

# MULTI-LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

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59

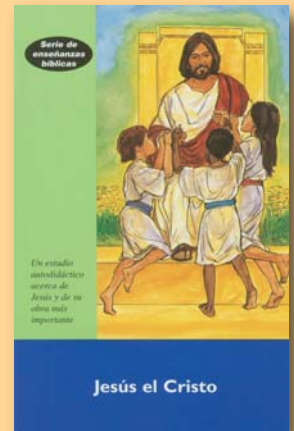
Rev. Paul Hartman, Editor  
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21 Students Complete

THE SPANISH BIBLE TEACHINGS SERIES IN MILWAUKEE



As students complete the *Bible Teachings Series*, Haakensen and Sialer encourage them to participate in a Daily Prayer Program (PRODI) that uses a devotional book entitled *Praise the Lord*. Study of other Spanish language publications such as the *People's Bible*, *People's Bible Teachings* and courses in the Congregational Assistant Program are also offered so that new Christians continue to grow in their knowledge of God's Word and faith in Jesus Christ. These titles are available from Multi-Language Publications at <www.mlpstore.com>.



Pastor Seth Haakensen and Religion Teacher Ismael Sialer are using the *Bible Teachings Series* in Spanish to reach out to Mexican Americans who live near Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. When they began a Family Bible Study Program (PREBIFA in Spanish) in September 2009 to encourage families to use the books, Haakensen and Sialer thought that seven of 52 people would complete the 17 books currently available in the series. So far 21 have completed the series and seven more are expected to finish by the end of June!

Students enjoy working through the books and collecting them as part of a family library. Often a book can be completed in only ten days. Therefore more books are needed—and three more titles are on the way. An additional higher level book in the same series is also being translated. But many more new titles are needed to sustain a program for several years.

Copies of the *Bible Teachings Series* are now being sent by the students to families and friends in Mexico and El Salvador. The effort at Risen Savior has become a world mission effort!



The program demonstrates yet again how the Holy Spirit works through the Word to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ and enable them to grow as his disciples and ambassadors. Printed publications are an effective tool through which the Word is proclaimed.

Mr. Sialer has learned that the key task is to “teach, teach, teach.” Contact Pastor Haakensen at <pastorhispano@RisenSavior-Luth.org> and Mr. Sialer to learn more about how they are using literature to teach the gospel. Or call Risen Savior at 414-354-7320.

## ORDERING INFORMATION

To receive your copies of books in the **Bible Teachings Series** contact:

Northwestern Publishing House  
1-800-662-6022

**\$1.90 each**  
for most titles and discount pricing available on larger orders

or browse our on-line bookstore at:  
**www.mlpwels.com**

60 Nepali Students

## PASS A TEST ON THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

Two thirds of the 91 students who attended a workshop in Nepal last spring passed a test on the Epistle to the Romans. This was the eighth workshop conducted in the Himalayan country that lies between India and Tibet in South Asia. The workshops train small group leaders for the Scripture Learning Program that is now reaching 11,000 people in small villages scattered in the mountains and valleys of the western one-third of the country. Students studied Romans by using a simplified edition of the *Peoples' Bible* commentary and questions from the *Whole Bible*. This material had been translated into Nepali.

For the first time, the leaders of the Scripture Learning Program conducted the workshop without the participation of visiting missionaries. Communication was improved because they did not have to interpret teaching presented in English. Some students are confused when they hear the same message in two different languages. Most of the participants were able to read and write and therefore most could participate in the final test exam.



### Nepal Workshops Are Becoming a Bible Institute



Immediately after the close of the general workshop, ten leaders met with Multi-Language Publications coordinator Paul Hartman to continue to develop the Bible Institute. The leaders did a census of the students who attended the first eight workshops. Fifty attended all the workshops or made up workshops that they had not attended. Another forty students could be brought up to date by teaching the contents of two of the workshops dedicated to the Catechism. Thirty-six of the 90 students also need to complete lessons that would lead to confirmation. The leaders seem to have a clear understanding of who their students are and how to deliver instruction that will best serve their needs.

The leaders then revised the material that had been presented at the Catechism workshops. They rewrote the material to make it more concise. Before they began this process, they discussed learning styles and types of questions. The leaders plan to teach the Catechism courses during this summer in nine regional sessions.

The leaders also considered methods that had worked well or poorly during the previous eight workshops. The leaders seem to appreciate the need to accommodate various learning styles by using pictures, action (such as games) and music.

Strategies that foster inclusiveness and maintain confessional integrity were also considered. The leaders will require students to be confirmed members of their Lutheran church and they will require endorsement by the applicant's congregation in the application process, but they will allow some people to audit the workshops, while the Bible Institute students take the classes for credit.

Tests have been used during the more recent workshops. Auditing on the other hand allows some people to consider the institute, and it also allows people to learn something even though lack of literacy prevents them from passing tests. The leaders would like to provide literacy training to expand the number of students. The leaders are reaching out to remote communities where educational opportunities are extremely limited. In some locations the literate person may be a teenager, and the adult leader may be functionally illiterate.

There are good reasons for offering the Bible Institute primarily through the venue of semiannual intensive workshops. The leaders want to bring people together from isolated areas to encourage fellowship and unity.

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[www.mlpsstore.com](http://www.mlpsstore.com)

During evening sessions other topics such as stewardship training and adult instruction for confirmation is offered. The attendees also sing songs and get to know each other.

The use of general workshops every six months does not preclude, however, the teaching of Bible Institute courses in other venues. Some courses need to be presented to students who missed some workshops, and new students will need previously taught courses presented in small groups. Finally, some courses could be offered in other venues in order to enable students to progress through the curriculum faster.

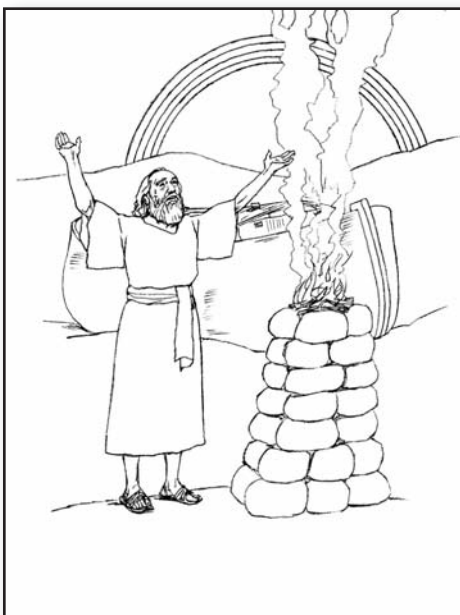
Discussion with the leaders revealed three ways to expedite the instruction for confirmation of students and participates in the Scripture Learning Program. Currently, a *Bible Information Course* from Rev Schneidervin is being used. The leaders now recognize that the study of the Catechism also prepares students for confirmation. A third approach will add two books to the *Bible Teachings Series* so that those two volumes plus ten of the other titles would offer sufficient material prior to confirmation. This approach may be especially helpful in Nepal because of the low level of literacy and the need to use distance learning within the country.

## Coloring Pictures for BIBLE HISTORY ILLUSTRATIONS

### To Be Released Soon!

Much work was done to create coloring pictures based on the *Bible History Illustrations*.

These *Bible History Illustrations* include 120 full-color pictures by ©ChristLight artist, Glenn Myers. The coloring pictures are numbered so that teachers will be able to use the album that accompanies the illustrations to identify the Bible story on which each picture is based. These numbers correspond to the *Bible History Illustrations-Posters* currently in print. The coloring pictures will be available at <[www.mlpstore.com](http://www.mlpstore.com)>.



### PEOPLE'S BIBLE MOVING FORWARD IN JAPAN

Eighteen volumes of the *People's Bible* have now been translated into Japanese. One of them, *Genesis*, has been published, and another volume, *Matthew*, is now being translated.

Translation into Japanese is a difficult and time-consuming process, partly because the written language is very complicated. After the translation has been completed, it is reviewed for accuracy, doctrinal content and grammatical correctness. The manuscript is also reviewed to make sure the message is clear and pleasing in style.



Tomita San, (pictured above with Pastor Yoshida) who has been a member of the Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church for many years and attended Martin Luther College, and also pastors and members of the church and former missionaries are assisting in the revision process.



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*Look*  
**FAMILIAR?**



The *Bible Teachings Series* volume, *Jesus the Christ*, is being translated into the primary language spoken in Tibet. Many immigrants from that country live along the border in Nepal and in the capital city, Kathmandu. The Scripture Learning Program in Nepal is now trying to reach out to that population.

It was felt that because much of the population has been so isolated, it would relate better to Biblical artwork that looks more familiar to Tibetan culture. With permission from the artist, Glenn Myers, some of the *Bible History Illustrations* have been adapted.

