

RIO GRANDE

Intercessor

Window to Latin America

"Overwhelming" and "Wow"

"Overwhelming" and "Wow!" were reactions of two "senior citizens" to a recent student evangelistic/ministry trip.

Armand and Jerry, Winter Volunteers at Rio Grande Bible Institute (RGBI), accompanied nine students to Durango, Mexico, as one of six groups participating in missions during Easter week. Early Wednesday morning, they began an 11-hour drive to the church where recent RGBI alumni Jorge and Yulimar (Gil) Martinez serve. The next morning they drove two more hours to a remote area where the students were to direct a camp for ages 12-19. At Friday night's campfire, each person was given a stick of firewood which they threw into the fire to indicate their commitment to God.

Armand said that even though we didn't have a huge *quantity* of students, "we have *quality*. I can guarantee you what students we have are God-chosen. I could not begin to give enough praise (for) what the RGBI students did in obedience to the Lord. *No decision was made without prayer*. The students' preaching was breathtaking as the Spirit of God was in control. The response was overwhelming, . . . Only a living God could make what happened come to pass."

The church had earlier scheduled one baptism for Easter Sunday, but after a powerful service, more than 50 persons made first-time decisions, 23 of whom asked to be baptized immediately, even in their Sunday clothes! As the students were traveling home, several more persons appeared at the pastor's door wanting to be saved.

Because of the sound doctrine taught at the school, this church has established a fund to help send their youth to RGBI. God's touch on them will continue for years!

Pray for the new Christians in Durango, that they might be steadfast in their faith and grow spiritually. **Pray** that Jorge and Yulimar will be strengthened for their task as leaders. **Pray** that the RGBI students will be effective servants as they continue training.

The Word travels by air

Hearing God's Word proclaimed over the four Kekchi radio stations in Guatemala has brought many unbelievers to a saving faith in Christ Jesus. During 2007, the stations aired the stories from both the Old and New Testaments. Workers at these stations met early this year to discuss a burden they all have for teaching their people how to share their faith on a day-to-day basis. As a result, a new radio evangelism course of nine

lessons, was birthed.

Though Kekchis are instruments in the recording and airing of the "Institute of the Air," they have relied heavily on local missionaries to assist. God has recently given them a desire to take on this project themselves without assistance. Missionaries are so encouraged that the Kekchi are taking this further step to accomplish things on their own.

Pray for many to be saved as a result of this new ministry and for new works to open up. **Pray** that believers will be encouraged and challenged to tell others about Jesus. **Pray** for the missionaries as they train these brothers to eventually take over the project.

(From IMB's 2/25/08 and 3/20/08 *CompassionNet Today's Prayer*)

"Felix" opens door for gospel

Last September Hurricane Felix's 160 mph winds and 18-foot high waves did such destruction in northern Nicaragua that almost 16,000 residents of Puerto Cabezas and surrounding areas were left trying to survive in makeshift shelters. That included thousands of Miskito people, who depend on canoes to navigate the rivers and lakes.

One organization coming to their rescue was Friends in Action (FIA), a missions support group. They partner with numerous agencies and churches to provide work teams that meet the physical needs of unreached people around the world. Many volunteers gathered to work and provide food, clothing, and supplies to the affected families..

Christians came from Managua to build two cement homes in the area. The people were so encouraged by the love of God shown to them that they begged the workers to stay and teach God's Word. In response to prayer, The Lord has called a national pastor, Diego Perez, and his family to serve as missionaries there.

Meanwhile FIA is purchasing a cement block machine that will make approximately 700 blocks per day. With it and a chain saw provided by FIA, the community will be able to make the necessary blocks, rafters, and beams for its homes Each house costs approximately \$2000, and by March enough money had been given to build 13 more of the 60-80 homes planned for this year.

Pray that God's people will provide

money and labor needed for the construction. **Pray** that the Lord will lead and guide the Perez family in being the spiritual leaders needed by the Miskitos as they rebuild their lives and homes. **Pray** that volunteer workers will be faithful witnesses for the Lord.

(From FIA's *The Challenge*, 2008 Issue 1. See www.FIAintl.org)

A family for Jessica

In San Salvador, Argentina, 11-year-old Jessica's family situation was very difficult. Her birth mother was unable to care for her, so a custodian became her "mother"; World Gospel Mission's (WGM) Life Center became a second "home."

David and Rachel Kerney, career missionaries with WGM, began this family outreach center around three years ago in Jessica's neighborhood. Its children's ministry provides a fun, safe place for young people who otherwise would be engaged in roaming the streets, drinking, smoking, and other destructive actions to escape their dysfunctional homes. There they participate instead in activities such as sports, crafts, and table games. God has enabled the Kerneys to gradually break through barriers like the spiritual darkness of pagan religions, cults, and superstition, as well as serious suspicions of the North Americans.

Jessica attended the WGM youth camp where she accepted Christ as her Savior—the beginning of positive changes in her life and family. Her caretaker renewed a commitment to Christ, and now Jessica's mother and sister are Christians.

As some of the national churches have begun to assist, the Kerneys have released many responsibilities to others. When they return from homeland ministry this year, their new focus will be on mentoring Christians and expanding the Life Center's church ministry to increase the center's effectiveness.

Pray for continuing success in winning families like Jessica's to Christ. **Pray** for Luis, the local Argentine Christian who is the new director of the center, that his leadership will enable them to reach many more for the Lord.

(From WGM's *call to PRAYER*, March/April 2008)