



Ferguson Report



Vol. 4 No. 8

“Go ye unto all the world”

August 2007

Over The Last Few Days

The summer of 2007 continues to be a very busy time for all the BVBID extension staff. Your prayers are continually requested that all of our guys have safe and profitable journeys; and your support is genuinely appreciated. As the year continues I may be contacting some of you about setting up presentation appointments to bring you up to date on my work with the extension schools. Until such time I trust that the following sub-items will be helpful.

Lima, Peru

I can't speak for the rest of the country, but west Tennessee has had a hot sizzling summer with multiple days of continuous triple-digit temperatures. That is one of the reasons why my recent visit to Lima, Peru was so refreshing. In the duration of my 7-day trip the temperatures seldom reached over 60 degrees F.



Left to right: Rodolfo and Eliana Espinosa, Katia (niece), and Conrad Pender my translator.

Although my initial purpose for going to Lima was to teach a course on church growth at the Bible School of the Americas, the sudden destructive earthquake near Ica added another dimension to the visit. The BSA director, Rodolfo Espinosa, his wife and one of the local brethren traveled immediately to Ica with supplies to assist the people affected by the earthquake. While many people lost their homes and possessions, none of the brethren were killed or injured. We thank God for that news.

The students in the school were very friendly as were all of the people I met in Peru. We began each day of class at 7:30 a.m. with chapel at 10:30 and

lunch at noon. At 1:00 p.m. the class resumed and we dismissed at 3:00. The students, some with their wives, filled the small but adequate classroom. If the school continues to expand, however, they will certainly need larger accommodations. But Rodolfo is doing a superb job with the school and is well-respected by students and the community. One of his daughters, Sandra is a member of the North Jackson congregation where my family attends; and the other daughter, Gema is married to Jonathan Winchester, a recent Memphis School of Preaching graduate who now works with Latin America Missions.

Denver, Colorado

For the past few years the Bear Valley Bible Institute has hosted a special retreat/workshop for both the Denver and the extension staff. The primary purpose of these retreats is to give each of us an opportunity to report on our respective works and responsibilities. Because this year's *Fourth Annual Bear Valley Bible Institute Retreat* came on the heels of my visit to Lima, I "piggy-backed" the trips together and met Mary at the airport in Memphis where we together flew on to Denver.

After an uplifting period of worship to God on Sunday with the Bear Valley congregation, we attended a church picnic and devotional and then drove



BVBID extension director, David Hamrick speaking on the progress of the extension program.

to the location for the retreat. David Hamrick, the extension director, began the Monday morning session with an overall report on the work of the extension schools. I followed David with a report on the work in Chimala, Tanzania with emphasis on the Chimala

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Bible College. Will Hanstein then gave a report on the Bear Valley graduate program followed with Pat McIntosh covering the graduate program for the extension schools. Bill Stewart, our director of recruiting and development then gave an update on his stateside travels and some of the results. On Tuesday morning, Denton Landon gave his report on our extension schools in Spanish speaking countries. He was followed by Gary Fallis and his report on the Andrew Connally School of Preaching as well as our newest school in Nigeria. In the future Gary will be teaching primarily in our graduate schools. The last report Mary and I were able to hear before leaving was given by Ralph Williams about his new work in the country of Cambodia. Because of other obligations, we had to leave a little early to catch our flight back to Memphis. Each year these retreats become more exciting and our bonds of Christian fellowship are increased as we report about what God is doing to spread His gospel around the world.

New Extension Assignment

A recent addition to my work is the assignment of a new preacher training extension school. The *CSMT School of Biblical Studies* in Abakaliki, Nigeria has just recently opened its doors to a new intake of 24 students. This school has the potential to become our most successful preacher training school in that it is designed to become self-supporting in four years. This

has been made possible because of the plan of the founders. CSMT is made up of a preacher training program, a primary school, and a vocational training program that teaches computer, woodworking and



CSMT School of Biblical Studies, Abakaliki, Nigeria.

tailoring courses. Once the initial construction loans are paid off the tuition for the primary school will be able to fully fund the preacher-training and vocational programs without outside support. The men will study the Bible in the mornings and learn vocational skills in the afternoons. This will enable them to provide for themselves as they plant and work with new churches. At present, it costs \$48 per month to support one student. Some of the other needs will be met as a container will be shipped to Nigeria in December. More will be said on this in future newsletters. Howell