

## GAMBOA UNION CHURCH

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**NOVEMBER 2008 FUNERALS ARE DIFFICULT ....** But recently I spoke at two large funerals where I was able to explain the hope of life after death and the assurance of salvation to over 600 people within a two week period. The first funeral filled to overflowing the large Balboa Union Church because our Gamboa Union Church could not hold the crowd of former Canal Zone people. The second funeral was for a businessman friend of mine from Ireland. The school administration and entire class of his 15 year old daughter attended. I sensed God directed me to speak from Isaiah 40:1,2. Later I found out that there were Jewish people present who would relate to this Old Testament picture of Christ who "paid the double" for our sins. One young man later told his mother that he usually tunes out preachers, but this time he felt that "God sent me an e-mail." The response to the messages for both funerals was totally positive. God was there in power!

We had another conference with Mike Green from Florida on Restoring the Foundations. This time it was at our church on a weekend. Sunday morning was especially powerful. Along with Mike's powerful message of his testimony of searching for 20 years into all forms of religions, new age, cults and the occult, we had a visiting YWAM team of 15 from Costa Rica. Their drama was one of the most powerful that we have seen which challenged us to world missions in the midst of all the temptations and distractions the devil throws at us. We had many visitors and one told us the next day that during the closing music from Hillsong she felt her heart get all cleaned out and renewed. Another said, "I've gone forward at other times, but this morning I totally gave it all to Him."

I've taught and heard many messages on forgiveness over the years, but Mike brought out an aspect that I hadn't considered before. That is choosing to forgive because I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU LORD. So this can be worded in a prayer as I lead people in forgiveness.... "Father, I choose to grant them a pardon for their offenses against me because I want to be like You." So, when we pray that we want to be like Jesus, it will demand forgiving others totally.

RADIO.... One lady called the other day to say that four years ago she was scanning the dial when she came across PANAMA TODAY. At the end of the program she heard me say, "God loves you ....He really does love you." That was the day she gave her life to Christ and has been listening ever since. A friend called me recently having heard a testimony I shared from the Graham crusades in England in the 1950's. He had become a Christian through those meetings and is now a missionary here in Panama. This man was encouraged to hear this testimony from the days when he became a believer. I never know who is listening and how that broadcast will affect their lives... but God does!

UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITIES .... Recently I took six YWAM staff and students to share with 80 business people and investors from Canada and the USA that were here for a seminar. Many bought our books and baskets/carvings, etc which help support the work with the Indigenous people. They all applauded when one of the Indian girls gave a testimony in perfect English! We pray that the books will continue to change lives as they go to various places in the world. I also spoke to 125 jr. and sr. high students at the Crossroads Christian Academy. The response was great!