

southern SENTINEL

of Gospel Mission of South America

Issue

04

November
2009

"God's Grace Seen in a Lump of Clay in the Potter's Hand"

by Terry Thompson

This is how missionary George Black began his testimony before the mission family gathering in southern Chile earlier this year. Beginning with his birth in Pennsylvania to a godly mother who brought him to Christ and a father born in Aberdeen, Scotland, George traced the Lord's gracious hand in his life and ministry beyond 101 years of life.

In the 1930's, GMSA founder William Strong visited Philadelphia College of the Bible and enlisted George's help in reaching men for Christ among the Chilean Armed Forces. George arrived in Chile in December 1940 and married Letty Pudney, a missionary colleague from Vancouver, Canada, in 1943. During his eighteen years of evangelism and ministry to the regiments

in Chile, God burdened George's heart to preach the Gospel to the miners in the towns of Chile's northern desert. A parenthesis of twenty-two years in mission leadership would transpire before George and Letty would be free to go north.

Mr. Strong and the mission family recognized godly leadership and ability in George, naming him as General Director of "Soldiers and Gospel Mission of South America" in 1957, a ministry where he served until age required that he pass on the torch to Hudson Shedd in 1979. George faithfully maintained a fundamental testimony throughout the mission, enlisting numerous new missionaries and overseeing the extension of GMSA's ministries into Argentina and Uruguay in the 1970's.

Copiapó, an oasis city in northern Chile, became headquarters for George's later fruitful years of preaching God's Word and establishing local churches. When Letty died in 1998, the Lord graciously surrounded George with brothers and sisters from the Copiapó church who partnered with him in ministry, opening a new preaching point

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2009**

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in Pintores de Chile in his final years. The local church and his "Timothys" (whom he had trained in ministry) stayed by his side singing hymns until about noontime on September 12th when the Lord took George home.

One of his last concerns was for training Chilean pastors, thus he recommended that veteran missionary Daryl Thompson go south and teach at the Temuco Bible Institute. Now, Daryl's recent newsletter indicates that he is undertaking to renovate the kitchen and other facilities at the Bible school. He plans to use his Social Security money if necessary to accomplish the task, which means it is a priority project. He is expecting live-in students this next year. GMSA has therefore established a memorial fund in honor of George Black with all gifts designated to this renovation project at the Temuco Bible Institute.



"But now, O LORD, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."

Isaiah 64:8

Rejoicing in Newness of Life

by Andrew Thompson

On the second evening of a three-day evangelistic campaign, the Bible Center Church in Paysandú (Uruguay) celebrated a baptismal service on Saturday, September 26th. Pastor Rubén Rodríguez baptized eight local believers and three believers from nearby Orgoroso. (The Paysandú church has been responsible for a preaching point in the small town of Orgoroso for many years.) Two other churches sent representatives to this special occasion.



What was especially encouraging about these baptisms was that more than half of those baptized were older teenagers. Some of the young men, in particular, have developed admirable testimonies at home and at school. What a joyful occasion to witness them publicly identify themselves with their Lord and Savior!

After the service, church members and guests lingered and enjoyed food and fellowship until a satisfactorily Uruguayan (very late!) hour.



"I'm Not Too Young"

by Priscilla Goossen

"How old do you have to be to study in the Bible institute?" This was the question a young man directed to me as I sat at the registration table. It was apparent my answer disappointed him. Eleven-year-old José Luis wanted to study in the Argentine Bible Institute along with his father.

A few months later, when we began helping out in the Monte Grande Bible Center Church (Buenos Aires), I came in contact with José Luis again, as his family attends the church. One morning after Sunday school I approached him. "José Luis," I began, "how would you like to take a Bible course?" I showed him a correspondence course for children from Source of Light. He was eager to accept the lesson and start studying it.

As other children observed us, they inquisitively drew near to hear the conversation. "Can we study too?" they asked. Presently, five children are taking the courses. Some of them have already received certificates for finishing a series. How encouraging it is to see the delight of these precious children each time they receive a new lesson! Pray for them that as they grow physically, so also they may grow spiritually, learning and applying God's Word to their lives.

Spreading the Word through Correspondence

by Gabriele Beyer

There's no doubt about it: Bible correspondence courses are an excellent way to spread the Word of God! That's my conviction and experience each day as administrator of this ministry in Temuco, Chile, where for many decades a small office has existed to attend the public, funded by missionaries and supervised by GMSA to the present day.

These courses are available to anyone since they are free. Through the study materials that we offer, unbelievers can become acquainted with the Bible and find the Savior; Christians can obtain useful tools to understand the Word of God better and deepen their faith.

Even though there are neither resources nor time for any type of publicity, I still receive many visitors at the office. People come--not only from the city but also from the country areas, sometimes from distant or isolated places--to get information, pick up study materials, or deliver homework and tests to be corrected.

There are different levels of study, and a diploma is granted after completing a certain stage. Sometimes people have questions and wish to discuss something they didn't understand. This provides a good opportunity to get to know them better, give them counsel, and explain Bible doctrine, since many students are members of denominations that are doctrinally weak. They are often confused and even caught up in erroneous ideas. So our ministry fills a tremendous need of teaching biblical truth and sound doctrine. The little office often becomes a place of personal evangelism and spiritual counseling, where the blessing of God is experienced.

However, there are many other students I don't know personally, only via postal correspondence. Throughout the whole country, various study groups exist that request our courses and send back their lessons for evaluation. To highlight a few examples:

- There are two groups of more than 40 participants each in the city of Coquimbo in northern Chile.
- Many country churches ask for our courses to use in Sunday school, either because they don't have access



to good materials or because it is too expensive.

- In Temuco there is even a group of 45 men in prison who participate in correspondence courses with much enthusiasm and encouragement. Many times this is their only way of being able to hear and study the Word of God.
- Another good example in Temuco is a group of street youth in a problematic neighborhood of poverty and crime. They meet together to read the Word of God instead of committing crimes and consuming drugs due to boredom.

We desire that this wonderful ministry may be able to continue and even to multiply its outreach. We must buy the correspondence courses (study booklets that come from the USA) as well as maintain the office (materials, electricity, heat, furniture items, etc.--there is no computer!) Since we offer both materials and office attention without cost to the public, you surely might be asking, "How is all this financed?" The answer is simply, "By donations."

Because of the increase in visitors to the office and the growing number of persons participating in the courses, I also need someone to help me. I have asked a Bible institute student, a young lady named Mauren Céspedes, to be my assistant. This job will be good practice for Mauren in applying what she is learning as well as enabling her to make a little towards her own support and monthly school bills. We also plan to develop publicity materials to promote "Correspondence Courses" in the local churches.

We are praying that the Lord will touch many hearts to collaborate in this important ministry through intercession, offerings, and help of any kind. We know that it is worthwhile to be involved in the work of proclaiming the Gospel, through all available means. Outreach through Bible correspondence courses is fundamental, necessary, and effective. "Pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified..." (2 Thes. 3:1).

*“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that
in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”*
1 Corinthians 15:58

Hungry to Study the Word

by Lesa Holmes

Ding-dong goes the door bell; it is 2 p.m. "That must be Diego," Colby says. Every Friday afternoon Colby gets together with Diego, a nineteen-year-old young man, to study the Word of God. Diego has a great love for the Word and enjoys asking a lot of questions. He received the Lord with one of the believers of the church, and since then has been to all our meetings at the Ezeiza Bible Center Church (Buenos Aires, Argentina). He even audits Colby's class on Spiritual Life every Thursday evening at the Bible institute.

Colby has been reading "The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus" with Diego. We are praying that the Lord would work in his life and that he would continue to have this hunger and thirst for the Word of God and thereby grow in his new life in Christ. Would you join us in praying for him? "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby" (I Peter 2:2).

Want to get involved?

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get involved visit us at
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