Once Again TCM offers the
opportunity to Experience
God's work in Africa.**



TCM will be organizing an African Safari to Kenya. This is open to anyone, young or old that is willing to take 2-4 weeks out of their summer to visit a mission field. This will be a life-changing experience as you experience first hand the life and work of a missionary. For details about the dates, cost and other information please write or call the TCM office today.

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*Help our Missionaries be Y2k
ready!*

We've all heard the stories of impending doom that will take place when the computers of the world think that the year '00 is actually 1900. We believe we are prepared in the TCM office. Our equipment is fairly new and our software claims to be Y2K compliant. It is quite possible however, that is not the case with the banks and other institutions in the countries where our missionaries are working. We are asking our supporters to do a couple simple things to help protect our people on the foreign field in the event that the Year 2000 bug infects their country of service.

1. The mission office will make an early initial closing of our monthly books on December 20, 1999 (We will also make a final closing after the end of the month). This way we can make all the necessary wire transfers in time for the missionaries to get cash before the clock strikes 12 on the 31st. We therefore are asking our donors to send their gifts for December to the TCM office early enough that they will arrive before the 20th.
2. If possible, it would help if our donors would send a combined gift for the months of December and January. This way, if there is an interruption of financial services in the foreign countries, our missionaries will have some extra funds available to work with. If you do send a combined gift please note it on your check or return receipt.

NEWS YOU CAN USE FOR PRAYER

Filipino pastors Abundio Boco and Pedro Blanco reported on their recent trip to Indonesia and Malaysia. They were invited by TCM missionary Mario Indino to participate in a fellowship of six churches in the Manado area. There were about 300 in attendance during this event. They also traveled to a number of island churches preaching and encouraging the believers on their way. From Manado they traveled two days by ship to the city of Balikpapan on Kalimantan island (Borneo). After ministering to the saints, they moved on to Tarakan, an island which is only 10 minutes by boat from Malaysia, where a medical doctor from Manado is starting a new congregation.

They went on to Malaysia where they met with groups of believers that have migrated there from the Philippines. They report that with the right leadership there is great potential for congregations to be started in several areas. They plan to continue making regular visits to follow up and encourage the believers and hope that eventually a full-time worker can locate there.

Phillip DuPlessis, the TCM national director in South Africa writes, "The Association of Berean Grace Ministries in South Africa held their 2nd National conference in Vlaktefontein on the outskirts of Soweto. This annual event was hosted by Pastor Stephens Thobela's church in an informal settlement (squatter camp). With limited facilities and resources such as electricity and running water, the leadership of the Tsepisong church put together a very successful and well organized event that surprised and amazed many of the visiting delegates. Delegates from Mpumalanga, Soshanguve, Pretoria and Port Elizabeth arrived on the Friday night welcomed by the youth and the lovely smell of food cooking on the homemade fires and stoves. The Blessings of Grace are there for all to enjoy irrespective of race or social background."

Missionary News

Sanny and Jeannette Sumilhig have been placed on inactive status with Things to Come Mission due to health reasons. The board of the mission wishes to express sincere thanks to Sanny and Jeannette for the years they served the Lord under TCM. The board asks that their supporters continue to send gifts for the Sumihigs through December 1999. After that time, gifts for the Sumilhig ministry will no longer be accepted by our office. Donors are requested to redesignate their gifts to another missionary or ministry of their choice.

Jonathan and Vicki Shriver have resigned as missionaries with Things to Come Mission. Due to some extreme difficulties in the ministry of their church, Jonathan felt it necessary to discontinue his relationship with TCM. Our board thanks Jon and Vicki for the faithful years of service they have spent with our mission. After October 1999, funds will no longer be accepted by TCM for the Shriver's ministry.

Tony and Barbara Sistelos have been placed on inactive status with Things to Come Mission. They recently completed a two year educational leave with support. They feel that they still need further training. It is the mission's policy however, not to extend educational leave beyond two years. The board of the mission wishes to express sincere thanks to Tony and Barb for the years they served the Lord under TCM. Supporters are requested to continue giving to the Sistelos' ministry through December 1999. After that time, gifts for the Sistelos' ministry will no longer be accepted by our office. Donors are requested to redesignate their gifts to another missionary or ministry of their choice.

Don Fromer has been on inactive status with Things to Come Mission since September 1998. In the meeting of September 23, 1999, the TCM board dismissed him as a missionary and no longer has any organizational ties with him.

For those donors wishing to redesignate their gifts, TCM recommends the following missionaries and ministries with greatest need. Carlo & Elma Paña, Mario & Ella Indino, Gomer & Nene Indino, Carlos Schmidt and the Kenya Field Ministry.

Vernon and Darlene Anderson were assigned by the TCM board to the Philippines. They will leave by December 1999. Vernon will serve as the Far East Representative and they will live in Cebu City.

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Take a Moment to Learn about Missions **by Don Sommer**

Most people have a variety of stereotypes about mission work and missionaries. Often times the missionary is thought of as someone living in a grass hut in the middle of a jungle preaching to people in loincloths. This is still true in some cases, but more often than not today's missionary will be found in a city with many modern conveniences, with access to the Internet and getting funds through an ATM. In this article I will briefly discuss some trends in modern missionary work.

Missions is increasingly an urban activity. The world's cities are growing at astronomical rates, particularly in the developing and non-Christian nations. Cities are the centers of governmental power, education, culture, trade and finance. There is constant interaction between the cities and the outlying rural areas. Just as the Apostle Paul concentrated his ministry in urban areas so modern missionaries recognize the strategic importance of evangelizing the cities of the world.

Mission work is increasingly being done by short-term missionaries. There will never be missionaries more effective than those who have made long-term and even lifetime commitments allowing them to learn the language and culture and gain the respect and acceptance of the people to whom they minister. However, fewer and fewer people are willing to make such commitments. Therefore, it has become necessary to utilize people that are willing to serve for shorter lengths of time. This may be anywhere from a matter of weeks to up to two years.

More and more missionaries will come from countries outside North America. The church has grown tremendously in the past 150 years in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In many countries the national churches have reached a point of maturity so that they are able to be send missionaries to other lands. The number of career missionaries from North America has declined significantly in the past 20 years, and by all indications this trend will continue for the foreseeable future. For these reasons many mission agencies (including TCM) are recruiting missionaries from non-Western nations.

More missionaries will enter countries as "tentmakers." The nations most in need of evangelism today are often ones that are closed to traditional missionaries. It will become increasingly necessary for missionaries to enter these "limited access" nations as teachers, aid workers, technical specialists, etc. It has become very common for missionaries to go in to these countries as English teachers. This is a very natural way for the missionaries to meet people on a one-on-one basis and establish friendships with them, thus opening doors of opportunity to share the Gospel. It will, likewise, become common for missionaries to work outside of the nations they are targeting. This will be accomplished by making periodic visits and having ministries with expatriots from those nations living in the missionaries' country of residence.