

southern SENTINEL

of Gospel Mission of South America

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FRUIT FROM A CAMP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

by Rebecca Vallette

When our camp in Paysandú (Uruguay) started functioning seven years ago, there was great excitement! Many people in our churches had made important life-changing decisions in a Christian camp setting. However, we began to see that many teens were unable to afford to attend camp. About three years ago a Michigan gentleman approached us with the idea of a scholarship program for the teen camps. The scholarship would



provide a *free week of summer camp for any Christian teenager who would invite an unsaved friend* as his/her guest. Many of the young people responded, and the attendance at camp increased greatly.

While GMSA Canadian Board member Jerry Vanderveen was visiting Uruguay, he heard about this scholarship program and returned to Canada committed to help. Now churches and individuals in Canada finance the summer teen scholarship program, and the brother from Michigan sponsors the scholarship program for the winter retreat (July).

Three years ago, Valentín Romero, a Christian young man from the church in Paysandú, invited his friend, Jorge Saucedo, to attend teen camp. Thanks to the scholarship program, they would both be able to attend for free if Jorge came. A free week of camp sounded good to Jorge! He enjoyed the good food, games, and soccer. Each day he heard the Gospel clearly presented. Before the week was over, Jorge accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior!

Local church follow-up included visits from the pastor, chats with Valentín's parents (both Christians), and discipleship classes using the "Won by One" materials. Jorge has faithfully attended church ever since.

This summer Jorge was able to be a junior counselor during kids' camp. What a stretching experience! He enjoyed the challenge of corralling the children's energy and used his soccer skills to build relationships with them. At the end of the week he was exhausted but thankful to be able to give back a little of what he has received. Please pray for Jorge as he feels the Lord directing him to be a pastor or missionary.

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Chile Summer Ministries

compiled by Diane Steward

The psalmist tells us that the Lord in His mercy will gather His redeemed from the hand of the enemy “out of the lands...from the north and from the south” (Ps. 107:1-3). We can certainly testify to that as we have seen His work up and down the length of Chile over the recent summer.

Dan and Diana Kunnari

New missionaries, Dan and Diana Kunnari, along with their children, Jodie and Troy, and a team of eight others spent two weeks in the coastal city of Iquique at the edge of the Atacama Desert in northern Chile. Their focus was an evangelistic outreach in the huge suburb (80,000) of Alto Hospicio, in preparation for an eventual church planting project planned for that needy area in 2010. During the first week a VBS was held, and the second week they had evening park meetings in a rapidly growing new section full of young families. Praise the Lord for this open door of ministry! At least three hundred people heard the gospel message and many others received literature.

We know that the Spirit of God will use the Word that was sown in hearts and make the way of salvation real and personal to these children as well as to adults. Many of these children of the desert were excited to hear about the snow and cold winters in North America, as they have never experienced anything similar. There is not even any green vegetation except in the occasional city park.

While the pastor’s wife was teaching about Noah, she asked, “What is rain?” Not only do the children grow up not knowing what rain is, most also grow up without ever hearing the Word of God clearly. What a blessing it was for Dan and Diana to have someone ask, “What is truth?” and be able to share an answer--in Spanish!--“Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”



Dan and Elizabeth Thompson

Five hundred miles south of Santiago in the Araucanía Region (mainly indigenous territory), Dan and Elizabeth Thompson are working into their new ministry as administrators at the mission camp in Licán Ray. Their greatest blessing of this past summer was the chance to be involved with young people from the area churches. Four guys came from the MacKenna (Temuco) church to work as camp staff for a month, washing the dishes, serving tables, cleaning bathrooms, and helping the cooks in a variety of ways--and doing everything with a great attitude! Dan and Liz appreciated being able to cultivate a good working relationship with these young fellows as well as to have a spiritual impact in their lives. “As missionaries administrating a camp, it’s not very often that we get the opportunity of ministering one on one with people but this was our opportunity.”

Jonathan and Carolina Rea

More than a thousand miles south of Iquique in the capital of Santiago in Chile’s central valley, Jonathan and Carolina held their second VBS in a new park across the street from their home in the Monteverde (La Florida) subdivision. They had the help of most of the believers from their new church plant as well as missionary Sharon Bisbee and their daughter Noemi. Each evening Ricardo Green, an elder from one of our churches and president of Child Evangelism Fellowship, taught Bible lessons on the theme, “The Way to Know Jesus Christ.” Attendance ranged between 35 and 67, and five children came to trust Christ as Savior.



Jonathan and Carolina were also encouraged by the participation of 10-20 parents nightly. Several mothers would like their children to attend Sunday school and a regular Bible club when these activities get underway in March. The Reas did not expect their fellowship to grow so quickly and are finding their living room too small to accommodate the population explosion of the group--a problem that’s really a blessing in disguise!

Vacation Bible School

by Timothy Goossen

It had been several years since we had a Summer VBS in Gualeguaychú, Argentina. But this year the Lord helped us plan and prepare the only Vacation Bible School some of our people had ever experienced. The primary goal was to reach children with the gospel of Jesus Christ and enlist them in a Sunday School class for their personal spiritual growth. Our prayer is that through these children we may also reach their respective families.



Vacation

Many young people and some adults came every day to help in the different activities. They worked hard but with such enthusiasm it seemed like they were enjoying a vacation. The children colored an illustrated Bible verse as a craft every day to

take home at the end of the week. Different families brought cookies, cakes, and

traditional pastries for snack time which the kids enjoyed. But one of the kids' highlights were the outdoor games prepared by one of the young people. Every day many of the kids would ask, "Are we going to play today?" A month later some children ask the same question when they come to Sunday School. They enjoyed vacation!

Bible

Luis, a faithful believer, offered to bring new children from different neighborhoods in his van. Every day he arrived at the church building with a van packed with children. Several of them have shown genuine interest in the things of the Lord. One day, Inés, a 10 year-old girl, said,

"I don't have a Bible. May I have one?" So she and another boy are memorizing Psalm 23 to earn their own Bibles.

School

The lessons in each class that week were all from the life of the apostle Peter, emphasizing faith in Jesus Christ, not being ashamed of Him, boldness in witness, and persistence in prayer. Also, a young man told the adventuresome story of missionary Mary Slessor. I asked Valentin, an eight-year-old boy, what he liked best of the week. He said "I enjoyed learning a lot of things. I didn't know the story of Mary. I would like to learn more in church. I would like to live here!"

About 6 of the children continue attending Sunday School. Pray for them as they come to know Christ and grow in the Lord, and that we would be able to reach their families with the gospel.



What's in a name?

According to the dictionary, a sentinel is "a soldier set to watch or guard an army, camp or other place from surprise; to observe the approach of danger and give notice of it; a sentry or watchman".

Although the KJV doesn't use the word "sentinel", the synonym "watch man" is translated thirty-three times. For these past eighty six years, Gospel Mission of South America has seen a host of sentinels sent by God to the southern part of the Western Hemisphere. Years ago, as a special tribute in recognition of the seventieth anniversary, the Mission body thought it appropriate to give the quarterly a name - SOUTHERN SENTINEL. Our prayer is that an even greater spiritual impact will be made on the countries of Argentina, Chile and Uruguay through the sentinels God continues to send forth.

"When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Act 1:6-8

Mission Sign Posts found in the Bible

by: Terry Thompson

Luke 19:10 is a favorite sign post for my life and ministry. Have you considered the context of this verse? Zaccheus had received Jesus joyfully and promised to pay restitution. Those who witnessed Zaccheus conversion were complaining because Jesus accepted the hospitality of a known sinner. Jesus was aware that people thought He would restore the kingdom of God immediately. Here we find our verse. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Christ's mission is clearly defined whether referring to Jew or Gentile. Given in a somewhat similar context, Acts 1:6-8 defines our mission today. God's plan of redemption continues to unfold around the world. May the Lord find us faithful to the mission He has given us.



Want to get involved?

For ways that you could get involved visit us at www.gmsa.org/involved or e-mail us at gmsausa@gmsa.org



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