



Mission News—from Dick and Gloria Sans

“And what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

2 Timothy 2:2

*Reaching
the World
through
the Local
Church
with the
Gospel of
Jesus Christ*

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World Reach Bible Institutes Moving Forward

During September '07, a Latin American Regional Directors' Conference was conducted at the headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama. By your prayers and others who were faithfully praying, the conference was deemed so successful that another one is now scheduled for the end of February '08. Clarity of mission and unity of ministry were some of the hallmarks that came out of the conference. Please pray that there will be even greater unity developed among those who do the work of training pastors and church leaders. Please also pray that the Lord will provide the qualified teachers needed for the diverse areas throughout Latin America.

During October '07, Dick traveled to Peru to establish a new scope of operation for a fast-growing Bible Institute ministry in that country. The groundwork for four Bible training ministries (including a four-year seminary) was developed. Two classes were graduated in December '07, with four new classes now being formed.

In Kenya, the second class of pastors is completing its second year of training. They are scheduled to graduate in January '09. Plans are already being considered to start the third class of pastors and aspiring pastors.

In the Eastern European area, we have conducted two preliminary training courses in Brasov, Romania. A third course is now scheduled for March '08, after which the final student selection process will be conducted in anticipation of engaging in the full 3-year training course starting about September '08.

Dick is scheduled to travel to Colombia during March '08 to help Bible Institute leaders establish three new classes, which includes two Bible Institute locations and an advanced teacher training class. This comes on the heels of recent class graduations in Columbia.

Dick is anticipating traveling to Romania during the timeframe of Spring or early Summer if the on-going preliminary classes work out as expected. This trip will include final selection of students, finalizing the location for the three-year course, arranging teacher accommodations, meeting with students to ensure they understand their requirements and responsibilities, finalizing details with our in-country coordinator, etc.

In other Bible Institute locations, classes have graduated and foundations for new classes are being formed in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. A little further down the road, we anticipate a new Bible Institute in Macedonia. The missionary groundwork is being established in Macedonia as this newsletter is coming to you.

Your prayers are requested for all of these active needs. We thank you in advance for praying.

World Reach

*Founded in 1982 to Plant Reproducible Churches
and
Train Pastors and Church Leaders in God's Word*

Humility

In childhood, most of us learned that being '#1' was the desirable state. So, those who excelled athletically, academically and socially were highly rewarded. However, success is filled with an irony. As we succeed in many good things, the trappings that go with it can feed our pride. There is nothing wrong with being successful but, if we're not careful, we start expecting it or thinking we deserve it.

But, our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to humility.

Scripture is filled with commands and examples of humility. Christ Himself embodied this quality in His life and mission. We read in Philippians 2:7-8, "But (Jesus) emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross." Here was the King who would kneel and wash the dirty feet of His servants. Here was the Ruler of the Universe who would lower His head and accept our punishment, allowing Himself to be nailed on a cross and buried as a pauper.

That kind of humility is difficult for us to understand and embrace for our lives.

But Christ's example demands a response from each of us. When we compare ourselves on any level to our Savior, we should be immediately humbled. This characteristic should forever mark us and our relationships with others. Jesus calls us to consider others better than ourselves. Matthew 23:12 states, "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."

I Peter 5:5-7 challenges us to extend that humility to those around us, "Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

We need to all think back and ask ourselves, *“When was the last time we were deliberately humbled?”* *“When was the last time we didn’t play ‘one-upmanship?’”* *“When was the last time we took the initiative to serve without being asked?”* *“When was the last time we had an internal peace and confidence without having to be the center of attention?”* These are penetrating questions. And we all need to be honest with ourselves and with God concerning having a humble heart.

Living as humble people means examining our thoughts and actions in light of God’s eternal perspective. We are challenged to be mindful of who He is, who we are and to what we have been called. We are called to live in an attitude of humility, longing to be like our Savior.

Christ’s Glory

“His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.”
Revelation 1:16

An anonymous medieval monk wrote about the glory of Christ the King:

“He is most beautiful in countenance, very desirable to see, He upon whom the angels desire to gaze. He is the King of peace, He whose countenance is desired by all the world. He is the propitiator of sinners, the friend of the poor, the consoler of the afflicted, the guardian of the little ones, the teacher of the childlike, the guide of pilgrims, the redeemer of those who have died, the courageous helper of warriors, the generous rewarder of victors. He is the golden altar of the Holy of Holies, the place of rest for His children . . . He is the crown of the saints, the light of all.”

serving Him always,

Dick & Gloria