



Sharpened and Shaped to Serve

by Joel Molina

The common expression that a chain is only as strong at its weakest link has never been more accurate than it is now here in Brazil. I have been seriously evaluating where we have been as a mission in Brazil since 1958 and where we are going in the next twenty years. Consequently, hard questions have been asked and they need to be answered candidly and forthrightly. One thing is certain; we cannot just maintain the status quo. We need to move forward. We need to be more dynamic and relevant in our approach. By asking some basic and thought provoking questions we discovered that our weakest link in terms of our mission work here in southern Brazil lies in the area of training. We believe that for the next ten years our

“Grace Theological Seminary exists as a place where men and women can sharpen and shape their vision in order to serve God on either a full or part time basis.”

main focus should be in this area.

As a missionary, by training someone I am multiplying myself, thus making the growth faster and culturally conscious. I believe that there is no justifiable reason for a missionary to be pastoring a local church in the field or directing the work after twenty-five years of ministry in a given country. If this is occurring, something is wrong some-



Joel with some of the families and single students at Grace Theological Seminary

where and quite possibly an effective training program is either being ignored or not being done in a satisfactory manner. A veteran missionary for twenty-nine years in the Philippines, Pastor Joe Watkins, puts it this way; “A missionary should always have a vision of working himself out of a job.” Pastor Watkins has proven this principle in his years of ministry in the Philippines. In southern Brazil, here is what we are doing in the area of training.

Grace Theological Seminary exists as a place where men and women can sharpen and shape their vision in order to serve God on either a full or part-time basis. GTS is a

formal residential training program and offers a one-year Bible certificate, a two-year associate diploma, and a four-year diploma in theology with an emphasis on Pastoral ministry or Christian education. We currently have 6 families and 7 single students on campus. Aside from the rigorous academic work, these students are also working as a part of a church planting team. They will gain knowledge not only in a classroom setting but also most importantly through practical experience. They are learning how to present the gospel on a one-on-one basis as they go out

Turn to page 5

New Field Opening in Uganda

Carlo & Elma Paña

Everything worked out good in spite of difficulties. We settled all our personal effects, house rent, bills, utilities in Thika and moved to Nakuru the last week of July. The Improsos have provided us a guest room to use while we are processing the papers required for us to enter Uganda.

Elma and I left Nakuru at 5:00 a.m. and reached Kampala, Uganda at 2:15 p.m. We passed Eldoret at 7:15 a.m. and then reached Malaba, the border between Uganda and Kenya at 11:00 a.m.. We were delayed for almost an hour-and-a-half while



Carlo waiting along the road in Kampala they stamped our passports and checked our car license. When we finally reached Kampala, we praised the Lord for the safe

trip. During the 7 days we were there we stayed at the guesthouse and moved around the city scouting for a house to rent. Most were too expensive for us. We made arrangements to rent. The custom there is to pay 6 months rent in advance. Monday we went to the Internal Affairs to inquire about starting a church in Uganda. The permanent Secretary referred us to the “Non-Government Organization” department.

We were able to approach the Head of the department and explained to her our purpose, objectives, and why we need to start a

Turn to page 5

THINGS
TO COME
MISSION



International Harvest

Director's Perspective



A continued ministry of evangelism, training and establishing local churches

Paul commands us to follow him as he followed Christ. In Phil. 4:9 he even tells us to do what he did – “those things you see in me ‘do’ and the God of peace shall be with you.”

In 1958 TCM began to follow this command. We not only felt it important to follow in doctrine – “make all men see the fellowship of the mystery,” we also felt we should follow him in practice. We learn from reading Acts there are three principles that Paul used in ministry: (1) evangelism, (2) training, and (3) establishing local churches.

It also was decided that Pauline and I would be responsible for the training end of the ministry in the Philippines while Vernon and Darlene would be in charge of the church planting. We bought land and established the International Grace Bible Institute. In 1962 the first class of 35 graduated. Many of these are still active in the ministry as leaders in the TCM ministry.

Pauline and I spent 12 years teaching and ministering in IGBI then we turned the school over to the nationals and moved to Cebu City. In Cebu, we established a Grace Church.

The wonderful thing now is to look back and be able to see that when the Grace Message is taught to faithful men, they will follow him and commit to other faithful men. 2 Tim. 2:1-3.

When we left the Philippines in December 1987, the Grace Church was beginning to build on the lot that took the church 12 years to buy. The church also called Pastor Jun Pielago, one of my students that I taught in IGBI, to be its pastor. He pastored the church

for a number of years before moving to the Bicol region (southern Luzon) to develop TCM's ministry in that area. Bro. Jun lived with our family for a number of years before getting married. He has been a faithful pastor. Recently he and his wife (Deb) went back to Cebu for a month to assist the present Pastor Racines. He writes:

“From the General Santos Youth Convention and National Conference in Bunaway, we decided to stay for the whole month of May in Cebu City. We are helping Pastor Racines visit the members, especially those that are irregular in church attendance. On Thursday we will go over the list of names appearing in the membership record. We will try to rid the list of names that are not supposed to be included anymore. We will try to determine who are active or inactive members and those who are no longer in Cebu.

Last Sunday (May 23rd), many of the 136 people who attended the worship service were either visited in their homes or contacted by phone or cell phone early the previous week. Pastor Racines has already given me the opportunity to preach twice. I was happy to stand behind the same pulpit where I used to preach eight years ago.”

We hear a lot today about immigrants coming to the USA. Filipinos rank third in the number of immigrants to the U.S. We are beginning to see more TCM members coming to the U.S.A. Several months ago I received a letter from Edgar Tan saying he is now in Los Angeles and is looking for a Grace church to attend. Edgar was a very active member of the Grace Church in Cebu City. I had to tell him there was no Grace

church near where he lives. He has decided to start a Bible class in L.A. He writes: *“Concerning the Bible Study here in L.A. last Sunday was our third week; our attendance was 15.*

We started first week of August, only one is not our relative, but a close friend. Hoping some day it will be patterned like the church in Cebu. Praise our Lord for giving us this great opportunity until He comes!”

There are Filipino missionaries ministering with TCM in Brazil, South Africa, Kenya and Indonesia. Plans are in process for two of TCM's missionary couples to open ministries in new countries – Pastor and Mrs. Mario Indino are surveying to go to **Papua New Guinea** and Pastor and Mrs. Carlo Pana will go to **Uganda**.

This year I decided to step down as director of TCM and turn the directorship over to a younger man, Ben Anderson, January 1, 2005. Ben grew up in TCM and has been a faithful missionary in Kenya for 18 years. I will become the associate director. This will give me the opportunity to teach in the Berean Bible Institute in Slinger, WI. The Berean Bible Institute's sole purpose is to train Pastors and Missionaries. The B.B.I. has the same goal as TCM – to train faithful men.

In August, I started teaching the Missions Class (this class is included every two years) to students that are in their second year of studies. Please choose one student and pray for him. If you want to know more about these men, write me. Next year I will teach other subjects as well. I drive up one day and come back the next. If you want to know more about the Berean Bible Institute please write or call and I will send you some information.

Some have asked if the B.B.I. is going to pay me. No, the B.B.I. does not have the funds to pay. I use my funds for the expenses involved. We will need your prayers for safety as we travel, wisdom in teaching and funds for travel. I need to say again, I will still be active in TCM. We will be able NOW to do more to help the missionaries. I hope to travel more overseas to teach and encourage the national leaders. We hope to get more literature out to the national pastors. Ben will be able to travel here in the U.S.A. presenting the ministry of TCM.



Joe with BBI students Matt Ritchey, Justin Lynn, Dean Reinriemer, David Vanwyck and Paul Turner

Mission in a Changed World

Ben Anderson

As the third anniversary of 9/11 rolls around, it is becoming apparent that the world is forever changed by the terrorist acts of that day. Americans have had to rethink the role of the United States in the world. Much debate has taken place in the press and in public institutions. Should the U.S. be a world policeman? Should the U.S. isolate herself as much as possible? How can the U.S. and Islam live peacefully together? These questions are not easily answered.

Since "we regard no one from a worldly point of view," what is the spiritual state of this changed world? Anyone who keeps up with the news has to be aware that there are still billions of people without the hope of Christ. Muslims alone account for 1.2 billion people. Add in Hindus, Buddhists, animists and non-religious people and the number is staggering. There are now 18 countries which are less than 1% Christian. The percentage of "Christians" in the world has remained unchanged for several decades.

Out of all this chaos rises one sure fact: Jesus IS the Answer. The more disorderly the world becomes, the more hope and peace which Jesus can offer. What can Christians do to make an impact for Christ in this changed world?

1. Let's put our own house in order. A few months ago I was teaching a leadership seminar in Kenya when a lay leader asked why we in America allow people of the same sex to marry. The moral foundation which the U.S. once stood upon is being seriously eroded in the eyes of the world. As our country moves farther from God's standards, mission work by Americans is going to be more difficult.

2. Let's build each other up. Although Paul preaches this sermon constantly, there is something lurking in human nature which wants to tear others down. I encourage Grace organizations to have ministries which benefit each other and which do not interfere with each other. We can accomplish far more if we use our energy to encourage and pray for other Christians.

3. Let's spread out. Among Christians there can be a tendency to bunch together in "safe havens." This eventually leads to disputes or complacency. The fact remains, one cannot be an ambassador for Christ among other Christians. We must go out to the lost.

4. Let's use a variety of missionary methods. An evangelism strategy that works for a Hindu in an Indian village will not work for a Muslim businessman in Kuala Lumpur. We

should not be afraid to study the strategies others have used and adapt them for our own ministries.

5. Let's partner with Christians in other countries. The missionary task will not be completed by Americans alone. The same holds true for any other nationality. Each nationality brings strengths to the task. One area where this is evident is in reaching the Muslim world. Americans are sometimes viewed as the enemies of Islam. We must consider that the messenger is part of the message.

6. Let's do the work of an evangelist. At the very heart of church growth is evangelism. We have to get the evangelistic fervor back. Is Jesus worth knowing? If he means so much to us, shouldn't others know him?

7. Let's renew our own zeal for the Lord. Mission does not succeed with average

effort. It is going to take a sacrificial commitment on the part of all Christians. King David said, "Restore to me the joy of my salvation." Only when we have a raging fire for the Lord in our own hearts will we be able to reach the lost. This is why David, in the next verse, says, "Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you." The commitment level of the average Christian in America has a direct bearing on whether the lost will hear the gospel of Christ.

More than ever, we Christians have the Answer for this lost and dying world. Paul tells us, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." The pattern of the world has changed. Let's step boldly into this new world and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World.

Fitting in the Frame of a Model Church

One of the famous mountains in Africa is Mount Kenya. At 17,057 feet, it is not famous because it has the highest peak (the highest is Mount Kilimanjaro), but because of the scenery. I was able to make it to the third highest point twice, this is the highest point a climber can reach without special mountain climbing gear. The higher I climbed, the more my body struggled in the high altitude. Many times I thought, "Will I make it to the highest peak?"

A model church is like the highest peak. The accomplishment of Project 2010 (planting 20 churches in 10 major urban centers in Kenya by the year 2010) requires a model that serves not only as an example, but also as an inspiration to other churches. However, a church that wants to become a model must face challenges as it moves up, and struggles to fit into the frame. Certainly a model can be modified to fit into a specific spot, there is beauty in variation. What is important is to produce the same quality. As a young church, it is the goal of Nakuru Church to fit in the frame. Our goal is to reach up to 100 adults by the end of this year and launch a building project the following year.

There are two action words that helps us get into the frame - "Enriching and Outreaching."

Enriching involves:

Team Leadership - The desire to become a model comes from men and women with



Goal of Nakuru church

spirituality, influence and conviction. Raising up these leaders is a huge task that involves prayer and mentoring. Notice, it is not just leadership, it is "team leadership." Does it really make any difference? Just a hundred meters away from our church location is a well known street filled with night bars and many churches. Why so many churches? Disunity - one leader starts his or her own group after a disagreement with other leaders in a troubled church! The idea of TL is for each leader to lead people with the vision of one church of influence.

Family Church - Some of the members of our church used to be with a huge denomination who couldn't minister to them in a personal way any longer. One expressed, "I could not even talk to the pastor without first booking for a schedule, whenever I

Literature - the key to reaching Brazil with the Grace message

Urian Rios

If we really want to call ourselves "Pauline," we must follow Paul not only in his theology, but also in his methods. Books and writings were clearly a major part of Paul's ministry (I Timothy 4:13). His letters to both, churches and pastors are ample evidence of this. In fact, Christianity as we know, would not exist without the body of apostolic teaching known as the Pauline Epistles.

Therefore, we firmly believe that LITERATURE is key in making the Grace Message known all over Brazil, a country of more than 170 million people.

Our major literature project is a dispensationally oriented theological journal, entitled "SOLA SCRIPTURA." We have already published three issues and are receiving subscriptions from pastors and leaders from many denominations in nine different states in the Brazilian Northeast region.

Here is what some of these pastors are saying:

"I congratulate you for your ministry. We already practice in our church the "real baptism" and have suffered persecution for not

practicing water baptism." Pr. Anderson Freitas de Andrade (Pastor of a non-denominational church in Aracaju, SE, who has come to understand the grace message through our literature)

"We really needed a journal like this one to help us better understand the Word of God." Pr. Ivaldo da Silva Carneiro (Baptist Pastor from Salvador, BA)

"I found very interesting the Journal's approach to such a polemic issue as the sign gifts." Marinalva Santos do Carmo (Baptist Missionary)

"We appreciated receiving this important material, and want to receive all the literature available regarding this pure biblical and theological reality." Pr. José Severino Ramos (Baptist Pastor, Sanharó, PE)

"I believe this journal will be a great contribution to the theological discussion in Brazil revealing a hidden face of theology." Pr. Manoel de Jesus Rodrigues da Silva (Presbyterian pastor from Sno Luiz, MA)

I could go on and on, but for most of you it would become a boring list of unidentified names and places. However, I hope, the testimonies above can demonstrate how impor-

tant it is to produce and distribute grace literature in Brazil. You see, if a missionary goes to South Africa or the Philippines, for example, he can use what we have already published in English because English is one of the official languages. In Brazil, however, only a privileged minority can afford studying English.

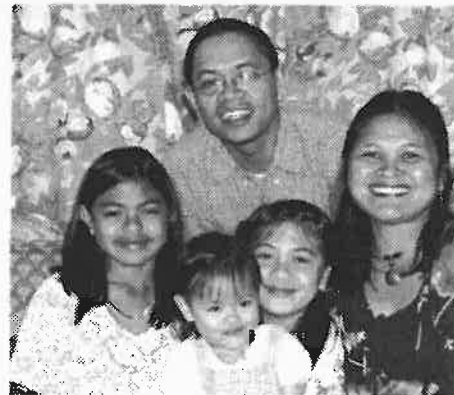
If we want to firmly establish people in the grace message, we need to provide them good grace literature, and, in Brazil that means we have to write and translate good grace literature. It is no wonder that we have made literature our highest priority and our major ministry. We ask your prayers for Jule and I as we work in this area. We are not "professionals," we don't have adequate resources (our small two bedroom apartment is our HQ), we lack financial means, but we thank the Lord for what we have been able to accomplish so far, hoping to be used by God to "...preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 3:8,9)

Fitting in the Frame of a Model Church

From Page 3

book, it is always full." A model church must meet the needs of its individuals. The team leadership of Nakuru came up with a brilliant idea for a more personal touch for each member. Each member of our committee of ten is given a task to lead a group within the church. These groups we call "in house cells." Immediately after the preacher ends his message, and before the benediction, the groups of ten discuss the message, share testimonies, pray and plan when to visit those who failed to attend the session. The outcome is that all can now freely express their blessings and needs before they leave for home.

Motivated Stewardship - It seems that II Corinthians was written when Apostle Paul saw it was ready to move to the frame of a model church, compared to how they were described in his first letter. He described them as having "excelled in everything (2 Cor. 8:7)," except for one thing - the act of grace - giving. He used the poorer Macedonian churches as living illustrations of how to support their own and eventually extend to the needs of others. A church



Gardner Improso and Family

does not reach maturity until it stands on its own financially, without any help from outside. To reach the peak, a young church must be motivated to give for the existence and extension of the church.

Bible Time - The model church must Preach the Word. Our generation lives some two thousand years after God completed and preserved His revelation, but how much does the church benefit from it? In every session the Bible should be emphasized as the only source of maturity and exclusive teaching whether it be the worship service, men and women's group, youth group, or

Sunday School.

Outreaching is the young church reaching out to the lost. The more the church grows, the more its influence spreads.

Outreaching involves:

Relationship Evangelism - The good news of reconciliation is actually about relationship. God offers to sinners a promise of an everlasting bond in His Son Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul established churches through relationship (1Thess. 1:5,6).

Grace Demo Points - Pastor Justin, with a team, brings charts and objects to the streets to illustrate dispensational teachings of the Bible. Towards the end, the crowd is given a chance to ask questions. Every topic leads to what God is doing in the present administration of grace, therefore it not only provokes Bible study, it is also a very effective form of evangelism. The demo point is usually mounted where it only attracts a few people. The point is effective interaction...the fewer the crowd, the more the message will saturate. The way to get more listeners is to put more demo points. More and more people know Grace Bible Church because of this method.

Not your calling but your earnestness

Report from Dean Padayhag in S.A.

Some people have the foolish notion that the only way they can live for God is by becoming ministers, missionaries, or Bible teachers. Beloved, it is not your calling; it is earnestness. It is not your position; it is grace that will enable us to glorify God. Whatever God has made your position or your work, abide in that.

A couple of months ago, I sensed that God was opening a big door of opportunity, praise the Lord, I did not miss it. One of the pastors of the Evangelical Reformed Church, who recently resigned from his mission organization, invited me to work with him in his church. He told me that the leaders of his organization are getting very liberal with regards to sin and holiness. This caused him to separate from the group. He gave me full access and authority to conduct Bible study, preaching and even indoctrination seminars. September will be our first revival service and program. They will attend our National Conference.

In June Antoinette and Charnè du Plessis, from the TCM office in Indianapolis, joined with me in ministering. We went to Soweto and Mpumalanga to have Children's Bible classes and mini gospel concert. We had about 220 children being taught, preached, sang, and fed during those events. Pray for the Word of God being sown into their young lives. Praise the Lord for the success!



Dean, Antoinette and Charnè ministering in Mpumalanga South Africa

CHURCH BUILDING

The city of Johannesburg awarded the church lot to the Grace Berean Church as one of the winners of the "church spot" bidding. The spot was fully paid. Probably, few months from now the Soweto Church will have a new church building. It is located in a very strategic place in the area of Tsepisong. Somebody is working on the processing of the papers now.

FREE CHURCH LOT

In April, 2004, Dr. J.S. Moroka gave a "free church" lot to Mpumalanga church. The permit to occupy the 1200 square meters was granted with the condition that we must build something there within 12 months or else they are going to give it to others. Please pray for these projects.

Vernon and Darlene Anderson have arrived in South Africa on September 15 to help Dean develop a Bible School

New Field Opening in Uganda

From page 1

ministry in Uganda. She gave us a list of requirements.

Please join with us in prayer for this new field ministry! We've got some people who are interested in studying the Word of God rightly divided. We need people behind us praying and supporting as we reach the unsaved and bring them to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are welcoming those who want to help us as short-time or long-term missionaries to work here in Uganda.

Pray for our son, Charael, who will be in his second year at Grace Bible College. He expressed his desire to join us in the ministry after finishing his studies.

We are thankful for our beloved supporters and friends who continue their generosity and love to us in our ministry.

Our Plans once we're registered include planting twenty churches in twenty hills of Kampala by the year 2020. We will train local church people to do church planting.

"Attempt Great Things for God and Expect Great Things from Him."

"Plan as if you have 100 years and do as if you have one day." "With God all things are possible."

Continue praying for us as we keep doing the Lord's ministry to the best of our ability and He will increase the fruit of our labors together.

Sharpened and Shaped to Serve

From page 1

for personal evangelism every week. They are also helping in teaching Bible studies and follow-up classes for new converts. They are also developing and helping to organize and teach the weekly good news clubs. It is very important for us to strengthen the quality of our training program in order to cope with our present realities.

Another important factor of training is the principle of working oneself out of a job. Pastor Jose Carlos de Oliveira, fondly known as "Pastor Carlinhos," is being trained to take over my job as the seminary director in three years. Pastor Carlinhos and his wife Fernanda are a talented young couple who love the Lord and are concerned with people's lives. Pastor Carlinhos is an able teacher of God's word. He works in the school as dean of students and is doing an excellent job.

Furthermore, we strongly believe that leadership training should also be done with our church leaders. Our first "breaking down barriers" leadership conference was held this past weekend. Pastors and church leaders from all of our churches participated in the conference. Our main focus was restoring broken relationships and allowing God to move us towards transparency and closeness

with one another. We started with an overnight prayer vigil from 9:00 p.m. Friday to 4:30 a.m. Saturday. It was very fascinating to see the power of God through the convicting work of the Holy Spirit operating among the brethren. Tears were shed, hearts were broken, and relationships were restored. Speaking from Second Chronicles 7:14 "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." I have focused on the fact that sin of self-centeredness, pride, elitism, divisiveness and partisanship, apathy, and idolatry are some of the barriers that are hindering our growth and hurting our relationships. We need to honestly recognize these sin in our lives and allow God to purify our hearts. One church leader was on the verge of divorce and had not been speaking to his wife for quite some time. On Saturday night, at the candlelight service the husband came forward, then the wife, and then they were both holding one candle affirming their commitment and love for each other. We were seeing the wonderful work of God restoring a broken marriage. We have also seen relationships restored between pastors. Beloved, I believe this is a very important

aspect of leadership training. As leaders we often think that if we can just effectively pass on dynamic "how to" principles to our people then the work will move forward. Consequently, we have created a group that is more concerned about performance and less interested in perspective. Training should always focus on edifying the body, thus, making the responsibility of caring for the flock as a top priority of the church leadership. As leaders we need to have a heart for people. A heart that is open and available to serve. In order to have this we need to spend more time with Jesus. One writer puts it this way, "We are so busy with the work of the Lord that we oftentimes have ignored the Lord of the work."

Here in southern Brazil, we are just in the beginning stages. Identifying our weakest link has been a very important first step. God, through the weeping prophet Jeremiah made this very sad pronouncement, "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water." In all of our spiritual activity let us not forget our Lord Jesus, the fountain of living waters. He is Elohim who controls and governs everything. Maranatha!

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Uniquely Investing in the Lives & Eternal Destiny of Youth & Families

by **Bob Xavier**

Director of Set Free Youth and Family Ministries

Set Free Youth and Family Mentoring empowers and equips church leaders and mentors to meet the needs of children, ages 6-16, who have incarcerated parents. These children need sustained friendship, encouragement from Scripture and practical support throughout the year. The children of prisoners are six times more likely than other children to become incarcerated themselves.

Most of the children who have incarcerated parents have had to cope with living with the effects of the epidemic of alcoholism and drug addiction, which plagues our country and has produced an avalanche of broken homes and dysfunctional families. Unless experienced firsthand, it is almost impossible to imagine the pain suffered by the family members, especially by the children of an

addicted parent. The children's lives become filled with anger, guilt, shame, hurt, fear and loneliness. They suffer rejection, abandonment and all forms of abuse. They live with constant terror of the addict, because of his brutality and his unpredictability. According to the national statistics of the Department of Juvenile Justice, 87% of all inmates are incarcerated because of drug and alcohol-related offenses.

My personal missionary journey has included working with the homeless in Key West, Florida, and administering substance recovery homes for women out of prison. Most of the individual adult clients we served manifested the adult-child syndrome. These dysfunctional adults lived in adult bodies chronologically but functioned in society immaturely, greatly lacking social and interpersonal skills. With the Lord is intervention of grace, love and truth, the prisoner's

children we serve will not have to endure the awesome, emotional pains of becoming an adult-child, lacking moral absolutes for their lives.

SOUL WINNERS:

The Confident Kid Martial Arts Bible camps and after-school clubs provide an awesomely important key to developing Christ-centered activity that powerfully relates to the world of children. There are two major components of the Confident Kid Martial Arts Bible ministry. The first is the evangelizing of an unreached, lost, destitute, generation of prisoner's children. The second is the comforting by those children whose grace-centered

Bible teaching has equipped them to comfort others with the same comfort they themselves have been comforted with by God. Ministry experience has taught me that those who win souls are wise, but, that those who train up soul-winners, dig a spiritual well from which others may drink. God is sending His people to express His love to His children and to show them the way out of a multi-generational cycle of despair, to be reconciled with their heavenly Father. I pray God will use our ministry partnership to break through the destructive cycle impacting so many children in our communities.

A Continuing Gift

Things to Come Mission would like to acknowledge the following gifts which have been given in memory of some family member, friend or respected person who has passed

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