



Ferguson Report



Vol. 4 No. 5

“Go ye unto all the world”

May 2007

Panama & Tanzania Spring 07

In this newsletter I want to play a little “catch-up” in addition to giving a brief report concerning the trip I just returned from in Tanzania. For that reason this newsletter is a few days late – sorry about that.

Panama City

The first order of business is about a trip taken a couple of months ago where I was given the privilege to visit and teach in the Bible School of the Americas in Panama City, one of our Bear Valley extension schools. Denton Landon who is the coordinator for that school asked me to teach Christian Evidences to the undergraduate class. Since my last trip there in the summer of 2005 there was a new class of bright students just as eager to explore the word of God.



Undergraduate students of the Bible School of the Americas, Panama City, Panama.

Denton and I traveled together since he was teaching graduate students at the same time I was teaching undergraduate students.

In addition to teaching classes we visited a couple of congregations besides the church that meets on the mission campus. One of the churches we met with for Wednesday night Bible study where I taught a class was the downtown congregation. They meet in an attractive but simple air-conditioned rented room ideally-located in the heart of Panama City. On the following Sunday we drove across Panama’s narrow isthmus to a city on the opposite side of the canal – Colon. One of the undergraduate students taught the

Bible class and I preached during the worship hour. Both of the congregations are very friendly and enjoyed our time together.

On the Saturday before our departure date back to the states, Denton and I were given a quick tour of Panama City and enjoyed some of the history of old Panama. One particular item of interest was the Golden Altar of the Church of Saint Jose. When the notorious English pirate Henry Morgan came to loot and rob during the burning of old Panama quick-thinking jesuits painted the 15th century altar black fooling Morgan and his men into thinking it was worthless wood. Thus, the city’s greatest item of monetary value was spared.

While most of my work is focused on the African continent I always enjoy working in other countries such as Panama or Ukraine and teaching in our schools. Besides planned trips to Chimala I am anticipating future trips to Ukraine in September and Lima, Peru in March 2008.



Golden Altar of the Church of Saint Jose: A bit of Panamanian history as well as our “competition.”

Chimala

The second item of this newsletter concerns my recent trip to the Chimala Mission in Southern Tanzania. After arriving in Dar-es-Salaam I met Bill Stewart who had just flown in from teaching in Arusha at the Andrew Connally School of Preaching. After an 11-hour road trip we arrived at the Chimala Mission where we were invited for supper at the home of Bill and Cindy Stinson. Bill is the new administrator of the mission having replaced Darrin Stapleton who returned

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to the States with his family to further his education. Although we were a day behind, both Bill and I hit the ground running early Tuesday morning each of us teaching a class of eager students. During the first



Salick and Loveness renewing their vows at the “Choosing My Mate Again” banquet.

week Bill taught James, 1, 2 Peter, and Jude while I taught Bible Geography. The second week Bill taught Marriage & Family while I taught Joshua, Judges and Ruth.

I choose Bill to teach the classes on marriage because of his intense study in the field and also because he has conducted many marriage seminars in the states. While Bill was unsure how well the seminar geared for American culture would fit the Africans the class was a huge success. Not only did his class

become full with other married couples as well as singles from the mission who attended, but it became quite a “buzz” around the mission. On the final night an outdoor banquet was given for those who attended the seminar. Because of the threat of rain we eventually had to move indoors. But that didn’t dampen anyone’s spirits. The event continued as Bill presided over each couple who “renewed” their marriage vows complete with the confirmation “kiss,” a picture, and the traditional “putting-the-cake-in-your-mouth” event. I don’t think marriages around the Chimala Mission will ever be the same again. And I mean that in a positive way!

Howell



Students, teachers and secretary of the Chimala Bible College.