

# Biographical Sketch

of  
Harold and Priscilla Goossen

## Harold Goossen

The fourth of eight children and a twin, I was born on July 26, 1947, to Cornelius and Hulda Goossen, wheat farmers in western Kansas. My parents were Christians who owned their farm debt free. They believed God had blessed them abundantly. Things were going well for them when a series of accidents made them stop to evaluate their lives.

One of the accidents occurred on July 4, 1949, three weeks before I turned two years old. It was wheat harvest. Glancing at his twin sons playing across the farmyard, my father started the motor to operate the grain auger and climbed into his truck. He heard a shrill scream and the engine stalled. Bolting out of the truck and running to the auger, he discovered it had slashed the right arm off my body. I had stuck the old curtain rod with which I had been playing into the mouth of the grain auger and it had grabbed both it and my arm. "Lord, what do you want from me?" My father cried in his desperation and it was as if a voice responded, "Cornelius, I want your farm, I want your family and I want you." It was then that my father dedicated himself and all he had to God's service.

My parents were very missionary minded and gave generously to the Lord's work. They often had missionaries in our home. The Lord used the contact with these servants in far away lands to guide me in seriously considering missions.

When I was twelve years old, my father died of cancer. It was around that time that I accepted the Lord as my personal Savior. In high school I decided to attend Western Bible Institute in Morrison, Colorado to prepare myself for the Lord's service.

## Priscilla Wallace Goossen

As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a missionary. My parents, Robert and Pearl Wallace, were missionaries with the American Sunday School Union until shortly before I was born, at which time my father accepted the pastorate of a country church in Nebraska.

When I was two years old we moved to Lincoln, Nebraska where our family attended a church with a strong emphasis on missions. I was captivated by the adventure of a missionary career. When I was about eleven years old I heard the testimonies and saw slides of the five young men martyred by Auca spears in the Ecuadorian jungle. That night I caught a glimpse of what was involved in being a missionary. The Lord spoke to my heart through Romans 12:1-2. He wanted my life as "a living sacrifice". God wanted me to do "His good, and acceptable and perfect will". At the close of the service, I dedicated my life to Him.

When it came time to decide on a Bible Institute to prepare for Christian service, I chose Western Bible Institute. Of course, as you have already surmised, that is where Harold and I met. Three years later we were married.

Through the visits of missionaries of the Gospel Mission of South America in our chapel sessions we came to appreciate the organization they represented. After much prayer and studying a number of boards, we made application to the GMSA. We were invited to attend their orientation program which was three months long in those days. In November of 1971 we were accepted and appointed to the country of Argentina. After raising our support we were finally able to attend language school at Rio Grande Bible Institute in the fall of 1973 and upon graduation proceed to the field in June of 1974.

During our missionary career we have worked in church planting ministries in various suburbs of the city of Buenos Aires, home to one third of the Argentine population. Our first term was spent working under our field director and a national pastor in a neighborhood called Pasco.

Temperley was the area in which we ministered during our second term. We held meetings in our home for several years until the group was able to find a meeting place elsewhere. This church now has a national pastor.

Our third and fourth terms were in the suburb of Llavallol. Once again we began meetings in our home until we were able to buy a church property. One of our great joys was having Bible studies in the homes of a number of families. All three of our sons were valuable assets in our ministry and worked along with us. We also called a national pastor to help us in the work and he has continued there with this ministry.

Towards the end of our fourth term, the GMSA general director spoke to us about filling a need in the home office in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. We accepted and served there until October of 1999, at which time we returned to Argentina.

Harold has been a professor and the director of the Bible Institute for the past twelve years. It is such a joy to have a small part in training young people to serve the Lord. Your prayers for us and the ministry in Argentina are greatly appreciated. Please pray that we will have wisdom in working with the Bible Institute students, that our teaching will be effective and produce the workers so desperately needed to evangelize and establish local churches in other cities of the Buenos Aires province and beyond.