



September 2005

# advanced leadership articles

A Publication of Ministers Fellowship International



## PEOPLE BLITZ

Once in awhile a Pastor senses the need to touch more of the people in his church and stay bonded with them. Recently I had a two week period where I was able to influence many lives in a variety of ways. During this 15 day period I was involved in the following activities:

- Preached all services on 3 Sundays
- Shook hands, greeted and prayed for people after services
- Spoke at our Youth Camp to young people
- Attended the Youth Camp and supported other speakers
- Taught two Wednesday night sessions for adults and a joint service with the whole church
- Performed 2 weddings
- Attended 6 prayer meetings
- Prayed with personal intercessors
- Met with our entire staff twice
- Met with our pastors for two lunches
- Attended a business banquet, exhorted our givers
- Golfed with men from the church
- Had friends over to our house
- Visited other people's homes
- Made many phone calls

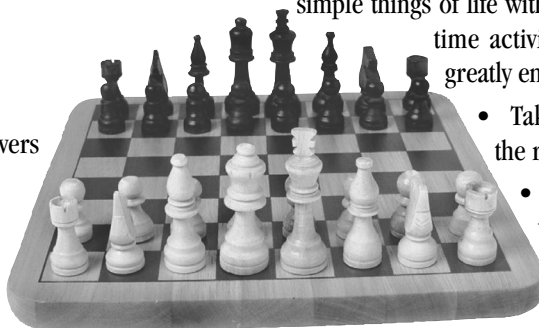
- Had several appointments with key leaders
- Sent several emails, including an all church e-letter
- Signed and sent out scores of birthday cards, thank you cards and personal notes

It would be a good practice for ministers to frequently go on a people blitz, and see how many lives they can touch in a brief period of time. This helps keep the church healthy and happy and in touch with the Pastor's heart and vision. Other activities might include scheduled fellowship times, meals with groups in the church, leaders meetings, appointments with key leaders or individuals, special class for new people, or recreation with church members. Be creative and ask the Lord to help you influence as many people as possible.

## CHEAP ENTERTAINMENT

In a world of technology, media and emotional overload, we all need to get back to basics and spend more time enjoying the simple things of life with those we love. These quality time activities don't cost a lot and can greatly enhance our relationships.

- Take a walk-in the sunshine, in the rain, in the snow
- Go bird watching with binoculars



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- Use a magnifying glass to look at things
- Ride bikes together
- Play a board game
- Play silly games- I spy, cars, colors, numbers, etc.
- Draw or paint pictures
- Take a drive on roads you haven't driven before
- Read books outloud
- Sit down as a family and enjoy a meal together with no television- only conversation
- Sit on the back porch or patio together and talk
- Let your kids ask any questions they want
- Lay on your backs at night and watch for shooting stars
- Put a puzzle together
- Sit around and reminisce
- Go through family photo albums together

## ENCOURAGING YOURSELF

Having a tough time or going through a challenging season, or feeling a little drained from ministry exertion? Try encouraging yourself in the Lord. King David did it.

*Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God. 1 Sam 30:6 (NKJV)*

### The apostle Paul encouraged himself.

*For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established— that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. Romans 1:11-12 (NKJV)*

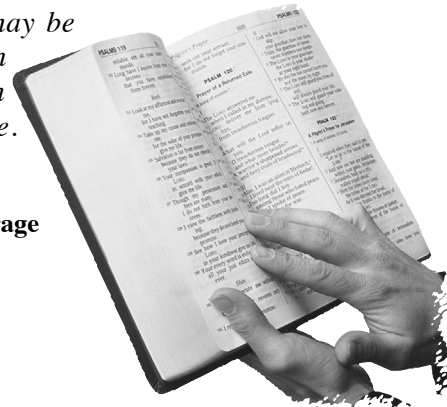
### Here are some ways to encourage yourself in the Lord:

1. Extend your prayer time
2. Wait on the Lord
3. Pray in the Spirit
4. Listen to worship music

5. Get some extra sleep and rest
6. Get away for some recreation
7. Spend time with family, children or grandchildren
8. Hang out with a close friend and talk
9. Confide in a confidant and pray together
10. Do what you enjoy doing the most

## READING THE EPISTLES WEEKLY

One older Teacher in the Lord once said that a minister should spend a great deal of his time each week in reading the epistles, the letters to the churches. He encouraged this since the letters are the specific instructions given to churches and that is what the minister is commissioned to do on a regular basis.



## OUR REAL ENEMIES

### *The World, the Flesh and the Devil*

Our spiritual struggle is clear. We have three primary enemies- the world's system, our own flesh and the devil and his demons. Every dedicated believer must be prepared to engage these enemies in battle.

*This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. James 3:15 (NKJV)*

*This wisdom is not descending from above, but earthly, physical, demon-like, James 3:15 (Young's Literal Translation)*

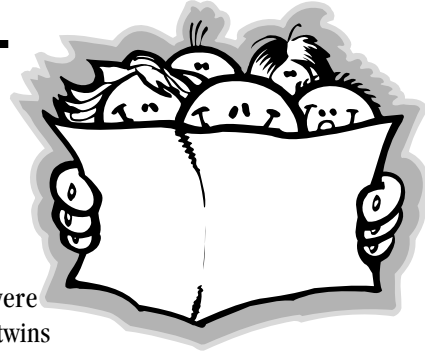
To overcome the world, we must guard our hearts and be careful not to love the world or the things that are in it (1 John 2:15-17).

To overcome the flesh we must crucify our passions and desires here on earth (Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:5) and discipline our bodies and bring them into submission (1 Cor. 9:27) to the will of God (Rom. 12:1,2).

To overcome the devil we must resist him (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9) and not open any door to his influence through sin (Eph. 4:27).

These principles and truths should be preached and taught from our pulpits and reinforced through our counsel with people.

## BEST OF ILLUSTRATIONS, QUOTES AND FUNNIES



### *Jonah*

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah". The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".

### *Picture of God*

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

### *The Apples*

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray:

"Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

### *Birth and Death Similarities*

Once upon a time, twin boys were conceived. Weeks passed and the twins developed. As their awareness grew, they laughed for joy: "Isn't it great that we were conceived? Isn't it great to be alive? Together the twins explored their worlds. When they found their mother's cord that gave them life, they sang for joy! "How great our mother's love is, that she shares her own life with us!" As weeks stretched into months, the twins noticed how much each was changing. "What does it mean?" one asked. "It means our stay in this world is drawing to an end." said the other. "But I don't want to go," said one. "I want to stay here always." "We have no choice," said the other. "But maybe there is life after birth." "But how can there be?" responded one. "We will shed our life cord and how can life be possible without it? Besides, we have seen evidence that others were here before us, and none of them has returned to tell us there is life after birth. No, this is the end. Maybe there is no mother after all." "But there has to be," protested the other. "How else did we get here? How do we remain alive?" "Have you ever seen our mother?" said one. "Maybe she only lives in our minds. Maybe we made her up because the idea made us feel good." So the last days in the womb were filled with deep questioning and fear. Finally, the moment of birth arrived. When the twins had passed from their world, they opened their eyes and cried for joy - for what they saw exceeded their fondest dreams. That is birth ... and that is death.

### *The Scales*

The story is told of a small girl who



## ADVANCED LEADERSHIP ARTICLES

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If you have an idea, article, insight, illustration, quote, question to ask, or humorous excerpt that you would like to add to the arsenal of other pastors, please call or fax: Wendell Smith, MFI Editor FAX 425-889-8940 or call: 1-800-304-CITY or email [cityinfo@thecity.org](mailto:cityinfo@thecity.org) (All submitted info subject to editing, Thanks)

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM MFI PASTORS



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### **PASTOR ROY & CHRISTINA STEPHENSON**

*Harvest Christian Fellowship  
Cornwall, Ontario  
Canada*

Sixteen months ago, Harvest Christian Fellowship entered into negotiations with the local Catholic Diocese to purchase a 20,000+ square foot complex with a sanctuary that seats 450. The Diocese was closing three of their properties. The deal was closed a year ago, and HCF purchased the property for \$200,000—a miraculous deal, (the property and buildings are insured for almost \$2 million replacement cost) but a step of faith for a 15-month old church! HCF celebrated its second birthday, grand opening of its new facility and its first presbytery meetings in April.

Over this last year God's people have responded in "great faith" and not only have financial obligations been met, but God has added increase. Not only has He added in the natural, but more importantly, souls are being touched and people are being added to His church!

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### **PASTOR DENNIS & KATHY BALCOMBE**

*Revival Christian Church  
Revival Chinese Ministries International  
Hong Kong*

Just this last week over 2,000 Christians from Hong Kong went to Dr. Cho's Prayer Mountain to attend an All Chinese Prayer Conference. About 90 were from my church, and we had a total of over 5,000 Chinese (most of the rest from Taiwan). It was a tremendous time of revival and renewal as the whole group prayed and fasted for 3 days.

The presence of God was powerful and many lives were changed. A few of our people, very solid professional people not given to emotion or subjective experiences, said they saw Jesus. Some saw visions of hell, and children got detailed and powerful prophecies about God's direction for our church. They spoke with clarity and words of knowledge that few adults or preachers could match.

There are many open doors in China and it looks very possible we will soon have an open Spirit-

filled church in Beijing. Many Three-Self churches are also opening to the Holy Spirit. Persecution has also increased in many parts of China the past few months. Two key leaders from Henan were arrested two days ago. The PSB police told the other preachers, for RMB 20,000 (US \$2,470) each, they will be released, otherwise they will give them a three year prison sentence. It is hard to know what to do in these circumstances, especially when they are key house church leaders. Maybe the Lord wants them in prison for three years to evangelize the prisoners!

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### **PASTOR RICHARD & MARCY TERHERST**

*Harvest Church  
Concord, California*

In August, 2004, our City Counsel voted in favor of Harvest Church using the property we purchased in a shopping center for our permanent church location. Four owners of the shopping center sued the city for allowing the church in that location. In late July, 2005, the matter went to the California Superior Court and after a 20-minute trial, the judge ruled 100% in favor of Harvest Church locating its permanent facilities on their property. It's been uphill against the wind, but God continues to show His faithfulness and favor for His church.

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### **PASTOR SIERD & MIRJAM de JONG**

*Evangelische Gemeente De Levensbron  
Zevenhuizen, Netherlands*

Nine years ago we started a church in the north of Holland with 40 people. Today we have just over 100 adult members. Three years ago we bought our own building and, because of the continuing growth, have plans to enlarge our present facility to a seating capacity of 500. God told us to "Enlarge the place of your tent..." (Isa. 54:2-3) and we are determined to God's plans fulfilled.

We believe the next step for our church is to get the youth more involved in the ministry of the church so that we are ready to reap the harvest. Even though we see people coming to Christ and becoming active church members, it is not enough—there is a whole world to save!

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### **PASTOR JEFF & ROBIE ECKLUND**

*Mountain Life Church  
McCall, Idaho*

We are excited to announce two MFI churches have decided to merge together. McCall Christian Fellowship and Payette Lake Christian Center have become Mountain Life Church. We will meet in the local high school gym on Sundays until our new facility is completed. We have benefited greatly from the counsel and wisdom of the MFI leadership team. Much thanks to Ted Hoit and Bill Scheidler for their input and direction on our behalf.

We believe the spiritual climate in our community changed about five years ago when many of the local pastors here began to meet at a local coffee shop each Wednesday morning for fellowship and prayer. This led to many combined outreaches collectively with Baptist, Lutheran, Nazarene and Charismatic/Pentecostal churches blending their strengths and resources together to reach out to our community. Out of this relationship our two churches also began coming together quite often for various services and times of fellowship. Looking back now, we see that God had been directing a sort of "courtship" over the last four years. It is exciting to see the community's interest and attention as this is a fairly large event for our small community.

We would ask for your prayer as there is an incredible amount of work to be done, not only to finish our building, but also in the aspects of blending and identifying various ministries as we bring the two congregations together.

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### **PASTOR MERV & DARLENE WALKER**

*Kauai Bible Church  
Kauai, Hawaii*

We continue to have a burning passion to reach various communities here on our island of Kauai. In July we began a "Beach Reach" on a local beach for three weeks (we thought). We set up two volleyball nets, brought food, and then got on a local PA system telling folks everyone is invited to play.

People can't help but laugh, feel comfortable and enjoy as one of our local style brothers in the church calls the games and inserts things about Christ over the PA. This has grown so much that we now have extended this event through August. These people bring their beer, cigarettes, and then join us on the beach to eat the "ono grinds" [delicious food] where we talk one-on-one.

One couple from the winning volleyball team is now coming to church. They are inviting their neighbors. Last week while "talking story" waiting their turn to play beach volleyball, they took a walk on the beach away from the games and were led in the sinner's prayer, accepting Christ as Savior. We're planting lots of seed in other folk too! The harvest is ripe!

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### **PASTOR STEVE & TINA MURRAY**

*Real Life Church  
Maple Valley, Washington*

Real Life Church is in an exciting season of missions work and a slow, yet progressing land/church building project.

Recently we hosted several world leaders here as we are working together with a thinking skills curriculum comprised of Biblical principles. This has given our church significant influence in Ghana and soon Liberia, South Africa and Honduras. This has also allowed us to participate with the Bishops of the Catholic Church and the Christ Apostolic Church (fastest growing denomination in Ghana) regarding evangelism of the remote areas in Ghana.

Here at home we are making great head way in purchasing 100 acres of land that is surrounded by 320 acres of soon-to-be green space. This will enable us to build our camp and conference center and most importantly our church home. We should break ground in 2006!

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### **PASTOR BRAD & JENNIFER NEUSCHWANDER**

*Life Bible Church  
Harrisburg, Oregon*

Our desire, as a church family, is to provide a place where people from all walks of life will be able to experience God's presence through prayer, worship, and the Word. Our fall calendar is blooming with events including an exciting new expansion to Harris Private School.

On September 11, we hosted our 4th annual Community BBQ. This was an afternoon of fun for the entire family with live entertainment, children's activities, and hamburgers a totally free

event for the Harrisburg community.

In October will also be hosting a Leadership Appreciation Dinner. This is an opportunity for us to meet the leadership teams from other Tri-County churches and to say "thank you" for all of the time and heart that they, as leaders in our community, share with us and with others. Both of these events are wonderful opportunities for us to partner with the community during preparation and celebration!

We are also happy to announce that Harris Private School (HPS) is now offering enrollment to the 6th thru 8th grades. This new Jr. High edition is an exciting step for HPS and for the Life Bible family. We are now able to offer quality Christ-centered education to children ranging in age from pre-school thru the 8th grade.

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### **PASTOR MARC & CHERYL CARGILL**

*Lighthouse Christian Center  
Oak Harbor, Washington*

I just finished a series entitled, "When Faith Matters Most." It was a powerful study of those times in life when our faith is most needed to be strong. There's a great spirit of faith in the church and we had a tremendous 4th of July Celebration that we promoted on television. Our first time out on TV!

Now we are in the midst of preparing to reach out to 200 homeless children and youth in our area. My wife, Cheryl, is the leader of the entire endeavor and she is doing a fantastic job!

We established a new ministry—Harbor of Hope—to give \$50 gift certificates for clothing and free haircuts for 200 students in our local school district. We are well on our way to our \$10,000 goal and we are going to have a Back to School Fest with games, free food (supplied by our local McDonald's), and a wild animal show! The public school district and city officials are working closely with us in a new level of partnership. We're hoping for new doors of favor, influence and harvest to be opened!

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### **PASTOR VICTOR & PATI FRANCO**

*Shalom Christian Church  
Fabens, Texas*

We stand in AWE! An amazing and wonderful move of the Spirit is taking place in every aspect of our ministry. We are experiencing salvation, restoration and healing in every service. The youth group is growing in number and in power.

The Lord is bringing in people who are already equipped for ministry work. Our building project is advancing in gigantic steps. The Lord's provision is like manna—something new every day. People are offering their service as an offering in the building project. The prophetic Word given to us is being fulfilled day by day. His plan is in progress in our midst.

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### **PASTOR DAVID & KETZY PRAKASAM**

*Bethel Indian Pentecostal Assemblies  
Coimbatore, India*

In April, I had the privilege to go to the borders of Nepal and Bhutan and baptize more than 26 people. We also started a Children's home in Nepal for the orphans. In the Hindu kingdom of Nepal God has helped us to establish his kingdom. One of our Bible College graduates is preparing himself to go to the Tibetan border. We have also started a work in the borders of Bhutan where more than 70 people are worshipping the Lord.

The Tsunami Children's home at Kumbakonam is running well and now, through the help of our donors, we are building for those whose homes were damaged by the Tsunami. In August, the city pastors and the believers met together to pray for our city, Coimbatore. God had put a desire in my heart to bring together the pastors of our city and organize a week of fasting prayer for our whole city and as I shared the vision with some of the Key leaders they were very excited. From the 8th of August to the 14th of August all the Pastors of our city and other prayer warriors gathered together and declared a week of prayer for our city. More than 500 prayer warriors prayed in the morning and on the final eve more than 3000 people were there in the open ground for only one reason to pray for God's power to manifest in our city.

We are now in the final stage of our first phase of our extension project of 5000 church seat auditorium and when completed it will be the biggest auditorium in the city for the glory of God. Kindly continue to uphold us in your prayers.

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### **PASTOR DALE & VIRGINIA MITCHELL**

*Daystar Christian Assembly  
Leduc, Alberta  
Canada*

We are a young church of 7 years, but this last May we decided to do something large. We contacted the Guinness Book of World Records to enquire what is the longest recorded worship service on record. We learned it was only 29 hours. We then decided that we would have a non-stop worship

service lasting 72 continuous hours—nothing but worship as in the days of David. People could come and go as they pleased throughout the 72 hours.

We posted an internet site inviting any worship leaders or groups to come and lead worship for one and a half hour time slots and the response was incredible. We had groups from all over Canada and even the United States reply with interest. It did not take long to fill the entire 72 hour time slot with groups from all different denominations.

Two other MFI churches sent groups to help with the weekend. So on May 20, 2005 at 7:00pm we played our first chord and the music never stopped for 72 continuous hours. The presence of God was thick; people came from all over the Province of Alberta and sat in the presence of God.

We had some awesome testimonials of salvations and healings that took place throughout the event. The most thankful of all people were the musicians who came to worship. They came at their own expense for an opportunity to worship for an entire hour and a half.

It was a life changing experience for our church and all who attended!

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### **PASTOR MEMOS & EFFI SAKELLARIOU**

*Hellenic Christian Church  
Athens, Greece*

Even though Greece is considered a Christian nation, only 16,000 of our 10 million people claim they are born again. The Greeks have no idea about Jesus and salvation. They are very religious and keep all the traditions, but they do not listen to the Gospel. In Athens, with a population of 5 million people, we have Spirit-filled churches. Most of them have 15-50 members. Five or 6 of the churches have more than 100 members as we have. We are often accused of being a cult or being heretics because we preach the Gospel.

However, recently we have had powerful prophetic words that a tremendous blessing is coming to the country of the New Testament. Please pray for our country that we will see these words come to pass!

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### **PASTOR DOUG & MARIE BRUSHELL**

*Believers' Chapel  
Canastota, New York*

Canastota, and all of Madison County, is a very impoverished area. In our county, 6.3% of families are living below the poverty line. Out of the total population of nearly 70,000 people, 10.50% of those under the age of 18 years, and 8.8% of those 65 and older are living below the poverty line.

In March we started a food pantry outreach called "The Compassion Connection." We receive our supplies from Mt. Zion's "The Compassion Coalition." In our first month we served 23 families (approx. 50 people), last month we served 110 families (approx. 350 people) and there are no signs of slowing down.

We recently acquired and renovated a small building to house the outreach and have received some donations of essential equipment (commercial refrigerator and freezers). The "Compassion Connection" outreach has also inspired many new volunteers as they come to serve God and the people of our community throughout the month.

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### **PASTORS MARV & SYLVIA FEIGENSPAN**

*Living Word Christian Fellowship  
Iowa City, Iowa*

During the past year we have been making intentional efforts to be a church focused on, and operating, "beyond the walls." Over this past spring and summer, we have engaged in a number of outward-focused events.

We helped plan and sponsor a community-wide workshop for equipping leaders to recognize and assist victims in domestic violence situations. Members assisted with a major trash removal and cleanup effort at an area trailer park whose absentee owners had neglected the park and its needs. We provided labor at another trailer park for a non-English speaking single mother to bring her trailer up to the park's code so she could remain in the housing she needs. In both trailer park cases, those being helped had no tie to the church.

Over 6,000 handmade necklaces from Kenya were purchased and then distributed at the area 4th of July parade to assist with advertising our Vacation Bible School and an event we call "Carnival in the Park." Over the last several years we have worked to make VBS an outreach focused event. This year approximately half of the 100+ average daily attendance were children from non-churched homes. We also held our second annual Carnival in the Park, which is a Sunday morning/afternoon event in Iowa City's largest park geared expressly for families with children. Lunch, carnival-style games and activities, multiple live entertainment offerings, snow cones and prize drawings, which included 3 bicycles, were provided free of charge.

As we enter the fall, the church is preparing to participate in one of the national 40 Days of Purpose campaigns centered around Rick Warren's best-selling book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. Our expectation is that the 40 Days of Purpose will help us continue to grow from a church that not only reaches out well, but harvests well too.

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### **PASTOR BERNIE & SUSIE HARTOG**

*CityLIGHT Church  
Kingston, Tasmania*

We recently accepted a new mantle in March and took up the call of God to the wider body and were set in as the National Leaders of MFI Australasia. We were blessed to experience it with Ken & Glenda Malmin and Bill Scheidler present to witness this significant occasion in our journey in Christ.

We feel privileged to be Brother Kevin and Sister Rene Conner's successors in MFI. Kevin has been an awesome mentor and father in the faith to us, both personally, and through his many great books and Bible teaching. Their ministry is an amazing legacy and an example for us to follow.

It is our hope and desire that by God's grace, we will continue to be Kingdom builders, spending all the days of our lives becoming more and more like Jesus, being "fruitful and multiplying," by "preaching the word, ministering in the Holy Spirit, doing the work of an evangelist, fulfilling our ministry" that the Lord Jesus Christ may receive pleasure and glory from His own reflection in our lives.

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### **PASTOR ALBERTO & SILVIA SALCEDO**

*Ekklesia  
La Paz, Bolivia*

Pastors Bill Scheidler and Steve Williams visited La Paz-Bolivia for the XI Leaders Congress of Ekklesia. During the day sessions the Congress featured an attendance of 500 leaders and the evening sessions averaged over 1500 participants. This has become a focal point of yearly leadership training for our church.

We now have 12 Sunday services in three locations. Nearly 400 came to the Lord as a result of a 2-hour city outreach in August. Those believers are now in the process of consolidation.

In the cities of Santa Cruz, La Paz( Bolivia) and Cusco (Peru), Ekklesia sponsored three concerts with Pastor Marcos Witt, one of the most well-known Spanish-speaking pastors in North America. He came with a team from Lakewood Church in Houston and ministered to over 27,000 in three days of praise and leadership training.

On September 28th, we celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the first FM radio station in Bolivia with exclusive Christian Format. The "Sound of Life" station has now grown to a network of 10 stations covering 90% of the Bolivian nation and one affiliate station now operates in Chile.