

GAMBOA UNION CHURCH, GAMBOA, PANAMA

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JANUARY 2010 Pastor, can you come here please! It was Sunday morning at the church and as I headed to the doorway I could see many tourists standing around.

“Welcome”, I greeted them thinking that they were there for the service. Then I saw the line to use the bathrooms!!! The usher pointed to the tour bus outside and tourists standing around on the front lawn. It turns out that their tour of the canal was delayed and they had been on the bus for over an hour. Now restrooms were the biggest need.

Suddenly I had an idea. Even though the service was due to start in five minutes, I quickly grabbed a pile of my books and headed for the bus. The tour guide recognized me (that’s why they decided to stop at our church) and motioned for me to get on the bus to sell my book. People quickly bought nine books and soon the bus was ready to leave. One man gave an extra donation to the church.

It is so exciting when that happens. I had been praying for new opportunities to reach the tour buses and now here one came right up to our door-step. Thank you Lord!

MORE TOURISTS Early one morning, while walking the best dog in the world, I met the room supervisor from the hotel. She asked me for 200 Bibles for all the rooms. She was going to put my colorful bookmark in each one which tells about my book for sale in the gift store and our Sunday services. Since we have people from around the world, I am going to get a Spanish/English edition. This is another amazing way God has set us up to touch people from many nations for Christ.

THE PRISON... Recently I was leaving the prison after our weekly meeting when I saw a TV crew from Tele-Metro. I greeted the lady with the mic. When she found out why I was there, she put the mic in front of me and asked me to tell the “camera” about our ministry. Then she asked a great question...“What do you tell the men and do you think it makes any difference in their lives?”

Wow! What an opportunity to tell about the power of the gospel. I was able to tell about my book on the air and then presented one to her as I left. This was a total set up by the Lord!

REACHING CHILDREN One of the ways we reach out to those near us is to help the local Wounan Indian children who live up the river from us to go to school. Each child needs to pay an annual tuition fee of about \$25. Now if you have a family with three kids that go to school, suddenly you are hit with a bill for \$75, plus the cost of uniforms, shoes and books. They really need to have two uniforms because many times they get wet crossing the lake in the rain going or coming from school.

We also provide one dollar a day per child for their snack or lunch. The children have to get up while it is still dark and paddle down the river in time for the bus. Usually they have nothing to eat but they can ride the bus free if they have on their uniforms. It costs us about \$4,000 a year for this program.

Can you help us with these children? We have 15 kids that we help. It cost \$20/mo. for the lunch (which is about \$180/year) and at least \$75 for tuition, books and uniforms for each child. Would you like to provide for a child’s education for a month or year? Education opens up a new world!

Send your gift for a U.S. tax deductible receipt to: Mrs. Sydney Corbett; 231 S.E. 45th Terrace; Ocala, FI 34471-3224. Thanks so much. Pastor Bill