

Lifeline

Keeping the Sunset family connected

SUNSET INTERNATIONAL BIBLE INSTITUTE • SPRING 2006

The International Division – a growing part of Sunset

The International Studies Division had its beginning in 1997 with the opening of the Sunset branch school in Quito, Ecuador. The dream was to train and equip Christians from Ecuador to become preachers, teachers, and church leaders in Quito, Ecuador, South America, and all over the Spanish speaking world. It was immediately realized that this basic strategy would work in every language, culture, and nation. Truman Scott, and Sunset's administration, began looking for other opportunities to teach and train Christians to minister and teach in their own countries. An opportunity opened to teach and train Russian Christians in Barnaul, Russia, and this effort to train and equip preachers became an international effort. God has continually blessed this work and opened doors all over the globe with opportunities for ministry training.

Sunset is using decades of experience in providing teachers and curriculum to international ministry training centers around the world. Many students from other countries had traveled to Lubbock, Texas, for teaching and training, and Sunset embraced the idea to take this information to these different nations. It is less expensive and more effective to train preachers in their own country, and this allows them to be a continuing asset to congregations there. It also enhances learning to hear instruction in your own language and culture. Instructors at Sunset, like Ed Wharton and Gerald Paden, have taught in many different cultures, taking the same quality

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VISION UPDATE

Good News! As we close the books for 2005, one very important figure shines vividly. Pledges and gifts to Sunset's "Let's Go . . . Make Disciples" campaign have exceeded the \$7 Million threshold. This puts us well over 50% toward our \$12 Million goal. We are nearing the end of the first of three years for the campaign which was publicly launched on April 7, 2005. There is still plenty of work to do, but we are so thankful for the great response to date. Thanks to all of you who have generously and sacrificially given to this new vision.

Coming Events

Five major campaign events are planned for 2006. If you are in the vicinity of any of these events, we would love for you to attend.

April 20 - Seattle/Tacoma, WA Dinner

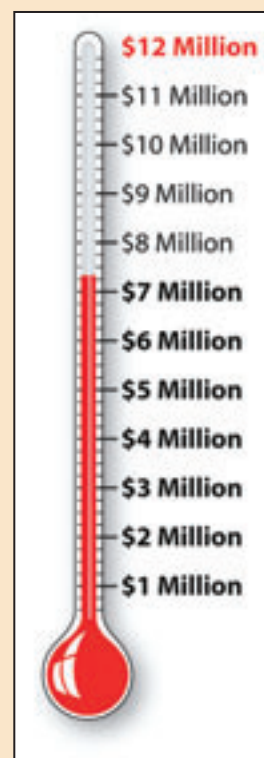
May 4 - Houston, TX Dinner

September 14 - Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX Dinner

September 30 - Fresno, CA Dinner

October 26 - Phoenix, AZ Dinner

– Bob Jackson, Development



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Leaders, keep the dream alive!

The vision of Jesus was an ever-widening circle of evangelism and discipleship that would eventually touch every nation, people, tribe, tongue and individual. His world vision must become both the dream and the responsibility of every congregation and every Christian leader. Obviously, no

one congregation can do it all, but every congregation can do something to embrace the vision our Lord shared almost 2000 years ago.

Congregations which do not share the Lord's mission vision frequently turn inward, developing a selfish consumer mentality, retreating into issue focus, infighting and misplaced priorities. Leaders of such churches find themselves too often dealing with insignificant materialistic interests or fighting the constant "brush fires" of congregational squabbles instead of focusing attention on Jesus and His concern for the harvest fields of the world. It is imperative that leaders keep the dream alive!

Consider a few suggestions that might help congregational leaders to grow the vision of Jesus in the hearts of their people:

1. See that mission sermons and lessons are presented from the pulpit and in classes at regular intervals throughout the year.
2. Schedule an annual Mission Sunday and challenge the church to sacrificial extra-budgetary giving on that Sunday to support missions.
3. Attend, and encourage members to attend, good missions conferences and workshops and subscribe to well balanced missions oriented journals to stay abreast of current needs and opportunities around the world.

“Go make disciples of all nations...”

“Go preach the gospel to every creature...”

– Jesus

4. Invite missions consultants to conduct seminars at your congregation to educate elders, deacons, and missions committee members to good missions principles and practices.
5. Have missionaries fill your pulpit several times a year to share stories of how God's power to save the lost is changing the world for the better. Treat them like VIPs, not beggars. It will change the priorities of selfish people and light the fires of God's love in a cold and dull assembly.
6. Model and encourage personal involvement in missions. Support your people to go on campaigns and short-term missions. Encourage and support those among you who want to go to school to become missionaries.
7. Support and showcase brotherhood ministries that are doing good mission work. Encourage your members to give to those ministries during their lifetime and through estate gifts which will keep preaching the gospel long after all of us are gone.

It's time our congregations again learned to dream with Jesus of a world evangelized. If we can help you to reignite the fires of world evangelism in a congregation that has lost its mission focus or if we can help you to expand the horizons of your developing dream, we are eager to hear from you. LET'S GO...MAKE DISCIPLES !

Truitt Adair
Executive Director, Sunset International Bible Institute

Christian Chronicle interviews Truitt Adair

In the lead article of the February issue of The Christian Chronicle, Truitt Adair was quoted in response to the Tulsa Workshop and other brotherhood unity events. While the quotes were accurate, they were pulled from much longer answers to a number of very challenging questions and did not adequately portray the spirit of the interview. We are disappointed that the positive, loving, fraternal aspects of his replies were largely ignored. Readers are encouraged to read the entire interview to capture the spirit that is missing from the Chronicle article. The interview was conducted by Bobby Ross, Jr, Managing Editor of the Christian Chronicle.

Truitt, I appreciate your help. Here are some questions. Bobby, before beginning our interview, I want readers to understand that from our viewpoint this is a discussion among brothers. We have had personal and brotherly discussions with the principal planners of the Tulsa Workshop before deciding not to attend. They have been very open with us as we have with them. We love our brethren, even those with whom we disagree.

1. Can you tell me how many Sunset supporters were sent the letter about the Tulsa Workshop decision? And, do you have any idea how Sunset's decision might affect the Tulsa workshop attendance? (In other words, how big a part of the thousands who attend was the Sunset connection?) We sent our letter out to alumni and to other supporters on our workshop list knowing that many of them would expect to meet us at our booth in Tulsa. We felt that we owed them some explanation for our absence, given our long history of alumni activities at the Workshop. I seriously doubt that our decision will have a significant impact on attendance. Like us, we expect others to look at the program, the speakers and the purpose of this year's workshop and make a decision consistent with their vision and values.

2. How is it not consistent with Sunset's values and vision to participate in the Tulsa Workshop this year? And what kind of reaction have you received to the decision? Sunset's three essential values are the Word of God, the lost of the world and the body of Christ, the church. Unity in the body of Christ would certainly be a vital part of our value system, just as it was a major emphasis of our Lord and His apostles. Having talked personally with workshop planners, we are not convinced that their approach to reconciliation and unity is the way to accomplish the goal. We have been both commended and criticized for our decision, but believe it was the right thing for us to do. We still love our brethren who feel differently.

3. As some push for "reconciliation" with independent Christian Churches, should Sunset's action be seen as a "split" in our own fellowship over these discussions? Why or why not? I can hardly see how our decision not to have an official presence at the Tulsa Workshop could be seen by anyone as a "split." We are all for Biblical reconciliation. It is the emphasis, orientation and agenda at Tulsa this year with which we respectfully differ. Additionally, Sunset's visibility at Tulsa each year has been largely due to its evangelistic emphasis as an "International Soul Winning Workshop." This year's program seems rather inconsistent with its own history and our primary reason for being there.

4. Tulsa Workshop director Wade Hodges says he's especially looking forward to the Friday night keynote featuring Max Lucado and Bob Russell. Lucado's congregation has taken "Church of Christ" out of its name and Russell is from a "Christian Church." What kind of message does that send? We were told by workshop planners that each evening there would be a speaker to represent the "Church of Christ" and one to represent the "Independent

Christian Church." As with any program of this kind, planners endeavor to select speakers and topics that advance the message they are trying to communicate. Though we would have chosen differently, the program and speakers selected by workshop planners seem to be consistent with the purpose and agenda of this year's workshop as we have understood them in our conversations.

5. Are you aware of any other institutions or display booth operators besides Sunset that decided not to have a presence at the workshop this year? Several brotherhood ministries have contacted us to ask whether or not we planned to display at the workshop. I advised each of them to contact the workshop planners and talk with them personally, just as we did, and then make their own decision. We have not tried to influence other ministries one way or the other.

6. How do you view the emphasis that some (including the Tulsa Workshop and the ACU Lectureship) will make on the reconciliation issue this year? Is this a positive or negative development in your view, and why? Unity and reconciliation are Biblical ideals that we share. We commend the desire of these and any other brethren to pursue unity. We are not at all hostile toward any effort to bring brethren together, however we believe that these ideals must be achieved in the atmosphere of open and honest discussion of the things that divide us as well as those things we share in common. Ignoring the a capella/instrumental discussion, or worse, capitulating to the instrumental position, could bring more division than reconciliation to the body. It is our fervent prayer and hope that good brethren in Tulsa and elsewhere will seek a Biblical path and godly discernment in this dialogue.

7. Besides instrumental music, do you see any other differences (doctrinally or otherwise) between Churches of Christ and Christian Churches? If so, what are they? How we understand Biblical authority is the root challenge. If our hermeneutic is anything not expressly forbidden is authorized then the door is opened to not only instrumental music but a myriad of other extra-biblical developments far less acceptable to even those among us who now accept the instrument.

8. Do you have any thoughts on the long-term outlook that the reconciliation events (Abilene Lectureship, Tulsa Workshop, North American Christian Convention, etc.) will mean for our fellowship in 2006? Will it result in bringing people together (i.e., Churches of Christ and Christian Churches)? Or will it result in splitting Churches of Christ (i.e., conservative and progressive)? I would like to think that Biblically oriented, Spirit filled, God fearing brethren will come together and forge a basis for real unity based on common fundamental Biblical values. If scripture is ignored and the wrong hermeneutic employed, then this exercise, however well intentioned, could result in these groups being further alienated from the mainstream of our brotherhood.

9. Any other comments, people I should contact, or questions I should ask? I would suggest that you contact Dr. Phil Slate in Murfreesboro, Tennessee for his views. He was recently involved in a high level discussion of many of the issues dealt with in this issue of the Chronicle.



The International Division – a growing part of Sunset

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of Bible teaching to these international students that resident students regularly receive at our residential campus in Lubbock.

These international ministry training schools are classified under the broad categories of Branch Schools, Associate Schools, and Applicant Schools.

- **A Branch School** is one in which Sunset assumes primary administrative responsibilities. Sunset provides – often in partnership with congregations – the faculty, administration, curriculum, finances, facilities, and anything else that is necessary for the school to succeed. A Branch School enters into a formal agreement with Sunset for a designated period of time, usually in five year increments, with adjustments made to the agreement as necessary. The goal is to have a Branch School develop and to become an Associate School. The school in Quito, Ecuador is a good example of a school that began as a Branch School and is now an Associate School.

- **An Associate School** has a much

more flexible agreement with Sunset that is different based on the unique needs of the ministry training school. Some Associate Schools have their own faculty, administrator and financial support, but may depend on Sunset for occasional teachers, curriculum, and study materials. Other Associate Schools may need some assistance with financing and curriculum, but have adequate teachers for their needs. An Associate School, like a Branch School, must meet certain standards of excellence to enter into a partnership with Sunset. Each agreement is tailor made to fit specific needs.

- **An Applicant School** is simply a school that is working to become acceptable as a Branch School or Associate School. Every ministry training school begins as an Applicant School, with the hope of being certified as a Branch School or Associate School. During this time of application, needs are determined, standards are explained, and supervision and administrative help is offered and accepted. A

ministry training school is usually an Applicant School for a year or more before being recognized as a Branch or Applicant School.

Today, by the grace of God, Sunset's International Division is actively working in almost 40 countries of the world. God has blessed this work mightily and is giving the increase. In this issue of *Lifeline*, you will be introduced to a few of Sunset's Branch, Associate, and Applicant Schools around the world and the men who are working to oversee these ministry training schools. You will also be made aware of the many locations of these ministry training schools. As you can see, God is working in amazing ways through Sunset, in numerous locations around the world. We hope you will be inspired to join Sunset in this effort to train preachers, teachers, church planters and church leaders in their own language and culture.

– Chris Swinford
Assistant Dean, International Studies

Survey Response Form on Generations

Stuart Jones, director of the Senior AIM program at Sunset, is conducting research into the impact different generations have on the local church. Would you please help us by supplying the following information about your congregation:

How many different generations are there in your congregation? (The birth dates of the generations are: GI's 1901-1924, Silents 1925-1942, Boomers 1943-1960, Gen-X 1961-1981, Millennial 1982-2001, New Silents 2002-present)

Please rank the generations from largest to smallest in attendance in your congregation: _____

Do you feel you understand how and why the generations differ on various aspects of church life?

Does your congregation consciously attempt to have inter-generational activities?

What are some of the inter-generational interactions that you believe hamper church growth? _____

Feel free to add any additional comments on a separate sheet.
You may mail your reply to Senior AIM, 3723 34th Street, Lubbock, TX, 79410 or e-mail it to senioraim@sibi.cc

“The sun never sets... on the work of Sunset!”



International Schools and Campuses

- Tirana, Albania
- Curitiba, Brazil
- Gaborone, Botswana
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Havana, Cuba
- Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- Quito, Ecuador
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Jajura, Ethiopia
- Nekemte, Ethiopia
- Santeria, Ethiopia
- Miami, Florida
- Swedru, Ghana
- Athens, Greece
- Cap Haitien, Haiti
- Batam, Indonesia
- Weala, Liberia
- Toluca, Mexico
- Angeles City, Philippines
- Naga City, Philippines
- Olangapo, Philippines
- Singapore, Republic of Singapore
- Seoul, South Korea
- Houston, Texas
- Bangkok, Thailand
- Barnaul, Russia
- Donetsk, Ukraine
- Lusaka, Zambia



Men and women taking Bible classes in Seoul, South Korea



"Killing Fields" Memorial

Cambodia

From "Killing Fields" to fields white for spiritual harvest

There is something sobering and motivating about standing next to a memorial filled with skulls. The memorial building is beautiful, surrounded by grass that is green. School children, parents and grandparents wander through the open fields, but young and old alike are somber and stare with tear-

filled eyes. As thousands of skulls stare back, as you are confronted with the grass covered mass graves, and as you stare at the pictures of torture, murder and mass burial, you understand why they call these fields "The Killing Fields". The Pol Pot regime was brutal. An evil, maniacal leader slaughtered the intelligent and promising of his society and left behind generations of sadness and disillusionment. As you walk through these fields, you see why Christianity is so important. It's not only the skulls that haunt you, it's the souls that were lost that truly break your heart.



James Cheou

James Cheou, teacher at our school in Cambodia, and the students who have been studying the Bible together are focused on evangelism and saving as many of the souls around them as possible. Each week, James and the students take motorbikes and an old Jeep and travel from the city to preach, teach, and evangelize in neighboring communities.

A team of preachers from another area of Cambodia were recently involved in a tragic motorcycle accident as they went out to preach one Sunday. A young life was lost instantly and two others were seriously injured in the accident. The Cambodian Christians were devastated, and instantly rushed to comfort one another. The next Sunday, however, the sound of motorbikes could be heard again as students and teacher, once again, left the school building and began the long ride back out to the vil-



John Sproul with orphans

lages to teach the gospel message to all who would listen.

The North Heights Church of Christ in Batesville, Arkansas, oversees the



work of the Cambodian Bible Institute. They have been ideal partners with Sunset, and have a heart that matches the love for the lost seen in the lives of the students. John Sproul is supported by the Central Church of Christ in Stockton, California. John, and the Central congregation, are seeking to strengthen the Lord's Church through Bible teaching, as well as community development in agriculture. The plan is to allow the congregations and preachers in Cambodia to be financially independent as they learn to serve their community through fisheries and farming, even as they straddle motorbikes and travel to villages to teach the gospel. The goal isn't to make dependents; it's to make disciples who can affect their world for Jesus. After all, the fields to focus on aren't "The Killing Fields," they are "the fields that are white unto harvest." Thank God for the Cambodian Christians who are so serious about participating in this harvest.



Haiti

A land filled with superstition

David and Sarah Dirrim are well known by the faculty and staff at Sunset. David is a graduate of The Sunset International Bible Institute and Sarah is a graduate of the Adventures In Missions (AIM) program. David and Sarah moved their



The Dirrim family

family to Cap-Hatien, Haiti, to work with an orphanage and congregation. After returning to the States for awhile, the Dirrim's returned to Haiti so that David



Recent CBT graduates

could serve as Director of the Center for Biblical Training (CBT) just outside of Cap-Haitian. David and Sarah have six children. Three of the children are living in Oklahoma, attending college, and three of the children are living with them in Haiti.

The Center for Biblical Training recruits 12 students at a time and spends three years preparing them as preachers and servant evangelists. The third graduating class graduated

in December of 2005. The students live in the school compound and receive extensive training and mentoring. Presently, the Dirrim are developing 12 core courses in Hatian Creole to use in extension

schools taught by graduates.

Sunset partners in this work with the Haitian Christian Foundation which was formed in 1993 to minister and work

through the graduates and students of CBT. They have been exemplary partners and have accomplished much in Haiti.

It's a sobering sight to stand at the edge of the "Voodoo Pit" in Cap-Haitian. You can see "Saint Jacques" painted on the wall by the pit, the cross laying on its side on the banner he is carrying, and the promise of enjoyment

to those who will give in to the Voodoo arts. You see a brown, slime covered, oozing pond of water and a clay like, sandy "beach" covered in footprints. When you think of the "believers" coming to the slime covered pit to "wash" themselves in water streaked with the blood of animal sacrifices to receive power, you realize how depraved and confused are many of the people in

Haiti. The superstitious and confused Haitians only hope is having someone with Bible knowledge and an evangelistic spirit care enough to teach them the gospel of Christ. Fortunately there are trained preachers teaching in the area surrounding the "Voodoo Pit" who have been trained at CBT. They teach about the true hope that is only found in Christ, the power that we can receive through Christ, and the baptism in the blood of Christ that gives us that hope and power. There are few places where



"Saint Jacques" painted on a wall

you can sense the struggle so vividly between Satan and his minions and Christ and his preachers of the gospel. Thank God for those being trained to enter this war, and for those working to train them.



Students taking Bible classes in UBI

Ukraine

In transition to national leadership

In the Fall of 1996, Sunset was asked to consider taking over the administrative duties of the Donetsk School of Bible and Evangelism (DSBE). While the original board of the school has stayed very involved, Sunset has had the full administrative responsibility of

Reeves moved to Donetsk in the Fall of 1997. They were later joined by Denny and Linda Sneed and Chris and Brenda Swinford. Later, when the Reeves were transitioning back to the States, Jay Don and MaryLee Rogers moved to Donetsk to teach and lead in this ministry training school. There have been many families involved in teaching at UBI, some long term and some short term, but the school has been blessed with numerous Bible teachers from America. The goal however has always been to mentor and train Ukrainians so that they could ultimately take the school to new heights and truly make it the Ukrainian Bible Institute. Two Ukrainian Bible Institute graduates, Sasha Maluga and



Ukrainian Bible Institute faculty and staff

this Branch School for almost a decade. Several years ago, the Donetsk School of Bible and Evangelism went through a name change that says a great deal about the hopes and aspirations of the American workers who moved to Donetsk and worked with this school. The DSBE became the Ukrainian Bible Institute (UBI). The stated goal was to work towards having Ukrainian local administrators and teachers ministering to their own people in their own language and culture. That dream is rapidly becoming a reality.

UBI has had many American administrators, teachers, and mission workers involved in its history. Doug and Marge



Morning chapel

Dima Grishuk, are now actively teaching at UBI on a full-time basis. It is hoped that there will soon be a transition to a Ukrainian Dean and continued development of a Ukrainian teaching staff. While Sunset will still be actively in-

involved with UBI, it is encouraging to see the development and scriptural stability of the Ukrainian men who serve at UBI.

We have been praying for national leaders in every branch school. We want to do such a proficient job of training students that we can eventually turn the school over to those graduates and to local church leaders. As this dream becomes a reality in Donetsk, many prayers are being answered, and God is being glorified for His incredible work.

Who would have anticipated years ago that we would have graduates ministering all over the former Soviet Union and the Soviet Block countries? God is actively working throughout the world, and He is destroying barriers and opening doors to expand His kingdom.

Botswana

From one preacher to a nation of preachers

Brother Dennis Malepa is the only full-time preacher in the country of Botswana. He does an incredible job of preaching and teaching in his native country, but he doesn't want to continue to do it alone. Dennis is actively training young men to be preachers of the gospel in the African Centre for Theological Studies (ACTS) in Gaborone, Botswana.

Much of the work being accomplished at ACTS is being accomplished because of the sacrificial giving of local



Meeting place of the church and school

Christians. Though not wealthy, they have continually provided funds and gifts for the students and the director of the school. These Botswanian brethren recently provided the funds necessary for the purchase of a parcel of land where the school will be ultimately and permanently located. While the land purchase price of \$5,000 may appear to be minimal by U.S. standards, it was a massive undertaking for the Christians in Botswana. However, they know the need for the school and for the preach-



Doug Reeves & Dennis Malepa (2nd & 3rd from left) with students



ers that will be trained there, and were willing to sacrifice for it. The First Street Church of Christ in Dumas, Texas, recently took over the oversight and funding for Brother Malepa's salary and have helped with funding for the building as well.

ACTS had its first graduation in November of 2005. They also hosted a recent Leadership Seminar, and will host an international lectureship in 2006. While the Christians in Botswana are relatively few in number, it is obvious that they are willing to accept the challenge for leading in their part of Africa. They hope to train more students from Botswana, and also train students from surrounding countries.

Sunset provides curriculum, teaching materials, administrative leadership, and trained visiting instructors to assist Dennis Malepa in training preachers.

Let's Go... Make Disciples **Vision Response**

YES. I want to help train ministers and missionaries, and help secure the future of Sunset!

I hereby commit to give \$_____ over the next 3 years. I will give in the following manner:

() \$_____ per () month () quarter () year, to begin on this date: _____
 () Other _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to: Sunset International Bible Institute, attn: Truitt Adair, 3723 34th Street, Lubbock, TX 79410
 You may give by credit card, debit card or bank draft. Contact our office for details: 800/658-9553, x259



Alumni News

Africa

Behailu Abebe, dean of the branch school in Ethiopia, recently traveled to Awasa with two other preachers. While Behailu attended a graduation, the two brothers went on to Senteriea's School for the Deaf to take pictures of the Preacher Training School students and the new Level One students. They then traveled to many new water well sites around the Durame, Angacha, and Shone areas. While in Shone, they attended a gospel meeting in Katicho. There were about 300 people present at the meeting. While in Jajura, they decided to attend and teach at a gospel meeting at the Metabikay congregation 18 miles away. Approximately 500 people were present representing 16 congregations from the immediate area. The preacher training schools in Jajura and Santeriea continue to bring back former Level One graduates for short-term, advanced training sessions. By the end of November, 60 men from Santariea had received this training plus another 120 men from Jajura.

John Ed Clark reports that plans for the November United Nations repatriation in Southern Sudan continues. The government restructuring has not progressed as planned. Riots in the capital city of Khartoum and unrest in many areas to the South erupted following the announcement of Vice President, John Gurang's untimely death. Mr. Salva Kiir Maydit then replaced Mr. Gurang and has been calling for calmness and restraint from all sides. In spite of the unrest and continuing negotiations, all the schools of preaching are in full operation, the deaf schools are in session, the kindergartens are filled to capacity and the water well drilling operations continue.

Isaya Jackson ('97) is preaching and teaching in Sudan and Uganda. Three days after returning from South Sudan to his home at the Kiryandongo camp, Isaya's mother died. She was a faithful member of the church and a positive influence in Isaya's life. Kennedy Marco, a recent Sunset graduate, spent a month working with Isaya teaching in three different refugee camps. Bible seminars were held at the Kiryandongo, Panyadoli and Magamaga congregations and in the Yumbe district, to prepare and encourage hundreds of brethren who

will soon be returning to their homeland. Kennedy Marco and Frank Luri (both recent Sunset grads) are planning their return to Southern Sudan to live and to work. Returning refugees have established a new congregation of 80 people in the Lobone area of South Sudan. Isaya plans to return to Juba, South Sudan and complete the legal registration of the church. He is also planning to finalize the purchase of land for a new church building and a permanent School of Preaching.

Loy Mitchell reports that the people of Zimbabwe are suffering at the hands of local police and army. Much of the land they would normally farm to provide for their families has been taken away from them. Some farm workers are allowed to remain on the land in the capacity of virtual slaves, receiving only a cup of tea and slices of bread for the entire family. Starvation is a growing threat and is beginning to take the lives of many. Loy received this information from Tererai Karmakwenda who reports that the rains have come, but hunger, looting and ethnic cleansing continue on the farms.

Cambodia

John and Autumn Sproul ('04) serve as missionaries in Phnom Penh. The Sproul family rejoices in their son, John Jr's decision to be baptized into Christ. The village at Tom Nop Thom invited John to participate in a three-day seminar consisting of Christian leaders from four participating communities. John was able to assist them in identifying ways to help their communities using drip irrigation with raised beds in order to create self-sustaining gardens for rural Cambodian churches. Healing Hands International helped obtain drip irrigation kits for some of these Cambodian Christians.

China

Nancy Buswell ('97) is teaching English in a University in Xian, China. She was recently visited by Tabitha, an American teacher, and her four Chinese friends from Jingzhou. Junie, a mature Chinese Christian woman in Xian was able to teach these Chinese visitors. Nancy was recently on furlough in the States visiting supporters, friends, and family. It was a joy to see her at the January workshop.

Croatia

Ivan and Ruth Tesic ('79) had a recent Let's Start Talking (LST) campaign that was conducted by four Pepperdine students and the Lambert family. Their new building proved to be a wonderful facility for the LST campaign. Following the LST campaign, an LST FriendsCamp was held with organized Bible studies and activities for all ages. Ivan reports that their radio program is currently being funded from their inadequate working fund. The total cost for all broadcast expenses is about \$1,200 per month. If you can help with this vital outreach resource, please contact the Longmont church of Christ, Croatian Mission, P.O. Box 312, Longmont, Colorado, 80502-0312 or call 303/776-2625 for more information.

Ecuador

Kent and Sharla Marcum (Missions '88) are serving in Quito, Ecuador, where Kent directs the Quito School of Biblical Studies (QSOBS). Eleven men and one woman graduated from the QSOBS after completing 1,900 classroom hours. Additionally, these students spent 2,500 hours of practical ministry training with the North Quito congregation, the QSOBS contact center, and working among smaller congregations. Eleven new students have enrolled for the new school year. After much prayer and planning, a 10-year vision was launched to reach the mega-city of Guayaquil. Five graduates of the QSOBS and their families recently arrived in Guayaquil to begin this new work, and thirty people are already assembling each Lord's day for worship. Plans are underway to open the first of a twenty home project for the care of orphaned children in Ecuador. Construction of the Hacienda of Hope is well underway under the leadership of Jerry and Patricia Snyder from the Twickenham church of Christ in Huntsville, Alabama.

Mexico

James and Erin Henderson ('02) are missionaries in the southern part of Mexico City where encouraging growth is taking place among the "Tierra Firme" congregations. New groups are meeting in the homes of the Luis Espinosa family, Froylan and Hilda's family, Graciela's family, Tovar family, La Senora Rafaela, Tierra Colorada family in Magdalena Contreras, Jose and Esmeralda Gomez family in the delegation of Miguel Hidalgo, Marcela, Miguel, Liliana and Yettle in Copilco and Lucio and Magda. Co-worker, Nelli, along with Mexican and American Christians have organized monthly women's events to encourage Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Jeni McClue has also initiated small group studies for women.

Billy and Belinda Moore ('86) are organizing and developing much of the work in Mexico City and report that five new sisters were added to the church in November. Four of the women from the group in Ecatepec gave their lives to Christ and were baptized. Josefina Juarez from Pedro Marin's group in Colonia Guerrero also gave her life to Christ. Fifty-seven attended a recent retreat in Acapulco. Attendees came from Mexico City, Morelia, Lazaro Cardenas, Guadalajara and Leon. Two AIM students have extended their stay to continue their mission work. AIM'r, Lakreshia Blackwell, is working in Lazaro Cardenas and AIM'r, Joy Morgan, is working in Mexico City. Ryan and Mandy Gray moved their small group to another location and the change has brought additional growth.

Philippines

Charles and Mary Ann Smith coordinate several Sunset preacher training schools in the Philippines. The branch school in Angeles City, has planted three new congregations. The Dapdap Bambon congregation is located in a new settlement of those displaced by the Mt. Penatubo volcano eruption. The new Kalangitan congregation in Capis meets in the home of Brother Cahulogan. Emmanuel Dumasig and Jerome Bernaldez, graduates of the Sunset branch school in Olongapo, are working with this congregation. After a campaign led by Higato Tulan in Camiling, 130 people signed up for WBS correspondence courses, and 35 of those have begun in-depth Bible studies. This new church plant has already witnessed several baptisms.

Ukraine

Tim and Mina Burow ('93) missionaries in Mariupol, report that graduates of the institute in Donetsk, Anatoly, Vita and Pasha Peesarev recently spent an encouraging weekend with the congregation in Mariupol. Other visitors, Rita, Marina, Dasha and Ludmilla from the Budyonovka congregation in Donetsk came to spend time with the young people. Svetlana, mother to twelve year old, Marina, and a one year old son, Daniel, was baptized into Christ after several studies with Sasha.

United States

Ken Bolden ('75) director of World Radio recently toured Liberia where he delivered Sunset external studies materials to George Tengbeh II, director of the Weala School of Evangelism. The school is one of Sunset's newest Satellite schools under the direction of the International Studies



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Division. Preliminary contacts and agreements for the Satellite school were made by Lanny Partain and Rudy Wray during their visit in June of 2005.

Charles and Tamara Cook ('81) Focus Northeast coordinators report plans to expand the Focus Outreach to include both the Northeastern and Northwestern sections of the U.S. Bob and Rosemary Payne from Huntsville, Texas, has joined the Focus Northeast/Northwest work. The Payne's will continue their ministry work in Huntsville, and they plan to conduct 3 or 4 mission trips per year to help struggling or nonexistent churches. Robert Nilram a recent Fall River, MA graduate has moved to Lewistown, PA to work with the church there. Logan and Cathy Robertson ('99) are working with the church in Queenbury, NY. Domingo Reyes and the



Baptisms at the Southside church in Baltimore

brethren in New Castle, DE have started a Sunset video/DVD Satellite School. The church in Kittery, ME is struggling and is making a plea for someone to work with them to build up the church. Jack and Brenda Birkholtz are serving with the South Paris, ME church in a store front facility with twelve in attendance.

The new Southside church of Christ in Baltimore, MD experienced 12 baptisms during a recent campaign. Richard and Janis Brent ('04) are working with this new Baltimore church plant.

Sammy and Mary Flanary ('74) works with Sunset's International Division and the Development Department in Lubbock, Texas. Sammy has recently helped secure support for Ron Kretz, Sunset's new dean for the Athens, Greece branch school. He has also been reporting to congregations who partner with Sunset in the branch school in Barnaul, Russia.

Kevin and Terri Fry ('05) are working with the church in Erie, Pennsylvania to plant a sister congregation on the East side of Erie. They are asking for our prayers as they develop and plan this work. A campaign is planned in October to augment this new church plant.

Doug and Sandy Holcomb ('82) have recently returned to Cuernavaca, Mexico. They announce the arrival of two new family members. Ethan James Holcomb was born August 29 to Billy and Andra. The second new member is Rob Crieghton who married their granddaughter, Meagan Jarboe, on August 7th. Two couples, Benjamin and Karen Jenkins, and Jason and Jennifer Stockton, currently attending Sunset, are making plans to work with the Holcombs in Mexico. News from Cuernavaca is cause for rejoicing with the immersion of

Julio and his wife Lilia into Christ.

Mike and Karen Hoots ('97) are working with the Homestead church of Christ in Homestead, FL. The youth group, which calls themselves J4L (Jesus for Life), averages 18-22 in attendance. During September the youth hosted an Open mic night and Bar-B-Que Bonfire with approximately 50 teenagers attending both events.

Lewis and Lola Ritchey ('75) celebrated 70 years of marriage on December 22, 2005. Lewis at age 89 and Lola at age 88 are still active teachers in World Bible School (WBS). They have been WBS teachers for the past 30 years estimating that they have communicated with at least 5,000 students. Lola publishes a one-sheet publication called "Gal Talk". It is a collection of advice and inspirational topics and commentaries on scripture that she finds from numerous sources. Both men and women enjoy "Gal Talk". Lewis and Lola have captured the hearts of many. In fact the December 22, 2005 issue of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal highlighted the Ritchey's 70th anniversary on the front page along with their picture. What great examples to all of us!

Vietnam

Steffann Phomasone ('01) is doing mission work in Ho Chi Minh and surrounding area. Steffann reports the attendance



for worship has been as high as 49. It has been difficult to gather for worship due to persecution by local authorities. The church was meeting in local hotels, but the hotel managers are being warned to not allow Christian gatherings of any kind. English Bible lessons are being

held every Sunday evening in homes, but they are limited to 7 people. A baby was found in a basket at their door with the following note, "We know that you and your American friend have done a lot for the kids in the village. Everybody knows about your deeds. Please, take care of this child. Don't give her to an orphan center. Raise her according to your Jesus' religion. Thank you so much." Steffann announces this new addition to their family. They have decided to adopt this child. Steffann asks for our prayers in finding a safe meeting place for worship.

Departures

Jaime Luis Bracero Boscana ('82) passed from this life on April 2, 2005. Jaime was first involved in ministry in



Carolina, Puerto Rico, (his home country) there he met his wife Violet. Jaime then worked with the church in Caparra, Puerto Rico. Members of the Caparra congregation later sponsored Jaime and sent him to Sunset in Lubbock. Following his graduation from the Sunset School of Preaching in 1982, Jaime returned to Caparra, married Violet, and continued preaching. He delighted in leading others

to Christ. His family later moved from Puerto Rico to Florida in 1991 where Jaime began a Spanish Bible study in the Manatee County area. He visited Spanish speaking inmates in the jails and prisons throughout the county. He started a weekly Bible study first out of his auto mechanic business and later at the Oneco congregation in Bradenton, FL. Jaime started a Hispanic Outreach Ministry with the help of members from the 53rd Ave. congregation where he was a member. In February 2005, he was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and passed away soon after. He is survived by his wife, Violet, two daughters; Migdalia and Maribelle, one son; Luis, four grandchildren, one great-grandchild, his mother; Palmira, a brother; Robert, two sisters; Iraida and Sonia, and a host of nieces, nephews, and loving friends.

Bobby Jobe ('86) Additional information about Bobby has been received since the last issue of Lifeline. Bobby passed from this life on September 1, 2005 in Tacoma, Washington. He was born on September 24, 1940 in Amarillo, Texas. Bobby married Peggy in May 1961. Following their marriage he joined the U.S. Air Force and traveled to Okinawa, Japan and throughout the United States until his retirement in 1983. He graduated from the Sunset School of Preaching in 1986 and then worked in the aerospace industry for a number of years. He served as a deacon at the Lakeview church of Christ in Tacoma and in various other capacities through the years. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, of 43 years; son Richard, daughters Sheila and Debra, and two granddaughters, Brittany and Hope. He is also survived by his siblings: Betty, Shirley, Buford, Leroy and Ricky all from the Amarillo, Texas area.

Alfred White ('65) passed from this life on January 12, 2006. He was born on August 18, 1930 in the Republic of Panama. Alfred was baptized into Christ in 1960 by Byrl Brockman, a missionary to Panama. He was in the first graduating class of the Sunset School of Preaching in 1965. He married the love of his life, Essie M. Bluit on August 5, 1965 in Abernathy, Texas. Winning souls for Christ was his daily mission. He was a true man of God, and he delivered the message of salvation to churches of Christ across America as well as in his home country of Panama. He led

numerous campaigns and attended services and mission trips resulting in many souls being won for Christ. Alfred fed the hungry, visited the sick and shut-ins, consoled the bereaved, counseled the distressed and loved unconditionally. On June 14, 1998, his greatest desire was realized when he was appointed an elder for the Sherwood church of Christ in Odessa, Texas. He faithfully served in this capacity until he was called home to be with the Lord. Alfred is survived by his wife, Essie, of 40 years, a son, Alfred Toledano; five daughters; Ida, Sonia, Cynthia, Cassandra and Catrina; eleven grandchildren, one great-grandchild, five brothers and two sisters.

Gayla Joy Hofschild ('75) A memorial fund has been established for Gayla Hofschild who passed away on April 13, 2005. This Christian warrior married Dennis on November 14, 1970. They were blessed to have three wonderful daughters, Lani (1972), Kelly (1975) and Kimberly (1978). At the beginning of their marriage, they attended the Sunset School of Preaching. After graduation, they dedicated their lives to mission work in Kenya (South Africa), South Korea, North America, and Estonia. Gayla loved to teach the gospel to anyone who would listen. She found her true joy in her family and in wholeheartedly serving the Lord. She is survived by her loving husband, Dennis, their three daughters, Lani Hofschild, Kelly Jordan and Kimberly Cimuchowski, two son-in-laws, Fred Jordan and Eric Cimuchowski, three grandchildren (now four), and many loving friends and relatives. If you would like to honor Gayla, your gifts may be sent to: Sunset International Bible Institute; 3723 34th St.; Lubbock, TX 79410. Please note that you are sending your gift for the "Gayla Hofschild memorial fund".

Lyman Talcott Mereness, Sr. ('71) passed from this life on February 16, 2006 in Victoria, TX at the age of 82. Lyman grew up in San Antonio, TX and married his childhood sweetheart and next door neighbor, Mary Lou Phillips, on March 16, 1945. They were faithfully married for 61 years. Lyman served in the U.S. Navy for 27 years. He was a dive bomber pilot during WW II in the Pacific. He finished his naval career as a Commander in the supply division of the Navy. Following his military career, Lyman trained at Sunset and then preached and served in ministry for 20 years in George West, Point Comfort, Victoria, and Garden City, TX and Dublin, Ireland. He is survived



by his devoted wife, Mary Lou Mereness, three children; Cheryl Goode and husband, Howard, Lyman Mereness II and wife, Dana, Ben Mereness, and wife, Jackie, one brother, Bert Mereness and wife, Kathy, eight grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, and two nieces.

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January Workshop Follow-up



Sunset's Workshop was held January 25-29 highlighting the theme: "Being the Aroma of Christ." The workshop is now history, but precious memories still linger. The general consensus is that it was the best workshop ever. The sessions were well attended, and the speakers spoke on very timely subjects handling them biblically and appropriately. Fellowship was great along with some very informative and well presented displays. Five keynote addresses and 55 classes were conducted. Classes were divided into the following ministry areas:

- Church Leadership
- Church Development
- Missions and Evangelism
- Family and Youth Ministry
- Satellite School Administrator Training
- Men's Issues
- For Women Only
- Personal Spiritual Renewal

All 55 classes and 5 keynotes are available on CD's through www.extensionschool.com, or you may call in your order to 1-800-687-2121. You may also visit the website to download an order form. Two stirring lessons can be heard free by visiting Sunset's website at www.sibi.cc and clicking on Online Audio. The audio lessons are:

- "We Have This Treasure in Jars of Clay" by Kevin Bethea
- "A Radical Discipleship" by John W. Smith

The hundreds who converged in Lubbock for the workshop shared a common sentiment of excitement and brotherly love. Many have expressed gratitude for the equipping they received during the workshop, and the fresh ideas they took home with them. Keep an eye on Sunset's website for information about next year's workshop. Tentative dates are January 24-28, 2007. You will not want to miss it!



The entire workshop is available for \$199.00 + shipping. Individual workshop sets, as well as individual messages and classes may also be ordered. Speakers & teachers include John Smith, Truman Scott, Ken Wilson, Kevin Bethea, Gibby Gilbert, Terri Fanning, Bob Odle, Ed Whar-ton, and many more. Download an order form or place an order at www.extensionschool.com.



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