

**SPECIAL ISSUE:**  
Focus on Missions

The Bright and

# Morning Star

"All the Good News That's Fit to Print"

Volume XVI, No. 2

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TARRYTOWN, NY

Spring 2008

**IN THIS ISSUE: PROFILES OF OUR MISSIONARIES**

## God is Good...All the Time!

by Doug Morton

October 4th, 1991 was a day in the history of First Baptist Church that changed our worship service. It wasn't a big change in one sense, but in another sense it was. Some 21 months before that, we had a big change.

The physical building where we worshipped would never be the same because of the fire on December 23, 1989. Those of you who were here will remember the feelings of seeing the smoke billowing upward as the flames engulfed the building. Or the rubble of charred pews and collapsed roofing that was left smoldering inside the stone wall shell of what had once been our worship home. We were sad as we grieved the loss of the building where so many memories had occurred. Our hearts cried out "why?" Yet in our grief we knew that the church building was only a temporary dwelling place for the real "soul" of the church – God's people.

The "why" questions eventually dissipated as our saddened hearts looked forward. We asked God, "how do you want us to proceed" and "what do we do next?" We met for worship across the street in a rented hall owned by the Episcopal Church. Every Sunday a team of volunteers set up chairs and a sound system which was taken down at the end of each service. It was hard work, but it was worth it to be able to worship together.

Yes, our worship setting had changed because of the fire, but how did our worship change after that day in October? That evening we had a coffee house given by an African singing team sponsored by Africa Youth for Christ. There was a small turnout, but it was a warm group of people. The team of four young men impressed us with their heart for Jesus. They told us that they were doing a singing tour through the US as a way of thanking American churches for sending missionaries to Africa. These young men were humble souls with grateful hearts. And they left their mark. You see they were the ones who sparked the change in our worship service that is still practiced by our congregation to this day.

*God does not always give us the answers during those hard times but He always leaves us with the promise of His presence and goodness.*

When the fire occurred we knew deep inside that God's goodness is always with us no matter how tragic our loss might be. The young African singing team shared more than songs with us that night. They shared their hearts. They shared their concern. And they shared their tradition which they practiced in their worship service in Africa. They were the ones that taught us to always say, "God is good, all the time...and all the time, God is good."

Over the years, we have chosen to conclude our service with those words. It's not always easy to say it when God does something in our lives that makes no sense. God does not always give us the answers during those hard times but He always leaves us with the promise of His presence and goodness.

Seeing the completed kitchen, fellowship hall, and additional class rooms that are now being used for ministry is a real encouragement to anyone that was here through the loss

of the fire. But the completed building is also an object lesson to all who go through personal tragedies and find it hard to voice those words.

The day will come when we will look back and see how God worked out His good plan through the tragedies of our life. It may not be seen in this life, but most certainly it will be seen in the next because, God is good, all the time...and all the time, God is good.★

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## Crosslands Community Church – David and Margaret Anderson

by Pastor Torrey Robinson



**F**irst Baptist Church of Tarrytown has supported David and Margaret Anderson, since Crosslands Community Church was planted in 1999. Now that the church has become largely self supporting, the coming year will be the final year of our financial support for the Andersons. We'd like to tell you a bit about this exciting young church and some of the highlights of their ministry to date.

Crosslands Community Church is all about relationships. It is about connecting people to God and to one another. Or as their vision statement puts it, "Providing an environment where Biblical community can occur and life-change happens."

Crosslands Community Church started with a small Bible study in the living room of Dave and Margaret Anderson's home in Mahopac during 1999. By 2000, they had three small groups going, one in Rockland County and two in Westchester. It was in that same year that they began Sunday evening services using the annex building behind The United Methodist Church of Shrub Oak. They averaged anywhere from 10-15 people.

For three years, the church remained in Shrub Oak and grew to about 25-30. Then in 2003, Crosslands moved to Peter Pratt's Inn where they began to meet on Sunday mornings instead of Sunday night. With the move, they lost about 1/2 their regular attenders. Most of those were people who already attended a church on Sunday mornings. A few found the extra 12 miles to the Inn was a bit too much for them. The interesting thing is that within that first year at the Inn, Crosslands gained back the number they had lost and then some.

Three years later as they prepared to move again, Sunday morning attendance at Crosslands averaged about 40-45 with a children's program in full swing and a worship band. For the past two years, the church has been meeting at the German American Club in Putnam Valley and averaging between 50-60 most Sundays.

The church is a great place for young people and young families. Currently, Crosslands offers several different ministries to youth. "Seeds" is designed for the younger kids. Crosslife is the name of the youth group for junior and senior highers. And Life Skills is a spring-fall outreach to 10-14 year olds. At the same time, Crosslands has various small groups meeting at homes throughout the week.

Growth, while slow has been consistent, about 20-25% each year. Most of the growth comes from unchurched people. About half of those who now attend the church would say that they came to know Christ through Crosslands or that this is their first real church experience. On any given Sunday, you will find a handful of people who are not believers. It is exciting to see them come back week after week.

Here are a few of the highlights of the eight year history of Crosslands Community Church:

- Xodus – This was the name of the coffeehouses in the United Methodist annex building during the first year of the church's ministry.
- Tisha feeling led to begin Seeds ministry for kids and now still going strong 8 years later
- A restaurant owner asked David Anderson's wife, Margaret, when Crosslands met. When he found out that they met on Sunday evenings he invited them to use his Inn for free on Sunday mornings. Now his wife is serving as Crosslands' Treasurer!
- Arthur walked into a worship service one morning at Crosslands and let them know that this was one of the few churches that responded to him while he was in prison. He stayed and became part of the church and later helped to start a Celebrate Recovery program at Crosslands.
- Greg and Audra felt called back to Crosslands from Texas, and John, in his new found faith in Christ, was willing to fly down and help them move back and later felt led to start a Men's ministry at the church.
- A baptism service utilized the Cliffords pool at which a profound but simple testimony was shared. "God used to be up there (pointing up) and now He's in here (pointing to his heart)". Later the same man was impressed with the importance of outreach. He pointed out to the church family the simple yet profound fact, "Shepherds don't make sheep. Sheep make sheep".
- A weekend camping trip took place involving the whole church with a worship service in the woods with 60 people.
- Summer BBQ outreaches
- Watching God change Mario's heart and bring him into the Kingdom
- Seeing marriages that were completely on the rocks become reunited and renewed
- Watching people fail and stumble, but get back up and try again
- Seeing grace extended, forgiveness given and watching people take ownership of their own growth.
- And the thrill of seeing people excited about telling others about their church.

Clearly, the investment of support from FBC in the ministry of Crosslands has paid eternal dividends. Please continue to keep Dave, Margaret and their children - Jesse 10, Nathanael 8, Joshua 7, Ben 5 and Masaie 3 in your prayers. It's not easy being a pastor's kid. And ask God for His continued blessing on this young fellowship of believers, so that many more people will come to Him through Crosslands Community Church.★

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**The Bright and Morning Star** is seeking contributions for the next issue on any topics of interest which glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Please send articles to: Arthur and Terry Baulch (Editors), The Bright and Morning Star Newsletter at the address above.

## Michael Turay Sierra Leone

There is another building program taking place some 4500 miles from here in the small impoverished African country of Sierra Leone. Michael Turay, a native African missionary, calls his building program, "A House of Grace." He envisions a building that will not only house his family but will also serve as a training center for new pastors and house visiting short-term workers.

Over the past 19 years, we have (through God's grace) received and spent approximately 2.3 million dollars on our building (this includes the original insurance monies as well funds from the various campaigns – Nehemiah, Find us Faithful, First Things First, and most recently Building in Faith).

Here in Westchester County, the average yearly income per capita is about \$50,000 ([www.bls.gov/ro2/qcew9350](http://www.bls.gov/ro2/qcew9350)). In New York State, that is the second only to Manhattan.

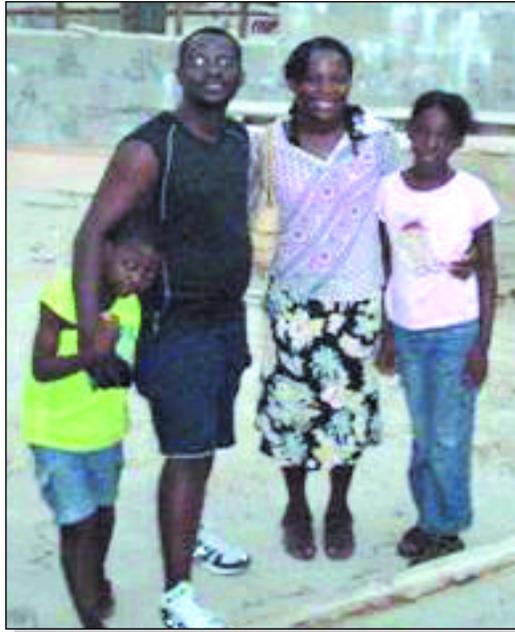
But a half a world away, over 6 million people live in Sierra Leone, where the economic conditions are quite different. Bordered by Guinea to the north and Liberia to the south, the people of Sierra Leone are 40% Muslim, 10% Christian, and 30% indigenous beliefs. They have a life expectancy of 40.58 years with over 70% living below the nation's poverty line. The per capita GDP is only \$800/person with a literacy rate of 35% of the total population.

Democracy is being slowly reestablished after the civil war from 1991 to 2002 that resulted in thousands of deaths and the displacement of more than 2 million people. With the recent 2007 elections complete, the new government is challenged to improve economic conditions and stamp out nationwide corruption.

Michael Turay and his family have been serving with Youth for Christ in their home country of Sierra Leone for the past 5 years. Previous to that, they had been working in the Gambia for 11 years. Their present ministry also impacts the neighboring country of Liberia.

In the summer of 2006, Michael and his wife Georgia were here to present their ministry. At that time, we asked about his plans and needs for ministry and he talked about his desire to build a home and ministry center. He shared that they pay \$3000/yr in rent and that the estimated cost for his new building would be \$10,000. Shortly after his visit, our church family raised \$10,000 and sent it to him..

He was able to start his building project, which he



calls a "House of Grace."

Michael's total annual budget for caring for his family and running his ministry is \$21,537. With that money he has established a church in less than 5 years and is expanding his ministry into neighboring countries. We support the Turey's with \$1500/yr. The Missions' committee feels that his passion for Christian Ministry in his native land is well worth the investment.

Unfortunately, due to cost overruns and theft of supplies which occurred during the unrest of the 2007 presidential elections, he found himself \$7000 short in completing the building.

But his ministry is not about brick and mortar. He reports that in 2007, despite the setbacks with the building project, God was working through his ministry.

Since starting the Sierra Leone work in 2003, they have established a church which has a consistent attendance of 80 adults and 30 children. They also have small groups which meet every Friday in various places throughout the village of Regent. He reports that in 2007, some 400 people have accepted Christ between their ministry in Sierra Leone and outreaches to neighboring nations.

Michael has not asked for more funds, but the missions committee has sent him an additional check of \$2500 from undesignated funds in the mission's budget. He has asked for prayer for the following items:

- Prayer for their evangelism teams – for God's grace and provisions.
- Prayer for their campus evangelism through established YFC clubs throughout the city.
- Prayer concerning the establishment of a women's prayer ministry called "Operation Hannah."
- Prayer for war affected youth and the running of the prison ministry with juveniles.
- Prayer for the training of youth leaders.
- For office space in Liberia to better coordinate ministry and discipleship training.
- For their radio ministry that reaches mostly Muslim people at the outskirts of their city.
- God's provision for his family.
- And completion of the building project so he can host visitors from FBC in Tarrytown for whom he is so grateful.

Michael's E-mail puts it this way... "Words cannot express our gratitude for you in our lives, as friends and partners in ministry. Knowing that we have people like you in our lives and ministry gives us the courage to move on in ministry when the going gets tough."★

## Kevin and Kaori Laverman Kawasaki, Japan – World Venture



**K**evin and Kaori met in 1990 during Kevin’s short-term missions service to Zao Christ Church, a CB church plant in Japan that was also Kaori’s home church. Kevin and Kaori were married in the United States in 1993. Three years later they gave birth to their son, Justen Keiji (7/30/96).

In 2001 the Laverman’s took over a small group Bible study that a fellow missionary had been leading. The group took on the name Denen Grace Chapel and began meeting regularly on Sundays in the Laverman home and a local community center. Evangelistic events and small group Bible studies were launched. Today, the Laverman’s continue to work principally in a church planting and evangelism ministry in Kawasaki focusing presently on Denen Grace Chapel. They anticipate a daughter church plant out of Denen Grace within the next 5 years.

The Laverman family will be home on furlough this summer and plan to visit with us on Sunday July 20th. While here they will be in need of housing for their family in the greater NY metropolitan area from late June through July. If you are able to help with that need please speak to Jen Kang ASAP.

A second opportunity will arise in early April, when Maki, a congregation member from the Laverman’s church, will arrive in NYC and need a friendly face to greet her at the JFK airport and drive her to a Christian residence in LI City where she will be staying. Maki does speak English but this is her first trip overseas and she is very nervous about finding her way around. It would be a great opportunity for us to make a sister in Christ feel welcome here. She is also interested in attending our church once she is established in NYC.

As a church, we support the Laverman’s financially with \$3000 a year. We also presented them with a one time gift of \$2500 this year to help them purchase a computer they needed. However, as of their last newsletter

update they are still \$937/ month short of their living expenses. If you feel led to personally support the Laverman’s as a family or an individual you can contact Kevin directly at [lavermansinjapan@mac.com](mailto:lavermansinjapan@mac.com).

Lastly, the Lavermans have suggested that many Japanese would love an American “pen pal” to practice their English with. If you have interest in this, please speak to Jen Kang.

In Kevin’s latest communication he writes, “Our greatest challenge in ministry is currently the male leadership crisis in Japan. Many churches in Japan have few or no men. The result is many pastorless churches. This affects us as church planters in that we intend that a national will eventually assume leadership of the church. But, with so few candidates, however, it is very difficult to establish that pastoral leadership and move on. We have a better than average group of men and are working toward growing our own, but it is a real matter of prayer.”

Pray also for the details of the Laverman’s home visit this summer to come together.

And pray for the Laverman’s financial support to be brought up to 100%.★



## Mark and Karen Marchak New York City

**M**ark Marchak was appointed, by Missions Door, to serve in NYC in 1975. In 1977 he was married

to Karen. They now live in Staten Island and have 2 children, Alena and Aron. Currently, Mark is the National Director of City Church Movements (formerly Urban Ministries) for Missions Door. While based in New York, he facilitates a shared vision of city and multicultural ministries throughout the United States and in Montreal, Canada, concentrating on church planting and leadership development.

Since 1980, Mark has helped to plant 42 new church projects in Metro NYC, 40% of them are in languages other than English. In his last newsletter, Mark wrote, “We are starting churches that speak many languages, worship in different ways, and yet are united by a deep commitment to Jesus Christ.” He asks us to pray for 7 current church starts (5 in NYC and 2 in NJ). The Marchaks are also short \$1,272/ month in their support. As a church we support the Marchaks for \$1,200 a year. If you are interested in supporting the Marchaks as a family of individually you can contact Mark by e-mail at [markmarchak@netzero.net](mailto:markmarchak@netzero.net)

The Marchaks will be visiting FBC on April 20th to speak in Sunday school and they will give a brief update of their ministry during the Sunday morning service.★

## Nanang and Anna Sumantri Indonesia – Campus Crusade for Christ

by Doug and Barbara Morton

Indonesia's approximately 245.5 million people make it the world's fourth-most populous nation. The island of Java, roughly the size of New York State, is the most populous island in the world (124 million, 2005 est.) and one of the most densely populated areas in the world. The country consists of more than 17,500 islands; 6,000 are inhabited; 1,000 of which are permanently settled. Large islands consist of coastal plains with mountainous interiors. At 2 million square km it is three times the size of Texas with borders both above and below the equator. Over 300 distinct ethnic groups can be found in the culture with some 737 known languages that are spoken.

FBC has had a part in saving souls in Indonesia through the ministry of Nanang and Anna Sumantri. Nanang has been serving the Lord with Campus Crusade for Christ since 1972. He was born into a nominal Muslim family just 17 days before Indonesia proclaimed its independence from the Dutch back in 1945. But he was born again in the 1950's through the influence of a small Christian church and despite the objections of his Muslim family. In 1970, Nanang married a woman from a strong Catholic background. Anna was saved in 1972 and together they joined CCC full time. They have been working with professors and students, sharing the gospel, discipling new believers and now teaching in a theological seminary in a country that is Islam (88%), Protestantism (5%),

Catholicism (3%), Buddhism (2%), Hinduism (1%) and Confucianism (less than 1%). At times his ministry has involved working in "closed" Muslim countries nearby.

Our church took on a portion of Nanang's support several years ago. We recognized that it would take ten's or even hundreds of thousands of dollars for an English speaking American couple to prepare to go to a place like Indonesia. The numerous dialects and cultural nuances of such a country would take decades to master. Also, a western missionary would have many more expenses dictated by lifestyle, insurance needs, retirement needs, and travel needs to name a few. But Nanang and his wife were born into and raised in the culture making it easier for them to relate to and share the gospel with various ethnic groups of their country.

Pray for Nanang's teaching ministry, presently with the Institute of Biblical and Theological teaching in Indonesia. Pray for Anna's ministry with various women's groups. Pray for their physical safety in a land where Christians are sometimes targeted for their beliefs. Pray for Christians who have been imprisoned for their faith in this part of the world. Nanang's last letter thanked us for our prayers and financial support which he says, "is so meaningful and important." He prays that "the Lord return to you abundantly the love, kindness, and thoughtfulness you have rendered to us this far."★

## A Message from Argentina

by Ricardo Gonzalez

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Tarrytown:

I would like to thank you all for your support, both financial and spiritual. It's been a busy year of many outreach activities, spiritual warfare and victories.

In Toay, the congregation has grown spiritually and we are preparing two men to be leaders in the new town where we just started a new ministry.

In Cachirulo, a town that you all know very well, the youth and young adults groups are growing. In fact, we baptized five people and celebrated two weddings.

The biggest challenge here is that there are no jobs, so we are thinking of building a bakery and opening a store to supply people with their basic needs and somehow create more jobs.

En Ataliva Roca the group is growing. We brought a family from Toay to help with the farm (chicken and vegetables) to supply food for the town.

We keep working with the drug addicts, a young couple (ex-drug addicts) received the Lord, their lives changed and now they want to serve the Lord working with the kids from the town.

This group is growing and is amazing to see the work the Lord is doing among and with them.

One of our plans for this year is to build a house where these young adults can meet and where we can help them to straighten their lives out.

In Bernasconi, a town 100 miles away, we started working with two families with many problems, after a while two more families joined the group and now we are about to open the first Evangelical church in this town of 1023 people.

As you can see the growth has been great, the Lord is opening doors all the time, we just need more people to keep up with the work.

We have many experiences that show the greatness of our God, he is faithful and he is in every detail, all we do is to follow his lead to bring glory to his Name.

I would like to share one experience with you:

One Sunday, one person of the congregation tells that me that someone (a brother in the Lord) came to the church and donated a keyboard and a guitar for the new congregation in Bernasconi. This person told him that the Lord revealed to him in a dream that we needed those instruments, so he bought them and brought them to us. The interesting part is that I don't even know who this person is but, GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING.

We pray for you all the time and hope in the Lord to see you soon.



Love in Christ  
Pastor Tete Pares

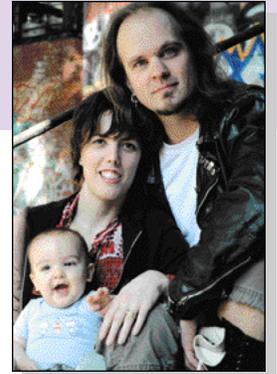
## Frontiers Missionary Family Middle East

**O**ur church supports a missionary family who is serving overseas in a Middle Eastern country. They are sent out by Frontiers Mission's Agency to minister to Muslims. Because of the tendency of some Muslim-majority countries to inhibit human rights, we are unable to print this missionary family's name or country in which they are serving.

You can visit the Frontier's website, [www.frontiers.org](http://www.frontiers.org), to find out more general information on serving as missionaries in a Muslim country. You can also speak to someone on the mission's committee if you have more specific questions on this missionary family and their ministry.★

## Street Ministry Duane and Miriam Mansveld

by Patrick Mueller



### *FIELD*

The Mansvelds have been ministering on the streets of Montreal with the French Fellowship of Baptist Churches since 1997, first with their local church, and then as street missionaries for the French Fellowship. There are between 5,000 and 15,000 street kids in Montreal. The moral, ethical, and spiritual needs of these youth are immense, not to mention the emotional, physical, and social needs.

Broken homes, suicide, violence, prostitution, homosexuality, and drug addiction are the symptoms of a life that desperately needs a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. The Mansvelds reach out to these kids using Jesus' ministry as an example, creating trust relationships with the street youth and helping them respond to the problems they face everyday.

The Mansvelds also work closely with the local churches in Montreal and envision creating small groups within the local churches that would welcome and disciple street youth. Duane and Miriam also share the vision of a street church that would be a light for the marginal community.

### *FAITH*

Duane was born and raised in Pembroke, Ontario, and has known the streets since age 15. At the age of 18, Duane accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. Through Duane's prayers for his friends on the street, the Holy Spirit blessed him with the burden and call to reach out to the youth on the street.

In 1993, Duane began three years of street missionary training in Montreal, and it was there that he met his wife Miriam. Miriam is the youngest in a family of five children. Her parents came to Quebec as missionaries from Europe in the 1950s, and Miriam accepted the Lord at the age of 6. She was introduced to the streets by friends who lived there.

During that time, God showed Miriam His heart for the street youth, their needs, and their incredible potential. It was then that the Lord gave Miriam the call to minister to street youth full time.

Both Duane and Miriam are currently enrolled in a youth intervention program at the University of Montreal and follow theological studies at the Seminaire Baptiste Evangelique Du Quebec.

### *FAMILY*

Duane and Miriam were married in June of 1996. They have been blessed with one son, Jeremie.

### *MINISTRY UPDATE*

Duane and Miriam have recently purchased a 3-plex in downtown Montreal and will be using it as a ministry center. In a recent prayer update Duane stated, "Many in the street community are just as afraid to step into a church as church people are to step into the inner city. We would like to provide an equal meeting ground for these two realities." This new ministry center will be used to try and accomplish that purpose by providing a place where the church community and street community can meet together and share their lives and talents on neutral ground. The Mansvelds have asked for our prayers that God would prepare the hearts of the "church people" in Montreal to be willing to invest their lives into the lives of the street community. They also ask us to pray for patience, wisdom and creativity in bringing these two communities together.

As a church, we would like to send a team of 10 people up to visit the Mansvelds and experience their ministry there firsthand. More details about this trip will be announced in the future.★

## The MISSION: OUTREACH Has Begun

by Aaron Velez



First Baptist Church of Tarrytown's Outreach Ministry began with 3 simple words spoken by one of our most respected and senior congregants, Dan Rizzi. The 3 words "talk is cheap" rang to me as clear as a bell back on November 20th, 2007. On that chilly November day, the congregation had gotten together to discuss our new vision statement...to be, "A community where God is at work, lives are changed, broken hearts are healed, hope becomes real and people are on fire for God and His Word". What an awesome vision! Keeping this vision statement in mind, everyone was asked to really think outside of the box and write down some ideas for events that could help transform this statement from mere words to real actions.

People started getting really creative and ideas started to fly out there. Men's ministry! Women's ministry! Weekend retreat! The excitement was in the air. Reaching out to the homeless needs! Speaker series! Street evangelism! There was a real feeling that something special was happening. Magic Show! Karaoke Night! Clearly, this congregation has some amazing and creative ideas. Then, in the euphoria of the night, Dan Rizzi spoke the most powerful and truest words...talk is cheap. Please understand, Dan said a lot more than 3 words that night and he was equally excited about the prospects of what we were poised to do for God's glory! The stark reality however, which he rightfully brought to our attention that night, was that these great things were not just going to happen simply by having a desire to have them happen. We need people committed to organizing and implementing them. He had clearly seen and heard it all before. I guess we all have at one time or another. You know the story: Great idea is born. Great idea generates excitement. Great idea gets minimal actual support. Great idea fails to maintain momentum. Great idea fades away.

As a new Christian, I wanted to help write a new story. The next day, I received an e-mail from Grace Soong, no doubt affected by the previous day's meeting as well. Her e-mail began, "Hey Aaron, I've been thinking about ministry and outreach and while I'm feeling passionate about it, I thought I should write you right away..." Grace, being the amazing & driven person that she is, went on to propose that she and I organize an outreach ministry and let Pastor Torrey and the elders know our thoughts. A short time later, after much praying and strategizing, she and I were able to recruit some of our church friends to make up the Outreach Ministry's (OM) "Brain Trust". These very special people are Chip "Chicken Fingers & Fries" Lotierzo, Rebecca "The Delicate Rose" Lotierzo, Ali "Why Are My Mom's Friend's So Weird" Soong, Jacques "Barack in 08" Cowart, Katie "The Pilates Guru" Cowart, Patrick "The Red-Headed German" Mueller, Chris "I Can Get You Anything Off Ebay" Herrmann, Maria "Always Stamping With Love" Herrmann, Julie "The Cake-Maker" McKeon, Jaqueline "The Sweet" Chepiga, Jen "I Have The

Smiley-est Baby" Kang and my wife Jenna "The Best Wife In The World" Velez (Ok, so I took some liberty on that one). We wanted to create a ministry that would:

- Bring non-believers to Christ and share the Gospel through fun, positive and exciting outreach events.
- Reignite the fire of Christ in the hearts of the "unchurched" believers.
- Encourage and recruit the help of the faithful believers at FBC and strengthen their relationship with Christ and with each other.



- Create a more vibrant and active church that provides the opportunity for everyone to outreach in their own way.

With our OM staff committed to seeing this through, we met with Pastor Torrey, our elders Ken Ocheltree, Daniel Hoster, Fred Opie and our youth Pastor Steve Armstrong (who has been instrumental, thanks Steve!) and presented our plans for an official Outreach Ministry. They really liked what we had to say and gave us the green light.

Hallelujah! This was cause for a celebration! A grand OM Kick-Off Celebration where we could present our ideas to the entire congregation. On March 16th, 2008, in our beautiful Fellowship Hall, we celebrated the beginning of the Outreach Ministry with our Kick-Off Celebration. If you were there, you can testify to what an amazing night of singing, fellowship, and event participation it was. If you missed it, you missed a lot (including cake). But, fear not, we took a lot of photos and video that will be on the website soon [www.fbctarrytown.org](http://www.fbctarrytown.org).

Our special guest performer, Jaimee Seegar, was inspiring as she sang with 3 of our extremely talented Worship Team members; Dave Chepiga, Kenny Hahn and Chip Lotierzo. Jerry Ban made sure that the A/V was perfect. Pastor's Torrey & Jorge both touched us with their powerful messages of faith in Christ and call to action. The event tables, created by the OM staff, were a big hit resulting in each event having at least 20 people signed up to participate in them! This kind of participation ensures that each event now has the manpower behind it to be successful. God is so faithful and so good, and this congregation, along with our Spanish congregation brothers and sisters, are an absolute blessing! This kick-off was the beginning of something big for FBC and for our community.

This is how the OM came to be and where we are today. From 3 simple yet, crystal clear, words sprang an outreach movement that has energized and invigorated our church family. This journey so far has been amazing. I have found that when we pray diligently and stay faithful to the Holy Spirit, we realize that we are so much stronger than we think we are.

If you are reading this, I want you to know that we have prayed for you and your help. If you know somebody who you pray will experience the peace, hope, and love of Jesus, (and

*continued on page 8*

**MISSIONS OUTREACH** *continued from page 7*

we all know somebody) we want you to invite that person to one of our special events (please see the attached event listing). We want that person to know that FBC is a place where they can turn their life around, have their broken hearts healed and where they can become the people God wants them to be. Remember, none of us has the power to save someone, but every one of us has the power to share our church and our church community with someone. All it takes is an invitation! When we do this, we help set the table to allow the power of the Holy Spirit to work on their hearts. If you need some help in doing this, just let us know and we will help you. You have a team of people at the ready to support and encourage you

and give real strategies to help you reach out to friends in need. Just drop us an e-mail at [outreach@fbctarrytown.org](mailto:outreach@fbctarrytown.org). Also, if you would like to get involved in any of the OM events a truly Christ-centered, team-building experience (that usually involves pizza) please contact us at [outreach@fbctarrytown.org](mailto:outreach@fbctarrytown.org). And finally, if you don't think outreach is for you, please read James 2:14-25. It's a challenge to be more than just a faithful person. This passage commands us to really extend our faith in Christ to others. To me, when I read it, I see 3 simple words, "Talk is cheap!"

Yours always in Christ,  
Aaron C. Velez

## 2008 Outreach Ministry Events

**"THE FRIENDSHIP BRUNCH" ON APRIL 12TH** - a very special morning for 40 of our friends and family who have never been to FBC. The brunch includes live classical music, a deluxe menu, a top notch wait staff, ice breaker games, gift bags and a very special message!

**"MOVIES-ON-THE-LAWN" EVERY 3RD FRIDAY OF MAY THRU SEPTEMBER** - An early evening summertime affair open to the entire community! We transform the lovely front lawn into a good ole' outdoor movie venue, complete with movie trivia, popcorn (from the popper), candy and soda. A great way to have your friends share a warm summer night with us!

**"THE STARS & STRIPES BBQ & CONCERT" ON JULY 4TH** - *Come one, come all!* A great way to celebrate living in a country where we have the freedom to praise our awesome God! Along with the traditional July 4th fair there will be a great cookout, the all-important apple pie baking contest, fireworks at the river and a very special 1 hour concert performance by **Heartsong!**

**"THE SUMMER OLYMPICS IN TARRYTOWN"** on August 2nd - Get out your cleats and stretch out your hamstrings

because the Olympics are coming to Tarrytown! A great opportunity to bring that friend who is awesome in sports but, struggling in faith. Scheduled events include the Ultimate Frisbee, Softball/Kickball/Wiffleball, Volleyball and (possibly) Flag Football Championship, along with an incredible Relay Race ending at FBC with an awards ceremony and cook-out!

**"THE HARVEST CELEBRATION" ON OCTOBER 25TH** - What better time to celebrate the bounty we have right here in Westchester than with a Harvest Celebration. The day includes a special cook-off using the traditional Fall food categories of apple, pumpkin, corn & berries. Everyone can participate in the scavenger hunt that will "bring in the harvest" by collecting canned and dry goods from our neighbors to be donated to a local charity. Arts & crafts for the little ones and much more!

**"THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL" ON DECEMBER 19TH** - Ahh Christmas...the snow, the lights & the FBC Christmas Festival! An awesome night of Christmas cheer, arts & crafts, caroling, the famous live nativity, games, baked goods, eggnog, games, prizes and much much more!

## Mission to Slovakia

by Becky McGovern

First Baptist Church has been supporting the missions work of Milka Lapcakova for many years. Milka works in the city of Presov, Slovakia. She is a dedicated servant to our Lord. Milka is looking for funding so that she and her co-workers might open a community center for people to stop in and meet other residents, as well as possibly learn more about the Gospel as Milka and her staff of volunteers wait and watch for opportunities to witness. FBC sent a group of volunteers to Presov 7 years ago. Below is a letter from Milka updating her current work. Please continue to pray for Milka.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With a warm heart we are sending you greetings from Slovakia, from the city Presov, where we have established a Baptist church since 1999. We have 12 members in our mission center. We have meetings every Sunday and our "Cell" groups meet during the week. It is very hard to share the Gospel with people in our City. 80% of the people here are Catholic or Orthodox or atheists. We are constantly looking for different ways to be closer to unbelievers so that we can

share the Gospel. After many prayers on how to be better missionaries we have decided to build a community center in Presov where we can invite people to just come in and "hang-out". We just want to meet people and this seems to be the way they are willing to be with us. Of course, this all means that we are in need of the funds to help us accomplish this plan. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ will help us use this place as a way of service.

With this letter we want to say a hearty thank you for your abundant financial help. We really appreciate it. May the Lord richly bless you for your willingness.

*"For this service of giving that you perform not only makes up for lack among the saints, but abounds also through many givings of thanks to God"*

- II Corinthians 9:12.

At the same time we ask you for your prayers so that our city can awaken and search for God.

*Milka Lapcakova, Mission Worker*



## Mark and Gretel Wogaman

### Northeast Representatives from Delta Ministries



**M**ark is our new Northeast representative from Delta Ministries. Mark and his wife Gretel live in Gorham, Maine with their 3 daughters, A-Young, Andrea and Gracie. Gretel, through her position with a prominent eyecare medical facility, has participated on multiple medical missions.

Mark participated in his first short-term mission trip, a DELTA facilitated trip, in 2001. It was because of this personal experience that he sensed awareness that this was where God was directing him. Mark's passion became to serve those that were oppressed and the less fortunate. (Isaiah 58:6-7). After patiently and prayerfully waiting for four years, the door of opportunity to become a part of DELTA's commitment to serving people with the love exemplified by Christ was opened.

Since that first trip, Mark has facilitated and led multiple church based, multi-generational short-term teams that participated in a variety of ministries which included music, worship, prayer, VBS, AWANA, evangelism, and discipleship. God has provided a strong and supportive partner for him in Gretel. They are excited to now simply serve others as Christ did and to help ordi-

nary people accomplish extraordinary things with the Holy Spirit. Partnering with DELTA affords them the opportunity and joy of seeing others experience the power of God when they take steps of obedience and move beyond their comfort zone.

Mark has already been to visit with our Mission's Committee twice and has been very helpful in guiding our committee through some of the logistics of planning short-term mission trips. We are hopeful that we will be able to have Mark come and give a one-day training seminar on "leading a short-term mission's trip." Look for more details on this training seminar to come. Currently Mark's financial support is at 58% of his full support needed. As a church, we give the Wogaman's \$1500 annually. If you would like to financially support the Wogaman's as an individual or as a family you can contact Mark at [markw@deltaministries.com](mailto:markw@deltaministries.com)

Mark asks for prayer regarding his financial support, travelling mercies, wisdom and heart for service, and the discernment and ability to balance family and ministry obligations in Godly fashion.★

## Rich and Julia Freeman

### Chosen People Ministries

**R**ichard Freeman was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York into a very traditionally Jewish, though not religious, family. He received religious training for five years in a conservative synagogue and received his Bar Mitzvah at age thirteen. Following that experience, though staunchly Jewish nationalistically, he drifted away from the synagogue and attended only on the special Jewish holidays.

In 1973 Rich married Julia DeBellis who was from an Italian Catholic background. It was primarily through Julia's spiritual pilgrimage that God reached Rich. But first Rich met a born-again Christian, his supervisor at work. Though Rich responded angrily at first to this man's sharing his faith, his life was a wonderful testimony of the peace and joy that comes to those who put their



faith and trust in the Lord. The joy in his life made Rich jealous and opened his heart to what was to come. In August 1982, Julia accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior and immediately began praying for her husband's salvation. In January 1983, God answered that prayer. Through the ministry of Chosen People Ministries, Rich heard and responded to the gospel message and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

Rich and his wife, Julia, have three children: Heather, Brian, and Joel. They are active members of First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach.

On July 1, 1999 Rich assumed his position as Vice-President and Director of Church Ministries and Conferences for Chosen People Ministries. Rich works with churches throughout the country and abroad. He teaches Bible Conferences on various topics such as Jewish Evangelism, Messianic Prophecy, End-Time Prophecy, The Church and Israel, The Feasts of Israel, and much more. He also ministers to local churches in Florida where he and his family reside.★

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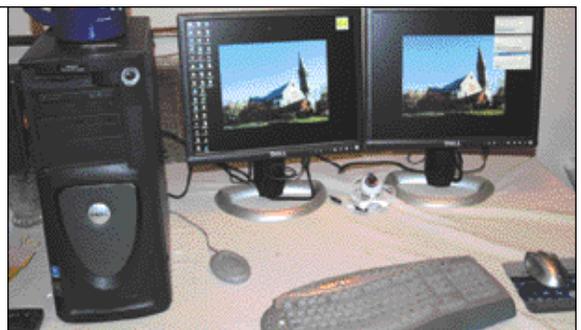
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**Any Questions, Chris Herrmann [cherrmann@gmail.com](mailto:cherrmann@gmail.com) 718-432-1465**



## Matt and Nichole Paschall Senegal

**M**att and Nichole, and their 4 children (Jacob, Clarisa, Shane and Adelaide) are currently in French language school preparing to minister with the Evangelical Theological Institute of Senegal (ITES) and the Association of Evangelical Baptist Churches to develop a leadership training program that will help accelerate a church-planting movement among unreached people groups in Senegal. They will also be coordinating evangelism and compassion projects to provide health care, water, literacy and micro-loans for community development to strengthen the churches in the rural regions.

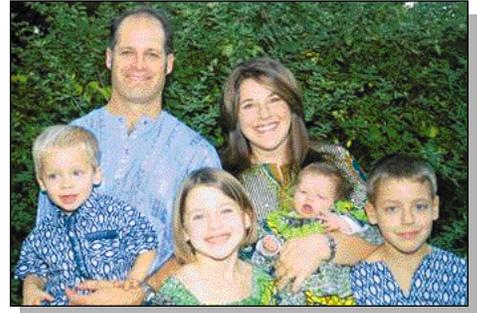
Currently, the Paschalls are entering a mid-level proficiency in the language and anticipate needing an additional semester in order to reach a higher level that was recommended by their field. They are planning to arrive in Senegal sometime late summer or early fall of 2008.

Our church has known the Paschalls for sometime

now as Matt was our regional representative from Delta Ministries. He helped our church prepare a

team for a short-term missions trip to Argentina several years ago. Matt was so affected by one of his own short-term missions trips to the small village of Ngollar in Senegal that he felt God was calling him and his family to become missionaries in this region. On his trip there, one of the village chiefs said to him, "If someone would just stay a little longer, I and many in my village would follow Christ." Matt and his family are preparing to answer that call!

They ask for our prayers for: 1) Wise counsel and decision-making regarding their move to Senegal, and 2) A home in Theis adequate for their family and hosting short-term teams from the U.S.★



## Peter and Kate Nash Wycliffe Bible Translators, Waxhaw, NC

**P**eter and Kate serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Waxhaw, NC. They have 3 children, Amanda, Michael and Mark. Peter works in the Vernacular Media Services Department whose goal is to translate God's Word so it is available in the heart language (vernacular) of every person on earth. Traditionally, scripture has been made available in printed form, however, most of the languages that still need scripture are "oral" languages. This means these groups of people understand and communicate better orally rather than in a written format.

Peter is involved in overseeing four departments: website development, a research and sales department, resources department, and a production department. This past year their website, [www.vernacularmedia.org](http://www.vernacularmedia.org) transitioned from one software to another, they found a set of 6 speakers that will be able to record in remote locations, they received approval for using a set of 2,500 pictures for books and handouts in vernacular languages and they also received approval to adapt the "Hope" video from English to other languages.

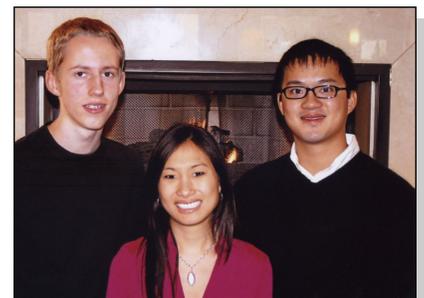
The use of videos is a major part of the vernacular language ministry. Currently, Wycliffe uses the "Genesis" video, the "Jesus" video, the "Luke" video, the "Acts" video, "God's Story" and now the "Hope" video. They are seeking approval for the "Gospel of John" video. This is something they are asking us to

pray about due to some unusual copyright issues.

Peter has been involved in several overseas trips to produce videos in other languages, including Surinam, Venezuela and Ecuador, and would like to do this again next year.

The Nashes receive \$1500 annually from our church but they are underfunded currently and this is a matter of prayer for them. If you or your family would like to help support the Nashes, you can contact them directly at [peter-kate\\_nash@sil.org](mailto:peter-kate_nash@sil.org). Another prayer request that the Nashes have is that they need a new car as theirs was totaled after hitting a large deer this past December.

The Nashes may be visiting in our area this summer, but they have extended an invitation to anyone who would like to visit them in N.C. and see their work firsthand.★



## Children's Bible Fellowship, Carmel, NY

"Making Disciples of New York's Forgotten Fields"

Children's Bible Fellowship, located just 45 minutes North of us, has 4 main ministries that they run throughout the year. These ministries are: Camp Joy, Camp Hope, Urban Ministry and Project Genesis.

Camp Joy is a summer camp that focuses on reaching inner city children between the ages of 7 and 17 years old who are lost, hurting and broken. The program is designed to give campers solid biblical teaching and also to help build skills such as: archery, baking, arts and crafts, biking, choir, canoeing, nature study, ropes course, swimming etc.

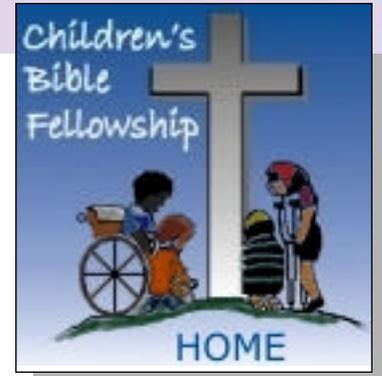
Camp Hope is another summer camp, but this camp reaches out to children, teens and adults with disabilities. They participate in many of the same activities as the Camp Joy children, but with adaptations to make it accessible for them. Both camps are always looking for dedicated Christian counselors and nurses who would like to give their summer to help with these ministries. Daniel and Jen Kang have both been summer counselors with Camp Hope and would highly recommend spending your summer involved in this ministry. Last summer, the Kang/Armstrong small group ran an evening "café" for the camp counselors to come to and relax after a long day of working and playing with the campers. We were as much blessed by this ministry and the counselors were.

The Urban Ministry has a passion for reaching the lost souls of NYC. Their bold approach to sharing the

Gospel has resulted in a great number of people giving their lives to Jesus Christ. Once they lead someone to Christ, they then take the responsibility of helping to plug them into a local body of believers who can disciple them.

Lastly, Project Genesis is a partnership program for individuals, church groups and students to share in the ministry at CBF. Project Genesis is a short-term missions trip from 1-10 days that may include: an exposure trip to NYC, urban evangelism, work projects, and during the summer, a chance to participate in camp chapels. The goal is for the team members to leave with a greater burden for the lost. Our church has partnered with Project Genesis in the past year to help rebuild the camp chapel that was destroyed by a tree. We sent up about 20 individuals who had a great day of working and fellowshiping together. We then cooled off in the pool after a hard days work! The chapel still has work to be done on it if it is to be ready for the camp season beginning in June. CBF always welcomes groups to come and help out whenever you have time! Our youth group has also enjoyed using the facilities at CBF for retreats throughout the year.

[www.cbfny.org](http://www.cbfny.org)★



## Betty Hudson – Seto Shi, Japan

"Christian Music Association"

Betty was a faithful member of FBC in Tarrytown before receiving her calling to Japan in 1963. Once in Japan, Betty adopted a Japanese daughter. Her daughter is now an adult living in Phoenix, AZ and working as a chef at the Marriott Hotel. Betty remains in Japan continuing her ministries.

Betty came as a missionary to Japan in 1963. Since then her ministry has been threefold, consisting of 1) publication ministry, 2) education and, 3) evangelism. Betty published church music books that were arranged especially for Japanese churches and were simple enough for untrained, new Christians to perform. Betty has been teaching music to Christian adults since 1963. At the peak of her work the facility had over 100 students and 5-6 instructors. About 1,500 Japanese Christians have come through

her program and are now active in their home churches' music programs all over Japan. Betty has also been involved in evangelism teams of musically or vocally talented men and women that were sent out to minister through music at churches, on radio and at summer camps.

Currently, Betty's personal ministry is to prepare sacred music especially for children and youth. Her first book of music and illustrations, *God's Beautiful World* was published in 2002 and she just published her second book *A Little Star* in 2007.

Betty loves to receive personal letters from anyone at FBC Tarrytown. If you have a chance, drop her a line and thank her for her ministry.★

**Betty Hudson**

5-44 Hachiman-dai Seto Shi, 489-0861, Japan



Betty Hudson (right) with her daughter Micki.

# To Mexico and Back

by Juan Garcia

Some of you who know my testimony know that before I came to Christ I was a failure, and I was at the very end of the road when God sent one of his servants and gave me the message of the Good News. I was a bad person, getting into trouble ever since I can remember. Sometimes when I was a teen I recall myself asking God, "why did my father have to die when I was only 2 years old?" I used to say to myself that if my dad was alive I would have someone to protect me when a stranger beat me up, or abused me physically or verbally. I would have someone that would guide me in the right direction, run to, and make me feel secure, protected, and hold me when I was in the need of a father figure. My mother was left a widow at a very young age with 8 children, and she chose to not to get married again, and did her best to raise her children, and I think she did a great job.

I came to Christ over 5 years ago, and months after my conversion, The Lord took me to a juvenile prison where they have kids ages 12 to 18 years old who have committed crimes like rape, drugs, murder, robbery and car theft. This place is full of sad stories. Most of the kids are there because they really committed a crime, but some there are unjustly incarcerated.

Going to Mexico to witness at a prison is not an easy task. It takes alot of work, and we have to be prepared, physically, spiritually and financially. This is a just a glimpse of what missionaries have to face. At the moment I'm just a short term missionary but it is my prayer that someday I will take an early retirement and go to wherever the Lord might send me as a full time missionary.

1. How did the Lord lead me to return to the Mexican prison to witness to the prisoners? Well the number one reason is my First Love JESUS CHRIST. I believe in my heart that Christ came to this earth and died on the cross for our sins. I tell the prisoners that Jesus Christ came not to make bad people good people, but to give life to dead people, just like He did with me. Maybe I did not commit the crimes that these kids did, but I was in prison nevertheless. I was captive with so many chains trying always to find my way out, but I could never find it in my own, until one day I heard the message of the Good News. I heard that a man called Jesus Christ could set me free. He said you should know the truth and the truth should set you free. He also said because I live you should live.

2. Christ is in the business of transforming people's lives. We heard Jesus say AS MY FATHER HAS SENT ME, I AM SENDING YOU. God also tell us in the Bible, in MATTHEW 28:19 of THE GREAT COMMISSION, and I could go on and

on trying to make a case based on what God tells us in His Word. Christ is the only one that can transform the lives of these kids, that someday are going to make the difference, it does not matter if they listen or not, your job and mine is to bring the Good News to the ones living in darkness. As I said it is hard work, the work of a missionary, but as Daniel Kang said, in one of his preaching messages when He came to Mexico 2 years ago, when we get to heaven we are going to be looking for all those kids who received Christ as their Lord and Savior. This is the reason why the Lord keeps on bringing me back to Mexico.

Ever since I came to the foot of the cross I have been praying to the Lord that He would give the honor to bring the Good News to the people that are living like I used to live "in darkness." And if that is the desire of your heart, ask the Lord to send you. In the last trip to the Mexican prison, we were hoping (that is Patrick Mueller and I), to share the Good News with the entire population of the facility. Even though we encountered so many obstacles, we were able to accomplish our goals, we ministered to all the sections but the girl's. We believe that the last trip on the Christmas 2007 mission was a success, especially because in this specific trip we encountered more obstacles than ever. Prior to our departure to New York, the permit to gain access to the prison was not granted, so we witnessed the power of God, how He opens the doors for the Gospel. Some of the most memorable moments from the trips are when some of the kids in the prison gave their lives to Christ. These memories that won't go away are those when the kids tell you their stories, when they ask us to pray for them, when they ask us to pray for their families, when they tell us thanks for coming, and most of all when at one moment of every trip suddenly the Lord whispers to your ears "I was in prison and you came to visit me." As I said before this probably is just a glimpse of what a life of a missionary could be. But as you know persecution has arrived in some parts of the world. God's word tells us that the times are evil and that we should be good stewards of our time, ready to give an answer to this world that is hurting, because there are millions of souls waiting to hear from Christ. God could use anything or anyone to bring His message to the world, but He wants to use you. After all God has revealed his plan to the ones that have been born again. This is the message that we are trying to bring. I am convinced that nobody ever loved me like Jesus did and I can tell them that the only answer is in the love and knowledge of God's truth Christ our Lord and that I never ever doubt His

love for me. Ever since The Lord sent His servant to bring me the message of the Good News, and I gave my life to Christ, I knew that from that moment that my life would never be the same.

3. Please pray that the Lord keeps on opening the doors for the Gospel. Pray that you might get involved one way or the other in this important ministry, pray for the ones already working in the field, in this country and around the world. Pray that we will continue to work despite of the defeats and despite of the victories Lastly please pray for the ones that are suffering persecution.★



Juan and Patrick with some of the young men in the Mexican prison.