



News Report from Eternity Minded Ministries

May 2009

Got Eternity!

Several weeks ago we took an evangelistic team to the Belen district in Iquitos, Peru. If you asked this group before they left if they considered themselves to be ‘evangelists’ they would probably tell you NO. However, while in Belen, the Holy Spirit took over and this team stepped out in faith and shared the Gospel fearlessly and without shame. Before arriving in Belen members of the ministry team were given T-shirts that said **Got Eternity?** on the back. Because of their faith and their boldness, many in Belen **Got Eternity!**

We first began our ministry in Iquitos in October 2007 beginning with the district of San Juan; then Punchana in June 2008, and the latest ministry in Belen. Now there are three different districts, all working with and building on each other to lift up Christ in the city of Iquitos. **Praise the Lord!**

“One of the greatest thrills for me was to listen to our committee in Iquitos share with our team on the night of our arrival how much of an impact EMM has had on Iquitos” said Dan. The community, civil workers, and even politicians have been renewed and transformed. Iquitos pastors shared how the churches have seen tremendous and consistent growth in their churches in numbers and spiritually. Pastor Pedro said “My pastor friends in other cities want to know how they can have us come there because they have seen the results of the H.E.L.P. program.”

H.E.L.P.ing

Mission Belen certainly brought it’s own challenges and it’s own blessings. There is a good reason why Belen is called the “Venice of Peru”. For a good part of the year the Belen district is under about two-feet of water because of the rising waters in the Amazon River. In Venice, the canals running through the city create a romantic atmosphere, but in Belen the rising waters have lead to despair and poverty. When we scheduled our trip we tried to avoid the flood season. However, this year Belen was struck by unseasonable and unavoidable flooding. Before we arrived it had been raining for two months straight. But no challenge is too great for our God—and His plan to save the lost in Belen would not be defeated. We have seen our Lord hold back the rain during our festivals before, and this time was no different. Local pastors were in awe when the rain stopped for the five days of our ministry in Belen. We made some adjustments to ministry locations and schedules so that no time was lost because of weather conditions. God put together an amazing ministry team. Each member was so full of the Spirit and eager to share Jesus. It was amazing to watch people coming to the Lord at every turn as our team shared their faith, personal testimonies, and the Gospel message.

Humanitarian Aid

The humanitarian aid provided in Belen followed the same ministry model of our missions in the districts of San Juan and Punchana. Thanks to your support we were able to provide portable stoves to the Glass of Milk feeding program enabling the committees feeding local villages to cook faster and feed more families. Because of the economic climate and reduced funding for Mission Belen, we were not able to provide as many stoves as we had in the other two districts. That was a difficult reality because it was our desire to do



Dan Owens preaches the Gospel at Plaza Bolongnesi in Belen.



Alan Stewart ministering to a woman at eye-glass clinic.



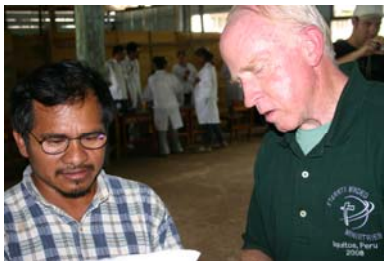
Sandra Keena, with her puppet, sings songs about Jesus with the children.



Mike Preston shares his personal testimony at a village along the Amazon River.



Dennis Liedstrand blessing a woman through prayer.



Steve Hannah ministers to a man at Santa Marta Village eyeglass clinic.



Debbie Anderberg prays with a man to receive Jesus.



Gilbert Barnes blesses a man during daytime ministry.



Glass of Milk committee leaders express gratitude for stoves during festival.

so much more. Carl Dawson said, *“Although the number of stoves we were able to give was not as many, the gratefulness of the people receiving them was just as great.”*

The eyeglass clinics provided many doors to share the Gospel. Reading glasses are not a luxury that the people in Iquitos can afford. So when we showed up in Belen with free eyeglasses we had a remarkable turnout. What’s great about the eyeglass ministry is that it allows for one-on-one time with each person that comes forward to try on a pair of glasses. Everyone is given an opportunity to hear more about Jesus and receive personal counseling and prayer. There were many local counselors available at each daytime ministry that were ready to share the Gospel and pray with new believers. But this ministry team took it upon themselves. Ben Owens said, *“It was a blessing to watch as the team stepped up to share the Gospel so boldly.”*

Evangalism Ministries

Our daytime ministries in Belen included eyeglass clinics, children’s ministries, women’s ministries, and a pastor’s conference. Every day the team would head out to the villages to do their ministry. Although the raindrops didn’t fall during our visit, the streets were still flooded making transportation quite challenging at times. When we headed out to the more remote villages we took boats down the Amazon River. However, some of our daytime ministries required taking canoes—that was an unexpected and memorable experience. In Belen, homes and schools are built on stilts or sometimes on raft-like structures so that the building rises with the water. The canoes would take us right up to the entrance of our ministry location so that all we had to do was step out of the canoe into the building. Talk about door-to-door service!

Our evening evangelistic festivals are usually held where you will find a high concentration of people in one of the plazas in the center of town. However, because of the high water level we had to change our location to a plaza near the edge of Belen. Unfortunately there weren’t as many people in the area and the crowds were much smaller than usual. Nonetheless, the worship was wonderful, hundreds were there each night to hear the Gospel, and many came forward to accept Jesus.

The crowds for the evening festivals may have been smaller than anticipated, but God’s plan was big. He struck a fire of evangelism in the hearts of the ministry team and local leaders like never before. Hundreds of people became believers because they dared to share their faith in the eyeglass clinics, schools, hotel lobbies, and on the streets of Belen. Praise God!

Leadership Conferences

The leadership conferences are a vital part of our ministry. After spending a few days on the Amazon with the team dispensing eyeglasses, Dan spent time ministering to the local pastors. The Pastoral Leadership Conference in Belen was very well attended. Not only did Dan provide attendees with leadership tools to prepare them for the growth of their churches as a result of our ministry in the area, but he also dealt with issues of the heart. Dan said, *“Many of these pastors take their cues from the church in America and what they see on television. I always want to remind them that success is not numbers; success is faithful service unto the Lord to the very end of our lives. They want to be successful and God wants them, and all of us, to be faithful and holy.”*

Planting Churches

The local pastors in the San Juan and Punchana districts have experienced significant and consistent growth in church attendance since our festivals in those areas. New churches have been planted and existing churches are receiving support so that they can minister to their

growing flocks. *“After working with the pastors in Belen I feel confident that they are prepared to provide great leadership to the new believers, as well as existing church members. The Christian leadership are working together to plant new churches so that everybody will have a church to call home,”* says Dan.

Discipleship Ministry

On the last night, the mayor’s assistant said to me, *“You must come back, you must come back!”* Dan said *“It is always a joy to return to help the churches with discipleship.”* Eternity Minded Ministries will be returning to Belen in August with Bibles for the new believers and additional stoves.

Team Testimonies

Dennis Liedstrand shared with the group that, *“It is amazing to see a person literally change right in front of you.”* Dennis was especially touched as he ministered to an 80-year-old woman in one of the eyeglass clinics. When Dennis first started speaking with her about Jesus she had no interest whatsoever. But as Dennis ministered to her and prayed with her, the woman’s spirit became broken and you could see her transform as she realized that the Holy Spirit had come over her and she now belonged to Jesus.

Steve Hannah shared that, *“People in Belen were so open to hearing the Gospel.”* Steve would hold people’s hands and ask them if they had received Jesus. Over and over again he would get surprising answers. He asked them if they would like to hear about Jesus and they said yes, and by the time he was finished counseling and praying with them they had accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Sondra Keena shared that, *“I came away feeling very blessed.”* There was one man in particular that touched Sondra’s heart. A vendor outside our hotel had been asking questions for a couple of days. We had an opportunity to pray with him and he accepted Jesus right then and there. Sondra also said that she looks forward to returning to the people of Peru and their open hearts.

Debbie Anderberg shared that, *“I asked people to pray that God would ready the hearts of the Peruvians ahead of time.”* The following story is a direct answer to those prayers. On the second day of ministry while Debbie was helping a man to find the right pair of eyeglasses she asked him if he had a personal relationship with Jesus. Before her words were out he said that he wanted to accept Jesus into his life. After speaking with him and praying with him she found out that his entire family was Christian except him. He shared that his sin was weighing heavy upon him and he was ready to accept Jesus. Your prayers were answered and God had prepared him for that very moment.

Gilbert Barnes shared, *“I feel so blessed to be a part of something that gives people the opportunity to learn about the Lord, and to be present when those individuals made a decision and took action to accept the Lord as their Savior. Truly amazing.”*

Julie Hess said, *“It was amazing to see God work in the people’s hearts as we prayed with them. You could look at their faces and see that they had definitely received Him, which was totally amazing to me!”*

Manor Park Mission in East London

Eternity Minded Ministries just returned from London where we partnered with local churches for the Manor Park Mission in East London. The Manor Park district is a melting pot of beliefs and cultures with over 50% of the Islamic faith. There are many nations represented there, including Africa, India, Pakistan, and the West Indies. Dan preached the Gospel of Christ in some of the toughest areas of London bringing the light to some very dark places. Hundreds heard the Gospel, and many accepted Christ thanks to your prayers and continual commitment to Eternity Minded Ministries.



Rick Hess shares his faith at a local village in Belen.



Julie Hess serves refreshments at a school in Belen.



Maribel Hillmer teaches praise songs at Canavarel village.



Even at 52, Dan still loves speaking to teenagers as he did here in Manor Park

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Dave Wacker sharing the love of Jesus to a woman at the eyeglass clinic.



Howard Hughes prays for a man who just received a new pair of eyeglasses.



Maribel Hilmar and Julie Hess speak words of comfort to a woman in Belen.

From the Heart

I often get upset with myself and wonder why my blood pressure goes up, why my pulse quickens, why I am filled with doubt, and why my stomach churns just before I preach the Gospel. I think it's because I know that the souls of men and women are at stake! Even the Apostle Paul stated that he preached with fear and trembling.

Just as there is agitation of my soul before I preach, there is joy in my spirit when I have concluded, because I know that God's Spirit is always working. In Belen, I watched God draw people to Himself each day. What a joy it was to watch a man come from the edge of the park in Belen and walk down to the front to receive Christ. Only God's Spirit could have caused him to make that trek.

In London, I saw a Muslim man by the name of Yusef walk in off the street to hear the message of Christ. Only God's Spirit could have drawn that man to Himself and turned him into a follower of Jesus. Praise the Lord! Maurice, a merchant who worked across the street from where I was preaching one day, was visibly shaken from the Spirit of God revealing Jesus to him. He said to pastor David Foster, "I did that, I did that; I invited Jesus Christ into my life. I have to talk to you more about this!" Then there was John, who had been attending church for quite some time, but never had committed his life to Christ. On the closing Sunday I gave an illustration of a 76-year-old woman who came to the Lord at a youth rally, of all things, years ago while I was preaching in Illinois. She had attended church all of her life and never invited Christ into her heart until that night. The Spirit used that story to touch him and he came forward to confess that it was time to turn to Christ. God used His Spirit and you to draw many people to Himself in East London!

As previously mentioned, our follow-up trip to Belen has been pushed back due to the high water level of the Amazon River that persists. It was our desire to go back in July, but now they are telling us that the water is even higher and we should plan on coming in August. I look forward to returning and holding rallies for the new believers when the water recedes. Praise the Lord you have given enough money for us to give a Bible to each new believer when we return later this summer!

Now my heart turns back to Rwanda as we plan for the second phase of ministry in Rwamagana: Mission Redemption. It was there that we held Mission Reconciliation last December, so we anticipate our return November 15-23 to partner with a renewed church in Rwanda to share Christ with thousands! This all-out evangelistic festival has caused great excitement among the pastors in Rwamagana because this is what we were working toward in Mission Reconciliation last December. It is my prayer that we will be able to raise \$50,000 for Mission Redemption so that we can bless the people both spiritually and physically. Even now the committee of pastors in Rwamagana is deciding how we can help them with humanitarian aid. We are planning on doing more eyeglass clinics in conjunction with Mission Redemption, but we know there will also be other areas where we can help them. God willing, we will see a tremendous harvest once again in Rwanda. If you are interested in joining us, a team is now forming and we are beginning to raise the money needed to go and share the story of God's Redeemer with the Rwandans.

Thank you for making a difference in Peru and East London! Please remember to pray for Eternity-Minded Ministries as we come into the summer months. Our financial income has a tendency to dip a bit during this time, and as we set our sights on Rwanda, we pray this will not be the case.

God Bless You,

