



Gene & Alice Burge

President

Baptist Missions To Forgotten Peoples, Inc.
PO Box 37043, Jacksonville, Florida 32236
904-783-4007 – gburge@bmf.org – ajb@bmf.org

OCTOBER 2008 - PRAYER LETTER

Jetlag - can describe the months of September/October, 2008 as we had meetings from Cartagena, Colombia to Guam. In between these trips, we held mission conferences in Maryland, North Carolina, Michigan and Idaho. How we praise the Lord for how He blessed in all these meetings.

Cartagena, Colombia

Alice and I were asked to conduct seminars for the congregations of the churches established by Alberto & Nelcy Gomez. The Gomez family has served with BMFP for almost two decades. Our BMFP Pre-field Administrator, Dr. Tim Clark accompanied us on this trip. It had been thirteen years since Alice and I had last been there. How we praise the Lord for the great progress that we saw in the Iglesia Bautista Independiente Cartagena de Indias. Cartagena is a city with over one million people. When Brother Gomez went to Cartagena, no independent Baptist churches were in or around the entire city.

Brother Gomez has diligently trained the converts. The Lord has raised up a good number of trained workers that are well equipped to continue building strong ministries for His glory. In the morning sessions, my wife taught between forty to fifty ladies and Brother Clark and I taught around fifty men. They were eager to learn and to continue to grow in the Lord.



The real miracle that we saw is that out of the main church of Iglesia Bautista Independiente Cartagena de Indias, five other churches were started. **All these churches were started without American finances.** Six men that were saved and disciplined under Brother Gomez now pastor these churches. Tomas Salgado pastors the main church in Escallon Villa; Pastor Luis Carmona is in Carmelo; Pastor Rafael Palaro is in San Jose; Pastor Cesar Lamboglia is in San Fernando; Pastor Juan Rodriguez is in Vista Hermosa and Pastor Nicolas Quintana is in Pozon. Each one of these men is supported fulltime by the churches they pastor.

The Country of Guam

The first sign that Alice and I saw when we got off the plane and cleared customs was WELCOME TO GUAM. What a blessing we received when BMFP Missionaries Jay & Linda Aarseth, Patty Carman and a group from the Family Baptist Church of Guam were there to greet us. Also in the welcoming group were our good friends and missionaries to India, the Rasquinha family.



Guam is a small island that is an American territory with a population of around 170,000 people. The Lord is using the Aarseths to build a good ministry with some of the sweetest people we have ever had the privilege of meeting. They have seen many saved and disciplined since they took over what was a small mission work. Several people groups make up the congregation of the Family Baptist Church that include nationals from the island and several Asian nationalities plus the American military. The congregation is renting a small facility that they are filling Sunday after Sunday. The Lord is indeed blessing these dear people.

Because everything is imported, things in Guam are very expensive. Brother Aarseth has led the church to purchase land. He is leading the church to have their own facilities so they can have a completely indigenous church with their own fulltime pastor.



During each service, the congregation soaked up the teaching of Faith Promise Giving. What a blessing to see the people respond. They are committed to not only reach the people of Guam but also reach the world for Christ.