

April 2014

Focal Points



Global Missions ♦ United Pentecostal Church International ♦ 8855 Dunn Road ♦ Hazelwood, MO 63042 ♦ 314.837.7300 ♦ www.globalmissions.com

Global Glimpses

GUATEMALA: Training and equipping has been the driving force behind the growth and stability of the church in Guatemala. We ended 2013 with 386 students studying in eight locations around Guatemala. In 2014 we will be expanding to seventeen locations where we will be training our pastors and church leaders. The results will be explosive and exciting. Our goal is to have thirty training locations in the nation and 1,000 students trained yearly!

In 2013, we purchased two properties in the interior of Guatemala for the construction of Bible schools among the Mayan Indian pastors. Both properties are on major highways and we plan to begin construction in 2014.—**Brad and Regina Thompson**

RUSSIA: God has led us to a hungry nondenominational pastor who has opened his heart to us and wants us to help him. We look forward to leading him and his congregation into all the truth God has for him.

The photo below shows how God helped us to end 2013 on a high note. Amy met Kris Newman, an amazing lady God sent to help us, at a special event. Kris was needing someone to help her with speaking Russian. After Amy helped her, they began to talk and Kris invited her to a Bible study. She came, heard the word and repented.



The following Sunday she came to our home group. At the end of our service we asked if she would like to be baptized in Jesus' name. She asked, "Why not?" So that's exactly what we did!—**Robert and Sheri Moses**

NEW CALEDONIA: We were blessed to have **Brother and Sister Howell** with us in New Caledonia. We were thankful when they finally arrived after having their flight delayed, cancelled, rescheduled and losing Brother Howell's luggage. After all that, four received the Holy

Ghost and three were baptized in the wonderful name of Jesus.—**Eddy and Della Mae Kennedy**

SLOVAKIA: Zlatka, a school teacher in Kosice, prays before her recent baptism in Liptovska Luzna, Slovakia. Zlatka's grandmother was baptized in this same outdoor baptistry eighteen years ago. We rejoice that the heritage of truth continues.—**Steven and Jean Tir**



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA: A new daughter work has opened on the southern part of Pohnpei Island. We are believing with Pastor **Loriano Martin** that God will increase the harvest in this region of Micronesia (West). The Pohnpei mother church was deeply blessed by the ministry of **Mike and Vickie Oliver** from Groveport, Ohio. Five teachers-in-training received the Holy Ghost for the first time during an altar workers demonstration! Over that weekend, fifty-six adults and children spoke in tongues for the first time as the Spirit gave the utterance!—**David and Kelley Dibble**

PORTUGAL: The last quarter of 2013 has been busy as we pastor two churches and an English work. Doors are opening all over Portugal for home Bible studies and we're seeing God work miracles in the lives of many. The Holy Ghost is being poured out and growth is happening through the power of His Word.—**Oscar and Erin Rodrigues**

PARAGUAY: Our national crusade was held on October 11-13, 2013, with Brother **John Hopkins** as our speaker. All three nights were tremendous. We did extensive evangelism. 22,000 invitations and 10,000 tracts were passed out. We had over 900 in attendance with ninety-eight receiving the Holy Ghost and eight being baptized in Jesus' name. The glory of God fell over the congregation while Brother Hopkins preached. We give glory to God for what He has done!—**Joey and Cristina Bir**

(Continued on page 2.)

Rwanda Report

The Lord has been good to us and we are thankful for His blessing and direction throughout this past year. As we move around Rwanda teaching and preaching in the different places, it is exciting to see people respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We would like to share with you some of the exciting things accomplished over the past year:

- 350 Bible studies were taught.
- Eighty-five were baptized in Jesus' name.
- The first seminar for pastors was taught and eight were baptized.
- Church in Kigali has grown and has around seventy-five in attendance.
- Translated fifteen tracts and other pieces of literature for distribution.
- Purchased land for a training center in Kigali.
- Renewal of church documents with government.

—**Louis and Martha Johnson**

BRAZIL: Trained Bible school youth go everywhere and we struggle to keep up with visits. We are very glad to see this point of growth. Without the seaplanes we would be unable to reach many areas in northwest Brazil's huge rain forest. Flying fifty hours in six weeks in our Cessna 206 seaplane, I was able to visit rural areas such as Acre, Pará, Roraima, and Amazonas states. The day usually starts by rolling out of a h a m m o c k ,

eating breakfast, flying to the next place, mooring the seaplane in a sheltered area, refueling, resting and then preparing for service that evening. I visited eight new churches in one week, met Bible school students and preached a graduation in Boa Vista with Theresa. We also visited churches among two new Indian tribes where our workers built churches. We were met by some of our happy church people of the Kanamari Indian tribe at Flechal on the narrow Xerua River, where we dedicated their new church on December 14th, 2013.—**Bennie and Theresa DeMerchant**



INDIA: Pradeep grew up in a Hindu family. His father died while he was still a child, and then his two older sisters died when he was in grade 5. All this brought mental health problems to his mother. She would grow violent, quarrel with neighbors, and the family had no peace. They prayed to their gods and got no relief. His mother was then admitted to a district medical college, which tried various treatments, but she was not healed and in fact grew worse. The doctors could only say that she would need medication for the rest of her life. Then an apostolic Christian pastor fasted and prayed for their mother and she was wonderfully healed. As a result, the family came to Christ as well. Pradeep received the Holy Spirit, was baptized and started attending Scism Christian University. After graduating, he now pastors in his home state.—**Stan Scism**

FAITH PROMISE: An older couple made a small Faith Promise pledge. Due to a disability, he lost his job many years ago, so they lived on a limited income. A few days after their commitment, they received a check for \$5,000.00 from the insurance company. They have no idea why, but God provided!

Another sister lived on a small income from driving a school bus. After making her Faith Promise pledge, she had more bus runs added to her schedule. This increased her salary by \$500.00 per month and more than covered her Faith Promise commitment.

A family who kept foster children made a Faith Promise pledge. The week following their commitment, they were called and asked if they would accept four children. They had never before been asked to accommodate that many children at one time. God took care of their need.

A young couple made a Faith Promise pledge. The very next day, the lady was called and asked if she would be interested in babysitting two children. This more than covered their Faith Promise commitment.

We never have to be afraid to step out in faith and believe God when He impresses us to do something for Him. He already has the resources in place to meet the need before He asks us to commit to Him. What an awesome God!—**Harold and Helena Kinney**



Masthead Photo: Pictured is Bennie Blunt, missionary to Samoa, at a February 2014 Holy Ghost revival held in Apia, Samoa. Twenty-two were baptized in Jesus' name and fourteen received the Holy Ghost.

NEW NEXT STEPS WEBSITE

Next Steps is an eight week cross-cultural missionary program of Global Missions. Held each June and July it involves three weeks of classroom instruction and five weeks of hands-on experience. It changes lives: both for the participants and those touched through their ministry. The 2015 program is scheduled for Guam.

Visit www.nextstepsprogram.net for an application and more information about the AIM program.

Try Faith Promise. It Works!
To schedule a service, contact Bryan Abernathy at babernathy@upci.org or 314.837.7300.