

Mt. Zion Bible Church/Chapel Library

Sending Christ-centered materials from prior centuries worldwide without charge
 2603 West Wright Street • Pensacola, Florida 32505

Ministries Update Spring 2010

2009 Overview

By God's grace, Chapel Library sent materials to **83 countries** in 2009: *Albania, Antigua, Aruba, Australia, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Cameroon, Cayman Islands, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of South Africa, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Wales, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.*

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	
Literature					
	3,035	2,079	2,640	2,265	first time contacts
	9,198	8,146	9,326	8,047	orders sent without charge
	\$171,429	\$92,447	\$88,923	\$87,320	literature sent internationally
	\$244,291	\$221,755	\$158,145	\$159,609	literature sent in the USA
	2,274	1,903	1,838	1,442	new FGB subscriptions
	17,389	16,797	16,210	15,730	total FGB subscriptions
	2,273	2,218	2,124	2,028	<i>Studies in Scriptures</i> subsc.
	80	75	64	67	countries sent to
	19	17	13	12	International Distributors
Tapes					
	6,735	7,660	12,427	17,974	free audio cassette tapes
Prison (in North America)					
	1,732	1,687	1,852	2,210	free Bibles sent to inmates
	8,355	8,310	8,912	8,990	free inmate literature packs
	\$21,353	\$26,595	\$29,710	\$31,455	ref. books to inmates at cost
	175	309	141	205	large boxes sent to chaplains
School					
	2,963	3,132	3,044	3,547	new students
	~1,700	~1,700	~1,500	~1,900	persons studying courses
	113/32	117/36	112/34	94/34	graders/states
	19,758	18,741	18,381	19,469	courses sent in North Amer.
	16,336	7,545	9,487	12,450	courses sent internationally
	32/24	57/25	61/32	57/27	branches/countries

Haiti Relief

Two good sources: **Providence Baptist Church** has been going to the Dominican Republic for six years. Pastor Marty Hoffman went to the D.R. in late January to oversee plans for on-going relief. Pastors there are on the front lines of direct relief to churches in Haiti. Cash donations (memo: Haiti) can be made to PBC; PO Box 327; Lecanto, FL 34460 (pbcfl@earthlink.net). **Missionary Flights International** has served missions in Haiti since 1964! They are a center now for church-to-church support after the earthquake. A list of needed supplies is at www.missionaryflights.org. Materials sent to them are airlifted directly to missions and pastors in Haiti:

MFI; 3170 Airmans Drive; Ft. Pierce, FL 34946.

Urgent Need for Graders!

MZ Bible Institute now has more than *1,000* students studying by correspondence. Most are prison inmates, who have little access to Biblical truth. We have recently lost graders for health and age reasons, and we need **additional graders** to review our students' lessons and mentor them. We need spiritually mature Christians who are over 35 years old and residents of North American. We send students' lessons to the grader's home, and he returns them to us. **If you or someone you know** is willing to give four hours per week to Christian discipleship, please contact us. The students *really* need your help!

The Nelsons and the Origin of Chapel Library

Friends in Pennsylvania want to write a history of Lawrence and Amy Nelson and the beginnings of the Chapel Library ministry in Venice, Florida. If you have any information about the Nelsons and those days, please contact: Erik and Carris Kocher; PO Box 912; Concordville, PA 19342; kochercj@verizon.net

They are especially interested in any copies of correspondence with Lawrence or Amy that you could send, and information about how to contact the Nelsons' daughter, who may be living in California. All information is appreciated: anecdotal stories and events/dates in their lives.

Report from Indonesia

We received this report from Pastor Stephen Nowak, Montpelier Place Baptist Church, Hove, England. Note: Chapel Library has agreed to receive donations for SETIA; send donations to Chapel Library, marked "SETIA book fund."

Persecution, Perseverance, and Pythons. The ministry of SETIA was started in 1988 to train and equip Christians to reach the millions unreached in Indonesia. There are now 1100 students studying in Jakarta to be full time church workers, school teachers in Christian schools, or medical clinicians with a view to evangelize by ministering to physical needs. There are also 32 extension campuses around Indonesia with 30 to 120 students each, and 600 churches planted. *continued on reverse*

New in Churches: Prison Ministry

Many churches desire to reach out to prisons in their local areas, but are limited by access, travel time, scheduling, etc. The MZ Bible Institute actively serves inmates in facilities in most states. We are starting a new outreach, where volunteers gather weekly at your church to write discipleship feedback on the correspondence students' lessons for your state or area. If your church may be interested, please contact MZBI at above address, or school@mountzion.org.

New Title: Bondage of the Will

We encourage you to request the Free Offer to receive this important new title. Many consider **The Bondage of the Will** to be Martin Luther's most important book. It remains one of the great classics of the Protestant Reformation. In 1525, Luther wrote *Bondage* in answer to *Of the Freedom of the Will* by Desiderius Erasmus (1469-1536). Both Erasmus and Luther rejected many of Roman Catholicism's erroneous practices. But Luther went further to challenge Rome's teaching of salvation by works. He declared Erasmus to be an enemy of the faith and wrote *The Bondage of the Will* to establish human depravity at the core of evangelicalism.

Continued from front page... In July 2008 local Muslims attacked SETIA; the school was then evicted from its own property! Students have been living under extremely difficult circumstances ever since. The government has failed repeatedly to help, and has left them to fend for themselves.

Six hundred of the students live on a campsite outside of Jakarta. The toilet, washing, cooking, sleeping, and classroom facilities are shockingly poor. The other 500 students live on two different sites, which are not much better. The students eat rice and vegetables three times a day, and only get a small piece of meat and fish once a week. Fruit is provided once or twice a month. The 600 students living on the campsite have no books at all to study with, no library, no textbooks—only their Bibles. Many of the students will graduate and go into full time Christian work without owning any other book than the Bible. In September, the 70 staff members in Jakarta had received only half their wages for July and none for August. The staff and workers outside of Jakarta are even poorer.

In August, during the space of one week, they had three large pythons crawl into their campsite. When I expressed my shock and desire to pray that this would never happen again, the response was one of surprise—when they realised my taste buds had never experienced the luxury of python meat, and that one of the pythons was sold for the royal sum of fifty US dollars.

Thanks to generous donors, just over six thousand pounds [~\$9,000] was raised for SETIA before I went and this money paid for 3000 copies of the 1689 Baptist Confession that we had published for the trip. About 3000 books in Indonesian by Owen, Pink, J. Murray, Edwards, Ryle and other writers were distributed to the students. These were received with great joy, even though the students had to read each book and write a book review. 120 of the students didn't even have mattresses to sleep on; they were provided with the money needed. Small gifts of about 60 pounds were given to some of the poorest pastors who are church planting. Money was left to pay for their first journal, as the teaching staff wants to write against liberalism and charismatic teaching. They are not using all of their resources to try and defend themselves, but to contend earnestly for the faith.

The staff and students of SETIA are not pessimistic or discouraged. The chapel services before lunch and in the evenings are filled with thunderous worship, humble testimonies, and attentive listening to the Word preached. I had the opportunity to teach two classes in the morning, preach the chapel service before a late lunch, two classes in the afternoon, and, if my translators still had breath, evening services were arranged at the students' instigation. They are hungry for Reformed expositional preaching that is theological as well as experiential and practical. Although all the classes were without tables or air conditioning and mostly under canvas roofing, they all listened attentively and asked amazingly good questions considering their age, educational backgrounds, and the ministry received before coming to SETIA. I was deeply moved as I saw how some of the young men were so serious about getting to grips with the Bible and preparing for ministry. The evidence of the Spirit's work was as strong as I have ever seen.

Although there is much to admire and praise God for in the ministry of SETIA, we must keep them much in our prayers. The 600 students on the campsite have been threatened with forced eviction for months now, and some have had to be evacuated in the first week of October. When I asked where they would go if they were forcefully evacuated, the only answer they had was to move the students and staff by coaches to the centre of Jakarta and camp outside the President's residence until the government actually did something to rectify the problem as they had promised to do. The building that the college was in is sitting empty and the price that the government promised to pay has never materialised. Even if they did have the money to buy new facilities, they would need government paperwork, which is very costly and the process very slow.

Also during my three-week stay I had the opportunity to give nine lectures on Reformed Baptist Distinctives on three Saturdays to a group of full-time workers. They were from mainly reforming General Baptist churches, independent evangelical churches or Pentecostal churches. The four or five who were from Baptist churches had come to embrace

the doctrines of grace and had heard of the 1689, but had never read it. When I gave them all a copy, they came back the next week and asked for copies for all their church members. These were gladly given, and then they asked for copies for all the members of other churches in their part of Java. Some of these pastors traveled four hours to come to these lectures. There was one church holding to the 1689 who arranged these lectures, and there will be work to try and bring reformation to other churches—with the possibility to start up a Reformed Baptist Association in the future. A conference for pastors was proposed for next year with the desire to give as many copies of the 1689 away as can be used and to provide poor pastors with the books they could never afford.

What can we do to help? First, we must pray: God's ways are not our ways, and in the midst of all these tribulations young people are being prepared for the kind of ministries that most young Indonesian Christians couldn't ever dream of engaging in. Through their difficult years studying at SETIA, many young people are being raised up to go to the unreached peoples of Indonesia. If they were in nice air-conditioned classrooms and dormitories, perhaps their heads would be equipped but not their hearts. This is God's way of preparing hundreds of young people to take up their cross and follow Christ.

Secondly, we can support by giving to the book fund. It is best to print or buy the books in Indonesia in the Indonesian language. My desire is to keep going once or twice a year and provide more and more books so that every student by the time of graduation will have his Bible, a copy of the 1689 Baptist Confession, and at least ten other books. ☞

Container Arrives in Uganda



“The container from Chapel Library was finally cleared and its contents unloaded into storage on December 11, 2009. We received 827 boxes of Bibles, books, booklets, study and devotional aids, tracts and evangelistic materials, and cassette tapes valued at about US \$228,000. We will distribute the materials freely and without any charge to our African friends. We also received pallets of material donated by Desiring God and World Publishers. We are presently considering the following ways to distribute the precious materials: 1) participants in Bible studies that we conduct in churches and schools, 2) one-day Bible conferences, 3) our missionary in Gulu, N. Uganda, who will share most of these materials with pastors, who will then disseminate the materials to their church members, 4) Ugandan Bible colleges and university classes, as these will start up at the end of January, 5) individual pastoral libraries composed of most of the materials that we have, in Uganda and possibly Rwanda and Congo, 6) pastors in local and regional meetings, to bring helpful teaching to the pastors, 7) churches—some will be able to study the materials in more depth, and then we plan to work more closely with these Christians in teaching.

“We have made known to hundreds of pastors that we have the materials now—they are excited and are asking for the materials. We expect to have wisely distributed the materials within 6 months time. We see that the Lord has answered many prayers for the excellent materials to be in our possession. May the Lord abundantly bless all for their gift of the precious Word of God and Christ's Gospel contained in the materials, which we trust will reach thousands of Africans to achieve God's glorious purposes. Please pray with us that God will save many and edify and instruct thousands of church members through these items.”

—Jim Robinette, Action International Ministries, Uganda