

MULTI-LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

ISSUE
53

"From the lips of children..."

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Rev. Paul Hartman, Editor
<paulhartman@mlpwels.com>

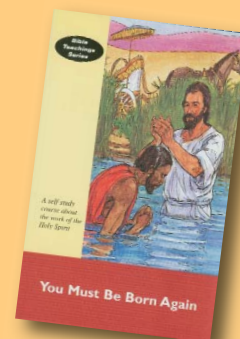
Alexsandra in the Dominican Republic is using the *Bible Teachings Series* to share the gospel with other children. The following report was written by Kathy Strackbein.

Remember playing games with your friends and cousins when you were little? What great fun to be done with chores and homework and be able to go outside and play. What's even better, is when your friends and cousins live nearby and can come over every day and play.

We easily remember happy play days of our youth. How often did we talk to our friends and cousins about the Savior and witness to them about forgiveness and the promise of eternal life? Not very often, I have to admit.

Alexsandra is a beautiful example of a young girl who not only loves to play with her cousins but also loves to tell them about Jesus. At eight years of age, she is already witnessing to her cousins, sharing with them the basic teachings of the Scriptures. After play, she invites her cousin to sit with her and read about the creation of the world, the life and death of Jesus, the meaning of His resurrection. Her great joy in her own salvation compels her to share this wonderful news with others.

What an inspiration for others to see her witnessing. With what ease and zeal she speaks to others of Jesus - introducing her best friend to those she loves most.



Read and share the same stories that Alexsandra shares.

Order your copies of the Bible Teachings Series

Visit:

www.mlpwels.com

Dear Father in heaven, thank you for this beautiful child who speaks so easily of your love. Help me to also have the heart of a child, to speak to others without fear, using every opportunity to share your love with others. For Jesus' sake. Amen.



Multi-Language Publications
Bringing the Written Word to the World

Distance Learning - OVERCOMING THE COMMUNICATION BARRIERS

The distance learning program for Latin America has enjoyed a considerable response since it began 30 months ago. Nearly 29,000 copies of *the Bible Teachings Series* books have been distributed, and nearly 1,500 persons have enrolled. But the participation comes primarily from Colombia, where perhaps two thirds of the books have been distributed. The reason has to do with ease of communication. While in virtually every Latin American country the mail system continues to be slow and unreliable and the customs regulations frustrate the sending of books in large quantities, Colombia has one advantage over other countries: the cost of phone calls is only 5 cents per minute. By way of contrast, phone calls to the Dominican Republic cost 25 cents per minute.

An obvious alternative to the traditional forms of communication—such as by printed matter, the mails and telephone—is the Internet. But many of the Latin Americans served by the WELS are included in the 70% of the Latin American population that still does not have Internet.

Multi-Language Publications is addressing the communications challenge in a number of ways. We are encouraging churches, such as the one in the Dominican Republic, to register with the government so that they can be exempted from customs fees for large shipments. Recently the ELS sister church in Peru was able to save hundreds of dollars because it can now deal with the customs agency as an official church; changes in the customs regulations in that country also assisted the mission greatly.

Because so many books are distributed in Colombia, we are investigating the printing of Spanish volumes in the capital of that country. It may be less expensive and more convenient to print there and ship smaller quantities from there to the other Latin countries.

While the percentage of people with access to the Internet is low, the amount is growing. Indeed, several government-run schools in Colombia, which are now using the *Bible Teachings Series*, also provide the Internet for their students. The first volume of the series has been adapted for interactive use at WELS.NET/University. We think that eventually the Internet will allow us to reach greater numbers of people at much lower cost.

A WELS member in Wisconsin is able to obtain MP3 players (for audio media) and MP4 players (for audiovisual media) at discount rates from China. Possibly, even books



like the *Bible Teachings Series*, could be taught interactively through an MP3 player. This may be a cheaper way to send large quantities of material into Latin countries while at the same time reaching people in a form that requires less reading. It's an avenue worth investigating.

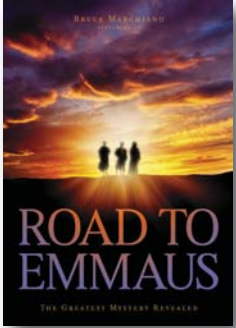
The Spanish edition of the *People's Bible* will soon need to be reprinted. We are beginning the process of revising the manuscripts, introducing a more recent Bible translation and republishing the entire 41-volume series in Libronix. Thus, in several years, we hope to be able to distribute the entire series on one thin DVD. Meanwhile the cost of laptop computers continues to drop. Small laptops can now be purchased for only \$400. The day may come when it will be more economical to subsidize the purchase of inexpensive laptop computers rather than pay the exorbitant costs of printing and shipping books.

Years ago the telephone directory for Mexico City was jokingly called "the book of the dead" because so many of the telephone numbers belonged to dead people. In many developing countries like Mexico the use of cell phones skyrocketed because it was cheaper and more convenient to use a cell phone than wait for the national phone company to provide a hard-line phone, that was too frequently unreliable in any case. Cell phones are miniature, hand-held computers that increasingly have access to the Internet. The future for communication in Latin America, as in the rest of the world, is digital.

While we will continue to work with traditional means of communication, we will also leverage our communication and publications increasingly into digital communication. The Lord is opening doors to share the gospel in ways we could scarcely imagine a decade ago.

Road to Emmaus

VIDEO TO BE RELEASED IN LATE JULY



Several years of work, more than two dozen rewrites of the script and a tremendous filming effort by the Boettcher Media Group is about to come to fruition this summer. Conceived by representatives of Northwestern Publishing House, Parish Services and Multi-Language Publications, the video was supported by the coordinating commission of various agencies in the WELS who are involved in publishing.

The thirty minute video tells the story of Jesus' walk with two disciples on the road to Emmaus the afternoon of Easter Sunday. During the walk Jesus explained why it was necessary for him to suffer and rise from the dead. The dialog therefore explains the doctrines of redemption and justification by faith alone. The lead role is played by Bruce Marciano, the same actor who played Jesus in the movie *Matthew* that presents that entire gospel.

Representatives of various WELS ministries and members of Christ Our Redeemer in El Paso, Texas have previewed the video and given it high reviews. We are excited that the movie will support outreach efforts in cross-cultural ministries.

The first release of the DVD will include a version dubbed in Spanish in addition to the English version. Translation work is under way in Chinese and Urdu (for Pakistan), and translations are being considered for Indonesia and Nepal. Eventually, we hope the video will be available in many of the languages used by WELS missions.

Details about how to obtain the video are not yet available. Watch for information at www.mlpwels.com and in a forthcoming issue of this newsletter.

Teaching Christian Doctrine

THROUGH DRAMA

Christians in Malawi Africa are using shortwave and FM radio broadcasts to help fellow believers fight superstition and witchcraft. Weekly programs, called *Sewero* ("a drama") in the Chinyanja language, dramatize every-day experiences for Christians who are tempted to resort to magic and medicine men to alleviate the serious issues that trouble their lives. While the references in the radio dramas to Bible passages are brief, the message taught from the Scriptures are clear.

Dr E.R. Wendland, who has been teaching at the seminary of our church in Lusaka, Zambia for more than forty years, documents the radio broadcasts in *Sewero! Christian Drama and the Drama of Christianity in Africa*. The book offers valuable insights into Animism as he explains how the broadcasts attract listeners and then help them identify and combat the Animist tendencies that still influence their Christian faith.

A somewhat similar approach to similar issues is offered by ELS missionary Terry Schultz in the Amazon region of Peru. There he uses a story book approach (such as *No More Fear*) to help Christians fight an Animist belief system that still troubles their faith in Christ.

Sewero! was published by Kachere Series in 2005. It is represented in the United States by Michigan State University Press East Lansing at www.msupress@msu.edu. ISBN: 99908-76-26-6. The 294 page book is also available in the World Mission Collection at www.wmcwels.com.

Moving to HONG KONG

by Paul Hartman

My wife Carol and I are scheduled to spend the next two years in Hong Kong, beginning on July 1. We will assist the Chinese publishing effort and help teach some of the worker-training classes. We hope that the Hong Kong location will also make us more available for the publishing efforts in our other Asian fields. Carol retired from teaching in the El Paso public school system in May; she hopes to assist efforts to teach English as a foreign language. I will continue to serve as the coordinator for Multi-Language Publications while working with our El Paso staff over the Internet. Mrs Jan Gamble will continue as our administrative assistant and Rev Gonzalo Delgadillo will continue as the director of Spanish publications.



Some of the workers in Hong Kong

Indonesian Bible Society
NEW PUBLICATIONS RELEASED



Bible Stories in Pictures and *Bible History Illustrations—Posters* were released by the Indonesian Bible Society in March of this year.

The *Bible History Illustrations—Posters*, which will also be sold by the society to other Christian churches, will support the Sunday school programs of our sister church in Indonesia. The corresponding Bible text is printed on the reverse side of each of the 120 full-color illustrations.

The posters (without Bible text) are also available (Catalog number: 383403. \$35.) from Multi-Language Publications at: www.mlpstore.com

Bible Stories in Pictures is the result of years of work to fit the proper text into the space provided by the pictures. Additional copies will be sold through the Bible society to other churches. Originally produced by Dr William Beck of the LCMS, the book is now available in ten languages: English, Albanian, Chichewa (for Central Africa), Hindi, Indonesian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish and Telugu (for southeastern India). Portions have been translated into Urdu (for Pakistan) and the Thai version is still under development. Copies of the Indonesian edition are expected in the United States later this year.



Multi-Language Publications Issue 53 May 2009



Multi-Language Publications
Bringing the Written Word to the World

2500 George Dieter Drive
El Paso, TX 79936
800.876.1388 ph
915.857.1388 fx
www.mlpwels.com

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
EL PASO, TX
PERMIT NO 659

Return Service Requested