

GAMBOA UNION CHURCH

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MAY 2008 GOD HAS A HEART FOR THE NATIONS!!! When you get to know the heart and mind of God, your prayer life will change. Your prayers will be more focused on God's desire for mankind. Notice as you read the Bible, especially the Psalms (example Ps. 2:8) the number of times you see "nations" mentioned. It says so clearly that God loves the world. When you line up with God's desires and pray accordingly, your life gets exciting with "divine encounters" and answers to prayer. Life in the Holy Spirit is far from boring!

Here is an example from the prison. "John" (not his real name) had been just transferred to the Renacer prison where I go each week. He is from the city of Philadelphia and he had been picked up at the airport for taking home the wrong kind of souvenirs (drugs). He was just passing by the chapel area when he heard me speaking in English. He came in to listen. He told me later that everything I was speaking about was "his life." It turns out that his father is a pastor in the inner city and that although John knew the truth, he decided to run his life his way. Now his life as he knew it had stopped. God had his attention. It was time to change! Here I am in Panama but ministering to a guy from Philadelphia!

Then there is the radio. I never know who is listening out there in radio land. One day a 90 year old great grandmother got off a bus with her granddaughter in Gamboa. She had come for church and arrived an hour early. She said she wanted to meet "the voice on the radio" and bring an offering. So sweet! She listens everyday and this is her "daily bread."

While we were passing out New Testaments to the canal workers last month, a lady called out to me, "Pastor, I listen every morning to you on my way to work." This is so encouraging. Next month marks 12 years on the air. Finally, after the prodding of the station technician and the help of several computer guys, I am no longer using tapes, but now making my programs on computer disc. These programs on MP-3 are going to be available on our new church web-site that is under construction. More on that next month!

I have mentioned our deep involvement and connection with the Panama base of Youth With A Mission. At a recent Sunday service, there were several mission teams we dedicated. One went to Mexico and would travel back to Panama stopping in each country for ministry; one went as far as Costa Rica and would travel back to Panama City thru the many small areas where they had previous contacts – seven of the team are from Norway. Another team left for Haiti. Four of them were raised in an orphanage there and wanted to take the whole team there on one of their stops. In all, there were 40 students and staff from USA, Canada, Norway, Germany, Mexico, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Panama. We closed this service of dedication and commissioning by singing to the Hillsong DVD "God He Reigns" and "All I Need is You Lord." We then prayed over the children to live for Christ in their generation!

During this same time, there was a team of seven who went for a 5 day mission trip to a remote area near the Colombian border...the Darien Jungle. The Pan American highway which runs from Alaska to here just suddenly ends...there is no road to Colombia. One of the team was a Wounan Indian who is from our church who knows the language and customs of the area. The purpose of the trip was to get to know the area, reach out in various ways to

share the Lord, and to write songs of praise in their style and language. We had special prayer for them as well.

We were all freshly challenged by word and deed of God's desire for the nations. Where do you fit in? You can give to the mission here and so many other places in the world....and you can pray over specific prayer requests from missionaries around the world.

People have asked how they can donate to the mission here. If you are in the U.S. or Canada, you can send a check to: Mrs. Sydney Corbett; 231 SE 45th Terrace; Ocala, FL 34471

Looking ahead...and we invite you to pray with us please. Sept. 19-29 we will have Mina Nevisa and her husband, Jamal and their 9 year old daughter with us for special services. Mina and Jamal escaped from Iran over the mountains into Turkey and eventually to the USA after having an experience with Jesus Christ. Raised in a strict and influential Muslim family, their conversions to Christ resulted in attempts to kill them. Today they share with believers in the Western world the plight of the persecuted church, not only in Iran, but throughout the world. We are working with other churches and missions for this special occasion and are excited to see what God will do. But, we need to pray long before they get here...for their continued safety, physical health, and for the preparations here in Panama.

You can order Mina's book, MIRACLE OF MIRACLES by sending \$12 plus \$2 for shipping to: Touch of Christ Ministries; P. O. Box 223492; Chantilly, VA 20153-3492.

A personal prayer request for us is that our son, David, who lives in Orlando, is having delicate surgery on his neck on May 8. Most of you will get this letter after that date, but it will take time to recover. We plan to be with him during this time and to help his wife, Martha, and the three boys ages, 6, 2, and 6 months. Thank you for praying for them...and Ann and I.