

# HORIZONS

I MUST  
WORK WHILE  
IT IS DAY

AT HOME AND ABROAD

THE NIGHT  
COMETH WHEN NO  
MAN CAN WORK

## NICARAGUA Today

Helping exercised youth reach their potential

Mark and Brenda Bachert

### SPECIAL REPORT

**I will be forever indebted to a variety of godly mentors that the Lord used to inspire vision in my life. Most of the mentoring was not textbook classroom stuff. It was practical experience walking alongside, observing, listening, watching, and learning from veteran soul winners. Those experiences had a profound life changing effect on my life.**

It is in this spirit that we have been constrained in the Lord's presence to provide similar opportunities for others. The youth are coveted in the world. In fact, it's stronger than that. They are blatantly targeted by worldly currents that range from corporate business to political ideology to religious extremism. Often youth is exploited and compromised.

We covet young folks for God and the gospel. We can't make missionaries, preachers, elders, or collaborators. God does that through His Spirit. We can only provide opportunities. Over the past 13 years, more than 15 young men have laboured here for extended stays. We praise God that several of them have been commended and are dedicating their lives to full-time service among Hispanic folks in several countries.

Kyle and Allison Wilson along with Brenda and I have extended an invitation to a dozen young men. We expect at least seven to join us in aggressive gospel outreach in Managua. The focus must be language study at a local university.

As the team moves among the Assembly, there is cultural awareness and adaptation that is

expected. Greater language and cultural learning are facilitated by immersing each of the young men in the different home setting with local believers for a few weeks. This initial stage roughly takes three to four months and gradually transitions into engaging folks with the gospel. The systematic door to door visitation; Seed Sower and Calendar distribution; Gospel Tent Meetings; Youth and Children's outreaches are all venues to communicate Christ to the people. There is a natural transition that occurs from the initial language and cultural proficiency to effectiveness with the gospel. This opens the door for deeper friendships to be forged and discipline to occur with the new believers. What does this 'discipling' look like? How does it happen? What is to be communicated?

The priority is singular. It's for God's glory. God is glorified in the salvation of souls. He is glorified when folks publicly confess the Name of Christ in baptism. God is glorified when believers gather to remember Him, showing forth His death, celebrating His resurrection, and looking forward to his return.

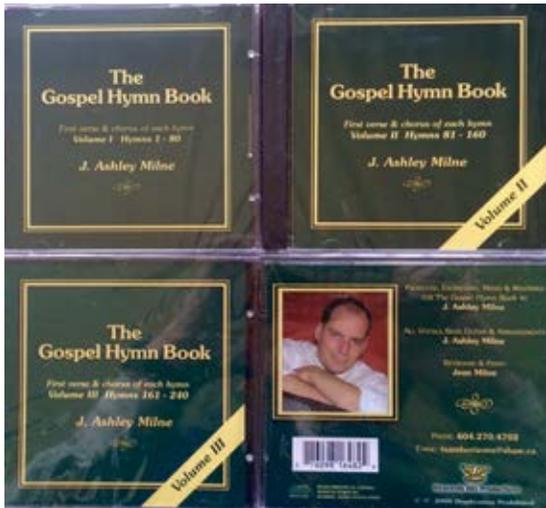
A year is a long time. It requires commitment, submission and sacrifice. It requires adaptability, accountability, and responsibility. It requires becoming a team-player, demonstrating humility, and praying fervently.

As the following young men prepare themselves physically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually for the year-long commitment starting in September, we humbly urge you to pray for them, for us, and for the Managua harvest field. Carter McFarlane, Glen Ewen SK. — Austin Joyce, Stark Road, Michigan, —

James Joyce, Langstaff, ON — Jonny Marin, Newton, BC — Austin Milne, Newton, BC — Drew Hale, Clearview, WA — Jordan Smith, Deep Cove, BC



**Team 2007 to 2008 (top)**  
**Team 2009 to 2010 (center)**  
**Team 2012 to 2013 (lower)**



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## MEXICO

### Harry & Rebekah Rodriguez

This January marks 20 years since I left my birth country to come to Mexico. Although the last six years we have been labouring in Springdale, Arkansas, at this moment we are in Ixtapa, Puerto Vallarta Mexico for the next five months.



Harry & Rebekah Rodriguez and family

There is an assembly in Springdale that was formed about three years ago. We are thankful to the Lord for his help and support during our years in the Springdale area. The assembly is small, but the believers are eager to learn and have an exercise in reaching others. One lady was received last month in fellowship, and three young men want to be baptized. Prayer will be appreciated for the preservation of the assembly.

We arrived in Ixtapa three weeks ago and just brought some basic things that we could pack in a van, including our son's therapy apparatus and the dog. We have the exercise to help as much as we are able in the work in Mexico. We love this country, and every time we have the opportunity we drive down. Ixtapa is on the outskirts of Pto. Vallarta, but close to another assembly (El Coapinole). The assembly was established several years ago, and many people have worked hard in this area since the beginning of the work.

This time, we had in our heart the small assembly in Ixtapa, since they are struggling a little. We know most of the believers here; some of them keep being faithful but others have been discouraged for different reasons. Our goal is to visit around and encouraged the believers, have a gospel series, as well as to help in the small Sunday school and work among the children. Roads are very rough here, but my kids seem to enjoy them. We are living close to the hall which gives us the opportunity to pick up an older couple. He is 85, and she is 83, they are in fellowship and in spite of their age they take the bus (not a safe experience) to go to the meeting. We are very grateful that we found a school for the kids not very far from home, and we are so thrilled that they accepted Noel with his problems, which is not easy to find here. They allowed me to built a ramp for his power chair, and that was great.

We already have seen Marta, Orlando, and Angel starting to come to the meeting. They identify very much with us, and us with them because Angel has cerebral palsy as does our son Noel. Angel is very cheerful, and we enjoy spending time with him. Curiously we realized that there are a lot of people in this town in wheelchairs and our hearts go out to them because this is not a handicap oriented society and on top of that, most of the streets are not paved but built with little stones. We were glad to see a family of ten kids coming to Sunday school; they came back for the gospel meeting with their older sister whom already has a baby. They probably were drawn by the generosity of the believers in Ixtapa (they serve food for visitors every Sunday) especially our sister Gaudencia, who has been helping this family for a while. Some of the believers here come from San Pancho, which is one hour away, others come from Talpa whenever they can, which is about two hours away from here. It is our exercise to help a little in the assembly in El Coapinole also since it is close to where we live. We are having Bible

readings every Thursday and are going through the book of the Acts. I am enjoying this meeting very much, hopefully, they too. We are happy to help and to be helped here, to encourage and to be encouraged, we are thankful for your prayers and appreciate them so much.

## Iguala, MEXICO

Duncan and Anna Beckett

We are currently living and working in Iguala, the state of Guerrero, Mexico. Iguala is a municipality of about 140,000 people, many of which live in outlying communities and villages. Iguala lies three and a half hours south of Mexico City and another three and a half hours north from the coast of Acapulco. Because of its low altitude and location closer to the equator, Iguala's seasons are hot and hotter and many times rainy. Over 90 percent of the population calls themselves Catholic, and many practice superstitious traditions in addition to their religion. In spite of this, the people are very warm and will many times open their homes to listen to a word from the Bible. Needless to say, "the harvest is truly great." (Luke 10:2)

Duncan and Anna Beckett and family



In August of 2015, we celebrated the first anniversary of the assembly in Iguala. It had been a year filled with ups and downs but looking back we can see the hand of the Lord working amongst the new Christians. It has been a joy to see the local brethren taking part in worship, preaching of the gospel and Bible study. The last Sunday in November a young lady, age 18, was received into the fellowship of the assembly here in Iguala. She is the second one added to the assembly since the original group broke bread for the first time over a year ago. Sadly, we have seen some others fall away, but we pray for their soon restoration. We ask you to remember the assembly in prayer, that they would be "stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58.)

Working with us in Iguala are fellow commended Mexican workers Abisai and Carmen Vieyra who live here with their two young children and Andrea Gomez, a young lady commended in 2014 from Venezuela. We thank God for the help that He has provided, and we enjoy being able to work as part of a team. In February, the annual fair began which attracts thousands of visitors from surrounding cities and states. Each year we look forward to handing out calendars and gospel texts to the crowds that are leaving the fair. During the school spring break, we plan, Lord willing, to have a week of children's meetings on the street under a tent during the day. Then at night, we plan to have gospel meetings in the open air under the same tent. We are praying that the attracting the children in the day will lead to interest from their parents and families at night. Last year, we had over 70 children attend the children's meetings, and we pray that we will have a good number this year also and that the adults will come to hear the gospel.

In addition to the work here in Iguala, we visit an outreach work twice a week in a small village

called Oacalco, in the state of Morelos that lies two and a half hours northwest from us. Abisai Vieyra and I have been visiting this work for the past year and a half for house meetings. Then, last August the Lord opened the door for us to rent a small hall in Oacalco. Since then, usually, 10 - 20 people attend the Sunday night and Wednesday night gospel meetings at the hall. In early December, we witnessed the first person obey the Lord in baptism in Oacalco. We built a portable baptismal tank, and it worked out pretty well. A good number attended along with a few that accompanied us from Iguala.

We ask for your continued prayers in both the work in Iguala, Guerrero and Oacalco, Morelos. Photo on the first anniversary of those in fellowship in Iguala:

## San Felipe, CHILE

Margaret Jones



On November 29 the assembly here in San Felipe held a Tea to remember the 60 years of the Lord's faithfulness since the assembly was planted. The idea was to gather the believers as well as former members of the assembly or those who used to attend Sunday School. There were about 90 people present, and most stayed for the gospel meeting. The believers were also invited to bring family members, and one young woman and her three little children came from a neighbouring town. She has since brought her children to Sunday School. Our S. S. has become very small, and we are looking for ways to grow it once again. This family lives a slow bus trip away. I think it takes most of an hour to travel the distance, but the mother-in-law has been very faithful on Sundays since she moved here.

She has a sick husband who requires a lot of care, so we don't see her at other times, but some have visited her. There is another family that comes from that town, and a small gospel work is going on there, but the going has been difficult. There is a church of Satan near the town, and it has a lot of fortune tellers who claim to receive their messages from dark sources. It reminds me of the church in Revelation located where "Satan's seat" was. It seems that would describe the town of Putaendo. This assembly is among the older assemblies of Chile and existed in great weakness before the Jones family moved here in 1963. Many were reached and saved over the following years, and the gospel went out by radio for 50 years.

We also had the last of the weekly classes that another sister and I had been carrying on in the apartment of two sisters. Classes do not seem to be very large anymore, with smaller families and so much to keep them otherwise occupied. However one or two children from our class have started coming to SS, and that has been very rewarding. If possible, I would like to hold a week of DVBS during the summer holidays just ahead, using the community building if available.

One Saturday we held a meeting in another part of the city, in the apartment of a sister who is a widow. Evelyn and I used to hold classes there years ago, and this sister has been talking to some of her neighbours who attended. She told us that they wanted me to go and meet with them once again, so we set a date. She had five neighbours in; some others had not been able to come. She wanted a brother to go along to speak the gospel to them, so a couple from the assembly agreed to do so I have since talked to the older sister about having further adult classes or meetings for those mothers who are not employed.

We also had special meetings throughout the first

week of December. Of the several people that I invited, one of them came almost all week. She came again to the regular ministry meeting the following week, so the gospel was preached as well as ministry. She told me she realizes there is something more she needs but has not come since. The visitors and activities of this season have been partly to blame.

Both assemblies of the area held their Award evening and tea for the Sunday school this month with good attendance. The gospel was clearly preached both times. As usual, it was a good opportunity to talk to some parents who used to come to SS and now send their children.

I send my best wishes for the year ahead. May the Lord bless and help you in your task of carrying forward the work of Gospel.

## **Ciudad Colon De Mora, COSTA RICA**

Douglas and Kathleen Reid

Greetings from Costa Rica, in the Worthy Name, of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A teenaged girl, a niece of a lady in the assembly, has professed to be saved. This same lady, Angela, has an outreach work in her home and carries on an S.S. work as well as in the Gospel. She also has a group of teenagers she preaches to.

A man who was in the assembly years ago, and got away for years, has been restored in a wonderful way, takes part very favourably, and for three Gospel meetings has brought about thirty people to the meeting in mini buses and he preaches to them. His mother and sisters are also coming, as well as a couple of brothers and their families.

Another man who was in the assembly several years ago seems to be dying; we thought for

several years now. His wife and two sons are in the assembly. He needs our prayers, or maybe I should say his poor wife does. She has the complete care of him ----well he tried getting our of bed on Saturday, fell and broke his leg and now resides in the hospital. Pray for his wife, Flory, who has her hands full night and day.

Please pray for workers for Costa Rica. We have some capable young men in the assembly, but they also have - families to care for, but they do their best. There is an outreach work among immigrant coffee pickers. On Sunday afternoon, they have S.S. and a Gospel meeting, and another on Monday. They have about 40 attending.

We would ask you to pray for Doug's eyesight; The doctor says it is the same as a few months ago, and there is no pressure, etc., So we are thankful for that. Kay had her second cataract operation, and everything went well with that, Thank the Lord.

We had our year-end program for the children the other night, and it was thrilling to see about forty unsaved parents out to watch their little ones perform. There is a lady in the assembly which has an outreach in her home, and that is where most of the parents came from. They got their presents, apples and pears and all went away very happy.

## **Santa Maria, BRAZIL**

John and Christine McCann

As we enter upon 2016, we have cause to thank God for His help throughout another year. We rejoice that there has been a little blessing in some areas where we have laboured and we long that further showers of blessing might result in this year that we have entered upon. We highly value prayer for us and the work here in the interior of the Rio Grande do Sul.

During these past weeks, we tried Gospel

Meetings here in Santa Maria in the Gospel Hall. Recently the assembly has been encouraged by some young men who have been added to the fellowship. Some of these have a nice gift for the preaching of the Gospel, and an exercise about the need of the unsaved. During these weeks, four of these shared in the meetings, and this proved to be very worthwhile. We all were encouraged to hear of a young RC man in his early twenties, having professed faith in Christ, two weeks ago. He has been attending the weekly Gospel Meetings over this past year, and we could see that God was speaking to him. This week, I am having three nights Bible Readings with the believers, taking up the three enemies of the believer. We long to see these young believers preserved and raised up by God to help in the work in this area.

Next Tuesday, (9th Feb) we have a national holiday here in Brazil, which coincides with the Brazilian Carnival. As in previous years, we plan to have two Bible Readings here in Santa Maria during the afternoon. Brother Lindsay Carswell will open Ephesians 2 and Carlos da Silva, a national worker, is responsible for Chapter 3. The assembly hosts these especially for the benefit of believers from small assemblies here in the interior of our state, who normally travel in to be with us. We pray that these saints will be enriched spiritually as a result.

During November and December, I had five weeks meetings with brother Lindsay Carswell, in two different towns where there are small assemblies. We had Monday and Tuesday nights in Cachoeira do Sul, where there are only eight in fellowship. We were preaching in the home of one of these believers and were thankful to have had as many as 26 to listen to the Gospel. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, we were preaching in a building located in a very poor area of Candelaria. We covered the area from door to door, and we thank God for quite a few who attended. We value prayer for two married men who attended well. Both are relatives of

believers and have been long prayed for. We long to see God awakening them to their need.

Previous to this during September and October, brother Roberto Ploia and I had seven weeks in Sao Gabriel. We thank God for blessing in

salvation. One case especially gave great encouragement. Two years ago, Roberto and I saw a married lady saved there. She is now in fellowship in the assembly. At the time of her salvation, her husband who is a policeman, was deeply opposed and often sat in his car outside the hall, while the meetings were going on. Over the intervening years, his wife's testimony had shown him that salvation was a reality, and right from the first night of these recent meetings, we could see he was listening with interest. It gave us joy to hear of his salvation at the end of the fifth week.

During this past month, the work here was saddened to lose our brother and sister, Crawford and Heather Brown. After exercise before the Lord, they have gone to live in the distant state of Bahia, where there is no assembly work or worker. We value the prayers of the saints for them as they seek to labour among contacts that Crawford has made through the literature work. We all face difficulties in the work here, but starting a new work certainly will not be easy. We long to see their vacancy here being filled by the Lord of the Harvest. So much of the states of the Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina lies still unreached by the Gospel. "Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the Harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His Harvest!" Matt 9:38

## **San Salvador, EL SALVADOR**

Craig and Corina Saword

Looking back on the past two weeks, the words of Paul come to mind in Colossians 4:3 praying, that God would open unto us a door, to speak forth Christ! San Francisco, Gotera is located about a 3-hour drive northeast of the capital city



Gospel meeting in the evening over 100 unsaved listening to the message

of San Salvador, with a population of around 21,000 people. This is the second time we have canvassed the city of Gotera with gospel literature. Our first involvement was in January of 2014 where we thanked the Lord for an open ear of the people, towards the gospel message.

We continued with weekly meetings in a rented building since the first out reach.

Our average seed sower day starts at 5:30 with wake up call & cold showers. The devotional starts at 7:00 am, and then breakfast at 8:00 am. The five groups would then go in the busses and vans, and pick up the children from their area for children's meeting. From 10:00-11:30 am was the children class where there was an average of 250 children that came out consecutively on a daily basis. The young people took up the life of Joseph, emphasizing the comparison to the Life of our Lord Jesus! At 12:00 noon was lunch

time, and each seed sower had to learn a consecutive verse each day from James 3: starting at verse 1, before getting in line to get the meal! By the last day, they had learned the first 11 verses about the tongue and its dangers. From 1:30- 4:45 pm the groups would return to their assigned areas, and we first distributed the John 3:16 texts, when the areas have been fully covered then we continued with the Romans 5:8 text. After covering each house with the two texts, we then continued with the red Spanish Via magazines, and then we finished up the last few days with the 2016 calendars which had with a Bible verse for each month, and the theme was light in the darkness, and Christ being the light of the world! Over the course of two weeks the groups would remain the same each day, and go to the same areas, to help create a closer contact with the people, over the course of the two weeks. There was a total of 60 seed sowers came to help with this effort, mostly nationals, but a few from the north as well! At 4:45 pm we



would start to pick up people for the gospel meeting (Danny was wondering if the Ford 12 passenger van was just a suggested capacity from Ford!) From 5:30 - 7:00 pm was gospel meeting with an average of about 100 unsaved, from the area, which came out each night. Every night someone would stay after the meeting to ask more about the message or ask to have a personal visit in their homes. We give all the praise to him for the good number who confessed Christ as their personal Savior! (Grandpa used to say don't count the fish yet, as there might be some sardines, but ask me a year from now!!) Please pray for the ones that were under the sound of the gospel every night, that the seed that was planted might give fruit in due season. By 9:00 pm back to the house for supper, after everyone was taken back home, and

11:00 pm lights out for the night. Other doors, were also opened for us, as it was the first time, Danny's group was given permission to hand out tracks in the military barracks! There are also two schools in the area and some of the teachers that came out to the gospel meetings, invited us to go to their schools and have Bible lessons with the whole school present. We talked with the directors, and they will set up a weekly meeting to teach the students from first to twelfth grades. We hope this will give you just a glimpse of the work that was done, so you can pray more earnestly for the work in Gotera.

Pray for the tranquility of Gotera, sadly on the last day of our seed sowers our group was a witness on the last day of our seed sowers, when a boy on a motorbike was shot in front of some of the young people, who were walking to our

bus, which was waiting to take them to the class. Her parents came a while later to pick her up and take her to the hospital, where the boy had been admitted. We later heard that this girl, Maria Elena was the family with the boy who was shot. While she was at the hospital news spread that the boy had died. When she heard the news, she fainted and then she had to be hospitalized! I guess the Doctors knew her condition as she had been admitted before with this same condition. She had come to most of the meetings of the special series and was convinced, but not converted! After seeing death so close, she decided to accept urgently Gods plan of salvation, professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and His finished work on the cross on our her behalf!

Dad had surgery on his left shoulder in early January, due to a torn tendon. After the surgery, his health declined even worse, because of internal haemorrhaging, that the Doctor felt was a result from some of the strong pain medication that he had prescribed. He has had to wear a shoulder brace for a month and a half and now is in therapy every day to try and regain the mobility in his shoulder once again.

Please pray for special gospel meetings in El Rosario with Brother Raul and myself, starting on the 21st of Feb each night for two weeks, Lord willing. Steve, our son, has been working with the young people with a special class for them on Saturdays and has seen some very positive results, with those in their teens enjoying the Bible study on the life of Paul. There have been over 20 attending the class with about 1/3 of them still unsaved! So we look to the Lord that in his mercy we would see them out under the sound of the gospel, and finding rest in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yesterday Brother Antonio Ochoa (one of the national workers) had an accident in San Miguel, with the van he uses in Lord's work. He said a

truck was hauling sand and hit him in the left corner of the van, destroying most of the external accessories, hood, grille, lights, bumper and left fender. We were thankful no one was hurt, and the radiator and frame were not harmed. Insurance is expensive and still not compulsory to have, so everyone ends up fending for himself. We will try and get to some of the salvage yards tomorrow to see if we can find enough parts to make it road worthy again!

#### **Prayer requests:**

Pray for the owner of the house where we were renting for the seed sowers. He is hospitalized, and the doctors' prognoses are not giving him much hope. His name is Dr. Paz.

Pray for the two neurological disorders that I have been diagnosed with, that they would be retained in its present condition, and not hinder us in our desire to spread the gospel.

## **Spanish Work in Brisbane, AUSTRALIA**

Willians and Kylie Alcala

Receive warm greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although we have not had the privilege of meeting many of you, we know that we are all members of the Lord's body, and it is an honour to communicate with you. May the Lord bless your local testimony for Him

Last month we were engaged in most of our regular activities, including the Gospel work among Spanish-speaking people, Devotional messages and visitation in several nursing homes, and helping with Gospel and Bible teaching meetings among the assemblies in the Brisbane area. The work in Spanish has given us many opportunities to make new contacts, and we have been encouraged with some fruit for the Lord's glory. Another area of service has been a small English as a Second Language (ESL) class at Conference Hall. Several people from different countries have heard the Gospel there,

and we have a couple from Hong Kong first contacted through this activity who now comes every Sunday to the meetings, both in the morning and the afternoon. Not saved yet, but their presence has been an encouragement to us. Hope to start this work again next month D.V.

I have been visiting Papua New Guinea for the last two years, to help with the Gospel work in the Hull Province, in the Highlands of the country. Some brethren had visited before but since 2013, we have been concentrating our efforts in one particular area where we have seen souls being saved. There are many "Christian" groups in that area, so we try to teach the new believers the importance of gathering only unto the Name of the Lord. Last year I went twice with other brethren, in March and November, and we are praying for the need of helping them to build a suitable hall for their meetings, and also for the establishment of a local assembly.

Our family is doing well, and we keep praying for our children. Willians Edward (almost 12) and Michael (10) professed to be saved while Timothy (7) has not made any decision for the Lord yet. Our little girl, Eunice Michelle, is 16 months now and gives us so much joy. Our recent trip to South America (Colombia, Venezuela and Panama) was a real blessing, and although we were very busy we enjoyed spending time with family and friends, and now our children are more fluent in Spanish.

Thank you again for your prayerful support and trust that 2016 will be a year of much blessings.

## **Moshi, Kilimanjaro, TANZANIA**

Ron and Maria Cunningham

I was sitting almost overwhelmed with the whole occasion when one of the academic staff sat down beside me.

A few minutes later he whispered into my ear, "I know you." I was very surprised with these words, and quietly I asked, "how is that?" He

whispered, "14 years ago I was one of your students." I was taken aback. He said he had decided to follow the Lord all those years ago and was going on in his faith. The Lord has encouraged us much in this special ministry over the years. Thank you for your continued prayer for the work in the schools as we continue to seek to avail of every opportunity to bring the word of God into the schools around Moshi. In the last few months, I have been able to sell bibles to students at a much reduced price, enabling them to enjoy the word of God. So far in these passing months, we have sold 424 bibles, and we stand back and give all the praise to the Lord.

From the 18th — 22nd of August of this year, we had our yearly Conference at Moshi for Elders and Evangelists from the northern regions of Tanzania. The areas from which these men travelled are- Manyara, Singda, Mwanza, Kagera, Kahama, Kigoma, Rukwa, Kilimanjaro, Tabora. I know these places and have visited them often to share the gospel. There are Assemblies in all of these areas for which we would value your prayers. One of the signs of spiritual growth was evident for all to witness at the conference as our Tanzanian brethren took an active part in the ministry, teaching, discussions and gave reports of spiritual progress from some regions. We are very grateful for those who knew of those five days of the conference: and prayed for this yearly event. Some of the brothers travelled over 1,000 kilometers one way, and for some, it took several days to make the journey from distant regions.

I am pleased to say that we still can practice some clinic work. On one occasion a man developed a cancer growth in his chest and despite the doctor's work in trying to control the condition, it eventually was the cause of his death. He informed his family that he requested that Orribeni and Ron take his funeral service and nobody else. There was a large gathering of

people 400 to 500 present. Ombeni was the leader of events, and I had the privilege of preaching the Gospel on "fife's journey." There was a reverent silence throughout the whole proceedings.

During the past few weeks, we have been able to visit the assemblies at Kahe and Mawala. It was encouraging to witness the continuance of these two assemblies which have not had a visit for some time. The assembly at Mawala was meeting under the shadow of a great tree as their assembly hall is not yet completed. It was well worth the visit. One of the brothers called Gabriel was in need of major surgery but was unable to pay for it. Before last leaving Belfast, a gift was passed to me with the message "use it as you see the need" Wonderfully, this gift covered the costs of Gabriel's surgery. He is now so much better in health. There is a third assembly about to be established at Wareta in another location, we value your prayer for the continued development of the work here.

Maria continues to enjoy her work amongst the women. This takes various forms. On some days, she leads English language Bible studies, on other days Swahili language Bible studies. Recently, I took her to girls High School to teach a Scripture class. She enjoys these opportunities very much. Her health is stable, but she needs to be careful. She is to have another check up on her pacemaker at the end of the year. Thank you for your prayers for her.

Please pray for the safety of national workers here. Recently brother Ombeni was phoned by two men and asked to meet them outside the Bethel Assembly. When they went inside the building, they pointed a gun at him and threatened to kill him if he did not hand over money. Having robbed him, they fled on a motorbike. He was badly shaken and is still impacted by the shock of having his life threatened. He needs our prayers.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers that the work of the Lord may continue with His blessing. In this year through the grace and mercy of the Lord, we have completed 50 years of missionary service. We praise and extol the Lord for His faithfulness throughout all these years. As we think about these years, we are so conscious of the need for new missionaries. Please pray that younger couples would come to this wonderful country to serve the Lord.

## MALAWI

Stephen and Gail Harper.



Stephen and Gail Harper.

I was privileged to be in Malawi again recently, spending the greater part of November in the work there. We have been exercised to try to follow up more of the many contacts made through the literature work, and also to be a help to the young assembly which Bro. Emilian Marianciuc has been instrumental in starting at Nsanama village, Zomba area, so we decided to try to address both of these needs at once by holding a 3-day conference there, and inviting some of the new contacts to attend. It proved to be a very useful time, in many ways. We took up the Epistle to the Galatians, ideal for dealing with the issue of true and false Gospels and their

teachers and we could see that a number of those present were very greatly helped by the teaching.

However, very early on, even before the conference started, some of those we had invited showed themselves in their true colours. One was a self-proclaimed apostle, and another claimed that he had been instrumental in raising someone from the dead! He had seemed very

The other main purpose of the visit was to oversee the 2016 Gospel Calendar distribution. We had arranged for 100,000 calendars to be printed in Malawi, and although there were some (the usual!) issues with delays in getting the work done, we eventually took delivery of them in time to complete most of our planned road-trip around the country. It is always a thrill to see the enthusiasm for Gospel literature, and we are



### Open-air work in Malawi

bright and promising when we met him a few months ago in August, but he now appears to be a total fraud. When introducing himself to us he said he had been saved while training to be a school teacher, but he was heard to tell others at the conference that he was saved as a young boy, still at the primary level. Although these things are disappointing, they no longer surprise us, and indeed, we are very glad to know the truth about such people before getting more deeply involved with them. Paul's advice was so wise when he said: "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins."

so grateful to the Lord and His people for enabling this work to proceed and to grow. With this latest production run of Calendars and tracts, the total number of items of Gospel literature distributed over the past couple of years is inching very close to 750,000! Please pray for the Lord's blessing.

Lord willing, I return to Malawi tomorrow and spend most of the next four weeks there. As usual, I hope to be further involved in Gospel literature distribution and open-air work, and also plan to use the opportunity to make some follow-up visits to contacts that have emerged following previous trips.

We have ordered 50,000 new tracts, and borrowing an idea from the brethren in Sri Lanka, I have also arranged for 10,000 Exercise Books to be printed, with some Bible verses and a short Gospel message on the cover. Given that schools are so under-resourced, we have no doubt that these will be popular and should open doors for us to speak to many students. I am also trying to source some pens and other stationery items to package together with the exercise books.

I also have a desire to initiate a number of translation projects that I have been slow to get going, as there is a great need for simple booklets on the doctrine of the Gospel, basics of Christian living, and principles of gathering as an assembly. I hope to meet with the translation team to get this moving.

It is just about a year since the most unpleasant experience in the Lower Shire when an elderly pedestrian stepped in front of the Land Rover I was driving. Miraculously, although severely concussed, she escaped without so much as a broken bone, and this reminds us of the preserving power of prayer. Please continue to uphold us in prayer.

## ANGOLA

Brian & Debbie Howden

I trust that the following will help you keep updated as to our program D.V for the next three months, and as ever we would value your fellowship in prayer.

We leave for Angola next Friday 12th Feb returning 6th March, back in the UK for four weeks then out to Angola on the 5th April through to 28th April.

We are thrilled that Matt Coe from the Bury St Edmunds assembly has been granted a visa, and he will be travelling out with us on the 12th Feb. We are thankful for the sacrifice he, Hannah and the three children are willing to make to do some

practical jobs for us. Matt will be travelling back to the UK on his own on the 24th Feb. We would value prayer that we will all know the Lord's preservation in our travels and work, also please remember in prayer Hannah and the children as they remain at home.

Although time will be limited, we have a lot to pack into the time. Since we returned from our last visit the water supply has been disrupted and the Ram that pumps water to the houses, School and onto the village has been stopping periodically due to the valleys that channel the water collapsing. Ruth has had folks down there working hard to get the water flowing again each time it's stopped, but it needs some major work done in the valleys this dry season. Piling has been sent out in a container but won't be there to help rectify the problem during this visit.

I hope to have several sessions with the elders at Camundambala studying the book of Romans, this was started during the previous visit. Prayer would be appreciated for this, as it requires much patience.

Meetings will be held at 6 am for the teaching of the Word in at least one of the assemblies in Saurimo every morning for a week as well as locally in Camundambala. Please pray that what has been prepared (John Chapters 13-17) will be mightily used by the Lord and be of help to many of His people. A visit back to Caungula for Bible teaching is anticipated as well, with a view to bringing a ministry of Christ into a situation that was previously marked by disunity. Prayer for these meetings would be greatly valued.

During this visit, letters of invitation need to be stamped and notarized by the authorities for visa applications to be made for two Trustees of the Angolan Literature Fund to visit Angola with us on the 5th April. We need to do a review of the printing work done in Angola, and we are looking forward to this visit very much as it will help the Trustees understand better the

practicalities and difficulties associated with literature work in Angola.

Thank you for standing with us throughout 2015, we would long for your continued fellowship in prayer in 2016, that in all things He might have the pre-eminence.

## South of IRELAND

Harry and Jean Reid

Just a few details of our recent visit to the South. Our recent visit to the South of Ireland was most encouraging as we visited the Brazilian emigrants once again. As on other previous visits, we prepared Tracts, CD'S and Calendars in their native Portuguese language.

Although some have returned to their homeland due to the economic condition of the country and work shortages, there is still a good number remaining in the area of GORT, South of Galway.

The weather was rather stormy and lots of rain but between showers we were able to visit a good number of people living in the housing Estates around the town. The FISK Slenoid factory near to where we were staying still has a good number of employees, and the Gospel materials were again well accepted.

After our visit to Gort, we travelled some 70 miles North East to a place called Athleague, (near to Roscommon) where there is a huge abattoir factory called KEPAK and there also quite many Brazilian and Portuguese speaking workers are still employed. We were able to leave the gospel materials for all the workers (over 50 ) before returning home again.

We certainly would now very much value the PRAYERS of the Lord's people that the "GOOD SEED" of the WORD will germinate in the minds and hearts of these dear people to the Salvation of their souls and produce a rich harvest for the glory of our soon coming Lord.

While in the South, we were able to manage a short visit to the folks in Gorey, where Michael and Shirley are labouring for the Lord. The saints there are very encouraged by the purchase of their new property recently acquired for the assembly meetings. There is still quite a lot of work in front of them as the building does need quite a lot of refurbishment before it can be used.

We look forward to returning to Brazil this year for another visit in the will of the Lord; it will be great to meet with the Saints again in Manaus and Santarem areas and renew fellowship with the believers.

## Spanish Outreach Publishing Work West Phoenix, U.S.A.

John and Michelle Dennison  
dennison6@yahoo.com

Last year, Instituto Cervantes reported that there are currently more Spanish speakers in the USA than in Spain. The 41 million Spanish speakers in the USA equal the total number in all of Central America. The number is even higher if we count the 11 million people in America that list themselves as bilingual.

Regarding the gospel, the Hispanic community represents a huge opportunity both because of the number of souls that could be reached, but also because of their general respect for the Scriptures and a more open ear for the gospel right now. This is especially true for newly arriving and first generation immigrants north of the border.

Therefore, we should not be surprised at the growing list of Spanish speaking assemblies, outreach works, and new works in the USA and Canada. We pray that God will raise up more workers and perhaps even call workers from Spanish-speaking countries to come over and help us in this land of opportunity.

Personally, Michelle and I will be forever grateful for the burden in the Orangewood (formerly Sunnyslope) assembly to reach out to the over 1,000,000 Hispanics living in the Valley of the Sun. We had the joy of working with them when God saved souls and established the Assembly in West Phoenix in 2002. We moved away to Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico to be involved in a new gospel work there from 2005-2010, but moved back to the assembly in Phoenix, as our boys entered their university studies.

Over the past five years, we have divided our time into four main areas. First, we have tried to help the assembly here in W. Phoenix in the gospel and teaching. God has graciously blessed the assembly with some numerical and spiritual growth. Two years ago, we had the joy of Leonel and Ieimy Chavez commending to Mexico where they currently serve the Lord in new works in Guasave, Sinaloa, and in El Vergel, Chihuahua. This is great for the work in Mexico, but, in Leonel's absence, it has required a greater involvement on my part in oversight responsibilities until the Lord raises up others.

God has given us a group of around 30 young people at the meetings, so we try to fill their time with an extra Bible class on Saturday. We hold these in English as we try to balance the primary languages of the parents and the preferred language of the children, which is one of the great challenges in all works with immigrants. The need for meetings in English will increase with time and with each generation, and yet the opportunities in the gospel and the need for teaching believers in their native tongue is essential as well. We ask God for wisdom and courage to keep us balanced as we navigate these challenges and transitions. As I write this, I beginning a short series of meetings in Spanish in West Phoenix on Future Events, as we pray for the salvation of some of the believers'

children and a nice group of visitors that attend regularly.

Our second area of focus over the past several years has been to visit and support different Spanish assemblies and works in Mexico and the USA. It is thrilling to see God's work growing south of the border with four new assemblies and multiple new works that have begun, especially in the last two years. I count it a privilege to have been invited to help with series of ministry meetings, conferences, and a few gospel series in Mexico.

But not all works turn out the way we hope they will. After a year of weekly meetings in a rented building in Nogales, Mexico, two smaller Seed Sower text distributions, and two brief series of gospel meetings, we feel it is time to focus elsewhere and end our trips to Nogales. It has been a joy to share in the work there with Tim Woodford and Marcus Cain, but the original contacts and the different ones we made during our time there have moved away, or interest has waned. It is solemn and sad to be a "savor of death unto death" (2 Corinthians 2:16) in a community, but we trust the Lord to guide us elsewhere in the gospel and perhaps lead us or others to Nogales some future day in His will.

Our third focus has been to try and help in a few English conferences or have weekends of ministry in English assemblies primarily in the USA and Canada. Of late, I have found it encouraging seeing so many young folks attending conferences and showing genuine interest in the Word.

Our fourth exercise has been to continue to help in the Spanish publishing work called Publicaciones Pescadores (Fisherman's Publications). We are greatly indebted to our sister Eleonor Mosquera, who does the manuscript preparation and graphic design work. We are thankful that this past year God enabled

us to produce and distribute a dozen new tract titles, some new book, and booklet titles, personalized calendars, and a new generation of our hymnbook.

Michelle and I are grateful for all God's kindness that we have enjoyed over the past 25 years in the work of the Lord. We genuinely feel there is so much still to learn and so much that could be done in the gospel and for the edification of God's people. We count it a joy to share in his work with so many laborers and pray that God will continue to guide us in our little service for him.

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## **El Vigia, VENEZUELA**

Paul & Daphne Chapman

## **Lutsk, UKRAINE**

Timothy & Rhoda Sloan

Timothy & Rhoda Sloan

## **BOTSWANA REPORT**

Dr. Clark Logan

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

David and Helen McKillen

## **NICARAGUA**

Tony & Danelle Flett

i

## **San Salvador, EL SALVADOR**

Jack Saword

Ellen suffered from. Please pray that the Lord will sustain and encourage him and Corina in this trial.

## **Jalisco, MEXICO**

Jonathan and Hannah Seed

## **Xalapa, MEXICO**

Timothy & Jenna Stevenson

## **San Felipe, CHILE**

**Margaret Jones**

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## **Moshi, Tanzania, EAST AFRICA**

**Ron and Maria Cunningham**

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**BLAZING A TRAIL IN PERU**

**Gelson Villegas**

(Venezuelan commended worker)

**El Vigia, VENEZUELA**

**Paul & Daphne Chapman**

**NICARAGUA**

**Tony & Danelle Flett**

**NICARAGUA**

**Mark & Brenda Bachert**

**PANAMA**

**Marcos & Sara Sequera**

**Lviv, UKRAINE**

**Edmund & Agnes Johnston**

**ITEMS FOR PRAYER:**

**ANGOLA**

**Samuel & Elizabeth Simonyi-Gindele**

**Logos School, CYPRUS**

**Steve & Brenda Flett**