

May 2010

Focal Points



Foreign Missions Division ♦ United Pentecostal Church International ♦ 8855 Dunn Road ♦ Hazelwood, MO 63042 ♦ 314.837.7300 ♦ www.foreignmissions.com

Global Glimpses

KINGDOM OF TONGA: Our youth were so blessed in youth camp in December by the ministry of **Brother and Sister Brandon Buford** from Missouri. Three souls received the Holy Ghost. In the northern group of islands of Vava'u, three souls have been baptized in Jesus' name since January. The pastor also reports that they are going to begin clearing the land and start progress toward getting their new building started in the near future. On February 15, we began our United Pentecostal Church Bible College here in the capital city of Nuku'alofa. We are expecting to have five students enrolled and are anticipating another great year of studying the Word of God. - **Bennie and Pat Blunt**

MISSIONS IN TUAO EAST, PHILIPPINES: In July 2009, a church building, sponsored by the Tabernacle of Joy in Singapore, was dedicated by our missions team. 310 visitors attended the services, 75 received the Holy Spirit and 43 were baptized in Jesus' name, including the Singaporean architect who attended the dedication services! The pastor of the new church (Tabernacle of Joy, Tuao East) reported that in 2009 there were a total of 420 visitors who attended services, with 144 baptized in Jesus' name and 94 filled with the Holy Spirit!- **Steve Willoughby**

SPAIN: In November of 2009, we taught Bible schools in Madrid and Barcelona, Spain. Forty-three students attended both schools. This training has produced leadership for thirty-one new churches which began here in the last eight years. During a Sunday service in Madrid, 485 were in attendance. Over 100 people came to the altar to commit to prayer and seeking God.

The church sees new people come every week. This church was built using home Bible studies as the main outreach. **Brother Gary Sones** oversees the work in Madrid and **Brother Nathan Harrod** oversees the work in Barcelona. - **George and Cheryl Craft**

THAILAND: **Brother Teng Vang** from Merced, CA, comes every year to fund and lead revivals among the Hmong people. The Bible school hosts, provides worship music, and ministers in these revivals. At the last service a continuous two hour worship in which the music never stopped broke out from sixty-one little children singing a "special." Many children and adults were filled with the Holy Ghost. - **Jack and Michiko Coolbaugh**

GREECE: We closed 2009 with great enthusiasm and hope for the field of Greece. Our 4th annual youth conference was a great success and filled with great anticipation for 2010. Our youth committee worked hard in preparation for the conference. Over forty-five attended and about twenty-three were first-time participants. **Pastor Jonathan Strickland, Niko Kokkinos and Kosta Theodoropoulos** (youth committee members) were the main speakers. God moved in many hearts, giving new purpose and desires. Church Crossroad, in the great vision of "Reach, Teach and Send," is continuing to move on with 40 days of fasting and prayer, in preparation for outreach and celebrating the move of the Holy Ghost! - **Jonathan and Maria Strickland**

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MK Ministries Spotlight

2009 in numbers:

550- MKs now in our data base and are being ministered to on a daily basis.

225- MKs attended the General Conference Pizza Bash in St. Louis, Missouri.

183- Faithful Partners In Missions.

55- MKs attended the Youth Congress Luncheon, Nashville, Tennessee.

35- MKs were ministered to at School of Missions, St. Louis, Missouri.

24- Number of E-Magazines published.

1- Congratulations to MK-Rev. David Bernard, voted in as new General Superintendent, UPCI.



Global Glimpses continued

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Brother Felix Estevez from the Dominican Republic has baptized the first Spanish convert in the island of St. Maarten! Pray for Brother Felix as he raises up a Spanish work on this island. Pastor James Irish has baptized many of the members of a Trinitarian church in St. Maarten which are now working with the UPC! - Steve and Kari Shirley

PARAGUAY: The new school year began last week for New Heights School with approximately 170 students enrolled in grades pre-K to 5th and using all six of the recently completed classrooms of the Fred Scott Memorial Education Center. Many thanks once again to all who have given in support of the building and these students! We have an excellent staff who are working together with the sole purpose of reaching these children and their families with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Every effort is being made that this year, more than ever, be a time of reaping the harvest of souls that have been placed in our hands. Please pray for the students and also for the teachers that the presence of God would permeate each class, giving strength and healing where needed and drawing hearts to Him. - Vladimir and Kim Goodrum

PHILIPPINES: We were so honored to have been extended the privilege of guest speaker at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of The Apostolic Institute of Ministries, Davao City, Philippines, where we had once served as president for nearly nine years. It was an absolute joy to witness the phenomenal growth taking place

in the Philippine church, largely as a result of consistent Bible school training. Approximately 300 former Bible school students and staff members attended this special celebration. Our hearts were overflowing with thanksgiving to God for what He has done! From our departure nearly 17 years ago, Mindanao Island has grown from three districts to the present five. There were approximately 400 churches on the island, and now there are nearly 800! In conjunction with the 25th AIM Celebration, the 2010 Philippine annual general conference took place with 2,500 ministers and wives present and 7,000 attending the final service on Sunday, February 21. The anointed ministries of Brother David K. Bernard and Brother T. F. Tenney were outstanding! - Roger and Becky Buckland, Czech Republic; Slovakia

MEXICO: The Lord ministered in such an outstanding way in Oaxaca as our ministers' and families came together. They received teaching from Brother Victor Melendez, South Carolina, and from Brother George Guy, Louisiana. Ministers' families were touched and changed by the presence of God. - Scott and Linda Guinn

FRANCE: The Lord has opened a door for us to begin holding regular scheduled services in the city of Tours, gateway to the western region of France. With three Apostolic university students and young professionals already on site and with other contacts already made, we're believing God for great things in this beautiful city of 300,000 people. - Paul and Darla Brochu

Project of the Month: Christian Education in the Middle East

Christian children are persecuted in the government schools by teachers and other students. It costs a lot of money to send them to private schools, but this is what most Christians try to do. Some churches have schools for their constituents for this very reason. We do not. However, we try very hard to help the leaders' and translators' families with part of this expense. We need \$1,500 each semester to simply aid them in sending their children to private, inexpensive schools.

The families will still be required to pay as much or more since most of them have more than one child, but we can help with this expense.

Please send your donations to the Foreign Missions Division, 8855 Dunn Road, Hazelwood MO 63042. Please designate your offering to the **Middle East Education** or to account number **103.FA0510F.033215.25.2503_156**.



MASTHEAD PHOTO

MASTHEAD PHOTO: Jared and Kim Staten are pictured during a commissioning service at the School Of Missions in 2009. Along with the Statens, Adam and Maya Hunley, Ken and Ginny Cantrell, and Patrick and Sandy Miller were also commissioned during the service.