



# Ferguson Report



Vol. 4 No. 1

“Go ye unto all the world”

January 2007

## December Staff Meeting

Another year has passed us by, and with its passing comes a time of reflection and inventory. Fortunately, by the grace and providence of God the Lord’s church continues to influence a lost and dying world by the powerful gospel of Jesus Christ. Yes, there have been efforts of some to blur the distinctions between truth and error, good and evil; but it is my conviction that the pure bride of Christ remains as a whole intact (cf. Heb. 12:28, 29).

As we continue to grow and develop the Bear Valley Bible Institute foreign extension program we try to take opportunities to come together as an extension staff to assess our progress and plan for the future. Toward the end of December, we met at the



*BVBID extension staff (l to r): Terry Harmon, Denton Landon, Ralph Williams, Pat McIntosh, Don Laughary, David Hamrick, Gary Fallis, and Howell Ferguson.*

home of the extension director, David Hamrick to evaluate the status of each extension school with an assignment given to each of us to list three problem areas we saw within our respective schools. This kind of evaluation required honesty about ourselves and any hindrances to each of the schools. We were also able to share different insights and approaches we each used. As I listened to the various “problem” areas I realized how similar many of the stories were to my own circumstances. One of the main lessons I observed was that due to the similar objectives and requirements of the schools, we all faced some of the same challenges

irregardless of location or culture. This may sound simplistic, but it really does underscore the fact that when a consistent doctrine and pattern are taught and practiced, similar resistance and reactions will occur. As far as I can tell, as long as we continue teaching sound biblical doctrine these problem areas will continually challenge us. But at the same time, however, as long as we keep them in the proper perspective, they can actually help us strategically to develop and hone our responses.

As the picture to the left indicates, there are several of us involved in Bear Valley’s extension program. And since each man has his own school(s) and areas of responsibility, together that translates into multiple trips sometimes nearing half a million travel miles per year. It should go without saying that we all would certainly appreciate your prayers for the success of these extension programs and the safety of each extension staff member as well as all of our short course teachers and visitors. The following events are on my schedule for this year:

### 2007 Preview

- Pikeville, KY: Pikeville Missions Workshop (Feb. 22-25).
- Panama City, Panama: to teach a short course on Christian Evidences (April 6-14).
- Ndola, Zambia and Chimala, Tanzania: to conduct a survey trip for a new BVBID extension school in Zambia, and to teach Joshua, Judges & Ruth and Bible Geography as short courses (May 14-June 5).
- Denver, CO: BVBID Master’s blitz week to take courses on Methods of Preaching and Teaching, and 1 & 2 Thessalonians (June 19-22).
- Denver, CO: BVBID Graduation (July 1).
- Krasnii Luch, Ukraine: campaign (Sept. 4-25).
- Chimala, Tanzania: to teach Church History and Church Leadership (Nov. 15-Dec. 1).

There are other visits to make to supporting churches and potential supporters, but these are some of the major trips. Any assistance you can provide for my work, student support, or for any part of our extension program would be greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you, as always, for your love for God’s truth and sending His truth out to the lost. Howell

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***“Ferguson Mission”***

Monthly commitments and one-time  
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Denver***

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## Petrillo and Kasarjian to Teach Short Courses

With the new intake of students at the Chimala Bible College for 2007 and the subsequent creation now of a first and second year class, the demands upon the teaching staff both at the Chimala Mission and our “short course” teachers has doubled. Far from being a “problem” we welcome this new challenge and are starting the year off with two of our most talented men from the states: Denny Petrillo, the capable director of the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver; and Keith Kasarjian, the fine preacher of the Main St. church of Christ in Pikeville, Kentucky.

While both of these men have been to Africa before, this will be their first trip to Chimala. Once they arrive for their Feb. 5 – 16 class schedule, Denny will teach Greek I and the Synoptic Gospels; while Keith will teach Gospel of John and Christian Evidences. The sacrifice of their time and talent as well as all those who volunteer to teach short courses at Chimala is greatly appreciated. Furthermore, the families they leave behind and the Christians who make it possible financially for them to go are to be highly commended for their sacrifices as well. This kind of cooperation is absolutely necessary to keep the

extension schools running. In time, Lord willing, these extension schools will utilize their own “home-grown”



*Denny Petrillo (left) and Keith Kasarjian (right) are  
scheduled to teach at CBC in February.*

staff where they will no longer need our assistance.

This eventual independence is the underlying concept of the Bear Valley extension program. It is our conviction and philosophy that this indigenous approach is the only real method that will produce long-lasting results. This is because the emphasis is placed upon the gospel’s ability to transform people of any nation into saved people in God’s kingdom. Wherever the seed is sown, there will be those who will respond in faith and obedience. Howell