



MPI UPDATE

Mission Projects, Inc

October-November-December, 2008



Pioneers from Riverside use the VOP study series during their evangelistic meetings. Many people have the opportunity then to study at home while also attending the meetings at night. The baptisms that result from this way of conducting an evangelistic series is more effective and grounding the new believers into the truth. A small, newly formed company or branch is usually the result of such meetings.

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Keeping You Informed



Ed MacKenzie
MPI President

The President's Corner

Dear MPI Supporters

We enjoyed a wonderful Board meeting and Sabbath afternoon program at the Yakima 35th street Church over the week end of October 17 – 19th. The church allowed us to use their fellowship hall and cooking facilities, which was a great blessing as we fellowshiped together. We also enjoyed a fellowship dinner with the Church members on Sabbath afternoon.

A special thanks goes out to those who were involved in the Sabbath afternoon program. This includes Fred Adams, Mexico Lay Worker Report; Lorraine Hamilton, personal stories in Belize; Jon Mundall, Physician who worked with his father, Raymond in establishing La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital, and Grant McPherson, the present Hospital Administrator. The history and PowerPoint presentations were of great interest. Some of the original individual's involved with the establishment of the Hospital came from the Yakima area. They include the Ivan Canaday's and the Paul Dressel's. Paul also shared some experiences with the congregation. Some of the local church members are still telling me that they really enjoyed the program.

Six flags were displayed representing the countries that MPI is involved with. These include Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Zambia, the Philippines, and last but not least the United States. The program was filmed by Gospel Outreach. We hope to have copies available for those who were not able to be with us. We understand, however, that one of the cameras malfunctioned, so we are not sure if this will work out.

We were delighted to learn that the school in San Lorenzo in Chiapas, Mexico has reopened. The board voted to resume financial support for this program. MPI has two new lay workers in Belize to replace those that have moved on. One of the former lay workers was hired by the Belize Union to be a full time Pastor. The new workers are teaming up in Esperanza, where MPI hopes to help with an evangelism crusade and the establishment of a new church.

I am saddened to report the passing of our dear friend Victor August. Victor has served the Church well in both Belize and Guatemala. While Victor has not been well for a number of years he was an inspiration to all of those with whom he came in contact, most recently as Chaplain of the Hospital. He will be greatly missed. His memorial is reported on page 6 of this newsletter.

We thank each of you for your faithful prayers and support of the ministry through the voice and efforts of Mission Projects.

God Bless, *Ed MacKenzie*



MPI Board Members

Riverside Report

Pioneer Roy Habasimbi, written by Meiring Pretorius

We have started an intensive project of outreach with the Pioneers using the VOP study guides which we receive from LBM. Pioneers usually are sent to areas which are un-entered or semi-unentered with the 3 Angels messages. This is a powerful and fast method to reach more people in. It reaches where the Pioneer also fails to go. Every Pioneer becomes a "VOP school".

The VOP schools are just a simple way of reaching more people. Every Pioneer gets his sets of VOP lessons from Riverside Farm Institute. They go back and start advertizing in the community that people can enroll in a Bible study course/school. People here are very interested in such an opportunity, more so than in western cultures. The Pioneer organizes a small graduation ceremony at the local SDA church when they complete and we give them a certificate and a Bible. Most people that enroll are not SDA members, thus they get the opportunity to come and receive their certificate and Bible on a Sabbath in the church. These students are registered and followed up. In this way many contacts are made and Bible studies established. Many baptisms follow usually. It is working very successfully in Zambia.

If enough funds are available, we try to build a small church structure for the new group of believers as we did in May. The Pioneer and his assistant evangelist conducted meetings at night and by day a group of students helped them to construct a church building. Now the believers have a church to worship in and the company is growing. Also in the day time, the Pioneer and his trainee go out to introduce VOP lessons to the people in the surrounding community.

One night a Catholic priest came to disturb the meetings. He was swearing and shouting at the Pioneer and his team. The priest started showing his own films during the night to distract the people from our meetings. These were all secular films, not even spiritual at all. Eventually he gave up when no interest was shown by the people to attend his films.

One day during the visits of the Pioneer from door-to-door, they found the priest at his home reading one of the VOP study lessons. His attitude was different. He invited the Pioneer to talk to him. Then he narrated his story...

When the meetings started, the people were learning new truths. His church members came to ask him questions but he could not answer them. He felt like a fool. He got angry and tried to disturb the meetings. But then he decided to study the VOP lessons so that he could answer the questions of his church members. He started attending the meetings as well. Praise the Lord for His powerful working on hearts through His Spirit.

Now that small company has a church and a new Pioneer to guide them in spiritual growth.

Please pray for the "Chiawa company" next to the Zambezi river.



Lay Worker Report from Belize

E-mail to Ruth MacKenzie

The work in Esperanza is growing; I can't say that we have had any extraordinary experiences, but the work is progressing. In order to give you a full report, I would really have to sit down and do a good job. I would not want to do it off the top of my head and miss something important.

I'm happy to share also that brother Ubaldo (my partner) is learning and happy to learn. Brother Ubaldo is a great help. He knows a lot of people in the area and has a lot of friendly family in the area, too. As a matter of fact, one of his cousins on his mother side, that is married to another cousin on his father's side, is one of our most interested and faithful students.

We have encountered many set backs, but push on. We meet the young and the old. Nazarenes, Methodists, Mennonites (one actually)-they are a hard group to meet, but I believe with perseverance and consistencies we'll be able to win some that hopefully will influence the work. Catholics, Holiness and Pentecostals are among some of the main religious groups that we meet in the village. There are a few Sabbath keepers in the area, but not Adventist or affiliated with our church.

We meet some people that are very interested and feel that all they need is a permanent place to call their home. You can sense that they long for something more and are very interested in the content of the Three Angels Messages.

Many times in our studies we feel the presence of God and the faces are lighted with surprise and joy as they hear some things for the first time, or hear about the God that created this great and grand universe then came and died for them.

In regard to the evangelistic meetings that were planned for the area, like Melody, I think we should go through with them as planned. Nevertheless, whenever we start we must "come good;" that's a Belizean term. Because of the saturated religious experience in the area, the work will have to go through with firmness, determination, and with a long term follow up plan in order to be established for new believers as Elder Victor had envisioned. I also agree. We would not want to set up believers and then leave them high and dry. This has been done too often in the past and the people might become distrustful on a whole, if they are not already, if this is the case again. You see some people might have to sacrifice jobs and families when thinking to join the Remnant, and we must not only have a sure home for them, but must first be

able to convince them that it is safe to take such a move.

I do believe that Esperanza is a village worth the effort and could become a stepping stone into more uncharted or not yet established area.

Before Elder Grant left he asked me who I thought should be the speaker (or something of the nature) for the meetings. I did not at the time mention a particular suggestion, but suggested as I have thought best, that a local evangelist would do. The influence on the people is crucial and with the type of people that are in the area, I believe this would be more effective in reaching them on their own grounds. Particularly as this is a pioneering work, and not too grand at first, I believe this would do.



Ubaldo Guzman Wentworth Chang
New Belize Lay Workers

However, I'm just making my suggestions as brother Ubaldo and I have observed the area. We could be wrong and therefore are open for your or any other suggestions or ideas that would make this venture a success.

Like I mentioned the last time, (though I was not really prepared to make a thorough evaluation of the situation), I did not give much detail or name, but Friday sister Diane mentioned that you had sent her an email on the matter and said you think that your husband or I could do it (or something to that nature). Again, you guys will be the ones that will make the final decision, but I suggested to her that I would not want to do this first set of Evangelistic Meetings, (that is if your husband chose not to do them), for some basic reasons I shared with her. I suggested Elder Miller to be the (local) evangelist for the meetings in that case and promised to check with him. I just finished speaking to him, and he said if it's OK with you guys he would be more than willing to do it and aid this great work. I'm paraphrasing; I can't remember word for word, but it reflects his general sentiment which was willingness and support for the Lord's work.

If it goes ahead as suggested for January it would fall at a good time for him, too. He would have more free time to do the work more effectively and with a freer spirit around that time.

Again thanks for everything. All the best and hoping to see you guys soon.

Your brother in Christ,

Wentworth

Victor August, Resting in Jesus

Sunrise – April 15, 1950

Sunset – September 15, 2008



What do you remember most about Victor August? His laughter, his love for singing, his wit, his love for prayer and evangelism, his love for his wife Letty and daughter Melody, and just his plain love of life!

On April 15, 1950, Victor was born to Ursula August and Benidicto Cruz. To many, Victor was known as “BA”. He attended the Santa Elena Roman Catholic Primary School, and later joined the Special Unit Forces of Belize, as served his country with honor and distinction.

In 1975, he met his lovely bride to be, Miss Leticia Paz, whom he married on June 4, 1975. On March 23, 1995, God blessed them with the Apple of their Eyes; Melody! Victor was a devoted father and husband.

During his life, he was an avid member of the United Democratic Party of Belize. He was strong in his convictions regarding politics, and served the Party well. During one period of time, he served as Mayor for 2 terms, 1990 – 1996, of the Cayo District which include San Ignacio and Santa Elena.

Victor was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in October of 1972. As a devoted and faithful member of the Santa Elena Central Seventh-day Adventist Church he was known as Brother Vic. He was also the Senior Pastor of the Central Church. During his tenure as an Adventist, Victor accomplished many things, some of which include: Aid in the construction of many SDA Churches, the Primary and Secondary Adventist Schools in Santa Elena, Benque Viejo and Bullet Tree Falls. His mission for carrying the gospel to the world, also extended across the Western Border into La Polvora and Libertad in neighboring Guatemala, where he also was instrumental in the construction of educational institutions. In his words, “I am a man of Conviction, not persuasion.”

Victor's last post, was as Chaplin of La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital in Santa Elena. He served it well, visiting with patients, and their families, bringing them just one step closer to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. That was Victor's main Mission in life, to bring others to Jesus.

Victor loved to sing, and one of his favorites was “He'll Do It Again”. By faith he held on to the words of Jesus in John 17:3 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou has sent, and Jude 14 - “Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present {you} faultless before the presence of His Glory with exceeding joy.”

Despite his illness of several months prior to his death, Victor continued to serve his family, his church and his Party up until it was no longer possible to do so. He passed away, Monday, September 15, 2008, quietly in his room at La Loma Luz Hospital. He had jokingly at one time, told one of the nurses, that when he died, he wanted her to be his nurse, and his wish was granted that night.

Victor is survived by his wife Leticia, daughter Melody, his brother Jose, his sister Poly August, many nieces and nephews, cousins, and dedicated friends.

6 We are all going to greatly miss Brother Victor August.

Memorial & Special Occasion Gifts

At Rest

Bechtel, Dave

By Ruby Bechtel

Bieber, Elsie

By Ruth Wiebold

Coupland, Earl

By The Coupland Family

Cox, Frank

By Dolores Adams

Emmerson, Lee Roy

By Ruby Bechtel

Tall, Don

By Ruby Bechtel

Woodard, Pauline

By Warren Woodard

Wysong, Wilmer & Sarah

By Raleigh & Dorothy Hardin

Correction from previous issue:

**O'Barr, Stephen (Not
Lorena)**

By Veryl & Dollie Drury

Anniversary

Albert & Gloria Oakes

50th Wedding Anniversary



MEMORIAL & SPECIAL OCCASION GIVING

Amount: \$ _____ **Date:** _____

Given by _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In behalf of: _____

Anniversary Baptism Birthday At Rest _____

Please send card to person below:

Name _____

Address _____

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Send to: M.P.I. ♦ P.O. Box 1950 ♦ Bozeman, MT 59771

Please send me additional memorial forms (Number) _____

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Go Ye Into All The World!

Mission Projects, Incorporated (MPI) is a supporting organization of the Seventh-day Adventist church, dedicated to spreading the Gospel by way of medical, educational, and evangelistic endeavors. MPI works in complete harmony with local Conferences and Missions, does not accept tithe, and is a member of Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI).

YES—Count me in!

Please return this card with your tax-deductible donation to:

M.P.I. ● P.O. Box 1950 ● Bozeman, MT 59771

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\$ _____ Church Roofs

\$ _____ Use where most needed

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