

RIO GRANDE

Intercessor

Window to Latin America

Missions Here and Now

This year's speaker at RGBI's annual missions conference was Gustavo Soto, a representative of FAM International, the Latin American division of CAM. Besides the general sessions and workshops, a new feature was added this year. Demonstrating the conference theme of "Missions Here and Now," students were given the opportunity to do tract distribution and evangelism in the city of McAllen and the smaller town of Edcouch. A third group went to the nearby mosque to observe Friday prayers.

Pray for follow-up with those who responded positively to the evangelistic efforts and for the opportunity to develop relationships with our Muslim neighbors. **Praise God** that more of our Hispanic students are answering God's call to global missionary service.

Martyred in Colombia

Last September, another of God's servants was ruthlessly executed by the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). Pastor Manuel had served for eight years in a dangerous area where other churches had been closed by the FARC. A few months before his death, he had held an evangelistic service where three guerrillas and seven members of the paramilitary militia accepted Christ. After the shooting his wife grabbed her Bible, ran outside, and through tears, expounded the Word to all those who came near. Their ten-year-old son bravely said, "Mum, don't worry. Dad died for Christ and now he is with Christ."

Please **pray** for the families of Colombian believers who have been killed or tortured because of their faithfulness to the Lord. **Pray** too for the guerrillas, that God's Word will work in their hearts and bring conviction of sin.

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Napoleon's Triumph

Napoleon, from a poor farm family in Perú, was lured to the big city of Arequipa by a job offer, but he soon became no more than a slave. Finally after a year of hard labor, he was able to escape from his controlling boss and began to wander aimlessly through the city.

One day he discovered the *Iglesia Evangélica Peruana* (Evangelical Church of Peru), where he was taken in and given loving care and counseling. Because of their help and en-

couragement, Napoleon is now involved in ministry in a Sunday school and a homework club, as well as in the Arequipa Children's Ministries program, under the auspices of SIM (Serving In Mission). He loves the Lord and would like to attend a seminary someday.

Pray for Napoleon's spiritual growth and for the ministry of SIM to other young Peruvians who need the Savior and the loving care of God's people.

From SIM's website, www.sim.org

Número Uno

The fact that Hispanics are our fastest-growing minority is evident in most areas of the US today. There are more than 45 million (15% of the population) in this country, the majority being Mexican-Americans (25.3 million). Half of all Puerto Ricans (3.9 million), who are US citizens by birth, live in the continental US. No longer largely migrants or domestic workers, Spanish-speakers are found in all occupations, including medicine and law. And they are responding to the Gospel in record numbers. The Southern Baptist denomination alone has more than 4,000 Hispanic congregations in the US and Puerto Rico.

Let us not only **pray** for those (including many RGBI graduates) who work full-time among Hispanics but also reach out to our Latino neighbors with the Word of God.

From *On Mission*, North American Mission Board, SBC

The Basque Challenge

For centuries, Spain has been one of the world's most difficult mission fields, with only one in 300 Spaniards being evangelical Christians. The largest Muslim mosque, Mormon temple, and Jehovah's Witness church in Europe are all located in Madrid. Perhaps the most unreached people are the Basques, an independent and isolated ethnic group in Spain's north, who have their own language and beliefs. WEC missionaries have been working among them for twelve years. Leonard and Maritza Bullock have recently arrived and are in Euskara language study.

Pray for the 2.2 million Basque people, many of whom are involved in witchcraft and nature worship, that they will be open to the Gospel. **Pray** also for missionaries like

the Bullocks, who are investing their lives to take the hope of salvation to them.

From WEC's *Partners in Prayer*, Nov., 2009

Missions Form Partnership

A few years ago the Evangelical Mennonite Conference and Action International joined forces to minister to orphans and other needy children in Nicaragua. Students at the Mennonite Bible Institute in Managua began the ministry in the city of Diriamba, where the most children at risk were identified. With hard work by students, missionaries and visiting work teams, the facility and grounds have been developed over the past seven years. Now there is housing for a number of needy children and programs for community kids, such as Bible classes, crafts and recreation, and instruction in how to make right choices in morals, sexuality, recreation, and vocations.

Pray for the staff at CINAG (Gethsemane Center for Children at Risk) as they care for neglected children, showing them the love and power of Christ to change lives.

From Action International Ministries, www.actionintl.org

Latino Missionaries in Europe

TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) is leading the way for Latino missionaries to take the Gospel to the European homelands of their ancestors. In Italy missionaries from Venezuela and America are partnering with believers to reach their countrymen for Christ. Less than one percent of Italy's population is Protestant; even fewer are evangelicals. Carmen Chugg, a former MK from Venezuela, is now a TEAM missionary in Italy. "I see this as missions coming full-circle," she states. "I think Latinos are able to relate to Italians very well because they share a Latin culture. I foresee the ministry here as expanding into the surrounding areas."

Pray for wisdom and divine guidance for missionaries like Carmen as they assist and advise their Latin American partners in planting strong churches in Italy.

From TEAM, www.teamworld.org