

INTERNATIONAL

Harvest

THINGS TO COME MISSION

Dedicated to worldwide evangelism through the methods of the Apostle Paul

Summer 2006 • Things to Come Mission • Vol 48 No 1



Reaching the Kenya Coast With the Gospel of Grace

Peter Kagwi

i
n
s
i
d
e

- 2 Director's Perspective
- 3 Qualified to Teach Others
- 4 Photo Safari
- 5 Church Planting
- 7 Africa Safari 2007
- 8 How can I help?

IT IS AMAZING how God can work out His own plan to reach out to a certain group with the gospel of the grace of God. Malindi is in the Coastal Region of Kenya, about 655km (409 mi) southeast of Nairobi, East Africa. The majority are Muslims in a population of 68,000. According to our national objective, Church Planting in the Coast Region is a main target. I want to share about how the Lord opened our door of opportunity.

THE CHALLENGE: My elder brother accepted Jesus Christ last year—a long awaited answer to prayer. Often I mentioned his name in our prayer sessions in Bible School in 1992. Our family members and friends prayed for him many times. Praise God he now is a born-again Christian. After working in Malindi for about 10 years, he has now become an instrument for sharing and introducing the grace message to the Coast Region.

Through him I came to know Bernhard Rateng', one of our main contacts in Malindi, married and

See Coast, Page 6

Peter Kagwi is Director of TCM-Kenya, locally known as Grace Bible Church. He lives in Nairobi with his wife Margaret and three children, Tony, Ben and Simon. Here he is walking on Moi Avenue in Mombasa City near the famous elephant tusks, the Gateway to Kenya.





The Director's Perspective

Longing for Kenya

Dear Mission Partner,

In my previous article, I requested your prayers for the country of Indonesia.

A Visit to Indonesia

Pastor Ruddy Akay, Director of Things to Come Mission churches in Indonesia, has since written to request me to attend the pastors conference in August and share with them "Paul's Troas Strategy for Church Planting" and TCM's vision for reaching all of southeast Asia with the wonderful grace of God. Please pray for this conference and subsequent visits to various churches on the island of Java (pop. 124 million). Indonesia is a strategic meeting point between the Islamic faith and the gospel of God's grace.

20 Years of Ministry Together

I am looking forward to being joined by my wife Joyce on this journey to Indonesia. This is our 20th year of marriage. We met in February of 1986, were engaged in June, married in August and arrived in Kenya in November. I praise the Lord that we can spend our 20th anniversary serving the Lord together on the mission field.

Focus on Kenya

This entire issue of *International Harvest* is dedicated to TCM's Kenya field. Kenya holds a very special place in my heart due to the 18 years I lived and ministered there. In fact, just looking for pictures to include made me feel homesick for that wonderful country and its people.

We have sought to present Kenya from several dimensions. In the lead article, *Reaching the Kenya Coast with the Grace Gospel*, Peter Kagwi presents a journey he took to the coast to establish our first

Ben Anderson is Executive Director of Things to Come Mission and Editor of International Harvest. He and his wife Joyce served as missionaries in Kenya for 18 years. His family lives in Indianapolis where the TCM headquarters is located.

congregation. At the time, a trip like this can seem minor, costing TCM only \$150, yet ten or twenty years later, it will be recognized as the point when a man of God stepped out by faith to establish a new ministry among a new people.

On the opposite page, missionary Gardner Improso presents the *Grace Pastoral Training* program which is how pastors and church planters are being raised up through a mentoring program. Pray for Gardner and family as they seek to visit the United States after 10 years of service in Kenya.

Genesis Maraas has written an article on the importance of *Planting Grace Churches*. He speaks from years of experience as he has planted a church in Kisumu and his current church plant in Eldoret has advanced to the point where they have purchased land and are preparing to build. On page 4 take a look at the *Kenya Photo Safari*. It will be worth your time to read all the articles and pray for the ministries taking place in Kenya, land of 30 million people.

Africa Safari 2007

It has been a few years since we have operated the Africa Safari short term mission trip to Kenya. Missionaries and church members alike have requested a team to come over and help with church building, school building and evangelism. Our Bible school land is in the important city of Thika and this year received the change of land use from light industrial to church. We are now free to build our own Bible school in Kenya. If you or your

At the time, a trip like this can seem minor, costing TCM only \$150, yet ten or twenty years later, it will be recognized as the point when a man of God stepped out by faith to establish a new ministry among a new people.



church would like to be involved with this trip in the summer of 2007 please contact the TCM office.

South African Grace Churches

TCM congratulates our partners, Association of Berean Grace Ministries in South Africa, for completing ten great years of ministry. Current Director Stephens Thobela and founding Church Planter Phillip DuPlessis will be keynote

speakers at the Annual Conference at the end of September 2006. The ministry in South Africa will be greatly helped by the return in June 2006 of missionaries Dean & Sheba Padayhag to plant an urban church in Kempton Park with the assistance of Brother William Itumeleng. This is a bold and strategic

step forward by all involved.

Every Christian a Warrior

We live in spiritually dangerous and exciting times. Satan has raised up great armies of people preaching falsehood about God. Some of these teachings have infiltrated the church. At the same time, advances are being made daily to the glory of God. Yet not every Christian has joined the battle. Many are either sitting on the sidelines or not even present at the event. Every one of us is a soldier in the army of God. The Apostle Paul said, "For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body." Take a look at your spiritual life and see where you have been assigned in God's plan. We would love to have you on our team. ✨

QUALIFIED TO TEACH OTHERS

Gardner Improso

“The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” 2 Tim. 2:2

GRACE PASTORAL TRAINING (GPT) in Kenya is geared towards raising leaders who will carry out the task of spreading out the message of God’s Grace. The vision of any movement, ideology or belief depends almost totally upon “the man,” but it is impossible to discover that man at the outset. Conversion to salvation is miraculous, as when a man who finds new faith in Christ will show noticeable differences in a short period of time compared to what he was before. Conversion to leadership is hardly miraculous—even *Jesus Christ while on earth never converted anyone to immediate leadership*. In contrast, He chose men and trained them, the same with the Apostle Paul. Jesus and Paul set up systems of training which involved relationships both actual and motivational *before* they could turn the world upside down.

TCM invests in Bible institutions. The Bible school as an arm is expected to produce workmen who grow and multiply churches. In Kenya a formal training like Bible college or institute serves “the man” better with an *upgrading or advancing stage*. I always believe the local church is the most productive seed bed of efficient workers, where observation, recruitment, and mentoring take place as an unfolding process. We have learned from experience that any recruitment which formalizes training in the Bible college—bypassing the local church process—will yield knowledge and a few acquired skills, similar to forcing a boy to become a man. Often four long years of mostly written requirements shows abnormal growth but is lacking in understanding of the calling and commitment to the ministry.

We do not discredit formal training. In fact every TCM mission field needs means for a recognized Bible institute or Bible college. When we moved from Embu Town to Thika, it was always our desire to build the Bible school on our own property. Now we have already secured an acre plot to put up buildings and have received government approval to use the land for a school. This intervening delay turned out to be an ideal time to focus on the local church mentoring process which will produce a higher rate of future Bible institute students: the goal where formal Bible institute training should take over.

The local church training process starts with recruitment of individuals into various church departmental ministries.

Those who head any of these local church ministries (Sunday school, ushers, or cell



Gardner Improso moved to Kenya in 1996 after ministering in Bible schools and churches in the Philippines. He is the TCM-Kenya Representative and heads up Grace Pastoral Training. He lives in Nakuru with wife Ledith and three daughters.

groups) are actually already functioning as leaders. Nakuru Church has designed a specialized curriculum for Small-group based Leadership Training. Since the church operates through cell group ministries, the training recruits are mostly cell group leaders as well as Sunday school, men’s/women’s ministries, ushers, worship team, youth. Those who complete the curriculum add extra skills and knowledge which they can effectively try out in their particular small group. A cell group leader gains more ability—leading to more cooperation and also classroom respect. Such a growth development eventually bears fruit: producing another small group with leadership prospects, and this obviously boosts the local church as a whole!

The advanced training process pushes a step higher from the departmental ministry leadership, called *Associate Level*. Here the Mentoring system comes into the scene initiated by the pastor himself and the person he wants to duplicate. In this way the Apostle Paul came up with recruits such as Timothy, Epaphroditus, Priscilla and Aquila. The GPT training is practically intensive because the pastor and mentoree share considerable time together in prayer, Bible discussion, problem-solving interactions, besides actual ministry work. Our present mentoring program consists of two years training divided into weekly informal sessions. Every three months, the mentoree accomplishes what is known as *A Unit of Curriculum*, ending with a two-day joint session with other trainees. At this stage the Bible Institute initially emerges to meet the formal side of equipping the trainee while providing growth to the local church.

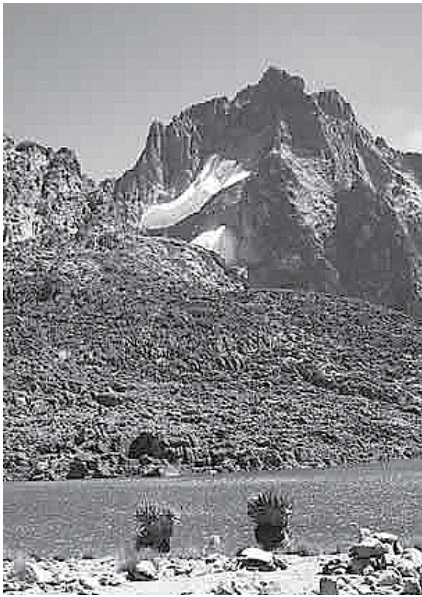
The Bible Institute awards a *Certificate of Pastoral Ministry* after completion of the entire mentoring curriculum: the pastor-mentor has created his duplicate, who will in the future head up a daughter church, again repeating the same procedure of discovering “the man.”

The entire mentoring program allows men and women to be fully upgraded and equipped in the Bible school. This somewhat lengthy process assures qualification of diploma students who will go on for another two years of formal training. Thus the Bible School steps up to its full responsibility of thoroughly furnishing the man of God.

We need more time at the Throne of Grace to complete our project. Soon we will start mounting up the concrete building. There are yet more financial needs. We will continue to search for “men of God in Kenya!” ☼

UPDATE: Gardner Improso was approved for a visa to the United States although the rest of the family was denied. Pray for Gardner to have a safe and valuable journey presenting the TCM-Kenya ministry.

Kenya Photo Safari



Mount Kenya, 17,000 feet.



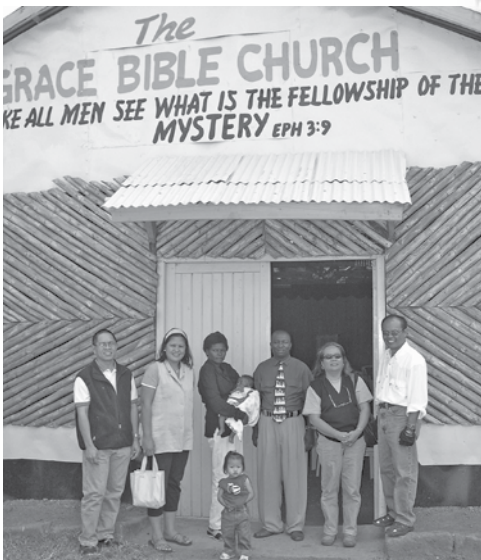
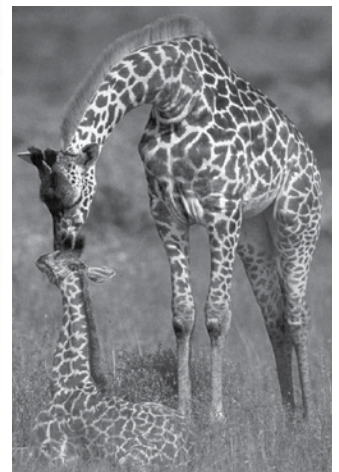
Church Planting in Umoja, Nairobi in 2002



Pastor Ephantus Kariuki
Bible school grad and
pastor of Kiganthi Church.



Gardner & Ledith Improso
Planting a church with Justin &
Grace Muriithi at Nakuru City
(below), Heading for 150 members
by the end of 2006. Carlo & Elma
Paña, on right.



Genesis & Verna Maraath
Church planting in Eldoret since 2002. Recently
purchased land for Eldoret Grace Bible Church.

PLANTING Church

Genesis Maraat

What was the most effective approach of Apostle Paul to carry out his aggressive witness to the Gentile world?
Church Planting!

The Book of Acts reveals Paul's strategy for reaching out to the pagan world: traveling to synagogues, traveling to remote villages, traveling to strategic cities, constantly preaching the gospel to unbelievers.

After evangelizing, what did Paul do? He gathered those new believers together to form them into a new congregation: church planting! Whole congregations became living witnesses of God's saving power to their own communities. And in Kenya church planting is still the most effective way of spreading the gospel. Our personal church planting began in earnest in major towns and cities in 1999. Missionary Ben Anderson and Pastor Peter Kagwi successfully planted a Grace church in one of the estates in Nairobi. My wife Verna and I relocated to Kisumu City in Western Kenya in order to plant a church in 2000. Missionary Gardner Improso and Pastor Justin Muriithi moved to the city of Nakuru to initiate a church plant. All our efforts resulted in growing congregations which now serve as models of church growth for the whole Grace work in Kenya. We rejoice because more members means more members working to plant more churches.

Why do we say planting a church is the most effective technique for carrying out the gospel to nonbelievers?

- because... *God ordained the local church to be the ground and guardian of the Truth.* The local church is the place where new converts are nurtured and equipped for God's service. Before someone can go out to share the gospel to nonbelievers, he must first be equipped, and the effective way of preparing for this job is through a local church.

- because... *a local church is the place for corporate worship, prayer and fellowship.* Christianity is really a one

another business. The reciprocal command of "one another" is fulfilled through the local church. Both Jesus and Paul gave commands to their followers to love one another, pray for one another, edify one another, accept one another, bear one another's burden, etc. When believers pray, worship and fellowship with one another, they produce a strong testimony to nonbelievers. The followers of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Book of Acts came together frequently for prayer, fellowship, teaching and worship. As a result they became very bold in spreading the gospel everywhere. And when persecution came, the followers of Jesus did not slow down in spreading the gospel—they more and more tirelessly and fearlessly proclaimed the Good News as far as they could reach.

- because... *a local church is a perfect place to prepare people for Christ's return.* The goal of evangelism is essentially to bring people to Christ and prepare people for Christ's return. A local church models the true visible portrait of the universal, true church, the Body of Christ. "Even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph. 5.) A local church provides a place for God's people to mature and be cleansed.

As a Mission organization we need to direct all our efforts and resources to Church Planting. Paul was aggressive in his evangelistic crusades to the regions beyond. Almost every place Paul held a gospel campaign resulted in the birth of a new fellowship of believers. The greatest and most urgent need in fulfilling our mission today is church planting. Jesus said to His disciples: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." We likewise pray to God, our loving Father, that He will raise up more Church Planters! Amen. ☀

Victory in Western Kenya

Genesis Maraat together with his wife Verna and children Andrea and Josiah are planting an urban church in Eldoret, the fifth largest city of Kenya located in the west of Kenya, near the border of Uganda. The Maraats have overcome numerous hardships including having their car stolen and an armed robbery in their home. We know Satan would like to stop this church. Praise the Lord the Eldoret Church just bought their own land using funds from Kenya and U.S.A.



Coast, From Page 1

blessed with two children. Bernhard's wife Mary comes from the Miji-Kenda clan in the Coast Region while Bernhard comes from a Luo community in Nyanza Province, W. Kenya. He serves God with zeal and is ready to help planting a church in Malindi Town. Six people are doing Bible correspondence courses and are excited to study God's Word rightly divided.



First contacts in Malindi at a home Bible study.

OUR PIONEER VISIT: Friday, 3rd Feb.2006 evening Margaret and I started our long trip to Malindi, 10 hours by bus from Nairobi, traveling throughout the night. Bernhard and the group received us in a very friendly manner. Bernhard hosted us in his house. We had a wonderful moment of prayer and such a fellowship we all enjoyed in close intimacy with our Creator, as well as with one another. Then I was finally welcomed to teach the Word of God. The Bible is our final authority so my theme in this first visit was *The Key to Understanding the Bible, emphasizing how to rightly divide the Word of Truth* (2 Tim.2:15). One of those in the group commented, "I now know why many preachers have confused us." Our prayer is that this simple beginning will mean a lot to these brethren surrounded by Muslims. They requested us to visit again. Sunday morning five families joined us for worship service in Bernhard's house. Margaret shared with the women how to be faithful wives. I led group discussion with the men comparing and contrasting

Paul's Apostleship with that of the Twelve. Finally the two groups gathered together for praise and worship and I preached a salvation message. Only

God's amazing grace can change a sinner from real bondage to real freedom in Christ Jesus! Grace brings salvation to all men (Tit.2:11). Salvation by grace brings real joy and hope. Truly,

grace is the totally unmerited favor of God apart from man's efforts. Eph.2:8,9. After our meal together we all went to visit a couple who had promised to attend Sunday service but failed. They stay within their parent's compound, and on arrival, we noted things were not normal. The parents welcomed us but with gloomy faces. We felt uncomfortable with their negative reactions. They argued that for many years they brought up their son in a religious way, going together to church--they did not see why we should teach him another truth. We remembered that the day we arrived in Malindi, we fellowshiped with this couple who responded positively to the teaching. The parents had summoned and prevented the couple from attending our service. We pray for Rasha and his wife

because they have a strong desire to know the grace message. Nevertheless, they are privately studying God's Word through a Bible correspondence course and additional Bible study materials.

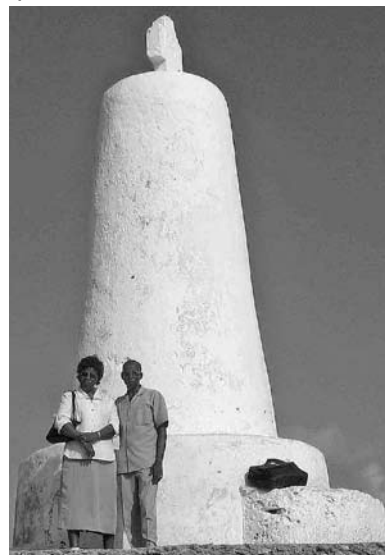
ACTION: We have high hopes for Grace Church being planted in Malindi Town. First we targeted *the Place*. Second we identified *the Potential People for training* via 1) Distance training or 2) One-on-one training. People from that place must evangelize and reach their own people with the message of grace. As the men study the Word of God rightly divided, they will also become motivated to share the unsearchable riches of Christ with others. By June we hope to have Grace Bible Church in Malindi! (See Update)

THANKSGIVING: I would like to thank God for the financial gift of \$150 sent by TCM to help our first step to the

Coast Region ministry enabling Margaret and myself to travel to Malindi to meet these brothers and sisters so much thirsty for the Word of God. We served God in such a different environment and to different kinds of people. We even had opportunity to view the Indian Ocean for the first time and the site where famous explorer Vasco da Gama reached on the African continent.

Then on return we spent eight hours in Mombasa City on

the Coast which is one of our *Project 2010* targets for urban church planting initiated by Ben Anderson before he left Kenya. ☀



Peter & Margaret Kagwi standing at the point where Vasco da Gama arrived on the African coast in 1498.

UPDATE: Follow-Up Planned

I received a report that the Bible class in Malindi meets regularly! A follow-up ministry in Malindi is dated for 9th to 13th August. I hope to be accompanied by Gardner Improso and one Kenyan leader for the Coast Area ministry plus Bernhard and his family since he is my target in leadership, already understanding grace truth and excited to share it!

Bernhard's Testimony: Like the indomitable Paul of the Bible, I studied Law at the University of Nairobi, was a Catholic of Catholics and a bitter opponent of the word of God-in fact I was a renowned scoffer of salvation in college-but through God's wonderful grace, I was eventually delivered: and converted! And not just converted, but also put into cords with the right gospel bearers: the gospel of God's wonderful grace through the auspices of Grace Bible Church Kenya.

International Harvest

The Official Newsletter of
Things to Come Mission, Inc.
Volume 48, Number 1
Summer 2006

International Harvest is the official newsletter of Things to Come Mission. It is published three times per year from the headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Circulation is 6,000. The publication may be received without charge by calling (317) 262-8806. Donations to TCM are used to cover costs.

Office: 2200 English Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46201
Phone: (317) 262-8806
Fax: (317) 262-8852
Email: tcm@tcmusa.org
Website: www.tcmusa.org
Editor: Ben Anderson

TCM Board Members

- Joel McGarvey, President
- Rick Hash, Secretary
- Michael Robinson, Treasurer
- Ben Anderson, Executive Director
- Joseph Watkins, Associate Director
- Richard Ware
- Don Sommer

Things to Come Mission is dedicated to worldwide evangelism through the methods of the Apostle Paul. We accomplish this goal by sending missionaries to evangelize, plant churches and train leaders. Our financial support comes from free will gifts of churches and individuals who wish to participate in our purpose. TCM ministers on six continents.

AFRICA SAFARI

2007

Join TCM Director Ben Anderson in the summer of 2007 for a ministry trip to Kenya, a country of 30 million on the east coast of Africa. Activities include:

- Getting to know the African people
- Encouraging pastors
- Building
- Evangelizing
- Serving with your smile
- Experiencing Africa

Africa Safari 2007 is geared for pastors, youth, college students and families. Do something special with God next summer.

Dates

May 31-June 13

Cost

\$2000 incl. airfare

Application

Short Term App
www.tcmusa.org
"Resources" page

Contact

ben@tcmusa.org
(317) 262-8806



Are You Getting The News??

Every two months Things to Come Mission produces and mails a bulletin insert to interested churches. This insert, *News You Can Use For Prayer*, gives news items from TCM missionaries and fields which need your prayers. Your church can receive this insert free of charge by contacting us.

THINGS TO COME MISSION
News You Can Use
... For Prayer

JULY & AUGUST 2006

NEW FIELDS

- ◆ CAMBODIA: Pastor Atid, Faith & Pauline Mahiam arrived in Phnom Penh on June 13. "Please pray specifically for a contact for future ministry here in Cambodia, for our safety and sensitivity to the Lord's leading."
- ◆ THAILAND: Pastor Abraham Batabat (Filipino) & Paul Lynn (Kenyan): "Paul and I are ministering together. When I was in Bangkok, we started sharing God's Word with our Thai friends, they accepted the Lord and are willing to have a Bible study. There are few of them. Pray for more open doors."

CURRENT EVENTS

- ◆ THE PADANGHAGS, DEAN & SHEERA TO SOUTH AFRICA: "Our waiting time is over. After lots of paperwork, payments, and change of schedule, we finally received our visa. We have arrived in South Africa [June 26]. Through this experience God has taught us about patience, timing and waiting. TCM suggests we start a church in Johannesburg so we will be looking for an apartment in the suburbs...We already have some contacts here."
- ◆ THE IMPROBOS, GARDNER & LEDITH IN NAKURU, KENYA: "It has been a year since we were denied entry to the U.S. Could July 2006 be the right time for us to come? We are certainly taking this question night and day to our gracious Lord. We will be interviewed the first week of July. It is amazing that this decision depends on one person in the embassy, whether we can come or not. He is sitting at one of the six interview windows. Last year we were denied for lack of sufficient guarantee of return, so we want to keep working on this end. The apostle Paul had a similar experience that hindered his ministry to the senate in Rome (Rom. 1:11, 13). His was a lot more difficult. However, the Lord granted his and the saint's prayers regardless of how it had to take place—he managed to reach Rome, not as a high level dignitary, but as a prisoner—so we pray for God's way of making our visit possible."

A Gift to Remember

Things to Come Mission wants to acknowledge gifts which have been given in memory of a loved one.

Michael Ellenberger

- Erin & Douglas Campbell
- Joyce Ellenberger
- Mr. & Mrs. Allen Glass
- William & Laverne Knarr
- Monday Night Mixed League

Elsie Roberson

- Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Bixler
- Arthur & Patricia Andersen

Harland Shriver

- Bernice Whitman



How can I help?

3 COUNTRIES
PROJECTS

AFRICA

KENYA



Eldoret Grace Bible Church Foundation and Building

Praise the Lord that our previous project of buying land for Eldoret Church has been successful. \$13,000 was raised in Kenya and U.S.A. The picture above was taken at the dedication service for the land. Genesis Maraat, who together with his family recently went through the trauma of an armed robbery, writes that he would like to put up a building before November 2006. The cost for the initial phase of construction is \$3,000.

ASIA

CHINA

Myra to Learn Chinese

Myra (full name withheld for security reasons) has been sharing the grace of God with the Chinese people for several years. She has no support base and takes teaching jobs as they are available. Her ability to communicate would be greatly improved if she could master Chinese. The character shown here means "love." Myra is currently transitioning to a new area and would like to spend two terms studying Mandarin at a well-known language school. The cost is \$800 per term.



SOUTHEAST ASIA

PHILIPPINES



Evangelistic Tent

Pastor Jun Cadeliña, pictured above, is the foremost youth evangelist among the Grace churches in the Philippines. Jun often holds crusades in which he preaches and shows evangelistic films daily for several months. Because of rain in the Philippines, these meetings are often interrupted. A large canopy tent will allow Pastor Jun to reach more people with the gospel. The projected cost is \$1,500.

Visit us on the web at www.tcmusa.org • tcm@tcmusa.org • (317) 262-8806

**THINGS
TO COME
MISSION**



International Harvest

2200 English Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46201

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
PERMIT NO. 9057

Address Service Requested