



# MENNONITE *Air* MISSIONS

Vol. XLVI | No. 2

March, April 2011

## Board Meeting

On January 18, 2011, nine of the ten Mennonite Air Missions board members met in Guatemala for a three-day board meeting. Our board represents various supporting churches and fellowships, and it was a stimulating, encouraging week to have them join us in Guatemala.

Several of them came early and travelled to Santa Rosita and El Chal to meet and interview mission staff, and to observe the work firsthand. Some of them visited Joya Grande, San Cristobal, San Sur, Oratorio, and Novillero during the days before the meeting.

The first day of meetings was intense, with eleven hours of discussion about points raised by the missionary body. It was encouraging to see a growing sense of unity and understanding, and to sense the intensity of a common goal.

The second day was more spiritual in focus. The board, the missionary men, and all the national leaders (a total of almost 40) met at the Institute facility for a morning of topics, testimonies, and prayer. We focused on God as our greatest resource, on the elements of a strong local church, and on building the Kingdom of God in Guatemala. The speakers were both American and Guatemalan, and each session was translated.

In the afternoon, we found time for a North American Workers' meet-

ing with the board, and enjoyed a time of food and fellowship, as well as an inspiring hour of singing, testimonies, and encouragement.

The last day was set aside for wrap-up, and again included hours of meetings that concluded well after supper.

We appreciate our North American board, and the work and time that they put into the ongoing task of MAM in Guatemala. Their prayers, concerned phone calls, fund-raising, and constant personnel search are all important parts of their service.

The board has changed somewhat since their visit two years ago. Stanley Newenschwander was

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**The MAM Board. Back row: Amos Hurst, Duane Eby, Lee Lehman, Mervin Kuepfer  
Center row: Stan Neuenschwander, Jimmy Weaver (retiring), Wesley King, Jeff Weaver  
Front row: Leon Yoder, Urie Sharp, Pete Shirk**



# EDITORIAL

by Brian Yoder

## The Quiet Side of Soul-Winning

The missionary picked up a plate in the food line, and glanced around for a place to sit. There were no chairs, so he chose a low rock in the shade of the building and sat there, surrounded by the Guatemalan brethren. An unconverted man was looking on, and the missionary's action stirred him. Later, after his conversion, he said: "Something about seeing him sitting on the ground eating caused me to see my need for Jesus. That was the first nudge that led me to the Lord."

How do we account for something so unexplainable? Why would such a small thing hold such consequence? There are spiritual dynamics in the work of Christian witness that we seldom consider, and II Corinthians 4 helps explain some of them.

The first seven verses are dedicated to solving a problem. How can the darkness of unbelief be penetrated with the glorious light of Jesus? Anyone who desires to bring others to Jesus has likely pondered this question. Although the resulting methodology varies widely, the spiritual dynamics in these verses cannot be dismissed.

First, consider our available resource. Though we grew up observing and hearing truth, one day we *saw Him*. In His face we beheld the glory of God, and our lives were changed. We are like earthen vessels of the most common sort, yet within is contained an unspeakable treasure. The vessel itself does no more to convict a man than an empty cup does to quench thirst, but there is a drawing power in the treasure within.

Next, consider the problem. *II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost.* All over Christendom, we grapple with the problem of a veiled Gospel. In the King James, this verse casts the problem back on the Christian. Other versions seem to cast it on the blinded unbeliever, in agreement with the flow of the surrounding verses, which show that Paul did everything possible to make the Gospel visible, while Satan blinded the unbeliever.

The light of this Gospel is not inherent to the Christian, and is not produced upon command. It is the inner presence of Jesus himself, and can only find expression in our world through a person who gazes on the Glory, and abides in Christ, and is being transformed into His image.

Of the two ways this Gospel may be veiled, the first is at its very source. Consider Moses, who returned from spending forty days with God with a face that glowed with Divine Glory. But Moses covered the glory at its source, and the light was hidden.

Hebrews 10:20 compares the temple veil—that which hid the glory of the inner sanctuary from human view—and the human body of Jesus. Only when the flesh was crucified, the Divine Glory within was revealed and made accessible. Invariably, when the Gospel is veiled at its source, it is the fault of uncrucified flesh. Unbroken human nature, unyielded will, a cocky attitude, self-centeredness, and self-exaltation are all part of the smothering veil that hides the glory of Jesus. And no matter how many tracts we hand out or messages we preach, the only result we can leave is the rotting stench of self.

II Corinthians 4:2 shows Paul's passion to "unveil the source" by cleansing his inner life and walking in perfect truth before God. We would do well to do the same.

The second way that the Gospel is veiled is at its destination: the heart of the hearer. Well after Moses' face was uncovered, a veil of dullness rested on the heart of the Jewish people. Blindness is the strategy of Evil, designed to hold men captive. For this reason, though our testimony be clear and our light bright, many people still cannot grasp the truth.

But even the spiritually blind have not totally lost their inherent sense of right and wrong, and nothing pricks it like a holy example. Paul's strategy was

*(continued on page 3)*

## The Quiet Side of Soul-Winning . . . continued

simple, yet profound: *by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience . . .* The conscience of the lost tends to react to what it sees in the Christian. If they observe expressions of uncrucified flesh, they will be pleased to note that we are nothing more than they. But if the flesh is crucified, they will see the Glory of Jesus standing in sharp contrast to their own condition.

A visiting board member recently pointed out the colt that Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Consider it. An untrained colt, for the first time feeling the weight of a man on its back. Crowds of shouting, waving, singing people. Clothes on the cobble-

stones, palm branches waving. The stage was set for disaster. If the colt would have gone berserk, as colts tend to do, the eyes of the crowd would have been on the colt. But the colt plodded quietly ahead. The colt was forgotten, and the crowd beheld the Master.

The world needs to see Christ in the Christian. Shame, if it has seen a corral of kicking, unbroken donkeys! Shame, if it has smelled the rotting stench of uncrucified flesh, and if our sin has made it more comfortable in its own! May we diminish, that He might increase. May the veil be rent, that He might shine. May we be the donkey, and Jesus the King.

## Pastor of the Month



**Isaias Muñoz has pastored the church in Oratorio for over fifteen years.**

**Isaias Muñoz** was born and raised in Escuintla, where his mother was a member of a Pentecostal church and his father was not a believer. When he was twelve, his family moved to Chimaltenango, where he first encountered the Mennonite church. He was baptized in the MAM church in Zaragoza in 1982, at 18 years of age.

In 1984, Isaias was asked to move to El Chal, where he taught school for the next five years. There he met Domitila, whom he married in 1985. With the tide of the civil war turning against the guerilla movement in the late 1980's, the army pressured young men like Isaias to join them. Because of this pressure, Isaias and Domitila left El Chal in 1989 and moved to La Sorpresa, where he taught school for one year.

Isaias's pastoral experience began in late 1989, when he was sent as a commissioned leader to the small church of La Pastoria. He was ordained pastor in 1991. In 1994, Isaias moved his family to the nearby town of Oratorio. From there, he

pastored two churches; the small one in La Pastoria, and the fledgling one in Oratorio. Over the years, the church in Oratorio has grown to 25 members. Isaias was ordained bishop in 2002, and holds responsibility in four of the southern churches.

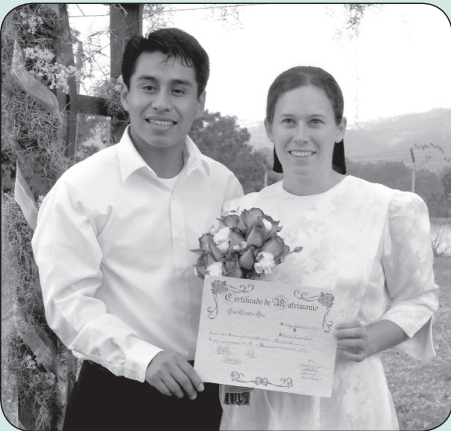
Isaias' family of eight children is a delightful one. Anyone who has stayed in their home has seen their attitude of service toward the constant stream of people at their door, and their appreciation for each other. Often they linger for hours around the supper table, enjoying the fellowship of a close family. Isaias has struggled to find sufficient work during the last years, but does hauling with his pickup when he can, and plants corn.

Isaias especially asks that we pray for the continued nonconformity of the church in Oratorio, as it faces the social pressures around it. Also, pray that the Lord would raise up another leader to work beside Isaias. He feels stretched thin, as the sole pastor, breadwinner, and bishop of four congregations.



# Current Events

**Wesly Muñoz and Ashley Beck** were married on December 18, 2010. Ashley was serving as a nurse in the El Chal clinic when Wesly (Isaias and Domitila Muñoz's son) moved there as a teacher five years ago. For four years, each continued in their sphere of service, she as a nurse in Santa Rosita, he as a teacher in Oratorio. As doors opened, they found the Lord's leading in this direction. For now, they plan to live in Oratorio, near his parents' place.



**Ashley Beck married Wesly Muñoz on December 18.**

**Jeff and Crystal Yoder** have moved from Santa Rosita to nearby El Naranjo. Naranjo is a larger, busier town that forms a hub for many small villages around, and presents a greater opportunity for witnessing and reaching people. Church services are still being held upriver in Santa Rosita, and Jeff runs a Christian bookstore in Naranjo. We hope to move the clinic into El Naranjo in the future, when we have enough qualified personnel and the facilities to do it.

**Adrian Weber** is from the Countryside Mennonite Fellowship in Ontario, and came to Guatemala in late January to begin a term of V.S. service in El Chal. His responsibilities will include maintenance, building, and errands, as well as outreach.



**Adrian Weber recently arrived to serve in El Chal.**

## Board Meeting . . . continued

chosen as a future replacement for Urie Sharp, who is the only remaining charter member of the board. Jeff Weaver was here in place of Jimmy Weaver, who recently resigned from his task as personnel contact person. We appreciate their interest and contribution.

To all nine of you, thank you for coming!

## Mennonite Air Missions Financial Report

<b>Balance carried forward</b> .....	<b>\$95,993.40</b>
<b>Income</b> .....	<b>\$483,416.85</b>
<b>Total Funds Available</b> .....	<b>\$579,410.25</b>
<u><b>Disbursements</b></u>	
Newsletter .....	\$6,499.22
Travel .....	\$6,157.40
Retirement and Medical .....	\$9,702.13
Worker Allowances Block .....	\$155,713.00
Bank and miscellaneous charges .....	\$56.50
Farm and Conference Property .....	\$10,000.00
Transfer to Field .....	\$263,416.37
Supplies .....	\$392.75
U.S. Checks written in exchange for Guatemalan Funds .....	\$8,000.00
<u><b>Total Disbursements</b></u> .....	<u><b>\$459,937.37</b></u>
<u><b>Current Funds Available</b></u> .....	<u><b>\$119,472.88</b></u>

**Please make donations payable to "Mennonite Air Missions" and send to: Mennonite Air Missions, c/o Amos Hurst, 140 Rothsville Station Rd., Lititz, PA 17543.**

### Mennonite Air Missions (USPS 383-570)

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