

BELIEVERS NEWS

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MISSIONARIES

“Why do we have the great big shrines that’s worth millions and millions of dollars, and yet preaching that Jesus is coming in the next few days? Missionaries are on the field with no shoes on their feet, and many of them with one meal a day! Why would we throw our money away for stuff like that, and missionaries that I know of haven’t got shoes on their feet? Men of God will answer for it someday.”

WHY? 61-0413

A Candle In Mexico



With nothing more than what he'd learned from one small tract, he went forth to share a Message that he knew was the Truth of God.

I was born on December 10, 1947, and I grew up wondering what was the matter with me. I had a father and a mother, brothers and sisters, but for some reason I was always treated differently than the rest of the family. I never received new shoes, but always wore the hand-me-downs. While my brothers and sisters slept on beds, I was given a pallet on the floor. Other disparities were even more hurtful. I thought to myself, “I must not be their child.” But I didn’t learn that I was adopted, or the circumstances of my birth, until I was 14 years old.

I had been abandoned as a newborn, and left to die in a garbage can.

The couple that adopted me were very active in the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ, in the city of Juarez, Mexico, where I grew up. I accepted the Lord as my Savior in 1960, and was baptized according to Acts 2:38. Almost immediately after being baptized, I felt a call to the ministry, and I began to preach at the age of 13.

In 1966, when I was 19 years old, Brother Tommy Osborn brought his evangelistic crusade to Juarez. During one of the services, he began to tell about another great crusade that was held in Mexico City in March of 1956. The evangelist was a man named William Branham, and great miracles accompanied his ministry. He spoke very highly of Brother Branham, and told of the baby that had been resurrected. My heart was greatly stirred by what I heard. Later, when I had a chance to speak with Brother Osborn personally, I told him, “I want to go with you as a missionary, and I want to meet

William Branham.” He didn’t tell me that Brother Branham had already passed on; also, my parents felt that I was still too young to leave home. But from that moment on, I knew that God was calling me to be a missionary.

I remained very active in the Apostolic church, and just waited on the Lord while I searched the Scriptures for anything to do with a prophet or prophecy. By 1968, I was growing very disillusioned with that church (and they were equally disillusioned with me, especially when I began preaching on prophecy). In our town was a seminary that was run by Jesuits who were a part of the early Charismatic movement, and they kept themselves apart from the local Catholic churches. They noticed some potential in me, and invited me to attend their training classes. They taught me how to introduce the Charismatic doctrines, and how to teach people to receive the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues. (This was very similar to all that I had learned in the Apostolic church.)

Brother & sister Murillo



It was during this time that some people passed through town handing out booklets titled La Gran Ramera [The Great Harlot], that had been translated from one of Brother Branham's messages. I obtained a copy, and this was the first printed material I ever read regarding his ministry. I desperately wanted more, but there was no address on the booklet, and I didn't know where to write or who to ask.

Then, in 1969, without my knowing of it at the time, a minister from Venezuela, Brother Pablo Soto, visited the pastor of the Apostolic church where my father was still attending. Later he told me, "They came by preaching about a prophet."

I asked, "Was it William Branham?"

He said, "I don't know, but it seems like he was an American."

I said, "If it was William Branham, that is the one I have been seeking for."

Soon after that, the Jesuits began to pressure me to become an ordained priest, and to evangelize amongst the Charismatic people, full-time, for their church.

I told them, "But I am a married man, and have children!"

"Don't worry about that," they said. "We will see to it that they are always well provided for."

(To understand how this could even sound tempting to me you would first have to understand how poor we were, and how hard it was to put food on the table for my family.)

I said to them, "Well, give me some time to think about it."

The date was June 1, 1970. On that day, a very strong earthquake hit Peru, South America, and over 66,000 people perished. Our house was only two rooms at the time – my mother was in one room, and my wife and myself and our two children were in the adjoining room (my wife was eight months pregnant). As we were listening to the news reports of the devastation, all of a sudden there was a very loud crash. Bricks and boards were flying. My immediate thought was that it was an earthquake, just like the one in Peru. I ran outside and to my horror discovered that on the street that ran above our house (which sat on a steep hillside), a loaded dump truck had lost its brakes and had rolled backwards off the hill and onto our little house. We later discovered that a small two-foot board was all that kept it from falling right on to the bed where my wife was resting. As I hurried to get my wife, children, and mother out of the wrecked house, I prayed and I said, "Lord, if You will help me now, and deliver my family from this disaster, I will go out and preach your prophet's message." It was a strange thing to say, considering the fact that at that time I only had that one small tract!

And then I heard an audible Voice that said to me: "Go and preach My prophet's message. I will be with you always."

That same day I went to the Jesuit compound and ripped up all my papers and

told them, "I have made a promise to God. I believe God sent a prophet, and I believe everything he said." I didn't even know what all he did say, but it didn't matter. I knew he had the Truth.

By the time I got back to my house, there was already a group of Jesuits waiting for me. They looked at the ruined house, and they said, "In one hour we can have all the materials delivered here and build you a new house."

I told them, in the most polite way, "I'm finished with you people."

Of course, as I was trying to rebuild my two rooms, Satan tempted me many times, pointing out that maybe this whole thing about a prophet was just a hoax, and that over there with the Jesuits I could at least have some security for my family. I told him, "You are a liar. I have made a promise to God, and I will keep my word."

I took my one little booklet, and together with another brother we went house to house, testifying of the prophet of God (the little that we knew), and giving out photocopies of La Gran Ramera.

Soon, the Lord sent us brethren with tapes and printed material of the prophet's Message, and we began to study and preach as we learned. In less than three months, the little church that we established was packed out with people wanting to know more about this prophet.

Within two years, I was making trips into the remote mountain areas of my country. Churches were established throughout the states of Chihuahua, Durango, and Coahuila. In 1972, I began to minister in the mountain area of the Huasteco Indians in the state of San Luis Potosi. The Lord also opened many doors for me to travel into areas in Central and South America.

I thank the Lord for allowing me the privilege to be a part of the Bride's ministry in these last days

Much of Brother Murillio's time is spent ministering in very remote areas, to small groups, such as the one pictured here in Veracruz.



Brother Murillo speaks about missions:

“Today, there are five areas that are burning on my heart, and I spend most of my time traveling among these scattered groups, ministering and distributing books and tapes. Even though most of these people are Indian and speak a native dialect, they also understand the Spanish language. In many cases it is very difficult to get to them, but their hunger to hear the Word, and their earnest response, makes it worth every effort.

1) In the state of Chihuahua, there are many, many members of the Tarahumara tribe who believe the Message of the Hour, living in the remote mountain regions. They have no pastors amongst them, and they need constant visits. [A few of the Tarahumara, who were being persecuted by the drug growers in the area, are now living in Pueblo Mayo, Sonora, and are a part of Project Good Samaritan.]

There are two tribes that live in the state of San Luis Potosi that are being ministered to: The Huasteco and the Náhuatl. At the present time, the Huastecos are doing well, and the churches there are growing. [A report on the Smith’s first visit with the Huastecos appeared in the December, 1988 issue of Only Believe.]

2) Brother Angel Martinez is the pastor among the Náhuatl tribe. Presently, we are trying to help them get water and electricity back to where they live. With help from Believers International, they have been able to build their own small church, and a home for the pastor. [photo right]

3) The Zapoteco tribe lives in the state of Oazaca, and there are many dedicated believers among them. These humble people are very short in stature and have many medical problems, including very serious skin infections.

4) The state of Veracruz is home to the Mejica tribe. They live in the remote mountains, where it can be bitterly cold. They need warm clothes and medicines.

5) Cuba – Last year the Lord opened the door for me to minister here. There have been more than 300 people baptized, and they are meeting in small groups in the homes of believers. Their physical needs are tremendous, but their need for ministry and instruction is even more desperate. Now that the Lord has provided a way for Brother George to enter Cuba as a Mexican citizen,* I am looking forward to the opportunity to minister with him in this land of starving (both physically and spiritually) people. While we have the opportunity, we must make Cuba a top priority.”



The Mexican government has recently began issuing passports to people who were born in Mexico, but then gave up their citizenship when they moved to the US. Brother George Smith is one of those who will receive a new passport (thereby restoring the dual citizenship he had as a child). With a Mexican passport, he will be able to travel freely inside Cuba, without the red-tape and scrutiny that is imposed on other US citizens.

Seeing Double

When the believers in Latin America received their copies of the newest Spanish translation in the mail this month, they experienced a double blessing. Instead of one message, there were two, printed in a single 90-page booklet. The response to this cost-cutting modification has been so positive that we have decided to utilize a dual approach for the six new Spanish translations we are committed to produce each year.

When it comes time to publish, it is our policy to collaborate with the local ministry in the individual countries and, if it is at all possible, have the work done there. We value the fact that they know the local needs better than we do, and understand that they share our burden to see the Message reach into every part of every nation. Through the years, we have found that in order to work efficiently and productively in a foreign land, we must first begin by establishing a relationship with the brethren in that nation that is based on mutual respect and trust. Then, by combining the resources and abilities that each of us have

been given, we can become a responsible team that is usable in His service.

The believers in some locations (such as Venezuela and Chile) are able and willing to fully assume the financial responsibility of printing and distribution for their area, once we send them the translated, camera-ready copy (or disk). Other locations need a varying degree of financial assistance. In some cases, the savings realized in postage alone when we are able to print within the distribution area (instead of printing in the US and then shipping to a distribution center) can nearly cover the local printing costs!

Contributions to Believers International make it possible for us to ‘pick up the tab’ in those countries that are not yet able to be self-sufficient. We also print an additional 6,000 copies here, which are then mailed to those countries where local printing is not feasible, thus far.

If you would like to become a part of this translation and publication effort, we would like to send you an information sheet detailing our printing schedule, and the present needs in each country. Please write to us.



Pressing Toward the Mark

1998 is a milestone year for Believers International. It marks the 25th anniversary of our ministry through translation, publication, and relief services, to Latin America and other parts of the world.

My part in the translating of this end-time Message actually began in 1964 with a tract which Brother Branham wrote early in his ministry titled, *He Ascended On High And Gave Gifts Unto Men*. To the best of my knowledge, this was the first of the prophet's messages ever to be published in any foreign language.* I have always been profoundly grateful to have had the opportunity to personally share this translation work with Brother Branham, before he was called from the scene in 1965.

For several years I worked under the auspices of other ministries, but in 1973 I felt that the Lord was calling me to minister on my own. That year we became a registered, non-profit corporation under the name *Restoration Missionary Outreach*, and for the next 15 years we concentrated our efforts in the area

of Spanish translation and distribution.

In 1988, when *Only Believe* magazine became a part of our expanding ministry, we changed our name to *Believers International*, which we believe symbolizes the unity of Spirit that we desire to share with saints of God around the world. In the last 10 years, our outreach has continued to develop, and we have now become:

1) A resource for indigenous missionaries in the field and pastors in foreign lands, such as Brother Murillo, whose story begins on the front page of this newsletter.

2) A vehicle through which humanitarian relief is directed to the needy and suffering members of the Body of Christ, such as the work in Pueblo Mayo and among other Indian tribes of Mexico.

3) A publisher in both English and Spanish of a comprehensive Message study series, *The Compendium*, which we look forward to expanding into more languages in the future.

We are convinced that Jesus is coming soon, and we want everything that we do to reflect that conviction. We must turn over every stone; we must make every moment count. But we

know that it is only through the work which is performed under the leadership of the Holy Spirit that His Great Commission can (and will) be accomplished. We are compelled by the words of the prophet to **SUPPORT THE PEOPLE THAT GOD HAS CHOSEN TO DO THE JOB**, and we believe that if all members of the Bride's ministry will allow the Holy Spirit to have complete dominion over their individual lives, the result will be a unified and scripturally balanced effort, that will bring honor and Glory to our Lord Jesus Christ. That is our prayer and objective.

As we study this month's quotes on the subject of missionaries, may we all be challenged to be more productive in His service, because there is not much time remaining to work. Together, let us keep our shoulders to the wheel, and "... press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Amen!

George & Rebekah Smith

*Excerpts from *A Man Sent From God*, by Gordon Lindsey were translated into several languages and published during Brother Branham's lifetime.

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All Things Are Possible, Only Believe