

THE APRIL 2010 MISSIONS UPDATE

contains portions of letters from various missionaries we support. We encourage you to share in the praise and also pray for these special people and their ministries. If these letters spark an interest in financially supporting one of our missionaries or serving on a Missions Care Team, please contact Pastor Dave Wardle at 224-764-4012, dwardle@theorchardefc.org, or a member of the Missions Ministry Team (see back panel).



John Sagherian/ Lebanon / Youth for Christ



John Sagherian is the National Director of Youth for Christ in Lebanon. YFC's primary focus is reaching teenagers with the message of Jesus Christ.

2009 ended with a bang before settling into the routine of week to week ministry in early 2010. As we do each year, we had a winter event, this time on December 28. It involved 75 young people plus the leaders. The theme was "Summer in December" and we spent an afternoon and evening indoors in a warm (somehow we couldn't get the place hot!) resort up in the mountains. The program included games, food, a TV personality leading an hour of unrehearsed play-acting (which brought on a lot of laughter) worship time, and a Nooma video-clip. This was all followed by a talk challenging the young people to examine their lives at the end of 2009 to see if they're holding too tightly to the wrong things and losing out on what God wants for them.

And then it was 2010 and the week to week ministry. Every now and then I'm asked what our week looks like:

- School assemblies: We're involved in twelve schools that have morning chapels or assemblies. At least five on our staff go to speak at these assemblies. We have a captive audience, so to speak. Our task is to make them think about the claims in the Bible regarding truth and life and God. The challenge often is to present the case in a way that will hold their attention by presenting truth in a new way.
- Weekend clubs for 13- to 15-year-olds and for

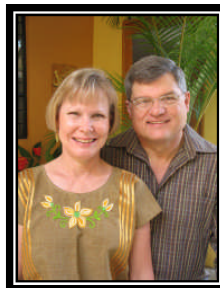
16- to 18-year-olds: We focus on finding the balance between giving them a good time, being their friend, and putting Jesus Christ before them in a way that is relevant to their lives.

- Dare2Ask: In two schools, our staff has permission to meet every other week during recess with students who bring questions they want answered. Staff members use the opportunity to present and discuss both the secular and biblical perspective.
- Leadership Training: I meet with twelve young leaders who have committed this year to being trained by Youth for Christ, giving them formal training and asking them to be involved in Youth for Christ activities for hands-on experience.
- One-on-One Counseling and Mentoring: Every week we meet with young people who are hurting, or confused, or full of questions, or who need gentle guidance.
- Planning: As I write this, some of the staff are planning our next major event, an all day Easter event. The theme is The Tomb Raider.

A lot is going on, but it will be for nothing unless God is in it. So, please pray for us, the staff and the kids. May each encounter bear His stamp of approval.



Dave and Wendy Nellis / Mexico / UIM



For over 30 years Dave and Wendy have served the Chatino people group in the state of Oaxaca in southern Mexico.

One of the highlights of the ministry has been dubbing Christian movies into the Chatino language. As you may recall, the *Jesus* movie was dubbed in 2001. This last year, four more movies were dubbed; the premier for the last film, *What Great Love*, was New Year's Eve. This project came about when several Chatino youth wanted to get involved in some sort of ministry to their community. After talking with their pastor, they decided that movies in Chatino would be one of the best tools for telling people about Christ. In the most recent movie, Ricardo, the main character's voice, was dubbed by one of the teens

who dedicated his life to the Lord at 2009 summer camp. Dubbing these movies was a team effort involving Chatino youth, men and women recording their voices; moms preparing meals for 30; the church deacons organizing the entire event; bringing electricity to the rustic studio from half a kilometer away; collecting offerings to pay the bills; and, of course, the professional recording team from Chiapas who did an incredible job dubbing the movies. By the end of the week after the premier showing, DVDs were sold and distributed throughout the Chatino community. God's Word in life testimonies is being proclaimed in homes and public places for the first time through all these movies. Rejoice with us for all God is doing and will do this coming year.



Enrique & Becky Fernandez / Costa Rica / ReachGlobal



Enrique and Becky are members of the EFCA Latin America Training Network (LATN), a ministry that is providing accessible theological education through the Internet to Christian

Spanish-speaking world.

The apostle Paul encouraged young Timothy with the words, "...the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Ti. 2:2). These words are at the very heart of what we do at the LATN. In fact, one of our major concerns is reproduction and multiplication. Reproduction, as we teach reliable Spanish-speaking leaders, but also multiplication as we equip them to share their training with other reliable leaders in their communities.

Several weeks ago we asked many to pray for our Summit 2010, and the Lord answered our prayers in wonderful ways. The goal of our Summit was to share with LATN potential supporters a clear picture of what the LATN is all about.; this included presentations on what is Distance Education. We also presented the ten goals we are pursuing in the next two years. Rejoice with us in the Lord's response:

1. Thirteen persons came from the U. S. to explore different ways to support our ministries. Their enthusiastic response was a blessing to us. Please pray that their enthusiasm will turn into new partners. Along with this group of visitors, some of LATN professors, mentors, and staff also attended the Summit.

2. Six of our mentors (LATN students) came from different countries to participate in a training day. For us it was a joy to see them and other local students meet for the first time, though they had been studying together for several months over the Internet. We had plans for these students to tour the country, but they just decided to go on their own with their classmates.

3. After our Summit 2010, Professor Tim Dahlin conducted a training meeting for our mentors. Our goal is that once the courses have been taught and tested a few times, these mentors would teach them under the supervision of the writers of the courses. This process will help us to reproduce and multiply local leaders, while professors work on writing and developing new courses.

4. Another significant element during our Summit 2010 was the visit we received from representatives of the Federación de Iglesias Evangélicas Independientes de España (FIEIDE), which is the equivalent of the EFCA in Spain in preparation for the signing of a partnership between the LATN and the EET. We rejoice in the fact that these two sister organizations will work together to train key leaders all over the Spanish-speaking world.

Thank you very much for empowering us to reproduce and multiply our training among Spanish-speaking Christian leaders around the world.



Brad and Kari Mullet / Hungary / ReachGlobal



Brad and Kari Mullet have served in Hungary since August 1999. They serve on the EFCA's ReachGlobal Budapest City Team and manage the Kelenföld Ministry

Center.

It is Easter Monday here in Hungary—a

national holiday. Churches across Europe were full on Easter.

There is great knowledge of Christ and Christianity throughout Europe, but so many do not know the power of His resurrection. Pray for more Hungarians to know Christ and the power of His resurrection this Easter. With warmer weather, there is increased activity outside the doors of our coffee house terrace. I'm seeing more graffiti, more trash, and more decay—pray that I will see and attend to more souls. They will take down the construction fence and start putting the street back in at the end of the month.

This week is the Hungary Summit. Our guests start arriving today from Chicago, St. Louis, and Springfield, Missouri. We'll take a tour of our new subway station, eat goulash, pray over the city and for church plants, listen to testimonies and ministry presentations, tour areas of the city, and inquire of the Lord concerning our future assignments.

If you would like to receive this monthly Missions Update via email, please send your request to: echeck@theorchardefc.org.

Missions Ministry Team

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MISSIONS UPDATE



**APRIL
2010**

**"To glorify God
by multiplying God-centered,
Christ-exalting, world-transforming
believers through the Gospel in the greater
Chicago area and around the world."**

Mission Statement
The Orchard Evangelical Free Church