



"Dancing Stars" and clowns were all part of the fun.



led everyone to the Arena. This advertising also works, but I don't recommend it.

It's good to have people in town stop just to talk. They know that you and your church exist because they met you at a great Party. Watching the youth of the community make transitions to the Youth Program is rewarding. This event has captured the attention of the church association, and local Christian business men. This year they provided us with \$940.00 to help cover our costs.

We are developing an identity with our community as people who care and are approachable. We're now identifying the Heart Felt Needs of these people whom God loves so much. And that my friend is what it is all about.

Business as Missions

Business and missions are two concepts that are not usually linked together. Many countries are now closed to traditional Western missionaries, however most countries remain open to business people setting up businesses that will create employment.

More and more, Christian organizations are beginning to recognize that business affords opportunities to reach unreached people groups in closed countries. When business people establish legitimate business in a community, it impacts the individuals who find employment; it also impacts the families of the workers and therefore it ultimately impacts the whole community. However, when Christian business people establish a business, it accomplishes all of the afore-mentioned results, but also has the potential to advance the Kingdom of God.

When doing business as missions in a closed country, Christian business people let the light of the Gospel shine through their business practices, and through one-on-one connections with suppliers, employees, contractors, brokers and vendors. It often requires a great deal of sowing before a spiritual harvest begins to take shape.

While people who are doing business as missions are doing legitimate business, if it came to be known that their intention was also to advance the Kingdom of God, the authorities in closed countries would be quick to cancel their visas and eliminate their spiritual influence. Because of this

reality, those involved in business as missions as well as the sending agencies must exercise extreme sensitivity in releasing detailed information.

For the past 8 years, ACOP has been in partnership with a Business as Mission (BAM) team, working in a closed country. The business has had a positive economic impact on many individuals and families. There has been much spiritual sowing done in the past 8 years, and a spiritual harvest is now being reaped, as people come to faith in Christ, and are disciplined by our partners.

The BAM project that ACOP is involved in has in many ways pioneered the Business as Missions model. Missions-sending agencies from around the world have come to observe and to learn from the model our partners have developed, and our partners are often asked to make presentations about their Business as Mission model at mission conferences focused on reaching unreached people groups.

Please remember this Business as Mission team in your prayers. In addition to the stress of running a business in uncertain economic times, they also face a very real spiritual battle from the forces of darkness who are resistant to the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

For more information on Business as Missions or our Business as Mission project please contact the ACOP International Office.

Prayer Matters in a Closed Country

With the vision of "Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom to Every Nation", ACOP actively supports 25 missionaries around the globe. We invite you to join with us in prayer for their ministries.

Our prayer focus this month is a family involved with a Business as Missions team in a closed country. Due to the sensitive nature of their situation, we have to be very vague about the details of their ministry. This report comes from the family's 8-year old daughter:

This is a picture of my family. We live in a country far away from Canada where everyone has black hair but us. My Mom and my Dad run a business where they teach poor people how to make handicrafts and then they send the crafts around the world. I love going into people's homes with my Mom and Dad.



My brother goes with my Dad with all the men, while I get to go into the room with all the women and the children. In this room the ladies take off their burkas and we all sit on the floor together. While I laugh and play with the many other children, I see my Mom listening to the women's stories. Sometimes my Mom covers her head with the other ladies and prays to Jesus to answer their problems. I can see how these people lives are changing.

Every night I thank Jesus for choosing my family to live here to shine His light in a dark place. I pray that my friends here will know Jesus so that I can see them when I get to heaven. Will you pray for them too?? Thanks, K.C.

Your prayers for this family are greatly appreciated, as they are graciously providing care and encouragement for one of their team leaders who has just been diagnosed with an aggressive cancer and recently underwent major surgery. Please pray for her.

The family's 2 children are enrolled in an on-line distance learning program,

with classes and assignments taught in English. A major prayer request is for a young woman that would commit to moving to the country for a one-year term to help home school the children. We thank God for this compassionate family, and pray for their protection, provision, and peace to up hold them as they continue to increase the Kingdom of God.



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ACOP President Visits India and Taiwan

By Wes Mills

In November 2008, I had the privilege of travelling to India and Taiwan with Rev. Merv Switzer, who is the ACOP Regional Missions Director for Asia.

India

When we arrived at the Cochin airport we were warmly welcomed with floral leis by the ACOP of India Chairman Rev. Dr. Tim David along with General Secretary Pastor K.C. Peter and General Treasurer Pastor K.G. John.

We had opportunity to speak at a number of churches in the Kottayam area. Many of the church buildings had dedication plaques indicating that they were built with financial assistance from Canadian ACOP churches.

We were also privileged to speak at an ACOP of India pastors' conference, hosted at the Apostolic Bible College in Kottayam. Over 100 pastors and their wives gathered for 3 days of teaching and fellowship. On the final evening of the conference we participated in the Bible College graduation ceremonies, as 15 young men and women were recognized for completing their bible school training.

Each month, ACOP of Canada sends funds to the ACOP of India to assist with operational costs of the Kottayam Bible College. Due to the devaluation of the Canadian dollar and the increase in food costs, the Bible College is struggling to meet expenses. Please pray that God will supply the funds to keep the College operational.

We were pleased to see that Jesus is building His church in India. One of the pastors we met has established 19 house churches in the Trivandrum area in the past two years. We heard other reports of the church multiplying and growing throughout southern India.

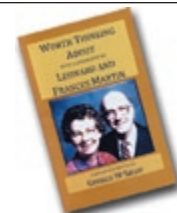
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ACOP of India Pastors' Conference.



Rev. Merv Switzer and Rev. Wes Mills at the Graduation Ceremony of the Apostolic Bible College in Kottayam, India.



"Worth Thinking About" is a collection of articles written by the late Leonard Martin originally published in the 'End Times Messenger' from the mid '80's to the mid '90's, plus a biography of Leonard and Francis Martin. "Worth Thinking About" is compiled by George Shaw, pastor for more than ten years of Garden Village Church in Burnaby, BC., where the Martins were a vital part of the church family. To purchase a copy of this book, contact George Shaw at gjshaw@shaw.ca.

ACOP President Visits India and Taiwan, cont'd



ACOP of India Pastors' Conference.

Everywhere we went, people expressed thanks to the ACOP of Canada for sending missionaries to India so that they could hear the Gospel. We want to honour the founding missionaries that were sent from Canada more than 60 years ago, taking the message of the Gospel to this nation. These missionaries served at great personal sacrifice to see the church established in India.



Mt. of Olives Bible School Alumni gathering.

leadership team. We visited several of the churches, and also took part in a morning of leadership development for the pastors and key leaders of the church.

Buddhist temples are found throughout the island, giving evidence that Buddhism and Taoism remain



Rev. Merv Switzer & Rev. David Matson.

the predominate religions of Taiwan. While the evangelical church is growing, it represents only about 2.5 percent of the population.

Please pray for David and Dennice and the church in Taiwan, that God would multiply their efforts to see His kingdom advance in this nation.

Taiwan

We flew from India to Taiwan, where we were met by Missionary David Matson. The Republic of China, or Taiwan as it is more commonly known, is an island approximately the size of Vancouver Island with nearly the population of Canada!

In 1958 Rev. Joseph Matson and his wife Margret began their ministry in this island nation. In 1962 their son David and his wife Dennice joined them in the work. Over the past 50 years, hundreds of people have come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour, many were taught the word of God in the Mt. of Olives Bible School and numerous churches have been established. We were pleased to be part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Full Gospel Church in Taiwan. Former church members travelled from as far away as Australia to be part of the celebration.

During our visit, we were warmly hosted by the Matsons and the church



Rev. Merv Switzer at 50th Anniversary celebration of the Full Gospel Church in Taiwan.

CCCF 75 Years and Growing

At a time when rural churches are suffering a general decline in numbers and strength, and the men and women to pastor them are hard to find, **Cedar Creek Christian Fellowship of Dapp, Alberta** is a bit of a phenomena. On November 9, 2008 the church celebrated 75 years of ministry to the Dapp community. At the same time it also celebrated 25 years together with Pastor Ken Stange and his wife Gail. Not only is it 75 years old, not only has it partnered with the same pastor for one third of that time, but the church is vibrant and growing. That is definitely something to celebrate!



Deacon Board Chairman Glenn VanDijken presenting the anniversary gift to Pastor Ken & Gail Stange.

The church was first started in 1930, with services being held in the local Round-Up School. In fact, at a recently held district ACOP conference at the church, Kenn Parker told us that his step-grandmother attended services in that school and became a Christian. He later learned that she had been praying for his family faithfully. He was excited to be able to visit the place where she had lived and gone to church.

There was a major revival in the area at this time and the growing church decided they needed a building of their own. In the winter of 1932-33 a log church, a manse and a barn was built with the help of the local members and ten teams of horses.



Pastor Ken Stange with Bill Seatter, a long term member of the congregation.

In 1950 a new frame building was erected. This is the church that Pastor Ken and Gail came to in the spring of 1982. The building is still part of the church today, serving as Sunday School and meeting rooms and housing the kitchen.

At the time when Pastor Ken arrived the church consisted of only a few families. They had been through some major struggles. Some had left the church and gone elsewhere, some had passed away. There had been talk of just closing the doors. It would take time, almost twenty years, but eventually the church grew to the point they needed more room. Dedication services for a large new sanctuary, offices and foyer were held in 2002. It was a moving moment, the fruit of the faithfulness of the members and their leader. A building or numbers are not the measure of success or effectiveness of a church but this moment was still a sign to the congregation that God was blessing this ministry.

Many newcomers comment on the warm and caring atmosphere of this

church. A large part of its members are actively involved in the local community. Maybe it is this aspect that has attributed to its 'success'. Pastor Ken, in his address to the gathered congregation at the celebration, told of how in a period when he was feeling restless and contemplating the question, "is it time to go?" he strongly felt God telling him "I have not called you to pastor the church. I have called you to pastor the community, where there happens to be a church." That call has been very evident in his leadership.

Pastor Ken has had the privilege of teaching Biblical Studies weekly to Grade Five students in two local public schools for over twenty years. One of the Grade Five teachers was on hand to give witness to the influence this has had on these children. In twenty years a lot of children have gone back to their homes with an excitement for the Biblical stories! Each of these children also received a Gideon bible during their Grade five year.

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How Effective is Your Church Advertisement?

Every organization needs to understand the effectiveness of their advertising dollar, and how successful each ad is in reaching certain target groups.

Our church has advertised in the Yellow Pages for 30 years and I can't think of one person who has come as a result of it. When advertising special events in the newspaper, folks from the other churches dropped in for the show. The problem is, they were not the target group. What about the Santa Claus Parade? Well, In our experience the Radio announcer broadcasting the event received a tract we were handing out, read our name, skipped our address, then read where it was printed and tells everyone, "Shiloh Christian Centre from Texas has put a float in the Fenelon Falls ParadeIsn't that nice!"

How effective was our advertising? A concept we started thinking about was, "What need does this community have that we could meet?" Why not offer the biggest New Year's Eve event in the area?

So, with a goal of targeting the unbeliever, we developed such an event. We booked the arena, paying full value for the rental. We passed out invitations at the Santa Claus Parade to a "Free Party". The music consisted of "THEIR" songs with a few of "OUR" songs mixed in, (cross-over musicians help with this) and brought in a big sound system. We purchased games for the projection system such as Family Feud and The Price is Right, and "called the people down". They jumped up and down, screaming as they ran down the aisle, giving me a hug as I am dressed in a white suit just like Bob!

We used Sing Star and Dance Computer games, approached CBS and Family Feature Films for permission to set up a movie. We rented popcorn and candy floss machines, ordered hotdogs and buns at Sobey's. The church families



Rev. Scott Cross, Associate Pastor at Shiloh Christian Centre in Fenelon Falls, ON.

donated pots of chilli. We called Saint John's Ambulance to help out with safety issues, collected donations of prizes that people had picked up at Boxing Day sales, threw in a few Tim coffee cards and a couple of cases of chocolate bars, then opened the doors to see all the people.

This was our fourth anniversary and it is our most effective advertising in the community. One year the popcorn maker smoked, setting off the fire alarms and putting 500 people on the street. Flashing lights and sirens

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CCCF 75 Years, cont'd

Along with others in the growing leadership team, Pastor Ken has also been involved with the Heroes program at the local junior high schools. Teachers there feel they are reaping the benefits of this program.

A year ago the church took the leap of faith and hired a full-time youth pastor for the growing amount of young people. One aspect people notice when they come to this church is the high ratio of youth and children in the

services. The youth are excited and on fire for God. That is an exciting future!

Over the past 75 years there have been about 3,900 Sunday morning services, besides many other midweek meetings. That means people have been coming there over 5000 times. But more important to Pastor Ken and the leadership at CCCF is that people have been leaving the church over 5000 times,

going back to their community. "To me, that's what counts. We're going to keep doing this, because there's a community out there that needs to know that Jesus loves them."

As a tribute to their pastor, the church presented Ken and Gail Stange a travel gift certificate. One of the oldest members, Bill Seatter, called out "Don't forget to get a return ticket!" That would fittingly sum up the feelings of the whole congregation.