

GAMBOA UNION CHURCH
PASTOR BILL WILBUR GAMBOA, PANAMA
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AUGUST 2016 Recently I got a new large wall map of the world. It covers most of a large wall in my church office. I wanted to be reminded to see that God has a mission around the whole world and that God's plan is big and we are part of it. I wanted the prayer meetings in my office to see those very areas in the world.

Several years ago, a lady said she had a dream of seeing flags from all around the world placed along the entrance of the church side walk. At first the thought was to go buy flags for this purpose but we never did it. Now, after all this time, I suddenly saw that the dream was not to be literal flags, but about people from various nations. This has been happening more and more.

People have visited from the Gamboa Hotel, others from reading my book, hearing the daily radio programs or simply because of a friend. Several years ago we had people represented from fourteen nations out of the 75 people in the congregation that day.

On Sunday, August 21, I noticed a number of visitors as the congregation was arriving. So, as part of what you would say a "Call to Worship," I asked about their locations. We learned: Ecuador, Brazil, Maryland, Florida, 3 separate visitors from Panama, two separate ladies from S. Korea (so they got to meet each other here and one came to Christ!), Belgium and another from Belgium-Congo. This was amazing and exciting!

Then, because it was the time of the Olympics, that Sunday gave us an extra focus on the world mission. One of our members, Alejandro Martinez, actually had three gold medals from the PanAmerican Olympics in the 1970's and he gave his testimony of when he was a young boy he wanted to be like "Charles Atlas." He was small, weak and afraid of his neighborhood in Colon. So he really trained for weight lifting and actually got the gold for Panama and then for the PanAmerican Olympics. He was suddenly famous and well liked. Then he went on to do the same for wrestling and judo.

But after all of this fame and popularity, he was lost inside. One day a missionary led him to Christ. That changed his whole life. He moved to Gamboa in 1989 and became part of our church life. He continued to complete and then did training youth as a coach. A favorite verse is, "I can do all things thru Christ who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13)

We thank the Lord for all He has done and continues internationally for His glory.
Gifts for tax deductions: GAMBOA UNION MINISTRIES and sent to: Sydney Corbett;
231 SE 45th Terrace; Ocala, Fl 34471-3224 'til all know His Name, Bill