

The Standard

The Voice of Cross Power

Fall 2007

Until The World Knows Jesus!



Mission 2007

Africa / Mexico



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This Month At CrossPower

By Gods Grace, we have completed an extraordinary summer in Missions. When I began to plan for this summer, I truly had no idea what to expect, although I was very excited about the possibilities. In truth, the Lord surprised the team and me, many times along the way, and for that blessing I am truly thankful.

I am also very grateful to all of you who supported this mission with your prayers, and financial contributions. They not only made the trip possible, but they were the vehicle through which the Lord blessed many people. If it were not for your generous and consistent support, we could not have accomplished even a small part of our objectives. Thank you for your obedience to Christ, and His call to send preachers to the lost.

No doubt many of you have noticed the late arrival of this issue. During the month of September, I was involved in an evangelistic campaign which was to have lasted four days. However, the Lord saw fit to keep me in Bryan/College Station an additional three weeks. During that time I witnessed the conversion of many, including the cities fortune teller. I will take more time in the next issue to share the exciting results of that campaign. Needless to say that campaign and a full preaching schedule has kept me away from you longer than anticipated. Yet I am delights to have so much to report, God is truly at work, and you are a great part of that work. I know that it is the prayers of Gods people, which propels this ministry forward, and for that I am eternally grateful.

To those who have not yet enlisted as monthly partners, let me encourage you to join CrossPower in its ministry to the lost domestically and around the world. When we consider the vast number of people who have yet to hear about Christ, a small ministry such as ours can get easily discouraged. However, when we consider that God has given us a manageable portion of a great harvest, we press courageously ahead. You are a part of that courageous advance.

In His Service,

Rev. C. Isaac De Los Santos
Executive Director

Some years ago, a well know department store found its self in need of a new approach. The Sears name had become synonymous with tools, fire grills, and big screen TV's. Its sales were down, and they decided to try a new approach. In ads most can recall, they pitched a new slogan, "The Softer Side of Sears." In short it reflected the fact that the store had many items which "women" would enjoy. They not only sold tools, but linens, pillows, clothing, and fine china. Weather the approach worked or not is unknown to this author, but it seems to have been adopted by a modern segment of the church today.

A Sinister Attack

Many behind the pulpit in our generation have taken a softer approach to the Bible. They have done so assuming that it will in turn render the sweet reward of larger numbers on Sunday morning, and greater profits at the book store. Were it not that eternal souls are hanging in the balance, one could merely dismiss the "new approach" as a cleaver tactic. However at the center of this softer message is a sinister attack on the "Cross of Christ." They have begun to preach a softer side of the cross, a message which I submit is not the Gospel at all.

In Galatians chapter five, the apostle Paul states "and I brethren, if I yet preach circumcision why do I yet suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross ceased." In this text we do not see Paul condemning the offensive nature of the cross, but rather defending its offense. In the Greek text we find the word "scandal" in place of the word offence, which communicated the fact that the preaching of the cross is intended to stir conflict in the hearts of men. We also find the term in the first chapter of 1 Corinthians in which the same apostle states, "For indeed the Jews require a sign and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block (scandal) and to Gentiles foolishness..." The use of the term

in both passages indicates an inherent offensiveness to the preaching of the Cross." While the Cross is the message of Gods mercy and love toward man, it carries in its self a matter which disgusts every man. To preach laws,

The Softer Side Of The Cross.

By Rev. Isaac De Los Santos

and rituals was not at all offensive to a mans conscience, but to suggest that simple faith in a slain lamb, could save, is offensive to the prideful mind of men.

This fact should not surprise anyone. The Prophet Isaiah states "He has no stately majesty that we should look upon him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him." His Passion at Calvary was the worst fate any man could suffer, and the wrath of God which fell upon Him was fearsome to behold. "It's acceptable to preach redemption through any other means, but please don't lay the fate of all humanity at the feet of this unbecoming image of dead man." While it may be common to find such a view from the outside of the church, it is painful to see a generation from the inside which holds the view that the offense of the Cross must be softened in order to appeal to the masses.

No Offense

The primary reason for this offense is that it directly reveals the sinful nature of man. The cross is by design the great "whistle blower." It boldly and un-apologetically screams that man is guilty of sin. Were sin not the the problem the cross would not have been the solution. But sin is the problem. It seems man kind is all too comfortable with sin, so long as it's not addressed as such. The philosopher calls it evil, the media calls it a mistake, and no one seems offended. But when a preacher calls it sin, offense is never far behind. The reason for this, is that the cross lays the cause for Gods wrath

squarely at the feet of the individual. We have become a culture where the serial killer is a victim of his poor upbringing, and the drunk is the unwitting casualty of external conditions out of his control. No one is reasonable for their own sins; it's always someone else's fault.

Behold The Lamb

On the cross we see image of Gods perfect son, hanging in shameful display. Receiving in His own body the wrath of a Holy God for sins committed by every man, woman, and child, since Adam. We see him paying the penalty of a broken law, which He alone preserved unbroken. We see his bleeding side and wounded hands, as proof of payment, the receipt for sin. Bearing in His own soul, the horrible atrocities of genocide, abortion, rape, adultery, fornication, child molestation, theft, bribery, injustice, and murder, compounded by the inoffensive little sins such as white lies, lust, hate, grudges, unforgiveness, mercilessness, excess, gluttony, in-chastity, and innocent personal private pride.

Guilty!

Just exactly who was it that committed all of those crimes against a Holy God, if in fact it's someone else's fault. For whom was this billed played, and in whose name did this invoice of unrighteousness arrive. Surely someone was at fault, someone was guilty, someone culpable, responsible, condemnable. That someone was me! It is I to whom the stroke was due. I am guilty, culpable, responsible, and condemnable. His rejection by His own Father, His crushing for sin, His bruise, and His stripes, are all my fault. We look at the bloody broken body of Gods perfect son, and our hearts must cry "I did that to Him."

This is why the Cross is such a scandal, because it points to mans sinful nature as the sum and cause of Christ's sacrifice at the Cross. For anyone to attempt to soften that reality is an assault on

Mission: Africa



On July 1, Aaron Zuniga, Mario Juarez, and I, set out for the first phase of mission Africa. We left the States with a true appreciation for Gods enduring provision, toward those who commit to doing his will. We had witnessed the Lord provide the funds for four international flights, as well as the budget for the first ever International CrossPower Crusade. As we departed there was great anticipation for the field arrival of the fourth member of the team; Andrew Knutson in a matter of weeks. After a three day unplanned delay in London, we arrived in the West African nation of Ghana, where we would soon see the Glory of God.

At the request of Bishop Lamprey President of UPLC Ghana, we agreed to hold a crusade in the suburban city of Galilea. The first night of the crusade was truly an experience of a life time. As we looked out over the congregants who had gathered, there was a definite attitude of great expectation. Several churches had gathered to host this crusade, and we knew that the Lord was in the place. Due to the nature of the soccer field which we were on, and the make shift "lighting," there were large pockets of darkness around crusade grounds. As we began to worship the Lord, and I began to pray, people began to gather in those dark pockets, where the lighting could not reach. It was truly a thrill to look out over the dark field, as I preached, and see the silhouettes of Gospel listeners.

Most of them had never heard a preacher preach the Gospel, others of them were worshipers of river deities, and many were simply lost for the sake of being lost. As the Gospel was proclaimed, I knew the Lord was speaking to many hearts. I prayed that the Lord would make me capable of communicating the Gospel at their level. When I made the invitation those three nights, people came from those dark pockets, to surrender their lives to Christ. As they came, I could not escape the fact that they truly were walking out of darkness, in to the "marvelous light."

As a result of the Lords work in the crusade, a new church was planted in Galilea. Andrew and I, had the awesome privilege of attending the very first Sunday service, which was held in a class room at "Two Roses Primary School"

Not only did we see the Lord save the lost in the crusade, but we also witnessed the miraculous healing power of Christ. Every night the sick and afflicted would come seeking prayer. As we felt led, the team along with local pastors would pray for those who were sick.

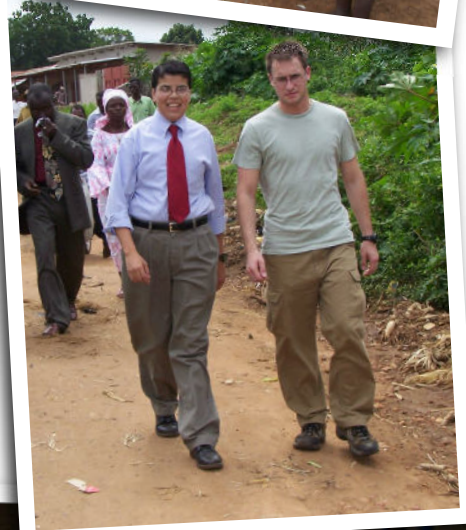


On the first night, a woman came who was partly blind in her left eye, and totally blind in the other. As I prayed for her, she said she had not noticed any difference in her eye sight. So I prayed a second time. After praying again, she said "I can see clearly out of my left eye." But her right eye remained dark. I could see the murky condition in her right eye, and so I prayed again. After praying twice more she remained blind in that right eye. I was about to walk away, when I felt the Lord wanted me to pray again. As I prayed for her once more, and asked her "how is it now?" She said to me, "I can see, I can see, in both eyes."

The second phase of our journey began shortly after Aaron and Mario returned to the United States. Andrew had arrived a few day before, and we began planning for an excursion into the two neighboring nations, of Togo and Benin. Our mission had now taken a new purpose. The crusade was behind us, and before us lay the mission of visiting the churches these two struggling nations. One can often take for granted the value of encouraging local church's on the mission field, but it is truly an awesome opportunity. After obtaining our visas to enter those two nations we drove for hours, in a cramped hired car, through the most corrupt roads, one could imagine. Andrew and I arrived in a Benian village, known as "Davee" shortly after dark. We thought the service had surly ended, because we saw no one, and the lights were off. As soon as we stepped into the church, a drum began to beat, and a church full of the faithful began to sing. While it nearly made my heart stop, I was overwhelmed by the joy which overcame the small village church upon our arrival. It was just "us" nothing particularly special about us, but our presence in the village encouraged them somehow.

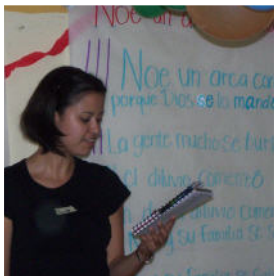
While I have seen poverty around the world, I was amazed to see the level of physical need which these dear people considered normal. Children attended church naked, others in a mere under garment. Yet the most astounding fact was the "poverty" of spirit, with which they eagerly received the Word. In truth Christ said, "blessed are the poor in spirit, for they shall see God." Andrew and I, were humbled by their reception, and by the opportunity to share the saving message of Christ. Our time there proved that the Gospel is relevant in every cultural setting; from the Ivy League in America, to the most remote village of West Africa.

The price for reaching the lost is never too costly, when the Glory of God is made great, and the Joy of the church is made full.



Bishop Jacob Lampitey
UPLCG





Mission Mexico 07

I had the distinct privilege this summer of leading the pioneer Short Term Mission Team, for the UPLCII Missions Board. It was a great joy to serve along side of Rev. Samuel Montoya and Rev. Jose L. Dominguez, on the field this summer. It is my belief that we stand at the cusp of a new generation in student missions, one which involves the Hispanic church as never before. Although the trip was not a "CrossPower" project, I believe it deserves the attention our partners and friends.

If we are indeed living in the last days, then we are about to witness an out pouring of Gods spirit in our generation as no one has ever witnessed. I wish you could have been with the team and me, as we met team for prayer. Our prayer meetings were truly remarkable, and I believed they forecast the future of the Church of Jesus Christ. The generation that knows how to pray, that generation knows how to do great exploits.

The team gathered in San Marcos, TX for a day of training, which included training in Drama, Children's Ministry, and Evangelism. Once the team was trained and ready to go, we left for the Sierra De Arrambedi. Which is located about four hours from Monterrey? We soon found ourselves on some very narrow and very remote roads, which led to even more narrow roads. We arrived in the vicinity of the village shortly before dark, but as the sun set, we had an overwhelming expectation that "God was going to do big things."

Our normal routine was to visit the local homes, and invite people to the day's activities. Which included a children's program at mid-day, and an evening service? The team went out everyday, with no idea what to expect, and everyday they returned with tails of what the Lord had done. It was probably the greatest joy, when we saw a child wondering up the path to the church. A child who we had visited only a few hours before. In fact on the cover of this publication, you will see one of our innovative recruitment techniques. The church in the village of "Las Joys," was up on a hill, removed from the village. 2pm rolled around and our attendance was small, we were becoming concerned. Just outside the church was a wall made of stones, piled one upon another, so I saw an opportunity. I climbed up on the wall and began to project my voice in to the valley below. "Vengan Todo Los Ninos." which means, "children come to church." After a short while we began to see children making their way up the path, and into the church.

In the evenings the team would share testimonies with those who gathered, and follow them up with dramas, and the preaching of the Gospel. Every night, the team witnesses the Lord using them to touch many people, saving sinners, healing the sick, and delivering the oppressed. We rejoiced at what the Lord had done in us, and thanked him for the opportunity to be used for His Glory.

I can not say enough how blessed I was to serve as the leader of this pioneer mission, what I saw this summer, gave me great hope that the future of the Church is a great future indeed.

To all who made this
summer in Missions possible,
Thank You.
You have made an eternal
difference.



ISAAC



The Softer Side of the Cross, Cont.

For anyone to attempt to soften that reality is an assault on the very purpose for which Christ died. If God did not soften the cross for His own son, why should any preacher soften the message for any wicked and undeserving sinner? How can one truly understand the work of Grace, if he does not first understand the weight of sinful

guilt? The cross is not a band aid on a boo boo, it the full scale exhumation of mans dead, sinful, soul from sin.

In response to this eternal truth, sinful humanity is called to repent for sin. At the core of that repentance must be an understanding that we are guilty as charged. If the preacher or layman choose to soften that reality, he does more to harm the Kingdom of

God, than the perpetrators of false religions around the globe. For in claiming to preach Christ, they are actually not preaching at all. To remove the Cross from Christ is to remove the very purpose for which he became the incarnate Son of God. The preacher and layman alike must affirm with Paul, "we preach Christ Crucified."



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