

HeartCry

Missionary Society

That His Name be Great among the Nations...

Going In Behind the Lines Prisons and Universities

Keep OUT

A Testimony to God's Faithfulness
The Testimonies of Arturo and Gladys Marin
The Testimony of Dino Ortiz
Prison Ministry in Paraguay
Prison Ministry in Transylvania
University Outreach in Romania
HeartCry Missionary Prayer Pullout

Volume 38: February - March 2004



HeartCry *Missionary Society*

*That His Name be Great
Among the Nations...*

Our Purpose & Passion

“For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My Name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My Name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My Name will be great among the nations,” says the Lord of hosts.” - Malachi 1:11

The chief end of all mission work is the Glory of God. Our greatest concern is that His Name be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun (Malachi 1:11). We find our great purpose and constant motivation, not in man or his needs, but in God, His commitment to His own glory and our God-given desire to see Him glorified in every nation, tribe, people and language.

Although HeartCry recognizes the great importance of sending missionaries from the West to the un-evangelized peoples throughout the world, we believe that we are led of the Lord to support native or national missionaries so that they may evangelize their own peoples. Therefore, we seek to work with godly men and women of integrity and vision in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant Churches among their own peoples.

Our Principles

* While we recognize that the needs of mankind are many and his sufferings are diverse, we believe that they all spring from a common origin - the fall of man and the corruption of his own heart. Therefore, we believe that the greatest benefit to mankind can be accomplished through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the establishment of

churches that preach the Word of God and minister according to its commands, precepts, and wisdom.

- * Every need of this ministry will be obtained through prayer. We may share our missionary vision with others and even make known to them the specific tasks which the Lord has laid on our heart to do, but we may not raise support through prodding or manipulating our brothers and sisters in Christ. If this ministry is of the Lord, then He will be our Patron. If He is with us, He will direct His people to give and we will prosper. If He is not with us, we will not and should not succeed.
- * We intend to never enlarge our field of labor by contracting debts. This is contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the New Testament. In secret prayer, God helping us, we will carry the needs of this ministry to the Lord and act according to the direction that He gives.
- * We will not compete with other biblical mission agencies, but use the resources that God has given to us to work in partnership with them. If the Lord directs, we will sacrifice our own goals and resources that other mission works may be helped and the Kingdom of God increased.
- * In meeting any need, those of us who are supported financially by this ministry will be the first to sacrifice all things necessary for the advancement of His Kingdom.
- * We will not measure the success of this ministry by the amount of money given, Bibles distributed or national missionaries supported, but by the Lord's blessing on the work.
- * Our Goal is not to enlarge ourselves, or to become a key figure in the Great Commission, but to be faithful and obedient stewards by the grace that is given to us. That men may see our weakness and glorify God for His strength; that they may see our inability and glorify God for His faithfulness.



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Going In Behind The Lines: Prisons and Universities

- 4 - 5 *From our Desk:* Behind the lines. No place is off-limits to the Gospel.
- 6 - 10 *A Testimony to God's Faithfulness.* An account of God's faithful dealings with HeartCry.
- 11 - 14 *Another Joseph - the Story of Arturo Marin:* Read how God took Arturo from prison to the jungles of Peru.
- 14 - 18 *The Testimony of Dino Ortiz:* Read how God transformed this drug dealer into a missionary to the prisons of Paraguay.
- 19 *The Prison Ministry of Matei Muresan:* A electromechanical engineer sees the need and leaves all for the sake of Christ.
- 20 - 22 *Ruxi Vandici:* Her ministry is a wonderful example of God's work on the many university campuses in Romania.
- 22 - 24 *Alexhandru and Simona Palade:* Their report on the great work of God on the university campuses under their care.
- 24 - 27 *Ion and Ani Tomeci:* Special testimonies from their campus ministry throughout Romania.
- 28 *George Müller:* Order the unabridged edition of George Müller's autobiography.
- 29 *HeartCry's 2003 Bible Conference:* The Gospel of Jesus Christ - 4 CD Set.
- 30 *Paul Washer's Preaching Itinerary.*

*Hallowed be Your Name!
Your Kingdom Come!
Your Will be Done!*

From Our Desk

Going in Behind the Lines

The apostle Paul once wrote in Romans 15:20: "And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named..." There are so many places on this earth where Christ is yet to be preached, as He ought to be. There are countless countries, cities, towns, and homes that have yet to hear a clear presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to give our lives for the promotion of the Gospel until it reaches every tribe, language, people, and nation (Revelation 5:9).

What nobler enterprise could a person undertake than to seek to do all within their means to extend the Gospel light into even the darkest recesses of this world? Is there any labor that has the power to do such good? Let us say that a man dedicates himself to the field of medicine, and after years of research, is able to find a cure for the deadliest of diseases. He has done a noble work that will save countless lives, but only for a time. The greatest discoveries of medicine can only delay death for a time. Nothing can change the facts that "the wages of sin is death" (Hebrew 9:27), and "it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment." Let us say that a man dedicates himself to the field of engineering, and has used his genius to build some of the greatest architectural wonders that the world has ever known. This too is a noble work, but his monuments will soon crumble into dust and be remembered no more. For the Scriptures declare in II Peter 3:7: "The present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction..." The promotion of the Gospel stands alone as the only eternal work. The lives saved through the Gospel are saved eternally, and the one who preaches the Gospel is bearing fruit that will remain. Therefore, no matter what we do, we should do it all for the Glory of God and the promotion of the Good News of His dear Son. The doctor, engineer, teacher, construction worker and all others who are called by the name of Christ, should set their sights upon one goal – the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every tribe, language, people, and nation!

In this month's edition of HeartCry, we are spotlighting two of the most difficult places on earth to preach the Gospel - prisons and college campuses. We count it a privilege to present the works of missionaries who have counted the cost and given themselves over to share the salvation and life of Christ in these difficult areas. Each day they are going behind prison walls and into dorm room filled with people who have yet to hear the Word of Christ. Oftentimes, these missionaries meet with the strongest opposition and

must endure the most heartbreaking setbacks. Nevertheless they are faithful in season and out to preach the faith, which was "once for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 1:3).

It is not easy for the missionaries "behind the lines" to get up each morning and face the tasks set before them. The missionary with the prison ministry must willingly enter into a place that most men would fight to stay out of. He must deal with men and women that many would say are beyond any hope of redemption or transformation. Every day they must preach the Gospel to the same men. They must deal with the same problems. The joyful news of one man's salvation is often dampened by the heartbreaking news of another's fall. The missionary with the campus ministry must fight through the red tape specifically designed to keep the Gospel out of the university. They must watch as the wisdom of the world is exalted above the Word of God. They must knock on countless dorm room doors before they find even one person willing to listen to their message.

Do not misunderstand me. There are great victories on the mission field, and even in the most difficult places such as prisons and universities. Nevertheless, it should be told that these great victories do not come without a great price. In fact, it seems that the greater the victory, the greater the price that must be paid.

As a former missionary to Peru, I hope and pray that you will read each testimony and report from the field with a sense of reverence and an attitude of prayer. These are not actors playing out a script, but they are soldiers in a real life battle for the lives of others. They are often wounded and overcome with battle fatigue. They are frequently battered by trials without, and wearied by burdens within. We need to honor such men and women by lifting them up to the Lord in prayer. They have gone out for the "sake of the Name" and we must go out with them through our prayers and support.

I often wish that I could transport you to the countries where our missionaries serve. I wish that you could listen to them as they speak about the Lord and His work through them. Their zeal, singleness of mind, and selflessness is a reminder and a rebuke to those of us in the West who live among so many temporal vanities, and who are often ensnared by so many distractions. I sometimes wonder what it will be like on the Day of Judgment. How will I appear before the throne of God with these men and women who have not had a fraction of my privi-



leges, freedoms, or resources, but have gone so far beyond me in devotion and ministry? Every glance at them is a wake up call for us to forsake the vanities of this world, put our hand to the plow, and not look back.

I want to conclude this edition of "From our Desk" with a letter I recently received from a young American missionary who has just arrived in Romania. His exact identification has been withheld because he would not want the notoriety. All that is important is that he has

gone to a foreign land by faith and with little promise of support. It brings back memories of my own calling and first years as a missionary to Peru. The letter was written for and presented to the Romanian Baptist Union. It is an explanation of the young man's call. The letter speaks for itself. It is my prayer that we might all share the same youthful zeal.

Paul David Washer

Dear Brothers,

I will gladly write to you and boast about the things that Christ has accomplished in me. I lived the first sixteen years of my life as a very wicked person. The flames of hell seem to come to my room every night as my burning soul sought for peace among the pleasures of the earth. Many times I would cry two or three hours a night before I would finally fall asleep. I knew my fate was the wrath of God, yet I felt powerless to repent and entrust my life to Christ.

Then, very unexpectedly, He found me one night crying under the weight of my sin and gave me eyes to see His outstretched arms. I was astonished to find that the God I had hated for 16 years held out His hands to such a wicked and hateful boy. He gave me a heart of flesh for my heart of stone, and clothed me with His righteousness. The absolute shock of that moment has never left me. Although I have made numerous mistakes since that time, He will not let me stray far from Him. For a wicked boy to know such amazing grace was enough motivation to spend every ounce of strength for the glory of His Name.

A professor whom God used in my life, called to my attention the reality that some 10,000 villages in Romania still exist without a missionary or evangelical church. The thought of the Kingdom of God not yet having come to these places made my comfort in America turn to absolute misery. How can I stand by while His Name is slighted among the nations? How can I stand still while there remain places in the world that belong to God, but where God is not cherished and honored, as He so richly deserves? It is not my choice to go to the nations, but it is my duty. To go, however, is not so much my duty, as it is an honor that I do not deserve. I do not go for my honor, but for the sake of the Name.

I admit that I am probably the weakest missionary that has ever gone forth. I am simply a branch that must always look to the Vine for all strength and endurance. I, however, stand alone on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I am firmly convinced that this message is the power of God unto salvation, and through this message, He will have a people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. I no longer fear death because the One who purchased my life has taken away its sting. My only care is that those who have never heard the most precious Name of Jesus might hear, and swear their allegiance to serve and love Him only.

My plans in Romania are to, first and foremost, submit to the pastor of a local church and work under his authority. I desire to teach, preach, and disciple young men through God's holy word, the Bible. Finally, yet by no means least, I am praying that God will use me to take the Gospel to those who have never heard.

Your Brother,

Mason



a Diary of God's Faithfulness

People are often amazed to hear that the chief purpose of the HeartCry Missionary Society is not the promotion of world-wide missions, but the demonstration of God's faithfulness. In the spirit of George Muller and the Bristol Orphanages, it is our desire to demonstrate to fellow believers that a ministry can be sustained and even prosper by making its needs known to God alone. One of the most important principles of the HeartCry Missionary Society declares the following:

Every need of this ministry will be obtained through prayer. We may share our missionary vision with others and even make known to them the specific tasks which the Lord has laid on our heart to do, but we may not raise support through prodding or manipulating our brothers and sisters in Christ. If this ministry is of the Lord, then He will be our Patron. If He is with us, He will direct His people to give and we will prosper. If He is not with us, we will not and should not succeed.

While he lived, it was George Muller's practice to share with other believers the great trials and great victories that were won by trusting in God alone. He was careful to never share these accounts when the mission was hard pressed, but waited until the victory had been given and the mission was bountifully supplied by God. He in no way wanted to use these reports to hint of a need, but to demonstrate that God was able to meet every need according to His riches in glory. Throughout the years, countless believers have been edified by reading these accounts.

With a similar passion for God's glory, we desire to report to you the faithfulness of God in His dealing with the HeartCry Missionary Society. In the following, is a brief diary written by brother Paul Washer of God's dealing with HeartCry and its staff from November 16th thru December 29th of this past year 2003. We hope that what you read will encourage you to live a life of faith and to turn to the Lord in prayer for all your needs and desires.

November 16, 2003

For the first time in my twenty-year pilgrimage with Christ, I sense the freedom to write about God's dealings with me. As a new Christian, I was greatly impressed by the "Autobiography of George Muller," and sought to imitate his life. Three specific times I failed the standard he set forth and I was severely rebuked by the Lord. For the last ten years, ever since HeartCry began to support national missionaries, we have lived by faith alone. In this time, the mission has grown from one to over 87 missionary families in 15 countries, and on four continents. Also, we have two fellow workers laboring with me in the United

States – Darian Rottmann and Jon Green.

The last few months have been the leanest of our ministry. Since June, we have lived every day from hand to mouth. Several times, Darian, Jon, and I have not received our salaries. In spite of such hardship, all the men and women in the field have received their support without exception and we in the United States have never lacked food or sufficient funds to pay our bills. Praise God for His faithfulness.

I now sit here in my office at 9AM and begin to write the account of our struggles and the faithfulness of God. It is mid-month and none of our workers have been paid. Darian, Jon, and I have passed another week without receiving our salaries. \$700 came in this weekend. Also, I received \$150 for preaching a conference in Lexington, Kentucky. I will preach to a mission of Mexican immigrants this afternoon. I usually receive \$50 from them. I am encouraged this morning by a promise in II Kings 7:1-2 and 7:15-20.

November 21, 2003

On Wednesday, the 19th, \$3317.00 was deposited. After paying certain bills that were due, we remained with \$2638.00. On Thursday we received \$1247. Today, we received \$350 in the mail, \$1300 that came through an anonymous donor who left the money in my old truck, and \$100 was given by a staff worker. This leaves us with a total of \$5635.00. We will not pay the U.S. staff this week, since not a single missionary on the field has yet to be paid this month. Never has there been such a lack in the mission.

November 24, 2003

When I came into the office this morning, Darian informed me that there were certain expenses totaling \$1994.75 that were paid last week, but had not yet been recorded. Therefore, we begin the day with \$3640.25 instead of \$5635. This was a great discouragement, but we have regained our composure and look to God once again. This is a Gideon's cull. His army was too large. All human possibility had to be destroyed so that the victory would be ascribed to God alone. In the same way, God has taken away from us even the little strength we thought we had. We have nothing to hope in, but Him. We have seven days before the end of the month, and not a single missionary has been paid. Mission giving usually goes down in December because of the Christmas holidays. We have no reason at all to hope in the flesh. God alone can save us. On Saturday, the 22nd, \$524 came through the mail. I also found a check for \$50 in my Spanish Bible that came from preaching in the Mexican Mission in Mayfield, Kentucky three weeks ago. Self-pity, resentment, and grumbling are all crouching at the door and their desire is to have us. I pray that God might give us all grace to

overcome. I am looking forward to deliverance. We will call a prayer meeting in a few minutes.

We drew great strength from our morning prayers, but gathered together at lunch for the same. By His good Spirit, we were encouraged to trust in the Lord. I felt peace that this would not be our end, but that God would be our helper in the final hour. Our greatest desire is for God to make a name for Himself through our total inability.

At 4:15 PM, I went to the mailbox and was excited to find it full of envelopes. I soon discovered that only one was for HeartCry. It was from a donor whom I did not recognize. I opened the envelope expecting a donation of \$25 or \$30 dollars. To my surprise and great joy, it was a check for \$3000! I let out an audible shout for joy while still in the churchyard. I met with Darian and Jon for prayers of thanksgiving to our God who has helped us this day. The first thing tomorrow morning we will set about paying the missionaries from Peru. It matters little to us that we still lack funds to pay the missionaries in the other 14 countries. God has helped us today and given us hope to trust in Him! I look forward to tomorrow – its trials will be opportunities to hope in God.

November 25, 2003

We deposited \$6857 dollars in our account today, which gave us a total of \$7497.18. We wired the support to the missionaries in Peru, paid our phone bills, and have a remainder of \$180. Even though, we do not have the necessary funds to finish out the month, we saw the need to take on three more missionaries in Peru and help some of our veteran missionaries with their very special needs. Much time has passed since we last took on new missionaries in Peru, but in our hour of greatest need, God leads us to believe Him for more missionaries. God always seems to ask more from us when we have less to give, so that His great supply and lovingkindness might be revealed. Twice, today, we have met for prayer. We are waiting for the mail, which usually arrives around 3:30 PM. At the moment, we have \$180 and six days remaining to provide the support for the rest of our missionaries in 14 different countries.

I just retrieved the mail from the mailbox. There was not one letter for HeartCry. We must continue to wait for God's deliverance. We will pray when Darian returns from sending the money to Peru. I have nothing, but His presence. It is enough!

November 26, 2003

Today, the HeartCry staff is going to celebrate Thanksgiving together, and we have much to be thankful for. This morning, Darian, Jon, and I gathered for prayer. It was one of the best times of prayer that we have ever had. I felt led that God would send someone to us before the mail arrived who would give a gift to the mission. At midday, a brother from Kentucky came to the office and gave us \$15. It was a great confirmation to all of us that God had heard our prayers and that He was with us. At 1:30 PM, we met again for a time of prayer. I felt a great impression that God was asking someone somewhere to do something, and whether out of fear or from a lack of faith, they were

struggling with submitting to the Lord. After a time of prayer, my burden was lifted.

At 2:45 PM, Darian brought me the mail. Praise the Lord! We received an additional \$1395.92. This was enough to pay the missionaries in Siberia, Ukraine, and India. After wiring the money, we will finish the day with \$40.44. There are four days left in the month of November.

The staff will miss another paycheck this week, but we have food and our bills are paid. Like the oil in the widow's jar, God has stretched our resources, and kept the destroyer at bay. We will meet again for prayer at 3 PM. Tonight we will meet for prayer with all our families. The Kozlers are coming in from Detroit and will pray with us. They are always a great encouragement.

Darian just came in and asked if we could send \$30 extra dollars to the missionary in Siberia. This will help him buy more firewood to keep his family warm. I agreed. We now have \$10.44 in our account. Praise the Lord. What a privilege He has granted us!

November 28, 2003

Yesterday was Thanksgiving and the mail was not delivered. Today I knew that we would receive two days worth of mail and support. I was hoping that there would be more support because of this. We received \$175.00. We now have 185.44 in hand. We need sixty times this amount just to pay our men in the field for this month. We have two more days. We must take guard against doubt, despair, and self-pity. Tomorrow is another day. We look to God for deliverance.

November 29, 2003

\$220 arrived in the mail today. We now have a total of \$405.44. Tomorrow is Sunday and there will be no mail. Monday is the 1st of December. Most of the missionaries have not been paid and the staff was only paid twice during the entire month. We are in dire straits. We have made our need known to no one. We wait upon the Lord. Our greatest interest is His Glory! I cannot see how our fall would bring encouragement to the saints, but I do see how it would justify the carnal. They will say that we were foolish and proud to have believed that a ministry could prosper without making its needs known to anyone, but God. Many young believers have been encouraged to trust God because of His dealings with us. It would have been better to have never started, than to be the cause of their unbelief. Oh God, we deserve to fail, but please do not let us fail! Your glory is at stake! Oh God! Please get a Name for Yourself from this old worn out rag!

November 30, 2003

I preached at the Mexican mission this morning, but once again, they forgot to give the promised support for gas money. I was informed this evening that someone gave \$150 in cash to the mission in the morning service. We now have \$555.44. Tomorrow is the 1st of December and we have yet to pay most of the men for November. This has happened only a few times in the history of our mission, and never when the amount needed

was so great. I can hardly bear to ask the staff to go another week without their salaries. I know that they will do it willingly, even joyfully. We are in the greatest need since our beginning. We will wait upon the Lord and see what tomorrow will bring. We have no reason to hope in the flesh. If help comes, it will come from the Lord.

I spoke with my pastor today. He knows of all our troubles and would cut off his right arm to help us. He knows that the Lord has pressed upon us the prohibition to not make our needs known to even our church. I know that every person in our church would come to our aid if they knew there was such a problem. I even know of several people throughout the country who would gladly meet our every need with one donation. But the purpose of our mission is to depend upon the Lord alone. He is our Patron. If He wants this mission to continue, He is faithful and able to let His people know. If He does not help us then we should not be helped. Although we recognize that God has had His hand upon us, we know that He does not need us. If the HeartCry Missionary Society perished tomorrow, it would not hinder God's great work on the earth.

December 1, 2003

When I arrived at the office this morning, Darian told me that someone had given \$100 in the Sunday evening offering. This was encouraging news. We now have \$655.44.

I was thinking again about how the mission where I preach on Sundays has failed to provide the promised gas money for the last three weeks. They are wonderful believers and would do all in their power to help me. *It seems the Lord has made them forget.* He is drying up every well dug by human hands, so that He alone might be our only fountain. I feel like Hagar. She and her boy were sent away because he was not the child of the covenant. When the water that she was carrying was gone, she laid her boy under a bush and sat a bow shot away because she could not bear to watch him die. I do not feel God's presence. I feel like I have been sent out into the desert as one who is not a child of the promise. All our resources are spent. I want to lay the mission down and run away, for I cannot bear to see it die. Satan tempts me to anger and grumbling, but who am I to speak a word against the Lord. I have not been worthy of even the least of all the mercies He has shown me throughout the years. Even if He slays me, even if He abandons me to hell, even then He would be worthy of praise. He has already done for me more than I could ever deserve in a thousand lifetimes of service. I will trust in Him regardless the outcome. I know these things: God is good, wise, and powerful. Our circumstances are not the result of some defect in God. This trial is ordained with perfect wisdom, by an absolutely sovereign God, who has promised to do us good for the sake of Christ. He works all things together for our good. Even this! The story of Hagar and Ishmael ends in a great salvation wrought by God. If He opened a fountain in the desert for an idolatrous pagan, whose child would grow to be a persecutor of God's people, will He not help us, His children? Although there are many daily tasks to be accom-

plished today, the priority of our hearts will be to pray and wait upon the Lord.

I went to the mailbox this afternoon and found envelopes containing \$287.00. This brings our total to \$942.44. With this money, we will pay Serbia (\$350 + \$15 wire fee) and Paraguay (\$200). We will also pay \$375.01 worth of bills that are due. That leaves us with \$2.43 and four countries left to be paid totaling (\$10,155). We must wait upon the Lord another day. The one thought that most takes away my peace and demonstrates my lack of faith is that even if we pay all the missionaries for November, we will be behind on December's support before we even begin. We always try to send extra support for the holidays. We truly need a miracle.

December 2, 2003

Today was a good day. Our families came to the church to take pictures for the December issue of the HeartCry Magazine. We were filled with joy to watch our children play and to play with them. How the Lord has blessed us!

I went to the mailbox today and found envelopes containing \$612. This gave us a total of \$614.43. I had hoped to send support to more men today, but it was not God's will. We met this afternoon to pray and to discuss what the Lord would have us to do. We know that we are to always trust him. Since Jon is not a US citizen, he must continue to be supported by the mission. Darian and I have the possibility of looking for work elsewhere. We determined to wait until the end of the week. If the funds do not come in to pay our salaries, we will begin to look for work. In spite of our trial, the Lord continues to bless us with great joy. We are truly happy in the Lord! We decided that we would count it a privilege to accept even the most menial employment for His Name sake.

Jon was the last to pray. At the end of his prayer, he asked the Lord to open Gabby's womb that she might conceive. He no sooner closed his prayer with Amen, than Gabby came into the room with tears in her eyes and announced that she was pregnant. What a tremendous blessing. The news could not have come at a better time for two reasons. First, it showed us that God answers prayer. Secondly, Jon's financial resources are almost depleted and yet his financial needs will be greater than before. What an opportunity for God to get a name for Himself!

December 3, 2003

This morning Charo called about the medical bills for the birth of our son Evan. To our astonishment, they were all paid by someone who wished to remain anonymous. We had told no one of our bills. We do not have the faintest idea who God used to bless us. It is an encouragement for us at the mission. God is able to tell others of our needs.

Today was filled with busy work. A dear brother from Missouri built a new "super" computer for Jon, and he spent much of the day getting it ready for use. I inherited his old computer, which is now running well after being reformatted. It was simply not large enough to do all that was required for the maga-

zine.

I went to the mailbox today and was blessed by the Lord's kindness to His people. The donations totaled \$2,542.00, and so we now have \$3106.43 for the missionaries. One dear family, that has supported us for years with \$1000 a month, sent us \$2000 for November and December. This is not the first time that the Lord has directed them to give when it was most needed. Another blessing came from the Mexican mission that has not given me any gas money (for preaching) for the last three weeks. They sent me \$150, which was given to the mission.

It is 5PM and Darian just left to make a deposit and mail support to the missionaries. We are able by God's good grace to mail support to Benin, Ghana, and Nigeria. Praise the Lord. We are left with \$356.43. Praise the Lord!

I received a letter today from Ernesto Zacarias. He sent photos of the construction of our new church in Villa El Salvador in Peru. It was truly a blessing to see all the people gathered inside the new building. A few months ago, we gave our last \$1000 so that the construction could continue. It might have seemed foolish to many, but seeing the people gathered in that simple building in order to hear the Gospel is reward enough.

December 5, 2003

This morning I went to the doctor for blood work and then to an orthopedic surgeon to discuss the growing pain in my joints. It seems I have arthritis in most of my joints. In my fingers, wrists, elbows, shoulders, etc. The bones in my hand that they pinned together last year are not growing together. They are going to operate soon on my right elbow in order to remove some bone chips. Praise God I do not have arthritis in my hips! They have already been replaced. I wonder how much of me will be left to resurrect!

We were greatly blessed today. The Lord provided \$2770 through the mail, and someone gave Jon \$20, which He gave to the mission. This gave us a total of \$3146.43. After making the deposit, Darian was able to send the support to Zambia. We close the day with \$1781.43. We lack nearly \$4700 to pay the missionaries in Romania. We look to the Lord!

Darian, Jon, and I will not be paid again this week, but the Lord has seen our need. A dear family in the church sent groceries to the office today and gave us each a gift card to Walmart to buy more groceries. In the end, we will have more supplies in our homes than if we had been paid our salaries! Has God ever given any reason for us to doubt His character or His promises? "I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread" (Psalm 37:25). What grace! He declares the wicked righteous by the blood of His dear Son, He prepares good deeds for them by His sovereign will, He empowers them by His Spirit, and then He rewards them for what they have done as if they had done it. What grace! What grace! What marvelous grace! In such grace, we will wait upon Him. I would rather be a beggar in the courts of God, than sit in the seats of the mighty in the greatest halls of this present age. I would be the weakest of all His children, that

I might see greater portions of His grace. I would be the most incompetent, that I might see greater measures of His strength. I would be the most helpless, that His strong arm might carry me. I would be the most destitute that His right hand might feed me.

At noon, Darian paid \$33.98 worth of bills. He also discovered a check for \$150 that we received yesterday was not signed and must be sent back. This leaves us with a total of \$1597.45. I went to the mailbox this afternoon and found donations totaling \$891. This gives us a total of \$2488.45. We lack nearly \$4,000 to pay the brothers in November. Help must come soon! I have peace.

December 8, 2003

\$655 came in over the weekend and \$1585 came in the mail today. After paying bills of \$39.26, we have \$3131 in cash and \$1558.19 in the bank.

December 9, 2003

Only two checks came in today - one for \$50 and the other for \$4000. Darian deposited \$7181 today. Praise God! This gives us a total of \$8739.19. After paying Romania and several bills that were due, we are left with \$644.25. The support for November has been paid. Praise God!

December 10, 2003

November has been paid, but now our faith is severely tested. We are ten days into the month of December and have yet to pay a single missionary. December is usually one of the worst months for missionary organizations and so it is not a strange thing that God has ordained our trial for this very season. The holidays seem to draw people away from Christ and the advancement of His Kingdom. Once again, God has destroyed every possibilities of fleshly deliverance, so that when deliverance comes, it will be attributed to Him alone. We take strong consolation in the fact that our mission has no strategy, but prayer. The day or season matters very little. God is able to help us at any hour and through any means.

We received a total of \$3074.08 today. \$1800 was designated and so only \$1274.06 can be used for missionary support.

December 11, 2003

We paid \$124.61 in due bills, but received \$1462.63 in the mail. We made a deposit of \$4536.71, giving us a total of \$5056.75.

December 12, 2003

Today \$745 was divided up among the staff to pay due bills. No donations came in today, but we were notified that we had \$1000 more in the bank than what we expected. We end the day with \$5294.80.

December 15, 2003

\$340 came in over the weekend and I received \$250 for preaching two services in New Hampshire. This morning Darian made a deposit of \$590, giving us a total of \$5884.80. With this money, we were able to pay the missionaries in Peru, buy the necessary office supplies, and pay due bills.

The Lord provided \$4005.65 in the afternoon mail. \$1000 was designated, but the rest can be used for missionary support.

December 16, 2003

\$1904.22 came in today through the mail and Darian made a deposit of \$5909.87. Today we paid for the printing of our magazine as well as the missionaries in the following countries: Moldova, Paraguay, Siberia, Ukraine, Israel, Zambia, and India. We have \$315.50 in the bank.

December 18, 2003

\$325 came in yesterday through the mail and \$358 came in today. Today \$1210 was divided up among the staff according to need to pay due bills. This will have to be reimbursed to our church before any funds for the missionaries can be sent out. We now have \$315.50 in the bank and \$683 on hand for a total of \$998.5. We are \$211.50 short of paying Monday's debt, and short \$10,745 to pay the missionaries salaries for December.

December 19, 2003

\$300 came in today through the mail. We made a deposit of \$983, giving us a total of \$1298.50 in the bank. We were able to reimburse the church \$1210. We are left with \$88.50 in the bank.

In the afternoon, an anonymous donor sent \$180 to my mother's house and the money was given to the mission.

Darian and I traveled to Memphis this afternoon to pick up my cousin who is coming in to hunt for a few days. He was to fly into Paducah, but the airport was closed for repairs. We had to travel 3 and 1/2 hours one way. The Lord impressed upon us both that He had a purpose in the long drive. When we arrived at the airport we met my cousin and four other people who were stranded. We offered to take them all back to Paducah. On the way, I was able to share the Gospel for over an hour with everyone in the car. They were all very receptive. They also paid for our gas, and unknown to us, left us \$40 in the back seat, which we gave to the mission. Praise God! We now have \$88.50 in the bank and \$220 cash on hand.

December 21, 2003

There were \$1,200 worth of donations in Saturday's mail. \$450 was found slipped under the door of our office. We now have \$88.50 in the bank and \$1870 in cash on hand. We have been praying for a shotgun for Mario Salinas. He is a HeartCry mission in the jungles of Condorcanqui, in Peru. He will use the gun to provide meat for his family. Today, a dear brother sent us \$200 for the gun. Praise God!

December 22, 2003

\$1525 came in the mail today. We now have \$88.50 in the bank and \$3595.00 in cash on hand.

December 23, 2003

Today, we made a deposit of \$3595 and paid our missionaries in Serbia, Benin, Ghana, and Nigeria. After purchasing some necessary office supplies, we have a total of \$1774.51 in the bank. The Romanians and the India missionaries are the only ones yet to be paid.

Yesterday, an additional \$101 was sent to my house. \$1236 came in the mail today, and one sister gave us \$100 at our Christmas service. We have \$1774.51 in the bank and \$1437 in cash on hand.

December 24, 2003

The missionaries from India were paid today. Also \$180 was shared with the staff in the US. We now have \$1094 in the bank and \$1437 to be deposited.

December 27, 2003

In the afternoon, I was pulling some boards out of my woodshed to take to my shop when my wife Charo called me on the cell phone. She asked if I had gone to the church to check the mail. I told her that since the bank was closed, I saw no need to check the mail until Sunday. She laughed and said, "If you had gone to the mail today you would have been the first to see that God had sent \$13,311.74 in one day." A dear pastor and congregation in Texas had been led of the Lord to send us \$10,500.

When I hung up the phone, I picked up my boards and walk back across the field to my shop. I thought upon the goodness of God. In my heart there was a quiet peace and solemn joy. There are times when it just seems right to say nothing to Him. As there is a groaning too deep for words, there is a happiness too deep for human expression. He who searches the heart knows. How many times throughout the years has He withheld blessing in order to test our faith, and then returned to confirm His promises?

December 29, 2003

Today, we make a deposit of \$14,748.74. This gives us a total of \$15843.25 in the bank. After paying the Romanian missionaries and several due bills, we were left with \$3476.46. Praise God!

Last night a brother at church gave me \$10 for the mission. We were blessed to find donations totaling \$1825 in the mail today. What a blessing!

I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart;

I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation;

I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great assembly.

Psalm 40:10



Another Joseph

The Story of Arturo Marin

My name is Arturo Marin and I am thirty years old. I was born in the jungles of San Martin, but I came to live in Lima when I was very young.

I came to know Christ when I was twenty years old. Before that time I did not want to know about Christ. I was a young man seeking after all the vanities of this life. I would have been lost, but God had me thrown into one of the worst prisons in South America - the prison of Lurigancho in Lima, Peru. One Sunday (7:30 pm, May 29, 1988), after being beaten by the police, I received Christ as my personal Savior. I was filled with joy and my life began to change immediately. Nine months later I was pardoned and let out of prison, fully exonerated. I had been arrested because I was in the wrong place at the wrong time. My sister-in-law had been doing some kind of illegal business and I happened to be in her house the day the police arrested her. I was taken as an accomplice in her crimes. After 9 months of investigation my name was cleared and I was allowed to leave as a free man.

Immediately after leaving prison I began to attend a Baptist church where missionary Carlton Allen was pastoring. His life and preaching had a great effect on my life. Through brother Carlton, I met pastor Jonas Barbieri who also helped me greatly in my spiritual growth. In 1993, the church where I was a member started several new works and I felt God's call to serve him as a pastor, but again God had other plans. The very night that I was to preach at the new mission, I was detained at a police check point and asked for my documents. The police immediately detained me. At first I thought it was because of my past jail record, but then I discovered that the police suspected that I was personally involved with a gang of drug dealers! The year before, my documents had been stolen and used by terrorists and drug dealers to falsify their own identities. As God would have it, once again I found myself in prison. I told myself that I was dreaming and that it could not be possible. I was in seminary and looking forward to pastoring, but once again God had me thrown into one of the worst places in the world.

For the first 47 days of my imprisonment, I was in the prison below the Governmental palace. As I look back, this was one of the best experiences of my life. I was able to see first hand how so many people need the Lord and the salvation that only comes through the Son. I was able to witness to four of the main leaders of the "Shining Path" terrorist movement. One of them was an engineer, the other one was a professor in the university, and the other two were students. They were desperate because they were going to be in jail for thirty years to life. When they saw

me in the prison preaching to sixty or seventy men every day, they began to see their great need for Christ. One of the men approached me and told me that Christ could not forgive him because of all the terrible things he had done. He was second in command in the "Shinning Path" terrorist movement. I sat there and spoke with him until five in the morning. He finally broke down and cried like a baby. He was saved by God. He later introduced me to others who were in jail for the same reasons. Some of them were saved and some rejected the message. Some of these men were allowed to leave prison under the law of repentance afforded by the State. I never knew anything else about them.

I had never before had the opportunity to speak with men like these. They were intellectuals and terrorists, but God changed some of their lives. There were days in which I stayed up until two in the morning sharing the good news with these men. During those days I did not know much about what was happening outside or with my case, but after 47 days, I was put in the Lurigancho prison again, the worst prison in Peru. In Lurigancho, you can see dead people every day. Most of the inmates are filthy and sick with TB.

Before going to prison, I had always doubted God's care for me. I had seen other pastors suffering and doubted His care and provision for my life. In prison, I learned that I would never have to doubt God's faithfulness. I entered prison weighing 145 lbs. and left weighing 190 lbs. I always had enough food to give to others in the prison because of loving brothers that came to visit me and bring me food. I was able to evangelize many people with the Gospel and even started a church in one of the sections of

*Below:
Arturo
leads the
music in his
church with
the help of
his wife
Gladys
playing the
tambourine.*





the jail.

Prison turned out to be a blessing for me. God transformed a living hell into a blessing that changed my life. I was able to preach day and night and experienced the joy of seeing the lives of men changed. What beatings and bars and years of prison could not do, the Word of God was able to accomplish in the lives of men. Many of those who were converted are now preaching the Word. Time went by very fast because I was preaching and ministering around the clock. Before I knew it a year had passed.

In the prison of Lurigancho, the authorities are very corrupt. It does not matter if you are innocent, you have to pay to get justice or nothing will happen. The authorities asked me for \$3000 in exchange for my freedom and my lawyer was being paid by the drug traffickers so that my case would remain hidden and I would stay in jail. For these reasons my case would not move. After six months of prison, my church and my family could no longer pay for a lawyer. It was then that missionary Paul Washer found out about my situation and was able to pay a new lawyer to keep my case open. I thank God for this because I would have been in prison for twelve years if HeartCry had not helped me.

The day that I was released from prison I was preaching an open air service to the prisoners. I did not know that I was going to be released, but after my sermon the authorities came and told me to leave. I could hardly believe my ears. As I have said before, there are innocent people who spend years in jail because of the corrupt lawyers and authorities who use the innocent as a way to make money. Through all this, God showed me that He does provide for everything.

While I was in jail, I had been praying for the jungle region of San Martin where I was born. After prison, I

traveled there and saw that there were no evangelical churches and that the Word of God was not preached. There were many sects moving into the area and it broke my heart because the true Church was not doing anything. I presented the project of starting a mission in San Martin and my church told me they could not support me or be involved in this type of work because they were focusing more on the city area. After that, I presented my project to Paul Washer with the help of Mario Salinas who was already being supported by HeartCry and working with brother Washer. I knew that brother Washer was very interested in reaching people with the Gospel, especially in places where it had not been preached before.

The jungle area is a very hard place and most missionaries and preachers do not want to go there because it is too far removed and abandoned. People live there and die there without Christ! I am very happy to be in San Martin and am very grateful to HeartCry for their help in carrying out this ministry. I want to use the rest of my life to preach God's Word. My wife also has the call of God upon her life to serve Him and is more than willing to minister with me in this area. Her name is Gladys. I would like for you to remember us in prayer as we live and work here. Pray that God will strengthen us and give us the same desire to serve Him in spite of anything that comes our way. My wife loves children and she ministers among them. I direct the music and preach as I have done before in other works. The area of San Martin does not have lights or running water. This helps in the preaching of the Gospel. In the larger cities people are so much into their vanities that it is hard to tell them about their need for Christ.

We are working in a town called "La Libertad." In the region there are about 15 towns and none of them have a church. The largest town has about 3,000 people and the

Arturo and Gladys Martin are HeartCry missionaries in the jungles of San Martin, in the country of Peru. The following testimony has been republished for the benefit and blessing of our recent subscribers.



smallest one 1,200. Our objective has always been to open a church in La Libertad and to slowly move on to start one in every one of the smaller towns. We will be evangelizing and trying to teach people to read and write because their education level is very poor.

This is my testimony and if God gives me many years of life I want to use them all for His glory. I hope to one day return from the jungle and be able to tell you again about God's faithfulness and how He has been changing lives. Brother Paul has been of great encouragement to me. His testimony has shown me to press on even when everything is against us. I use to watch him suffering great pain because of his arthritis and yet he kept on preaching and reaching people for Christ. I know I can do the same. I know God will use me and that He will carry out His will in my life. May God bless you!



Gladys draws water from the well behind her home and washes clothes. They have no running water.

Gladys Marin

I was saved when I was very young in an evangelistic campaign at my church. My parents were Christians and we all attended church together. My family was extremely poor and therefore even as a small girl I had to work and help supply the needs of my family. All these responsibilities at such a young age kept me busy and away from becoming curious about sinful things. At times, my friends would ask me to accompany them, but for the most part, I simply did not have time to run around like the rest. Instead, I studied, worked, and went to church. This was my life.

I met my husband Arturo in my church. I had known him for years, but I did not pay attention to him until we were both asked to stand up in the wedding of a mutual friend. As time passed, we grew to know each other and

my parents granted him permission to visit me at our house. I admired his desire to serve God and supported him as he labored in our church and in other missions. When I was 19 years old, we asked my parents permission to be married and it was agreed that we should wait another three years. This would give Arturo time to finish His studies at the Bible Institute and also give us the opportunity to save enough to be able to have a place of our own. Little did we know that it would actually be almost seven years before we would be married.

Two years after we asked permission from our parents, Arturo was put in jail for a crime he did not commit. He had been robbed of his personal documents a year earlier, but never went to the police to report it. His documents were used by drug dealers to commit drug sales and other crimes. Everyone who was even acquainted with Arturo knew that he was innocent, but he was sentenced to spend eight years in prison. From the first day of his prison term until his release, many brothers and sisters from different churches visited him almost every day and he won many people to Christ.

Soon after Arturo's imprisonment, I went to brother Paul Washer for help and he immediately hired a lawyer who found out what had really happened. Apparently the powerful drug dealers who had used Arturo's documents discovered that he had been put in jail, and they bribed the authorities so that He would remain there without opportunity for release. Because of this, there was little that could be done in the power of flesh. The authorities asked us to pay \$3000 in bribe money to release Arturo, but we refused and turned to God in prayer.

I could not understand, but I only prayed and God gave me grace to believe that He would remain faithful and that He had everything under control. Many brothers and sisters from our church would visit Arturo to encourage him, but they would leave the prison encouraged themselves. God had given Arturo such grace and joy that he spent his time witnessing to the prisoners and preaching almost every day. Like Joseph in the Bible, he earned the trust and respect of some of the prison guards who allowed him to go to the different cell blocks of the prison to visit other prisoners and preach to them. At times, we were even allowed to take food and medicines to the prisoners and Arturo would use these things to minister to them.

Thanks to our God and His working through HeartCry who provided the lawyer, Arturo was able to walk out of jail after only a year and three months. The day he left the prison he came to my house. When I opened the door and I saw him standing there I was speechless. I did not know that he had been released. I cried tears of joy and gratitude to God and thanked him for sustaining us through the terrible trial. We were married two years later.

My husband and I now minister very close to his hometown in San Martin of Moyobamba. This is a very beautiful area of Peru that is part jungle and part mountains. The



people here are very loving and very generous in spite of their poverty and need. This is one thing that has always impressed me very much about poor people, especially poor believers. They are often more generous and selfless than the ones that actually have much more to spare. This has taught me to give with love and to give trusting that God will provide for my needs.

My ministry is to work with the children, teach women's Sunday school and help in anything I can. I often travel with my husband and support him in all that the Lord has called Him to do. The women in our village work in groups and hardly ever alone. They cook together, wash together and work on the farm together. At first, I felt ashamed because I was younger than most of them and could not work as hard or as long, but now God has helped me and I am able to keep up.

I thank God for the opportunity to minister among the poor people of the jungle and I thank all of you from Heartcry who support us in our ministry.

Dino Ortiz is a full time missionary with the HeartCry Missionary Society. He works in the prisons located in and around Asunción, Paraguay.



A Recent Report from Arturo and Gladys

Dear Brother Paul and HeartCry,

I am writing to inform you that we have finished building the four doors and two windows for the church and we will be installing them this week. The carpenter took more time than what was expected because the wood was very green. We have also bought the doorknobs, window locks and other accessories.

Thank you so much for helping us with our needs. Your giving has enabled us to finish the pastoral quarters in the church and now my family and I have a cleaner and safer place to live. My family and I would also like to thank HeartCry for our monthly support. We pray that you will continue to help us with your prayers.

Please pray especially that the Lord will provide us with all that we need to reach out to the seven unreached communities around our village.

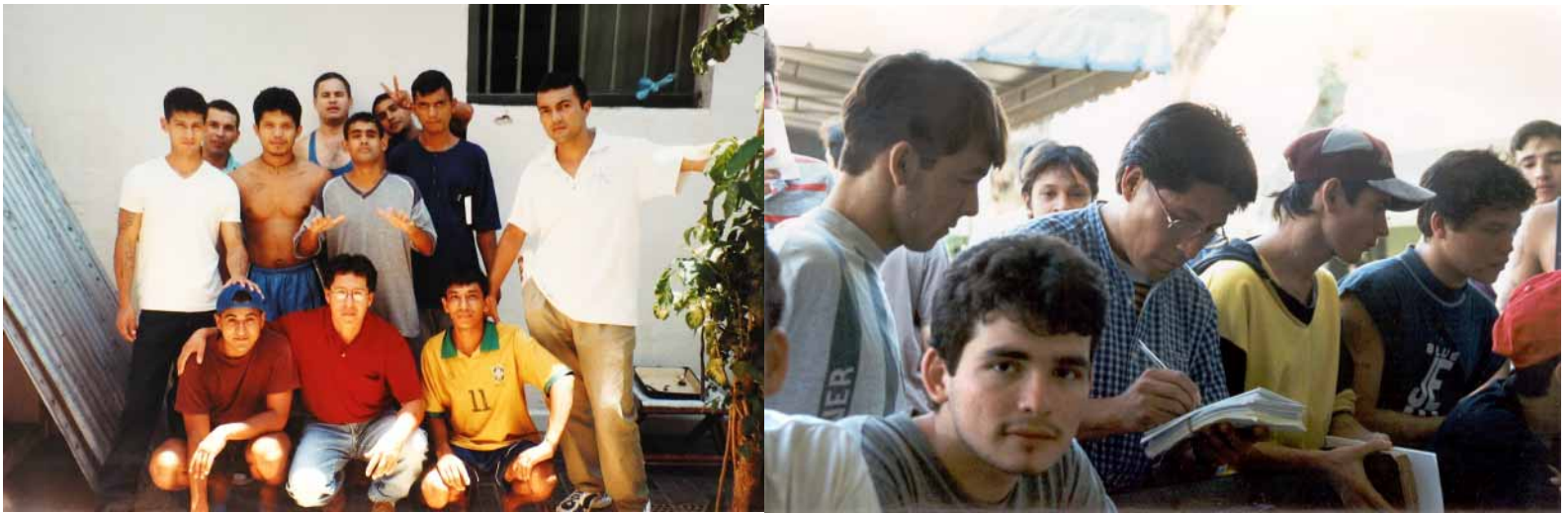
I am very happy with the work that the Lord is doing in our church. The members have gathered together and sown rice in order to pay for the cost of more and more missionary trips into the jungle. Please pray for this project. We will gather in our first harvest in the next few months. We praise God that there are many men in the church who are experts in this kind of work. They have promised to help us.

May God richly bless you!

Arturo and Gladys

Dino Ortiz Jail Ministry in Asuncion, Paraguay

My name is Dino Ortiz. I was born on September 26, 1961 in La Paz, Bolivia. My parents had all the material things and I was able to have everything I desired. When I was twelve years old, my mother fell terribly ill and died. After that, my father only lived to work and to drink himself to death. All the children in my family were very neglected. I began to do all the things I wanted without any supervision. I would miss school for many days at a time and would steal anything I could get my hands on. I smoked cigarettes like an adult. The director of my school told my father that I was a terrible child. I would be whipped almost every day by the director and my father.



“Someone is murdered almost every day. There are fights between the prison gangs and fights between individuals. A few days ago, I had the terrifying opportunity to watch what the inmates call the “Danza del Puñal” (Dance of the Knife).”

After my mother died, I did not feel like living or studying. I started stealing, even from my father who did not suspect anything. Finally, I stole many things from my home and went to live my life on my own. I started traveling through the different cities and towns of my country. Eventually, I was introduced to drugs and alcohol. Every weekend my friends and I would drink and do drugs together. My life was a complete disaster.

After 4 years, I returned to the city where I was born. I joined the army thinking that it would help me to discipline myself, but it did not work. After the military, I became more and more involved with drugs and robbery. I began to consume crack, marijuana and other drugs. I was a complete addict. My family did not want anything to do with me because it was common knowledge that I was a thief and an addict.

I knew that drugs were really destroying my life. I did not have peace. I started to sell drugs to people and I also found a job at a hotel where I sold drugs to the tourists and made five times more money than with people of my own country. My “profession” was going well. I was selling more and more drugs each day, but I could not gain anything. I dressed and ate well and gave money away to my friends.

When I was nineteen, I decided to enroll in the police force. I was there for two years and became more corrupt than I had been. I always found ways to steal money without being noticed by the other police. I spent everything I had on drinking and women. I lived like this for two years. I worked and stole and drank and did drugs. I did not see my brothers or father anymore. Not very long after becoming a policeman there was a government overthrow and the government began to get rid of officers that had been in the force less than five years. I was told to leave.

On being dismissed from the police force, I traveled to

Cochabamba to a town called Sinaota (or White Town). In this place, the production of drugs is higher than anywhere else in Bolivia. You can see people selling drugs out in the streets as if it were sugar. There I learned how drugs were made and processed. My addiction grew stronger and I began to sell more and more drugs. Then one day I was invited to attend church with a friend of mine. My friend laughed at the invitation, but I insisted that we go. I know now that even before I entered the church, God had already started a work in me. I did not want to think of bad things or dirty things any more. I had a desire to make my life right with God.

When we arrived at the church, everyone treated us very well and welcomed us all. We heard the message which was directed to the Christians, but we did not hear the Gospel. No one shared with us about how to be saved, but they did invite us to the youth meeting. I was eager to go because I wanted to know about God. There were many activities going on in the church and I wanted to be involved. I joined the church choir and helped out at a ministry for handicapped children that the church was involved with. A strong desire grew in me to be closer to God and I thought that my good works would make that happen. I thought that I could “buy” a good standing with God.

One Sunday, the deacon of the church approached me and asked me if he could speak with me. We sat down and he shared with me the plan of salvation for the first time since I had entered the Church. He shared with me from the Scriptures that I was a sinner in need of repentance and forgiveness from God. I wondered why he had taken so long to tell me about all this. Inside of me, I wondered what would have happened if he had not told me about the Gospel and I had left the church and gone my wicked way again. I understand now that God had everything under control and that He had a perfect time for everything. I agreed



with everything the deacon said. I repented of my sins and asked Christ to come into my life and be my Savior.

After my conversion, I became more active in church, but I was still drinking and doing bad things with my friends. This all continued until one day when my friends started calling me the “two-face Christian.” They gave me this name because I would drink together with them and then I would start telling them about God and invite them to Church. After this, I sought out some of the men in the church so that they might disciple me, but for some reason or another we could never get around to it. I attended church faithfully and fed from the preacher’s messages, but my spiritual growth was not progressing at all because of my way of living. I was still selling drugs and I would even pray according to Proverbs 28:8 that God would prosper my business so that I would be able to bless others! I twisted the text and told God that I wanted to help the church buy its own building because at that time we were renting a place to meet for the services. I wanted to help my family and other people. I wanted to do good things in a way that displeased God. I even bought a big notebook where I started making plans to build a beautiful building for the Church.

One day there was an opportunity to make a great deal of money selling drugs, but in spite of my lack of spiritual discernment and growth, I was able to realize that this was not right to do anymore. I bowed my head and told God that I wanted to turn away from all my sins. I told Him that I wanted to serve Him and dedicate my life to Him. Afterwards I had some problems with the people I worked with (drug dealers), but finally I was able to leave it all behind. I went to speak with a missionary that was serving in Bolivia at the time and told him of my desire to dedicate my life to the service of God. He was very happy. He encouraged me to begin studying at a Bible institute. I chose the Word of Life Institute in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The institute was very difficult for me. I was with 15 other men from different countries. All of them were older and more mature Christians. I felt intimidated by their spirituality and the authorities that were over me. Ever since I was a young boy I had done whatever I wanted to do, but in the Institute I had to be under the authority of the leaders and the dorm directors and this was hard for me. There were two times in which I almost quit the institute. One night I grabbed my suitcase and was ready to leave, but a Mexican brother convinced me to stay. Another time I almost left and a brother told me to go ahead and leave because I probably did not belong in the ministry in the first place. This is when God broke me and I had to confess to Him everything I had in my heart. I asked Him to help me and change me. I told Him I wanted to be in His will and that I wanted to study and do everything well. After that, I was the last one to go to bed at

midnight and the first one to get up at four in the morning, because I wanted to have a time with God.

During my years at the institute, I met some students from Paraguay and learned about the great need in that country. I immediately had a desire to go there and minister. I know that God put this desire in me. I prayed earnestly for Paraguay and four years later He gave me the opportunity to go.

After I graduated from the institute, God opened the doors for me to be a missionary in Paraguay. I started working with children and then with youth. God blessed this ministry and I was joyful, but after a year in Paraguay, the Lord burdened my heart for the jails. I began going to the adult men’s prison called Tacumbu. I preached and gave out Bibles and literature. Later I discovered that the juvenile prison was going to be located only two blocks away from the prison where I was currently ministering. I did not doubt that God would also want me to go there and preach the Gospel to the young boys.

As I began preaching in the juvenile prison, God began to work in the lives of the young men and my heart was overjoyed. I disciplined some of them for two years, but I had to quit because I did not have a way to support myself. I could not find a job in Asuncion, so I had to move back to Argentina to look for something that would help me to remain a missionary in Paraguay. Four years went by and I prayed earnestly that God would open the door for me to return to Paraguay and to the work that I had started.

One day while I was in Argentina, God spoke to me again while I was preaching. I could not finish my sermon and had to apologize to the congregation. I told them that God had spoken to my heart and that I knew I was to serve Him in Paraguay with all my life in spite of everything and to sacrifice everything for the sake of His call. I told them I was willing to risk it all for Him. I quit my job and gave away what I owned. I returned to Paraguay in February of 1997. I began preaching to the young men in the prisons of Tacumbu and Panchito Lopez and discipling those who were converted. It was far more difficult than I can describe. I had no money or clothes or materials for the ministry. I barely had enough to eat, but then I was contacted by brother Paul Washer and HeartCry.

They believed in the ministry that God had given me and began to support me. I am so thankful for what God has done through HeartCry. I am now able to minister full time and to reach out to the lost. Every day I can work among those who desperately need Christ. Thank you for all you have done for me. Everyone that I reach for Christ, we reach together. My work would be impossible without you. Please pray that God will always help me to dedicate my life to Him and to these men that need Him. I hope that my testimony has not bored you, but that it has brought glory to God. He is the One who rescued me from my terrible state.

Paraguay



Dino Ortiz

The Spiritual War behind Bars

The following reports from November and December will give you insight into the spiritual battles and physical dangers that Dino must face every day. Please pray for him and those who have been converted under his ministry.

November

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Faith. I greet you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that He might pour forth His richest blessing upon your lives, and that He might guide you in all that you do. I give thanks to God and rejoice before Him for all the blessings that He gives to me, even though I am not worthy of the least of them.

November was a wonderful month for me because God let me travel to the interior of Paraguay to visit many different people and places. Together with another missionary, I ministered among the Ache Indians who live in the interior, more than 350 kilometers from Asunción. Although, they still live according to their old ways, the great majority of them have now become Christians. The changes in their lives are amazing.

From the jungles, we traveled to the other extreme of Paraguay to the city of General Aquino. There, we helped a family of missionaries with the construction of a cement floor for their home. It was a lot of work in the hot climate, but it was a great experience. From General Aquino, we traveled to the city of Hernandarias and ministered in a Christian retreat center. Besides the regular duties of the ministry, we made sixteen beds for the upcoming youth camps. It was a wonderful privilege to serve God in this way. I am very thankful to God for giving me a small break from the trials of our prison ministry.

With regard to the work in the prison of Tacumbu, I give thanks to God that all is going well. No new inmate was added to our group in the month of November, and the work continues with the same disciples and their many problems. They are always coming to me with questions. I must depend upon God's grace and the wisdom of His Word. One of the greatest problems is found among the married men who are converted in prison. They are growing in the Lord, but their wives are still unconverted and many times they are unfaithful. This creates a great conflict and confusion for the men. They ask me questions like: "Should I forgive my wife or divorce her?" Last week, I had to counsel four men who are in this great predica-

ment. Please pray for me so that God might give me His wisdom to answer them according to the Scriptures.

I give thanks to God for our Christian brother Gabino. He continues to grow in every aspect of his life and is an example to us all. Brother Santiago truly desires to grow in Christ, but he has many struggles. He is very stubborn and introverted, but I trust that God will finish the work that He began in him. Brother Heriberto Alfonso is another who, like Santiago, is struggling to grow. He has a very strong character. He often says things very harshly and his words create conflict with the other Christian inmates. Regardless of this, I can see that he has a sincere desire to serve the Lord. The great majority of the Christian inmates are growing little by little. Their greatest struggle during the holiday season is loneliness and the desire to be with their families and friends. They really need your prayers.

Brother Tomas Centurion has been released from the prison and is now living at home. This month, I traveled to San Juan Nepomuceno in order to visit with ex-inmate Wilson Cañisa. I discovered that he is going through many difficulties. He is working as a taxi driver, but there is not much work. He told me that sometimes when he is depressed, he is tempted to return to his old life of crime. I give thanks that God has sustained him. Please pray for him, for spiritual strength, and for a better employment. Brother Ignacio Chamorro is doing very well. He has a good job and is serving the Lord faithfully. Yesterday, I visited brother Jacinto and was glad to discover that both he and his family are walking with the Lord and moving ahead with their lives.

Please pray for all our inmates. It seems that as summer comes and the temperatures rise, the fights in the prison also increase. Someone is murdered almost every day. There are fights between the prison gangs and fights between individuals. Last month, there was a battle between two different gangs in the prison. It occurred at midday when the visitors were present. There were four young men who were wounded and one was stabbed in thirteen different areas of his body. The most horrifying thing about the fight was what happened afterwards. The guards moved the young man to the other side of a chain-linked fence that was about fifteen feet tall. When the attackers saw that he was still moving, they climbed the fence and began to stab him again. They were finally stopped after they had done much damage.

A few days ago, I had the terrifying opportunity to watch what the inmates call the "Danza del Puñal" (Dance of the Knife). I was sharing the Word with a few of the brothers when, in front of us, two men began fighting with their knives. One of the men stabbed the other in the chest. The other responded by slashing his attackers neck near the jugular. As always, the guards did nothing and did not see anything. They do not respond or care because it is something that happens every day in the prison. Later that

*Brother
Dino Ortiz
(center
with
glasses) is
seen here
in an
informal
discussion
with some
of the
young men
he is
discipling.*



day, another man wanted to avenge his friend and cut the other man's face until it was completely disfigured. Please pray that God will protect His people in the midst of this horrible place.

I love you and end this letter with a great embrace in the love of Christ our Savior.

Your brother, Dino Ortiz

December

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. I pray that God will give you His richest blessings in all things.

The month of December has been very difficult, but we have also seen the faithfulness and blessing of God. The holiday season is the most depressing time of the year for those who are in the prison. Many are lost in deadly depression, some try to escape, and others find a way to vent their frustration and anger through violence. On Christmas Eve, there was a terrible fight between the different groups in the prison. One prisoner was stabbed thirty-seven times with a knife and died. Nineteen other inmates were injured.

While all this was going on, a group of Christians was gathered together for a worship service dedicated to the God who had saved them. There was also a time of preaching and even a meal that had been provided by Christians outside the prison. Although it was a wonderful time, there were several Christians who were overcome by depression because of their past sins and incarceration. One of them was Santiago Genes. He was so overcome with sad-

ness that he withdrew from the other brothers and did not want to speak with anyone. Several days passed before he was strengthened by God's grace to continue on. Yesterday I saw that he was much better. He was painting a beautiful landscape on one of the prison buildings. He is an artist and we allow him to practice his gift in this manner.

During this month, four more inmates were added to our Bible study group. Their names are: Oscar Gonzales, Adriano Julian Nuñez, José Alfredo Franco, and Martin Daniel Kinast. The strongest Christian among them is Oscar. He reads his Bible every day. Last week, someone stole his Bible and he was left with only his New Testament. A few days later, I was able to find him another Bible. Now he is very happy. He takes his new Bible with him no matter where he goes. I praise God for his growth in Christ. It seems like he is getting stronger every day. Please pray for him.

By the grace of God, those who were saved in this ministry and are now out on the streets seem to be doing well. Please pray for these ex-prisoners. It is very difficult for them. This week, brother Hugo Hermosilla was released. He needs a place to live and an employment that will provide for his needs. Pray that he might overcome the temptations of this world and the devil.

With the Love of Christ,
Dino Ortiz Peñaranda



Some of the men who participate in the prison fellowship. The Lord is using brother Matei to bring love, hope, and faith to the prisoners.

Prison Work in Romania

by Matei Muresan

I was born the youngest of six children in a Christian family, but I did not want to be baptized until I knew for sure that Christ was the way. After reading the Bible three times, I was converted. In 1975, I graduated with a degree in electromechanical engineering from the University of Timisoara. Shortly after, I began working in a prison and became close friends with many of the inmates. I would talk to them about the Lord and would shorten their sentences for good behavior. One night there was no watchman on duty and so I visited a wing of the prison that had been off-limits to me. I found a man who had been in his cell for 12 years without a single visitor. That night I decided I wanted to visit all the prisoners in Romania and tell them about Jesus. I quit my job and became a missionary to the prisons. I am the only missionary who has a permit to enter every prison in Transylvania. My main work is in the prison at Ayud. The average attendance in the church has grown to over seventy. Half of the men are baptized members. Besides my prison work, I teach religion to the 8th grade in Ayud and have started three mission works in Garbova de Sus, Hoparta and Teius.

For several years HeartCry has been supporting Matei Muresan as he ministers in the prisons of Transylvania. Last year, HeartCry was able to provide pastor Matei with a used car to help in his ministry. Matei travels hundreds of miles a week, visiting not only the prison in Transylvania, but also caring for the members of three missions that he has started. We are very proud of the work that God is accomplishing through pastor Matei.





Ruxi Vandici

Although Ruxi was presented in our last newsletter we felt led to include her again. Her reports from

October/November and December/January

are wonderful examples of the work that is being done through indigenous missionaries on many university campuses in Romania.

October/November

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I would like to share with you how God is continuing to work among the college students in Bucharest. The month of October is the first month of the university year, and so it is a very busy time when all the students come back to school, and all the activities begin again. We thought that a good way to start the year would be to have a weekend retreat with the Christian students so that they might worship together, study the Word of God, pray, and enjoy a time of fellowship. God gave us a very blessed time. We taught the students about evangelism and discipleship, and emphasized the importance of sharing a God-centered Gospel rather than a man-centered one. It was a time of encouragement for all of us. One of the highlights of the retreat occurred when four students, who became Christians through our evangelistic activities last semester, shared with us how God had saved them and continues to work in them that they might grow in the faith. All of this encouraged us to keep working and planting seeds. God is faithful and powerful to use our weak words to bring people to Himself! Please pray for Mary, Simona, Adina, and Mihaela, that they might grow stronger and stronger in their faith and bear much fruit for God's glory!

Another great encouragement that God gave us this month was that four of the unbelieving girls who attended our summer evangelistic English camp agreed to join an evangelistic Bible study. We were also very encouraged because Mihaela, a girl who became a Christian right after the camp, is now helping us in this Bible study! I am amazed at how much she has grown in the three months since she was saved! She loves God and desires to be a witness for Him among her classmates.

Each week in our evangelistic Bible studies, we study a part of the Gospel. We have already studied what the Scriptures say about God and man, and in the following weeks, we will study about the cross, repentance, and faith. It is so amazing to witness the power of the Word of God in

changing people's minds. Usually, at the beginning of our study, the unbelievers think that they are good enough to be accepted by God on their own merits. After a few weeks of learning what the Bible teaches about man's sinfulness, they realized that they are not good enough to stand before a holy God. Please pray for Ana, Oana, Cristina, and Laura so that they might fully understand the Gospel, repent, believe, and be saved.

The most difficult thing about student work is that the students are only with us for two or three years, and then they graduate. Three of the girls, Ema, Felicia, and Magda, who became Christians through our evangelistic activities and were disciplined by me for the last two years, have now graduated and left the city. This is very sad for me because I grew to deeply love and care for them. But I also rejoice when I hear that wherever they are, they are involved in a local church, growing in the Lord, and bearing fruit for Him. They all have a passion to share the Gospel with other people, and they have a great burden for their unbelieving families. Please pray that their lives might be strong testimonies to their families and that their families might be saved.

At the beginning of this new year, God gave me more young Christian girls to disciple. Their names are Cornelia,



Ruxi is a very special instrument that God has raised up to evangelize and disciple young girls at the university. Her ministry is bearing much fruit.



Ruxi and the students are wonderful examples of the work that is being done through indigenous missionaries on many university campuses in Romania.

Ana Maria, and Sabina. I am very excited about this new group. We meet weekly and study about who we are in Christ. They love the Lord and are willing to follow Him. They desire to be light and salt among their colleagues. Ana Maria and I plan to start an evangelistic English discussion group with her non-Christian colleagues. Please pray that we will all grow in the Lord in this new discipleship group, and that many non-Christian students will come to the evangelistic group we hope to start. Please pray that they might be saved.

In October of this last year, many students from our group attended the HeartCry conference in Bucharest. I talked to them afterwards, and they told me that God used the teaching they heard in tremendous ways. Roxana, one of the students who is a new believer, is still telling me how much she learned at that conference. Please pray for her. Her parents have just discovered that she is a Christian and have forbidden her to go to church or to our meetings. They told her that we are a very dangerous cult, and soon we will force her to take drugs and become a prostitute. They even told her that we would convince her to kill herself! The sad thing is that her parents really do believe all these lies. Please pray for her as she passes through this very difficult time. She does not know whether she should obey her parents, or whether she should continue coming to church. Please pray that God might give her wisdom, and that He would soften her parents' hearts.

This month, God was very gracious to me and once again showed me His faithfulness even in the smallest of

matters. I live on the top floor of the department building. The frequent rains had cause a hole in my roof and my apartment was constantly wet. I spoke to the people who are in charge of taking care of the apartments in my building, but they did not try to solve my problem. I asked my parents to help me, and they hired a carpenter. When he finally came to my apartment about a week later, the lock of the door to the roof was stuck and he could not open it. I became very discouraged, because it had been raining in my apartment for over a month and it seemed that the devil was working against me. Finally the roof was fixed, and I praise God because I can see that He takes care of us in every problem we face and we can trust in Him.

December/January

As we begin the new year, I look back at all the blessings that God has poured upon my life and upon our student ministry during the last year, and I am very thankful to Him! Many times I only look at the difficulties and hardships, and I fail to see how wonderfully God has worked among us. Most of all, I praise Him for the students who professed faith in Jesus Christ throughout this year as a result of our evangelistic activities and Bible studies. Their names are Alexandra, Bogdan, Dorina, Adina, Iulia, Simona, Mary, and Mihaela. We are now discipling them and we can already see the fruit of repentance in their lives. This really brings us great joy!

Another great encouragement for us is the students



who became Christians in the past three years. Their names are Ema, Felicia, Magda, Olimpiu, Magdalena, and Dorin. We have disciplined them and taught them to bring the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ to people wherever they are. They are strong witnesses for Christ to their families and to all the people around them. We are trying to imitate the apostle Paul and his ministry:

“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”
(2 Timothy 2:2).

We give God all the glory when we look at these incredibly transformed lives, because we know that He alone can bring people from light to darkness. It is 100% an amazing work of God! We are only tools in His hands, and we pray that He would use us more and more. Please pray for all these young people to grow in their knowledge and love for God, in holy living, and in witnessing for Him!

In the month of December, we had two large evangelistic events. The first was a conference entitled “Christianity versus Eastern religions”. The guest speaker was a former Hindu converted to Christianity. Many Romanian students are very interested and involved in yoga and eastern religions, therefore it was a great opportunity for them to hear from an Indian-born Hindu that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that salvation can only be found in Him. Even though I was a bit disappointed because I had expected more students to attend, I know that God gathered together the people He wanted to be there. After the conference, we met a Polish girl who came to Romania for a few months and was getting ready to go back to Poland. She came to this conference because she was practicing yoga. She thought that Christianity could not give the answers to life, so she was looking into eastern religions. At our conference, I believe that God showed her the truth. When everything was said and done, she said that she might have been wrong and that she would consider the answers that Christianity gives to the difficult questions of life. The following week, she came to our meeting, and even though we did not plan it as an evangelistic meeting, it turned out that the speaker shared the Gospel and challenged the students to give their lives to Christ. This girl is going back to Poland, but we pray that God will continue to show her the truth of the Gospel and save her. Before the conference, the Indian speaker had a seminar for the Christian students, and he encouraged us to be faithful in witnessing and planting seeds. He encouraged us to share the Gospel not only with our words,

but also with our lives, even when we do not see the fruit of our labor. The seminar was very encouraging, especially for the students who have been faithful in witnessing, but have yet to see any of their colleagues turning to God.

The second evangelistic event was the Christmas celebration where God overwhelmed us with His power and grace. We were all very tired after putting up hundreds of posters and giving out hundreds of invitations, but it was worth all the effort. More than 100 students came, the room was full, and many of them were non-Christians. Through singing the Christmas carols, we worshipped God and thanked Him for sending His Son to this Earth. The speaker shared about Jesus coming to the weak and unimportant, and communicated clearly to all that if we want to come to Him we must stop relying on our own strength. We felt God’s presence that night, and we saw how He was working in hearts and minds of the people. I met a girl who was very moved by the message. She kept saying: “What is this? I have never seen anything like this before!” We pray that the seed planted in the hearts of the students will bring forth fruit for the glory of GOD! Please pray that we will have wisdom in planning the follow-up activities, and that many students will attend.

Please continue to pray for Oana, Ana, Laura, and Cristina (the girls in our evangelistic Bible study). I can see that they have made great progress, and that God is really working in their hearts. When we finished the “Finding God” Bible study, they agreed to study with us through the book of John. I am very glad because Oana, Ana, and Cristina have attended two more evangelistic events in the past weeks, and because they have had another opportunity to hear the Gospel and the personal testimonies of other Christians. They understand the Gospel, but they are still relying on their good works. They cannot accept that they must only repent and trust in Jesus who paid in full for all their sins. Please pray that God would use this study in their lives to reveal Himself to them and save them!

Alexandru Palade

Alex and his wife Simona are indigenous missionaries who have served on several university campuses throughout Romania. It is a privilege for us to be a part of their ministry. In the following, are a few excerpts from their monthly reports. Again, they are a wonderful example of the work that is being done through indigenous missionaries on many university campuses in Romania.



On Wednesday, I went to Sibiu to meet Otniel and Alex for discipleship. I was amazed to see the way that God is working in their lives. All three of us met for prayer and then we went to the campus to evangelize in the dorms. We were invited into the dorm room of three students. We introduced ourselves, but only one of them agreed to talk to us at first. When I asked their opinion about the moral values of today, a student named Bogdan asked us to leave the room. I prayed and asked God to help me find a way to talk to him and a few minutes later he shared with me that he was afraid to die. This was an open door for us to talk about sin and how God sees it. Bogdan began to share with us about his life of sin. Before we left the three students, they had heard the Gospel. May God save their souls!

On Saturday, all our disciples in Sibiu devoted themselves to fasting and prayer. At five in the afternoon, we split up into groups and went on campus to witness. I went with a young man named Janos from the city of Brasov. We prayed for God to lead us to the right people. We knocked on one door and met a student from Blaj whose name is Marius. We talked to him for a while and then he began to share with us about his life. After he told us his story, I shared with him the Gospel of Jesus Christ from Romans 5. The message seemed to have an impact on him. After we left the room, Janos and I prayed for Marius.

A few months ago, by God's grace, I shared the Gospel with three students from Brasov - Mihai, Cosmin, and Madalin. At our next meeting, only Mihai came. We were sad, but to our surprise, at our last meeting Cosmin also came. When Paul Washer came to Sibiu, Mihai went to hear him preach and was touched by the Lord. I invited Mihai to our day of fasting and prayer, and he came with Cosmin!

In the following are two short testimonies from Cosmin and a girl named Adoriana after their first experience in sharing the Gospel in the dorms. I hope that they will be an encouragement to you:

Cosmin: "For me, witnessing about Christ is a new life experience. I could clearly see God's hand upon us. Once you hear the Word of God you have to share it with the others. The wonderful thing I found out is that God is the key to eternal life..."

Adoriana: "I went on campus together with Simona (Alex's wife). I was afraid to go and share the Gospel with the students, but I was strengthened when Simona told me that it is God who saves the people, and not us. We en-



We consider it the greatest of privileges to support men and women like Alexandru as they work for Christ in the universities throughout Romania.

tered a room with four girls. The music was really loud and we could not talk at all. We entered another room, but when we started to talk about God, each of the students said that they were busy doing other things. At that moment, I silently cried out to God, saying, 'God, I do not want to leave this place until I share the Gospel with someone.' At that very moment, a girl came to the door that I was about to knock on. I began to talk to her and discovered that she was very discouraged. I told her to be encouraged because the Bible says many wonderful things concerning her. She was very surprised at my words and I was able to share the Gospel with her. After that I invited her to come to our group."

On a recent Thursday evening, we organized a meeting for the non-Christian students in Bacau. Only a few unbelievers attended the meeting, but it is growing each week. After the meeting, we made up teams to do personal evangelism the next day. At two o'clock the following day, I was doing evangelism in the boy's dormitories with two young Christians named Silviu and Ianos. As we entered into one of the dorms, we were amazed that the guard let us pass without questioning us. Our hearts were full of praises for this, because many times we are not allowed to share the Gospel in the dorms. We knocked on the first door and there were two boys from Buzau in the room.



Their names are Iulian and Narcis. We introduced ourselves and began to talk to them. Our conversation turned towards spiritual things and suddenly Narcis became very suspicious.

He stopped our conversation with the question: "Who are you and what is your religion?" He then told us that he was Orthodox and that his religion teaches him that God forbids him to talk with other people from another religion. He said that if he continued to listen to us that it would be a great sin. At that moment, God sent to my mind the words from John 3:16 and I told Narcis that the Bible teaches us that God sent His Son so that whoever believes in Him will have everlasting life. I then asked him if he was sure that if he died he would go to be with God. He told me that no one could be sure of such a thing, and then he said, "Who am I to make such a statement?" I then told him that it is written in the Bible that we can be sure about our salvation.

As I continued to speak with Narcis, he recognized that he was a sinner and he promised that he would read the Bible so that he might know whether our words were true or not. Before we left his room, he warned us not to try to convert his roommate to our religion. Regardless of his warning, we were so glad to see that his roommate, Iulian, was interested in the Gospel and that he continued to ask different questions about our faith during our time together.

In the same day and in the same building, we went to another room looking for some students who had filled out a survey, but we did not find them. In their room, were two other boys named Ciprian and Cornel. We introduced ourselves and then we began to speak with them about spiritual things and moral values. They were very open to answering our questions and were ready to hear the Gospel. I was so amazed to see the power of the Holy Spirit. For one and a half hours they listened to everything that we told them about God and salvation through Christ Jesus. It was a completely different meeting than the one before. Like the other students, they heard wonderful things about God and were convicted by the Holy Spirit, but they responded in a different way.

While I was at the university in Sibiu, I decided to take two young Christians with me to the dorms so that they might learn how to evangelize by themselves. After spending a long time convincing the guard to let us in, we began to visit the students. We entered a room where a boy and a girl were living together. The boy was not interested in talking about God, but the girl was very open. Alex, one of the young men who was with me, had the opportunity to share the Gospel with her. It was the first time that Alex had ever shared his testimony in a dorm room setting. The girl had many wrong ideas about Christianity. She thought that in order to go to heaven one had

to respect the Ten Commandments and go to church from time to time. As we shared with her, her boyfriend told her to go outside with him, but she refused. She continued listening until some other students entered the room and stopped her from listening to the only message that could save her life. The Devil used her boyfriend and her friends to distract her from the Gospel. We stood there wondering if she would ever get another opportunity to hear the Gospel. We prayed, "Lord, please have mercy on her." God had visited her, but she did not understand.

With great sadness in our hearts we left her and knocked on another door. There were three boys in the room who were playing on a computer. We initiated a conversation with them about the spiritual life, and one of them, whose name is Daniel, began to speak his mind. He was very confused about spiritual things. He told us that he was an atheist, but as we continued to share, his heart became more open. His final question was: "What should I do to be saved and not go to hell?" It was a miracle for us to hear such a question coming out of the mouth of a man who said that he was an atheist. He was a man who said that he did not believe in God, but on hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he began to take God's Word seriously. That day, the young man heard about the evil of sin and the great love of Christ.

I will leave you with a verse that has really touched my heart. It is from Isaiah 50:10: "Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God!"

Ion (Bebe) Tomeci

Ion and his wife Ani are HeartCry missionaries who have served for several years on different campuses throughout Romania. They are a very special couple. In the following, are a few excerpts from their monthly reports. We hope that they are an encouragement to you.

The last few months we labored to fulfill the hopes and plans that God has put in our hearts. The need is great, but the laborers are few. We labored with all our might to share the Gospel with as many students as possible, and to nurture those who have demonstrated an interest in the Gospel.

After we delivered 4,500 Christian magazines and 1,500 Christian CDs to the students on campus, we had many contacts to follow up and many opportunities to share the Gospel. Every day we had interesting discussions with the students. The outcome of those discussions sometimes pleased our hearts and other times grieved us deeply. Regardless of the results, we sought to be opti-



mistic and have faith in God. We held weekly prayer meetings with 15 to 20 of our disciples and weekly prayer meetings with a larger group of about 40-60 students. We also held weekly Bible study meetings and weekly leadership meetings to train the students so that they might lead other Christian students to do evangelism.

Every day of the week we were among the university students making contacts and sharing the Gospel. God made many students from our group to be willing to go and share the Gospel with others. This thing brought us great joy. Also, our student leaders responded favorably to many of the challenges that we gave them. One of the student leaders, whose name is Ciprian, even preached a message at one of our Thursday night meetings. Praise the Lord! He spoke from the book of Proverbs. Training leaders among the students is the key to the future of Christian ministry. It is our goal that others are able to do what we do and even better!

On one Tuesday afternoon, Ciprian and I met together for prayer. Our prayer was short, but we begged God to lead us to open hearted students who were willing to hear the Gospel. After this, we began to knock on the doors in the dormitory. At the first door, we met a skinny young man named Dan who was full of energy. He comes from the Oltenia region in Romania where there are almost no Protestant churches. It is very hard to share the Gospel in this area because many of the people are strongly Orthodox or atheists. At the university in Timisoara, almost 40% of the students come from this region. I believe that it is the providence of God that sends us these students from the Oltenia area where there is almost no flame burning for the Gospel.

We gave Dan our Christian magazine and we spoke

about many of the subjects that it addresses. Then we challenged him to enter into a discussion about the Gospel and its main character, Jesus Christ. Dan told us that when he was a child he used to go to the Orthodox Church and that he even helped the priest from the city of Craiova. At one time, he had even wanted to attend the Orthodox Seminary, but decided against it because his friends made so much fun of him. After he graduated from high school, he stopped attending church and began to hang around with the wrong crowd. He eventually became more and more estranged from any kind of relationship with God.

Dan was very moved when we shared with him the Gospel that evening. The following week, we met him again in the hallway of the dorm and he invited us to talk with him again. I resumed our discussion and he was hanging on every single word. I could see that God was working in this boy so that he might desire to seek God and be changed by his power. After another week, we met with Dan again. His roommates were trying to interrupt us and so we went outside. As we talked, I began to understand him and his life. He was smoking and drinking a great deal, but he was aware that such things were not doing him any good. I began a Bible study with him and we talked about some of the most important truths of Christianity - How we can be saved, how God works in our lives through the Holy Spirit, and the importance of worshiping with other believers in Jesus Christ. As we talked, Dan told me the things that his roommates were telling him. He wanted to know why they called us "repenters," and what was the meaning of repentance. Please pray for Dan so that he might come to understand God's love for him and his need of repentance. I know that there is a great spiritual battle going on in the heart of a man until he lays



down his own beliefs and embraces the truth of the Bible.

After speaking with Dan, I met up with another young man named Dacian. He is a student in his fourth year of Mechanical Engineering and is very open to the Gospel.

A few days before, I was talking with another student in the hall. When Dacian passed by, he asked me for a magazine and I gave him one. That same night I looked for him, but his roommates told me that he was in the reading room. I found him there and God opened the door for me to share the Gospel with him. The following week, I visited Dacian again, but I found him in a situation that was not good for his spiritual growth. He was in the room with his roommate and a girl that was very far from God. Her presence made our discussion almost impossible. Please pray for Dacian that he might come to know the Lord.

Ani Tomeci

Ion's wife Ani shares the following testimony. She is a dear sister in the Lord and has been used mightily to win young women to Christ and disciple them.

In our last newsletter, I wrote to you something about Crina. Now I would like to tell you more about her, about the way that she met God, and how she is now growing in her relationship with Him.

I met Crina last year during a special survey. She was an unbeliever and I never really thought much about what the Lord might do in her life. There were other girls who seemed to have much more potential and so I invested most of my time and effort in them. Crina was the kind of girl who always talks too much and never listens. Although I had tried to speak with her many times, I was never able to share the Gospel with her because she would never listen. She was very friendly every time I visited her, and she was very open about her life. She told me many things about herself and her family, but she would never listen when I tried to share the Gospel. In addition to this obstacle, every time I tried to share with her, something unusual would happen and I would be detained or detoured. It was a real spiritual battle.

The open door that I was looking for came in the most unusual way. Crina was dating a boy who treated her very badly, and so I began to share with her what the Bible teaches about a relationship between a man and a woman. After few days, she told me that the things that I shared with her helped her to break up with the boy who showed such a lack of respect towards her. A few days later, I decided to visit Crina again and share the Gospel with her.

She was very receptive to the evangelistic study that we did together, but she made no commitment. She said that she needed more time to think about such a great decision. When we met again a few days later, Crina was very open. She explained to me the things that kept her from turning her life over to Christ, but after a time of confession and counseling, she bowed down her head and cried out to Jesus for salvation. I will never forget this experience. It happened on a beautiful day in May while we were sitting on a bench in the campus park. My heart was so happy that I wanted to scream and I was so thankful to the Lord because He had searched her heart and saved her.

Crina is a very intelligent girl with very good grades in the school of Mathematics. She even won a scholarship because of her performance. All her classmates respect and love her because she is the first to help someone when they have trouble understanding a problem. Crina comes from a poor family and so she works very hard during the summer breaks in order to have enough money to attend the University. After Crina's conversion, I invited her to our group Bible studies. She said that she could not attend because of her classes and her need to study, but she was open to having a one on one Bible study with me once a week. She wanted to know more about God. I gave her a Bible and she began to read it late in the evenings under her blanket because she did not want to disturb her roommates. In a short time, we became very good friends. I was glad to see that her Bible was underlined in many places and that God was working many changes in her life.

Things were going well, but the evil one was soon to attack. At the end of the second semester, Crina went back home and worked all summer. She was not able to be part of our summer project and it was a great loss for her. When she returned in the fall, she was changed, but not in a good way. She tried to avoid me every time I invited her to come to our Bible studies. One day, with a heavy heart, I asked her what had happen and her answer proved to me that she was in a spiritual fight. Her parents had forbidden her to have any connection with us because they told her that we were dangerous. I spoke with her for a long time. I asked her to take time and think about her desire to know God and then to give me an answer the next time we met together. I prayed for her with my co-workers and the other Christian students, and the Lord was faithful to answer our prayers. The next time I met her she told me that she was "Very decided." She said to me, "This is my schedule. I want to get together with you for weekly Bible study and I am going to come to the Thursday meetings also. I am old enough to make my own decisions for my life. If you and the others were a dangerous sect, then I would see it in your lives. You are different, but in a good way. I trust you and I trust the Word of God." It is hard for me to express what I felt at that moment. I was overwhelmed with joy and



Above left: Ani and her son Flavius. He is already a soul winner: He often accompanies his parents to the campus in order to tell the students about Jesus

Above right: Some of the many students whose lives have been touched by the ministry of Ion and Ani Tomeci.

my heart was full of praises for our Lord who worked and convinced her about the truth. I realized then that neither the one who is sowing the seeds or the one who is watering can make anything grow, but it is the Lord who makes all things grow.

Soon after her decision, Crina's spiritual growth was the most spectacular I have ever seen. In the fall, she accompanied us on our mission trip to Sistarovat. It was a great step of faith for her. Please pray for her as she tries to witness to her parents and brothers at home. Also pray for her sister who is also a student here at the University. She has begun to attend our Bible studies with Crina. May the Lord work in their lives with power and for His glory!

This last testimony is very special to all of us. It is about a dear young believer that Ion led to the Lord and discipled.

In the providence of God, he recently died of Leukemia.

We hope this short account of his life will be a blessing to you and that it will enable you to see the importance of such campus ministries.

Nicolae Munteanu was wonderfully converted two years ago. He had just arrived in Romania from the Republic of Moldova and he had great expectations of doing great things. He was very proud of being a student in Romania, since he was from a small village in a very poor country where very few people ever have the opportunity to study in a foreign country. In the two years after Nicu's conversion, we witnessed his great spiritual growth in

Christ. He had become a laborer who was helping others to grow in their faith.

Suddenly, as winter began, Nicu became very sick. He was in the hospital for twelve days and suffered from very severe hemorrhages in his mouth and nose. His condition finally improved enough for him to return to Moldova and his family.

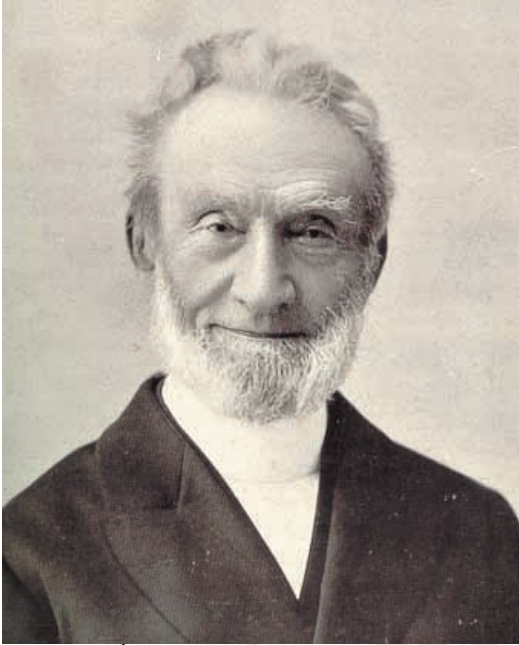
The journey back home was long and difficult for Nicu. He was taken to the hospital in the city of Chisinau and discovered that he had LEUKEMIA. The doctors spoke with his parents and told them that their son would live for only a few more days. Nicu stayed in the hospital and his condition grew more severe with each passing day. On January 1st 2004, Nicu went home to be with the Lord in Heaven.

All of us can testify that even though Nicu was young, his relationship with the Lord was authentic and strong. While he was with us, he tried to be a good testimony for his classmates and the other students at the University. He worked hard beside us in the Lord's harvest and now he is with the Lord of the Harvest! He has finished his race! Nicu is a reminder to us all of how unpredictable life can be. The thing that happened to Nicu helps us all to understand that we are not here forever. We must be prepared for the time when we will pass into eternity and stand before the Lord. May the Lord be praised for Nicu's life!

Ani Tomeci

A Great Opportunity to Possess One of the Greatest Testimonies of God's Faithfulness

HeartCry has gladly agreed to promote the distribution of one of the greatest and most important testimonies to the faithfulness of God in the history of the Church. Outside of the Scriptures, the autobiography of George Müller has been the most influential book in my life and I recommend it without reservation. Up until now, this book has been available only in its



abridged form, but is now offered in its entirety. In the following you can read what others are saying about this book and find information on how it may be obtained.

— Paul David Washer, HeartCry Missionary Society

For the first time in over eighty years, the full autobiography of George Müller is back in print in a beautiful hardback edition. This covers Müller's entire life and

ministry, especially the Bristol Orphanage, in which God met the needs of 120,000 children over a period of 63 years.

The subtitle "A Million and a Half in Answer to Prayer" is better appreciated when we understand that a million and a half pounds then is 75 million dollars in current US currency. This amount came in over a period of 63 years in answer to prayer for the orphans.

The volume includes over forty original photos of Müller, his staff and associates, the orphan homes, and

the orphans themselves. Müller's full account of God's faithfulness will inspire any reader with the reality that there is indeed a living God who is glorified by answering believing prayer.

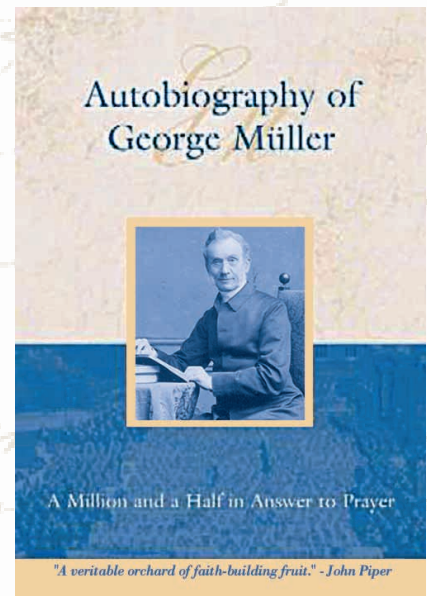
George Müller has for years been a pacesetter for me in prayer. His *Autobiography* is a veritable orchard of faith-building fruit. I have found Müller's way absolutely crucial in my own life—be with the Lord before I am with anyone else and let Him speak to me first.

— John Piper, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

I am so pleased that Westminster Literature Resources has published this new edition of **George Müller's Autobiography**. The story you will read in these pages is one of the most remarkable episodes in the history of the Christian church. As you read through its pages, you will see something of the growth of the man and his ideas. His conviction

was that God is the living God and the secret of life is to delight yourself in Him.

— Roger Steer, Author and Trustee of the British and Foreign Bible Society



ISBN 0-9647552-0-3

Clothbound, 736 pages

Sale price for HeartCry readers:

\$29.00 + shipping & handling

Scheduled release date for **George Müller's Autobiography** will be around mid-August.

Payment must be received before books will be sent.

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For volume purchases please request pricing.

HeartCry Missionary Society

1st Annual Conference 2003

The Cross of Christ

Cd collection

We rejoice to offer to you the audio CD of our first annual HeartCry Bible Conference. The theme of the conference and the audio CD is "The Cross of Jesus Christ." It is our conviction that the Gospel is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we strive to make our proclamation of the Gospel both clear and passionate. You are invited to journey with us through the Scriptures as we attempt the impossible – to search out the unsearchable riches of God revealed in the Gospel of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. You may order through any of the following:

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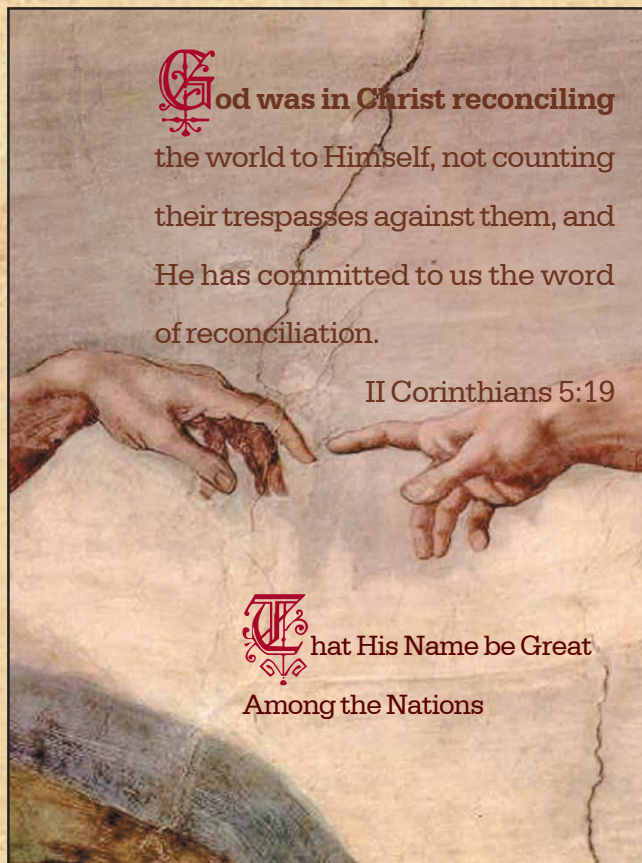
Contact Darian Rottmann
618-564-2770

Mail:

HeartCry Missionary Society, 6970 Waldo Church Road, Metropolis, IL 62960.

Further Information

If you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact HeartCry at 618-564-2770 or darian.rottman@heartcrymissionary.com



Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (II Corinthians 5:17-21).

HeartCry Missionary Society *Schedule 2004*

Paul Washer's Preaching Ministry

New Directions

Since 1988, I have felt my calling was to work exclusively in the area of foreign missions through the HeartCry Missionary Society. All itinerant preaching was considered a secondary part of my ministry. In the last few months, I have felt a greater burden for my own Jerusalem and have felt the leadership of God to give more time to an itinerant preaching ministry. My burden for missions has in no way been diminished. I will still be involved as much as ever in the direction and daily activities of the HeartCry Missionary Society.

Burden

My greatest burden in preaching is with regard to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our country is not saturated with the Gospel, but is ignorant of its true nature. Because of this, many church members are unconverted and many true believers have no sure foundation. For the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be correctly understood, the following doctrines must be preached with great emphasis and impetus: The Holiness, Justice, and Love of God; the Radical Depravity of man; the Cross of Christ where He bore our sin and suffered the wrath of God against it; the Resurrection of Christ; the doctrine of Repentance and Faith; the supernatural power of the New Birth; and finally, a Biblical view of the Believer's Assurance. It is my prayer to communicate these truths and other with a

clarity and passion that flow from divine love and never from a mean spirit.

Scheduling & Financial Consideration

To schedule meetings with brother Paul Washer, you may call the HeartCry office at 618-564-2770 or email us at heartcry@hcis.net.

Brother Paul Washer's itinerant preaching ministry will be supported by gifts from the hosting church. There are no retainer fees or minimum financial requirements, and the size of the church will have no influence on our decision to accept an invitation. Each request will be considered with prayer and counsel from our elders. If the church does take up an offering during the meetings, we ask that it be done in a manner that would bring glory to the Lord. The one who directs such a public offering should not beg, prod, or manipulate God's people in any way. It would be better to receive nothing and suffer loss than to offend God's people and cause the unbeliever among us to stumble.

Prayer

Please pray for the HeartCry Staff that will be taking over more of the daily tasks of the mission in my place. Please pray for me and my family as we seek to be obedient to God's call and faithful to His Word.

February 2004

- 10th Campus Outreach, Murray, KY.
Subject: Jesus is the Only Way and Examining Yourself: Are you really a Christian ?
The meeting will be held at Murray State University, in the Curris Center Theatre, on the third floor. It begins at 9:00 pm. For more information, you may contact Mason Leaf at (270) 763-0025
- 15th First Baptist Church of Mayfield - Spanish Mission, Mayfield, KY.
Hispanic service at 12:00pm.
Contact: Ms. Frances Irizarry at (270) 247-2992
118 West South Street, Mayfield, KY 42066
- 21st-22nd Faith Bible Church Missions Conference
Evansville, IN.
Saturday - February 21st - 7:15 pm - A challenge from Paul Washer.
Sunday - February 22nd - 10:15 am - Paul Washer preaching.
Contact: Faith Bible Church, 5601 Oak Hill Road, Evansville, IN 47711. Phone: (812) 437-2424.

- 22nd Heritage Baptist Church, Owensboro, KY
Youth meeting at the church beginning at 4:30 PM. Evening Service at 6:00 PM. For more information, you may contact Ted Christman at (270) 685-4002.
- 27th - 28th Great Commission Prayer Conference
Birmingham, AL.
For more information, you may contact the Alabama Baptist Convention at (800) 264-1225

March 2004

- 1st - 3rd Western Kentucky University College
Conference - Bowling Green, KY.
For more information you, may contact Alice Jenkins at (270) 842-2593.
- 7th First Baptist Church of Mayfield - Spanish Mission, Mayfield KY. Hispanic service at 12-00pm.
For more information, you may contact Ms. Frances Irizarry at (270) 247-2992.

9th- Midwest Founder's Conference,
12th St. Peter's, MO.
This year's conference will be held at the
First Baptist Church of St. Peters, MO.
Register by contacting the Church at :
(636) 397-3405.

14th - First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals
18th Muscle Shoals, AL. Paul will be preach-
ing Sunday morning and each evening.
For more information, you may contact
Mrs. Judy Thompson at (256) 381-7495.

April 2004

22nd - Primera Iglesia Bautista, Longview, TX.
25th For more information, you may contact
Willie Cavera at (903) 297-1766

29th - Men's Retreat
May 1st Gainesville, GA.
For more information or to register for the
conference, you may go to the website of
the retreat host:
www.doncurrinministries.org

May 2004

16th - Delray Baptist Church
18th Alexandria, VA. For additional information
or directions, you may contact Delray Bap-
tist Church at 703-549-8116

June 2004

6th - Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church
9th Hillsboro, MO.
A Joint meeting of several churches in the
Hillsboro/Festus area. For more informa-
tion, you may contact Chad Hodges at
(636) 944-3281.

August 2004

13th - Cristos Es La Roca, Mt. Pleasant, TX.
15th Paul Washer and Charles Leiter will be
sharing teaching responsibilities. The
meetings will be Friday and Saturday

evening at 6:00 PM and Sunday Morning wor-
ship service starting at 10:00 AM. Following the
service will be a meal and another evening ser-
vice at 6:00 PM. For more information, you may
contact Josue Contreras at (903) 575-1493 or (903)
285-0313.

October 2004

15th - Murray State College Retreat
16th Hardin Baptist Church, Hardin, KY.
For more information, you may contact Trad York
at (270) 437-4868.

What part of “GO” do you not
understand? Matthew 28:18-20



Natalie Danielle Rottmann, Born December 26th 2003, 9lb 2oz, 20 inches long

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