

December 2011

Focal Points



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

Global Glimpses

LEeward ISLANDS: For many years the British Virgin Islands have been a target nation for the UPCI. Recently, I traveled to the island of Tortola, along with Pastor **Michael Herbert** and AIMer **Leonard Smith**, to meet with a new group of baptized believers to form a church in Tortola! Currently, they are meeting in a hotel meeting room. Pastor Herbert is traveling over by boat each week from the island of St. John to conduct services with them. Thank you, partners, for helping us to reach another island nation!—**Steve and Kari Shirley**, Dominican Republic/Leeward Islands

PARAGUAY: The National Youth organized a trip to Ciudad del Este to evangelize and hold a special evangelistic service. As a result, ten new young people came. Five people received the Holy Ghost and three were first time guests. We visited Presbyter **Dionisio Gaona** of the Eastern Zone and went to Santa Rita, a beautiful city 70 km from Ciudad del Este, where Brother Gaona has founded a new work. There was a good group of people that are committed to the work of God. They are renting a nice building to hold services. We were very pleased with this and the national board approved to help them with a down payment on a piece of property so that they can begin to build.—**Joey and Cristina Bir**, Paraguay

ESTONIA: What an exciting summer it has been! We've had a continuous flow of AIMers and guest teams to help the work and get us ready for our

church launch in September, here in the city of Tallinn. Altogether this summer in Tallinn, at least six people received the Holy Ghost, three were baptized in Jesus' name and many were healed. In two children's services, following July and August Family Days for the community, a total of fifty new kids showed up! The work of the Lord is moving forward and He is building His church in this nation! A warm thank you to all who continue to support us financially and in prayer. We could not do this without you. A special thank you to AIMer **Gabrielle Reese** who dedicated a whole year to work with our boys. We appreciate you!—**Nate and Ingunn Turner**, Estonia

EUROPE / MIDDLE EAST REGION: More than 200 pastors, leaders and leaders in training came together for the first Apostolic Renewal Conference in the Europe/Middle East region. Guest speakers were Brother and Sister Bernard, Brother Howell and Brother Woodward.—**Michael and Dianna Tuttle**, Regional Director, EME

BRAZIL: We have great news to share with you! Five people were baptized in Jesus' name a few days ago. Each one has been seeking the Lord and has desired to be used of God and live for Jesus. Rejoice with us as we pray they will all soon receive the Holy Ghost.—**Philip and Linda Walmer**, Brazil

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GLOBAL GLIMPSES (Continued

REPORTS FROM GHANA

- A well attended minister and minister's wives conference was held in the northern part of Ghana, Tamale. It was a great time of refreshing and refocus. We thank God for six couples that were ordained into the ministry during the conference.
- Twenty-seven people were baptized in Jesus' name, fifty-nine received the Holy Spirit and fifteen testified of being healed during the 30th Anniversary services of the UPCI in Tamale.
- Special thanks to Cruizin' for Christ and the Atlantic District men for raising funds for three motorbikes. Two have been placed in the North and one in the Volta Region. Two weeks after receiving his bike, **Pastor Hayford** called to say he had opened a new work from his church. Seven have already been filled with the Holy Ghost and nine have been baptized in Jesus' name!

-**Nick and Pam Sisco**

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SWAZILAND: The ministers of the United Pentecostal Church of Swaziland recently completed their vision for growth and progress meeting. Pastors from around the nation came together to organize and plan for growth and revival. The Scripture tells us, "Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18)." The church in Swaziland has a great vision for the future progress of the work. Plans were made for new congregations to be started, church buildings to be built, continued training for pastors and ministers as well as the development of spiritual leadership.—**Richard and Patricia Porter**, Swaziland

BURKINA FASO: This year has been exciting and progressive for Burkina Faso, West Africa. The first ever graduating class stepped onto the stage to receive their diplomas. It is evident that we have not arrived but we have just begun. The new Bible school session has already started with nine new students. One of our new students is **Mouni**. He was a



practicing Muslim and the second oldest in a family of thirteen children. It was devastating when his father was tragically killed and did not take long for him to search for the truth. We baptized him six months ago, and he is our youngest student!—**Ken and Ginny Cantrell**, Burkina Faso

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Report from

Papua New Guinea

Crowds of approximately 6,000 (pictured below) gathered in the remote region of Mendi, Southern Highlands for our national conference in July.

This region is one of our fastest growing areas with churches in villages and mountain tops. People travelled from as far away as the Gulf Province, New Ireland, New Britain and Sepik provinces. Guest speaker Reverend **Oyang Sesaray**, from West Papua (Indonesian-ruled), preached fine messages. This three-day conference was introduced by a wonderful welcome ceremony including a drum and tambourine band.

The meetings were held outdoors in a sports field in the town center where non-church members gathered in vehicles and on roof tops to hear the preaching.

By the final day, over 100 had been baptized and seventy-two received His spirit for the first time.—**Richard and Margaret Carver**, Papua New Guinea



MASTHEAD PHOTO: A partial view of the missionary family present at the Foreign Missions Division 2011 General Conference service. The January 2012 issue of the Focal Points will feature a report from the 2011 General Conference.

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