

THIS ISSUE



AEA SOUTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING

P.2



AEA PASTOR REPORTS VITAL MINISTRY

P.4



AEA PASTORS FLOATING BIBLE SCHOOLS REACH KUNA INDIANS

P.6

AEA Ministry *Spotlight*

AEA ON THE WEB: WWW.AEAMINISTRIES.ORG

SPRING 2007

CHAPLAIN SERVICES

Spiritual, emotional and relationship challenges oftenseemoverwhelming and sometimes separate us from the joy of the father, but as with all of life's trials and burdens, God often provides clear direction and guidance for overcoming life's circumstances through the advice of wise counsel.

Our ministry chaplains are prepared to help and assist you in these challenges through prayer, scripture, and biblical precepts. Members can access chaplain services through a toll-free number, 7 days a week by calling 1-877-872-2735.



AEA MOVES HEADQUARTERS OFFICES



Home of AEA's new offices- 40,000 Square Feet at 505 N. John Rodes Blvd, Melbourne, Florida

The New Year saw the opening of the new AEA office in Melbourne, Florida. The Association's headquarters is situated in a 40,000 sq. ft. building, housing both AEA and Christian Care Ministry Inc. Over 150 employees of Christian Care Ministry are now under one roof.

The facility has a spacious board room, four meeting rooms, a lunch/break room, a gym workout room, fulfillment center, training rooms, directors and divisional offices. A 200 seat auditorium is used for employee spiritual enrichment chapels and an AEA congregational meeting Sundays with Pastors Jerry and Maria Lawrence.

The 12 acre campus with 5 buildings formally occupied by AEA since 1996, was sold to a church organization in December 2006.

AEA is thankful to the Lord for being with Christian Care Ministry in this beautiful spacious facility. The new campus is easy to locate just off Interstate 95 at SR 192.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

E. John Reinhold

IS IRAN TOO BIG FOR GOD ?

Would you believe me if I told you that there is a powerful movement of the Lord going on in Iran? AEA's affiliate, ELAM Ministries (Eternal Life Agape Ministries) is in the center of one of the greatest Christian "happenings" of our era. Iranians have seen what happens when a régime is totally Islamic of "one strip", meaning without opposition from competitive sects. They see corruption, power-lust, hypocrisy and legalism and tens of millions of them are seeking for truth. They know the faith forced on them by Arab Muslims in years past is spiritually bankrupt. Islam has nothing to offer them but subjugation.

ELAM has distributed over 1,000,000 Bibles and Christian literature with results that stagger the mind. ELAM Director and AEA Ordained Pastor Luke Yeghnazar and I met in New York City with some of his staff to discuss strategy to meet the existing demand of spiritually hungry Iranians. We are trusting the Lord to provide through AEA networking, 20,000 Farsi language Bibles a month. The Bibles are in the modern day Farsi language, not the stilted "old tongue" translation. We re trusting the Lord for one convert per Bible. Thousands of Christians are placing their lives on the line daily spreading the word of God's love and forgiveness. Martyred Christians are fueling the zeal of those who want to see loved ones and neighbors experience the freedom found in God's grace.

With secret presses in secret places, Bibles produced in nearby nations are being smuggled in, the Truth is getting out. For only \$5 per copy a beautiful leather bound Bible can be printed, cargoed and placed in the hands of an awaiting seeker. ELAM Ministries is recording the entire scripture in modern day Farsi. We now have a solar powered hand held unit (the size of an ipod) that has 80 hours of audio Bible and Christian basics pre-recorded for those who are illiterate or learn audibly (almost 5 out of 10).

As I write this I am packing to fly to an undisclosed destination to meet in an un-named city with leaders from the Iranian underground church, whose names you will never know this side of Glory. I will be asking them for testimonies of how they are experiencing the power of God, the Lord of Hosts, in the Iran churches. We will be talking about their spiritual needs to meet the demands of tens of thousands of Iranian seekers.

What role can we play? We need to shower this movement with prayer. We need to call down a gale from the Heavens to miraculously move this fire from border to border and spill into the surrounding nations. We need to trust the Lord to break this Satanic stronghold, so that His truth can be ushered in. Let's claim it together along with the resources to supply what our brothers and sisters need to spread the GOOD NEWS.

AEA HOLDS REGIONAL LEADERSHIP MEETING

The new AEA headquarters office in Melbourne, Florida hosted 26 AEA leaders from the Sunshine State in January. The primary focus of the meeting was training on planting new churches. AEA Pastors Dave Shirkey and Dr. Bob Bedford presented the answers to many questions as to why, how and when to plant churches. Using a well prepared power point presentation done by the training team, AEA leaders were able to learn, ask questions about church planting and actually experience, through role playing, how meetings can be conducted.

"It was a very worthwhile time. I learned a lot and am glad I made the decision to take part," commented "Sir" Ted Seymour, AEA's India Program Coordinator and President of AEA affiliate, Active Outreach Mission Fund.

"There is a lot to it but the trainers simplified the process so that getting one started is practical and achievable, with the Lord's favor," stated Ted Wareing, President of AEA affiliate, Life Changing Ministries."

"I was impressed with the program, the presenters, and getting



Dr. Bob Bedford



Group role playing Home Church

acquainted with the AEA members attending," newly ordained AEA member Kerry Fink, President of Music for Your Life, heard on 132 markets across America, wrote in an email.

Allen Sappington and his wife Kathy, directors of Floating Bible Boats wrote, *"they will be able to use many of the concepts learned to enhance their outreaches in their island missions off Panama's Gulf coast".*

AEA HOLDS REGIONAL LEADERSHIP MEETING cont.



Dr. Bedford sharing his experiences of planting over 100 home churches



Dona Reinhold, Jennie Shirkey, Ted Seymour, Ted Wareing, Dell & Mary Sadler

The next AEA Regional Leadership Meeting will be in Washington, D.C. at the Channel Inn Hotel on April 27, 28 and 29. AEA leaders in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York and New England are invited to experience this time of learning, networking and fellowship. The host ministry will be Refuge of Hope, founded and directed by long time AEA members Drs. Charles and Judy Farmer, members of the Administrative Board of Elders. Present at the Washington meeting will be Dr. Marge Douglas, widow of Dr. John E. Douglas, Founder of AEA, and also member of the Administrative Board of Elders.

Refuge of Hope invite all attending to a banquet Sunday afternoon, celebrating the 17th Anniversary of Refuge of Hope's great ministry and outreach in the inner-city, South America, and Africa.

AEA'ers in the United States...be there. Don't miss it. Call AEA Administrative Assistant, Cyndi Dabrowski to reserve a seat.

Mark your calendars...

AEA REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Washington, DC

April 27 - April 29, 2007

Channel Inn
650 Water St. SW
Washington, DC 20024

For information call:
Cyndi 1.888.526.3751

DR. JOHN AND DONA HOST CRACKER BARREL MEETINGS



Pastor Luke and Angel Yeghnazar

At Cracker Barrel meetings from New York to Jacksonville, Florida, AEA President Dr. John and Dona Reinhold invited AEA members to come and have breakfast, lunch or dinner. The Reinholds' were able to hear from Pastors and members, what the Lord is doing among AEA churches and ministries, all along the 1,400 mile route starting in New York City and continuing through Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

"We appreciated seeing again many we know and meeting other members for a first time," Dr. Reinhold was quoted. *"The 'let's get acquainted' meetings reminded us that AEA'ers are a family that loves the Lord and enjoys fellowship,"* said Dona.

When asked to summarize the trip, Dr. Reinhold said, *"Not all of our guests are as famous as Richmond Flowers, a former Dallas Cowboy and New Giant Pro-Football player, who has a very effective prison ministry in the Birmingham area, but all are children of the King and standouts. We loved being with each one and pray the time we invested together will plant seeds for the Kingdom."*



Virginia and Ray Bieber



Pastor Ron Lively, Dr. John Reinhold Ebralie & Pastor William Mwizerwa



Pastors Richard & Dr. Christina Berry



Ron Lively, Richmond Flowers, John Reinhold, Fredrick Hill



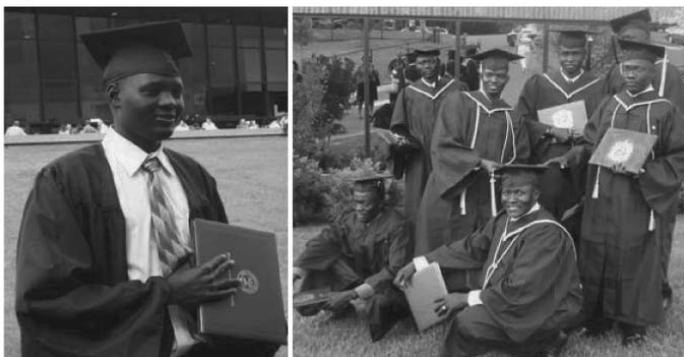
L to R: Pastor & Mrs. Camilo Fuller, John & Dona, Richmond Flowers, Ron Lively and Fredrick Hill



Pastor Dr. Keith & Jean Smith, Carol Kuhrt, Dona & Dr. John Reinhold

AEA PASTOR REPORTS VITAL MINISTRY

Pastor William Mwizerwa



"How can we thank you for the things you have done for us. Yet You gave to prove your love for us.": Lost boys

Dear Family and Friends,

On behalf of these young men excited about their achievement; we want to express our gratitude and thanksgiving to all of you.

Almost six years are over since we welcomed the first group of Lost boys in Nashville, Tennessee. Their journey is both heartbreaking and inspiring. Their determination, their commitment and their focus on God's provision show what a man can accomplish with support from the body of Christ.

Since 1983, the North Sudanese army (Muslims) began to massacre the Southern Sudanese population (Christians with traditional beliefs), kidnapping young males to use as cannon fodder in battle zones or to walk through minefields. Fearing they would be targeted as potential combatants or slaves in the northern Sudan, thousands of boys between 7 and 17 years left their villages for safety in Ethiopia. In 1987, thousands of boys (most of them orphans) walked enormous distances over the wilderness seeking refuge for

their lives in Kenya. Many fell victim to diseases, starvation, lions and other wild animals. In 1999, the United Nations, working in collaboration with the U.S Department of State; referred these boys to the U.S. for resettlement.

The first group of three boys and one girl came to Nashville in December 2000. A few months later Nashville hosted 120 of them and today we have 150, while other cities of US have almost 4000. Adjusting to an American culture and modernism, they work long hours and struggle to receive an education. Most churches in Middle Tennessee came to reach and serve the lost boys through African Leadership. All congregations are blessed to know them, to nurture and mentor them spiritually and physically. Members of churches used their talents and gifts to heal their trauma and wounds from the war and hard life in refugee camps. We are grateful to all church members who invited them into their homes, taught them driving and other skills.

We can't find an immediate answer about the suffering of people surrounding us; and we really may never get it. But God has allowed all this to happen for a purpose that we won't know for years to come. What we acknowledge is that He wants to teach us how to love Him and serve Him through others and especially his children in need. Giving to others and making them feel valued helps them navigate life's potholes. Refugees' lives are full with many stories to dedicate the body of Christ to His service.



Pastor Mwizerwa and Family

Community Gospel Truth Church Now Meets at New CCM Facility



Pastors Jerry & Maria Lawrence

Community Gospel Truth Church, a 7 year affiliate of the AEA is now meeting at our New 505 N. John Rodes facility. Led by AEA Pastors Jerry and Maria Lawrence, Community Gospel is a unique Jewel in the community, boasting 4 major language groups (English, Spanish, Portuguese and French). *"This congregation intentionally has a uniquely diverse cross section of people. The Church has to represent those who live in the community. If the neighborhood that you live in is not segregated then the Sunday morning service should not be segregated,"* Pastor Jerry stated.

The vision of Community Gospel this year is to win 1,000 souls to Christ *"We believe that soul winning and discipleship is the heartbeat of the kingdom of God and therefore soul winning, has to be our first priority."* This growing but small congregation will accomplish those 1,000 souls by aggressively going into the streets with weekly

evangelism, working with other congregations and para church ministries in community events, outreaches and projects. Radio and Television ministry will play a part in the vision for the 1,000 salvations. Pastor Jerry says *"It's not about growing this congregation, it's about adding 1,000 souls to our Lord's Kingdom. It's about seeking and saving the lost, and getting them plugged in somewhere so that discipleship can begin."* With the vision of God's Kingdom in mind, please pray for this congregation as they pursue what they believe to be the heartbeat of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH

AEA Pastor Honored by AACT

The American Association of Christian Therapists gave special recognition to AEA Pastor Virginia Bieber of Long Island at the AACT annual convention in Grandbury, Texas. Pastor Bieber was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Association.

Pastor Bieber was selected to instruct four courses for the Biblical Counselors Training Program to be conducted in the Long Island community.

These courses are designed to benefit both professional volunteers and lay counselors. Upon completion of the four courses, the students receive a Certificate authorizing them to counsel in a church context, under a Pastor, and to be able to serve as a volunteer counselor in any caring, helping ministry. The students can also receive College Credits, to be applied toward further educational pursuits in a Bible College.

Pastor Bieber's goal is to see counseling increasing in the church context. Her classes are being taught in local churches across Long Island including Episcopal, Luthern, Spanish Pentecostal (in Spanish) as well as one of the longest established African-American fellowships, Grace AME Zion Church. Students come from a variety of diverse backgrounds including social services in prisons, nurses, teachers and principals. Professional counselors are sitting in on the course to learn more about the Scriptural application in counseling.

Pastor Bieber organizes three day retreats for women called "The Woman is the Heart." The retreats are well attended and have become yearly events.

Pastor Bieber writes that she is currently working with "Biblical Life Educators" as an Associate Professor/Mentor, responsible for ongoing student direction and development for the Long Island area. "I am currently working on the completion of my Doctorate Degree in Biblical Counseling with BLE."

"Among my goals for 2007 is to find a suitable building to be able to provide a place for the growing Ministry and to continue to prosper with God's help. Presently I am proctoring a young man whose goal after Ministry School is to join with the Household of Faith as a Minister of God and to become a Member of AEA."



Dr. Reinhold and Pastors Ray and Virginia Bieber at a recent meeting at the Grand Hyatt, NYC.

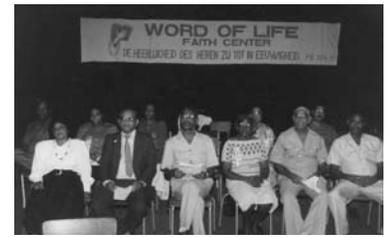
AEA PASTOR TAKES CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENTS TO THE CARIBBEAN, SOUTH AMERICA AND THE USA

From the time he was 12 year old, Dr. Paul Raghunandan was raised as a missionary kid in Suriname, South America, and spent fifteen years on the mission field. During the past three years Dr. Paul has continued his church planting efforts in training national pastors and lay leaders in Miami, Suriname, Trinidad, Barbados, Curacao, Guyana, Belize, and other states of the US. The focus is on developing church planting movements in these countries and elsewhere. Dr. Paul has extensive experience in working with Hispanics, Caucasians, African-Americans, Hindus and Muslims.

At the age of 21, Paul was diagnosed with acute Rheumatoid arthritis and medical specialists gave him three months to live. Paul cried out in desperation to the true and living God to reveal himself. Paul wanted to know if Jesus was indeed the truth. The Lord did reveal himself to Paul and impressed upon him a mandate for the church at large. Paul was charged to take the gospel to those walking in disobedience. Paul was immediately healed after seeing Christ and walked away from his sick bed.

God has used Paul to plant churches, train nationals and mentor men and women to start ministries. The focus is to expand the kingdom of God by creating church planting movements and train nationals, who will in turn train others to plant churches in their communities. More than 40 churches and countless house churches have begun in the past three years.

After attending an AEA church planting conference in January 2007, Paul sees an even greater task at hand. He has begun to put together resources to achieve the goal of winning 10,000 people in 2007 through partnerships with local churches that carry the burden of winning the lost at any cost. Continue to pray for Dr. Paul and those that work with him that the Lord of the Harvest will use them mightily to accomplish what He has called them to do in His Kingdom.



Pastor Paul with church leaders.



Conference in Suriname.



Some Leaders in Guyana

FLOATING BIBLE SCHOOLS

AEA Pastor Island Hops the Gospel



As the plane makes a sweeping left turn and descends towards the tiny airstrip on El Porvernir, it is hard to imagine this tiny island, barely big enough to contain the airstrip we are about to land on, is the main point of contact with civilization for the nearly 32,000 souls, spread out across nearly 400 islands off the Caribbean coast of Panama, that are the Kuna Indians.

Although it is scarcely a 30 minute flight from the gleaming skyscrapers and bustling international metropolis that is Panama City, this flight seems to transport us to a time of long ago.

Looking at the coconut trees and thatched roof huts, the song from “Gilligan’s Island” comes to mind ... “no phone, no lights, no motor cars, not a single luxury” ... and, while it made for amusing comedy on TV, it is a quite different reality to see a people who have scratched a living for centuries from these tropic islands and remote jungle villages that is the semi-autonomous Comarca de Kuna Yala of Panama.

Surrounded by water on all sides, these people must travel by dugout canoe back to the mainland to fetch the most basic of daily supplies, fresh water. Their food source also has to be found, primarily, on the mainland, where they brave the bugs so thick and the heat so intense that the Kuna farmers can only be on the mainland long enough to plant and harvest, and are otherwise driven back to the islands for refuge.

And, just like the castaways of “Gilligan’s Island” who kept looking towards an eventual rescue, for centuries, the Kuna have endured this lifestyle and, through it all, remained a cheerful, hardworking people who have just been waiting to be “saved”.

And that’s where Pastors Allen and Kathy Sappington, our Missionary friends who founded the Floating Bible Schools mission nearly 20 years ago, found God had placed them – with a heart and passion to save lives and bring souls to the Kingdom. From the thatched roof church hut on the island of Nalunega, Allen and Kathy set out to teach the Kuna, who historically had been “animists” believing in “nature”, that it isn’t about worshipping the rocks – it is ALL about

the RIGHT Rock .. the Good News of Jesus Christ!

From that first church, and over the years, they have raised up a generation of young Kunas who have caught fire with the Gospel and are busy spreading it throughout the island chain. Pastor Nico, grew up in the Palabra de Vida (“Word of Life”) Church, to become the Senior Pastor and now guides a team of Kuna Pastors who are taking the Word forth to all the islands.

With 5 full churches now on various islands, and full time ministry team of 8, this group is serious about making life better for the Kunas – both on a spiritual and a humanitarian level. In addition to teaching the Kunas, Pastors Allen & Kathy are busy today, taking into account Pastor Allen’s two decades experience in mission work, Floating Bible Schools has actually also become somewhat of an “on-the-job training” ground for missionaries who are new to the field.

Allen and Kathy strive to live up to Floating Bible Schools mission, found in Isaiah 42:12, “Let them give glory unto the Lord, and declare His praise in the islands”. Today, their pressing need are to expand the Bible School teaching program – they have found the earlier and more frequently they can introduce young Kunas to the Truth, the more likely they are to stay on the right path. This requires significant support just to handle the complex logistics of moving from island to island – from boats and motors and generators and fuel to school supplies and teaching materials and translators – and it is all part of their mission to keep expanding the delivery of the Gospel’s Good News from island to island.

Floating Bible Schools
www.SanBlasChurch.org

Kuna woman preparing food for the children.



ATLANTA CHURCH PLANTING BEGINS

Scott Armstrong

John Smith (name changed), a 30 year-old web designer, living alone with his dog ‘Spanky,’ dropped by not long after we moved in, to say hello (he lives next door). I had seen John and Spanky slowly walking down the sidewalk many times already but had not yet talked to him. As we began to talk, he eventually asked what I did for a living and I told him I was a pastor.

I thought that might end the conversation but, surprisingly, he opened up: “You know, I’ve never been in church—wasn’t raised in it—but I think what you do is great.” We talked a little more and then he left to walk across the street to the small, neighborhood grocer across the street. I thanked God for such an opening with a new friend and prayed God would grant to me further opportunities with John.

God didn’t wait long.

Fifteen minutes later, as I was sweeping leaves from our driveway, John crossed the street back over to our sidewalk. He was carrying two plastic grocery bags filled with two twelve packs of beer, a purchase he had many times before. John wanted to talk again and after making small talk, I asked him, noticing the bags, what he was up to—was he having a party at his place tonight?

“No,” John replied, remembering I was a pastor. “You know, I think I drink too much.” “How much do you drink?” I asked. He told me how much and I agreed—it did seem excessive. John then opened up further: “You’re not going to believe this but just this morning I was saying to myself that I needed to talk with a counselor or pastor about this and I just found out you’re a pastor!”

We did talk more about it and within a few weeks, John was telling me that he had picked up a Bible, was reading it and had questions about it—conversations we are still having as we speak. God was and is on the move in John’s heart and we are here for “such a time as this.”

I wish I had room to tell you the other stories, stories made possible because my wife, Kerstin, and I have moved into this city with our daughter, Karis, to plant a church here. Cities are the most unreached areas of the country today; many churches that are here have either closed their doors, are down to just a few people or have diluted the message of the Cross and God’s grace significantly.

The irony of Christian faith today, is that it largely exists outside the world’s cities, even though Christianity began in them. In fact, in ancient times, the word “pagan”, was derived from the Greek *paganos*, or “villager”, a term describing those who lived outside cities in small communities. Christianity exploded as a faith because it

spread from Jerusalem into the great Roman and Greek cities that comprised much of the known world of the time, and only then into outside villages.

Today, cities attract two types of people: those who have been marginalized in non-urban communities and are seeking the shelter offered by vast, diverse population centers and those fleeing mainstream moral and ethical codes to pursue hedonistic lifestyles. Many are here to pursue what is called the “good life” of material and social gain (though there are many others who are economically disenfranchised and in poverty as well) but few want the “best life” found in Christ. Many are turned off by “religion” and “moralism” (the arrogant benchmark of self-righteous personal merit, rather than the sheer and utter dependence by faith on the gracious work of Christ for salvation) but can be surprisingly open to hearing about the person of Jesus Christ.



The American Evangelistic Association exists to further the kingdom of God through the preaching of the Good News to believers and unbelievers alike and what better way than to plant faithful and vibrant churches? Tim Keller, pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian church in Manhattan, points out that people come to Christ today primarily through the planting of churches, regardless of their location—if we want to have the biggest impact on our world, we must prioritize church planting!

But church planting is exhausting and stressful work, especially in cities where risks are higher (e.g., crime is higher) and it costs more to do less. But we also know that God loves cities (indeed, in Revelation, heaven meets earth in the New Jerusalem city) and desires for us to pray for their welfare (Jeremiah 29:7), to seek their good, to make their citizens mature and equipped followers of Christ. How sweet it would be if Christianity once again swept through the world’s cities, capturing the hearts of diverse peoples, bringing the nations to the feet of the Lord (Philippians 2:9-11)!

Scott Armstrong is an AEA ordained pastor, married to Kerstin Reinhold-Armstrong, daughter of AEA President Dr. John Reinhold. They are currently positioning the Atlanta Eastside Church Plant Project, to be launched in the fall of 2007. If you would like to hear more about the project or would like to inquire as to how to support this endeavor, please contact him at scott@atlantaeastside.org or 404-840-7498.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF SPOTLIGHT

Can Kids Share Their Faith
in Christ?

AEA Supports India
Evangelism

Just Think, Ten Years
Ago ...

When the Power of God
Takes Over

DC Conference Highlights

And More!

Mark your calendars...

AEA REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Washington, DC

April 27 - April 29, 2007

Channel Inn

650 Water St. SW

Washington, DC 20024

For information call: Cyndi 1.888.526.3751

AEA Ministry Spotlight is a publication of The American Evangelistic Association ©2004

A publication of The American Evangelistic Association

AEA Ministry Spotlight

505 N. John Rodes Blvd.

Melbourne, FL 32934

Phone: 888 • 526 • 3751

Fax: 321 • 308 • 7779

Web: www.aeaministries.org